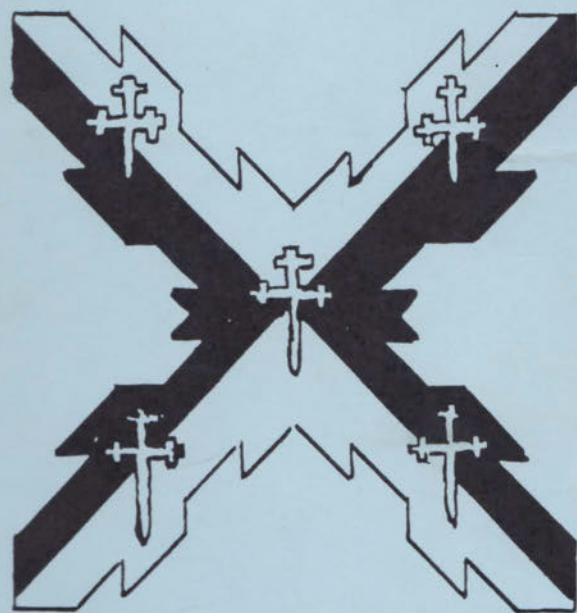


*The*  
**RICHIAN**



**1973**



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Co-editors: K. F. Harris  
J. R. Base

Art Editor: D. E. Lowe

Photographer: A. G. Ford

Staff Advisor: D. F. Moss

## **EDITORIAL**

The Magazine Committee thought it appropriate this year to issue the 1973 edition of 'The Richian' in advance of its normal distribution date in view of the departure of the Headmaster, Mr. J. Anthony Stocks, at Easter.

Kim Harris and myself would personally like to thank all those people involved in any way with the production of this magazine.

J. R. Base



## LOOKING BACK . . . .

In the time that has elapsed since the last issue of the magazine the School has suffered a very personal loss with the sudden death of the Deputy Headmaster, Mr. Geoffrey Sheard. A man of honour and integrity, respected by boys and staff alike, he is sadly missed by us all. The way in which our community rallied round to fill the gaps and to begin work on a Memorial Garden was heart-warming, and makes one proud to be a Richian.

One of the characteristics of Rich's seems to be its perpetual motion as far as doing things is concerned. Whether it be Oratorio or whether it be distributing food parcels to the aged at Christmas, a kaleidoscopic range of extra-curricular activities provide an opportunity for boys of all interests to take part and to understand that School for us does not end with the last bell of the afternoon.

Culturally, the School continues to thrive, and the flow of eminent speakers who come to the School to talk on a wide variety of topics is seemingly everlasting. This year we were honoured by appearances from celebrities such as Chay Blyth, the well known yachtsman, and Anthony Hopkins the versatile composer and broadcasting personality. We look forward with anticipation to forthcoming lectures by Tony Smythe and Sir Peter Scott.

As always, music and drama have played an important rôle in school life, and for the first time ever the two departments combined to produce Britten's vaudeville for boys' voices, 'Golden Vanity', which was run in conjunction with the school play 'Billy Budd'. The former presented quite a challenge with a singing cast of so many juniors, but nevertheless provided a high degree of enjoyment for both listener and performer alike.

The major Choral Society production for the year was a performance of Bach's 'Christmas Oratorio', details of which appear later in the magazine. The Choir continue to enhance morning assemblies with their weekly anthems, and their singing at the carol service this year earned them much praise. The Madrigal Group too, have made their contribution with a recital at Eldersfield, and in conjunction with some of our more experienced instrumentalists, in two highly successful chamber concerts. Such a varied and busy programme of musical activities entails a tremendous amount of dedication and co-operation for all concerned, and their hard work is evident in the high standards that they achieve.

Still on an entertaining note, but considerably less cultural, was the Perfects' Pantomime at Southgate's Cock House party; the annual bonanza of melodrama, double-entendre and a host of unlikely characters who in name and mannerisms always seem to bear considerable resemblance to members of the staff, and which has been known to evoke from the Headmaster the immortal comment: "I shall be in contact with my solicitor in the morning".

Founder's Day service this year was held, for the first time since our Tercentenary, in the Cathedral. Although the weather was inclement, the service was an impressive one; our preacher on this occasion being Bishop John Charles. Another occasion which ranks as one of the most important in the school year, was given a different format this year. Instead of the usual Speech Day, we had a distribution of prizes by Ald. Terry Joyner, Mayor of Cheltenham, and himself an Old Richian, followed by a



tableau of the School's history, produced by Mr. Broome, and the premiere of the School Film, a visual documentary of school life throughout the year.

Sports wise the school goes from strength to strength; successes ranging from an unbeaten 1st XI to a chess team which at the time of writing has reached the regional final of the Sunday Times National Schools' Chess Tournament.

We have excelled not only in sport but in work. The June A Level results were the best ever, and in November all the members of the Fifth Form who were entered for English Language and Mathematics were successful, many of them gaining passes at grades one and two. At the top of the academic pyramid, no less than six boys out of one year's intake have gained places at the universities of Oxford and Cambridge and many more are in residence at a wide variety of provincial universities and centres of further education.

School trips have been in abundance this year, with expeditions to Hadrian's Wall, a Field Course at Avening, the Venture Scout trip to Iceland, and a conducted tour of the steel works at Llanwern; not to mention individual Form outings and trips organized by School Societies.

One very important feature of Rich's and one which we ought not to take for granted, is that our annual staff change is very small. This provides a large degree of continuity and strengthens the relations between boys and staff. We say 'Welcome home' to Mr. S. J. Jefferies who returns after a spell of teaching at Ribston Hall, to become Head of Physics, and at the same time we are grateful to Mr. J. M. Babington who helped out in the Physics department during the Michaelmas term, and who was regarded with awe by those who discovered his academic, civil, and military distinctions.

At the end of the summer term we said good-bye to Mr. C. C. Robinson who left us to take up a post at Chislehurst and Sidcup Grammar School. In his time here he was active in many spheres of school life, and his contribution to the Badminton and Stamp Clubs will be especially remembered. We wish him and his wife every success in their new environment.

Mr. Robinson's place in the Geography department has been filled by Mr. W. R. Spear, who comes to us from Grey College, Durham, and who has already proved himself to be a great asset both in and out of the classroom.

Mrs. Hewitt has replaced Mrs. Walkington in the French department, and Fraulein Sauvageol has entered very fully into the life of the school during her year as German Assistant. To these new members of staff we extend a cordial welcome, whilst not forgetting to wish Mr. J. P. Winstanley success in his new rôle as Deputy Headmaster.

Full tribute to the work of Mr. Stocks as Headmaster is paid elsewhere in the magazine. Suffice it to say here that we all acknowledge most sincerely our debt to him for all that he has been to us and all that he has done for us during the twelve years of his Headmastership. He will long be remembered here with admiration and gratitude by all those who have come in contact with him, and we wish him every happiness when he leaves us at the end of the term to become Headmaster of Wolverhampton Grammar School, where he taught previously as Head of History.

Mr. Stocks is to be succeeded in April by Mr. W. G. Heap, at present Deputy Headmaster of Aldridge Grammar School and who knows Gloucester by virtue of his

having held a post on the staff of Kings School. We welcome him and his family and hope that his stay as Headmaster will be long and fruitful.

Our programme for the coming terms is already filling up. The Choral Society is busy rehearsing for a May performance of Haydn's 'The Creation', The Dramatic Society, for their forthcoming production of 'The Beaux Stratagem', and the various sports teams preparing for the summer season—all this against a background of hard academic work in preparation for the June exams. If it is true that we are a school mindful of tradition, then it is equally true that we are always forward looking, and are constantly on our guard against complacency.

J. R. Base  
M. Guest

### G.R.S.

When I was a boy, the portrait of a village schoolmaster from the Deserted Village epitomised all the awe-inspiring attributes I thought every pedagogue must possess. Today, sitting on the same side of the fence, so to speak, I realise that these ideal qualities are by no means universal and are possessed only by the few. Amongst the few I have known Geoff Sheard will always be memorable.

A severe man, stern to view, is hardly the description that leaps to mind yet he must have appeared so to many new recruits, both staff and boys. I have felt for numerous young miscreants face to face with him, but I am sure that many of them detected that twinkle behind the eyes saying clearly, "there even with the Grace of God, went I". One wondered if any new crime had been invented since his own boyhood. Certainly that face was not at all the open book of the fictional character and many have received surprises, some pleasant and some very definitely corrective. Severity was part of his character but never harshness. Standards were there to be maintained but reward was more freely available and willingly given than punishment.

Geoff had the widest sense of humour, ranging from the pure sense of fun to the most sophisticated wit. I am sure no counterfeited glee ever fooled him. The practical joke, provided no harm was intended, always appealed to him. Many will remember situations he discovered and, more often than not, shared. For example, that fatuous book on E.S.P. apparatus recommended with a perfectly straight face or the "mole-hill" raised on the bowling green. However, to most people it was the quick repartee, the 'mot juste' or the occasional terrible pun that made Geoff such an enjoyable companion.

My main memories are of the white-coated figure in the Physics laboratories. Physics was his real love and the academic qualities needed to master that subject were always apparent. Clear-thinking and logical argument were his contribution to any meeting. But the dry bones of pure theory never held his attention for long, he was essentially a practical man. The master of the soldering-iron and screwdriver, he was for ever making and inventing apparatus of every description, not to mention the repair of major portions of the school fabric. This dexterity was a joy to watch and will be recalled by many budding and fully-blown scientists who have passed through those capable hands. Yet behind the inventor and the craftsman was the artist. It would be impossible and impertinent for me to judge this talent but one thing is certain, any painting, photograph, side-show at the school fête or even the seating plan for the school play always bore that stamp which the appreciative could recognise.



The duties of Deputy Head Master required three other virtues, kindness, patience and wisdom. These, Geoff showed in abundance when dealing with the daily problems of school life. The characters of Job and Solomon were combined in him with an intense feeling for humanity. Especially the latter as on these occasions the better side of a boy's nature would be seldom in evidence. There is no need for me to enlarge on this further as everyone will have their own private memories and experiences.

These are some of the things which sprang to my mind when I was asked to write an appreciation of Geoff Sheard. We can all say it was a pleasure and a privilege to have known and worked with such a man.

J.R.B.

**Address** given by Canon **W. R. Houghton**, Residentiary Canon of Gloucester Cathedral at the funeral of **Mr. G. R. Sheard**, Deputy Headmaster of Sir Thomas Rich's School, Gloucester in Hucclecote Church on Thursday June 1st, 1972.

The very sudden death of Geoff Sheard at the early age of 57 left us all with a deep sense of shock and now some days after it happened, we are still experiencing a feeling of almost bewilderment.

Geoff had a strong Methodist background with all the spiritual advantages of that beloved Church, but after careful thought and prayer he decided to be Confirmed, and in the Anglican Church we were privileged to share in the many gifts which he brought from Methodism into the life of our Church. I can well remember the conversations we had at the time, and how very much I admired the scientific training and approach which he brought to bear in all our religious discussions. We both often indulged in playful banter about science and religion and I appreciated immensely his wit and keen mind.

Geoff read his degree in physics and maths at Nottingham University and, unknown to many of his friends, from an early age he took an active part in sport. He played water polo for the West Riding of Yorkshire and for Hull Training College and he played rugby for his Training College. In later years he came to have a strong sympathy and understanding with the non-athletic boy which these boys valued very much.

It was to our School of Sir Thomas Rich that he came in 1949 from a teaching post in Batley Grammar School. He was ideally equipped to be Head of the Physics department and immediately threw himself wholeheartedly into the life of his department and into the whole life of the school and for which he quickly—like all of us—developed a warm affection and loyalty, and this strong sense of loyalty to the School; to his colleagues; to the boys and to his profession as a teacher, remained with him to the end.

In 1959 he was the natural choice as Deputy Headmaster and to his teaching ability he brought many gifts of administration and wisdom. His old love for sport showed itself again and he was very enthusiastic about the Swimming Pool and active in raising funds to provide it. His keenness was evident too in the Bowls School and he was an enthusiastic member of the Painswick Bowling Club.



His utter fairness in dealing with the boys of the School was noteworthy and where he had to punish, he truly made the punishment fit the crime, and no boy could complain that he had been unjustly treated.

His interests which he was so modest in revealing, covered sailing, architecture, photography and he had, unknown to many, a splendid collection of his own pen and ink drawings.

All these gifts combined with a great love for his wife and two boys, made up a character rich in achievement; sensitive in purpose and affectionate and steadfast in the discharge of all his duties and responsibilities.

To Kathleen and Michael and Jeremy and their family, at this time of so sudden bereavement, we offer our love and sympathy and we pray that God will give to them all his strength and courage.

To Sir Thomas Rich School which he served so loyally for twenty three years his death is a great loss, coming as it does so soon after the death of another beloved teacher. There are serious blows to any School but to ours facing the departure next year of our Headmaster it is an anxious time. To this we cannot hide from ourselves other problems, not so far precisely defined, but nevertheless, serious in their significance.

But the spirit of a School is measured by the quality of its life and by the character of its staff and boys, and in this respect Sir Thomas Rich School is supreme, and in good heart, and the finest tribute a School can pay to beloved teachers is to carry on in larger measure and with a greater faithfulness, the fine and noble things for which they stood.

I knew Geoff Sheard well. He would not dwell in the past in sorrow, but would go forward with eyes bright and clear and sharing with us in the search for new pastures; new tasks; new endeavours, and always in a gay spirit of love and hope and loyalty. We thank God for his life, and we commend him now in the sure and certain hope of Eternal life, knowing that neither death nor life nor angels nor principalities, nor powers nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

#### **J.A.S. 1961-1973**

What makes an ideal Head? The answers vary from person to person, but change always produces uncertainty, so the announcement of Mr. Worrall's move after only four years as Head Master, just as the exciting dream of moving into new buildings was at last beginning to become something substantial, caused Richians considerable anxiety. Would the Governors find another Head able to maintain and develop the traditions so carefully nurtured by Messrs. Veale and Worrall? Within a short time of his appointment, as his energetic and explosive personality made itself felt at all levels in the School and the local educational scene, it was clear that the appointment of Mr. J. A. Stocks (or 'Jasper', as he soon became known by all the boys) had removed the grounds for dismay. The conduct of the School was in the hands of one who would give himself completely to its development and who would be unsparing of time and energy in his endeavours to promote its well-being.

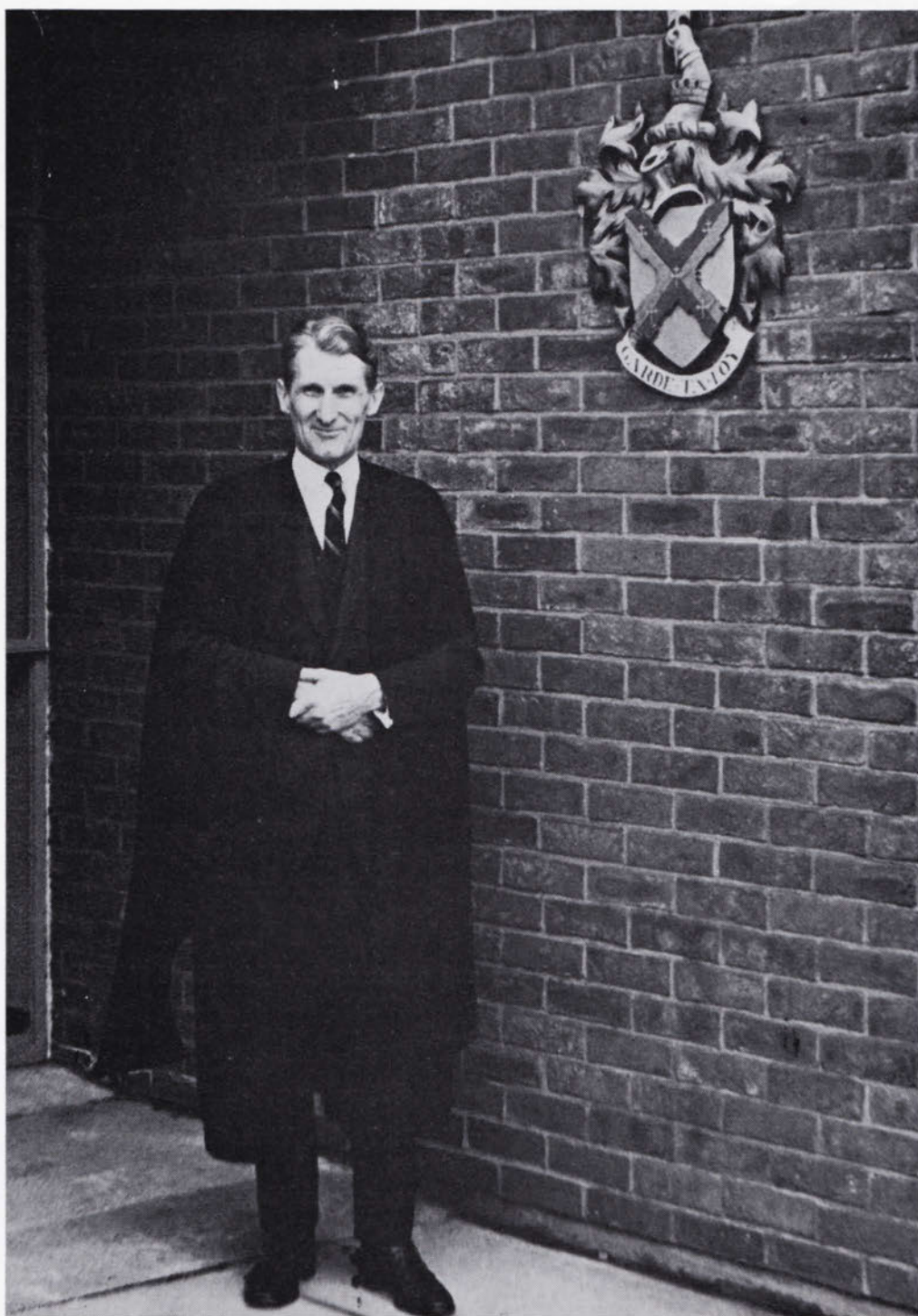
The contribution a Head makes to a school must be judged not only by the quality of his administration of its affairs, and the public 'image' thereby created, but even more by the spirit and sense of purpose, the atmosphere of community, the encouragement of endeavour, and the standards of achievement to be reached, which he fosters. In both these areas the School has prospered greatly under the driving leadership of Mr. Stocks. The past twelve years have seen the successful transplant of the School and its traditions from Barton Street to Elmbridge, the wide-ranging celebration of the School's Tercentenary, the activities which enabled the bus to be purchased, the making of the bowling green, the commissioning of the statue of the Blue Coat Boy, the creation of the VIth Form common room, the growth of the School's musical life, and the constant widening, in ways too numerous to mention, of the School's activities and horizons. All of these have borne the marks of the Head's personal interest and encouragement or his active direction. The involvement of many people in the School's affairs, through, for example, the School Council, the Advisory Committee, the Parents' Association, the Friends of the School and the Old Richians, has also reflected the Head's concern that the School should be seen as a living community, to which all its members may feel a sense of belonging and responsibility. These things, and much else, as this magazine shows, pay tribute to the unstinting leadership provided during the past twelve years.

But, for those who have been boys or who have served on the staff during the period the memory is likely to be a more personal one. They will perhaps remember the human tornado descending in thunderous denunciation upon wrong-doing, or bad manners or slovenly behaviour or some other current fault. But this will be balanced by thankfulness for a deep human interest and much time spent in encouraging them to make full use of their abilities. Others will carry the memory of School journeys and social activities, with the Head's endless fund of stories and his ability and willingness to chat to all and sundry, for there is nothing of remoteness in his leadership. Some, perhaps, will never forget their surprise at how much he knew about them, for he has always had his ear 'to the ground'. A few will recall wryly their experience in early days of riding in the Head's car and of the excuses framed for not repeating the experience, for he has always been a man in a hurry, impatient of slower mortals. The memories will be varied, for Mr. Stocks is a man of many parts. But there will be memories and stories, for, with his vitality and the strength of his likes and dislikes, he is bound to provoke a response. No colourless, faceless administrator here, but an urgent, restlessly active Head, constantly in touch with every sphere of School life. As the Wise Man wrote, 'iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another', so has been the beneficial experience of many passing through the School in the past twelve years.

Now 'the wind of change' (tempered no doubt by the lessons learned at Rich's) is about to blow on Wolverhampton Grammar School, and the Head takes with him our very best wishes for every success and happiness as he faces this new challenge.

D. J. W.





**MR. J. A. STOCKS, HEADMASTER 1960-1973**



## MR. STOCKS INTERVIEWED BY DIRK LOWE AND JEREMY BASE

**D.L.:** What will you remember most about the School?

**J.A.S.:** Most of all I remember the atmosphere. In the old buildings, everything was working to our disadvantage. We had none of the facilities that we have up here: our canteen was half a mile away; our playing fields were two miles away; we had to go down the road to the city's swimming pool for our swimming lessons; many of the buildings in Barton Street were scattered and could not be supervised; we had two classrooms down at Christchurch School on Brunswick Road. Some of the sixth forms had as a form room a cellar or a prep. room at the back of that greenhouse-like Biology Lab, or shared a quarter of a long hut with 1A and Mr. Burrow. Yet somehow or other the School compensated for its lack of facilities in a most remarkable way. In a sense, apart from the results of 1972, our Advanced Level results of 1963 were the best results of my 12 years and this when everything was working against us. As far as working facilities were concerned there was so little on offer, but the spirit of the school in those days was quite remarkable and I was conscious of this from the moment I came, and that spirit has I hope been retained in the present building. Without it we would have started off here at a very real disadvantage.

I also remember very vividly the move of the school out here. We felt at that time that we were making history and not studying it. We were enacting a decisive moment in the life of a school community which had gone on in an unbroken tradition for almost 300 years. The actual day will always stand out in my mind. We had a final period and assembly in the old buildings; then we all moved up here and had a first assembly and last period in the new school, and somehow in that one day history was made, and we hoped and prayed that the spirit of the school we all thought so highly of in the old premises would be transferred here.

Again, the Tercentenary was an exciting time. Every part of the school had its own particular celebration. Many of us went down by car or bus to Butlin's Camp at Minehead and had a day down there. We had a Tercentenary Fête, a Tercentenary Service and a Tercentenary Prizegiving; we had the excitement of the Tercentenary fund which raised some £24,000. Everybody was caught up in this. There wasn't a boy in the School who didn't play his part.

I shall also remember the leadership and sense of responsibility of so many of the sixth form. Here I can pay a great deal to my predecessor Mr. Worrall who did so much to create a special sixth form status. I think it made a very significant contribution to the history of the School in the last decade.

Then I shall remember the ease of relationship between staff and boys—the fact that to some extent the generation gap is crossed here. This is nothing new in the history of the School. I think it was true under Mr. Veale and Mr. Worrall. Perhaps it is only when boys leave the School, get away and talk to their contemporaries at colleges and universities that they find how different has been the atmosphere here than at many of the other schools boys go through, and I would link with that one of the things that has constantly impressed me, the remarkable behaviour of boys on school trips and expeditions. This, I think, is why so many excursions have been planned over the years and I hope will continue to be planned.

Two other things I shall always remember: the excitement of the young boys and their parents as they come up here year by year on a Saturday morning in late June or early July and see the School for the first time, and meet the staff; this eager sense of anticipation and expectation which I think still exists today in many of the boys of primary school age who want to come here. And finally I shall recall with great gratitude, the happy relationship between the School, the Old Richians' Association, and the Parents' Association. This has enabled very large numbers of projects to be undertaken which otherwise would not have been possible.



I hope that answers that question. It is rather a mouthful, but it's impossible to put one's finger on one particular aspect because it is perhaps the most important question you could ask me.

**J.B.:** Thank you very much, Sir. The second question we would like to ask you is: What is your opinion of sport in the School?

**J.A.S.:** Well, to quote some words from my last speech day, if boys worked as hard as they played I would be the happiest headmaster in the land. The first thing I would say about sport is to praise its diversity: we don't put all our eggs in one basket. There are, for example, three winter games, Rugby, Rowing and Cross-Country, and in each of those three activities we reach a standard of performance which is the envy of many similar schools. The School simply will not tolerate an indifferent or mediocre standard in anything it takes up. This is my philosophy and I think it is the School's, and this is why we do so well.

Last year our cricket team was unbeaten, and this year we should have an excellent first eleven since only three members of last year's eleven have left.

Again, one must draw attention to the existence of so many minor sports in the School—I am thinking of Basket Ball, Volleyball, Tennis, Bowls, Swimming, Fives, to mention just some of them.

I admire the way in which boys take responsibility in sport; there may not be a member of staff to look after a particular sport, and yet year by year we seem to throw up boys who are prepared, like Parker in the swimming or Cooper last year with the tennis, to train a team and enter it for competition or challenges of one kind or another.

And in all the competitions in which we take part it is very important that our word has become our bond and if we say we will play another team or another school or we will be there at a certain time on a certain day we **are** there. This has done much to enhance the reputation of the School.

And one couldn't possibly leave that subject without praising the devotion of the staff in the amount of time they give up, the interest they show, the concern that they have for the success of the School. All these are to my mind quite exceptional and the School is very fortunate in what is achieved in the sphere of sport.

**D.L.:** I am sure that in your time here you have been confronted with many amusing incidents, but is there one particular incident which comes to mind while looking back?

**J.A.S.:** It has always been the custom for the Chief Education Officer to come at the end of a master's first term and listen to him teach for a few minutes. There was a certain member of staff, a young English master, in the old school who was just completing his first term and the Chief Education Officer rang me up and said, "I would like to come and hear Mr. Dudley during seventh period". Well, the Chief arrived in my room and I rang Mr. Dudley who happened to be teaching down at Christchurch and said, "The Chief Education Officer will be visiting you in a minute or two, he's coming to listen to you to consider whether you are in fact to be regarded as fully qualified or not".

While Mr. Dudley was teaching there was a knock on the door and a man stood there, and Mr. Dudley ushered him into the room and sat him down and then proceeded to teach as hard as he possibly could, but after about five minutes of this the man who was sitting there, somewhat astonished at the histrionics of Mr. Dudley, got to his feet and stammeringly said, "Excuse me, I don't know why I am sitting here but I have come to read the gas meter". Collapse of Mr. Dudley and I should think of the form too.

**J.B.:** The next question we should like to ask you is whether you have seen any significant changes or if there have been any transitions in School life in your time here.

**J.A.S.:** Yes, I think there have been, though of course it is always a temptation to imagine the things that happened during one's own headmastership have never happened before and I must beware of falling into this trap.



As one reads the old School magazines of the 1920s, -30s, and -40s one feels again and again, "Oh, it has all happened before". But clearly the first significant change has been the expansion of the sixth form. When I came in 1961 the sixth form numbered about 55; now it ranges between 120 and 130, so it has more than doubled, and this of course has had a tremendous impact upon the life of the School. Along with that of course has come the vast improvement in the academic standards of the School.

Now I am not suggesting that they were poor in the 40s and 50s but, for example, I point out that at 'O' level in 1959 there were 287 passes and that in 1970 there were 549, or in 1972, 510. This of course is even more true at the Advanced Level and it can best be illustrated by the large numbers of our senior boys who are going on to further education. I think, too, that the standards of our C forms have improved. Some of the less able boys in the old building really had a pretty raw time of it. There were no facilities for them to enjoy there at all, and if they couldn't get any benefit from the work, what else was there on the spot to interest them and to improve their standards and raise their morale? I think nowadays perhaps the C stream in the fourth and fifth forms don't realise how much more fortunate they are than their predecessors, though I think there is still more to be done.

There are far more parents involved in the School than there were in times past. It was all we could do in the old school to get 120 at a School function, and now we have little difficulty in filling the School hall. Of course with that there has been a tremendous increase in the number of activities in which parents and old boys, staff and boys are involved.

The much greater part taken in the life of the School by music, with the Madrigal Group, the Choir, the Choral Society, the Orchestra, the chamber concerts—this is a most important part of school life. And the seeds were sown by Mr. K. D. Smith, but full flowering of our musical contribution has become possible under Mr. Rangley's inspired leadership.

A great increase in the number of school societies is another change which has taken place. Rarely now is there a night in the week when there isn't some society meeting, caused partly by the opportunities that exist here but also because so many of our boys lived near the school and are able to spend more time on the premises.

Two other points: one is the way there has been a significant improvement in the way boys at all levels are more prepared to exercise leadership and responsibility; and finally there is a much better liaison between the constituent parts of the community—old boys, parents, staff, and boys. Some of this has been made possible by the existence of my advisory committee, which has enabled me to come together once a term with these groups to learn from each other and to formulate a common programme for the term.

**D.L.:** The last question: have you any unfulfilled hopes—things you would have liked to happen or that you would like to have done for the School?

**J.A.S.:** Well, there are some things I would like to have seen happen—not many. I have seen most of my hopes realized, although I wouldn't for a moment suggest that I was complacent, either about the present or about the future.

I wish we could have gained a University Blue in the last twelve years. We always seem to get rather near to the point but it never actually happens. I'd like to have seen a good pavilion built. This is something the School really lacks. There are all sorts of complications produced by having one changing room to be used by those playing games, those swimming and those in the gym.

And then I have asked year after year that we might have what I would call a Music Suite—it is clearly unsatisfactory to have music going on in close proximity to the Geography Room or the sixth form rooms. It must inhibit Mr. Rangeley a great deal in that some of the things he would like to do he finds very difficult. The School also needs music practice rooms. I hoped that by now we might have a music room and some practice rooms out at the back of of the swimming pool looking on to the bowling green.



Another thing I would like to have seen happen is the beginning of the tradition of a school trek. This kind of thing is done by the Venture Scouts, but I believe that a trek undertaken every two years by the School as a whole would be a very worthwhile enterprise. I mean perhaps a 10-day trek through the lonelier parts of the North West Highlands of Scotland or perhaps the South of Ireland or the remoter parts of Wales, and that leading on perhaps ultimately to a trek abroad, preferably in the Alps. Perhaps again that is something that may come one day.

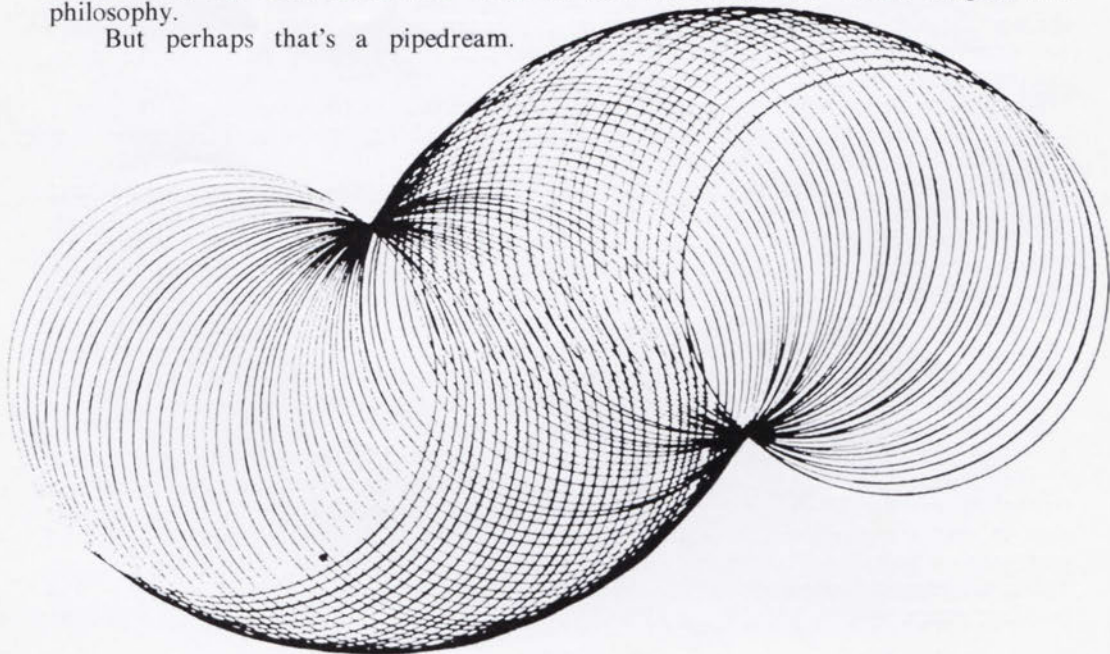
I would like to have seen more individual project work, more originality coming particularly from the upper part of the School. Nowadays, when so much of what we do is the same as what other people do it is important to develop one's own individual character and to do some things differently from anybody else. I have been a little disappointed at the way in which suggestions for individual projects have never really been taken up.

I would like to have seen a full-scale opera combining our dramatic and musical resources. We went some distance towards that last year with a short Britten opera in which the youngers took part but I would like to have seen something more ambitious.

Two more things: I would like to have seen more boys join the Old Richians' Association on leaving. Once one is at the School and a Richian one is always a Richian. The main purpose of the Association is to keep one in touch with the School.

And finally (I suppose this is an unfulfilled hope of every headmaster) I would have liked a greater thirst for culture in the School. This of course again is symptomatic of the age in which we live which puts a high value on material things. But a large number of boys are simply content to do what they have to day by day—and to do it very well—but not go outside their syllabus, not to go outside the ordinary daily experience of life and probe a little deeper. General Studies periods in the School are intended to some extent to meet this demand, but I am not sure that they are altogether successful. I think when you have got a sixth form of 120 senior boys, there should be more evidence of desire to move beyond the narrow world in which we live, to find out more about the world of art, music, drama, ballet, religion and philosophy.

But perhaps that's a pipedream.



## C.C.R.

In the short time since Mr. Chris Robinson left Rich's for his new appointment at Chislehurst and Sidcup Grammar School, one has become increasingly aware of the many school activities he was involved in and of the contribution he made to school life as a whole.

He came to Rich's in 1969 after reading geography at Cambridge University and the completion of his teacher training course at Bristol University. During the three years he spent at Rich's he developed a great affinity for the tradition and values of the School and still now retains an affection for all that is Rich's. This, and his deep concern for the interests of the boys was reflected in the way he patiently organised and trained the badminton teams and in numerous rambles and field-courses he led in the holidays or at weekends. He was also very active in reviving and organising the Stamp Club after Mr. Jeffries' departure and his running of the school weather station soon earned him the title of "Bert Ford of Rich's".



As a teacher, he was always conscious of his responsibilities to the boys and many of the new boys who have come into the school over the past couple of years will remember the patience, time and concern he devoted to their welfare and happiness at school, particularly in those bewildering first few weeks of their first term. He gave a great deal of time and effort to the application of modern geographical thinking and ideas in his teaching and at the same time inspired interest in a subject he enjoyed. In the Geography department, in particular, we shall miss him as a colleague and a friend, but wish him and his wife Barbara every happiness and success in their new home.

J. N. B.



## J. S. BACH: CHRISTMAS ORATORIO

The performance in December of Bach's Christmas Oratorio given by the School Choral Society and Chamber Orchestra was one which the conductor Michael Rangeley can be justifiably proud.

A little time before he wrote this work Bach complained bitterly about the poor material he had at his disposal at the St. Thomas School, Leipzig. He described most of the fifty-five pupils who formed his choir as undisciplined, untrained and unmusical. His orchestra was totally inadequate. For this polished performance given by Sir Thomas Rich's School Mr. Rangeley found, disciplined and trained over two hundred musical pupils and the orchestra, ably led by David Hedges, was very adequate! Even by today's improved standards this performance was a magnificent achievement.

The oratorio — really a series of meditations linked by the recitative of the Christmas Story according to Matthew and Luke—consists of six cantatas and was composed in 1734 to celebrate the 'twelve nights' of Christmastide. This work was not intended to be performed as a whole and in this performance the first three parts were used.

From the beginning, the orchestra and the School Choral Society caught the highly jubilant spirit of the work. The opening chorus "Christians, be joyful" was full of rhythmical definition and vitality and this, combined with security and excellent diction enabled the listener to fully appreciate this triumphant expression of the joy of Christmastide.

With the tenor soloist Maurice Hunt singing the part of the Evangelist with clarity and conviction, and with Gloria Finch's sincere singing of the first contralto aria it was clear that there were no weak links or ill-matched parts in the performance. The chorale and bass recitative "For us to earth He cometh poor" was beautifully sung by David Purcell with the gentle unforced treble voices, and was very moving, as was the convincing performance given by Jennifer Jackson in the soprano and bass duet "Lord, thy mercy". The perfect blending of these soloists, the orchestra and the School Choral Society was one of the many commendable aspects of this performance.

The famous Pastoral Symphony, described as "the angels mingling their playing with that of the shepherds" opened the second, more tranquil part of the work. This suffered from a slight rhythmical uneasiness in the opening bars but neither this nor the two bars mis-timed orchestral opening in "Slumber, beloved" detracted in any way from the sensitive orchestral contribution made throughout the oratorio. The balance was always right for both the soloists and for the full choir. This seems to be no mean achievement and it is one which could be emulated by many other conductors of oratorios and operas.

The important and final chorus of this second day of Christmas celebration "Glory to God" was eminently successful. The tonal contrasts, the florid part-writing and the attack necessary in this difficult chorus were all well managed and were combined with increasingly outstanding diction.

Part three of the oratorio, with its return to the jubilant spirit, provided musical highlights in the great precision shown in the rousing chorus "Hear, King of Angels", the superbly clear fugal entries in "Let us even now go to Bethlehem" and the beautiful pianissimo ending on the words "Lord, have mercy". The exciting changes in dynamics were admirably controlled and suffered none of the usual faults of intonation.



The full, rich tone of the School Choral Society and the sense of joyful achievement first heard in the wonderful climax of the chorale "Ah! dearest Jesus" at the end of part one, provided an exhilarating climax again in the final chorale "Rejoice and sing".

This was a stimulating and memorable performance of the Christmas Oratorio which cannot be too highly praised, the singers and players having fully realised the R.S.C.M. motto to "sing (and play) with the spirit and the understanding also".

J. N.

[We thank Mrs. J. Neurater, Music Director at Ribston Hall School, for contributing this article.—Ed.]

### BILLY BUDD

A dramatisation of Melville's story provided the filling in the sandwich between two slices of the 'Golden Vanity', presumably, at least in part, because Britten had used the story for his opera. But operatic plot material is not necessarily good dramatic material in itself and with a very episodic presentation of the story with rapid changes of scene the joint producers must have felt themselves up against it from the start.

Moreover, if one might continue the opera-stage play comparison a little farther, it can be an advantage in opera to have a set of characters who change very little throughout the play — who are in fact cardboard cut-outs — but this is not a help to the actor whose greatest encouragement is to feel the character he is playing grow as the play progresses.

And yet there was still a fascination in seeing Billy caught in Claggart's toils and going inevitably to his destruction. There was also a personal interest for the writer in seeing that the atmosphere of dread surrounding a Master at Arms and his two 'Crushers' had not altered much in over a hundred and fifty years.

Claggart was ready made for Stephen Jeffery and he huffed and puffed to good effect and I liked particularly the two little character vignettes of Roderick Greig as Dansker and Michael Partridge as the Marine Officer who made the most of the types they were playing. But recognising many of Melville's characters as types could be disastrous as was proved by Philip Harrison's chaplain which belonged to TV situation comedy rather than a story of the period and upset the balance of the production while he was on stage.

Graeme Bowers as Billy had far and away the most difficult task. How do you play a kind of radiant goodness? He made a very good shot at the rôle early on I thought but it seemed that simply being innocent and good got him down after a time and I don't blame him.

Melville is very much a cerebral writer. Many of us have struggled with his philosophizing at the mast heads of whalers and know of the fascination that the conflict between good and evil had for him. These preoccupations are present in 'Billy Budd' and whether or not this dramatic presentation is entirely successful seems to be of secondary importance compared with the fact that it provided us with an interesting and thought-provoking three quarters of an hour in the middle of an entertaining evening.

W.G.F.B.

## THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

President	...	...	...	...	Headmaster.
Chairman	...	...	...	...	Mr. N. P. Partridge.
Secretary	...	...	...	...	Mr. G. Barber.
Secretary "Friends of the School"	...	...	...	...	Mr. P. Pearson.
Treasurer	...	...	...	...	Mr. E. F. Lerry.

As the publication of 'The Richian' has been brought forward much earlier in the year, the report of the Association's activities must be correspondingly briefer.

The attendance at the A.G.M. in September was about one hundred, a little better than previous years and a source of encouragement to your Committee. To Mr. Henderson and Mr. Thomas we say "thank you" for their lively accounts of journeys with the boys to Italy and Iceland.

There is sometimes the feeling expressed that so much is already "cut and dried" before an A.G.M. that there is little point in attending. Let me hasten to dispel such notions in our case. There is nothing particularly sacrosanct, for example, about the outgoing committee's suggestions for the new elections. They are suggestions to "start the ball rolling" and are open to the will of the house in respect of further nominations and voting. Then as a committee we need a number of co-opted members. To be an efficient and worthwhile committee we clearly seek parents with ideas and with what is perhaps more important, the willingness to actually carry them out. It is surprising how difficult it sometimes is to find people who are both "thinkers and doers" with enough time to volunteer to help the Association, but we must count ourselves lucky that in the end we invariably succeed. If any more volunteers have yet to be discovered, please don't be modest. Let any of the present Committee members know and it is virtually certain that we can use your talents. For instance we shall desperately need a new "Chief Mum" in a few months time. (Where indeed should we be without the help of all the Refreshment Mums? Thank you, ladies!) It is equally inevitable that sooner or later other officers will retire. Where will their successors come from? We must be sure where "new blood" may be found, and where better to look than to those who have already served an "apprenticeship" on the Committee and have discovered what is really involved.

But to return from philosophizing to fact. To date only 60% of new parents have joined the "Friends of the School" this year compared with 85% in the year 1971-72. This is a big disappointment to the Committee and particularly to Mr. Pearson and Mr. Lerry, our very able "Friends" Secretary and Treasurer respectively. REMEMBER that a one pound unit under deed of covenant is worth about £1.63 to the School, and that **all the money is spent each year on your boys** to further their education and make their leisure time more enjoyable. So **please join now** by filling in the forms which were available at the Sherry Party and send them through the School to Mr. Pearson or Mr. Lerry.

It is not only your sons who reap the benefits of the "Friends of the School" scheme. As parent members of the scheme you are invited to join the Swimming Section which meets every Tuesday during term-time between 7.00 and 9.00 p.m. A few new parents have joined this year but there is room for many more. Simply come along and be made welcome by our Swimming Secretary, Mr. R. Pashley. The Bowling



Club is open on Tuesday and Friday evenings for indoor bowls and other activities, and Mr. Pritchard, the Captain, would welcome more members.

The Committee would like to thank you all for the wonderful support which you gave to the Chay Blyth Celebrity Lecture last November and we hope you will continue to give the same support to all future School functions.

The Dads' Working Party is in full swing again with a lot of work in hand, but is only five in number. Any Dad willing to help would be very welcome on Wednesday evenings at 7.00 p.m.

Many thanks to Mr. Rangeley, the Choir and the Choral Society for the enjoyment which they have given us in the past months, and also to Mr. Broome and his friends in the Occasional Players for their excellent performance and their cheque to the Friends of the School funds.

Finally our thoughts must turn to the impending departure of the Headmaster at Easter. As an Association we are not alone in our appreciation of the tireless service, devotion and guidance which Mr. Stocks has freely given to everyone connected with Tommy's during the last twelve years. In Committee meetings Mr. Stocks has always been a source of help and inspiration. He has always been a staunch supporter of the ideals of the Association, and for our part it has been a privilege to support him in his energetic pursuit of nothing short of the best for our sons, and in his conviction that we must always look ahead and try to improve our service to the community. The School has gone from strength to strength under the leadership of Mr. Stocks, and on behalf of all parents we offer him our sincere thanks for all he has achieved and assure him that he carries with him our heart-felt good wishes for every happiness and success in his new appointment in Wolverhampton.

G. Barber.

## **FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS**

**The Church of St. John the Baptist, Northgate.**

**Tuesday 19th December, 1972.**

I have rarely heard the choir in better form than it was for this service and we were presented with an astounding variety of carols drawn from different countries and ages. The introduction of 'new ones' like 'Resonemus laudibus' and the startlingly original 'Sir Christmas' made all the more attractive many of the better-known favourites that have been part of the repertoire for a number of years. I have rarely heard 'Ding Dong' sung so sensitively and it was a particular personal pleasure to hear 'The Three Kings' again.

The congregational singing responded to the stimulus and was helped again here by the choice of the established favourites—apart from 'From the Eastern Mountains' which, coming where it did, I thought was a disaster.

A good deal of discussion has gone on in some quarters over the last few years about the School's carol services, but while the music and the readings continue to achieve this quality I for one will remain a confirmed traditionalist.

W.G.F.B.

## THE GOLDEN VANITY

The English Choir School tradition is sometimes described as unique. Yes, perhaps, in the number and geographical spread of its institutions, and in their remarkable impact on English native music over the centuries. But during a recent visit to Vienna I was sharply reminded that Austria has its counterparts, of which St. Stephen's, Vienna, provides a notable instance. Haydn spent ten years of his boyhood at St. Stephen's Choir House, and two hundred years later the fame of its boy trebles is acknowledged the world over.

Britten's *Golden Vanity*, described as "A Vaudeville for Boys and Piano", was first performed by the Vienna Boys' Choir at Aldeburgh in 1967. Like others of his works specifically designed for children to perform it is strikingly suited to the peculiar timbre of boys' voices, and, more important, it is of the stuff which in some strange way goes straight to a boy's heart. Those of us who are middle-aged or elderly sometimes find Britten's times and textures puzzling—and the practical difficulties certainly daunting. I discussed with Mr. Rangeley the scene depicting the cabin boy's holing of the Turkish Galilee and asked him "How does one begin to teach a passage like that?" "They didn't need teaching—they do it quite naturally", was his reply! Britten certainly has a genius for gauging the form and extent of young people's musical understanding.

But this takes us only a fraction of the way, and the performance of Rich's trebles and altos in May 22nd 1972 owed at least as much to their skill and experience as to Britten's insight. From the opening bars of the piano introduction (to me irritatingly discordant in its lay-out, but utterly redeemed on this occasion by the vitality and precision of its execution by Michael Rangeley), one's interest was captured, and unfailingly sustained throughout by the fascinating assurance with which the boys unfolded the story and dealt with the formidable technical difficulties. I listened spell-bound to both performances, picking up during the second a number of points which I had missed the first time through. My warmest thanks to the boys for this delightful entertainment, and especial congratulations to Michael Rangeley on his magnificent accompanying and handling of the whole entertaining performance.

E. F. A. Suttle.

[We thank Dr. E. F. A. Suttle, H.M.I., for contributing this article.—Ed.]

## G. R. SHEARD MEMORIAL GARDEN

The response to the appeal for this project is an indication of the high regard the school and those associated with it had for Mr. Sheard. The fund at the moment stands at £290, and is we may add still open to anyone who may not have been aware of its establishment.

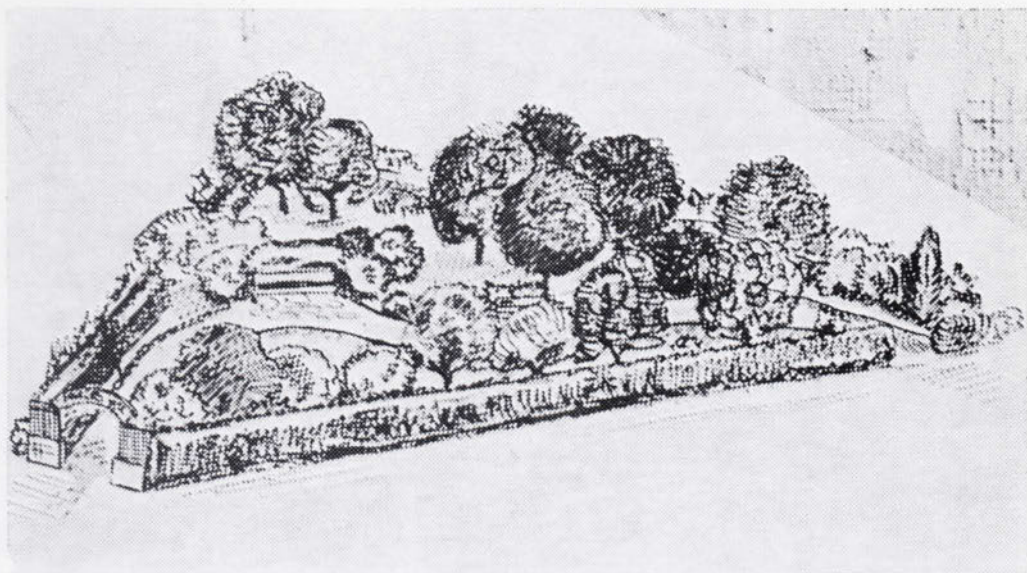
The Garden which is sited behind the Tennis Courts has been designed and the shrubs and trees selected (some one hundred and sixty) by Mrs. S. Graves, who is a Landscape Architect and an expert in this field; we are indeed grateful to her for all her work and the time she has spent on the project.

We are also indebted to Mrs. Moreton Cullimore and her son who have not only given a teak seat in memory of her husband who was at the school from 1909—1911 but are giving all the gravel necessary for the path through the garden.



Some of the bushes have already been planted and it is hoped that before the end of the term all the planting will be completed and the path laid. We would if funds permit like to erect low stone walls around the seating areas; but whilst we might be able to afford the cost of material, labour charges would prove beyond our means, and in this connection we would welcome any offers of assistance from any parents or old boys who have some skills in this direction.

E.J.P.



### HADRIAN'S WALL

The traditional ending to every Rich's trip to Hadrian's Wall stood bubbling away on the calor-gas stove. The bright red mixture, which consisted of tomato soup, baked beans, beef stew, and sausages, was the 1972 version of Housestead's Goulash, into which all the left-over tins of food had been emptied. Surprisingly, it tasted very good, vaguely reminding one of school lunches. Everyone washed it down with a cup of tea and we set off back to the Cart's Bog Inn camp site at Hexham, after an exciting, enlightening and somewhat unusual day.

Indeed, all the days of that week were such; four days earlier, a Sunday, Mr. Winstanley and a party of fourth-formers had covered the two hundred odd miles to York and spent the night under canvas at Askham Bryan Agricultural College. In the evening the party visited the neighbouring cathedral city, with its castle, unusual museum and city wall and this proved to be an entertaining start to the holiday which turned (slightly) somnific and (very) occasionally irksome Latin grammars into a means of finding out about the somewhat enviable Roman civilisation.

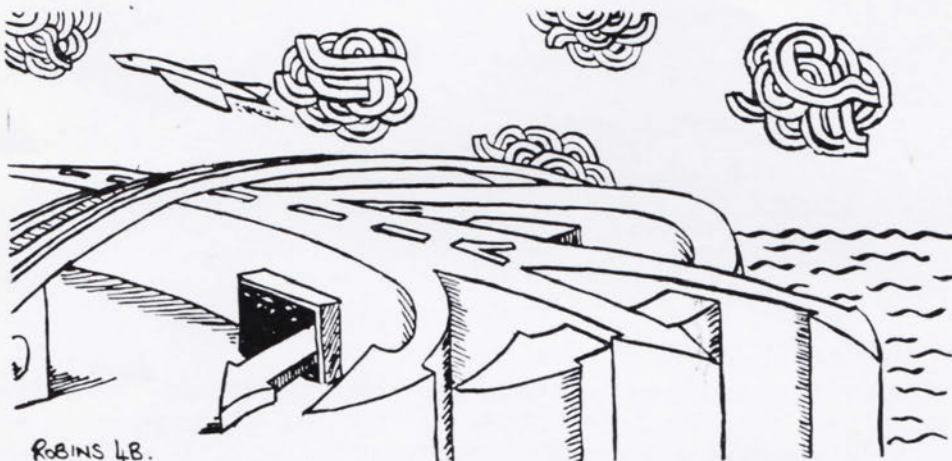
With the Roman Wall and our camp site some sixty miles further north and the Newcastle Museum of Antiquities to be visited en route, we struck camp early the following morning and were on the road by ten o'clock. The Roman Wall, which once stood about twelve feet high and needed about one-third of all the Romans stationed in

Britain for its Garrison is now a mere fraction of its original height. Of the twenty forts originally along the wall, few remain; but the flat-bottomed ditch (vallum) which ran along either side of the wall is still very clearly defined in places.

During the week, the party visited several sites on the wall, including the supply depot at Corbridge, the forts at Chesters, Housesteads and Birdoswald and the Carrawburgh Mithraeum, a reconstruction of which was viewed at the Newcastle Museum of Antiquities.

Thus, with all the recognized important sites on the wall visited, the enthralled party left Hexham and made for Bolton-le-Sands near Morecambe, where it pitched camp for the last time. Thursday was spent in Morecambe, among one-armed bandits and fair stalls, and the party returned to Gloucester on the Friday.

J. Price 5A.

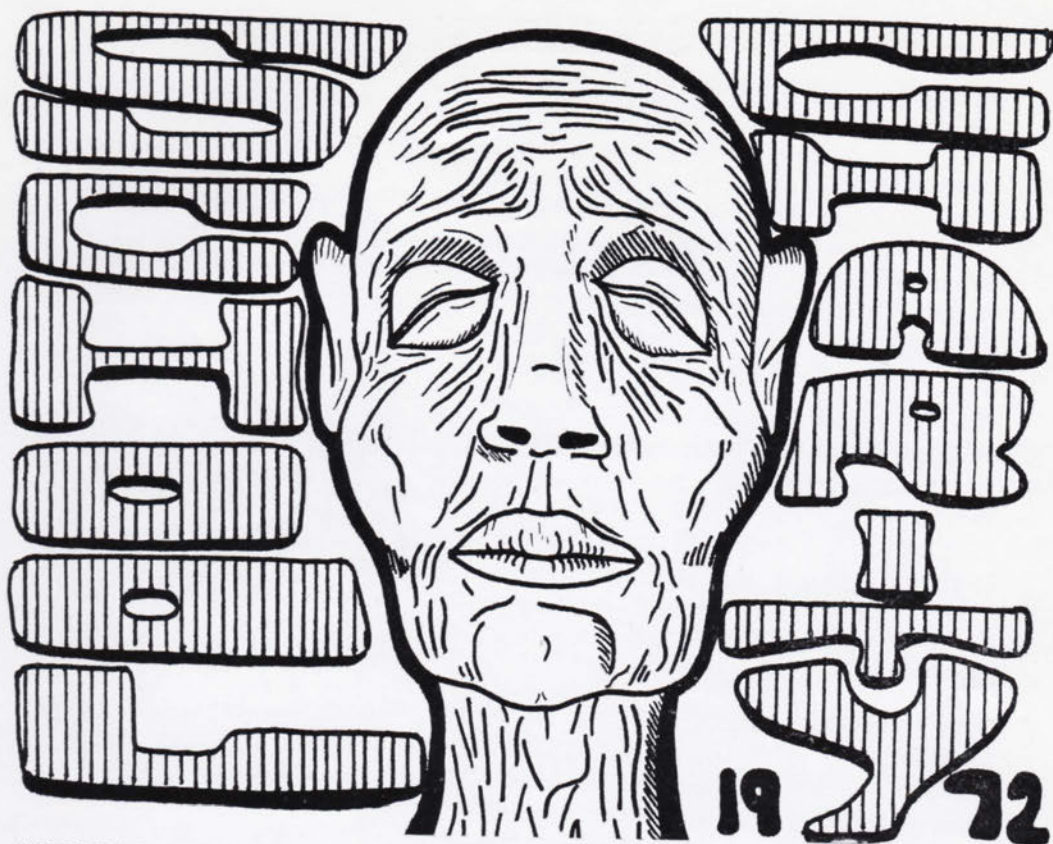


### Sketching Group

There is an opportunity for boys occasionally to visit and sketch places of artistic interest with Mr. Cooper. So far we have visited the Cathedral, the dock area and Painswick village. There is no age limit for this group and all necessary equipment is a sketch book and pencils.

D. Lowe





### **"TOC H" RAID THE LARDER SCHEME 1972**

Over the past few years it has become an accepted part of sixth-form activity at the end of the Michaelmas Term to assist in the annual 'Raid The Larder scheme' organised by the Gloucester branch of Toc H. The scheme exists to provide food parcels at Christmas for senior citizens who are in need.

The response from the sixth-form this year was the best ever; there being one hundred boys covering the city in groups; distributing leaflets and collecting food from door to door. The result was that over four thousand individual items of non-perishable food were stacked in the observatory's room, an area which scarcely contains its eight inhabitants and which by the end of term resembled the interior of a supermarket.

However, the work did not end when the food had been collected. The parcels of food had to be made up and distributed to addresses all over the city. This would not have been possible without the help of those sixth-formers with cars who generously gave up time and petrol to complete the scheme.

In all, over five hundred parcels were delivered, a magnificent achievement and one to set a high target for future years. It is hoped that the parcels made Christmas a little more cheerful for those who received them, and also that those who participated in the scheme have had engendered in them a sense of community spirit and a realisation that within the city there are people who need further help from those in easier circumstances than their own.

Michael Guest.

## SOCIETIES

### THE WILDFOWL TRUST

Treasurer: D. Bolton.

Thirty-five boys from all years in the School are members of the Wildfowl Trust and during the past year each boy has averaged six visits to Slimbridge in addition to a working party which spent a weekend clearing undergrowth and another party of volunteers who acted as runners during an inter-schools competition.

To most of the casual visitors, the attraction of Slimbridge lies in the collection of wildfowl—this is indeed worth seeing and we are fortunate to live so near the world's largest 'zoo' of swans, geese and ducks (if you have not yet been along, the best time to see the collection is during mid-winter when the birds' feathers are at their freshest. It is regrettable that so many people visit the Trust when the birds are in eclipse during the summer).

Our visits are stimulated largely by the wintering flocks of geese and swans which come thousands of miles from Iceland, Siberia and Scandinavia. The sight and sound of a thousand whitefront geese feeding on the marsh, or the four hundred Bewick's swans on the lake outside the observatory—these are the attractions which can stimulate so much thought in the inquiring mind: Why do they return to Slimbridge each year? Do they vary their routes? How many will bring young back with them next year? Why do the Bewicks have different beak markings which make each bird individually distinctive? How many contain shot when the X-ray plates are developed? The scientist, the artist, the mere silent observer who wonders at the flight of birds—all can find a challenge or a stimulus.

1973 sees the launching of a great new Educational expansion at the Wildfowl Trust. Nearly a quarter of a million pounds is planned to be spent on extension to the grounds and to the building of a new study block which it is hoped might become the World University of Wildfowl and we look forward to the opportunities of further study which such a centre would open up to us.

We are one of the School societies whose very existence depends on transport and we would end by extending our thanks to those people who support us — through the Friends of the School and the Parents' Association — and who keep WFH1H on the road and us travelling between Oakleaze and Slimbridge.

JYC.





## ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

The Astronomical Society was inaugurated at the beginning of the Michaelmas term, and it is planned to hold a meeting every month on a variety of subjects connected with the space sciences. Talks will be of a theoretical rather than a practical nature—we don't intend to hold midnight telescope sessions on the school field!—We are planning, however, talks on subjects ranging from the Scientific Revolution through asteroids to the Apollo Programme; and we may in the summer term arrange outings to places of astronomical interest, such as the Planetarium and perhaps even Jodrell Bank.

Our thanks go to Mr. McBurnie, without whose help and enthusiasm the Astronomical Society would not exist.

R. Jones 5A  
D. Wilton 3A.

## THE PSV CLUB

Since the last issue of the "Richian", little of importance has taken place, owing to A-Level commitments in the summer term, and an apparent dislike of formal meetings by all concerned since then. This is not to say that the club is no longer active. Nigel Sparkes has shown a selection of slides, displaying some of the variety to be found in vehicles around Gloucester, in particular the Bristol double-decker painted in a special livery for Berni Inns. There has been one excursion into the Welsh valleys by car, when a small party visited Newport, Cardiff, Porth, Aberdare, Merthyr, Tredegar, Brynmawr and Cross Keys. The highlights of this trip were the discovery of a preserved Crossley double-decker in Cardiff, this representing a make no longer in passenger service in Great Britain, and the appearance of a Crossville single-decker at Porth, some sixty miles away from its operating area. The reason for its being there was unknown, and even more unusual was its sighting at Bridgend the following weekend.



This brings me to the other activity of the club; on various occasions informal gatherings are held in the quadrangle, when information such as that mentioned above can be exchanged. Members visit the Bristol area regularly, and these, together with contacts with Andy Mountjoy and Deric Pemberton, past organizers who are now working for Bristol Omnibus Co., help us to keep an up-to-date picture of our local bus operator. This arrangement suits us better than holding regular meetings, since any information obtained can be passed around more quickly to those interested. At present we are awaiting the arrival of the advanced Leyland International saloon, eight of which are rumoured to be on order for Gloucester City routes. Besides ourselves, there will be many people eager to find out whether the new vehicles justify the construction of the recently opened Lillyhall factory to build them.

B. A. Rowney VI<sub>3</sub>.

## THE AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

This year the society has held meetings, normally on Wednesdays after school and on Thursdays during the lunch-hour, in the Chemistry Laboratory. The membership from the upper school has remained fairly constant, but the society has been boosted by some keen new members from the lower school.

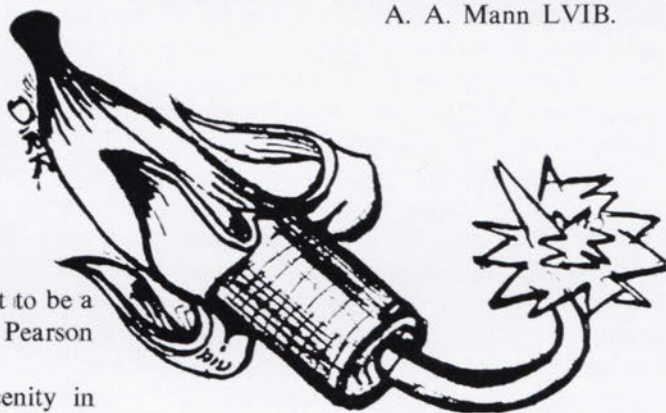
The aim of the society is to foster an interest in the art and science of radio communication. A permanent transmitting station has been recently set up in the school and contacts have been made with radio amateurs in many countries, including Australia, South Africa, Canada and several of the American states. The station is usually on the air during club meetings and sometimes during lunch-times.

Lectures and demonstrations of amateur radio principles have been given, mainly by Mr. Morgan, but recently lectures have been delivered by other members of the club on various aspects of short-wave communication. It is hoped that these lectures will eventually lead members to sit the Radio Amateurs' Examination. It is necessary to pass this examination before any form of transmitter can be legally used.

The practical side of amateur radio is also catered for, and members may use the society's supply of components for experimenting with electronic circuits.

New members are always welcome and we feel that we can offer them an interesting and rewarding hobby.

A. A. Mann LVIB.



## THE DEBATING SOCIETY

"Mr. Pearson considers sport to be a waste of time, I consider Mr. Pearson to be a waste of time".

"I cannot agree with obscenity in public places — even if Mr. Edwards does".

So read choice extracts from the Minute Book. I could recount the dates and results, but I consider this to be futile. We have held debates on subjects ranging from censorship to school, and from sport to computers. Attendance at debates has fluctuated from a low of fourteen to a high of sixty-two. The society is gradually rising from the lull that it has experienced in the recent past, with slowly rising attendances. It is greatly hoped that with the greater numbers attending will come a greater willingness of people not only to be main speakers but to speak from the floor. By the time this publication sees the light of day the society will have ventured forth into new realms. As well as the normal school debates, another debate with Denmark Road, following the success of the previous joint-debates, and a joint Historical-Debating Society Meeting are planned. For these, the committee hopes that the upward trend will continue.

P. A. Wynn VI<sub>3</sub>.



## THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In a successful year for the Society we have concentrated more on visits and outings to places of interest, rather than on formal lectures within the school.

During 1972 there were no fewer than eight outings. Many of them have been made in the school bus and in this we have been greatly assisted by the School's recent membership of the National Trust.

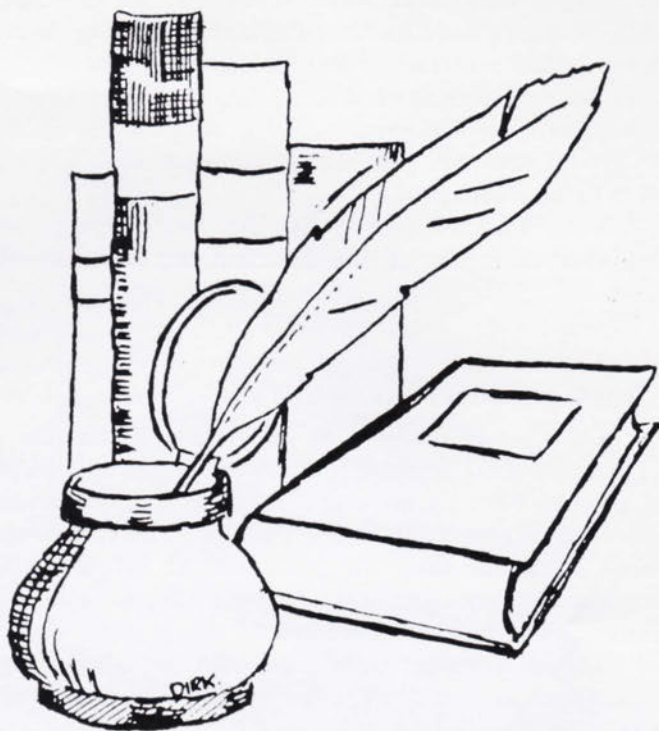
The trips to follies and landscape gardens have gone from strength to strength. Most successful of these was a two day trip to North Wales, where we visited the follies at Tong and the house at Cronkhill. The highlight of the journey was, however, the visit to Plas Brondanw, the house of the notable architect Sir Clough Williams-Ellis. He showed us round his garden and talked for over an hour, after which we all decided that he was "our type of architect". We then paid a visit to his "home for fallen buildings" at Portmeirion, which was also much enjoyed.

We have also visited the gardens at Stowe, Shugborough, Goldney, Stancombe and Rousham. In September we made an Elizabethan foray into the Midlands, visiting Burghley, Kirby Old Hall and all the buildings of Sir Thomas Tresham. These trips were followed up in October by a meeting at the school in which Mr. Huddleston showed us some of his slides under the title "A Farrago of Follies".

In July we ran a "Historical Ships" outing. Although we were plagued by a strike of dockyard guides at Portsmouth we still saw the 'Victory', but the highlight of our day was the visit to the QE2—after which she was promptly closed to all visitors. Thanks to the glorious weather members were able to recline on the sun decks and imagine they were on a Mediterranean cruise.

But the highspot of the year was unquestionably the visit to the British Museum to see the treasures of Tutankhamun. Over fifty of us queued in the sweltering heat for four hours but it was worth every minute. I think we were astonished by the treasures which were even more remarkable than we expected them to be.

Our principal outside speaker last year was Mr. W. Best Harris, the Plymouth City Librarian and a frequent broadcaster, who gave us a most entertaining talk on "Some Sources of Local History". We were very grateful that Mr. Best Harris was prepared



to take the trouble to come to speak to us, and his talk was an inspiration to all those thinking of research into local history. By the time this magazine goes to print we hope to have entertained Dr. Anne Pallister of Reading University, who is coming to talk about "Man and Society in 17th Century England".

The final meeting of 1972 took the form of a celebration, in words and music, of the Silver Wedding Anniversary of Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. I should like to thank all those members of the school who contributed to this meeting.

My thanks must go to Mr. Burrow, Mr. Moss and Mr. Huddleston, who have helped on outings by driving the school bus, and also, of course, to the ever-ready Mr. Thomas.

John Dwight UVIB.

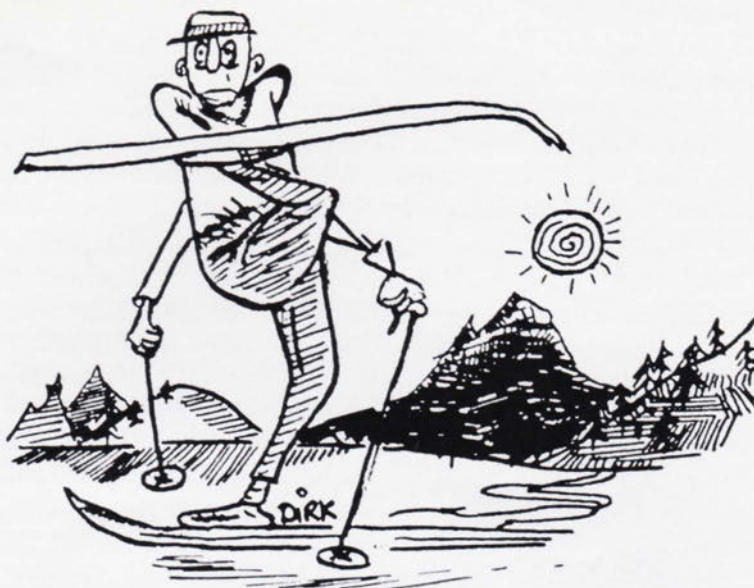
### **S.T.R.S. 44th VENTURE SCOUTS**

The school's venture unit has once again enjoyed a successful year, the strength of the unit being reflected both in our numbers (twenty-four) and in the support which is given to its many activities. The year began with some anxiety concerning the recruitment of new members, and I am glad to report that the unit has found admirable replacements for those who have left. At the present time the unit is fortunate in having a strong contingent from both the fifth form and the third year sixth, therefore ensuring continuity for future years.

The main event of the year has been the summer expedition to South Iceland. It is difficult not to record just a few memories from that not so far away "Icelandic Summer". We were indeed lucky with the weather, and apart from a few dismal days in the wild expanses of the interior, we enjoyed clear skies for the rest of our stay. Those days of sunshine were in fact the first that the Icelanders had seen all year, and we took full advantage of it by sunbathing on the Tindfjallajökull glacier, and high above the hot water pools and sulphur springs of Landmannalauger. Indeed, one could christen Iceland the "island of conflicts", not only because of the warmth of the weather so close to the Arctic Circle, but also because of the contrasting nature of the terrain, and the many bloody conflicts that the Icelandic Sagas have described so vividly throughout Iceland's history. Everyone enjoyed their journey through "the land of fire and ice, dust and water" and many hope to return soon. A great deal of the credit for this success must go to our energetic leader Mr. F. Henderson, who planned and organised the trip so efficiently.

The comradeship and unity demanded by such an expedition has been evident in many of the unit's activities closer to home. One notable success was the October half term camp at Velindre Farm, Herefordshire, a pony-trekking centre at the foot of the Black Mountains. The farm has excellent sleeping, cooking, and washing facilities, and time was spent in pony-trekking, climbing, hiking and caving. Another success was the unit's annual winter hike in Snowdonia which included hiking fifty miles and spending Christmas Eve on a lonely Welsh Mountainside. I must also mention canoeing as a major activity; this year alone, four canoes have been built by the unit. A canoe trip was held at the end of the summer term, involving three memorable days of leisurely paddling down the River Wye, soaking up the sun. On the slightly more energetic side of the





sport, three doubles canoed the length of the Boston Marathon (approximately 31 miles in 6 hours 10 minutes was recorded by George Sanchez and Angus King). A canoeing licence has enabled members to spend many happy hours on games afternoons in the summer months practising on Gloucester Canal. The unit has enjoyed its usual weekend trips of caving and climbing, while rifle-shooting at R.A.F. Innsworth still provides a popular pastime.

All of these pleasant activities are paid for by unit funds, which are derived mainly from many hours of paper-stacking, and more recently, from the collection of scrap-iron. In addition to the money raised for unit funds, £35 was raised for the Nansen International Children's Home, and the County Scouts Association. This was done by a sponsored canoe marathon, attempting to cover 100 miles in twenty-four hours on Gloucester Canal; despite high winds and rain, the unit did well to record 94 miles. During the term members have spent time chopping wood, gardening, decorating for old-age pensioners; towards the end of last term the senior members of the unit aided in the Toc H "Raid the Larder Scheme". Last term Ed Badham, Jake Davies and Phil Stroud became Queen's Scouts, whilst most members have already received their Venture Scout Awards.

To conclude, the School Venture Unit continues to flourish, providing the school with a unique service in which many of its boys gain experience and friendship from scouting. Thanks, once again must go to our leader for all the work he puts in for the unit, and also to the Headmaster, the Deputy County Scout Commissioner, who has supported the unit throughout his time at Rich's.

P. J. Irvine VI<sub>a</sub>.

## THE RAILWAY SOCIETY

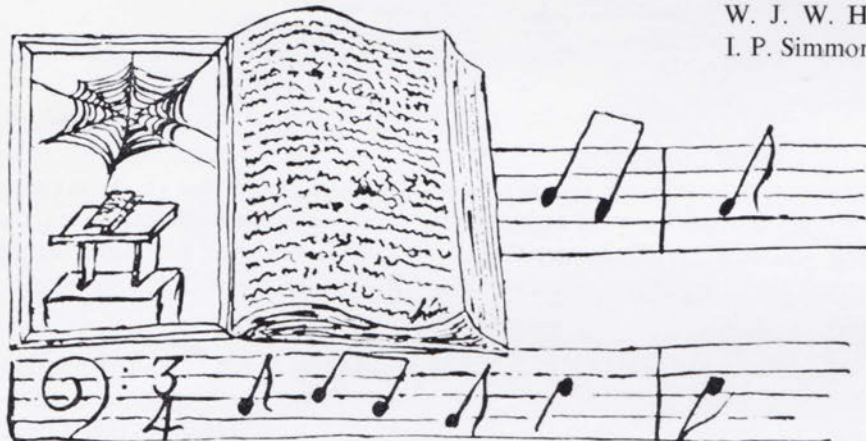
The last few months have seen a change in leadership, with Dave Hill and John Simpson leaving school at the end of the summer term. Dave returned at the beginning of September to give a slide show and talk about his holiday in Germany, where he spent some time in August searching for the thousand or so steam locomotives still working in the Western half of the country. We have also had a similar talk from Paul Bryson, who spent a month travelling over western Europe, likewise in search of steam.

During the half-term holiday we hired a coach (PSV Club influence asserting itself) and visited Barry Island. We visited a scrapyard there and were pleased to find that a fair proportion of locomotives were being prepared for removal to preservation sites throughout the country. Newport (Ebbw Junction) and Cardiff (Canton) depots were also visited, plus, at rather short notice, industrial premises at Cardiff (Wiggins Teape) and Chepstow (Fairfield Mabey). At the latter we found a locomotive of the former Great Eastern Railway, which had been sold out of service over forty years ago. A trip to Doncaster, the only major works which we have not visited, is planned for next year.

B. A. Rowney VI<sub>3</sub>

W. J. W. Hesketh UVIC

I. P. Simmons LVIC.



## THE LITERARY SOCIETY

At the beginning of the year a revival of the society was proposed; a new committee formed and discussed the coming year's activities. It decided that the aim of the society would be to promote the arts in general; music, visual art, literature and drama; and not to adhere solely to literature. Ideas such as theatre visits, speakers from inside and outside the school, films, panel games, discussions and so on were put forward.

The plans began well on Tuesday 18th October when the celebrated Mr. J. Tavener of Room 12 addressed the society on the subject of "Painting With Light". This very interesting talk on the Impressionist Painters attracted an audience of about fifty-five.

Unfortunately, subsequent to this excellent start there have been no further meetings as yet, but more are planned and it is hoped that 1973 will be more productive.

Kim Harris VI<sub>3</sub>.



## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

The quantity and quality of instrumental music has greatly increased over the last year. Groups which had just been formed at this time last year have become established and now take an active part in the music of the school.

There were, in fact, two groups created at the beginning of last year, the string quartet and the chamber orchestra, which consists of six players. The string quartet gave a performance of the G Major Quartet by Mozart in the Martinmas Music Chamber concert; and the chamber orchestra gave a performance of Mendelssohn's sextet. It is quite an achievement for both these ensembles to have successfully tackled such difficult works when both are so young in experience.

Many people fail to realise that any form of ensemble playing, be it a full sized symphony orchestra or a string trio, is unsuccessful unless there is a bond or community spirit between the players. This bond can only be obtained by long hours of practice, and although one sometimes feels that the effort one has to make during the rehearsal is often wasted, one is always delighted if the music suddenly springs to life and the four individuals become, for a moment in time, a string quartet. It is moments like these which make all the practising worthwhile because the pleasure gained from the true ensemble playing is immense and very rewarding.

Because of the enthusiasm and loyalty of the people involved, instrumental music has flourished over the year. The performance of two chamber concerts in two terms is evidence enough of this; but there has also been a certain amount of individual success. I would like to thank Gordon Gambling and Duncan Jodrell for their excellent performances in the Martinmas Music Concert, and also to congratulate Gordon on obtaining a place in the National Youth Brass Band, and Clive Comely, Duncan Jodrell and Stephen Richards on their performances in the "Christmas Oratorio".

Finally I would like to thank everyone connected with instrumental music for their willingness to spend so much of their time rehearsing. I think they will agree with me in saying that the time spent was not wasted.

D. Hedges UVI.

## PEACOCK CLUB

Programme: From Hanover to New York  
Stained Glass Windows  
Was God an Astronaut  
India

Mr. R. G. Clutterbuck.  
Mr. P. J. Clucas.  
Mr. D. J. Vale.  
Mr. P. J. Irvine.

The idea of the talk which opens each meeting is to stimulate thought and promote conversation so that frequently the main points of discussion come from issues brought up towards the latter stages of the evening. Membership of the club is by election; the existing members draw into their number those who they feel will have most to offer and most to gain from meetings of this kind.

D. J. Vale.

## **CHESS**

This season the school has entered teams for the Gloucestershire Schools Tournament, the Second Division of the North Gloucestershire League, and 'The Sunday Times' Competition. At present we are successfully defending our county title after beating Cheltenham G.S. in round two, and are placed third in the North Gloucestershire League tables. 'The Sunday Times' Competition results somehow manage to overshadow the above, having reached the zonal semi-finals after defeating opposition from Gloucester, Stroud and Swindon.

During the summer term Mr. Sweeting resigned himself from the administrative side of chess after many years of devoted work in this field. Mr. Thomas has filled this vacancy. At the same time stalwart Paul Langman ended his term of office as chess captain.

Ian Pattenden chalked up the only notable result in the recent Gloucester Schools Chess Congress by finishing second equal in the under fifteen section.

It only remains now for me to say that the School Chess Club welcomes any new members to its after school meetings.

I. P. Legg LVIC.

## **THE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**

The Christian Fellowship is now under the leadership of Nicholas Eyles, our former President N. J. Rankine having left last year.

Our aims are to present the Christian faith relevant to present day society, to discuss world problems and how, in our opinion, they should be dealt with; subjects such as prison sentences, use of drugs, euthanasia and censorship; and comparison of the Christian Faith with other religions. Magic lantern productions depicting the faith at home and abroad are shown from time to time.

D. J. Bolton  
N. J. W. Eyles  
F. P. Lewis.

## **THE LIFESAVING CLUB**

This year the activities of the Lifesaving Club were confined, to the exclusion of everything else, to a prolonged and intensive attempt to pass the maximum number of examinations before 1st January 1973. The club was competing for the Gloucester branch R.L.S.S. Lifesaving Shield, which is won points per person in the institution, a certain number of points being awarded for each successful candidate, according to the level of difficulty of the exam.

From 1st January 1972 the club passed 268 exams, gaining a total of 2,087 points. This brought the number of fully qualified lifesavers in the school to 48, and there are now seven holders of the R.L.S.S. Teacher's Certificate in the school.

We would especially like to thank those members of the school, not normally associated with the club, who spent an hour or so splashing up and down the pool in an old pair of pyjamas to take the safety awards.

P. D. Parker UVIA.



## THE CROQUET CLUB

If you read last year's "Richian", you will know that the Croquet Club was set up at the beginning of 1972 to take over from the Historical Society the running of the Croquet Tournament. In the Club's first year it has organised two tournaments, as well as the Ladder Competition, a sort of league table for club members.

The first of the two tournaments, open to the whole school, was begun in the Summer Term and completed in the Michaelmas Term, Meers and Parker of 4A being the winning pair. Because the Open Tournament wasn't over until the end of September, we didn't have time to finish last year's other tournament, the Club Tournament, before the intervention of winter, but we shall be able to complete it in the Lent Term, so that the Summer Term will be clear for this year's events.

Among fringe events organised last season was a visit to the Cheltenham Croquet Club, arranged by Mr. Rangeley, to see J. W. Solomon and G. N. Aspinall, two of the world's best exponents of the game, playing in a tournament.

We must thank Mr. Thomas, the inspiration behind the whole thing; Mr. Rangeley, the other Joint President; the school's new groundsman, who very kindly mowed the lawn regularly for us; Mark Alington, who marked out the white line around the lawn every week or so; and Gareth Long, our Chief Verderer, for his work on the lawn at the start of the season.

Robert Jones 5A.



# CONTRIBUTIONS

## THE BOSTON MARATHON MARATHON 1972

"Oh, I can see your heart's in it, ducky". These were the words of international rowing expert, Daughter of Gypsy Rose Lee when she inspected the calloused palms of Nick Cooper who had been sent to get the blessing and verdict of the renowned rowing pundit. When questioned further she said, "Oh yes you're going to win". Victory thus assured, the minds of the Sir Thomas Rich's Boat Club 1972 Boston Marathon crew were able to turn to less important matters. These included where the intrepid band was to spend the night, and how they were going to overcome the loss of their No. 2 oarsman John Williams who had been struck down by glandular fever at the eleventh hour.

As it turned out the confidence exuded by the Daughter of Gypsy Rose Lee soon began to pay off. A 'phone call to Grantham Youth Hostel, 15 miles from Lincoln quickly disposed of the problem of accommodation. After a night in the Youth Hostel which had some of the aura of a hospital out patients department during the bronchitis season, the crew set off for Lincoln munching glucose tablets and reeking of liniment. A vanguard of Venture Scout canoeists went on ahead in Mr. Henderson's bread van with a 'Situations Vacant' poster intended to attract an itinerant oarsman (especially Ken Dwan).

The canoeists were started promptly three minutes behind the schedule, and were the first to breach the layer of green weed on the canal in the salubrious environs of Lincoln Power Station. Two and a half hours later the eight departed. In the interval the boat had been assembled, washed and polished, and a suitable substitute found. Phil Neale had been passing through Lincoln with a friend, on his way to Newcastle upon Tyne. They stopped on the off chance that they might be able to crew a pair in the race. This not being possible, helping a schoolboy crew no doubt seemed the next best thing.

Having completed the crew, next on the agenda was lunch. This was to be Ambrosia with currants, brewed on the spot. While this culinary delight was being prepared there were many sarcastic comments: "Do you eat it or cover yourselves with it?"

However at 12.29 our entry was started (having just avoided stoving the hull of the boat in on a stake near the landing stage). Following their progress thereafter was an exercise in precision cross country travel, stop watch in hand, calculating speeds and estimating positions. On the river bank their orange blades and string vests were unmistakable as was their smooth steady rhythm as they overtook crew after crew. At Bardney Lock the boat had to be transported bodily in bare feet over a dyke, bulldozing through mud, thistles, and innocent bystanders.

Just past the half way mark the crew were permitted a three minute break to stretch their legs and gulp down a few mouthfulls (mouthsfull?) of orange squash and salt tablets before setting off on the second leg.

For the support party this was perhaps the most nerve-racking. At the last viewing point before Boston and the final few yards of the 36 mile course they were told they were  $2\frac{1}{2}$  minutes within the race record. At this news the voice of Steve Lamb was heard calling for a great final effort and they disappeared pulling strongly in the direction of the Boston Stump.



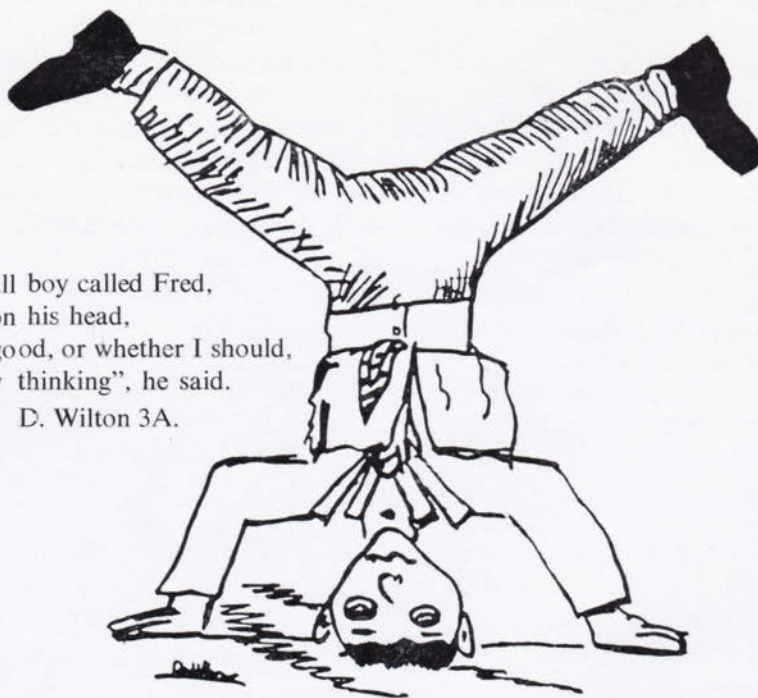
Elation soon evaporated at the finish as one of the officials said that everyone was doing record times thanks to the following wind. Coach, Mr. G. H. Middleton, made their time inside the race record, 3 hrs. 22 mins., a race record. However according to the results board this had already been bettered by a quadruple Nottingham Union sculler. So it was a rather despondent crew that disassembled the eight and loaded up the school bus ready for the return trip to Gloucester. That done a rumour went round that the times were inaccurate so the party rushed back to the boathouse.

The quadruple scullers time was now not a race record, but it was noticed that the starting time of Sir Thomas Rich's Boat Club was ten minutes in advance of the actual starting time according to the Coach's stop watch and course record. Then began a long process of haggling and lively argument. Happily a Guy's Hospital Four, listed as having started after S.T.R.B.C. confirmed that far from this being the case, they had in fact been overtaken by S.T.R.B.C. some miles after Bardney Lock. This timely evidence clinched the matter and Sir Thomas Rich's Boat Club were proclaimed outright winners of the 1972 Boston Marathon, the longest rowing event in the world, with a new race record of 3 hrs. 16 mins. 4 secs. It is salutary to note that the 44th Gloucester Venture Scouts also came first in their class, and last in the Marathon. Thus not only did Sir Thomas Rich's come first and last, but all concerned improved upon the previous year's performance.

John Kearsey and W.R.S.

There once was a small boy called Fred,  
Who suddenly stood on his head,  
"I don't know if it's good, or whether I should,  
"But it does help my thinking", he said.

D. Wilton 3A.



## A DAY IN MY LIFE TWENTY YEARS HENCE

It was the first Friday of April 1992. This was not one of my three weekly working days; for this reason I did not set my alarm clock, and it was noon before I woke. It was a sharp knock on the door of my stone cottage that forced me to get up. When I arrived at the door I opened it to find a government official with three assistants.

"Routine check, Sir", said he, and they proceeded to examine every cupboard or cubby-hole in the place. This was common practice. The uprising of 1985 had brought an ultra-restrictive government into power. The official and his assistants checked every conceivable hiding-place for anti-government propagandist material. They even checked the insides of my record sleeves, removing their contents with the least possible care. Finally, being satisfied that I was not housing any such papers, they questioned me with a lie-detector to ascertain that I had not been taking part in any immoral activities. They then walked out; the official laughed when he noticed the Bible in the porch.

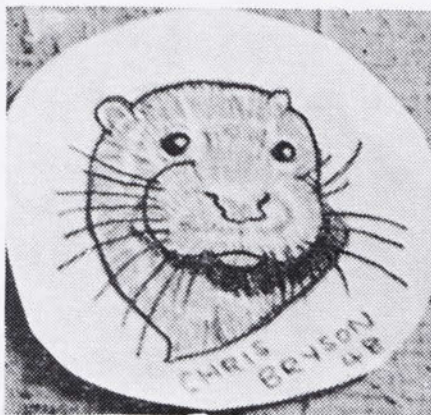
I settled down to the problems of getting dressed and preparing what was by now a very late dinner, the time being something like three o'clock.

I ate my fish and chips, picked up my guitar and strolled outside. I had to walk several miles before I could see many houses; the Cotswold countryside had not yet been greatly violated, but my view from Cooper's Hill, looking down into the Severn Valley, was of a vast conurbation bespattered with a few patches of parkland, and the waves of houses were already lapping at the feet of the hills.

I sat alone on the hilltop, playing my guitar and singing songs of centuries ago and of the present day. I sang of love, of life, and of the Dream. I sang and listened for some answer, but apart from the songs of the birds and the roar of the traffic below, there was none.

Then it began to get dark. As I looked down on the city below, I thought of boxes, and of human robots that inhabited them. For them were the four days leisure time really leisure? A Concorde flashed across the sky. I turned homewards, and as I walked I realised that the sense of loneliness up here, though painful sometimes, is not as strong as that of freedom; a word whose meaning could never be truly understood by the city-dwellers. I quickened my pace in order to get home by the curfew.

J. R. Gillett 5A.





## SOME RECOLLECTIONS OF A FORMER PUPIL

It is no easy matter after an interval of nearly forty years to recall impressions of Mr. Stocks as he was when he first entered my form at the Manchester Grammar School; but with the help of an old form photograph I can still see him newly arrived from a preparatory school, sitting in a front row desk near the form room door, a small figure in short trousers, bare knees, very quiet but keen eyed, with a slight tilt of his head to one side. It was stated by no less a person than himself from the platform on my first Speech Day at the new Rich's School that I had been responsible for the only detention which he ever received in his school career. I am unable to recall the incident, but the cause could hardly have been inattention to his lessons or homework, for I see that I wrote on his last report in 1941 that he was "a very pleasant and teachable pupil". Could it have been, I wonder, that on this particular occasion he cut things rather fine and arrived late in class?

Another picture of him that stands out clearly in my mind is that of a small figure (he was now fifteen years of age) standing on the platform of the old Free Trade Hall before a vast audience of nearly 5,000, consisting of boys from the big school and three preparatory schools together with parents and friends, on Speech Day in 1938—a truly daunting experience—and declaiming passages from Hilaire Belloc, one "in Praise of Gluttony", and another "Tarantella" beginning with the words "Do you remember an inn, Miranda?"

Had the scale of proficiency values which are in use on reports at Sir Thomas Rich's (T for "trying", S for "satisfactory", N for "not trying") been applied at the Manchester Grammar School, J. A. S. would invariably have been placed in the "trying" class—the word not to be taken in any pejorative sense—for although his term marks in Greek and Latin at the beginning were only moderate, due to his late arrival in the school, by the end of his first year in the VIth form he had come out top in Latin and gained as a prize the large Lewis and Short dictionary of which he is still inordinately proud and which he displays from time to time to his pupils in 2A or 3A.

At this point our ways parted; he left pure classics for history, although he doesn't conceal the fact that his interest lay as much with mathematics as with the other subjects, "*sed non omnes omnia possunt*". War supervened, and he with 800 other boys was swept away on evacuation to Blackpool, where amid the pots and pans and gas stoves of "Cookery 2" in the Palatine Road Central Schools he was introduced to the bucolic delights of Virgil's Eclogues. Back after this brief interlude and in a school sandbagged like a fortress he continued to develop what was his main interest outside the classroom, a love for the drama, making quite a name for himself and appearing in a wide range of school productions from Shakespeare to Arnold Bennett and James Bridie. Press cuttings from the Manchester Guardian and Ulula (the M.G.S. magazine) describe his performance in Arnold Bennett's 'Great Adventure' as "**the** outstanding piece of work", and in 'Jonah and the Whale' "he was extremely good as one of nature's committee women".

After he departed for Oxford and subsequently to the war, I saw nothing of him until I arrived in Gloucester. My nine years at Rich's as a part-time assistant and a twice retired schoolmaster were made possible only by his kindness and consideration in giving

me time-tables and forms which were within the scope of my declining powers. That I continue to live if not to flourish I owe largely to my former pupil and present headmaster. He takes with him to Wolverhampton my best thanks and warmest good wishes.

R.T.M.

**"Tempora mutantur nos et mutamur in illis"**

There are moments which are turning points in the history of persons, places and things.

Such a moment is now, when John Anthony Stocks leaves Sir Thomas Rich's, where he has been Headmaster for twelve years.

We cannot predict what is to come but we can scan the past and hope that the future will preserve the best of it.

Some foolish men, "drest in a little brief authority", would like to destroy the past and drive us willy-nilly into a labyrinth of mediocrity, from which, unlike the Cretan Labyrinth, there is no escape.

Fortunately there have always been men who have had the strength to stand up to these lesser men.

Let me name, among such men as I have known, Peter Veale, Stanley Worrall and J. Anthony Stocks—all Headmasters of distinction.

Let us hope that those who follow will carry on the traditions of Sir Thomas Rich's School.

Tradition is a slender thread binding us to the past and linking us to the future. It can easily be broken.

I have been browsing over an Old Richians' magazine — No. 1 of Vol. 1 of the "Plutonian", — dated July 1909, — and then studying the menu of the Fourth Annual Dinner of the Sir Thomas Rich's Old Boys' Association, held at the "Ram Hotel" (now the "New County") on 23rd November 1911.

What strikes me most in reading these records is the persistence of old traditions and of old names. The Clutterbucks, the Prices, the Preedys, are still with us, and the sentiments expressed in those old toasts are those of every latter-day Old Boys' Dinner.

How well I remember George Preedy! He would come, an old man, every week to attend our Monday morning Assembly in Brunswick Road Chapel, bringing with him his Esperanto version of the Gospels.

George is now dead.

Brunswick Road Chapel no longer exists. It has fallen, like many old landmarks, to the demolitionists. The whole City of Gloucester seems to have been laid in ruins, and above those ruins of Roman, mediaeval, Georgian and Victorian Gloucester there are arising buildings which have only this in common: a hideous mediocrity.

May the School from Longlevens continue to spread its humane, civilizing influence!

R.G.F. 1932-1967.



## UNEASY

Closing eyes, I fall awake  
searching, grasping for reality  
what?  
where?  
who?  
Why?  
find me please, I cry.

The darkness is loneliness,  
screwing me into a ball of  
confusion  
fear  
hate  
love  
break through please, I cry.

Sleep won't return tonight,  
I'm waiting for the light  
of day  
of life  
of company and love,  
I'm happy now, I laugh.

M. Fitzsimmons VI<sub>3</sub>.

## PLASTIC RECOLLECTION

"And all the friends that you once knew, they kept you safe and so secure amongst  
the books and all the records of your lifetime".

Nick Drake.

Hazy memories returned through harmony and sound,  
Weaving lace reaching for you.

A recollection of bryter times,  
Sad, or sweet, or crimson,  
Flooded out by street lights.

"Goodbye my friend", "Hello my acquaintance",  
This is where it ends, where it begins;  
Simplicity to complication,  
A spiralling circle of pain.

Kim Harris VI<sub>3</sub>.



### **HIS BEAN CAN**

Gently caressing the bean can he dazed  
and gazed for a tea spoon.

Soon something would happen to him he was sure.  
One day, or month, or year he would make it  
to the top . . . . .

. . . . . of the road perhaps.

Empty, the bean can lowered him to the ground  
on his side.

Whose side? — His own side.

He had no friends, but he was friendly to his best enemies.



It was cloudy (so was the sky)  
but he could see the stars—they were above him too.  
The bean can held him in his clammy label  
and landed on the fire nearby.  
His socks dried as the can charred.

The can leapt  
on to its hind legs and made it  
to the top of the road, in time  
to buy a drink for his best enemy,  
his master, whom he loved with all his tin.

"I was once a baked bean can maker", he twisted;  
"Nasty business", the general replied from the other side of the ceiling.  
"You made my father", stated and queried the can in one go,  
as it buckled its lid with laughter,  
when it thought of the dent his father had.

"Rock On!" they screamed, and fell  
together, to sleep, on the pavement.  
It was not cloudy anymore.

Mike Fitzsimmons VI<sub>3</sub>.



### **PEACE IN OUR TIME ?**

At nine o'clock on Friday morning,  
He began to paint  
A symphony in three acts,  
He titled it "Peace In Our Time".

He splashed on shimmering colours  
Soft and shining,  
In a major key.  
Enter the hero, stage left;  
Smiling,  
Whilst the heroine sings in golden harmonies,  
Weaving melodious flower chains.  
At twelve o'clock he stopped for lunch.

He feasted on fear and folly,  
On horrors, and on hatred.  
When he returned the paint had run.

The colours had lost distinction,  
The heroine was dancing a drunken dream  
And the hero stood there laughing;  
At twelve o'clock he slipped into relative minor

He began to paint in mournful, wailing tones.  
The colours, blurred and blotchy, slowly darkened;  
The heroine took another fix  
And the hero lay dying on the battlefield.

Enter another man  
From the shadows at the back of the stage.  
Enter two soldiers, stage right.  
They seize him, hit him, mock him,  
And the artist paints him to a cross  
Labelled "all my own work".

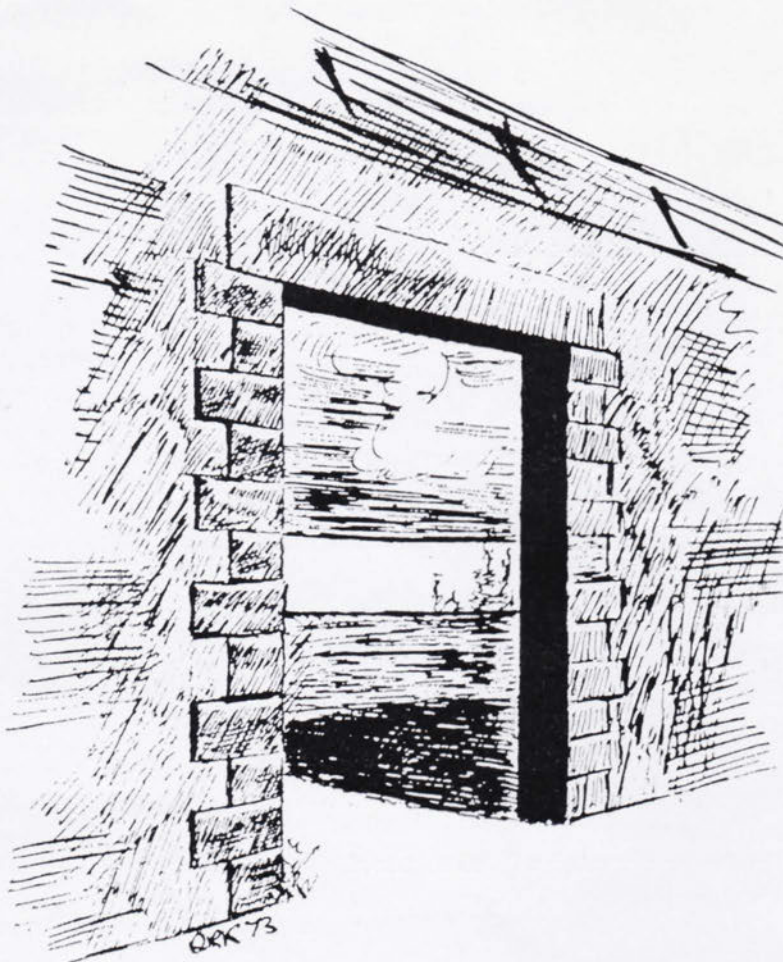
Then, from the blurred confusion,  
Hope shines through the cross  
In the dominant major.  
The colours begin to brighten  
The heroine is almost conscious  
And the hero struggles slowly to his feet.

With tired eyes, and a sigh of resignation,  
The artist takes the painting down  
And screws it up  
And throws it into the waste-paper bin.



And as the Curtain falls, on an interrupted cadence :  
The colours have darkened,  
The heroine is flying,  
The hero is crying,  
The man on the cross is dying,  
And the artist goes down to tea.

J. R. Gillett 5A.



## DESINENCE

In life you took your station,  
Gave me my education.  
Thirty decades of time  
Made traditions now mine.  
Though you're dead, your name lives on,  
But what's gone wrong?

They had no reason  
To end this long season.  
Unless to take revenge  
And bring about an end.  
It could be good in the right place,  
But it's going to spoil our face.

The leaders that be  
Always show what they mean.  
But it always goes wrong  
Before so very long.  
When they die, their names will too,  
They won't be worthy, not like you.

N. J. W. Eyles LVIA.

## YET ANOTHER WINDOW

The glass is black  
A stooped old lady shuffles by  
    past the flowers  
        green, golden in the misty sun.

I sat upon the wall,  
dangling legs among the flowers,  
    but all were blue.

Looking down, framed in the darkened window,  
is a boy  
fingering his name in the misted glass.

I peer out into the night  
I see the stars,  
    and a solitary moon,  
        and my face in the glass.

It stares back, wondering who will dare  
to kill the pane.  
Tomorrow my mind will be shuttered,  
The glass shattered.

Alan Davies.



### THE BEST OF STRANGERS

Walking in the frosty phase of morning, I  
see her  
gazing at the nothingness that is her  
thoughts.  
I smile, no release;  
hands deep thrust in coat she wanders,  
Alone,  
    across the bridge, she leaves  
the broken sphere, embroidered with her existence  
Away, away  
I hurry to catch her, I jolt her inert senses  
She turns,  
friendship I never saw has gone.

AL LVIC.

### OBIT. E. L. POUND (1885-1972)

“The body of Ezra Pound, the American poet who died in Venice on Wednesday, aged 87, was taken by gondola to the island cemetery of San Michele yesterday for burial.

“There was no tribute from either the Italian or United States governments for Pound, who broadcast from Italy during the Second World War on behalf of Mussolini”.

What do we ask of great men,  
Of heroes, leaders, writers,  
That when they die we may say,  
All brave, strong, true,  
Let not our vain requirements  
Change those to what we would have them be.

There will be hope for us as long as men  
Who think, love, provoke,  
Will stand and fall for what is  
Our hope, faith, future.  
Do not decry them  
Even though they may be wrong.

Now one who cared is dead  
Leave judgement to those who care:  
The dead.

Stuart Smith VI<sub>3</sub>.

**11.00 a.m. NOVEMBER 11th**

Eleven, eleven, eleven,  
So many lives have been given,  
"For the good of the cause"  
They have fought in our wars  
To make our land better to live in.

We silently pray,  
Asking God for the day  
When guns will be thrown on the ground,  
When people will cease to be bound,  
When families will be together and gay.

But back at the front,  
They continue to hunt  
Each others' lives  
No one thrives,

Only dies.

M. Fitzsimmons VI<sub>3</sub>.

**CHELTENHAM**

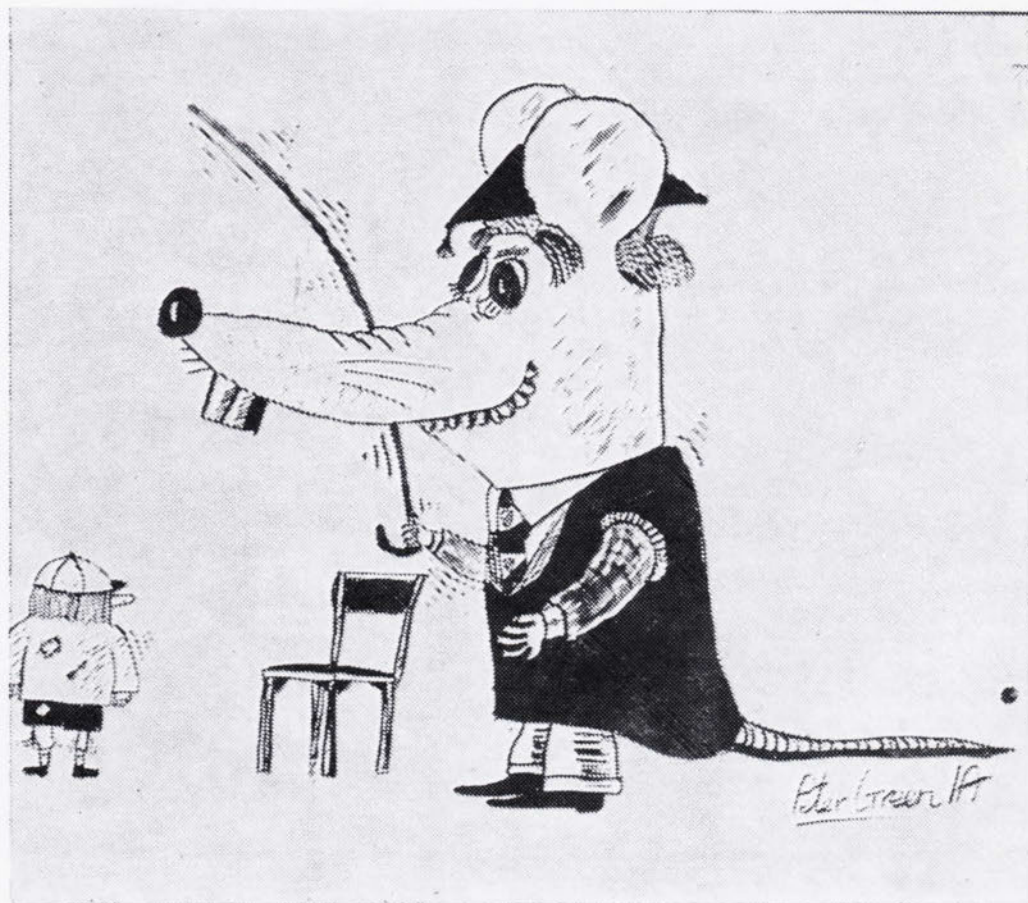
Patronised by George III and his royal family,  
A good lad, knew what he was at,  
It developed into a stylish and fashionable watering-place,  
Still a good class of people, if you know what I mean,  
Which accounts for its fine Regency architecture.  
Those big houses make smashing flats.  
It remains, of course, the Centre of the Cotswolds,  
See them turn those antique shops over.  
And an ideal base for touring.  
Money makes our wheels go round.

A well known educational centre,  
Nice, those girls from St. Mary's.  
And our townhall and theatre constantly provide enjoyment  
Conferences always useful,—out of season you see.  
Our annual festivals of Literature and Music are well known,  
Tele's improved since Ridge Hill started.  
As are the sports: National Hunt and Cricket, of course.  
The dogs is only ten minutes on the Golden Valley.  
People enjoy themselves in Cheltenham.  
Money makes our wheels go round.



Cheltenham caters for the shopper,  
Plenty of potential in cash and carry.  
Cav : ladies' tailors : breeches makers,  
A two-storey Tesco.  
Plenty of parking on the ground,  
Sound that; none of your multi-storeys.  
We've got to provide for modern needs.  
That's right; how else will people come.  
Money makes our wheels go round.  
Money makes our wheels go round.

Stuart Smith VI<sub>3</sub>.



## SCHOOL SPORT

### CRICKET 1st XI

For the first time in many years the 1st XI remained undefeated throughout the season. Under the efficient captaincy of Nigel Merrett the team was able to record five victories and four draws in the nine games played.

One of the reasons why the season was so successful was the fact that almost every week the same eleven could be fielded, and there was ample opportunity for the players to compete as a unit, and yet still possess that factor so vital to every successful side — individualism.

The season was a bad one weatherwise, and this is reflected in the number of games that had to be cancelled, but the fixtures finally got under way with a splendid victory over neighbours Chosen Hill. This was the first of

three successive victories, the others being against Westwood's and King's. The team then went through a very frustrating period of four successive draws which might so easily have become victories if luck had been on our side. However, the School finished its cricket calendar on several high notes with victories against Crypt and the Old Boys.

The victory over the Old Boys was the climax to a tremendous season. This annual match always seems to be hotly contested and this year's game was no exception. After winning the toss the Old Boys, under the captaincy of Trevor Hurcum, made 132-9 in their allotted 40 overs. The School were given an excellent start by Steve Corbett (43) and Rod Correia (37), but after these two were dismissed wickets fell steadily. After a tense battle the School reached 134-9 in the 39th over, with Alex Anderson (6 n.o.) and Jerry Base (3 n.o.), seeing the team through to a narrow, but none the less, well earned victory.

The best bowling return of the season was by Alex Anderson who took 7 wickets for just 9 runs against Westwood's. Andrew Burns also took 7 wickets in an innings. This time it was against Chosen Hill when he returned figures of 7-26. Also on the bowling front; it was a combined effort by Base and Burns, the 1st XI's opening bowlers, which annihilated King's. King's were reduced to 10 all out, with Base taking 5-4 and Burns 4-6.







**SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE UNBEATEN 1st XI, 1972**

Back row (left to right) M. R. Gabb, R. Correia, J. R. Base, S. J. Corbett. Front row: D. R. Lloyd, N. I. Merrett (Capt.), A. Anderson. (R. R. Hobson, C. J. Bartleman, M. J. Bartleman and A. J. Burns completed the team).

As far as the batting was concerned we were fortunate to have such a wealth of talent. With players like Hobson, Correia and Gabb starting the innings and players like Burns and Bartleman (C.) to round it off, we couldn't go wrong.

With so many of this successful side returning, and with so many good youngsters coming up from the Colts XI, the 1st XI looks set to have an even better season!

J. R. Base (Hon. Sec.).

## **CRICKET 2nd XI**

P.4 W.2 L.1 D.1

Because of the appalling summer weather the games against Marling and Prince Henry's had to be cancelled. In the games played, however, Steve Greenman did exceptionally well to lead his side to two splendid victories, over Westwood's by the huge margin of 122 runs, and over arch rivals Crypt by 3 wickets. The only other school game, against Cheltenham G.S., was drawn, and the only defeat suffered was at the hands of the Old Boys, who ran out victors by 70 runs in the annual match.

It was a season of note more for batting than bowling, and this is endorsed by the fact that in only three school games, two centuries were scored. Against Westwood's 'Oggy' Hemming did everything to enhance his reputation as a 'big hitter' by hammering the frail bowling for 104, including umpteen 6's and 4's. He was ably supported by Clive Hamblin, who made a workmanlike 30, thus enabling the School to declare at 152-5. Against Cheltenham G.S. 'Sid' Gabb, who had to relinquish his place on the Cheltenham bound 1st XI coach because of illness, promptly proceeded to score 101 on home territory for the 2nd XI.

Probably the most valuable knock by any 2nd XI player all season was that of John Taylor. John, a much improved bowler who played several times for the first team, proved his worth with the bat and scored 47 n.o. against Crypt when all seemed lost.

Finally, I should like to take this opportunity to thank all those members of staff, especially Mr. Johnston, who do so much work, both visible and behind the scenes, to keep the cricket season running smoothly and efficiently.

J. R. Base (Hon. Sec.—Cricket).

## **Colts XI**

Though only three matches were played, promise for the future of the 1st and 2nd XIs was evident in the way they were all won.

At Cheltenham G.S., the School won by 9 wks. after M. C. Jones' 4 for 9 had helped to dismiss the opposition for 50.

At Crypt, A. C. Poulton, R. J. Short and M. C. Jones (61 n.o.) all made astute use of the short boundary down the hill in a total of 175—6. An early declaration had the required result, with wickets falling before tea. 'Ally' Poulton then let loose for the first time with seven wickets, bringing victory by 74 runs.

At Hereford, Poulton (92 n.o.) and Short (52 n.o.) took the School to 151—2, after which Poulton dismissed Hereford—almost! An inadvertent last-wicket stumping, off Davis, left him with 9 for 8, including the hat-trick.

Colours were awarded to Short (capt.), M. C. Jones, and to Poulton, who also represented Gloucestershire and the West of England Colts.



## **Juniors**

After losing their first two games, the Junior XI were unlucky to draw at Lydney after C. A. Pattenden and P. J. Brown had both hit out. Kemmet took five wickets, and Pattenden was again in form with the bat when Hereford were beaten by seven wickets. In an exciting game against Crypt, the team produced their best performance of the season in winning by three wickets, D. T. Woodward and Brown batting well in a total of 118—7.

Clive Pattenden was awarded Junior XI Colours.

## **RUGBY**

### **1st XV**

After a close, exciting first match against the Old Boys, the team proved that at times it was capable of holding its own against very strong, skilful sides. The first school game provided great satisfaction to both spectators and players alike, when arch enemies Chosen Hill were defeated handsomely. This period of good luck unfortunately did not last and for a long period in the middle of the season the team was hampered by major injuries. However, members of the 2nd XV, Merrett, D. Gregson and Jones, should be congratulated on their performances for the first team.

One of the highlights of the season was the game against Dulwich College. This was a most memorable game which was fiercely contested up to the last whistle. The pack played well above themselves, competing for possession when at all possible despite being reduced to six men at times, but alas, the game was narrowly lost.

In the team was a fine balance of young and old players, but the strong point of the side was unquestionably the back division, where Rees at outside-half provided a most useful pivot for all attacks, and was capable of scoring tries himself. Correia and Anderson were sound centres, fearless in the tackle, and were always prepared to take on the opposition (in more ways than one), but the most exciting player was Carter, who when given half a chance was guaranteed to gain ground. Who will forget that scintillating try he scored against the R.A.C. when he dived, twisted and wriggled his way through numerous tackles to score. The last line of defence or should I say the first line of attack was Mike Longstaff who had another outstanding season (do we expect anything less?). The pack too deserve a mention. They were small in height and weight but steadfast when the competition was fiercest. The hooker, young Peter Gregson, was wonderfully supported by veteran props Badham and Miles; and King and Ramstedt performed well in the powerhouse. On the rare occasions that the back row of Burns (vice-capt.), Beamish and Harrison did play together, they were capable of destroying many of the opposition's moves by fast action and quick thinking.

After the festive season the team played arch rivals Crypt. The side fielded was the strongest possible with both Lloyd and Burns fit to play. The game produced only one try, scored by Edwards, which Longstaff converted from the touchline to give the school victory by 9 points to nil.

Representative honours went to Correia and Longstaff, who both play for the county at the under 19 level, while the latter may yet play for the England under 19 team.

D. R. Lloyd (1st XV capt.)

## **2nd XV**

This year's team was one of the youngest for many years and yet it had a very successful season, preserving its unbeaten home record. In Rob Short, Ada Harris, Mike Jones and Jim Thompson, the 2nds had an agile and enterprising back division. 'Ally' Poulton deserves special mention for his consistently accurate kicking and his safe, reliable play in the full-back position. In the pack, Phil Taylor's competent propping and the enthusiastic play of John Barnes and Darrell Jones in the loose are especially to be praised. The work also of the 2nd row ought not to be forgotten. Wally Champion was invaluable in breaking down the opposing packs' movements and Alan Jones dominated the line-out play. The pack, however, suffered much from lack of continuity in composition, losing several players to the 1sts in mid-season, with the result that the same eight forwards were hardly ever fielded twice.

We were very fortunate to have Steve Simmons as captain, always setting a good example to the rest, and we are very grateful to Mr. T. G. Smith for giving up his Wednesday afternoons to try to install some of the finer points of the game into the team.

S. B. SIMMONDS (2nd XV capt.)

## **THE BADMINTON CLUB**

Last season was one of the most successful ever for the Badminton Club; the senior and junior teams easily winning their respective leagues without losing a single match. Indeed, Ford and Dalton, the junior first pair, did not lose a game.

The season did not start as well as we would have hoped, the formation of the league being left until late in the term. Our treasurer, Paul Hopson, has had difficulty in collecting subscriptions, particularly from members of the two teams.

Only three games have been played in the senior league so far. These have resulted in two wins, at Central and Chosen Hill, and one home defeat against Ribston Hall (the majority of the team were absent with 'flu). The juniors to date have won all their games but against poor opposition.

Our thanks must go to Mr. Johnston for the excellent way in which he has taken over the leadership of the club after Mr. Robinson's departure.

A. Ford and A. Dalton (L. IV. C)

## **VOLLEYBALL**

Volleyball is a relatively new sport to the school. However, despite this fact, both the first VI and the second VI have done very well. In fact during the past three years neither team has been beaten. This year, having won the Minor Sports Festival beating Crypt, Saintbridge, and Sir Henry Box School, the first VI have beaten all their opponents convincingly and have never been taken to a third set. The second VI, who have not played as regularly, still remain unbeaten.

'Rammy' Ramstedt, 'Pongo' Longstaff, 'Eric' Poore, 'Sid' Gabb and 'Bone' Jones obtained a North Gloucestershire volleyball trial. Despite the fact that there was no age limit on the teams the five players did remarkably well, but came up against strong opposition from established volleyball clubs, and none of the five obtained a place. Overall, however, the club has had a successful year, and it is hoped that the club will do even better in the future.

C. J. Ramstedt (Volleyball capt.)



## ROWING

Since the last edition of 'The Richian' the School Rowing Club has entered several events.

During the Easter Vacation we attended a special course of training at Monmouth, which resulted in our four being selected to represent Wales and the West in the Inter-Regional Finals. This competition was held at the new International Course which forms part of the Water Sports Complex being developed at Nottingham. However, the competition proved to be of a very high standard and our four never really recovered from a poor start, finishing in 6th position.



### THE BOSTON MARATHON ROWERS

Spirits were rather low at this point in the season, especially as School examinations prevented us from putting in the amount of training we knew we required. However, our morale was greatly boosted by our success in winning the Novices event in a Regatta held at Burton-on-Trent, much to the surprise of very strong local challengers. Even if we were unknown to them at the beginning of the races, we certainly made our mark and they were left in no doubt that the Sir Thomas Rich's Crew was one to be reckoned with in future.

In August we spent our usual week at Dartmouth, training in preparation for the Boston Marathon, followed by some weeks of rigorous training for an event we were determined to win. This year the crew consisted of 7 School members and 2 'Old

Boys', namely, Bill Kearsy and Nick Cooper. Unfortunately, on the day we left for Boston, John Williams was taken ill, but we decided to continue as planned and hoped to obtain a replacement among the other competitors. We were fortunate in obtaining this replacement, and in rain and with a slight following wind the eight completed the course in a record time of 3 hrs. 16 mins. 4 secs. This time was just good enough to win the Marathon outright, beating the University of London Rowing Club by 50 seconds. This year it is hoped to enter the Marathon event entirely as a School Eight.

Thus, after a very disheartening start to the season, we were able to 'pull our socks up' and felt very satisfied with the results we finally obtained. This result, however, is only due to the dedication of our Coach, Mr. Middleton, and the sense of purpose and fitness of the crew, a combination of which I hope will give even better successes in the forthcoming season.

N. J. Burden (U. VI. C)

### **THE BOWLS CLUB**

The past year has been a very good year for the Bowls Club in general. We now have a large number of younger boys who have started playing bowls, and this promises well for the future. The House Bowls Trophy was won by Westgate, the other Houses being placed Eastgate, Southgate and Northgate respectively.

The School was defeated in the annual match against Painswick B.C., but then surprised many people by defeating the Parents. The only other outside activity undertaken by the Bowls Club was in the Minor Sports Festival, in which the team predictably came top.

In the School Bowls Tournament, J. R. Base and G. V. Yorath won the Doubles, whilst Yorath was triumphant against Dalton in the Singles, after beating his Doubles Partner Base 21-20 in a very close semi-final.

With the sudden death of Mr. Geoffrey Sheard, the Bowls Club has lost a very dear friend who did so much to establish the art of bowling in the School.

D. H. Gaston (U. VI. C)

### **SENIOR CROSS COUNTRY**

This has been a term of mixed fortunes. The departure of half the 'A' team meant younger runners had to fill the vacant spaces. Although capable of winning all our matches, injuries etc. meant that only once in the term could we run our strongest team. We did well to beat Cheltenham G.S.; the Army Apprentice College, Chepstow; St. Paul's College, Cheltenham; Whitefriars; Marling; King Edward's School, Stratford; and St. Brendon's College, Bristol.

Although we had four runners in the first six, we lost against King Henry VIII School, Coventry. We also lost against Cheltenham G.S.—the first time for over three years, and against a friendly touring team from Cheadle Moseley School. We entered three relays, with varying success. The team finished a commendable 2nd at Cantonian High School, Cardiff, where Peter Irvine beat a Welsh International in his race, and recorded the second fastest time of the day. With a young team we managed 7th place at Bilborough and 10th place at Wolverhampton.



Peter Irvine, Philip Hoddy and David Barber gained places in the county team, and Philip Hoddy and Alun Long gained places in the County Schools' squad. We have grown used to seeing Peter Irvine win most of our races, and do well in all the relays. Although the youngest member of the 'A' team, Paul Govan, has run well, supporting the top runners.

It is with much regret that we say goodbye to our captain, Peter Irvine. We shall all miss his leadership, friendship and advice.

I would like to thank Mr. Bates for his support of the club, and also the 'B' team for being so willing to run, despite their lowly positions.

### **JUNIOR CROSS-COUNTRY**

A. Long (L. VI. C.)

The Junior teams have only run in a few matches, but they have done well in them. Team effort and training once again has been the key, and with more training from everyone, we hope for big successes in the future.

On September 28th, the first of the Junior League races was held at the School. The under 15 team finished 3rd, behind Archway and Cheltenham G.S., with Martynuik, Salter and Gaunt running well. The under 13 team did even better by winning their race, with Wickenden, Macmanus, Howells, Baker and Nichols running well.

Two days later, the teams went to Cantonian High School, Cardiff, for a relay. The under 13 team of Wickenden, Baker, Howells and Macmanus beat sixteen other schools to win, with Macmanus recording the joint fastest time for his race. The under 15 team of Martynuik, Salter, Farmer and Barsellotti were just forced into 2nd place by Barry Comprehensive School.

The next League race at Marling produced some fine performances, the School winning both races. The School teams now head the Under 13 League with 32 points. The Under 15 team is second, one point behind Archway. Both teams have excellent chances of winning their respective leagues.

In the friendly against Marling School, the first and second year teams both won, with inspired running by Howells (2nd), Fletcher (3rd), and Evans (5th) for the 1st year team, and Nichols (2nd), Baker (3rd), Macmanus (5th) and Wickenden (6th) for the 2nd year team.

With more effort from everyone, the future looks rosy for the School teams.

A. Long, L. VI C.





## TENNIS

The School has had a tennis team now for three years and this season was a reasonably good one, although apathy in some quarters meant that the side could not be kept the same throughout the season.

Practices which were scheduled for once a week were not really a success, although this probably had little effect on the results of matches. The School had four matches against other schools, beating Marling and Dean Close, and losing to Cheltenham College, whilst the match against King's was abandoned. In the other game, the team lost to strong opposition from St. Paul's College. In the only junior fixture the School team beat Cheltenham College.

The backbone of the team consisted of Cooper (captain), Beveridge, Lloyd, Sawyer, Pigott, Thompson and Merrett with support from Burns, Dalton and Dee.

The School Tennis Tournament was again won by Sayer who beat Cooper after the tennis captain had surprisingly beaten Lloyd in the semi-final. The Junior Tennis Tournament was won by Mellon of the third form in a close final with Dwight.

In the Minor Sports Festival the School, represented by Cooper and Beveridge in the doubles and by Thompson in the singles, won both events without conceding a set; and some creditable performance were given by some players in the first ever Gloucester Junior Tournament.

One final note of interest is that a player of two years ago, Brian Hunt, was picked regularly to play for St. Luke's 2nd VI last season.

Tennis colours were awarded to Lloyd, Beveridge and Pigott.

D. Pigott (L. VI. B)



# OLD RICHIAN ASSOCIATION

## OLD RICHIAN STILL THRIVING

The Old Richians Association is very much alive and kicking in the City these days.

In the current edition you can read of the sporting achievement of both the rugby and cricket sections. There is plenty of news about well over 100 former pupils. There is the customary begging letter. And there is a report—for the first time for some years—of the annual dinner, held at the school, at which the President, Reg Hobbs, attacked developments towards comprehensive education among the City schools.

But first there is a tribute to the outgoing headmaster, Mr. Stocks, from a former, anonymous, pupil.

## VENIT, VIDIT, VICIT. VALE.

By an old boy (1958-64)

"Your new headmaster will be **Mr. J. Anthony Stocks.**" These words, echoing around the old school hall in Barton-st., immediately caused the older wags to nickname him Jasper.

But it was not a nickname to lampoon. Very quickly it became a term of endearment, if occasionally spiced with flavoursome comments after an unwilling visit to his baywindowed, Georgian study.

He soon became a character to be respected, admired and enjoyed. With a Lon Chaney-esque sweep of his cloak he would charge into hall amid coughs and prefects' stares. A couple of bounds up the stairs and the stage would suddenly come alive.

I often thought he was a frustrated opera singer. He loved to swing in with a rousing hymn tune and if the singing from the rest of the school was not equally bold he was quite capable of stopping the hymn, demanding more "deeper reverence be", before once more allowing his reverberating tones to waft up among the climbing frames and the battened ropes.

Jasper—for so he became to boys, staff and parents—was a hard task master and a good friend. He had one love—Tommy's. He frequently surveyed his "kingdoms" at Barton St. and later Oakleaze. He was proud. And he had good cause for it. The achievements of the school during his reign were known, not just in the City but much further afield.

Academically and sports-wise the pupils and old boys set records which others still seek to emulate. Academically, old boys from his period are now university lecturers; A and O level results, university entries—all exceeded previous bests.

Sporting achievements included schoolboy internationals, rugby sevens championships, running champions, and, in recent years, the growth to national importance of the latest sport to attract the school—rowing.

He believes in the grammar school education system. A strong, and frequently outspoken, supporter of it, his stand has been one of the firmest in the City of Gloucester.

J. Anthony Stocks needs no special monument. Already it exists in the young men who benefited from his humanitarian attitudes, his guidance, help and advice, and who now are channelling back as citizens of the world at large.

## ENGAGEMENTS

The only engagement to come to our attention is that of **Summerell, C. J.**, to Miss J. A. Shalders, of Marple, Cheshire.

We congratulate both of them.

## MARRIAGES

Several old boys have taken the plunge and married. Among those to whom we extend our very best wishes are the following :

**Clements, David**, to Miss Barbara Bradshaw, at Endon, Staffordshire.

**Cornwell, John** to Miss Marilyn Prior, at St. Lawrence, Barnwood.

**King, Andrew**, to Miss Andrea Illingworth, in Yorkshire.

**Mascie-Taylor, C. G. N.**, to Miss Margaret Foster, at St. Peter's, Gloucester.

**Watkins, Alan O.**, to Miss Sylvia Evelyn Bowkett, at All Saints, Longhope.

**Wyatt, Christopher John**, to Miss Jean Alison Pringle, at St. Philip and St. James, Hucclecote.

**Giddings, Philip**, is also married.

## OBITUARIES

We regret to record the following deaths of Old Boys:

**Cullimore, Moreton C.**, (1909-11) the founder of the well-known Stroud road haulage and civil engineering firm founded in 1926, has died.

**Barradine, J. W.** (1965-71) died last year following an accident at home.

R.I.P.

## PRESIDENT EXPLAINS COMPREHENSIVES STAND

Reverence, integrity, comradeship and humility are what makes Rich's the School it is, the headmaster, **Mr. Stocks**, said at the Old Richians annual dinner in December.

Proposing the toast to "The school and all that it implies", Mr. Stocks spoke of the feeling of continuity given by, and found in, the school. In the first year forms alone were two boys who were fourth generation Richians.

"This continuity is a fact that no Act of Parliament could sweep away," he said.

Replying, the deputy headmaster, **Mr. John Winstanley**, said that this was one of the strongest facets and surest defences of the school.

He spoke of pupil-power — but not the sort which had attracted national newspaper headlines. For generations at Rich's, pupil-power has been based on a tradition of service to the school and the community, and mutual respect and communication between staff and boys.

The toast to "The Association" was proposed by **Dr. Philip Nicholas**, Old Richian, Medical Officer of Health and principal school medical officer for Birkenhead.

Replying, the President, **Mr. Reg Hobbs**, welcomed the ladies.

Referring to the loss felt by the Association at the untimely death of **Mr. Geoff Sheard**, the deputy headmaster, Mr. Hobbs said "He was a true friend to us and a tireless worker on our behalf".



He said the Association was joining with others to protest against comprehensive education in Gloucester. He explained that the present scheme had been formulated without proper planning and rushed through for political motives.

Among the many guests were **Mr. W. J. Veale** and **Mr. A. S. Worrall** (former headmasters), **Mr. W. Gordon Heap** (Mr. Stocks' successor) and **Miss Winifred Thompson** (teacher from 1914-57).

Both Mr. Worrall and Mr. Stocks were made life members of the Association.

## CRICKET CLUB HONOURS HEADMASTER

Under a new and less cumbersome title, Gloucester Richians Cricket Club had its most successful season so far in 1972. The club won the Runners-Up Cup in Division Four of the Gloucester League—a proud achievement for the club and school, but especially so for those who helped create this new club only five years ago.

The playing record for the season was a record 23 wins out of 42 matches played, losing 11, drawing 5, and having 3 cancelled. This included an unbeaten run of 19 games in mid season. The side was ably led by **Richard Walton** who often provided useful runs in the middle order. The Colts side was equally well led by **Nigel Merrett** who batted well if inconsistently.

**Trevor Hurcum's** batting and bowling was again vital to the success of the side, as he finished top of both averages with a record 863 runs and 83 wickets.

**Dave Oakes** developed into a fine all-rounder during the season, and often got the innings off to a good start. He was always liable to pick up some cheap wickets.

Wicketkeeper, **Barry Book**, took a record 20 catches while his batting often dominated the scene. He ended the season with 626 runs to his credit.

**Jerry Base** and **David Sergeant** improved tremendously throughout the season, taking 60 and 51 wickets respectively, while other notable contributions were made by **Malcolm Gabb**, **Colin Bartleman**, and **John Taylor**.

The best match of the season was again that with the school 1st XI which the school won by one wicket, inspired no doubt by the experience **Nigel Merrett** had gained with the club! **Steve Corbett** and **Rod Correia** won the club's prize for their batting in the match, while **Trevor Hurcum** bowled throughout the innings, taking 7-50 and proving to the "youngsters" that stamina does not fade away as the years roll by!

**Richard Walton** was re-elected Captain for the 1973 season, with **Dave Oakes** as Vice-Captain. **Jerry Base** is the new Colts Captain with **Rod Correia** as his Vice. **Ron Harper** is still receiving money, while **Dave Brick** is a permanent fixture at 16 Derby Road.

Many things have been and will be said about **Mr. Stocks**. While the club is very sad to see him go, we are pleased that as a founder member of the club he will go in the sure knowledge that the cricket club, having tasted success, will go on from strength to strength. As a mark of appreciation of all that he has done over the years the club has great pleasure in making him their first Honorary Life Member.

## GREAT RUGBY ACHIEVEMENTS!

1971/2 Playing records: 1st XV P 34, W 27, L 7, Pts for 695, Pts Agst 288

2nd XV P 34, W 25, L 9, Pts for 606, Pts Agst 307

"Success breeds success"—an old but well-proven saying which certainly applies to the fortunes of our club over the last couple of years, and hopefully looks like continuing this season.

Last season ended on a very high note with a record number of victories for the 1st XV, whilst the 2nd XV covered themselves in glory by winning the North Gloucestershire Combination Junior Cup. These sort of achievements have been threatening for some time, but it is especially satisfying to see that mythical quality known as "potential" realised and rewarded with tangible results.

Success must stem from the ability of the players. But it has to be harnessed in the right way. The team captains, **Sid Thomas** (1st XV) and **Keith Ray** (2nd XV), performed their tasks particularly well during 1972.

A special word of congratulation should be made to Keith. He captained a side containing five schoolboys to victory in the Junior Cup Final at Kingsholm. To win was, in itself, a great achievement—but to win after being 18 pts—4 down was incredible. It only emphasised the fighting spirit of the players and his ability as captain.

The teams have been indebted to the half dozen or so boys who have played for the club during last season and this. Without them the victories would not have been so plentiful. The club needs their support and talents to ensure that it continues to flourish.

As usual the club went on tour at Easter and had a wonderful time at Crowborough, Sussex. The club managed to continue its winning streak during this time, a remarkable feat considering the physical condition of the majority of players before, during and after the games! It is hoped to tour the Isle of Wight this year.

But enough of the achievements of 1971/2. What about the current season?

The improvements mentioned for last season are reflected in the playing records of the club so far this season.

1st XV P 21, W 17, L 4, Pts For 323, Pts Agst 141

2nd XV P 19, W 13, L 5, Pts For 434, Pts Agst 184.

In the 1st XV trophy room this season the Old Richians have the notable scalps of both Matson and Tredworth. Matson's was taken for the first time ever, and what made it even more notable was that it was the first time in 10 years that Matson had lost at home!

**Nick Freckleton** has taken over the 1st XV captaincy and has succeeded in keeping the club spirit at a very high level despite losing several players to Gloucester R.F.C.

The Club has also had individual players' talents recognised with Nick, **Alan Eustace**—the first player in the Combination to reach 100 points this season—and **Roger Clutterbuck** representing the North Gloucestershire Combination. **Mike Longstaff** is progressing the regional trial system and has appeared for the South Western Schools and the South and South West England Under-19 side. **Paul Wood** has established himself in the Gloucester Colts side.



Our thanks must go to the headmaster for the use of the school at the weekends, and on Wednesday evenings for the all-important training sessions.

All in all, the club continues to blossom but can only continue to do so with more support and players, particularly schoolboys. Whatever your talents are, they can certainly be furthered, even bettered, with the Old Richians.

## NEWS OF OLD BOYS

ANDERSON, Kevin is now doing an education diploma course at Oxford University. He graduated from Sussex University with a B.A. Class 2, Division 2, honours degree in German. He recently did a term's teaching practice at Brighton, Hove and Sussex Grammar School (q.v. Gordon Hook).

ASHBY, C. J. (left 1969) has been appointed captain of Rugby at Birmingham University.

BARRY, David (1967-1969), unmarried and a third year student of Biology at Queen Elizabeth College, London, spent part of his summer vacation 1972 hitch-hiking around Nigeria for eight weeks. His brother . . . .

BARRY, Alan (1967-1970) at the time the information was received had almost completed a two-year Management training course with Liptons Supermarkets.

BLUNDELL, J. E., who went to Bristol University in 1967, has gained a B.D.S. and is now working as a dentist.

BODENHAM, John R. (1945-50) has returned to England after 15 years with the aircraft industry in Seattle, USA, with his wife, son and daughter. When he isn't working for Plymouth Corporation, his spare time is spent growing rhododendrons.

BOWLES, J. F. (1947-1952), married with two children, is a Post Office Telephone Engineer at Cheltenham.

BRENNAN, Roger Downes, in the final examinations of the 411th Entry of Mechanic Apprentices at No. 1 School of Technical Training, R.A.F., attained highest in order of merit in General Service subjects. He passed out from the school in December 1972 in the rank of Senior Aircraftsman and was posted to RAF St. Mawgan.

BURGE, W., (left 1962) has gained first class honours in politics at Nottingham University. He is now doing research.

BURLTON, Ken C., has graduated from Hatfield College, Durham, with a B.A. 2: 2 honours degree in English.

CALVER, John, has passed the Law Society's part II qualifying examinations at The College of Law, and is now a solicitor. We understand he is moving to Bourne-mouth.

CECIL, John P. (1939-1944) is a Senior Executive Officer at Government Communication Headquarters, Cheltenham. Married, with two children.

CHEW, R. S. (1919-1922) is a farmer at Dymock. Vice-Chairman of Newent R.D.C., and Chairman of Dymock Parish Council, he is a Special Superintendent with Gloucestershire Special Constabulary Western Division.

CLEMENTS, David, is teaching at Brockworth County Primary School.

CLINGAN, Colin (1953-54) is the Golf Professional at Bletchley. His brother . . .

CLINGAN, John, owns the Farm House Cooked Meat Shop in Gloucester.

COLE, P. J., has gained a BSc with 3rd class Chemistry honours at Kent University.

COOK, G. B., is now a trainee assistant manager with Henekey Inns Ltd., after graduating from East Anglia University with a BSc 2nd class Div. II honours in mathematics.



COOK, Dr. John B. (left 1958) was recently appointed headmaster of Christ College, Brecon. Married with two children, John left Rich's to go to King's College, London, where he graduated in mathematics and physics. He later did research work at Guy's Hospital Medical School on the damage done by X-rays to biological compounds on behalf of the Cancer Research Campaign. This work gained him a Doctorate of Philosophy. He later lectured in physics at the hospital before moving to Haileybury College, Hertford, where he was senior science master and head of the physics department for five years. During his time there he designed a computer terminal room for the college. He was also responsible for a new "O" level course enabling candidates to study physics, chemistry and biology and obtain a double pass. In addition he has written six books on physics—all before his 32nd birthday.

His younger brother . . .

COOK, Peter (1955-63) is careers master at Bridgwater School where he teaches maths.

COOK, J. R., has gained a B.Tech. 2nd class division I honours degree at Brunel University where he has been studying mathematics with management applications.

COOKE, G. C., is doing a one year postgraduate course after graduating from Swansea University with a B.A. 2nd class, division II honours degree in English.

COOPER, N., joined forces with W. Kearsey and six members of the School Boat Club and helped them to win the longest event in the rowing world in a record time. The Boston Marathon is 31 miles long and is an open event. This year 130 crews, including the University of London/Thames Tradesmen's team which represented Britain three weeks before at the Munich Olympics, took part, but the school eight lopped six minutes off the eight year old record for the event in which they have figured prominently in recent years to win it for the first time. The Olympic team was third, behind London Rowing Club.

COX, Robert (1962-1967) was working as a supervisor at Horton Road Hospital, Gloucester, but we now understand that he has obtained a post at Guy's Hospital which should ultimately lead to the post of a General Domestic Manager.

CULLEY, Norman E. (1944-1949) is Works Chemist and Senior Analyst at Gloucester Foundry. He is married with four sons, and is on the committee of the Crypt P.T.A. Norman has not visited the new School and would very much like to see the laboratories. (I am sure a telephone call to the Headmaster would correct this.) Keenly interested in the Ramblers Lads Club, Norman and Patricia (Mrs. Culley) are both active members of the G.O.D.S., helping with the scenery and props.

DAVID, Harold G. (1927-34) wrote a long letter to the Association bringing them up to date on his activities since he left Rich's. He has had a long and active career which has taken him across the world, won him a wife and produced two daughters into the bargain. After doing an Honours BSc course in Physics with mathematics at Bristol University, followed by a year of post-graduate research and a further 12 months on a Diploma in Education, Harold discovered the War had caught up with him. In October 1939, as a result of his work at University, he found himself in charge of an RDF (radar) unit in France, commissioned as a Pilot Officer of 15 days seniority and with 19 men under him. He travelled extensively, eventually reaching the rank of Squadron Leader at Air Headquarters, India. He writes "My service record, hardly ever equalled I should think, is of six and a quarter years without attending a single course and being on only one parade."

The last year of the War had been spent by him in Leighton Buzzard and the British winter of 1944 convinced him that he could find better climes for his wife and himself. In May 1946 he started a three year contract with the Iraq Petroleum Company at Kirkuk, 200 miles north of Baghdad. But his wife was convinced that this was no place to bring up a family and, when their first daughter



was born, they decided that Harold should take the post of a junior lecturer at Cape Town University. Eighteen months later, and with a Nationalist Government in power, the Davids decided to head for Australia. Harold was accepted for a post in the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation which he took in 1950. At first he was concerned with the physics and chemistry of very high pressures but later transferred to one of three wool research laboratories within CSIRO, work in which he is still engaged. Harold concludes "My address in Australia is 92 Beaconsfield-rd., Chatswood, 2067 NSW, Australia, and I would be very pleased to hear from any of my contemporaries at STR." Gentlemen, the quill is in your court.

DAVIS, Robert (1961-6) was runner-up for the Simeon Edmunds Memorial Award for Photographers. This is awarded to the top press photographer who has successfully completed the National Council for the Training of Journalists' photographers' proficiency tests. He passed the test with distinction. Rob is a photographer with The Citizen.

DAWSON, W. M. who has been reading physics, geology and geography at Liverpool University, has graduated with a B.Sc. 2nd class, div. II, honours degree.

DAY, J. J. (1952-1955), father of three children, lives at Shepperton, Middlesex. He is Patent Agent to a private practice in London.

DEAN, Nigel, who is a reporter with The Citizen, was appointed secretary of the Western Area Council of the National Union of Journalists, but subsequently resigned.

DYER, J. A., is teaching at Boston, Lincolnshire, after passing his teaching certificate while at Keswick Hall.

DYKE, K. H. (1922-1928) is hotelier at the Painswick Hotel, Stroud. He has two grandchildren.

ELLIS, C., is continuing his studies after gaining a B.Sc., pass in Civil Engineering, with commendations at Sheffield Polytechnic where he has been since 1968.

GETLIFFE, Charles (1962-1969) is in his second year at the Teachers Training College, Wrexham, North Wales. He is married and has a "beautiful daughter" (14 months old).

GIDDINGS, Phil. J. (left 1964) has been appointed Lecturer in Political Science at Reading University after gaining the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at Oxford University.

GODDARD, Richard John (1963-1970), having completed two years at Sheffield College of Education is now an English Assistant Teacher for one year at Bad Ems—Rheinland—Pfalz, Germany.

GRANT, Paul J. (1967-1972) is reading Geology at University College, Durham. He reports that he is one of seven or so Richians there!

GREEN, R. A. (1928-32) who is provision manager of a Tesco's branch in Devon, has been running a dolls' hospital for over 20 years. He is married with two children.

HALL, R. A., is doing an M.A. course after gaining his B.A. 2nd class, div. I honours degree in philosophy.

HILL, Brian G., (1939-44) who moved from Minsterworth to Bedford four years ago, is chief accountant with the Zenith Electric Co. Ltd. He recently renewed acquaintances with Graham ("Gert") Goddard who is living at Dunstable.

HOCKLEY, R. J., has gained a B.A. 2nd class, div. II, honours degree at Liverpool University where he has been studying economics.

HODDER, G. P. (1942-44) is now a police sergeant. Chairman of King Edmund's (Yate) School parent/teacher association, he is also a member of the newly formed Swimming Club committee and chairman of Yate United Football Club.

HOLDER, L. H. (1936-41), is Harlow and West Essex divisional building surveyor with the Essex County Council's architect's department. A chartered surveyor, ARICS, MRSH, and Fellow of the Institution of Public Health Engineers, he is married with two children.



- HOOK, A. J., has gained a B.Tech, 2nd class, Div. II honours at Brunel University. He was studying applied biology.
- HOOK, Gordon, has been appointed head of Physical Education at Brighton, Hove and Sussex Grammar School as from next September.
- HUNT, Brian (1964-71), who went to St. Luke's College in September 1971 has been appointed vice-captain of the College 1st VI badminton team. He is also a member of the 2nd VI tennis team. In addition Brian, who is assistant librarian in the hostel library, is a member of the college bridge team.
- ILLOTT, T. J. (1957-63) who went to the Royal College of Art to do a second degree course, has been appointed to a full time teaching post at Newport College of Art. He has gained a diploma in art and design.
- JEEVES, Michael R., is currently looking for work. But we understand that after graduating from Exeter University with a B.A. 2nd class, div. II honours degree in history, it will only be for a year, because he has gained a place in 1974 on a one year teaching course.
- JENNINGS, David J., took up an appointment in the office of the Registrar at the University of Leeds last August.
- JOHNSTON, Angus N., who once poured the contents of a stink bomb down a pupil's jacket to bring a prompt end to that type of prank, is now headmaster of Ashlyn's School, Buckhamsted. Incidentally, the boy concerned still maintains he was wrongly accused.
- JONES, R. K., is now going for a B.Ed. degree after gaining his teaching certificate at Culham College.
- JOSEPH, Roland (left 1966) who graduated from Birmingham University with M.B. and Ch.B. qualifications, is now a doctor at Stoke-on-Trent Hospital.
- JOYNER, Terry, who is currently Mayor of Cheltenham and chairman of several of the town council's committees, was the distributor at the annual school prize distribution last December.
- KAY, John Michael (1947-55) has just returned to England after a year as Visiting Professor of Medicine at the University of Colorado Medical Center in Denver, USA. John, who is currently senior lecturer in pathology at the University of Liverpool, carried out research in the Rocky Mountains on the effects of high altitude on the blood vessels of the lungs. He was invited to give special lectures at the University of Wisconsin and at Philadelphia. He was also asked to visit Miami as a consultant to the United States National Heart and Lung Institute. During the winter John, with his wife and two children, went ski-ing in the mountains each weekend.
- KEARSEY, N. See N. Cooper.
- KING, Andrew (1960-68) is teaching British Constitution and Economics at Dr. Challoner's Grammar School, Amersham, Bucks. Congratulations on your marriage, Andrew, reported elsewhere. Meanwhile, his brother...
- KING, David (1959-66) is now teaching near Chapelton. His wife, Helen, has just qualified as a doctor at Sheffield University. David is currently taking a BA degree with the Open University in his spare time. We believe he is the first member of the Association to enter the Open University and wish him good fortune.
- LANCASTER, Garth (1940-51) is a general practitioner at East Carlton, Market Harborough, near Leicester. He is married with two daughters.
- LANGMAN, Paul, has gained an unconditional place at Pembroke College, Cambridge, to read mathematics.
- LAPINGTON, S., is continuing his degree course at Oxford. He recently gained an Honour Moderations in English, class II.



- LAWRENCE, D., (left 1972) was a member of the British canoe team at the Munich Olympics.
- LEATHERLAND, Tom G. (1946-52) is based on Watford where he is Fisheries officer for the British Waterways Board. He is married with a son and daughter.
- LEE-SMITH, Jonathon, has been commissioned in the RAF General Duties (Navigator) Branch, less than a year after joining the services. Now with the rank of pilot officer, Jonathon must remember his days with Gloucester Operatic and Dramatic Society when "Oh, for the wings of a dove" must have been just so many words.
- MAKEPEACE, G. H. (left 1968) gained a B.Sc. first class honours in Economics at Van Mildert College, Durham University.
- MANDER, Brian, is now teaching after gaining a B.A. 2nd class, div. II honours degree at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, where he was studying mechanical sciences.
- MANN, Laurence (left 1964) took a BA course in sociology and political studies and then decided to study law. He qualified as a solicitor, and in January moved from Bletchley to Northampton where he is now practising.
- MARTIN, Alf V. (1924-8), a former President of the Association, is financial director of the Priestley Group in Gloucester. He is a member of the British Institute of Management.
- MASCIE-TAYLOR, C. G. N., who graduated from Surrey University, is now engaged on Post Graduate Research in genetics at Churchill College, Cambridge.
- MATTHEWS, Kenneth C. (1936-41) is living and teaching in High Wycombe. We understand he is still very active on the amateur stage and in the production of his school's plays.
- MAYO, Capt. T. J., has moved from Antwerp to Kelso in Scotland. We understand that he is about to leave the active list. Terry—or John—has been a member of the Royal Corps of Transport.
- McGARRICK, James D., is doing a Ph.D. course at Bristol after previously gaining a B.Sc., 2nd class Div. I, Honours degree there.
- MEADOWS, D. H. G. (1951-1956), a member of the Institute of Municipal Engineers, is Assistant Engineer to Gloucester R.D.C. He lives in Hempsted and is married with two children.
- MILLS, David J., has come right down to earth with his latest job. Formerly based at Staverton Airport on the management side, Dave—a member of the committee is now an administrative and legal assistant with the Gloucester R.D.C. Among the varied jobs he does in this post are committee and election work. Out of the office he is a member of the English Folk Dance and Song Society—although we haven't found out if he sings or dances.
- MORGAN, M. D., who has been studying applied languages at Ealing Polytechnic, has graduated with a B.A. 2nd class, div. I, honours degree.
- PALFREYMAN, Ian (1965-7) has been having a very hectic time since his name last appeared in the magazine in 1970. "To bring you up to date," as they say with the best serials, "Ian was last heard of photographing a seek and destroy exercise with the Royal Border Regiment in Cyprus. Now read on . . ." Ian gained his A levels the following year and with a friend joined the staff of a local soft-news syndicate group as a part-time trouble shooter doing the sort of jobs which "nobody else was stupid enough to be talked into". He worked on the Jordanian civil war evacuations, the Bayrakta revival and the Enosis bombings. We understand that he and his friends had the ability to co-exist with the authorities and the less law abiding elements of Cypriot society. This led to them doing a long series of "political" assignments and eventually working alongside members of the United Nations peace keeping force on the Island. Ian and his friend became engaged and on their own initiative did a picture story on the Barackta guerrillas, spending several weeks



in the Kyrenia Mountains working with a unit. Then they split up to do some less dangerous reporting. We understand that it was about this time that Ian's fiancée was killed while he was in England photographing Lytham St. Annes in Winter. He has now stayed on and we hear is currently at Bath Academy of Art doing visual communication. Our informant says Ian is at present doing some work on the problems of deaf children. He is also involved in producing illustrations to interpret a set of poems which will be published later this year.

PEARCE, Robert, who has been reading law at Pembroke College, Oxford, has been awarded the Domus Scholarship in his final year of a three year jurisprudence BA course. He married in June 1971.

PIRT, S. J., is Professor of Microbiology at Queen Elizabeth College, London.

POOLE, P. C., is doing a Ph.D. course at Exeter University after gaining a B.Sc., second class, div. II honours degree in microbiology at Queen Elizabeth College, London.

PORTER, Alf, recently retired after 50 years service at Norvilles, the Gloucester opticians.

PRICE-SMITH, Bernard (left 1961) is teaching at a secondary school near Bedford after obtaining a B.A. by studying at the University of the Air.

RIDDICK, Peter, has succeeded to the post of secretary of the Gloucestershire National Farmers Union. He was in the aircraft industry at one time and later had a long career in the Navy after originally joining the Admiralty in Gloucester. He served in the Naval stores department of various establishments before being commissioned in the RNVR and later served with the British Pacific Fleet. In 1948 he joined the Merchant Navy as a member of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary. Eight years later he became chief clerk of the Gloucestershire branch of the NFU. Five years later he took on the added responsibility of County Horticultural secretary and in 1963 was appointed deputy secretary. Married with a young daughter, Peter is also a member of the Midlands Electricity Board Consultative Committee and the Industrial Tribunals Panel.

ROBINSON, David, is a student of economic studies at the University of Newcastle on Tyne.

ROGERS, D. J., is Lecturer in Zoology at Oxford University where he recently graduated as a Doctor of Philosophy.

RUSSELL, David, won a fortnight's holiday for himself and his wife in Switzerland during the last few months. It was organised by a firm manufacturing artificial sweeteners. Dave entered when Sandra, expecting a happy event last June, used the sweeteners to help her lose weight. Congratulations on both prizes, David!

SELWYN, Derek, has gained the Diploma in Agriculture.

SHADWELL, M. H., has gained his Higher National Diploma in building at the North Gloucestershire College of Further Education. He is now a student quantity surveyor with Taylor Woodrow Construction Ltd.

SHEPHARD, Jonathan (1960-8) who recently won the Chancellor's Essay Prize, awarded by Oxford University, has been awarded the Frank Allen Bullock Prize for Poetry Criticism by his college.

SMART, Philip C., (1964-72) is a first year student at Liverpool University where he is reading for a BSc degree in Physical Geography and Geology.

SMITH, R.P., is teaching after gaining his Teaching Certificate at St. Paul's College.

SOUTHCOTT, P. J., passed his teaching certificate with distinction and credits at Worcester College. We now understand that he is, not unnaturally, teaching.

SUMMERELL, C. J., (1959-66) is in his final year at Aston University where he is studying for a BSc degree in civil engineering.

SYKES, Mike, our former secretary, is a vice-president of Sony (U.K.) Ltd., at Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex.



- TOLLERVEY, S., is now on a B.Ed. degree course after gaining his teaching certificate at Culham College.
- TURNER, W. Cecil S. (1901-6), who is one of the Association's oldest members is still studying. We understand that this Grand Old Man is doing evening classes once a week for French Studies.
- VINER, Alan (left 1970) has been appointed organist at Reading University.
- WAKEFIELD, R. M. R. (1957-63) is now art master at Cheltenham Grammar School.
- WATKINS, Jack (1939-47), whose son, Keith, is the fifth member of the family to come to Rich's, is now teaching business studies at the Cinderford College of Further Education after relinquishing his position as secretary of the old Gloucester and District Nursing Association. Nephew . . .
- WATKINS, Malcolm J., obtained his B.A. Class II Honours in Archaeology at University College, Cardiff. He was also awarded the first University Colours ever given for smallbore rifle shooting, and won a Silver Spoon for scoring the first "possible" (100 out of 100 to most of us) in the history of the University Rifle Club.
- WATTS, Rev. Michael (1943-50) is precentor and administrative assistant to the Dean of Christ Church, Oxford.
- WHITCOMBE, Rev. Michael G. S. (1942-53) is vicar of Lightcliffe, Halifax, Yorkshire. He is married with one child.
- WINTER, Michael H. (1963-70) is in his second year at Durham University where he is studying chemistry.
- WOOD, P. A., is now on a B.Ed. degree course after getting a teaching certificate pass at St. Mark's and St. John College.
- WRIGHT, Nigel K., is doing a year's post graduate course in Zoology after gaining a B.Sc., 2nd class, div. II, honours degree at University College, Cardiff.
- WYNN, David, left teaching after two years to become an R.A.F. Pilot-Officer at the Ministry of Defence, London. He recently became engaged to Carol Nugent, an officer in the W.R.A.F., whose people keep a "pub" at Ludlow. David, who plays in the pack joined Bedford R.F.C., early in the season and has played for Huntingdonshire. He was also picked to play for R.A.F. Training Command but, due to injury, was unable to turn out.

## **INFORMATION**

If you have any information for the magazine, please don't hesitate to contact either Alan Watkins at 25 Maple-dr., Brockworth, or Frank Watkins, at 68 Elmleaze, Gloucester.

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