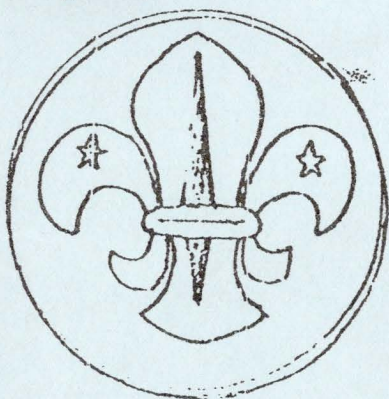


VENTURE

44



NUMBER

70

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

NUMBER 70

DECEMBER 1991

UNIT OFFICERS

Leaders	Frank Henderson
	Phil Brown
	Alan Quinn
Secretary	Matt Wilton
Chairman	Nick Cambridge
Treasurer	Nick James
Editor	Paul Kingsbury
Exec members	Brad Salter
	Jim Newman

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A Happy Christmas to all our readers!

UNIT NEWS

Yet another crisp, new, Venture 44 is out with only a few days to go before Christmas. May I take this opportunity to wish all readers, ex-members and members alike a merry Christmas and a much more prosperous financial New Year!

The programme since the Scotland expedition has been a mixed one, and the highlight for five members, equipped with mountain bikes, was spending couple of days based at the caravan at Hay on Wye. Unfortunately the trip was cut short by an impromptu act of theft near Brecon when we were walking the Beacons. The school bus was broken in to and six bikes, locked together, were taken together with helmets, and our lunch! After being interviewed by the police at Brecon we decided to cut short our stay and go home to consider insurance policies.

On a brighter note, our regular team was entered in the latest Parents Association quiz, determined to beat the previous years joint first. Having wasted our joker, yet again, we finished with 92 points, 2 behind the eventual winners. This year, incidentally, we entered as Accrington Stanley.

Due to the condition of the hut, Wednesday night activities have been limited. We have spent several evenings in the gym involving riotous games of football and basketball, and recently a table tennis tournament.

Work on the boat, under the supervision of ex-member Danny Mills has commenced, and work is also underway on the hut. The situation there is increasingly desperate, but opportunities to do the necessary rebuilding have been few.

A trip has been made to Cheltenham to hear climber Doug Scott lecture, and recently a visit to the World Indoor Climbing Finals at the N.I.C Birmingham was made. More of that next issue.

Paul Kingsbury

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We welcome three new members all of whom are making a positive contribution to the Unit, Matthew Parsons, Mark Hibberd, and Charlie Richardson - whose enthusiasm can be judged by the fact that he lives in Westbury-on-Severn, so has to make long journeys to get to our meetings. Two long serving members have left school, Mike Cheshire to Gloscat, and Brad Salter who is on an industrial training scheme in Gloucester. Both are keeping in touch with the Unit and joining in with our activities.

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THE BRACELANDS EXPERIENCE

It was late in September, or was it October? - six young foolhardy adventurers set out on a quest - the quest for adventure, thrills, and an endless supply of Grosch bottle tops.

Armed only with bravery, courage and a packet of Jacobs Water biscuits they set out for Bracelands County Adventure Centre. Although fabled as the land of holding up loose trousers, its real identity is that of a hallowed backwater in the Forest of Dean.

The handsome and courageous Richian team consisted of Steve Davis, Andy Clifford, Andy Tiffney, Chris Skidmore, Jon Wyatt, and perhaps the most brave and handsome of all - Jim Newman! The adventurers arrived at Bracelands and were introduced to four girls from St Benedicts, a school in far off Cheltenham.

Forced to split our allegiance and join with the girls we formed two groups of five to face whatever fate would fling at us. The room hushed as the wise ancients of Bracelands shuffled in (or rather leapt, but definitely not as dramatic as shuffled). they stood cowed in the age old traditional garb of Nike shell suits and trainers. There they were in all their true glory - these were our gurus in the "art of the outdoors".

After being kitted up we left for the great adventure and a week of learning new skills. The first night saw us outside where we had to build a shelter out of a tarpaulin and two poles (Lech and Jaroslav) and a few bits of rope. At first we were successful, but during the night it all fell down, and we ended up lying on the canvas!

During the days we indulged in initiative courses (getting lost without a compass) and orienteering (which is getting lost with a compass). we tried our rock climbing skills on Symonds Yat, together with a bit of abseiling. We also tried out climbing trees whilst tied together (us, not the trees)!

We built a raft, on a limited budget, and luckily it didn't fall apart as we floated over the River Wye to pluck a leaf from the opposite bank. Unfortunately we dropped it midstream and had to go back for another one!

Evenings were spent playing silly games and having competitions to find who had the hairiest

legs, the strongest grip, and the nicest eyes

When the jampacked and thoroughly enjoyable but exhausting adventure was eventually over the group again became six. Slowly and deliberately they mounted their Toyota Space Cruiser and rode off into the sunset... (bad map reading again!)

Based on the diary of...

JIM NEWMAN

-o-

Seen in the Citizen earlier this term...

Enterprising students make finals.

An electronic cycle alarm, a self supporting tent light and a fold-away lunch box were the prize winners in the local heat of the Young inventor of the year competition.

The competition, run jointly by three Gloucester based Rotary Clubs, brought together over 50 projects from 11 secondary schools in and around Gloucester.

there were three winners, one chosen by each of the Rotary Clubs, each received £25.... the tent light light invented by MATTHEW WILTON from Sir Thomas Rich's was the Gloucester Severn Club's winner....

What is
it?



Can we
throw some
light on the
subject.

44th Gloucester Venture Scout UnitAnnual Report, September 1991

Sponsoring authority: Sir Thomas Rich's School

V.S.L.s Report

Much has happened during the course of the last twelve months during which time the unit has continued to thrive, largely due to the enthusiasm and energy of the "Executive group" backed up by the rest of the membership.

In order for a unit to succeed there are a number of conditions that need to be met that may not always be apparent even to unit members. Support and tolerance are needed from several quarters, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank some of the people without whom we could not function.

As a sponsored group we depend on the school for our accommodation, much of our funding, and support in many other ways. There have been changes at the top in recent years, and at the start of the last school year we said goodbye to Mr John Holdaway, who during his time at the school was always a great supporter of the unit. His links with us have not been entirely severed as he has agreed to audit our accounts. Fortunately we have been very lucky in that Mr Jarvis has shown that he appreciates the value of the Unit to the general life of the school. This support from the school management is essential for our existence and future development.

We also need the sympathy and co-operation of one other very important person, that is the school caretaker, so we are again lucky indeed to have much more than that in having Alan Quinn as an active leader in the unit.

I must also thank the officers for their work, and in particular the secretary. Matthew has made himself indispensable, and it is difficult to see how the unit could manage without his commitment, enthusiasm, and effort.

Early in the year four members gained their Venture Award - Matt Wilton, Mike Cheshire, Paul Kingsbury, and Brad Salter. It is hoped that during this year we can increase this number, and also hopefully see some Queen's Scout awards being gained.

Financially, as will be seen in the accompanying statement, the Unit is in generally good health. This is in part due to the money we earn by running the school shop, and also to that which we accrue from the Supporters "100 Club". Many thanks to those who are in this scheme, the income will be invaluable in paying for the hut rebuilding. Incidentally, there is always room for more contributors, and a modest £12 a year is all that is necessary to join!

Finally it is appropriate that this report is published in our very own magazine, which as well as being read by our members goes out to 70 ex-members and Unit. Many thanks to Paul, Mike and their helpers who produce VENTURE 44.

F.H. October 91

44th Gloucester (Sir Thomas Rich's School) Venture Scout Unit.

Statement of Accounts for Year 1st Sept 1990 to 31st Aug 1991.

<u>Income</u>		£	£	<u>Expenditure</u>		£
Bed Races (Glos July 90, Stnehse 91)		925.99		Payments to School Pool Fund		506.36
Less expenses, R.Table charities		<u>513.91</u>	412.08	Capitation Fees, Glos District Scout Council		173.70
100Club		612.00		Entry fees (Cotswold Marathon, Sun Run, Raft Race, etc)		94.50
Less Prizes		<u>395.00</u>	217.00	Equipment, general		217.17
Scottish expedition Payments		870.00		Climbing Gear		105.40
less expenses		<u>866.62</u>	3.38	Canoes, dinghy		47.50
Members subscriptions			348.00	Caving Equipment hire		30.00
Associate members subs			5.00	Cycle hire		50.00
Tuck shop profits			1035.00	Bus expenses		40.00
Sweat shirt sales			27.50	Donations		10.00
Sponsored Climb			58.50	Postage, Venture 44, etc		39.72
Interest on Deposit Account			19.92	Expedition subsidies		5.98
				Sundries		2.69
				Total Expenditure		<u>1323.02</u>
				(Balance of income over expend		<u>803.36</u>)
Brought forward from 1989/90			518.34			
Balance of income over expend 1990/91			<u>803.36</u>			
Carried forward to 1991/92			<u>1321.70</u>			

Secretary's Report

I expect every secretary's report that ever was or ever will be starts "It has been an eventful year....." so I will try to start a little differently. A lot has happened over the past 365 days, although there have been some quiet periods mostly during mock and G.C.S.E exams in which most of the Unit were involved.

Highlights of the past year include the now traditional October half term trip to Hay on Wye where mountain biking, hill walking and canoeing were endured and enjoyed by all.

In January we once again sportingly took part in the District swimming gala. as ever we turn up, not aiming to win, but to make up the numbers (well thats our story and we're sticking to it!). Then training began for the Cotswold Marathon, which as most of you know is a gruelling slog at night across the wild and dangerous expanses of the Cotswolds. Two teams completed the course, and two of our leaders helped out on the organisation.

New ground was broken in March when the Unit was represented at a Mountain training course at Hafod in North Wales.

Not all our ventures were successful, as we decided to try ten pin bowling at Swindon. I would like to take this chance to recommend that anyone thinking of going bowling should book in advance, as we had to wait for three hours until we were told that our slot would be at about two in the morning - we went home in disgust! The Stonehouse Bed Race was the last major activity before the GCSE exams and as usual we swept the board and carried off 1st and 2nd in record time. We also entered a "fun bed" so most of the Unit was involved in this event raising money

both for us and for local charities

All through the summer exams some of us sought relaxation in the form of climbing at Cleeve Hill, and had some lovely afternoons sun tanning and hand jamming. During Pool fund raising week we built our own climbing wall and climbed the height of Ben Nevis in 2 hours, and in doing so made the front page of the Citizen!

When the exams were over it was time for the Sun Run, which we did in good time, and managed to beat the rooster to cock a doodle doo. At about that time we were given a sailing boat which is due to be refitted this winter. Many thanks for the kindness of the donor.

The summer expedition to Scotland had been planned a long time back, and as the last issue of Venture 44 was entirely devoted to it I shall not dwell on it. It was thought that the party should get some mountain bike practice, so we went down to South Wales for a ride with Steve Chalkley and a band of his merry men. The team got on well and we had a really good, and sometimes hairy ride. Thanks to Steve.

These were just some of last year's ventures, and as I write this, I look up at my notice board at a poster about the World Indoor Climbing Championships at Birmingham. A visit to this is just one of many activities that the V.S.L. helps to run and organise, and we are greatly indebted to him for this. Thanks!

Matt Wilton

100 CLUB WINNERS

OCTOBER	Steve Clutterbuck
NOVEMBER	Mrs J. Wilton
DECEMBER	Ian Simmons

FROM ALL POINTS

News from a number of our ex members this issue, in no particular order....

First news of two more weddings since the summer Congratulations to GRAHAM and RACHAEL DALBY, who were married in September. They are living in the Coventry area where Graham is working at the Land Registry. As a member of the Sports and Social committee (obviously Graham's experience on the V.S.U. executive has stood him in good stead), he has been instrumental in designing and building a bar for the office...Cheers.

Another man who has put behind him the heady joys of freedom is ANDY MANDERS, who was married in Cheltenham in October. Andy (a manager of a Prestons jewellers) and the new Mrs Manders are moving from the home counties back to the west before long. We wish them both all the best in the future

Good news on the exam front from RICH BOOTH who has added another 'A' level grade A to his collection of qualifications since leaving school. Rich is now down at Cardiff University reading Law.

MARCUS WHITMORE has also been working away at gaining additional qualifications, and is due to finish a course at Bristol poly whilst working for the prestigious firm of Smith, Stuart and Reynolds - Chartered Town Planners and Surveyors of Cheltenham.

STEVE CATCHICK is now at Sheffield University doing a degree course in Photography. Steve has done some work for "Sounds" magazine. Never heard of it? - well it closed shortly after Steve had his work published. (Not cause and effect we understand!)

Another photographer of the same generation is LEE ROUNCE who is back in the Gloucester area at present after spending some time in the Black Swan area of Liverpool (has to be named after a pub). Lee has been working on community projects developing photographic skills of youngsters doing Duke of Edinburgh Award training - using plastic cameras.

Primitive art

PHOTOGRAPHY & TUITION.

Lee Rounce.
218 Hucclecote Road,
Gloucester.

0452 618137.



A voice from the seventies...MARK EVANS, now a staff nurse in Glasgow writes

"Pleased that the unit appears so active and notice the appearance of some young lions (climbing variety)

Did my very own Sun Run around midsummer, Blair Atholl to Aviemore via Glen Tilt and the spectacular Lairig Ghru (it took me back some 15 years to some Munro bashing the unit did from Lochnagar, Derry Cairngorm and Ben Macdui).

Arrived 3 a.m. at Blair Atholl and tramped to the Corrou Bothy by 6 p.m. Breakfasted with golden eagles and red deer in velvet the following day. the auld "Henri Lloyd" Glencoe neoprene is still as sweaty as ever!

I've been a staff nurse a year now - but have a long way to catch up on Ian Fletcher! We have been accepted as migrants to "Oz", so the house goes on the market shortly. we are going to miss Caledonia, but that's life - there must be a few Munros in the Snowy mountains..."

We wish Mark and Fidelma all the best in the their careers, and hope to read in future editions of any adventures they may have down under.

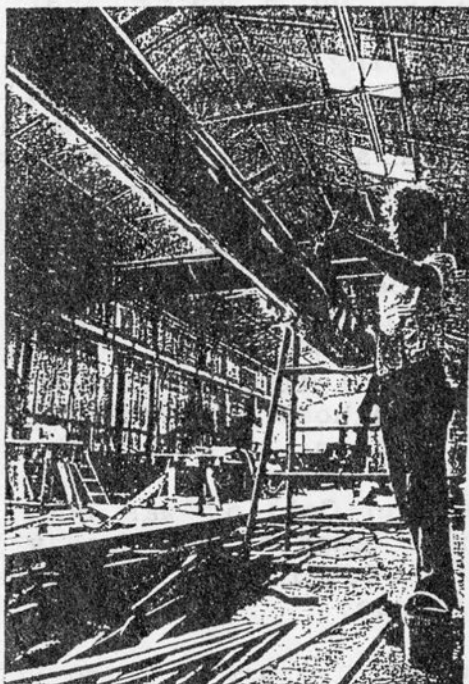
Whilst on the antipodean theme, we had hoped to print some of the adventures of JASON STONE, who is recently back from his travels amongst the wombats and kangeroos, but as yet the manuscript has not arrived. Hopefully it will be wrested from him over the Christmas period and will appear in our March edition!

From closer at hand, I recently heard from our Paris correspondent, YOSH COWMEADOW, who writes "I am still teaching English as you might guess from the long rambling sentences, apparently devoid of logic, grammar or spelling. I did the T.E.F.L. certificate over the summer in London, for which my boss paid half as I was one of only two unqualified teachers in the school. It was a truly nightmarish experience, every bit as bad as I thought it would be, but it is a really useful piece of paper to have. The instructors there (International House) had that horrible smugness about them, based on the fact that the place has a red hot reputation (which I am not

sure it matches up to). What really got to me was the dreadful social-worker-type buzz words, like 'sharing ideas' when in fact they were more into indoctrination than sharing...

So, Scotland this summer, eh? From what I read in V44 (which incidentally seems to have gone up a notch or two recently in terms of well written articles etc) it sounds like a good trip. By the way if you are planning another trip to Iceland, drop me a line if there is any spare room...."

One of Yosh's contemporaries has been featured in the October issue of "Classic Boat". DOM MILLS (brother of Danny) has been working on the tall ships in Gloucester docks



This page:

Above: Dominic Mills using Cuprinol Yacht Varnish to coat the Douglas fir spars made for a ketch-rigged motorsailer.

As the magazine puts it "Local man Dominic Mills trained as a joiner before becoming the yard's spar specialist two years ago. 'I started with a tree and a chain saw' Dom told me, 'but the finer tools for the craft are a level and string to mark out the lines of the first cut, then a round soled jack plane and spiling battens to get fair lines in a taper'" So much for modern Technology!

Finally, news from CHRIS COLLINS...

....As you have heard I am now working in the Earth Sciences Department at the University of Cambridge. I am on a three year contract to establish an International Centre of excellence and set up training courses in the department. I am also the conservator for the collections, the second biggest in the country with 1½ million specimens, plus archives and related material. Quite a challenge! I have been here for 4 weeks and am still tryin to find my feet and wade through the politics of the department. The post is supposed to be self funding after 3 years!

As you will know, Trudi and I have a son, David, who is now 18 weeks old. At the moment, Trudi is stuck in Leicester with him whilst I am commuting between home and Cambridge. We are, of course, house hunting as well!

David Jordan Collins was christened at St Swithins Church Hempsted, on Sunday 1st December We wish Chris, Trudi and little David all the best in the future.

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NEXT ISSUE DUE OUT IN MARCH. ARTICLES, FEATURES AND ARTWORK TO EDITOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

