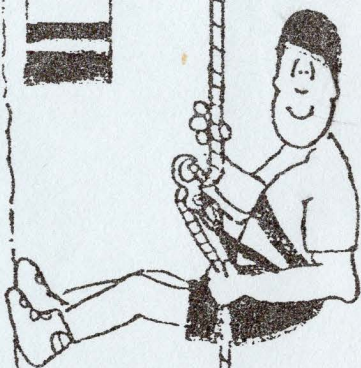
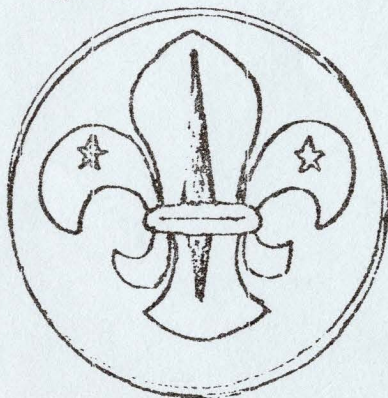


VENTURE

44



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NUMBER

68

VENTURE 44. The magazine of the 44th Gloucester
(Sir Thomas Rich's School) V.S.U.

NUMBER 68

JUNE 1991

UNIT OFFICERS

Leaders	Frank Henderson
	Phil Brown
	Alan Quinn
Secretary	Matt Wilton
Chairman	Nick Cambridge
Treasurer	Mike Cheshire
Editor	Paul Kingsbury
Quartermaster	Brad Salter

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UNIT NEWS

Who said Venture Scouts do nothing? Absolute Humbug! But before warming to the task of proving this idea to be wrong, may I welcome aboard another new member, Paul Goscomb. I say "aboard" in respect of a small gift that we have received from a generous benefactor in the shape of a 14ft sailing dinghy. Perhaps on a future expedition we could save money by sailing across to Norway? Alan Quin has been busy getting it into a seaworthy state.

During the night of 29th/30th June a group from the Unit completed the "Sun Run", or after 6 hours 22 min of uninterrupted banter from Jim Newman, should we call it the "Talk Walk"? Jim writes on the long night later in the mag.

A successful golf tournament was held at the Riverside pitch'n'putt one evening - I took an extra pair of plus fours in case I got a hole in one! The first in the field of ten entrants was Adrian Stokes.

Pitch'n'putt also formed one part of the "Alternative Olympics" held in the school grounds to raise money for the Swimming Pool. Submitting a team under the flag of Norway, we finished a paise-worthy 3rd out of 20 teams. The real hard work was in the tug of war where we came out on top after an epic struggle.

The Unit also contributed (yet again) to the pool fund by organising a sponsored wall climb, and a brief report on this appears later. "Real" climbing continues on a regular basis at Castle rock on Cleeve Hill, where some of the Unit tigers are developing their skills to a high level.

Recently a group went down to South Wales to join ex-member Steve Chalkley on a mountain bike trip from Aberdare across to the Vale of Neath on a route which took them up to nearly 2000ft, and included an interesting descent through the forest. Since that trip all of the group have decided that cycling helmets are a very good idea!

We are now looking forward to the summer expedition which will take us cycling up the far north western coast of Scotland. The next issue of Venture 44 will cover this trip

P.K.

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THE STONEHOUSE BED RACE

All rather predictable, I am afraid. The 44th first and second yet again. Yellow Peril with Matt, Nick and new crew man Jim Callen made it in 47min 13 sec, creating a new record for the course, and Blue Streak was a few minutes behind, piloted by Brad, Mark and Tim Tomlinson. A third "fun bed" inspired by Vic Reeves (who?) called "Novelty Island" entertained the large crowd before being retired hurt! Well done to all concerned

F.H.

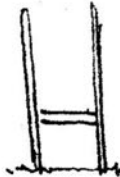
UNIT SUPPORTERS 100 CLUB

Winners over recent months are

APRIL: J.Davies (ex-member) MAY: J.Francillon
(supporter) JUNE: Stuart Bishop (ex-member)
JULY: John Pepperell (ex-member)

There are still vacancies, and new members are welcome! It only costs £12 per year, and you have a chance of a £25 win each month! Send your cheque - made payable to the 44th Glos V.S.U. without delay!

UP FOR THE CUP



Last term the School U16 rugby team competed in the Gloucester City Cup. Due to lack of commitment from schools in the area there were not many teams entered, but those that did were good.

Our first game was against Beaufort. It was never going to be an easy match, but with hard work and solid defence, (and a couple of good kicks...from me..) we managed to win through 13-8. everyone was very happy to win, and we were looking forward very much to playing at the famous Kingsholm ground against Saintbridge.

The day of the final arrived, and we set off after the final lesson of the day, arriving promptly. We were told to go to the "Home" dressing room - a good omen! We changed and it was noticeable that everyone was a bit nervous.

the team contained a good number of Venture scouts; Nick James, Mark Baker, Mat Wilton, Brad Salter and myself. We began badly by conceding a try shortly after the kick off, then we got back into the game and and equalised shortly before half time, 4-4.

We began the second half in the same way in which we finished the first, having much of the possession and keeping the pressure on. We always looked like scoring and eventually did through good work by the forwards with Jason Pegler finishing the move with a try. The opposition looked like scoring on a couple of occasions. but due to excellent defensive team work they failed to do so. The match was sealed late in the second half with a fantastic try by

man of the match Stefan Hughes. The conversion meant the final score was Rich's 14 Saintbridge 4.

Celebrations were short, but dignified, after the game, though they continued later that evening at the Elmbridge Club.

Nick Cambridge

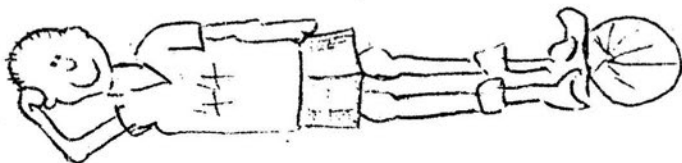
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Congratulations to the team, and also to Nick's younger brother SIMON (Sam), who has been elected "Player of the Year" by the Old Richians junior team, based at the Elmbridge Club.



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Congratulations also to PANJI GRAINGER who has been selected for the England junior basketball team to play in the European Youth Olympics in Brussels next month!





SUN-RUN '91

The "A Team" consisted of myself, Paul.K., Matt W., Mike C. and F.H. We arrived at Cleeve Hill at 6.00p.m., and we were all set to start walking when the sun went down and get back before dawn.

We were greeted by the sight of inebriated ventures and police box shaped 'portaloos' which were bigger on the inside than the outside (A.K.A. Tardis, fact fiends!). We soon realised it was no mistake to come that evening and not camp the full weekend as we would have had to put up with the "entertainment" for longer - with such delights as a band that happily slaughtered their way through a variety of songs, and had Matt pulling out his hair when he heard their rendition of Dire Straits hit "Waters of Life". We were also treated to some "Captain Keno", a psychopathic "comedian"...

Much, much later we were led to a fleet of double deckers to be ferried to the top of the Malverns and the start. As I sat on the bus I found myself sitting next to... Chesney Hawkes!! (Aaaargghh) or a look-alike. Finally we arrived after our bus nearly blew up on the final hill. I was all psyched up to go when..."Now, just a bit of aerobics to loosen you up!" We grudgingly got up and tried to copy the moves, and noticed that Frank had intelligently disappeared. The guy who was telling us what to do was a fool who pranced around in his cycling shorts.

The sun dropped in the west and at 9.40 p.m. we started - target Cleeve Hill 23 miles away. My muscles refused to work after abuse at the aerobics and an enthusiastic effort seemed out of the question, but when we reached the top of

Herefordshire Beacon we all ran down and Matt and I agreed we could easily run the whole way, but later generally decided against this idea. Our early spurt came to an end when Mike and I spotted a "convenient" tree and we popped behind for a wee talk.

Once on route the night started with rather amazing renditions of various 'Beautiful South' and 'Housemartins' songs accurately reproduced by myself and Paul whose singing is only rivalled by the band earlier! Later, much later, I got the feeling I was perhaps talking a little too much as everyone had told me to shut up 11 times each.

We went on through perilous snake infested pits, salvage wolf preying areas, through rain, snow and force twelve gales and the odd tidal wave. As I waded into a particularly deep puddle I wondered why the rest had stopped and put life jackets on, then realised it was the River Severn....

It was at checkpoint 4 (of 6) when Mike was unfortunately taken ill. Being the jokester that he is he thought he would barf on an innocent traffic cone..(what?!! you mean he wasn't joking?). He bravely battled on to checkpoint 5 and sensibly retired at Bishops Cleeve. The rest of us then battled up a 20:1 gradient, but you know the old saying, "if its not a 20:1 gradient then its not worth watching Leeds play football" and I still maintain that fact..

then suddenly the climbing stopped, and we were on top of Cleeve Hill at 4.02 a.m. Shortly after the first bird was heard and dawn broke. we had successfully negotiated the Sun Run! Well done lads! We gratefully got into the van and went to collect Mike, then home to a well earned Breakfast

James Newman

Fame at last! Headlines on the front page of the prestigious local newspaper the Ciziten - City edition July 6th. But where was it in the final edition of the Ciitzen? Nowhere to be seen. Still it was very good of the Cizeitn to send a photographer, and they did get some of the facts Thanks, Citzein!



Up the wall

Pupils at Sir Thomas Rich's School, Gloucester, have been scaling new heights to raise money for a swimming pool. The plucky students climbed the school wall 220 times — the equivalent height of Ben Nevis at 44,000 feet. Two of the lads who got roped into the project, Brad Slater and Nick Cambridge, are pictured above

Climb fax; 12 members of the Unit made 220 ascents of the wall designed and constructed largely by Matt. Total height approx 4400 ft. the project raised about £100, and was one of a number which took place in an activity week in early July.

NEWSFLASH-- NEWSFLASH-- NEWSFLASH-- NEWSFLASH

Update on building activity around the school:

After a small hold up in the proceedings work has now started in earnest on the pool. A new wall has been started to replaced the glazed side, and the roof will be replaced as soon as this is completed.

As for the Scout Hut, work will shortly commence on the removal of the decaying section and replacement of the roof on the sound part.

With all this in mind, some thoughts on



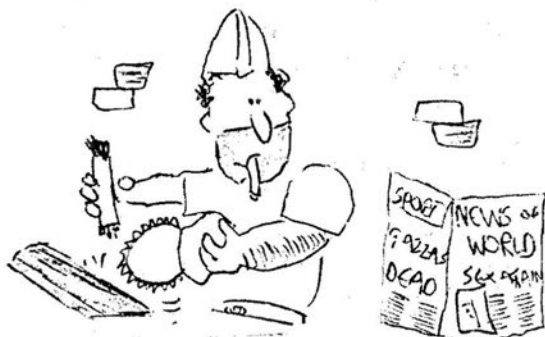
When it comes to the actual fabric of your home you could be lucky and find yourself living in a house that already has ill-fitting doors, paper thin walls, four inch soil pipes running through the lounge or light switches at peculiar angles. On the other hand, you could find that you have to add these essential items yourself - by slaving away with a "Black and Decker" in your spare evenings and weekends. Usually though even if your home was "jerry built" or subject to extensive botching up by the previous owner, you will still be able to add some little touches of your own, simply to imprint your personality upon it. You could be ambitious and transform the exterior whilst neglecting the pride of the street, or just add such features as a home sauna, a bar in the lounge with wild west saloon doors, or a handsome brick surround fireplace.

Of course, the only proper way to go about these tasks is to do them yourself! Consider the following points:-

(i) "D.I.Y." is manly and ego-intensive, it gives you an excuse to wear grubby overalls, carry a steel tape measure in your pocket, stick "ciggies" and stubs of pencil behind your ear and for once in your life look as if you know what you are doing.

(ii) "D.I.Y." affords endless opportunities to fall off ladders, get splinters in your bottom, slice the tops off your fingers, get your head stuck in plastic buckets and of course to electrocute yourself - all under the pretext of doing useful jobs about the house.

(iii) "D.I.Y." enables you not only to embellish your own home with louvre doors and polystyrene ceiling tiles from "M.F.I." but also when visiting friends' houses to go around pointing out cracks in the plaster and patches of dry rot and woodworm. Prodding the walls with your pocket dampometer, "tut tutting, shaking your head gloomily, whistling through your teeth and generally volunteering vast amounts of unwanted advice.





"SKILLS"

(i) Guiding a power-saw whilst simultaneously hand rolling a cigarette and reading a horoscope in the "News of the World".

(ii) Wiring up an extra spur on a ring main with the power on.

(iii) Wriggling your way under the floor boards whilst holding a lighted match in order to check for gas leaks.

(iv) And finally, the knack of demolishing load bearing walls without being crushed to death by falling masonry

There are some jobs, frankly, that turn out to be beyond the scope of the most enthusiastic "D.I.Y.-er". In such cases, all you can do is to swallow your pride and call in a firm of cowboys to do the job for you.

"WORK" IN PROGRESS

Whatever project you decide on, whether it is a pool, a granny annexe or a multi-level sun patio consisting of acres of pink and yellow crazy

paving, perforated concrete balustrades, plastic birdbaths and floodlit fountains. Don't forget to keep a complete step by step photographic record of the building work with which to bore the pants off your friends at social gatherings. this should be in the form of an imitation leather photograph album containing pictures of you:-

(i) Ceremonially cutting the first sod with a diesel chainsaw, or taking the first swing with a sledgehammer.

(ii) Grinning ruefully as you attempt to extract your "wellies" from six inches of quick setting ready-mix concrete.

(iii) Giving a cheerful "thumbs up" to the camera, blissfully unaware that the concrete lintel above your head is about to give way and bury you under two tons of breeze blocks.

(iv) Reversing a hired mechanical digger into your neighbours garden fence.

(v) Proudly glueing the last strip of wood grain laminate, or polystyrene ceiling tile to the ceiling whilst perched precariously on the top rung of the ladder.

With each project you tackle your collection of "photo" albums should grow until they will take up so much room that you will have to build a special "album extension" to accomodate them. You will then be able to record the building of the album extension in a specially lavish "Photo album extension" album...

Paul Kingsbury

A trip down Memory Lane browsing through past editions of Venture 44

YEAR AGO

Jim Newman and Simon (Sam) Cambridge join..
 Canoeing on the Avon...
 Climbing at Murray Hall and Cleeve Hill....
 A trip to the Highlands, and visit to Alan
 Robbins...
 Snowdonia at Whitsun....
 A new editor - Paul Kingsbury.

YEARS AGO...

Richard McGregor, Tim Cowell and Andy Clyde
 join...
 Fitting of double doors at the rear of the
 hut, by Lee Rounce...
 October visit to North Wales...
 Survival weekend in the Forest of Dean
 Raft race - one experimental design fails
 to make the starting line...
 Secretary Jason Stone and Treasurer Dave
 Wright leave...
 Chairman Graham Dalby in hospital after a
 serious motorcycle accident...

YEARS AGO...

21st edition of Venture 44...
 3000 cubs celebrate 60 years of Cub
 scouting at Miserden....and use
 latrines dug by guess who....

Unit darts tournament won as expected by
Bren Noonan....

20 YEARS AGO...

300 man hours dismantling a large edifice
at Innsworth -(destined to become the
fated Bowls Pavilion)

More latrine digging, this time at Frampton
Al Robbins, Steve Chalkley leave..

Twyi valley and Plynlimon expedition during
coldest New Year period for ages
frozen socks shatter on impact.....

Canoe expedition down the Wye.

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I was slightly nervous and not quite sure what to expect as we pulled up outside the Welsh Scout Council's Mountain Centre, Yr Hafod, in the Ogwen Valley. I was first to arrive for the weekend course in mountaineering, and when Frank left, I was on my own with three instructors who were brassed off for not having time to go to the pub. Slowly but surely other groups arrived, and all seemed very friendly and made me feel at ease. Most of them were adult leaders and assistants coming for training and some for assessment. The groups for the following day's hill walk were posted up, and I saw I was in a

group with two instructors, an A.V.S.L. and another Venture scout, both of whom were being assessed for the "Hafod Card", whilst I was just there for the training. settled down in my bunk, eagerly awaiting the coming day.

I got up early next morning and went out. It was cold, misty and raining, and generally just the sort of day when the last place you'd want to be is 3000ft up a mountain. I went back inside, had breakfast, and watched as those to be assessed in my group attempted to fill in a route card. When the assessors weren't looking I was asked how to work out magnetic variation. I foolishly told them, and now dread one day turning on the news and hearing that one of my erstwhile colleagues has lost a party of scouts on a mountain somewhere simply because he didn't taking into account magnetic variations...

Kit was then packed and instructors came to check that we all had our thermos flasks. I've never used one before, so I wasn't about to start, so I took the confidence rope and offered my flask to someone else who happily took me up on the offer. Then it was karrimats that were to be checked and I questioned why, as we were not spending the night out. My reply was that we may want to sit down! After squashing the kitchen sink into the top of my rucksack we set out in the rain for our target, Tryfan and the Glyders. Unfortunately it wasn't a day for peak bagging as I had already done these three. Never mind, I thought, it is all good experience.

On the mountain it was entertaining to see Tony, one of the assessees attempting to do a "resection" in thick mist. we eventually reached the summit of Tryfan where the team sat on their karrimats, sipping from their thermos' and I sat on a rock chewing a Mars bar, claiming I couldnt be bothered to get my thermos from the bottom of my sack!

Half way up Glyder Fach I noticed that one of the instructors had gone missing. I looked around for him, and checked to myself as I recalled tales I had been told about the tricks they played. I said nothing and we walked on for 3 or so more minutes before anyone else noticed, and I thought, oh well he's failed!

As we descended the Devil's Kitchen we were met by a man who was worried about the safety of some young girls he had seen on the hill earlier. This served to remind us of the importance of being properly prepared in the mountains.

We eventually arrived at Hafod and those being assessed had to take some exams whilst I attended two lectures, one on navigation and one on First Aid. After dinner the centre emptied as everyone headed for the pub, and the instructors were now happy.

Next morning I opted for climbing, and we did a few climbs in a place called Tin pan Alley, just round the corner from the Idwal Slabs. However the bad weather threatened again, so we returned to the centre. We set off midafternoon for the long drive back to Gloucester. I left knowing many things I hadn't known when I arrived, and was very happy after enjoying an exciting week end.

Matt Wilton

A cautionary note. That same weekend a family group were walking on Snowdon: the weather was bad, and the parents went back whilst the two sons continued. Sadly they strayed from the path and the body of the older one was recovered by the Mountain Rescue Team later that evening. Such unfortunate incidents highlight the importance of training in mountaineering, and courses such as the one Matt attended are of tremendous value in this respect.

FROM ALL POINTS

Firstly a correction to an item reported in the last issue; JAMES FOSTER, still resident in Gloucester at present, has not yet succumbed to a career in teaching. James has been working on the "Citizen" - yet another ex-editor of this magazine to be drawn into the seedy world of the journalist!

One of the big social events of the season took place a couple of months ago at Mulhampton Farm, Upton Bishop - ALI SMITH's 21st birthday party. In true venture scout style the celebrations took place in a tent (well, large marquee) and there seemed to be a lot of beer consumed. Unlike a typical venture scout get together, however, lounge suits and black ties were the order of the night. It was good to see a number of ex-members. GEORGE EVANS reported that he was really enjoying his first year at Plymouth, and did rather well in his geology exams (1st out of 50 plus, actually). STEVE GLADWELL decided that higher education is not what it is cracked up to be, and is now an assistant manager at the trendy "Dr Fosters" in Gloucester docklands. DAVE WILLIAMS, GARETH ROSS both still working in Gloucester, and TIM COWELL were present, and of course, PADDY and TIM SMITH. Paddy has moved from Southampton to Bristol, so that fair city now has two ex 44th accountants - the other being NICK PEARCE. Not much was seen of Tim in the early part of the evening as he was scouring the Herefordshire Gloucestershire border seeking fresh supplies

of real ale! The story that he was forced to try out pints at ten different inns before his return to the farm is, of course not true...It wasn't ten...

Tim has been making headlines on the sports pages of the local press as he is now captain of the county squash team. He has also recently scored a century for Haresfield at cricket. Well done!



■ Tim Smith

A more recent social event in the north of the county was the wedding of PHIL and JANE CHAMPION (at the time of writing they are in the Seychelles - landscape gardening must be one area of the economy that is still thriving!). Best man and general officer in command was big brother ROB CHAMPION, who didn't look entirely at home in a smart suit and had to divide his attention during the day between the quests and looking after the sheep.

More congratulations due, this time to ROW and MOIRA LLOYD, now proud parents of Jonathan David who weighed in on 21st of May at 61b 8oz. Already the possessor of a rugby ball, thanks to Steve Chalkley, and awaiting a cricket bat and his first pint of draught guinness.

With the Unit planning to "set sail" in the near future we have been assured of the advice and skills of DANNY MILLS, who sails regularly on the Avon. Recently in Gloucester was brother DOM MILLS whose sailing experience has been on larger craft and longer journeys - he has just returned from New Zealand after not quite sailing round the world. An article for Venture 44 has not quite been written yet, either...

A long letter has arrived from Australia with news from JASON STONE. He is having a great time out there and some of his exploits will be featured in the next issue.

Finally news from one of the pioneering designers and builder of racing beds who has taken his expertise on to higher things, JOHN PEPPERELL....

"You will probably have guessed from the envelope that I am still working for the Rover Group at Solihull (the Land Rover site) I will shortly be entering my fourth year with the company. It ahs goe very quickly so I guess that I must still be enjoying it.

I bought a house last July so I'm fairly well settled here now, but still a single man (Thank goodness!) I'm two years into a Master of Science degree course based at Warwick University and this is an enjoyable diversion from the rigours of 9 to 5, and serves to remind me of the joys of student life.

I have just taken a new job at work as manager of a Product Support Group department. the role is basically a facilitating one ensuring the smooth integration between our diesel engine design, manufacturing and assembly departments.

Outside of work my time seems to be split between socialising with a few of my ex-college friends who live locally, keeping the house together, and training for a 10 mile road race in Sutton at the beginning of June. The former and the latter are, however, proving to be somewhat contradictory!

I am still a regular visitor to Gloucester, and it is surprising how much the city is changing with new roads and shops cropping up left, right and centre. All for the better, I hope....."

Finally some late news on the fates of some of our ex-members who have just finished off their higher education, or at least the latest phase of it.

RICHARD MCGREGOR has just completed his B.Sc at Bristol in Biochemistry and will be starting off on a Ph.D. next academic year. JOE CLYDE has also completed his degree in Maths at Cambridge.

ADAM FOSTER is still at King's in London where he still has three years to do before becoming a fully fledged doctor. Unlike many who leave Gloucester and give up sport, Adam keeps in training and still enjoys his running!

F.H.

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ANGLO NORWEGIAN NEWS

Ernest Davies, founder of the Nansen Centre, has been spending some time in England, and has visited Gloucester. Four members of the Norway 90 expedition met up with Ernest at the V.S.L.s mansion..

Ernest, to whom we are indebted for his kind hospitality last summer, told me of plans to set up another Nansen Centre in the North of Scotland. Several meetings with land owners are planned to seek a suitable location for a workshop similar to the one at Krattebol, and an A.G.M. for the Nansen Society (U.K.) was to take place in Oxford.

We discussed with Ernest the possibility of a cross country ski trip in Norway next Easter. More details of this will follow in later editions of Venture 44.

P.K.

