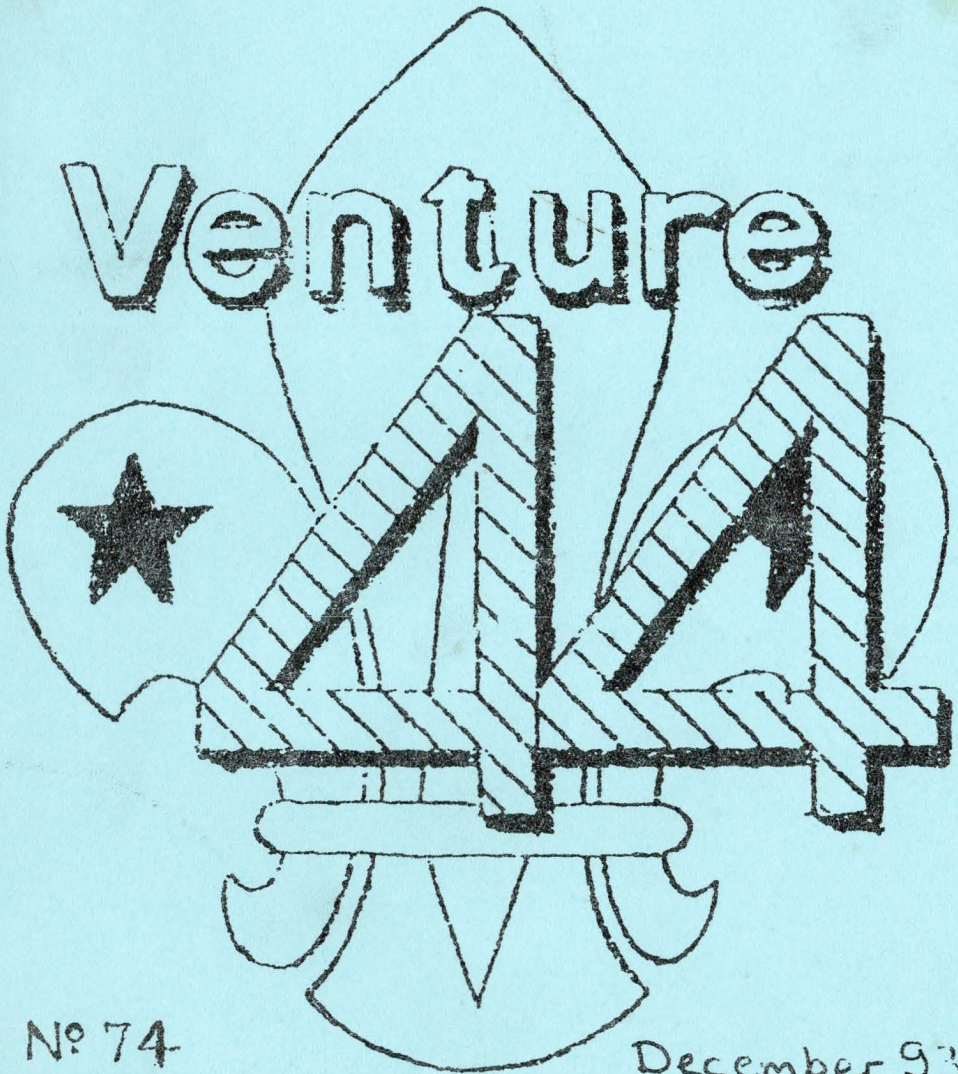


# Venture



Nº 74

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# VENTURE 44

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The magazine of the 44th Gloucester (Sir Thomas Rich's School) Venture Scout Unit.

## UNIT OFFICERS

Leaders	Frank Henderson Alan Quinn Phil Brown
Chairmen	Tim Andrews Luke Hemming
Secretary	Mark Gilmore
Treasurer	Adam Bradley
Quartermaster	Dave Frodin
Sports Sec	Jody Bevan
Editor	Jeremy Lai Hung

## CONTENTS

Unit News . . . . .	2
A Ride on the Ridgeway . . . . .	4
The Never Ending Story . . . . .	6
Unit Accounts 1992/3 . . . . .	8
From All Points . . . . .	10
Spells of a Dark Magus . . . . .	14

## UNIT NEWS

The Unit has been quietly active over the past few months despite being unable to make full use of the hut (no electricity yet!). The highlight of the half term trip to Hay-on-Wye was a cycle trip up over the Brecon Beacons, led by Steve Chalkley. Starting from Brecon the group followed the old roman road over to the old railway line at Torpantau and then through the tunnel down to Tal-y-bont.

Now that the Pool is back in use it was the unit that was the first group of pupils to take the plunge, most have now recovered from the excess chlorine! We should now be able to train up a team for next years district swimming gala.

Pool of a different sort has featured recently as a table donated by Laurentian Life Assurance has been a popular addition to the hut furniture. In the new year there will be a sponsored pool match with Laurentian, and details of this are found further on in the magazine.

A small group recently did a short night hike and camped out at Mulhampton Farm. They chose the coldest weekend of the winter so far, and woke to snow on the ground on Sunday morning.

Over the past few months we have been doing a bit of work for the school, cutting down the hedge alongside the tennis courts. It has been a long and scratch-producing process and it ended up recently with a big bonfire. It did produce a lot of tennis balls, but we are not popular with the year 11 tobacco appreciation society!

Another well supported meeting this term saw Old Richian Jon O'Leary who gave us a slide presentation on some of his himalayan adventures, both mountain climbing and canoeing.

February will see the Cotswold Marathon, and a team has already been assembled to build on the efforts of last year.

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This summer we said farewell to a number of members who have been the backbone of the unit for four years, including brothers Nick and Sam Cambridge, and Jim Newman and Charles Richardson. We have also lost one of the new wave, James Adams, whose family have moved to Dorset. We wish them all the best in the future.

Two people who will be particularly missed are the one time editor of this very magazine, PAUL KINGSBURY, and long serving secretary, MATTHEW WILTON. Paul is now studying at Lampeter, and Matt is at Manchester. Both Paul and Matt have been outstanding in the school in general, and the unit in particular, showing qualities of loyalty, reliability, and initiative that are the mark of the very best in Venture scouting. They will be difficult to replace, but I hope that their association with the unit has not come to a complete end and we will see them occasionally on activities in the future. F.H.

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS  
and a  
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR  
to all our readers

## A RIDE ON THE RIDGEWAY

Early in the Easter holiday a group of eight of the more adventurous (or stupid) members of the Unit took part in a (leisurely) two day cycle ride of about seventy miles.

After removing some of the seats from the up-to-the moment, hi tech, exquisitely furnished mini bus, with suspension so good that it falls apart when Adam "the lightweight" Bennett sits in it, we loaded bikes, tents and so on. We drove about twelve miles and disembarked near Andoversford in the very fresh air of the countryside, or force ten gale if you prefer.

We replaced the front wheels on our bikes - we find it helps to maintain balance. Tim did not need to do this as his bike is so good that the wheel is moulded on to give a boost to the aerodynamically contoured frame.

The journey for Monday - approximately 32 miles according to the hi-tech gadget on the Andrews superbike. Navigation, basically along the rural setting of the valley of the River Colne was excellent, although we covered a few extra miles due to a minor mistake (Gareth), and stopping only for a few ice cream and to buy some rainbow trout in Bibury we were well on course. Just outside Lechlade, as we headed up the hill the wind was so strong we had to pedal hard to avoid going backwards, but we eventually reached our destination - the "Carpenter's Arms", a pub with a field behind.

We put up our tents with the minimum difficulty despite the continued strong wind. Tim's kept falling down in the night - surely no-one had removed any pegs?

The evening meal was good, and next morning we ate the afore mentioned rainbow trout, very nice and set off up on to the Ridgeway. We stopped at Wayland Smithy, an ancient burial site and then continued along the track. there were some fast downhills and many deep puddles which tended to cause us to get wet through - a major drawback!

We were delayed for some time whilst Adam mended a puncture, but were soon on the move again. We were following verbal instructions and although we had a map we didn't need to use it, as the route was straightforward. So we got lost. We ended up by the Thames at Streatley, where the V.S.L. eventually located us. We loaded up, and climbed into the bus to the relief of our tired muscles. We were totally exhausted, and very wet but we had enjoyed the ride. Thanks to the V.S.L. for his help, and entertaining us at the dinner table with enigmatic and amusing(?) stories on Monday night.

Mark Gilmore

## V 4 4 READER'S CHARTER

Are YOU happy with Venture 44 as it is? Do YOU think it could be improved? Would you like to see any alterations

New Fatures?

More illustrations?

More (or even SOME) humour

Some serious "social comment" type features

Games, puzzles, etc.

We would like to hear from YOU the reader what YOU think so that we can improve YOUR MAGAZINE.

## THE HUT - THE NEVER ENDING STORY

The story so far... After many years of service the old Scout hut had given, it was time for the sagging walls and rotten floors to go, and a new hut was commissioned. Despite bad weather and problems with building regulations the base was laid in January....

Every weekend through the spring and early summer saw small groups of venture scouts busy on the project. There was a great deal of minor adjustments, with every piece seeming to not quite match up to the next one, but slowly and surely the walls rose, the roof support was assembled, and the roof itself was erected. The working parties grew in size as scouts were encouraged to see the hut gradually grow. The doors and windows were put in, and the floors and walls lined. Painting was a popular task, and some paint did actually get on the walls!

At times some of us felt like giving up when things went wrong - the walls had to come down several times in order to get them to line up properly; a swaying concrete post nearly laid the V.S.L. out, and the doors didn't fit (they still don't properly!). Even so, most of us enjoyed the time spent working on the task, and are pleased with our masterpiece.

Tim Andrews

N.B. It's not finished yet, but it is hoped to get the ceiling installed this Christmas, and put power in soon after. I would like to thank all the members and ex-members who have helped, and in particular Tim, Luke Hemming and James Adams for exceptional "devotion to duty" F.H.



# SPONSORED POOL MATCH

a t

## LAURENTIAN LIFE

Proceeds to CHAMWELLS SCHOOL holiday project.

JANUARY 21st

The match will take place over a period of three hours during which members of the Unit will play against members of the Laurentian Life Sports and Social Club. It is expected that about 20 matches will be played, and sponsoring is based on the number of matches WON by the Venture Scouts.

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IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT THIS PROJECT,  
EITHER BY GETTING SPONSORS, OR SPONSORING  
MEMBERS PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH

JODY BEVAN  
c/o 44th GLOUCESTER V.S.U.  
SIR THOMAS RICH'S SCHOOL  
OAKLEAZE  
GLOUCESTER  
GL2 0LF

44th GLOUCESTERSTATEMENT OF ACCOUNTSINCOME

100 Club	594.00
Membership subs	236.00
Tuck Shop	975.00
Sponsored cycle event	59.34
Sale of Sweatshirts	25.00
Expedition income	105.00
Norway Exped (c.f)	62.64
Interest on Dep ac	4.68

Total Income 2061.66

Brought forward 91/92

Current Ac	1928.59
Deposit Ac	248.44
Cash	13.06

Total b.f. 2190.09  
Less deficit 1772.04

418.05

VENTURE SCOUT UNITSEPTEMBER 1993EXPENDITURE

100 Club Prizes	225.00
Scout Hut	2782.44
Minibus	40.00
Climbing equip	134.73
Caving	42.00
Expedition exp	109.80
Entry Fees	84.70
Glos Dist Scout Coun.	146.25
General equip	180.17
Postage, V44	20.48
Sundries	68.13

Total Expenditure 3833.70

Deficit of Exp over Inc 1772.04

Carried forward 93/94

Current ac	405.08
Deposit ac	0.00
Cash	12.97

Total c.f. 418.05

## FROM ALL POINTS

Since the last issue I have been in contact with a large number of ex-members at one event or another, and it has been particularly pleasing to see some of you for the first time for many years. So, in no logical order.....

First, a correction and apology. in No 73 you were informed that as far as known MARK SIMMONS was not married, but living happily in Newcastle on Tyne. Wrong on both counts! Mark was married in the summer, and is now living in Edinburgh whilst working in the museum in Perth. I called in at the museum this summer, much to the surprise of Mark, and discovered that he was at work on a collection previously visited by CHRIS COLLINS (the V44 museum mafia in action again!). A few days later I stayed with Mark and Dot in Edinburgh and enjoyed a few pints in a pleasant hostelry under the shadow of Arthur's Seat.

IAN SIMMONS is no longer our man in Vietnam, but brother Mark informs me that Ian is now in Thailand flying the flag with the Foreign Office.

Whilst in Scotland I spent a couple of days with ALAN and HEATHER ROBBINS. Their Forestry venture is thriving, despite the depression, and it was good to reminisce in the summer evenings sitting outside the pub (being eaten alive by midges) on the 44th 25 years ago! Whilst returning from holiday on the continent this year, Alan called at the school to show his children where he was educated, and was horrified to find that the scout hut had disappeared - (doesn't he read Venture 44??)

Back to weddings. As reported last issue MIKE BARTON took the plunge this summer. At the Al Fresco do in the evening I met SIMON VENN, who is now studying for a Psychology degree at the new university of Plymouth. Simon told me that his brother, PAUL VENN, had settled down and was running his own business, Roots & Fruits, in Calton Road. Next day, I decided that I fancied a cucumber, so I headed down Stroud Road and met up with Paul, who later came up to the school fete and was one of two ex-members to see the new hut in use for the first time. (The other was RICH DREW, who was home for the weekend and wondered what all the noise was up the road. Another guest at Mike's wedding was SIMON WILLIAMS, who also was married in September. Simon and Tracey spent their honeymoon sailing around the Greek islands and to quote "the trip turned into one big taverna crawl"...

Later in the summer another but different social event occurred one Saturday night at the "King Teddy" organised by an honoured ex-editor of this very magazine (eighteen years ago!) - ANDY MESSAM. It was a thirty-something gathering for folk who started at Rich's twenty five years ago and it attracted a good turn out, especially from ex-venture scouts. Apart from Andy, who is a prominent executive at Eagle Star, others included JOHN SWEET, now a building engineering adviser in Kent, and MARTIN BERRY, who works for C.R.S in Wellington, Somerset, whilst living in the south of Bristol. Another man of Kent, TONY (A.M.) JONES is in general practice in Maidstone whilst PHIL GORMAN is nearer home working for a local firm specialising in receivership. Phil is sometimes seen at the Cheltenham cricket festival, complete with mobile phone and other accoutrements of the successful executive. JOHN PENRY-WILLIAMS was up from the valleys, having

now become head of maths at a school with an unpronounceable name just outside Cardiff, whilst JOHN PRICE, after adventures in the Soviet Union has had several jobs teaching russian in England and Scotland before landing a post at that well known public school, Winchester. ROB CHAMPION of course was present, still market gardening in Hatherley, but absent (on holiday) were John Barnes, Mike Partridge and still in Hong Kong, Darrell Jones. All these ex-members were around in the great days of the Cotswold Marathon, and several were rash enough to consider entering a team again next year, but I expect they have forgotten that by now!

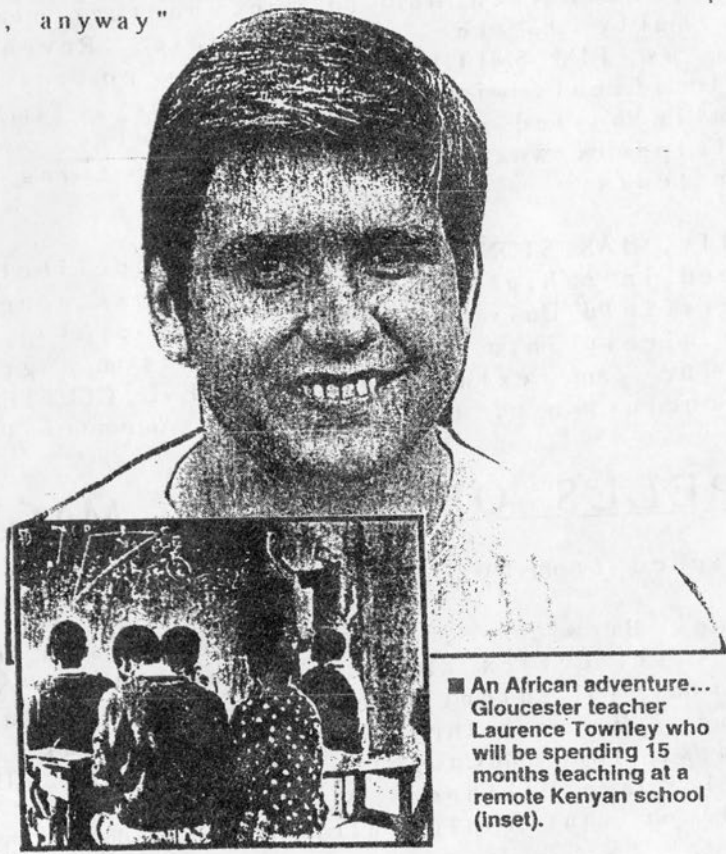
Another smaller scale social event in the Bowls Club saw GARETH ROSS, GEORGE EVANS and STEVE GLADWELL back in town. Gareth in fact was just off to do a Business studies course at the new University of Glamorgan at Pontypridd, whilst George was celebrating his success with a 2.1 in Geology from West London. He actually has a job, working with a geotechnical firm doing boreholes for the new Brockworth bypass. Steve continues to work in the licenced trade field, but is no longer in Doctor Fosters. JUSTIN SARGENT missed the mini-reunion as he had to start an M.Sc course at Silsoe College. Justin gained a 2.1 from Southampton this summer. Another ex-member from the same year, LAURENCE TOWNLEY, has set off to Africa to spend a year and a quarter in a remote Kenyan village. I met Laurence on a coach heading for Heathrow this summer, and he told me all the details of his trip. We hope to be able to print an account of his adventures in due course.

Whilst talking of travellers, some jottings from a perennial wanderer, YOSH COWMEADOW...

"I've just spent a year or so working in the

gulf (Abu Dhabi) teaching English to delinquent teenage Arab millionaires who were masquerading as military cadets. I think I've played enough bridge and drunk enough G & T and Pimms to last me a lifetime. Yes - you can drink in Abu Dhabi. what a stroke of luck!

So, with my ideologically unsound earnings I'm off on a big trip, meeting a friend in Mexico. we will spend some a few months in Central and South America - camping, walking, hanging around in seedy bars, etc before heading for Australia. After that things are fluid, maybe work in Oz. or on to S.E.Asia and India. I will keep you posted, anyway"



■ An African adventure... Gloucester teacher Laurence Townley who will be spending 15 months teaching at a remote Kenyan school (Inset).

Back to the wedding news...in September JOHN PEPPERELL met his match, and in November another seasoned traveller, DAVE JERRARD, tied the knot in Bristol. Dave and John, together with JER HOBBS returned to their old haunts for an evening at the Bowls Club. Dave recalled a meeting in the Californian mountains with RICH KERSWELL when they put their venture scout learned backwoods skills to the test.

Back at home a report in the Citizen on the County Squash Championships recorded that one ALI SMITH lost 3 - 0 in the second round, but his opponent then had to meet another member of the family in the quarterfinals. Revenge was sweet as TIM SMITH proceeded to go through to the semifinals with a 3 - 0 victory. Tim's farm recently hosted a unit night activity, when the participants woke up to find snow lying around their tents.

Finally, JAS STONE has, after long deliberation, plunged into higher education and has gone up to Huddersfield University to study sociology. This leads nicely into the next item, from a graduate from the same establishment, STEVE CLUTTERBUCK, the conclusion of the Miles Davis memorial...

## SPELLS OF A DARK MAGUS

(Continued from No.73)

'Bitches Brew', recorded in 1969, is a record which still defies any attempt at categorisation. The array of talent used in the recordings is awesome: Wayne Shorter, Joe Zawinul, Tony Williams, John McLaughlin, Chick Corea, Herbie Hancock, Dave Holland. 'Bitches Brew', the first example of what would later be termed "fusion",

(most of the fusion records which came after were much inferior) shook both the jazz and rock worlds. The unusual mix of McLaughlin's electric, rock oriented guitar playing next to Miles' tough trumpet sound was strange yet fascinating. The music is extremely dense and complex, with musicians entering and leaving the music at various intervals. One can get lost in the labyrinthine musical explorations and bewildering array of techniques evident on the recording, but getting lost in this context means finding any number of new musical experiences and surprises. It has been said that twenty-five years ago Miles was thirty years ahead of where we are now, and one would find it hard to disagree while listening to 'Bitches Brew'.

In the early to mid-seventies, Miles developed his music at an incredibly fast rate. The Rock critic Simon Reynolds has described Miles' output during this period as "freakrock"; you could not really call it anything else. Miles left his orthodox (if you could call anything Miles ever did orthodox!), classical jazz roots firmly behind him and dived into the world of rock and rhythmic experimentation. 'Live eviL', 'On the Corner' the wonderful 'Jack Johnson' (with John McLaughlin on tremendous form) and 'Dark Magus' all displayed different aspects of Miles' development. What also seemed to characterise this period of Miles' music was its dark, introspective and aggressive qualities. Young, black America was suffering in the early seventies and Miles, particularly in 'On the Corner' showed the latent anger and aggression which was present on the street. The music is incredibly dense and oppressive; it is not easy to listen to. But then that is exactly what Miles wanted. this was social realism on record.



After a spell away from music in the mid to late seventies, when he immersed himself in alcohol, sex and drugs, and was in no fit state to do anything, Miles returned in the eighties with records which, although again highlighting his wish to develop and change the course of his music, were by his standards pedestrian and unexciting (the exceptions perhaps being the great live album 'We Want Miles' from 1982 and 1986's 'Tutu'). However, his last recording proper to be released was Michel Legrand's sound track for the film 'Dingo', and shows Miles on excellent form.

Jazz, and music in general would have been infinitely poorer and less exciting without Miles Davis; his contribution to the development of music must never be underestimated. Thus his autobiography, published in 1990, is a must for anyone at all interested in music and how it is created. Now since his death the definitive work to consult on Miles Davis, it shows us just what drove the man and his need to create:

Music has always been like a curse with me because I have always driven to play it. It has always been the first thing in my life and it still is. It comes before everything...I've made a kind of peace with my musical demons....The demons are still there but now I know that they're there and when they want to be fed.

Steve Clutterbuck

#### 100 CLUB WINNERS

July	Mrs V.Andrews	Aug	Ali Smith
Sept	Andy Manders	Oct	I.L.Kellie
Nov	Mr K.Frodin	Dec	Ian Simmons



