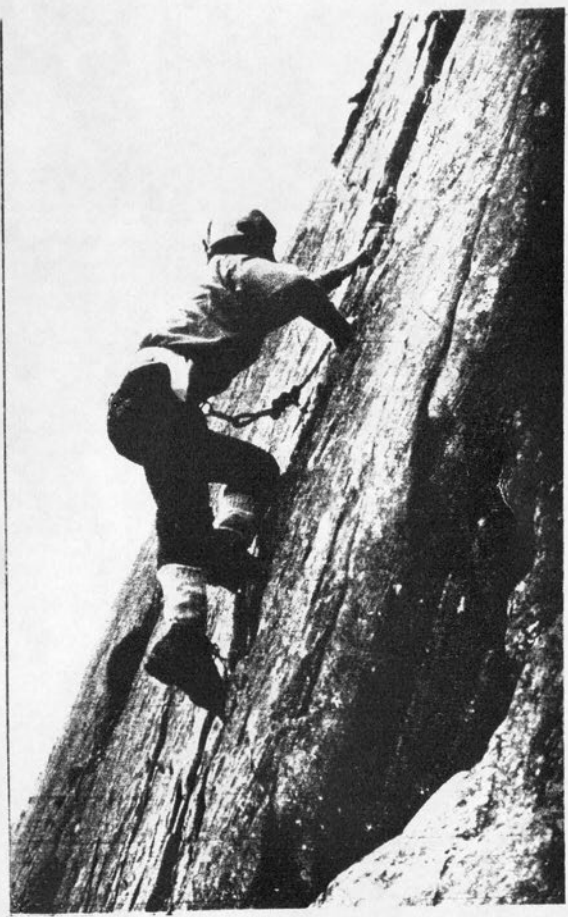


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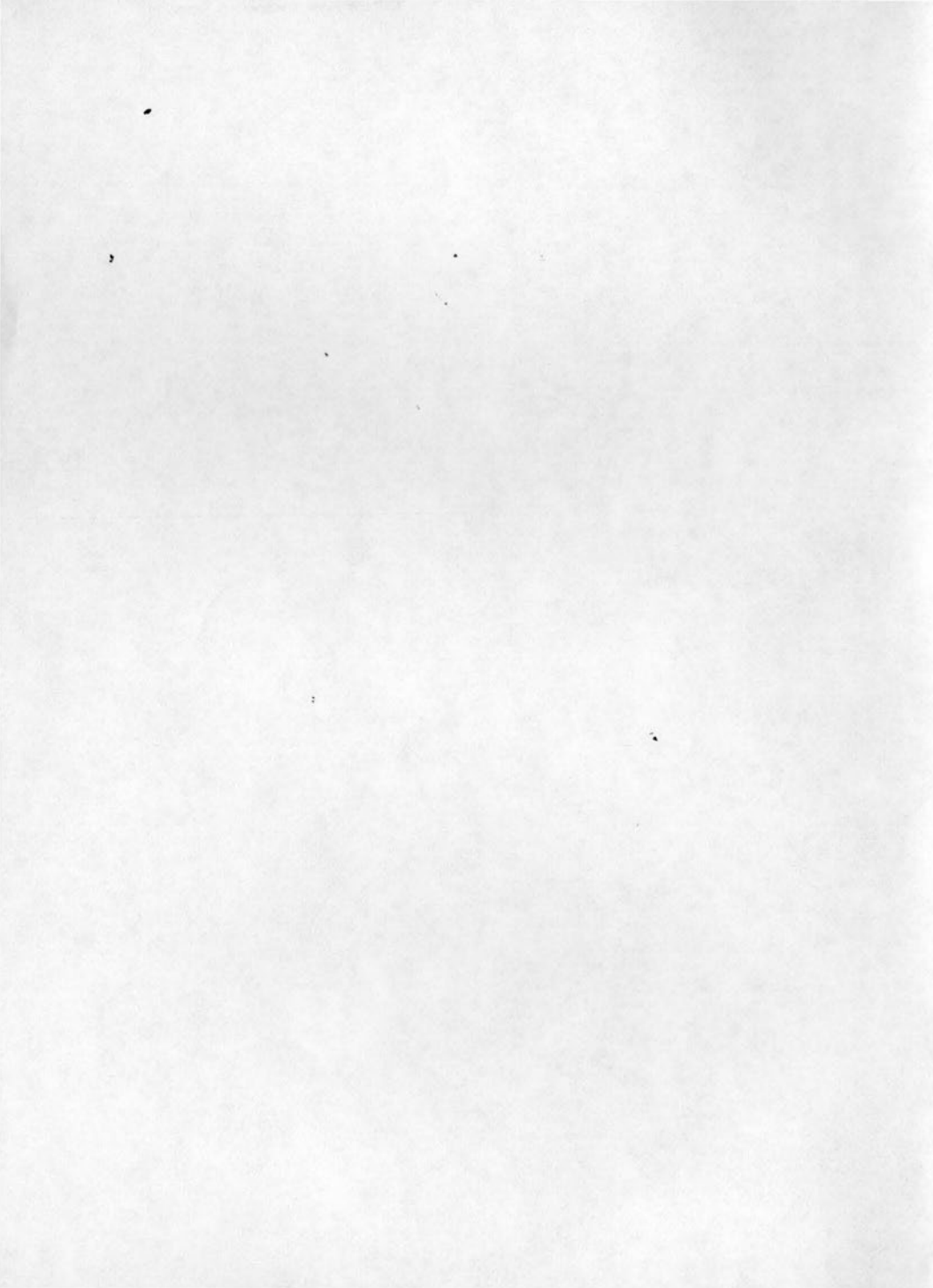
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VENTURE 44. A sort of magazine, by, for, and about, the
44th Gloucester (Sir Thomas Rich's) Venture
Scout Unit.

NUMBER 44

OCTOBER 1982

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ASSISTANT Stu Bishop

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Senior Executive	Stu Bishop Pat Phillips
Chairman	Rob Holford
Secretary	Jer Hobbs
Treasurer	Rich Kerswell
Recorder	Brian Symcox
Sports Sec	Paddy Smith
Exec members	John Pepperell Dom Mills

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NOTES AND NEWS

At last, another edition of Venture 44 hits the street and with it comes a new "editorial concept" - more later. This edition contains a couple of articles written by ex-members. We would be very pleased to receive more pieces from any ex-member, and indeed from any current one also (hint). The next edition which should be out fairly soon will be concerned mainly with the expedition to the Orkneys last summer.

The Annual General Meeting of the Unit was held last month, and I was elected secretary, and therefore in order to allow me to do my best in that capacity, I have had to seek help in editing the magazine, which is a very time consuming task! Stuart Bishop has very kindly offered to help out with the donkey work, starting now, and in the next issue Yosha Cowmeadow has agreed to join the editorial team. I think that with such a talented committee the standard of Venture 44 will not only be maintained but it hopefully will improve greatly!

J.H.

Before the end of last term the Unit entered 2 young but not inexperienced teams in the Black Mountains Hike. After an indifferent day one a dignified retirement was deemed prudent..... Perhaps next year!

Canoe construction has been prominent around the hut during the summer months, with 3 new canoes being built. Our canoeists have ventured down the Wye with Mr Aston, and also on the Avon. Training in the pool is a popular activity.

This term we have revisited Stirchley for the ever popular 10-pin bowling and several members completed the Malvern sponsored walk for the British and Commonwealth Institute for the Blind. An informative and useful talk was given by Pete Brown of "Mountain Gear" in Worcester Street, and recently a small group made a visit to the ubiquitous Simon Lapington cottage in North Wales.

S.B

Normally September is a time when we are saying fare well to quite a number of members who leave the district to seek fame and fortune in seats of advanced learning. This year however, we have lost only a few, with NIGEL HOLDEN and NICK ILIFFE being the only two to go directly to University and Poly respectively. We will miss both of them, particularly Nige, who has been a member for 3 years. BRUCE RADFORD has also left the Unit

Several people have left school but remain in the district and are still regular attenders at meetings. NICK POULTON is working in the labs at A.B.M. Chemicals, and of our younger members, STEVE OUNSWORTH is full time at Gloucester Tech. ANDY MANDERS is, believe it or not, an apprentice silversmith, and DOM MILLS has a job with British Rail, doing carpentry (making sleepers??)

Just over a year ago I wrote that we were fortunate to retain the services of Pat Phillips and Stuart Bishop and forecast that they would play an important role in running the unit. Often things do not work out as we predict, but as it happened on this occasion they did, and Pat and Stu were worth their weight in gold. I am glad to be able to report that they will be continuing their invaluable work in the unit as both are remaining in the area, Stu at college in Cheltenham and Pat masterminding traffic operations at our new local biscuit factory.

Finally, some of our readers may be aware that our new Chief Scout, Major-General Michael Walsh has been expressing his views in very forthright manner on the future of the Scout movement as he sees it. On initial examination it would appear that the direction in which the Chief Scout sees the movement going and the direction in which we have tended to move over the years may be significantly different. It seems likely that we must take a hard look in the fairly near future at the structure and style of the unit in the light of this development.

F.H.

NEXT ISSUE DUE OUT IN EARLY DECEMBER.
ARTICLES TO * J.R.F.H.* F.H.*S.R.B.*Y.C*

BE SURE TO WEAR A RIBBON IN YOUR HAIR

The month of June is notorious for injecting fear and trepidation into O and A level students - with endless urging from all angles stressing the importance of these exams. That's as may be, but for me, Brian, overshadowing these farcical tests of intelligence, was the appearance of two middle-aged guys from America in this country.

On Saturday June 19th we peacefully went to see Simon and Garfunkel at Wembley Stadium. Setting off before noon, we arrived at the "Smoke" in time to sample a couple of pints of 77p real ale from a Whitehall pub, before ambling off towards Wembley, arriving there by late afternoon. Prepared for a short wait - "gates open at 4.00 p.m." - we tolerated the constant drizzle. The short wait became a long one as 5.00p.m. approached. To say that there was a rush when they finally let us in would be an understatement.

Once inside, we were faced with a few thousand folk racing towards the stage, joined by us. We eventually settled ourselves no more than 50 metres from the stage with the sacred Wembley turf sqelching underfoot.

After what seemed like an eternity - about 3 hours, actually - Paul and Art walked on. What followed was an unforgettable experience, with over two hours of classic music from yesteryear, starting with "Mrs Robinson" and ending up with "Late in the Evening". The concert really lived up to all our expectations, and to everyone else's I should think. The atmosphere was quite incredible, especially during the "Sound of Silence", when thousands of sparklers were simultaneously lit.

I would urge anyone to see this pair if given a chance, although I can't really, unless you are going to the states, as they won't be coming back - so tough apples, you missed yer chance!

Stu Bishop

Ars longa, Paul brevis.....

WHO'S WHO ON THE EXECUTIVE

A number of ex-members of the Unit have expressed the view that although they see the names of the present Unit in the pages of this magazine, they know little of the people behind the names. In this issue, therefore, we include brief sketches of the present executive. It was hoped to include photographs, but readers will be greatly relieved to learn that this has not proved possible!

HOLFORD, ROBERT J.

Answers to Rob, Holf, Rolf.

Age 17.5 Time in the Unit 2½ yr.

Tall, bespectacled, serious and very reliable, Rob was elected Unit Chairman this year. Likes to drive his own car - all the way from Merevale Road!

Likes Masió - particularly Genesis, reading, most sports Supports Stoke City F.C., Painswick R.F.C., The Canterbury Tales.

Dislikes The U.S. of A., Citroen cars, P*t*r P*w*ll (D. J. on Radio 1), The chairman of Gloucester City F.C.

School Upper 6th, prefect, A levels in English, German, Geography. Hoping to go to University to study Banking and Finance.

* * * * *

HOBBS, JEREMY R.F.

Answers to Jer (if he hears you!)

Age 17.3 Time in Unit 2 years.

Editor of this magazine, and now Unit secretary, dark haired Jer is the Unit visionary. Excellent Flugelhorn player, sings in the choir.

Likes Middlesbro' F.C., Music in general inc Steve Wright, 9 below zero, Brass Bands, Travel, Cricket and football.

Dislikes 5 at the back, women smoking, discussing politics and religion.

School Upper 6th, prefect, A level Chem, Biol, Physics.

KERSWELL, RICHARD R.Answers to the above, or Rich (appropriate for treasurer!)Age 17.7 Time in Unit 2½ years

Unit treasurer last year, and unanimously re-elected. Owns his own computer - the Unit intellectual.

Likes Reading Shakespeare(?), Philosophical analysis, having money, bridge, a red Suzuki m.c.Dislikes Lack of money, words of four lettersSchool Upper 6th, Observator, studying double Maths and Physics. Plans to stay in third year 6th then on to Oxbridge.

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PEPPERELL JOHN F.Answers to JohnAge 17.5 Time in Unit 3 years

Senior member of the Unit. Quiet with engaging smile, the only Catholic in the Unit.

Likes Rowing - Gloucester R.C. - Motorcycle maintenance owns Kawasaki 175, Trials and scrambles, X-country running, weight training, canoeing. T.V. - Minder, Extra strong mints.Dislikes Credo and Songs of Praise, Homework, Saturday job at chip shop.School Upper 6th, Maths, Physics and Geography, hopes to study Mechanical Engineering at University.

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SYMCOX, BRIAN J.Answers to Bri, TopperAge 16.3 Time in the Unit 1½ yrs

Youngest member of the exec, enthusiast extraordinaire, a lively and committed Venture Scout, now assistant secretary.

Likes Climbing, caving, walking, canoeing, Le Carre, Simon and Garfunkel, Jethro Tull, AC/DC, Spike Milligan, NINON, John Cleese, Scotland.Dislikes Dallas, Rugby, Communists, Smoking, Drugs.School Lower 6th, Maths, Physics, Chemistry, hoping to do Dentistry at University.

FROM ALL POINTS

The big social event of the season so far has been the marriage of DAVE BROWN to Jenny Barton at Matson in September. The ceremony was infiltrated by various ex members appropriately disguised. Big brother Phil turned up as a photographer, whilst KEV NEELY pretended to be the best man. JON MAY appeared as an indian restaurant proprietor, and PHIL CHAMPION came as a traffic cop. The V.S.L. and IAN FLETCHER tried to pass themselves off as respectable members of the public, but no-one was really convinced.

Dave and Jenny are now settled in in Manchester, and I am sure that we all wish them a long and happy married life together.

IAN FLETCHER, as many of you probably know is a student nurse at Charing Cross Hospital, and in one of his few spare moments he wrote the following....

BEDPANS, AND ALL THAT...

Working in one of London's top hospitals has opened my eyes somewhat, but surprisingly a majority of people are ignorant of a nurses work. So here is a typical day in the life of a student nurse....

7.00a.m. A very tired hand reaches out and slams the alarm off and several minutes later accompanies its owner to the bath. With luck, a cup of coffee and a piece of toast are gulped down before the two miles drive from the nurses home where I live to Charing Cross. Then a quick change into uniform, and on to the ward.

8.00a.m. Report - a verbal account of the patients condition - by the night staff; allocation of patients (as there are 30 patients per ward and only 5 nurses usually even my arithmetic gives me 6 patients). Then to work..

Depending on whether the ward is surgical, medical or specialised, work will obviously vary, but common to all wards are washes. Everyone has a wash, but depending on how ill they are it may take from 15 minutes to one hour. A person who is unconscious needs too much detailed care to describe here, but can take a whole morning, but most people can manage bits of themselves, and you finish off the parts that they can't reach!

With this comes pressure area care. Imagine sitting or lying on part of your body until it goes to sleep - you'd move first, but many patients can't, so those bits become raw, blistered, and break down. Nurses continually move such patients off these affected areas, and have a variety of dubious ointments to rub in, including nappy rash cream, meths, white of egg, and a red staining liquid called mercurachrome, which helps the skin, with varying degrees of success!

The other major working area is the mechanical bits. Drips and drainage tubes, Dressings and bandages, plaster casts and traction. This is where training counts. In 3 years a nurse should meet every type of device available and become quite competent in using them (even if they don't look it!). A good nurse must be able to explain to the patient what is happening and reassure. Bizarre and sometimes embarrassing moments may occur when dealing with some dressings... I remember one when a big toe came off in my hand... This routine work will take the nurse all morning, with a 15 minute coffee break, if you can snatch it - if you can't, too bad!

1.00p.m. Patients lunch arrives, then when the patients are fed you go off for a 30 minute lunch break yourself. Meanwhile, the afternoon staff come on.

1.45p.m. Afternoon report; each nurse gives a report on their allocated patients to the new staff, adding any point which they think is relevant. A teaching session of 30 minutes may be held on any aspect of a patient that is new or altered, and general moans and groans are voiced.

2.30p.m. Afternoon work. The patients, after resting following lunch are then subjected to the rest of the days programme. This may include physiotherapy (often done by nurses) specialised chemical treatments, operations or even some entertainment such as darts, snooker, scrabble or chess. Another afternoon activity concerns bowels; many patients have bowel trouble, and a large part of the afternoon can be spent either stopping the process, or inducing it to start!

3.30p.m. The paperwork. The days work is recorded on the patients record. Any outstanding features noted, and you generally tidy up your working area.

4.00p.m. If everything is done, you can go, leaving your patients (hopefully comfortable and content) to the evening staff. "Tired" is an understatement of how you feel.

This, of course, is only a sketch of the nurses day. Lots of other jobs occur, and every day is different, it may be only reading temperatures or perhaps dealing with serious injury or death. The inexperienced bearded male nurse can get involved in unusual incidents. One concerning two elderly ladies and two pairs of false teeth is still sticking in my mind (or throat!)

As a plug, why not give nursing a try if you are stuck for a job? Of course the pay is not good, but, to be cynical, remember that you may be working with up to 500 different girls, and life is never dull.

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Like the author of the above article, PAUL JENNINGS was once chairman of the Unit. Paul is now studying engineering at Warwick University, and he has recently been at the Centre for Alternative Technology near Machynllech in central Wales. It was from this centre that the idea of the famous STREB generator was thought up in 1976.

Paul hassent in the following account.

We arrived on Sunday evening - thirteen students and a lecturer from Warwick University involved in Engineering design and Appropriate Technology....

The first shock was the size of the rooms we had to stay in - I was sharing a 6 foot square room with two others. The next was the food we were given. The centre generates all its own power, which means the supply is very variable so they use a gas fridge which cannot stop meat from going rotten - hence a vegetarian diet. This didn't bother most of us, although a couple were soon suffering from withdrawal symptoms, but we hadn't bargained for the major side effect - Volunteers Syndrome - which on average means four daily visits to the toilets!

On Monday we were allotted various tasks, and were divided into three groups to measure the head of water to a Pelton Wheel turbine by different methods. Because I was the only one who had done it before, I was put in charge of a group using the Electronic Distance Measurement equipment - a high technology computerised laser system for very accurate measuring. In the morning I instructed the others in its use, and also many of the people who worked at the centre, who seemed fascinated by it. When we came to use it for real in the afternoon, it was broken, as it happened! In fact the only group to measure the head successfully were using very primitive technology - a hose pipe and a tape measure! So much for the modern electronic revolution.

The next day saw another project, this time to design a small scale hydro scheme using the nearby river. This meant a lot of surveying, and then constructing a flow meter before considering suitable turbines etc. This took nearly three days, and involved a good deal of paddling in the ice cold river.

On Friday we had a day off, and went to the seaside! The general public on the beach seemed to steer clear of us - maybe suspecting that we were inmates from a penal establishment out on parole!

Over the weekend we finished our projects and handed in our reports and feasibility studies.

Looking back on our time in the Centre my overwhelming impression is of the silence when there were not any visitors around, and of the friendly get togethers with the permanent staff. I have mixed feelings about what is being done at the centre, I think alternative technology is something you do for yourself - you don't waste your time demonstrating to idiot tourists, but I suppose that somebody has to spread the word. Anyway, if you get a chance, I would advise anyone to visit it, particularly if you are interested in engineering because alternative technology will feature large in future engineering in this country, I believe.

Paul Jennings

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In the last edition we reported on the activities of Lt DAVE BARNES R.N. and ROW LLOYD. Since then Dave has been sighted in Gloucester and confirmed that he was in action in the South Atlantic war in H.M.S. Exeter. Dave claims his part in the affair is an official secret, but it is no secret that he has fixed a date for his wedding next April!

Rowland was due to go to Argentina in April last but was obviously unable to do so. However he did leave four weeks ago to spent two years teaching in the English College in Buenos Aires. We await with interest a report on the state of Anglo-argentinian relationships from the other side, as it were.

Also seen recently in Gloucester another sailor, PETER GREEN. Pete has been in the West Indies and is now going back to college at Plymouth for six months.

Not so far from home, IAIN WEIR has been working in Holland this summer, whilst PAUL VENN has retired from a career with a well known building firm and is now digging holes in Bristol. We must apologise to P.Venn for getting a name wrong in his article in the last edition. Sorry about that, Pete.

