

My First Year

Well! I have survived my first year at Brymore and what a year it has been. I would like to thank all the staff and boys for making me feel so welcome. The boys are particularly helpful and always willing to volunteer.

The six day week has been a shock, since on Saturdays I have been accustomed to joining my wife shopping or going off for the day walking.

We live on site, in the house opposite the farmyard, and since we moved in my wife and I have gradually redecorated the downstairs. I have now become accustomed to the milking machine being switched on at 6.30 am.

Chad's Hill run has now become one of my highlights and I love the general atmosphere of the boys and staff who encourage one another to run that little harder and keep going to enable them to gain a "personal best".

The staff are very friendly and co-operative and like all schools have their particular area in the staffroom. I am pleased about this, as in my previous school (Heathfield in Taunton) the staff were like one big happy family and when I left I felt I would never recapture that atmosphere.

Nevertheless I find the staff here to be very willing and dedicated to furthering the boy's education, they are a credit to the school and the boys are lucky to have them as teachers, mentors and role models.

The quality of our food is a big plus and it is a pleasure to sit in the dining room and eat with the boys, a comment shared by many visitors. Well done to Fiona and her catering team.

The boys are very pleasant around the site and are particularly polite when spoken to. However there are occasions where immature behaviour sadly lets some of them down.

I am pleased to have made the move and feel that there is a friendly and relaxed atmosphere which I haven't found in any other school. The boys are so fortunate to live and learn in such a wonderful environment and I am equally lucky to teach here.

Brian Edmunds
Assistant Head

New Buildings – Same Old Brymore?

Brymore is a beautiful place and people often comment how nice it must be to live and work here. When returning to the school, Old Brymorsians often comment that “the place hasn’t changed a bit” or “I would have thought those huts would have gone long ago” or “the dorms are just the same.” Some of this is good as there is already “tradition” in a school that is only fifty-five years old, but not every aspect of Brymore finds as much enthusiastic support. Some of the improvements over the years have been outstanding – the workshops, for example. Others, like the new Library and Maths rooms have enabled the creation of the “Quiet Room” in the main house, where the Library used to be, and this has brought a much needed social and recreation area. Some areas are still unsatisfactory – the cellars, common rooms and dormitories – and the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) rightly failed us on this aspect of their report in 2005 – so improvements had to be made.

Will the new buildings bring the improvements that we seek? Is there a risk that the “old Brymore” will disappear? I expect the answer to both is “Yes,” so a great deal of thought is going into the design to ensure that we don’t lose “what makes Brymore what it is.” In eighteen months time we will begin to see if we got it right, but it will take a further year, I’m sure, after the buildings have been lived in, to see whether they actually “work.”

The new boarding house will, I hope, bring us into the twenty-first century, offering the privacy that wasn’t even thought about fifty years ago. Work should start in September 2007. However, **August 13th is “D” Day for the new academic building** which will house three classrooms, two science labs, an art room (or should that be studio?) and a computer room with twenty five machines, plus a reprographics room and staff workroom. This will be sited where rooms 1-4 are currently – the temporary buildings put up over sixty years ago by the Americans – and “D” stands for demolition, as this is when the builders start removing the old classrooms. The mathematics department (in a hut put up just ten years ago) will move near the swimming pool. Once the new building is finished, then rooms 7-11 (art, history, geography and the two science labs) will go – giving us back the green space that we have lost to the new building.

When consulted, a number of boys said that they didn’t want “flash, new buildings” – they wanted “Brymore type buildings.” Both buildings will incorporate wood on the outside (reflecting the farm buildings close by) and the architects have grown used to my question, “This is robust, isn’t it?” As I say, it will probably take a year before we find out whether the new buildings actually work in the way we intend. Some of the ideas I have tried to convey recently are that Brymore is traditional, not old fashioned. Modern facilities shouldn’t alter the values that we hold dear at Brymore. Brymore boys will still, I hope, be Brymore boys – just with ipods and somewhere comfortable to sit.

Malcolm Lloyd, Headmaster



Rugby Team 1962/63

Profile of an old boy

Speech Day, 1956, saw me leaving Brymore as the proud recipient of the first ever 'Old Brymorians Prize'. I used the 28 shilling book token on a cash ledger to record my intended future farming transactions. The book came into use just three weeks later with the first recorded entry being ... '22.8.56... Landrace Gilt & piglets @ 3 weeks old ... £46.10.00'. Fifty years on, and that prize book, somewhat like myself, has now become to look a bit tatty around the edges and confined to retirement.

My working life commenced the moment I arrived home on the family dairy farm. Life soon moved on and wedding bells on 3rd March, 1962 sounded a change in direction as the honeymoon for Janet and myself included a mission to seek employment in East Anglia to gain arable experience. This we achieved within four days and started work the following Monday. However, through unforeseen circumstances, I felt duty bound to return to the family farm after only six months. I continued to expand my pig herd while milking my father's cows for the next five years during which time we greeted the arrival of our three children, Graham, Glenda and Robert.

Impossible relationships with my father dictated our next move. A new life in Western Australia in 1967 where we were met at Perth Airport by my old school mate Norman Watts and his wife Mary. We travelled 160 miles south to Bridgetown where after employment on a livestock farm and experience in orcharding we became part time farmers with suckler beef and sheep on 400 acres while share farming 30 acres of Granny Smith apples for export.

The yearning for the green fields of Somerset saw our return in November, 1971. With the offer from a friend to use some farm buildings and 26 acres of grass keep, we purchased two caravans for our accommodation a milk licence, a milking bale, a trip to Taunton Market for cows and we were back in business within two months. This intended short term situation lasted just over three years before we eventually gained the tenancy of Pepperhill Farm (overlooking Brymore) on the Quantocks. We spent the next 28 happy years at Pepperhill during which time both Graham and Robert attended Brymore.

Our retirement to Cannington in 2003 has enabled me to strengthen my links with Brymore, and my involvement with the recent re-launch of the OBA is rewarding to the extent of being able to return some of the benefits gained from the Great Brymore experience. The rest, as they might say, is history still to be written.

Micahel Fry
Treasurer

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Rex Eastment	

Our Thanks to our Web Site creator.

This exciting new web site launch would not have been possible if it were not for all the hard work put in by a fellow Old Boy Member of our Association, namely John Riddle. (1971 – 1974).

John is now an I.T. teacher in a London School. He has done a superb job, designing and producing our website, the Committee of the Old Boys Association would like to thank John most sincerely for all his time, hard work and dedication to supporting our association.

The site looks very professional and compliments the new Brymore School website launched in March of 2007.

Old Brymorians Association Website

Yes, the Old boys are now well and truly in the 21st century. It doesn't seem possible that from a re-union for the 50s and 60s intake in 2005 we have not only grown in membership but more importantly we have been able to offer the Headmaster the first OBA Bursary and now we are launching our own website.

You will be able to go onto it direct – www.brymoreoldboys.co.uk or go via the link from the School – www.brymoreschool.co.uk . Then click – **News and Information, Associations – Old Boys**. If you go direct to the website you will see a photo of the front of the School, click on that photo and you will then enter the site where you can view some of the following:

Chairman's Welcome.	What we do.	Become a member.
Send us information about yourself.		Order a New OBA tie.
Submit Articles about your time at Brymore or your career path since leaving.		
Read on-line the last edition of the Spur, or print off a copy.		
Look up forthcoming events.		
Photos: both archive, current and news articles.		How to contact us.

Stop Press. We hope eventually to allow you to advertise your business or services, so watch the web page for details.

Rex Eastment, Secretary.

Old Brymorians who signed in at last year's Open Day

- 1952 John Dill, Philip Eavis, John Manning, Mike Pharo, Pete Wood.
1953 Les Fry, Michael Fry, Brian Godwin, Robin Irvine, Basil Lazenby, John Perham, David Vickers.
- 1954 Jim Balance, Philip George, Richard Pearse, Henry Williams, David Young.
1955 Ian Pay, Terry Simkins
1956 Martin Ellis, John Field, Mike Perry, Mike Sealy
1957 Brian Hale, Rex Steer, Roger Trim,
1958 Rex Eastment, Adrian Johnstone, Andrew Kempster, Ken Male, Peter Martin, Paul Mouncey, Dave Perrett.
1959 Keith Baker, Bob Brice, H, Bult, Chris Giles, Peter Harris, Phil Spearing.
1960 Roger Organ, Mike Rees,
1961 Terry Ayre, Fred Bundy, Steve Stoodley
1962 M. Kingston, Roger Reakes, Martin Tapp.
1965 Willy Bowan, House.
1967 Ken Kingcott, Ken Phillips.
1968 Biff Bartholomew, Martin Selley.
1969 Roger Sellick, Philip Vaux.
1971 Edward Nicholls, Andy Reilly, John Riddle.
1972 Steve Down, Bob Druitt, Tony Rudd, Bill Sherwin.
1973 Philip Betty, Fred Chant, Paul Cooper, Nigel Davis, Jason Scriven.
1974 Edwin King
1975 Philip Dibble
1976 Mark Druitt, James King, C. J. Meaker, Martin Stokey.
1977 Gary Druitt
1978 Merv Walters
1982 Paul Gill
1984 Russell Adams, M. A. Park, M. Rogers.
1986 Stuart Bazley
1987 Mark Atyeo
1989 Sam Piper, Clinton Williams
1990 Matt Rose
1993 A. Cook, Baz Lockyer
1994 Phil Bowen, Lee Millard
1995 Ollie Emery, Alex Putnam, Mike Thornton
1996 Liam White
1997 Richard Parsons
1998 Josh Butler, James Close, Ewan Hawkes, James Hector, James Oxley, Ian Patch, Adrian Simmonds, George Willcox, Jamie Wyatt.
1999 Howard Moss, Will Wallis
2000 Darren Bailey, Ben Cains, Reuben Croft, Matt Buckland, Darren Gawler, Michael Oxley, Jamie Wall.
2001 Ryan Davis, Sem Edwards, Dan Gilbert, Jason Scriven.
2002 Tom Bird, Oliver Blatch, Richard Dunn, Chris Hannaford, Ed Mace, Tom Moore, Craig Norris, Will Payn, Tom Poole, Julian Reading, Leigh Wait, Alex Woods, Russell Zwijnen.
2003 Dan Barnes, Tom Crossman, J. Fishleigh, Bob Foulsham, Jack Haydon, Lloyd Hobbs, Marcus House, Bob Knight, Chris Lyons, J. McKay, Charlie House, Rory Thatcher, Geoff Vaux, Jack Wootton.



The first Brymore School Photograph.

The Staff from left to right are Mr Galsworthy, Mr Hemmings, Mr Day (Headmaster) Matron and Mr Taylor

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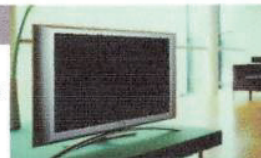
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