



*Art Room - Henry Meredith*



*Sam Fry and Zach Salway in ICT Room*



*HRH, Mike Fry, Janet Fry, Lionel Bagg, John Manning*



*Bradley Harris (Blacksmithing Tutor and Old Boy, Malcolm Lloyd, HRH, Kyle Butler (Student)*



## **From the Editor's Chair: A view over the fence.**



A few years ago, following my retirement, we moved to West Dorset where I found that one of the benefits of having been at Brymore was an understanding of, and an ability to converse on, matters agricultural. This gave me, as an 'incomer', some advantage over Surrey bankers when discussing rural matters, particularly in the pub.

Our house, located in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and twenty minutes walk from the Jurassic Coast, has a south facing garden which backs on to some rather low grade sour land populated by more bracken and docks than good pasture. A couple of weeks ago I decided to phone the farmer who rents the field to ask him if he would kindly 'top' the bracken and

docks before I became a beneficiary of the seed / spores. Later that week I saw him in the field and he told me that he would have done it before but he had lent his 'topper' to another farmer who had broken it, nothing new there then, but that he would borrow one from the village and do it as soon as he could.

It was during our conversation that I complimented him on his five young Simmental bulls; having been at Brymore I know the difference between bulls and steers! He told me that they were part of his pedigree stock and that he hoped to sell them on for breeding. 'Sad thing is though they don't go on too long because of the strain on their back legs'; agreeing that it was a short life but a happy one we parted company, he to his farm and I to climb up the garden slope with some pain in my knees, knowing a little of what it is to be short of ability over expectation.

So what is all this about you may enquire? Well some of the committee are getting to the point where they are 'not to good on the back legs', or any legs for that matter and we need some new stock to follow on. I am sure all members of the OBA have got the message; give the Chairman Peter Harris a ring and volunteer your services. By the way the 'topping' has been successfully completed.

Ed. David Young.

The committee would like to thank our advertisers for helping to fund 'The Spur'. Without their commitment it would be very difficult to produce a high quality OBA magazine.

Thanks are also due to all our contributors who provide articles and comment which makes 'The Spur' a lively and interesting magazine. We would be delighted to receive articles for the 2010 issue by the end of July 2010. Would those submitting text please send by email to [GBryant@educ.somerset.co.uk](mailto:GBryant@educ.somerset.co.uk) in Arial 11 point font and in 600 words or less.

## **Old Boy Profile: Michael James Perry 1956 - 1959**



When we look back over our life, there are some memories that stand out; first day at work, the day we committed to another person, the birth of our children, the death of our parents etc., but one of my most vivid memories is walking up the drive to Brymore for the entrance interview on a frosty January morning in 1956, with my mother. Those gnarled old trees with the drive stretching away in front of us - leading to what?

I was a 12 year old from a working class family in Bridgwater. For some unknown reason I had put Brymore school as a preference if I passed the 13 Plus examination. I did pass and, in September 1956, I attended my first day at the school; Class 3B - class tutor, Mr Walker. During my first term I lived in a world of confusion - homework, prefects and the house system but, like the rest, I settled in and got used to it. I left Brymore with no exam passes, a fair degree of rugby skills and a confidence that the school gives to its pupils.

My grandfather had worked in an engineering firm for many years in Bridgwater and he managed to arrange an apprenticeship for me. If I remember correctly I finished Brymore on the Friday and started work on the Monday and my pay was £2.8s per week. Five years later I was a skilled man!!

Being twenty-one years old and feeling indestructible I decided I wanted to travel and get paid for it. The armed forces - No! I could get killed. I joined the Merchant Navy as a ship's engineer; I had never been on a big ship before and I knew very little about diesel engines but I was twenty-one and fearless!! In January 1966 I flew to Rotterdam and joined the M.V.Weybank. If I found Brymore confusing that was nothing compared to the confusion of a ship's engine room. On my first trip across the Atlantic I happened to ask the second engineer how long the voyage would last, he informed me it would be between sixteen and twenty-four months. Stop the ship, I resign, I want to get off - NO CHANCE! So it came to pass after eighteen months circumnavigating the world twice I paid off having learned the lesson to ask how long the next voyage was going to be before I signed articles. The next ship was a tanker coasting around Britain and Ireland; I had asked Sheila to marry me in the meantime and tankers paid better but most importantly I could get off if I gave two weeks notice. A good idea seeing as we had set the date for our wedding in June 1968.

My next job was a maintenance engineer at the Royal Ordnance Factory - Puriton. It was at ROF that I had the opportunity to have a paid days leave each week to go to technical

college and study for a Full Tech in Production Engineering. It was hard slog for four years, one day and two to three nights a week whilst at the same time providing for our two daughters. It was during my time at college that I had the idea to become a teacher; was it to serve the community – No, passing on my experience and knowledge – No; It was mostly the long paid holidays.

So it was that I went to teacher's training college in Yorkshire with the whole family living on a grant and me working during the long holidays. During the next twenty-five years I taught at two comprehensives, a sixth form college and a technical college teaching Metalwork Design and Technology to A Level and Engineering to NVQ 2/3. I took voluntary redundancy in 1996 and, after occupying my time doing several different jobs, I finally settled as a Training Officer with Somerset County Training. At first I dealt with engineering apprentices, later teaching adult's literacy, numeracy and basic IT skills.

I retired in July 2008 and we celebrated our ruby wedding. I now enjoy my time fishing, watching rugby and spoiling my grand-daughter Oh yes, and I am on the committee of the Old Boys Association. Do you know, every time I approach School House, I think back to that frosty January morning and my mother and I walking up that long driveway to what?

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### **Would you like to see your name on the wall at Brymore?**

Just imagine your name there for the next 'How many years'. I have this dream if my 11 year old grand-daughters becomes a grandmother, she takes her grandchildren to the annual open day at Brymore. She points up to a plaque on a wall, and tells them 'that is your great-great grandad'.

Does that appeal to you?

For a small sum you could have your name on an aluminium plaque, made in the school workshops!!!

All the money to be used for the benefit of the school. Would you be prepared to pay, say, £25. For a little piece of immortality at Brymore?

If you are interested, please contact:

**Mike Perry: Tel. 01278 789303**

**Email: [pruscale@talktalk.net](mailto:pruscale@talktalk.net)**

## **OLD BOYS ATTENDING OPEN DAY 2009**

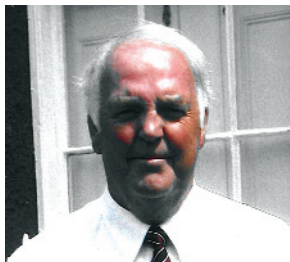
1952	John Manning, Fred Pocock, Eldred Tucker, Martin Webber, Peter Wood
1953	John Durman, Mike Fry, David Vickars
1954	Philip George, Roger Hannam, Robin Irvine, Richard Pearce
1955	Mike Chidgey, John Mogeridge
1956	Martin Ellis, John Field, Mike Perry, Jean Hill-Broadhurst (Staff)
1957	Brian Hale, Rex Steer, Gareth Wilcox
1958	Martin Cox, Rex Eastment, Francis Hunt, Adrian Johnstone, Andrew Kempster, Mark Thorp
1959	Harold Bult, Bob Brice, Eddie Gould, Peter Harris, Geoff Webb, Colin Munro (Staff)
1960	Keith Baker, Dave Cudlipp
1961	Terry Ayre, Mervyn Clapp, Duncan Hill, Antony Horler, Steve Stoodley
1962	Robert Hellier, Martin Tapp
1964	Tony Bradford, Reg Mildon, Dave Vigar
1965	Mike Fackrell
1966	Chris Chapman, Bob Fowler, Martin Pascoe
1957	James Tigwell
1968	Glynn May
1971	Patrick Collins, Edward Nichols, John Riddle
1972	Bob Druitt, Andy Ford, Chris Keech, Trevor Sellick, Jerrard Tucker
1973	Brian Coate, David Coate, Tim Hurley, Gerald Quick
1974	Philip Betty, Mark Palmer
1975	Mark Barnes
1976	Howard Gibbons, James King
1977	Roger Barrington, Alan Dyer
1978	Ian Chedzoy, Clive Meaker, Duncan Squire
1979	Paul Steer
1980	Steve Powles, Martin Watts, Phil Winter
1981	Gary Bagg
1982	Antony Tolly
1983	Robin Baker, Christian Lazenbury, Justin Nichols, A Williams
1984	Stuart Bazley, John Hendrie, Danial Munro, Chris Rust, Jeremy Spiller, Trevor Stanbury, Phil White
1985	Tim Gilbert, Simon Male, Jason Vincent
1988	Andy Bult, Toby Larkins, George Montague
1989	Chris Eke, Ben Horler
1990	Stephen Heard, Paul Saturley, Duncan Tucker
1991	Leigh Dinham, Mathew Eke
1993	John Collins
1995	Matt Dearing, Edward Dixon, Richard Fryer
1996	John Weeks
1998	Ed Coombes, Bob Dutnall, David Harness
1999	Tom Godfrey, Howard Moss
2000	Reuben Croft
2001	Steven Rendell
2002	Ryan Helliard, John Male, Julian Reading
2003	James Adams, Ben Sellick
2004	Chris Ballard, George King
2005	Brian Delany, Ben Druitt, Richard Hill, S Stockton, P J Wand, Jack White
2006	Dick Brinson, Alan Fisher, Charlie Pike, Will Salvidge





*Still smiling after A.G.M. 2009*

## **An Old Boys View of the Open Day 2009**



Although I have been present at the School Open Day for the last five years, I have been confined to the Quiet / Common Room throughout the day, never actually seeing the extent of activities in both the school and grounds. This year, without a commitment to the OBA Committee, I was able to stroll around with my wife.

On approaching Cannington at around 2 pm, cars were already parked both sides of the Cannington-Minehead Road, both sides of the Drive, the top Rugby Pitch, the field behind the farm building and we ended up in "Farmer Bakers' Field; by now you must have some idea how popular this Open Day has become.

It was estimated that between 3,500 – 4,500 people attended who were either, parents and grandparents, brothers and sisters of pupils at the school, Old Boys with wives, families, partners and friends or the hundreds of people just having a great day out. It has become almost a one day Agricultural Show with a difference – it's free!

The Vintage Car, Tractor and Stationary Engine displays were truly amazing. The FOBSA Marquee provided excellent food and drinks and an area to rest weary legs. The Main Ring activities of Gun Dogs, Carriage Driving, Hounds, Tug of War, Stock Judging, Vehicle Parades, Tractor Driving etc etc brought rapturous applause from the large crowd watching. Scuba Diving proved very popular too.

Freedom to tour Workshops, Classrooms and Gardens meant that any parent thinking of choosing Brymore for their son's education found the decision much easier to make. In fact I heard a Dad say to his son "I wish I could have come here", I replied "I'm damn well glad I did".

"At 5 pm sharp", as Mr Taylor would have said, the Annual General Meeting of the OBA began. Although over 140 Old Boys signed in at the Quiet Room during the day, and a similar amount did not sign in, only 27 members attended the meeting, we must do better next time! Those present were welcomed by Peter Harris, the new Chairman, who skilfully managed his first AGM. The minutes of the meeting can be seen on our web site.

John H. Manning



## Obituary

### Roland C. Taylor

It is with deep regret that I report the death of Mr. Roland Taylor who was one of the original teachers appointed when Brymore opened in 1952.

He taught Maths and Geography but he will be best remembered for his training of the school rugby team; an accomplished three quarter and staunch supporter of Wales he, together with George Galsworthy and Tony Edwards, ensured that the school team was a formidable opposition from day one.

Roland married Molly, his girl from Bridgwater, for whom he would run the length of the drive with his shoelaces undone, to catch the bus but in the morning would greet us at 7.15 a.m. with 'look sharp boy'. He left Brymore in 1959 to take up a post at Pontypridd Grammar School where he stayed until he retired.

His name lives on at Brymore; he was the first house master of what is still known as 'Taylor House'. It was during a conversation with him at a reunion that he said that his time at Brymore was the probably the most memorable of his teaching career.

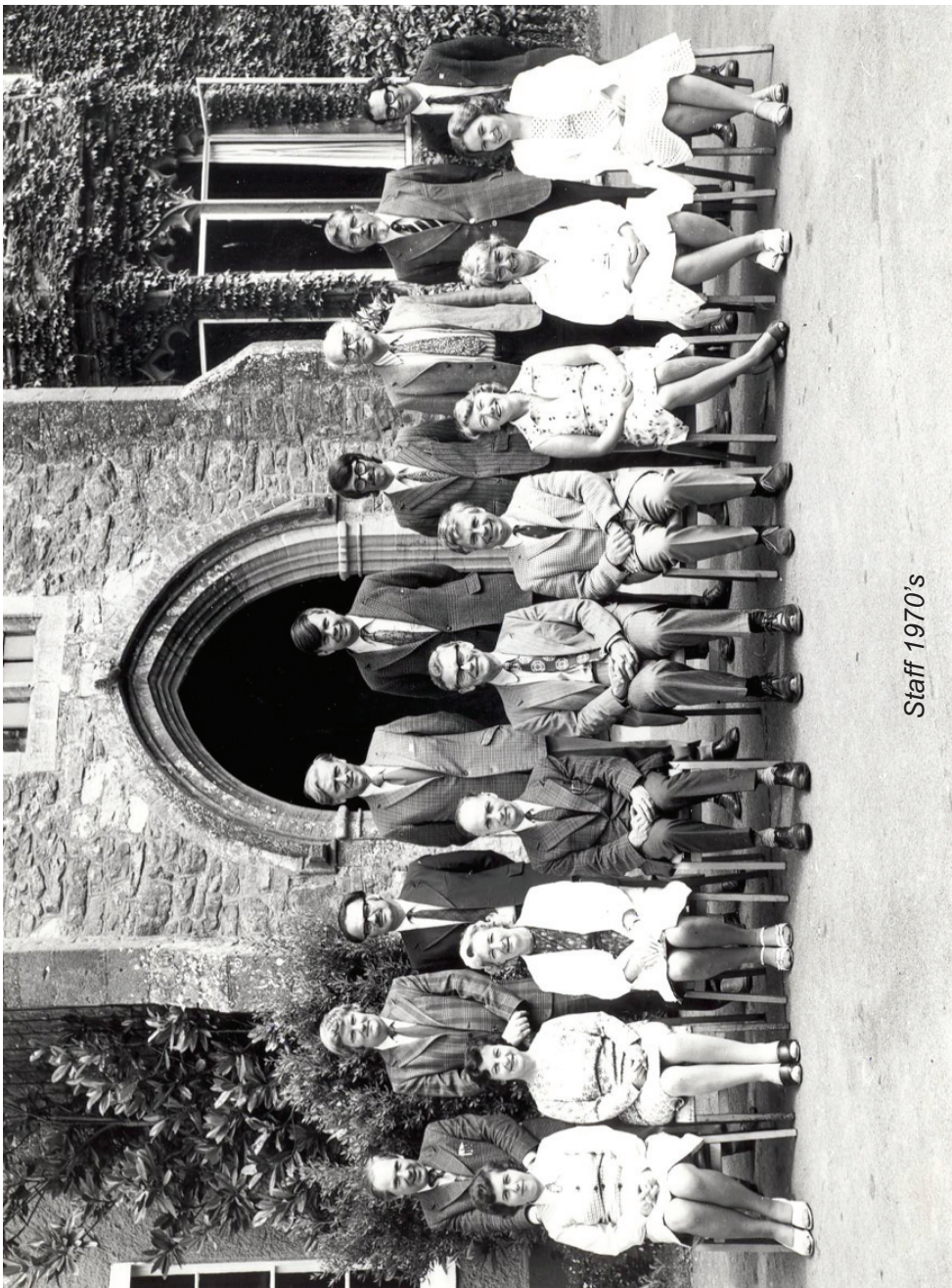
Through the 'Spur' we send our condolences and belated sympathy to Molly and their two daughters.

John H. Manning

Original three Head  
Boys and Roland Taylor

*Golden Jubilee 2002:*  
*Norman Watts - 1953/56*  
*Roland Taylor - 1952/59*  
*Philip Eavis - 1952/55*  
*Philip George - 1954/57*





Staff 1970's



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