

Richians '87



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EDITOR: Richard Bow

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**SIR THOMAS RICH'S
GLOUCESTER**

School Magazine, September 1984

EDITOR: Andrew Knight

ASSISTANT EDITOR: Stuart
Brazington

ART EDITOR: Richard Bowers

EDITORIAL ADVISOR: Mr. G. E.
Haynes

Printed by: Cambray Press

**OFFICERS OF THE SCHOOL
1983-1984**

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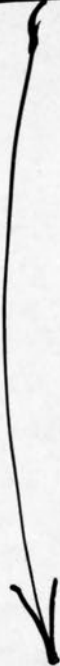
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Editor's Report



After the experimental colour schemes of '82 and '83 financial letters have turned us away from psychedelia back to the traditional white paper for the Richian '84.

The editorial tasks of eming, justifying articles proved interminable, as did the sifting through, re-writing and general editing of each piece. Heartbreaking moreover was the condemning of so many good articles; however, necessary owing to limited space. The whole operation spanned many evenings: a fact which many fail to appreciate, their criticisms being based merely on the finished article.

The hope of the Editorship is your enjoyment of this magazine; this will be thanks enough. In return, I myself thank those responsible for the art work and the team involved in the tedious business of re-reading and proofing, in particular Stuart Brazington. Thanks go above all to Mr. Haynes for giving up so much of his time and for giving us the wealth of his experience in producing the Richian.

School Captain



Again, Speech Day was the first major event of the academic year. The principal speaker was Mr. K.D. Anderson, Chief Education Officer for Gloucestershire, whose speech was interesting without being controversial, challenging us all to make the most of our opportunities.

December witnessed the year's major dramatic production: Gilbert and Sullivan's 'The Yeomen of the Guard' which was performed by a joint cast of members from our school, Denmark Road High School, and Ribston Hall School. After a term of hard work, the four performances were a spectacular success and an unforgettable experience for everyone involved. Our thanks therefore to Mr. Rangeley and to Mr. Moss for their dedication and hard work in producing the work. The end of December saw the Carol Services and the welcome return of Christmas by Candlelight in the library.

This year was particularly exciting for all levels of rugby in the school, many of the teams showing improvements over last year. Our U13 Sevens tournament was again held and it has now become a regular feature. The Elmbridge Club was also opened in time for Christmas and it is hoped this pavilion will become a venue for many Old Richian activities, helping to keep interest alive in both sections of the school.

Success has been gained by the school in numerous non-physical activities including the Rotary Club Public Speaking competition which the school has won three times.

During the Lent Term, a successful twenty-four hour sponsored snooker marathon was held in aid of Dave Gribble, an old Richian who broke his neck in a tragic accident playing rugby. The participants included the Chairman of the Governors, staff and boys.

The event raised £854. Other fund-raising events have been held and in all a sizeable sum has been donated to various charities. My thanks must go to everyone who donated and a special thank you to the lower sixth for organising the Raid the Larder Scheme. Collection and distribution of parcels was over a much wider area, although support from the school was poor.

Finally I would like to thank the caretaker, Mr. Jones, for his help and support with school activities over the year and for giving the whole school a laugh with his two-way radio.

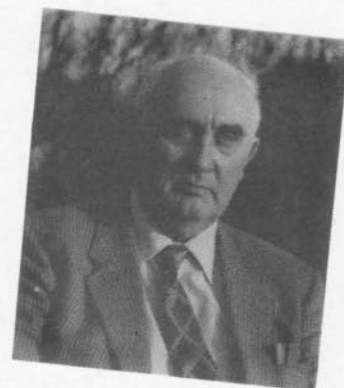
Parent's Association



It came as a slight surprise to learn that one of the tasks of being the secretary was to write a short peice for 'The Richian', so here goes . . .

Departures

Finally, and looking ahead, we may well be on the verge of yet another proposed change to schooling systems within the city and if parents, through the Association, show their support for the Headmaster and staff, Rich's will survive — it always has!



The A.G.M. marked the departure of Ken White. As a mark of our appreciation for his efficient secretaryship, he was presented with a school shield. Only a hundred-or-so parents attended. This was disappointing bearing in mind the number of parents associated with the school. However, some who did attend made full use of the opportunity to put forward their views.

The first year parents' evening was highly successful with a significantly large proportion of covenanted subscriptions — for which a special thank you from me.

Our other major source of income, the Annual Dance, was not well attended compared to some in the past — which is a pity because a lot of parents missed a very enjoyable evening, a good band and excellent victuals provided by the committee ladies. Although we made a modest profit, it would help the school if more parents attended — see you there next year!

As recorded at the A.G.M., the Parents' Association was able to help support school activities and organisations to the tune of £4,000 in the academic year ending August 1983. At the time of writing it looks as though we may well be able to surpass that figure this year. The Association's support has ranged from funding the school bus to videos and the Venture Scouts, covering a total of thirty five differing in-and-out of school activities.

Arrivals



Mr. Ronald Matthews came to us after Easter from Colwell School to replace Mr. Huddleston as Head of English. He has a wide range of teaching experience and is a graduate of Brasenose College, Oxford. We wish him a long and pleasant stay at Rich's.

Mr. Jeffries came to Rich's in January 1960, and was one of the few staff that saw active service in the laboratories of the old Eastgate premises.

Moving to Longlevens with a new generation of Richians in 1964, Mr. Jeffries' ample white-coated figure soon made an impression upon over-subscribed physics sets. The principles that Newtonian mechanics were still to be revered, that Einstein had yet to really prove himself and that desks were not to be doodled upon, were soon instilled! Silence reigned in classes, knowledge was absorbed and generations of successful 'O' and 'A' candidates passed through the portals of Labs C and F.

In awe of the meticulous handwriting, the flawless problems and examples, the miscreants quaked. Notes were taken, demonstration experiments always worked and preps were never handed in late — after the first time! S.I. units arrived, were duly inspected, approved of and despatched to eagerly awaiting classes. A new era dawned whereby analogue systems, NAND gates and truth tables loomed on the horizon.

S.J.J. was a latter day traditionalist to the end, and Rich's will be the poorer for his leaving. We wish him a lengthy and enjoyable retirement in the enviable surroundings of his beautiful Cotswold village.

'Admiratus' G.H.M.

Linden Huddlestone left us at Easter after twenty-five years as Head of the English Department.

With his arrival the department moved firmly into the twentieth century. His wide knowledge of and enthusiasm for the literature of our time meant that D.H. Lawrence, James Joyce, T.S. Eliot and many



lesser modern figures soon became as much a part of the English scene at Rich's as Wordsworth and Chaucer. Through his teaching, countless boys discovered that poetry is not just for cissies, but something that even the heartiest of hearties can find interesting and meaningful.

We remember with pleasure Linden's other activities at school; a series of lively and successful dramatic productions, his faithful service to the choir, his many hours at the wheel of the school bus in his capacity as senior coachman to the Historical Society. His Sherlock Holmes pipe, his friendliness, his natty wardrobe and his sense of fun made him a flavourful figure in the common-room and in the school at large.

We wish him a long, happy and fruitful retirement.

C.A.B.



With the retirement of Mr. John Tavener, we lose a source of pleasantly mischievous and gently subversive wit, and of philosophical musings (most recently, 'thoughts from the M5').

'Tav' was the Art Department for 26 years; the Contriver of the labyrinthine maze of the House Art Competition. As the designer and builder of superb stage sets, he was both the despair and the delight of producers (the paint has been known to be still wet on the first night). Among the finest were those for 'David and Broccoli' Androcles and the Lion', 'The Mikado' and 'The Yeomen of the Guard'.

Less generally known to boys may be 'Tav's' talents as a dramatic reader, actor, and singer himself; he appeared as Peter Quince in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', in Christmas by Candlelight, as well as locally in the Barnwood Festival. He was appreciated in the Common Room as a vivid raconteur. Not a few of his tales stem from his long and valued innings as umpire for 1st XI cricket; he was specially noted for his alertness at square leg.

With his unerring eye for style and colour, he was, on the right occasion, a dapper contender for the position of "Best Dressed Man on the Staff". We wish 'Tav' a long, happy and creative retirement.

D.M.

When I was asked to write a few words on the occasion of C.A. Broome's departure, I thought I would begin by presenting the bare-bones first:

Name:

Broome C. Allan
(even now I am not sure what the C stands for).

Age:

Old enough to retire

Place of birth:

Cardiff (a Welshman!)

Education:

Cardiff Grammar School
Cardiff University, B.A. 1948

Previous employment:

Nicholls School, Buffalo, U.S.A.
Q.E.G.S. Mansfield, 3 years

Began present post:

September 1957



Allan came to Sir Thomas Rich's only a term before I did and as often happens in such cases, that brought about a closer friendship than might have happened otherwise. A mutual interest in the stage made certain that that friendship developed and deepened. I feel most able to write about him as a producer of the many theatrical events in which he and I have been associated. I am sure that

his 'other life', that of teaching English throughout the school, has been tackled with the same care and attention as has been shown in his work on the stage.

He will be remembered by a succession of boys who found, through him, the ability to act. He has the knack of finding talent in the most unlikely people and the patience to bring it out.

It was not only the school that benefited from his theatrical expertise. The 'Occasional Players', an ever-changing band of thespians, often with a direct link with Tommy's, was his brain child. He started it; he kept it going, often in the face of criticism and argument.

It would be iniquitous to single out any particular play or production, all have been evidence of his total commitment and enthusiasm. No mean musician either, a fine pianist often to be heard at morning assembly when the first choice has been unavailable.

Incidentally he saw service as a navigator in the R.A.F. during the Second World War and, characteristically, seldom mentions it. He also spent a period in the United States. Eventually teaching, this doubtless increased his experience if not his stature. Of course there is much more to the man that will be remembered and talked about by many people: colleagues, ex-colleagues, boys and old boys who remember him.

I can only conclude by saying that his contribution to the school, and all who belong to it, has been totally out of proportion to his size. A long, happy and productive retirement is our wish to Allan, shared by his wife Rhoda, and his two daughters. He can never be far away.



With more than thirty years service in the school to his credit, John Burrow retires this summer. In those thirty or so years, the pupils who have passed through the school have come to appreciate the teacher of French, the Latin scholar and, more recently, the craftsman in the woodwork shop. At A level, his students have grown to respect his love of words and their special qualities in poetic use. In the workshop John's skill with lathes has impressed many a tentative beginner. Countless first year boys have been welcomed to Tommy's by John's avuncular introduction: gently guiding the mystified, helping the lost and reminding the naughty of their duty to society. When they pass from his care they have not forgotten in the following years.

Although not an avid flyer himself, John's love of aircraft – especially wooden ones – has naturally led him to shape and guide the Aircraft Society on its visits to flying days, museums, meetings and quizzes.

In the staff room, his colleagues will miss his charm and gentle wit. John has perfected the combination of memory, wisdom and a taste for the "mot juste" enabling him to make some astute judgements of character. We all know of his Cornish background, his love of wood and his skill of mending those

tiny broken objects once thought to be lost forever.

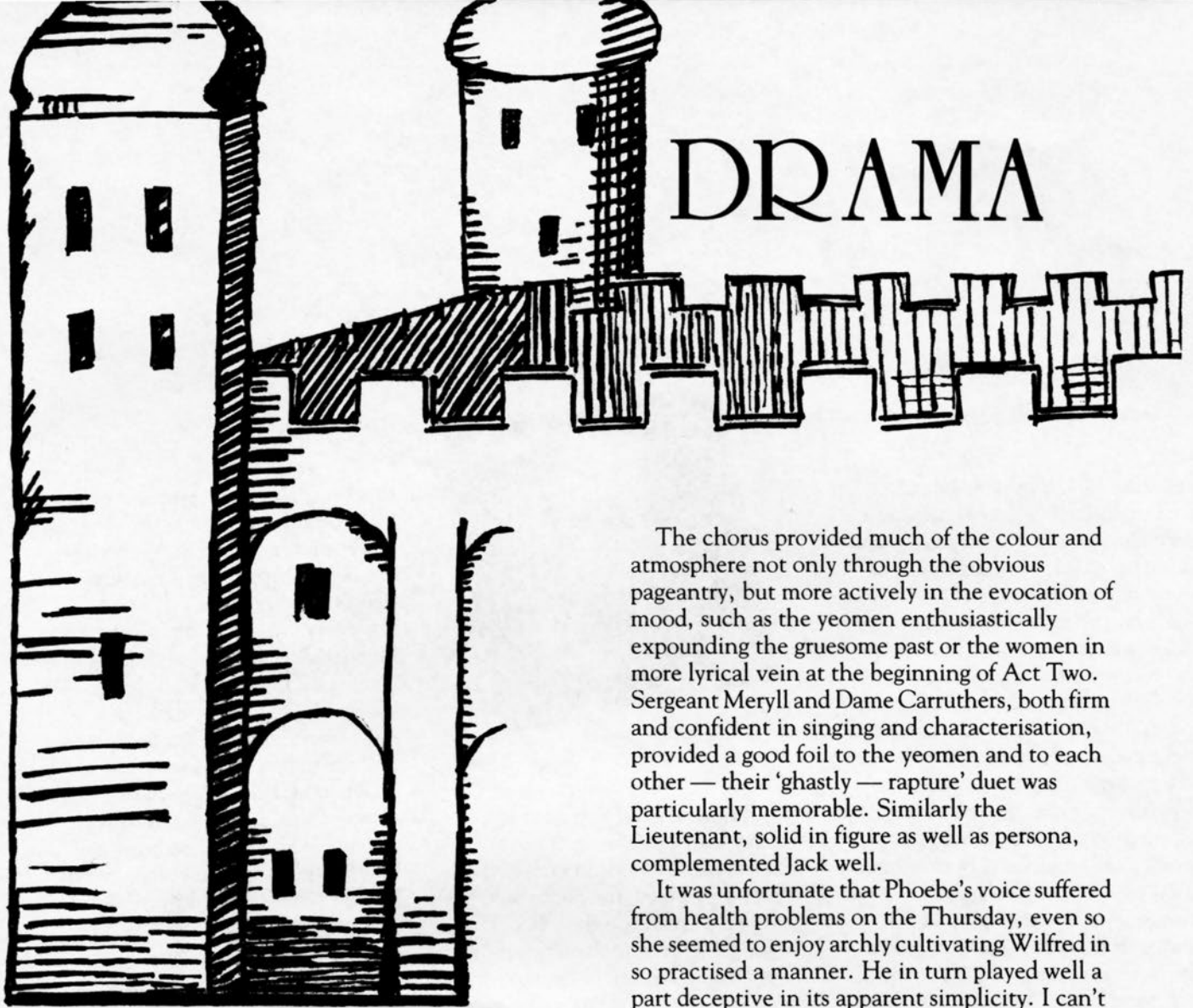
Yet there are surprises – and it's easy to be surprised by John who refuses to boast of his skills and achievements. One might expect a superb model railway at home; a fully equipped dream of a workshop is inevitable. However, that John once listened to wartime Japanese military radio messages – and understood them! – begins to surprise. But surprise turns to astonishment when one hears of how he ruled vast tracts of Malaya by himself – armed with only a revolver – the same weapon with which he obliged a Japanese gunboat to surrender to him. There is little of the military man in N.J.B. that comes to the surface nowadays. John has opted for peace.

We wish him every happiness in his retirement – not, perhaps, the stereotyped 'quiet retirement' one might have expected since his young family will keep him on his toes. There will be plenty of wood to work on to help him!

John may be leaving us and we shall see less of him on a daily basis but one thing is certain, the thread which binds him to Tommy's can never be broken.

I.S.C.

Mr. Harold Potter, our religious education teacher, left us this summer after a long illness. He was our expert on comparative religion as well as christianity and many boys benefited from his sound moral teaching. Harold will be dearly missed in the CommonRoom but we wish him well in his retirement.



DRAMA

THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD

Among the works of Gilbert and Sullivan, 'The Yeomen of the Guard' in particular is more an opera than an operetta both in content and scale. It is thus especially true that many will not realise the work involved in a production with an amateur cast and mostly young principals.

Scenery, costumes, lighting and stage-management — these are all necessary, and so often forgotten. The orchestra too plays a crucial role as the main binding force in setting the emotional scene and in highlighting dramatic force. Through performing with discipline and sensitivity towards young vocalists, it avoided obtruding unnecessarily.

At key moments like the sudden transition from cheerful irony to the grim execution scene at the end of Act One, the co-ordinating role of the director/conductor becomes obvious. Less apparent though is the strain of sustaining enthusiasm and freshness of approach in the face of endless organisational burdens and long hours of rehearsals.

The chorus provided much of the colour and atmosphere not only through the obvious pageantry, but more actively in the evocation of mood, such as the yeomen enthusiastically expounding the gruesome past or the women in more lyrical vein at the beginning of Act Two. Sergeant Meryll and Dame Carruthers, both firm and confident in singing and characterisation, provided a good foil to the yeomen and to each other — their 'ghastly — rapture' duet was particularly memorable. Similarly the Lieutenant, solid in figure as well as persona, complemented Jack well.

It was unfortunate that Phoebe's voice suffered from health problems on the Thursday, even so she seemed to enjoy archly cultivating Wilfred in so practised a manner. He in turn played well a part deceptive in its apparent simplicity. I can't but recall his astonishing delivery of innuendo, or the scene as he rode into the sunset waving his arquebus.

Fairfax's strength was his devil-may-care characterisation of the gallant soldier, while Elsie's was undoubtedly her singing of pleasant tone and unmatched focus and precision displayed to good effect in the aria that followed her marriage.

But the character who best established contact with the audience and did most to carry forward the drama was undoubtedly Jack Point. A demanding role embracing a variety of moods from buffoonery, in the duet with Wilfred, to the forlorn of the 'merry man' ballad in the final scene and the despairing at the end of the opera. The part was both played and sung with deft assurance with a sympathy free of the excessive pathos often associated with the sad clown figure.

In the end it is the portrayal of Jack, caught between the lives of the other characters, that contributes to the more substantial nature of the work as much as its length and reminds us that even in the picture-book world of Gilbert and Sullivan not all live happily ever after.

P. BRUCE

reports

THE NATURALIST'S SOCIETY

Another busy year for the society with numerous trips, some new ones and some old favourites being held. A popular visit was a coach trip to the outdoor museum of St. Fagan's at Cardiff, and many enjoyed the other excursion to Wookey Hole and the Cheddar Gorge. Also included in the year's excursions was the traditional visit to the Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge. However, the year's major event was the trip to the Isle of Arran, a welcome second visit to this beautiful Scottish island. The New Year party was again a success. Our thanks for all the above should go to the Master-in-Charge, Mr. Cooper, for his unfailing efforts and enthusiasm, and to the officers; Richard Drew, Mark Badminton, Duncan Sargent and Phil Corbett.

M. Cole U6S

FIVE SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION

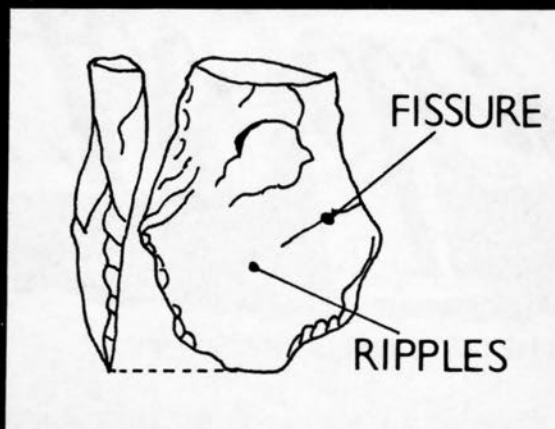
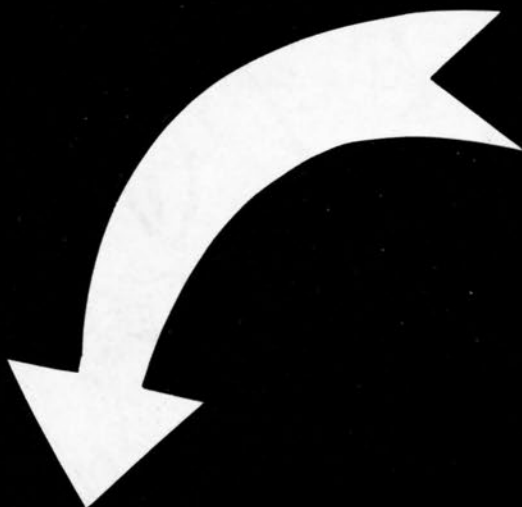
Not the busiest year for the association, but certainly one of the more entertaining with the treasurer raising many a laugh. When the association has finally left the hands of the official receivers, we hope a more capable accountant will take over — preferably one with 'O' level Maths.

On the social level the five schools continued its new idea of employing 'The Golden Age of Video' for raising funds. Successful videos were shown at Denmark Road and Crypt ranging from the outrageous 'Porky's' to the crazy 'Comic Strip'. They said 'video killed the radio star' but I will never forget the night when after a video at Rich's had been cancelled and the other schools failed to be informed, fifteen burly wenches rolled up foaming at the mouth and baying for blood.

A disco held last year made a wonderful profit, the proceeds either going to buy a beer-mat or a box of matches. However, many enjoyed the trip to Bristol ice rink. Suggestions for the future include a trip to London, a barbecue, more discos and videos and various sundry items. Despite the failures, the successes will allow us to make the end of year donation to charity.

M. Cole U6S





HISTORICAL SOCIETY

First, on behalf of the society, we would like to express our thanks and convey our good wishes to Mr. Huddleston who has been the leading light of this society for many years. We hope that his retirement from teaching will not be one from the society.

The last year has been uneventful owing to flagging support. However, we hope to foster an interest with trips to museums, stately homes and other skirmishes. We are counting on your support.

A. Frappe
J. O'Leary

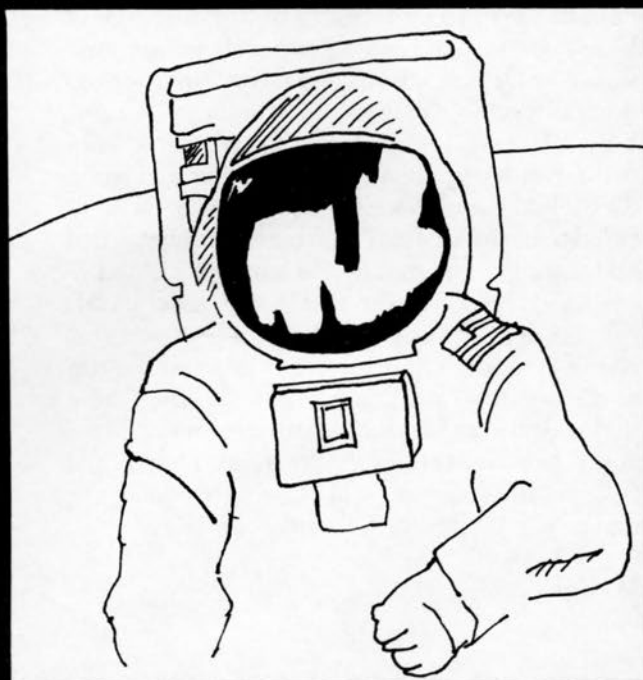
JUNIOR DEBATING SOCIETY

The society has had a quiet year, although not busy it was far from dormant. We began with a debate on the Korean Airline tragedy. Although it was not well supported, it did provoke interesting discussion.

At Christmas a large party of prominent members of the society supported the school team at the Rotary Club public speaking competition.

In the Lent Term some society members involved themselves in the House public speaking competition. And we finished off the term with an Any Questions debate with questions to a reasonably lively panel from an exceedingly lively audience.

A. Methven 4S
S. Moss 4S



CHRISTIAN UNION

The Senior Christian Union has continued its regular Wednesday meetings with success. Our policy of giving any Christian an opportunity to lead a meeting has given rise to topics ranging from the Supremacy of Christ to God's teaching on depression.

Our association with Denmark C.U. has recently been re-established with joint meetings in the lunch hour. Meetings of the Gloucester Schools' Christian Union have flourished with lively meetings every month and meetings of the Inter-School Christian Fellowship have proved very helpful.

In the Lord's will, the future holds a trip to hear Billy Graham at Ashton Gate, Bristol, in May, a concert of the successful Christian rock band Spirit Level (the profits of which will help us cover the costs of hiring out videos, filmstrips and other activities planned for the future). We also hope to have more meetings and activities for the junior section in the future.

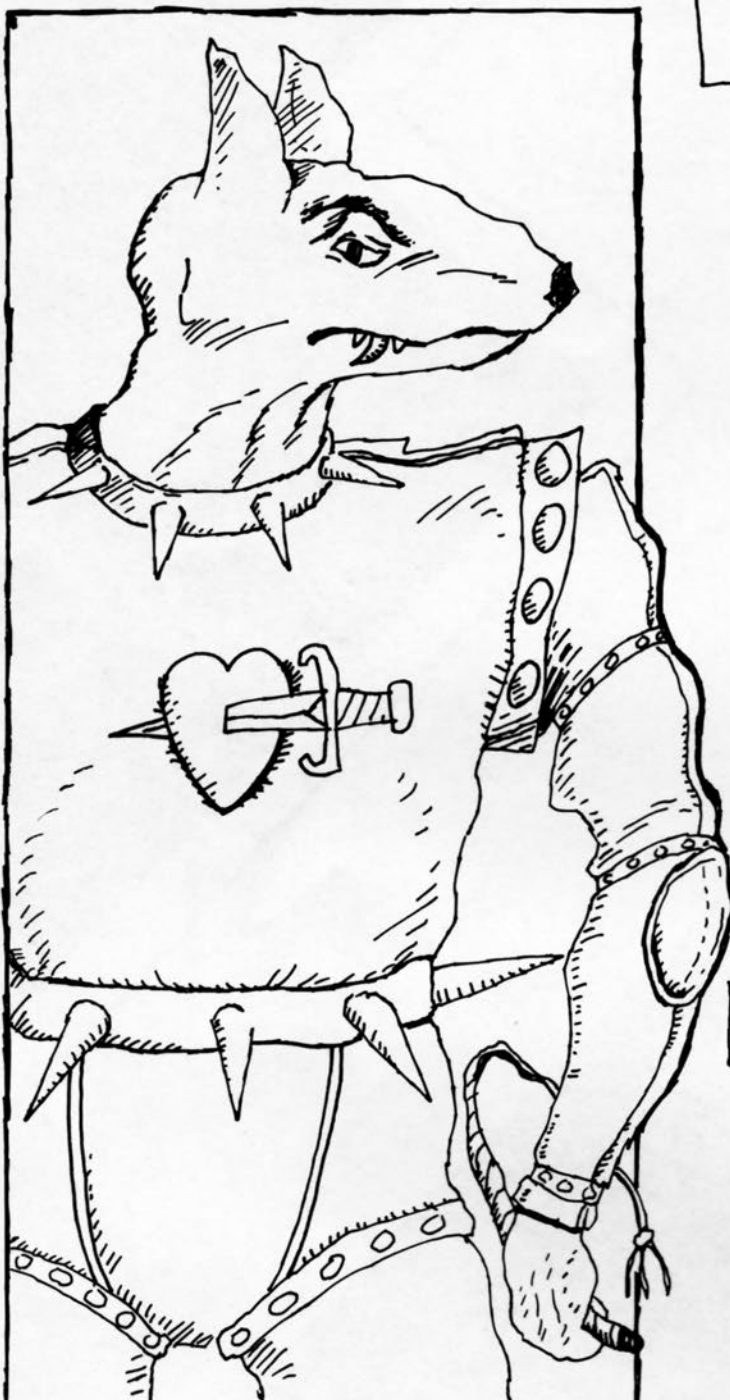
Our thanks especially to Rob Bruce for all he has put into the C.U. and the G.S.C.U. over the past two years. We are also very grateful to the staff of both schools who have helped with transport for the joint C.U. meetings.

I.R. Lyne L6R
A.J. Manley L6R

JUNIOR CHRISTIAN UNION

The society is in desperate need of members. There is no membership fee. We hold quizzes and games and there is the prospect of an inter-school panel quiz. Meetings are held in room 1 Tuesday and Thursday lunch times. Crosses are on sale at very low prices. All in the fourth form and below are welcome.

C. Hurley 3R



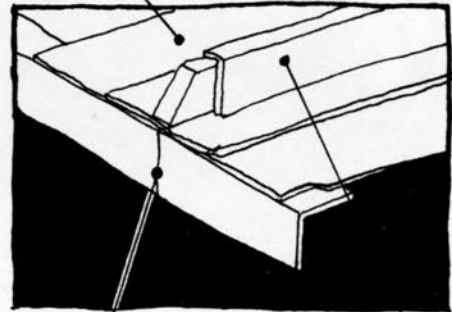
DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS

Along with Simon Gardner of the lower sixth came new ideas for tournament games, quizzes and competitions. The usual games are still played, however, along with the new and highly popular fighting fantasy series.

The membership fee is still 30p which goes towards the purchasing of modules and new equipment. Meetings are in room 8 on Monday, Wednesday and Friday lunch-times and anyone who has a lively imagination and a taste for adventure is welcome.

C. Hurley 3R

SKIN



CHANNEL
SECTION

JOIN

AIRCRAFT SOCIETY

The society now meets every other Thursday, but this recent change has not affected membership in any way.

At the end of last summer the society visited the Cosford Aerospace Museum, which was holding an air display the same day. There have also been visits to the Royal Air Force Museum at Hendon together with the Battle of Britain and newly opened Bomber Command Museums.

There have been slide shows, quizzes and recognition competitions in school, and later in the year there are plans to visit the R.A.F. Museum at St. Athan.

The members would like to thank Mr. Burrow for all his support in the activities of the society.

G. Davies. 5 Remove

ANGLING CLUB

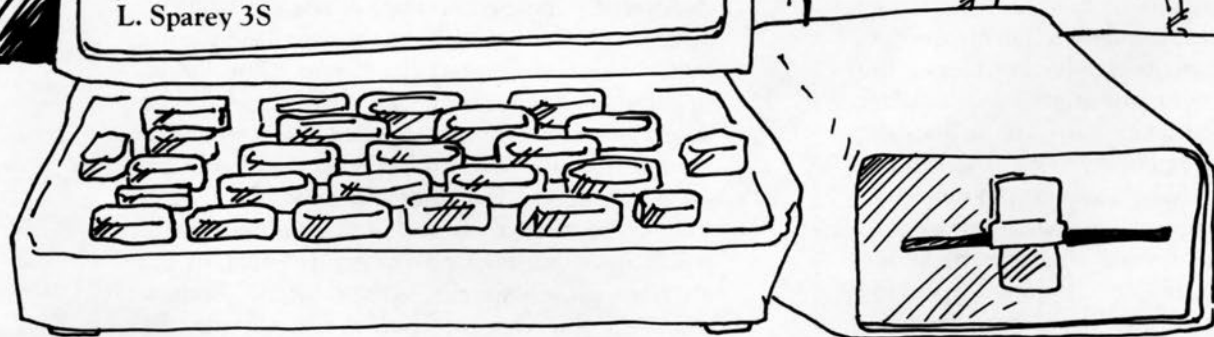
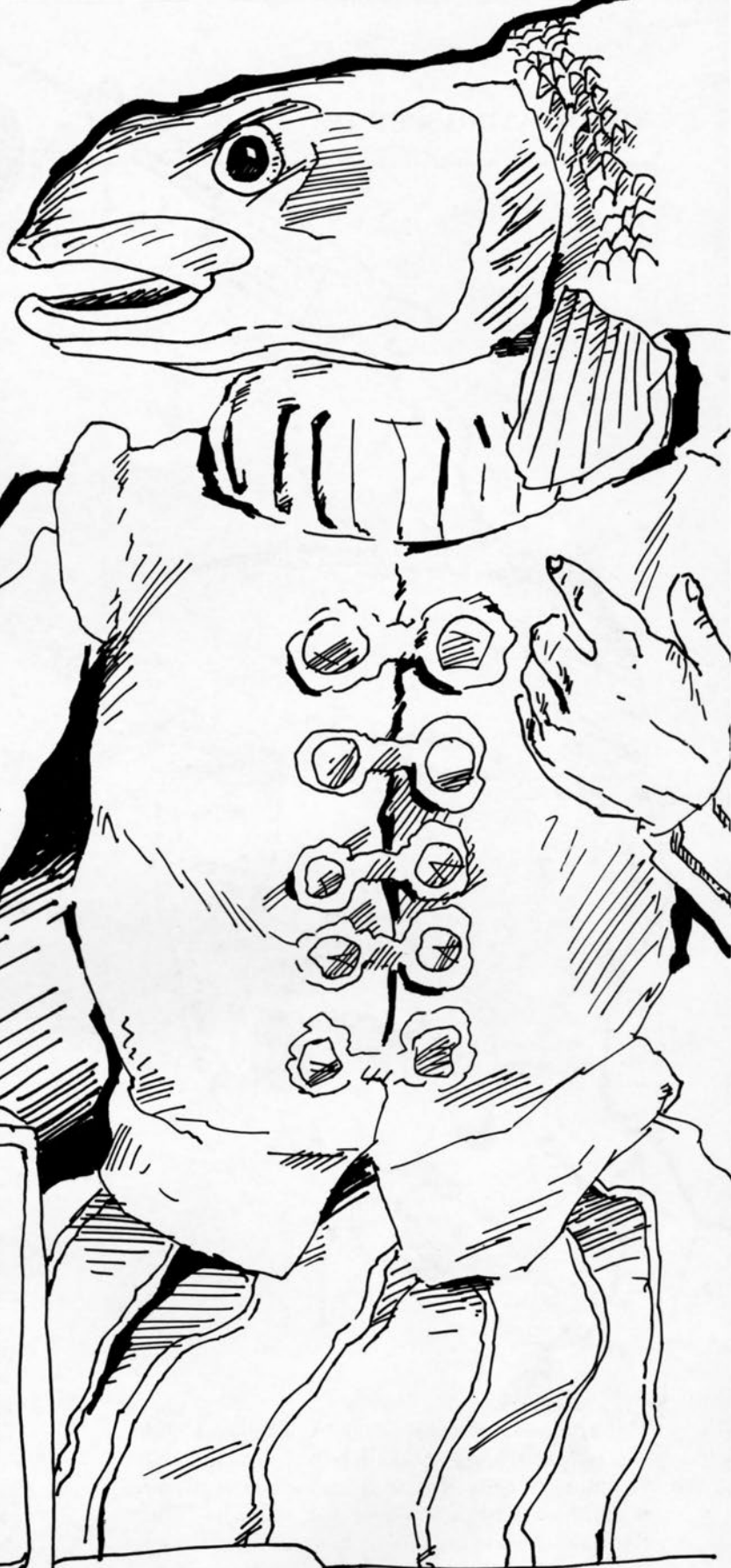
This season has been somewhat disappointing as far as the number of trips was concerned. Only three trips, two to the Gloucester canal and one to the River Frome took place. The major reasons for this were the exceptionally bad winter weather and the fact that after four years Mr. Haynes gave up driving the bus for us. We therefore make a plea: any member of staff who could help us could he please contact R. Humphrey who has been elected to replace Mike Berry and me. But our thanks must go to Mr. Haynes for giving up his time in previous years.

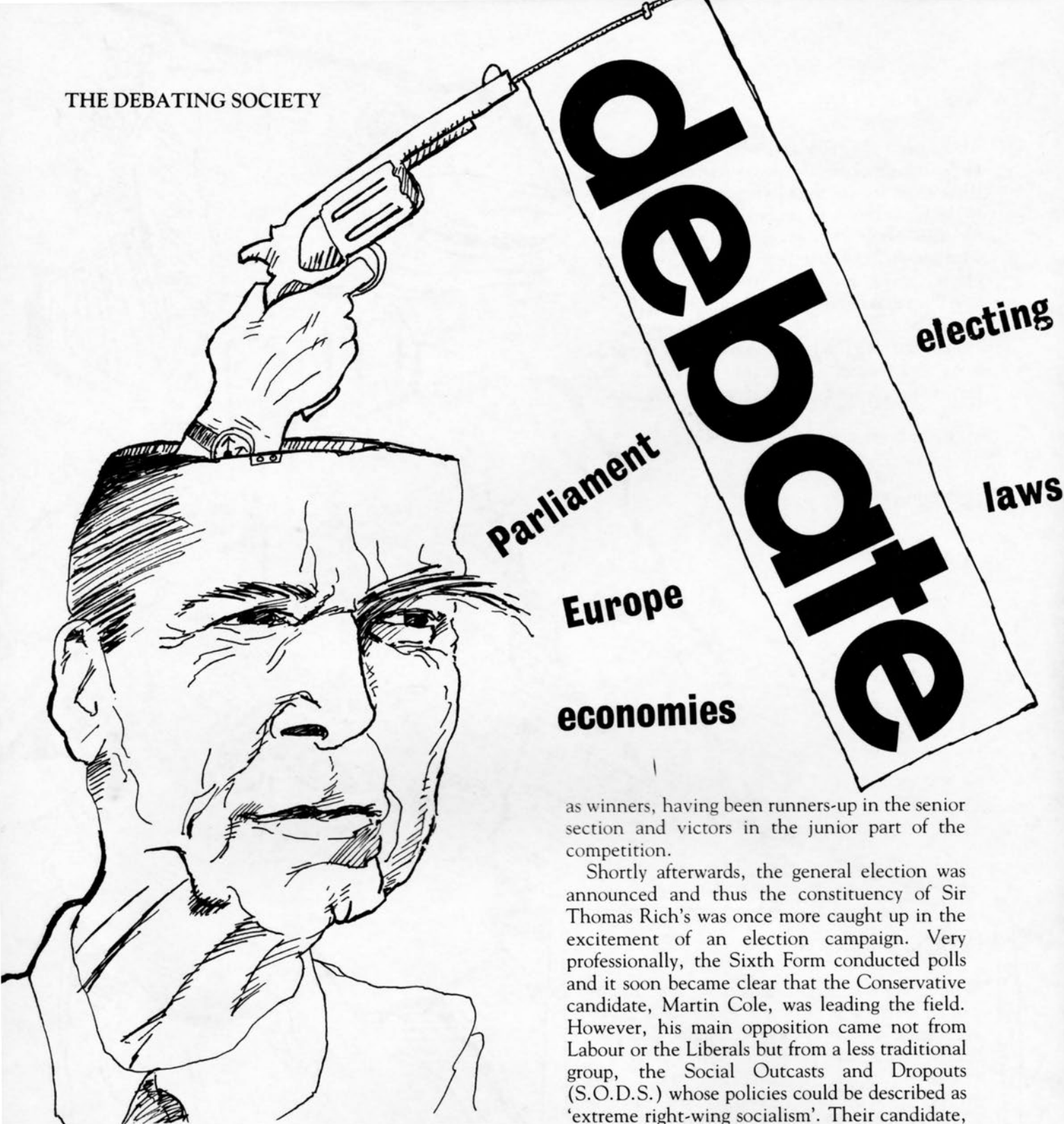
M. Badminton U6T

COMPUTER CLUB

Membership has grown dramatically over the past year. The number of people in the club is now over forty. A new Apple computer has been bought giving more people the opportunity to be able to use computers. Membership costs a mere fifty pence for the first term and twenty pence for following terms. A series of worksheets has been prepared to provide beginners with programs and ideas for programs.

J. Foster 4S
L. Sparey 3S





Unfortunately, the pressure of 'A' level work and the lack of willing speakers has meant that the Debating Society has been less active than we would have wished since we last wrote for 'The Richian'. However, unlike Harold Wilson, we have not disappeared from public life altogether.

In April 1983, we topically considered the question of the re-organisation of secondary education in Gloucester. In an interesting debate, the Council's plan for reorganisation was unsurprisingly rejected by a substantial majority.

The following month, we were pleased to welcome Dr. Mary Secome to judge the senior section of the House Public Speaking Competition which was won by Eastgate. However, overall it was Northgate who emerged

as winners, having been runners-up in the senior section and victors in the junior part of the competition.

Shortly afterwards, the general election was announced and thus the constituency of Sir Thomas Rich's was once more caught up in the excitement of an election campaign. Very professionally, the Sixth Form conducted polls and it soon became clear that the Conservative candidate, Martin Cole, was leading the field. However, his main opposition came not from Labour or the Liberals but from a less traditional group, the Social Outcasts and Dropouts (S.O.D.S.) whose policies could be described as 'extreme right-wing socialism'. Their candidate, Tim Jenkins, proved to be one of the major characters of the campaign but even he could not prevent yet another Tory landslide, which presaged the national result.

After the frenzied activity of the election the Society left the limelight to prepare itself for the major event of its year, the Rotary Club Public Speaking Competition. If nothing else, we deserved an award for bare-faced cheek since our team featured a Turk, an Indian and a Chinaman speaking about England! Andrew Tsoi (2S) joined the two of us and this combination of youth and experience proved good enough to win another closely-fought competition. Andrew proposed the vote of thanks, David was the Chairman, and Avi the main speaker but we must

unite
representatives
unemployed
solution
demand
support



all express our gratitude to Mr. Cutting who gave us invaluable help despite having just had a major operation. We should also like to thank all those who came to support us.

But our next venture was something of a let down; in a joint debate at Denmark Road, the audience faced a choice between tyranny and anarchy. Neither of our two speakers, Torsten Hössle and Avi Chaudhuri, felt very comfortable presenting such extreme views; how committed the girls were is hard to say since they had not prepared any speeches!

At the end of the Lent Term, we were very pleased to welcome Messrs. Bevan and Haynes who competed against us in a session of 'Just a Minute' chaired by Phil Corbett, who also chose the topics. His choice left a little to be desired as far as we were concerned and the staff won with some ease.

Our most recent event has been the third annual House Public Speaking Competition. For the junior section, we were very pleased to welcome back Keith Hawkins as a judge whilst in the senior part, Dr. Mary Secombe and former mayor and Old Richian, Mr. Sidney Smith kindly consented to adjudicate. Once again, the standard of speaking was very high, and once again Northgate emerged as overall winners.

As well as speaking, the Society has produced two offshoots; a Real Ale-tasting society for the sixth form, known as RALFI, and an S.T.R.S.

'Culture Club', again for Sixth Formers, which in June listened to the London Baroque Soloists at Wantage and in March saw 'The Winter's Tale' at Bristol. Once again, we must thank Mr. Cutting for leading us in our quest for culture.

Since this is our last year as its officers, we should like to say how much we have enjoyed our three years of running the Debating Society. We feel proud to have helped institute public speaking in the Cock House competition; the talent shown by many of this year's competitors augers well for the future of the Society.

A. Chaudhuri U6T
D. Naylor U6T

RAILWAY SOCIETY

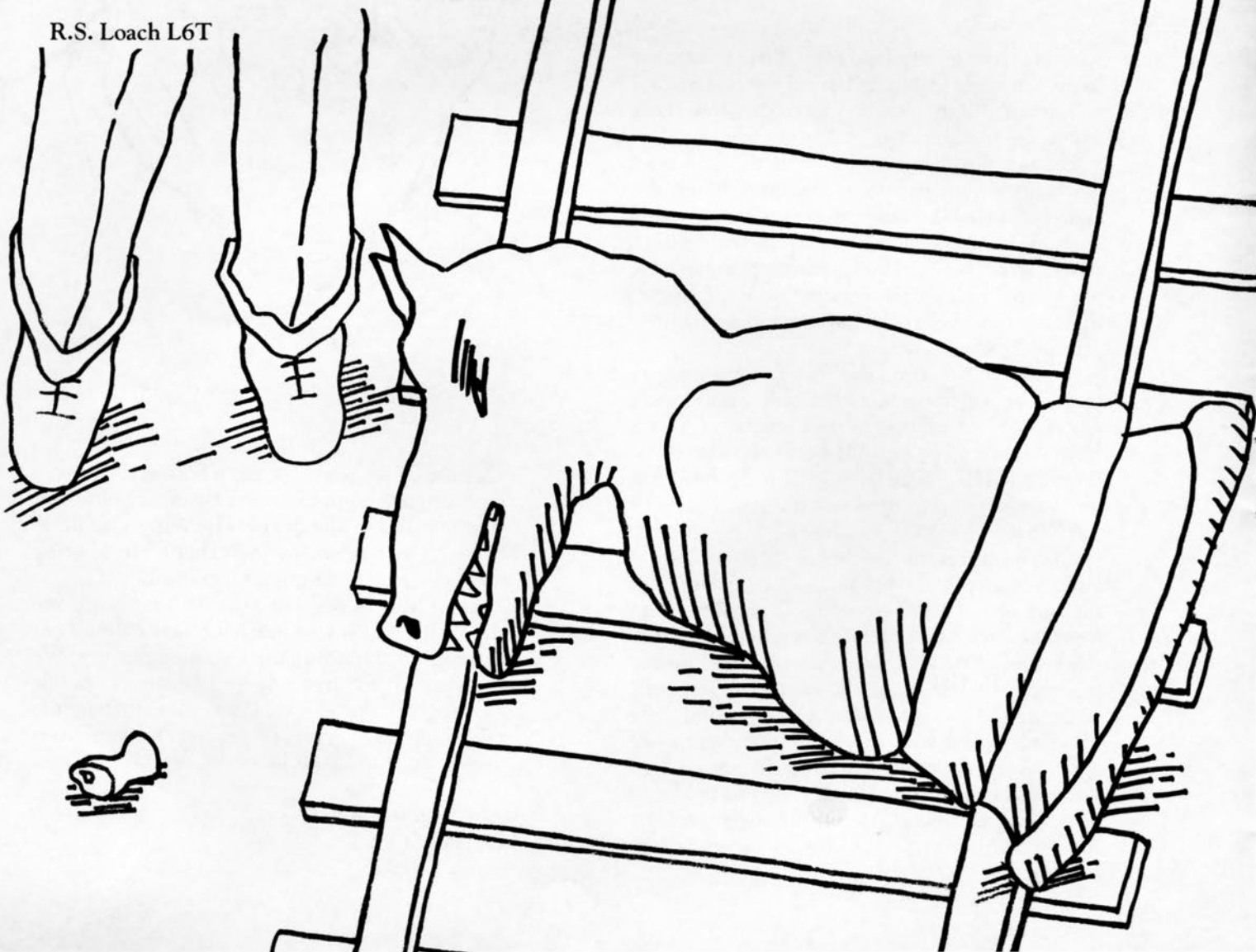
The year started soundly with a three day tour to the North-East, instead of the usual visit to Scotland. The first day included travel over the Settle-Carlisle line, which, as all well-informed people know, is the subject of much controversy as to whether it should be closed. Despite the absence of the jolly rotundity of Mr. Cutting, owing to his illness, the trip was a huge success.

Other trips included a visit to South Wales, which, in spite of the adverse weather conditions, was enjoyed by all. Over the Christmas period the society visited depots in the London area and in the New Year it visited South Humberside. At Cleethorpes, however, the tour strayed from trains in order to bathe. Three 'bright sparks' decided to paddle in what was a very cold North Sea. The works at Doncaster and Nottingham have also been visited over this last year.

In school the society has held a quiz and various slide shows in the lecture theatre. It is hoped next year to hold a photographic competition.

On behalf of the society, I would like to thank Richard Foster and Tim Humphrey of the upper sixth, and Mr. Pearce with his friend whose company was welcome in the absence of Mr. Cutting. And finally, if it had not been for the sincere help and backing of Mr. Cutting none of the above would have been possible.

R.S. Loach L6T



CHESS CLUB

This year, as in last year, the Chess Club has had to rely more heavily than usual on younger players, with promising results. S. Clark's results were particularly noteworthy with twenty wins and five draws out of twentyeight games.

At the time of writing, the school has reached the final of the Gloucester and District Schools Knock-Out Competition and the Northern final of the Gloucestershire Schools Knock-Out Competition, the latter after narrowly beating Dean Close School. In the Times National Competition, the team was beaten by Monmouth School.

A team which varied considerably was entered in Division 5 of the North Gloucestershire League, playing against adult opposition. This provided useful experience for the less experienced members of the team. For the first time in several years, we entered our first team in the Gloucester and District Schools League. At the moment, it is possible, but not certain, that we will win.

Membership of the club rose to over fifty during the year; new members are always welcome. Our thanks must go to Mr. Davies for his dedication to the club throughout the year.

M. Campbell L6S

CONTRIBUTIONS

FLAT CHANCE

Concrete jungle, each room a cell
A block of flats, a living hell.
Falling to pieces, infested with rats,
Who wants to live in this block of flats?
Frames with no windows, doors with no handles,
Number one target for villains and vandals.
The seventies brainchild, the new way to live
Dream of the planners with brains like a sieve.
They don't live in the buildings they themselves
planned
People have needs they just don't understand.
Flats such an eyesore to any old town,
Should be demolished. Knock them all down!

C. Langford U6T

The Rocking Horse

The small, brown haired girl knocked at the old green door of the terraced house. No reply. As she knocked again she watched the dry flakes of bilious paint float to the pavement. After another pause, she heard a sound like shuffling footsteps and her adolescent impatience caused the girl to gasp an inaudible 'at last'.

As the door opened it revealed an old lady in rather ancient clothes and a rather sad looking countenance.

"Yes, my dear, and what can I do for you?" enquired the lady in a croaking rasp as spittle collected at the corners of her mouth.

"Mrs. Cane?" asked the girl, and after a nod the girl went on to explain how she'd come in answer to the advertisement in the newspaper concerning the rocking horse that was for sale.

Garrulously the woman invited the girl inside and apologised for the mess, explaining its reason was because they were being forced to move. After living in the house all their married life, it was being pulled down to make way for one of those new-fangled roads. A motorway, she thought it was called. As the memories flooded back, sadness could be discerned in the woman's voice. Eventually, however, the girl was forced to interrupt: "Do you think I could see the rocking horse, please?"

Recovering from her reverie, the woman led the girl through a labyrinth of tea-chests and bundles which littered the hall, stairs and landing into the room where the horse was kept. Near the horse on a spoon-back chair sat the woman's husband in a baggy cardigan and an immaculately clean white shirt. He was flipping through a photograph album but did not seem to be aware of what he was seeing. Greeting him, the girl noticed the horse. It stood majestic in perfect condition. It was painted cream, had a sweeping mane over the neck and had a smiling open mouth displaying a fine set of teeth. The girl instantly realised that the antique was worth far more than the five pounds asking price. Mentally she judged a fine profit if she kept it a few years. After her offer of more money was rejected, the girl gave over five crisp one pound notes.





Struggling, the girl carried the horse into the front parlour and as she picked it up she thought she heard it whinny. She dropped it under the couple's wedding photograph hung on the wall in the fireplace alcove. As she was about to leave, explaining she would return with transport later, the old lady asked if she had two ten-pence pieces. Handing over the change, the girl left. Slowly the money was transferred to her husband who was now in the kitchen. He put it into the gas meter and then joined his wife by the open oven door.

Later that evening the girl returned with her boyfriend for the horse. It was still light, being a summer evening. As before she knocked on the door. No answer. She tried again. Still no answer. Her boyfriend called from his car, but she ignored him. She knocked again and after another pause moved to the parlour window. There was no sign of Mr. or Mrs. Cane and she moved to go until she turned to look towards her horse. She strained her eyes. Everything had changed. The wedding photograph had fallen from the wall and the rocking-horse, her rocking horse, was no longer a shining cream but a dull grey, the mane still flowed but the smile had turned to sadness as the horse rocked slowly and mysteriously to and fro.

M. Cole U6T



R. Bowers

IN PRAISE OF THE ROWDIES

They're here again . . . The boys!
They sit like Hercules for all to see
Their beer guts extended before them,
Shirt open to the waist:
The macho trendies of middle-age
Who pretend to be young.
They shout of conquests: their achievements.
They worship the god sport – from the box,
of course,
Expressing noisily what they'd do if there –
Everyone's got it wrong; they alone are right.
'I want to be best' is their motto
And this cacophony of sounds echoes in my ear.
I hear their sounds and I see "them" again and again
And my only regret is that they won't go away.

G.E.H.





MY HERO

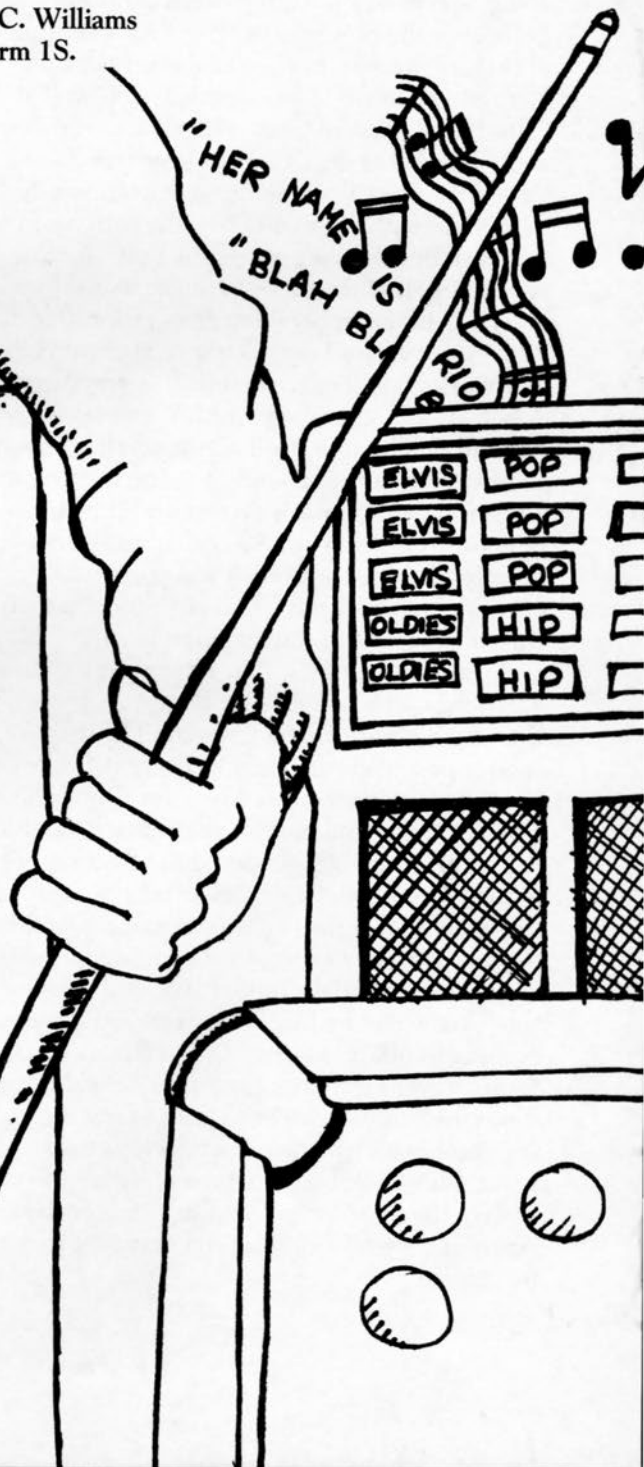
My Hero is Ray Reardon
A champion in his day
Who won Pot Black year after year
Potting the balls away

He came from a Welsh mining village
Where once he wore gloves to hew coal
To his dismay the roof gave way
And buried him alive for more than a day

Ray Reardon became a Policeman
A Bobby on the beat
He walked the streets all night long
His life has been one great feat

His boots he changed for a billiard cue
His hobby became his profession
And he can be seen challenging all
At every Snooker Session.

V.C. Williams
Form 1S.



M-u-s-i-c

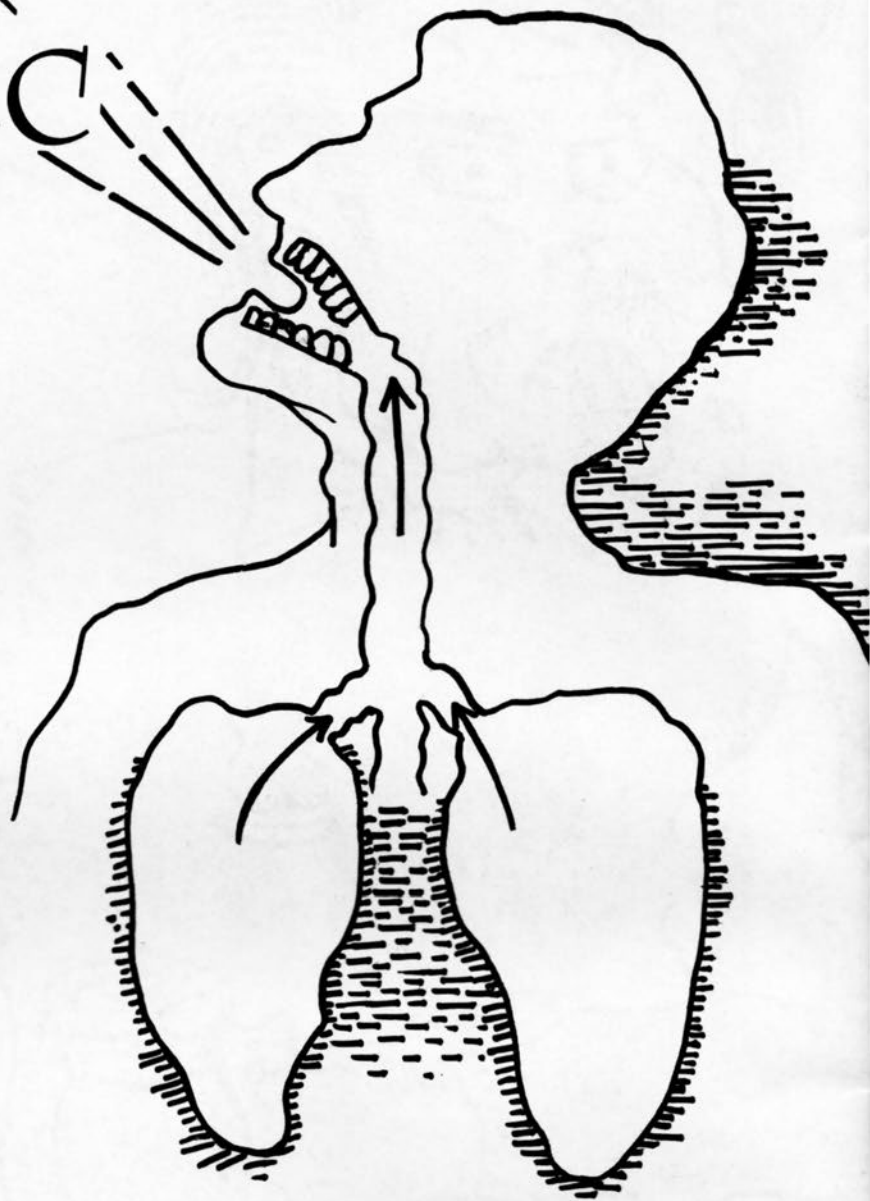
CHOIR REPORT 83/84

Throughout the year the choir has continued to play a leading role in the life of the school, most apparently in assemblies. Anthems were sung regularly, covering a wide range of European composers from the 16th to 20th centuries.

Despite the pressures of 'The Yeomen', the choir sang well during both carol services. Favourites such as 'The Cherry Tree Carol' and 'The Blessed Son of God' were sung particularly well. The following day, boys from the choir visited the Sue Ryder Home for the terminally ill. The obvious pleasure gained by the patients from our carol singing was a refreshing sight, serving to remind us all of the value of music in our lives.

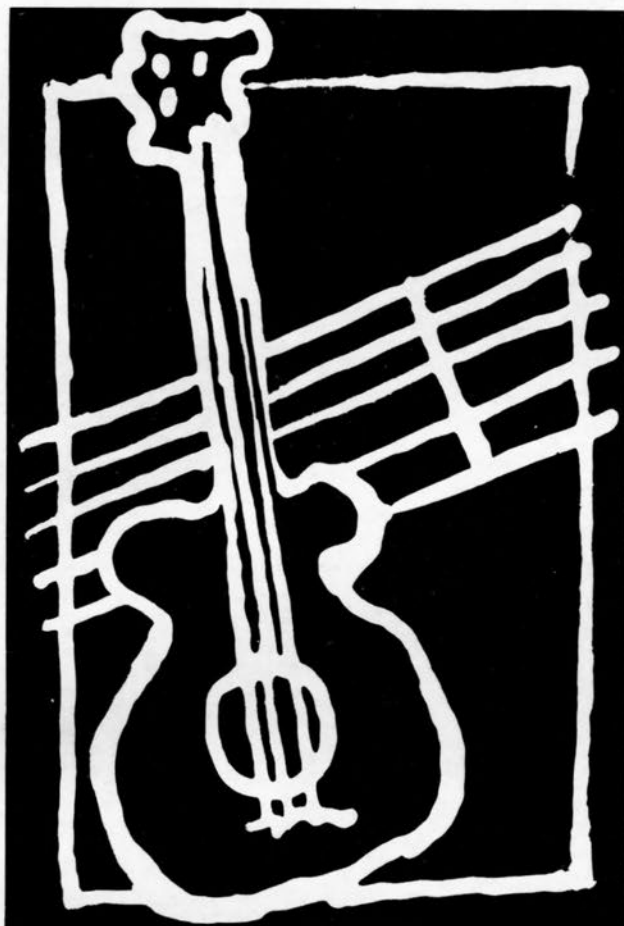
The Lent Term heralded preparations for the 25th Anniversary Tour. Our special thanks go to all those who helped in this effort — the Parents' Association and our organist Mr. Fowler in particular. The tour itself was generally thought to be even more successful than the last one in 1979. The weather was perfect and Bryanston School (in Dorset) provided ideal facilities both for music and relaxation. It was particularly encouraging to see boys from all years with such a thriving interest in instrumental music.

At the centre of the tour were the two choral evensongs, at Christchurch Priory, and Blandford Forum Parish Church. The first service provided particular moments of enjoyment in the introit 'Lord, for Thy Tender Mercies' Sake' and parts of the Roses Responses, the choir managing, despite difficult conditions, to maintain a satisfactory standard throughout the remainder of the performance. For Blandford the following day we retained a certain freshness, which was essential even for the sombre mood of the 'Crucifixus' by J.S. Bach. The service was enjoyed by all, providing a fitting climax to a full term's work. Furthermore, for Mr. Huddleston it was the culmination of 25 years of singing with the choir, which he has seen develop almost from its founding. I feel sure that many old boys would wish to join with us in thanking him for those years, and we all wish him the very best in his retirement.



Thus throughout the year the choir has, as always, produced a very high standard of music, but such success can never be taken for granted. It can only result from weekly practice by a very large number of boys and staff (more than one tenth of the school!) and particularly by Mr. Rangeley.

R. Bruce U6R



CHRISTMAS BY CANDLELIGHT

After an absence of several years, there was a return in December of the popular candlelight concert in the library. For many members of the madrigal group it was their first such occasion, but everyone enjoyed themselves and the informal nature of the evening was well-received by a good audience. The standard of performance was pleasingly high, both in the choral and spoken sections. The buffet supper was superb and gave an opportunity for performers to mingle with the audience. Everything led to a successful evening and it is hoped that the event will be repeated next Christmas.

S. Voysey L6S

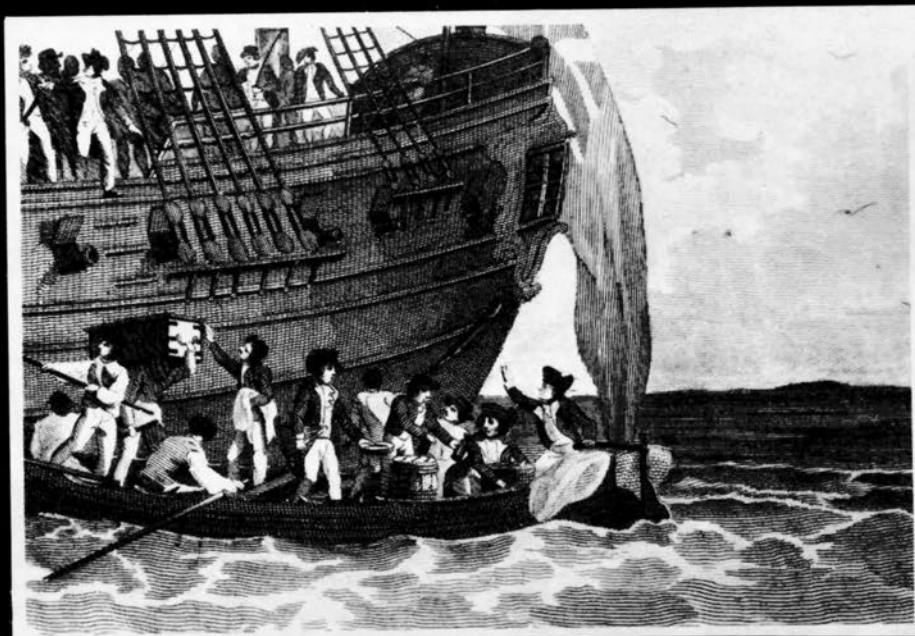
HOUSE MUSIC

The House Music Festival, which took place in February, proved to be the most successful for many years with a high standard of musicianship obtained at all levels. Rehearsals for the ensembles, vocal and instrumental, and the "first and second year unison song" began well in advance of the actual festival. As usual the latter proved to be the most difficult and taxing to rehearse but on the day all four houses should be commended for the high quality of their performances.

In the vocal ensembles there was a break with the recent traditions of this section in that three out of the four houses decided to perform unaccompanied madrigals, while the fourth involved just about all of its members in the singing of two rounds. This same house, Westgate, also had one of the most interesting combinations of instruments seen for many years in the instrumental ensemble and their percussion players performed their own composition to a very high standard. The other three houses kept to more traditional lines in this section with two brass groups and a wind ensemble. All of these items were performed in front of the whole school during the afternoon.

In the morning there had been the usual display of talent in the closed solos. In the vocal sections the performance of Campbell (2T) is worth mentioning for its promise for the future. The instrumental solos brought to light a wide range of musical talents with instruments ranging from organ to saxophone and euphonium. However the most accomplished performance of the day had to be Mark Broadhead's playing of the 1st Movement of Elgar's "Cello Concerto" on the open solo. This brought to a peak the high standards of musicianship present throughout the day. Thanks must go to the four organisers for the smooth running of the festival and their commitment, to Mr. J. Sanders for adjudicating the competition and to Mr. N. Taylor for his work as accompanist during the afternoon.

EXCHANGE



LA COURONNE

At six o'clock in the morning on Friday, 18th May, a train set off from Gloucester station. On board were sixty-eight children and six teachers from Sir Thomas Rich's and Colwell School. Their destination: La Couronne, near Angoulême in the west of France.

After managing the journey unscathed, at 1.30 a.m. Saturday we arrived in Angoulême. There we were met by our French partners and whisked home in a flurry of excitement. The majority of us slept to a very late hour that day, but had sufficiently recovered by the time we met at the French school for tea. Afterwards we were on our own until Monday. Sunday was not wasted, however, for we spent the day visiting places such as Arcachon, oyster farms and funfairs.

During the week we were taken by our families to school in the morning. From here our many trips began. Monday morning we toured the school and in the afternoon played sport. After that we

trooped into La Couronne to meet the Mayor. Tuesday and Thursday were spent on excursions to Angoulême, visiting the Town Hall, Cathedral and Swimming pool. While on Wednesday we ventured to La Rochelle, where, unfortunately, the three towers of which the town boasts were nearly obscured by rain. Friday we went to the wine-producing regions of Saintes and Cognac. The majority of people went to the moto-cross Saturday and Sunday which was held near-by. Over that weekend birthdays were common and so some found the unexpected treat of parties. Unfortunately, however, on Monday morning we had to leave, having enjoyed our stay immensely despite the rain.

All of us are looking forward to the French visiting us here and on behalf of the group I would like to thank Mr. Cutting and the staff on both sides of the Channel for making our trip so enjoyable.

NATURALISTS ON ARRAN



It is now the usual custom during the final days of the Naturalist Society's October expedition to discuss which part of the British Isles it should descend upon next. So on the last day at Aigas, Inverness, Mr. Cooper tentatively asked if it were too early to return to Arran. The unanimous response was to go.

Our base on Arran three years previous had been the Lochranza field centre which was then newly set up. On our return the improvements were so extensive that it was only the old school building that told us it was the same place. The most noticeable differences were the many facilities, including a small heated swimming pool, and a common room stocked with a video library with a wide range of films which provided a welcome opportunity to rest our weary legs after a long day's walk in Arran's hills.

A wide range of activities were undertaken during the week which included a water survey, a walk around the loch of Arran, a bicycle ride to

see Neolithic/Bronze Age settlements and a return walk up the glacial valley of Glen Catacol. For those studying geology, Mr. Henderson set out each morning and returned at evening loaded with samples.

Unfortunately, however, the trip was ill-fated, for we brought two things from Gloucester which should have been left behind: bad weather which caused us to eat sodden sandwiches in force eleven gales, and the second, brought by the Cooper-Spear households, a stomach upset which eventually hit eleven of the twenty-six member party. Despite these, the holiday certainly matched our first visit.

Our thanks must once again go to the ever enthusiastic Mr. Cooper whose hard work has made yet another Naturalist Society expedition possible and who deserves a break in 1984, and to Mr. Henderson, Mr. Pearce and Mr. Spear for their assistance in the organisation of the week's activities.

SENIOR

As years go by, the term 'cross country' becomes less and less an accurate description of inter-school running. Not only are stiles, fences and other obstacles rapidly disappearing from courses such as our own 'hill course', but then

schools from all over the country. Here the 'A' Team came 5th and the 'B' Team were the second 'B' Team home in 19th position. A hilly 2½ mile lap was well suited to the teams, and especially to Chris Mayo, who clocked the fastest lap time of the event to become the 3rd Richian to achieve this distinction.

where they were placed 6th. This team were also placed 2nd in the North Gloucestershire league with individual honours going to Mark Wheeler (winning individual) and Kevin Murgatroyd (10th). The U15s lacked strength in depth and consequently failed to make their mark as a team. 4th place was

SPORT

Cross Country



growing numbers of highly competitive road relays has made short distance running the hallmark of recent seasons. The relay brings home the importance of co-ordinated team effort, which has indeed been a noticeable feature this season. Under the captaincies of Nick Shackleton (who left at Christmas) and Chris Mayo, an initially inexperienced team trained hard, and more than maintained the high reputation of Rich's in the relay field. Although Coventry got the better of us (27th), high placings were achieved at all the other relays, namely Beachley (6th), Abingdon (7th and 19th), Millfield (6th and 22nd), Lucton (4th) and Sutton Coldfield (8th and 23rd).

The highlights of the season was undoubtedly the Oxford Tortoises Relay, a large event now drawing

In other races there were very mixed fortunes and a considerable measure of back luck. We beat Warwick School, but lost to King Henry VIII, Monmouth, Worcester Royal, Queen Mary's Walsall and St. Dunstons, but remarkably in each case by less than twelve points. It says a lot for the commitments of the team to their running itself rather than simply to winning that morale remained high despite the regularity of these narrow defeats.

JUNIOR

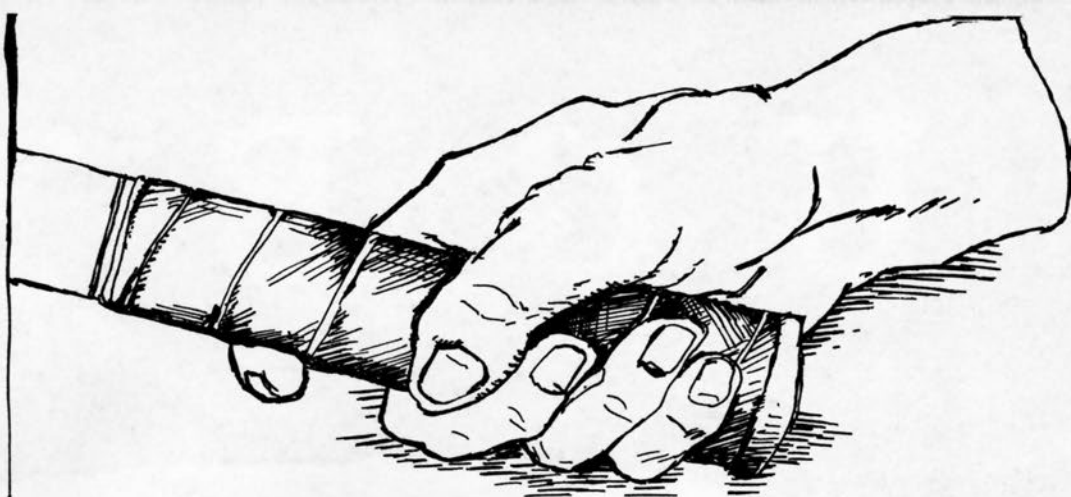
For the first time the School entered the English Schools Athletic Association's Cup Competition, in which the U13 Team won the local competition in Cheltenham to go on to the Regional Round at Redditch,

achieved in both the local round of the English Schools Cup and in the North Gloucestershire League, in which Adam Foster took 5th individual place.

REPRESENTATION

As usual there was strong Rich's representation at district levels with 18 boys selected to represent Gloucester at the County Championships held at Chipping Campden in December. Chris Mayo (U20) and Adam Foster (U15) went on to represent Gloucestershire at major inter-county events, culminating in the National Championships at Croydon.

M.S.R.



The Eastern Forehand grip —

Tennis

The results this season are a fine testimony to the relatively untried pairings and to the resurgence of team spirit compared with last year.

The season began with victories over Rendcomb and Dauntsey's but then the weather caused the Wycliffe match to be abandoned with the result very much in the balance. Our friends at Magdalen, Oxford, gave us a warm reception both on and off the courts. The problems of playing on grass and the greater experience of the home team gave them victory for the second year running.

We almost avenged the defeat suffered against Malvern College last year, but the match was abandoned with Rich's in a winning position already having secured $4\frac{1}{2}$ points against $2\frac{1}{2}$. Cheltenham proved too strong for us although the junior side won against them.

Several new players were introduced in the 'A' team which lost to Marling, 4-5. Chris Taylor played particularly well in that, his only game.

Credit must go to the third pair, Craig Fisher and Gareth Ross, who had to play against older and more experienced players throughout the season. Mention must also be made of the excellent results obtained by the first pair, Adrian Marshall and Richard Harris the captain. They only lost four of the thirty three sets

which they played.

The usual second pair of Patrick Smith and Rob Hopwood also had some good results.

The Under 16 side was very lacking in experience but they put up a good fight in all matches and achieved wins over Cheltenham and Dauntsey's. This did much to counter the disappointment felt about the heavy defeats inflicted by Magdalen and Cheltenham.

Lovell and Wright, although not stylish, performed more than competently in all their matches. Montanaro, the captain, continually had to cope with changes in the pairings.

Difficulties are experienced these days in arranging fixtures at suitable times. The tendency for some boys to have Saturday jobs and the fact that public schools usually play games on Tuesdays and Thursdays are the main problems. This year these difficulties have been overcome to some extent by playing more boys. Although it may be argued that this policy gives a game to lads who would not normally play it does not develop a stable team and results inevitably suffer.

Fortunately there is a great deal of enthusiasm and no mean achievement in the lower part of the school, as the drawn match by an Under 14 side against Cheltenham College illustrates.

Squash

Following the loss of three members of last year's very successful team, the 'A' Team did very well losing only to Cheltenham College 'A' Team before Christmas.

Following the departure of Nick Shackleton at Christmas, the 'A' Team lost to Cheltenham College 'A' and 'B' teams. A. Smith had a good season losing only twice, once at No. 1 and once at No. 2.

The 'B' Team did not have such a good season this year but most of their opponents are 'A' teams. However, they had notable victories against Beaufort 'A' and Dean Close 'B' Teams twice. There remains a solid nucleus of B team players for next season.

Old Colours — N.S. Shackleton, P. Smith.

New Colours — A. Smith, T. Spires, A. Marshall, A. Nash, D. Sargent.

Playing Record 1983/4

A. Team	P	W	L
	9	6	3
B. Team	P	W	L
	13	4	9

P.M. Smith

Senior Squash Tournament

A. Smith beat P.M. Smith 3-1 in the final.

RUGBY

1st XV

P	W	L	Points for	116
13	6	7	Points against	120

This was a reasonable season for the first XV. The technique of the forwards was sufficient to overcome much heavier packs, while the mobility and tackling of Harris, Street and Barber in the back row prevented any side from beating us by more than eight points.

Three-quarter line showed a lot of individual talent with Brazington having another good season. The team, however, failed to gell as a unit: Handling and alignment problems often resulted in a loss of possession in midfield after the forwards had worked hard to gain the ball.

Colours: Herbert, Carr, Jenkins, Harris, Barber and Brazington.

2nd XV

P	W	L	Points for	77
8	6	2	Points against	40

A successful season for the second fifteen. Losses to King's 4-6 and Marling 4-11 were the only defeats. The drive and power from the forwards provided plenty of good possession in most games. The 4-3 defeat of Culverhay underlined the tackling ability of the side as most of this match was played in our half of the field.

Colours: Haynes (Capt.), Anderson, Chapman, Fisher, Gardner, Kozlowski, Pearl, Segura and Weston.

COLTS XV (U/15)

Another very good season by this XV. The points difference reflects the ability of the side and victories were due to good all round team performances. Although the pack was outweighed they made up for the lack of weight and height with determination and supplied a strong, fast back division with good possession.

Colours: Anderson C., Adcock, Ladbrook, Ravenhill, Peters, Richings, Montanaro, Knight, Griffin, Anderson S., Devereux.

P	W	L	D	Points for	630
22	19	2	1	Points against	106

U-14 Rugby

The inevitable fact that during this age-group physical maturity is a pre-requisite, slowly dawned. Success came easily in the first few matches, but after a commendable victory against Backwell, the team was taken apart by Cheltenham Grammar School. A lesson in keenness and determination was handed out by Longlevens, and we slowly began to learn. On the heights of Beechen Cliff, a narrow defeat earned praise from home spectators, and heads were held high.

Respect was earned from Monmouth, whose last minute score prevented a deserved victory, and a superb draw gained against a huge Belmont pack. The all-conquering Q.E.H. scored over twenty points against us in a first half annihilation, but character showed through in a second-half which saw us completely reverse pressure to prevent further addition.

By school standards a season which could have been better, by general standards satisfactory. We hope that foundations have been laid for future seasons.

P	W	D	Points for	305
20	8		Points against	197

GHM

Colours
Haines S., Burrows S., Carlile.

RUGBY

U13 XV

P	W	L	D	Points for	Points against
21	16	3	2	458	130

An excellent season by this XV with only three narrow defeats. Very hard wins were achieved against opposition from Culverhay and Beechencliff-Bath, Q.E.H. Bristol and Lydney schools. Success was based on a very hard working mobile pack of forwards and strong backs. In addition the XV reached the final of the school 15-a-side competition where they shared the trophy in a drawn game with St. Peter's School.

Squad: Roberts (Capt.), Sargent, Nash, Wheeler, Chant, Jones-Griffiths, Ross, Nash P.L., Jones, Thomas, Gladwell, Wright, Selwyn-Reeves, Mitchell, Freckleton, Lyne, Jackson, Bassett.

U12 XV

P	W	L	D	Points for	Points against
8	4	3	1	80	40

Overall a satisfactory season with victories over Oxstalls, Saintbridge, Brightland Prep School and Crypt and defeats by Kings, Monmouth and Q.E.H. Very few of the boys had played rugby before coming to Rich's — a disadvantage against the public schools, and it was not until recent games that a team began to develop. By the end of the season the pack was performing better but a great deal of work is to be done on the back division. The team won the Crypt U12 7 a-side tournament.

Squad: Parsons, Boxall, Wood, Bowman, Carr, Walden, Wyatt, Cudby, Page-Jones, Neocleous, Haynes, James, Downing, Cadle, Forte, Henderson, Townsend, Byrne.

TOURNAMENT

SENIOR XV

Chosen Hill School
15-a-side Tournament
 beat Chosen Hill School
 beat Whitefriars School
 beat Dean Close School
 lost to Warwick School in final.

U-13 XV

Sir Thomas Rich's School
15-a-side Tournament
 beat Rednock School, Dursley,
 beat St. Peters School,
 drew with Crypt. (Rich's group winners)
 Semi-final — beat Beaufort School
 Final — drew with St. Peters School. Joint winners.

U-12

Winners Crypt Seven's
 Tournament
 beat Oxtalls School, Beaufort School and Crypt School.

U-16 XV

Gloucester District Cup Competition
 beat Saintbridge School
 beat Beaufort School
 beat Brockworth School to win trophy in final.

Representative Honours

U-16 Gloucester and District Schools — Merchant, Lawrence, Matthews, Chapman, Segura.
 U-15 Gloucester and District Schools:- Adcock, Ravenhill, Ladbroke.
 Gloucestershire Schools U-16 Chapman.

C A N O E I N G



This has been a year of growth in the club's activities. Thanks to the generosity of the Parents' Association, further equipment has been purchased enabling more boys to participate. Membership has therefore been extended to include fifth form besides sixth form boys. Over fifty boys have participated in the club this year.

Basic training continues to be undertaken in the school pool. Trips have been made to the R. Seven, R. Avon and R. Wye, often in cold and demanding water conditions. Several boys have successfully passed the British Canoe Union tests of competence.

One star: D. Wilson, A. Harrison, D. Moore, S. Vallender, C. Taylor, M. Williams, S. Hawkins, C. Rasiewicz, P. Corbett.

Two Star: A. King, J. O'Leary.

Congratulation are also due to K. Devine. Last summer at the British Schools Canoeing Championships held in Scotland, he became the U. 19 British Slalom Champion. A considerable feat.

Old Richians

OLD-RICHIAN ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President: Dennis Collins
Past Presidents: Frank Watkins
Jack Dean
Hon. Secretary: David Billingham
Hon. Treasurer: Andrew Bishop

THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

My copy (ancient) of the rules commences

"The aims and objects of the Association shall be to foster a spirit of comradeship and to encourage sport amongst Old Boys and to further the interests of the School."

Without having a fantastic memory or examining all the minutes over the past say 10 years it is virtually impossible to assess how performance has matched up to aims.

My profession naturally leads me to look at the financial activity of the Association:

- in ten years we have spent
 - £2,200 on school magazines
 - £1,300 on printing, stationery and postages
 - *£50 on donations to Old Richian activities
 - £800 on donations to school activities

*excluding loan to Elmbridge Club

If that financial summary is any guide I can only conclude that the success rate in meeting our aims and objectives is low. Nevertheless the past has shown that when some single objective, e.g. the swimming pool, has been set then the Old Boys have rallied to the flag.

The past has also shown that tampering with the rules has not altered the situation. Enthusiasm, etc, comes in cycles and is much dependent on the efforts of a few individuals, some who last for a short time, some who have managed to survive the passage of time and periodic criticism.

However perhaps an inquest is not the best way to set the future path — perhaps the best way is to review the assets we have and turn them to our best advantage:

- we have a school second to none in quality and performance;
- we have an association with an adequate financial base;
- we have, thanks to the Rugby Club, the Elmbridge Club;
- we have facilities available at the school for ancillary activities;
- and most important of all we have a cause, the future of the school, to fight for.

JUNIOR SECTION

Chairman: David Hook

Deputy Chairman: David Bishop

Membership Secretary: Ian Henderson

Committee: Rob Bewley
Paul Bruce
Neil Wall
Peter Wise

The Junior section continued to grow over the last year, recruiting more members for the Association although, unfortunately, not as many as we would have liked. The section has, since its conception, been hampered by the fact that the vast majority of its members are away at colleges and the number permanently resident in Gloucester is very small. This number was further reduced when the Chairman of the Junior Section, David Bishop, was transferred to Bath. The Junior Section Committee needs more old boys resident in the city to offer their services. If you can help, please volunteer.

The two most successful social events held in the year were the Summer Sports Evening in July and the Music Quiz in December. Other events organised with varying degrees of success included several discos at the Cambridge Suite and the Y.M.C.A. and a number of 'Get Togethers' held in both the Bowls Clubhouse and the Elmbridge Club.

As in previous years the Junior Section has been busy raising money for the Richian Trust and, at the time of writing, more 'Richiana' is planned including coffee mugs and diaries — you have been warned.

The Junior Section could fill all its space in 'The Richian' with the names of people who have helped us in the last year. In particular I would like to thank Mr. Heap, Mr. Winstanley and the Association's treasurer, Andrew Bishop, for their continuing support and patience — and the school representatives on our committee for all their hard work.

D.H.

DENNIS COLLINS

OLD RICHIAN'S RUGBY CLUB AND THE ELMBRIDGE CLUB

Club History

It is significant that the Club's Building Committee comprising of Gerry Stone, Richard Owen, Keith Ray and Tony Wheeler, who have been primarily responsible for the creation of the Rugby Club's new Clubhouse, known as 'The Elmbridge Club', have been associated with Old Richian's rugby for over 20 years.

The present Club dates back to 1957, when it was restarted and progressed mainly due to the efforts of the late Graham Prosser. Club Captains particularly remembered for the Club's rapid emergence to 1st XV local status during the early 1960's are Frank Jordon, now living in Sheffield and the late Mike Longney, tragically killed in an accident in 1971. The strength of the Club reached a peak in the early 1970's and without a Clubhouse has done well to maintain its position in local rugby running three teams each week. Gerry Stone, Richard Hardwick, who is currently Chairmain of the Rugby Club and Jack Smith the Club's Secretary must take credit for guiding the Club in recent years often through difficult times.

Leading players who started with Old Richians include Stephen Boyle, a British Lion and England International and Paul Wood and Mike Longstaff of the Gloucester Club — Mike is the Club's trainer.

The New Clubhouse

The new Clubhouse, which was opened on December 22nd 1983 by Gordon Heap, Rich's School Headmaster, has been the brainchild of Gerry Stone and Richard Owen. They have sought to learn from the experiences of other local Club's by building a Clubhouse to a high standard which should not require extension or significant refurbishment for some years. The Clubhouse was designed by Architect and Old Richian Roger Yendall, has Club member Jon Shelton as a full-time steward and consists of two large bars, a Committee Room, Kitchen, Changing Rooms large enough to take 90 persons, Showers, Toilets and a large car park.

The co-operation and financial assistance afforded by Gloucester City Council and Whitbread Flower Limited have been vital in the project as has also the support of some 200 Life Members and Sponsors. By way of acknowledgement a social evening was organised for them at the Clubhouse for Wednesday February 15th. The efforts of John Moore of Cheltenham Surfacing and Ken Hending also need to be mentioned.

The Clubhouse will not only be the Rugby Club's headquarters and a base for Old Richians and all associated with Sir Thomas Rich's, but a Social Club for the surrounding neighbourhood. The support of the Elmleaze community is being actively sought and encouraged and membership of the Clubhouse is still open at £7 pa for ordinary members and £10 pa for family membership. Live music can be heard at Sunday lunchtimes and evenings and entertainment is being planned for Saturday evenings as well.

However, sporting links will be vigorously maintained, not just with rugby for already a ladies netball section has been formed. Pool and Darts teams will operate and it is hoped that cricket, football, hockey and tennis will soon be associated with The Elmbridge Club for we are encouraging 'joint use' with Clubs and organisations subject to satisfactory arrangements being agreed.

The Elmbridge Club, like any other organisation, can only be as strong as the strength of support it receives from its members. With the backing from Old Richian's Rugby Club, Old Richians everywhere and the Elmleaze community, it seems well placed to succeed.

K.D. RAY

OLD RICHIAN NEWS

WEDDING

DYSON, NICHOLAS J. (1972-1979) to Miss Carol Unwin at Godalming 30th July 1983.

OBITUARY

SPARKES, H.J., member of the very well-known bakery family in Gloucester, died in February 1984. He spent all his working life in the Town Clerk's department at the Guildhall in Gloucester, being at one time Records Officer and retiring as Chief Clerk. We offer our condolences to his widow, son and daughter.

BEWLEY, Ian, works in G.C.H.Q. (Ssh! Can't say too much!!), is married and lives in Cheltenham.

BEWLEY, Rob (1974-1982) is reading Modern Languages at St. John's College, Oxford. He is Captain of the University Penguins (Second Lawn Tennis VI) for the 1984 season.

BISHOP, Clive, is a quantity surveyor with Gleeds in Gloucester. Has captained the Old Richians 1st XV.

BRIGHT, Peter, has given up Accountancy and is now training to be a town planner. (Out of 'counting the cost', into 'who cares what it costs'?)

BRYANS, John M., gained his B.Sc (Hons) Second Class, Second Division, in Engineering Geology and Geotechnics at Portsmouth Polytechnic.

CAMPBELL, Graham A, gained a B.Sc. (Hons) Third Class, in Engineering Geology and Geotechnics at Portsmouth Polytechnic.

CURTIS, Tim, has finished his studies at Cambridge and is now working as an articled clerk in London.

DALTON, Rob (1972-1979), graduated in History from Nottingham University. Now training as a journalist in Middlesbrough with the 'Evening Gazette'. Claims he is 'enjoying hard and fast reporter's life' and blames the newsprint bug on Rich's involvement with Venture 44 and 'The Richian'. Interested to hear from former school mates in particularly if its newsworthy!! (Wonder what he means?)

DAVIS, Peter J.F., gained a B.Sc. (Hons) Second Class, Second Division, in Geology at Portsmouth Polytechnic.

DEAN, Nigel, left his niche as 'Sportscaster' with local radio station, Severnsound, to take up a similar position with Southern Television, at I believe, Southampton. He said before leaving that he would be a reporter but didn't expect to get his face on the box.

DIX, Mark, lives in Leamington Spa where he is a land surveyor. He still does some cross country running.

FARMER, Dave, is training as a psychiatric nurse and has recently started a three year course in Newport.

FISHER, Steve, recently married Maggie his girlfriend for some years, and congratulations to them. They live in Gloucester and Steve lectures in computing at Glos C.A.T.

FLETCHER, Ian Philip, a former school captain, gained his S.R.N. certificate after completing three years training at Charing Cross Hospital in London.

GEORGE, Glyn H., (1971-1977) obtained his Ph.D. from the University of Wales. Appointed Lecturer Grade I in Mathematics at the North East Surrey College of Technology in Ewell. He took up his appointment in January 1984.

GLIK, David C., in July 1983 graduated from Aston University with B.A. (Hons) Second Class, First Division, in Business Administration and Political Studies. He is a trainee manager with various Marks and Sparks stores in the South of England. He still plays tennis but has given up rugby after breaking his nose in a College game.

HOOKE, W.G. (Bill), has retired from his Sports and Toy Shop in Westgate Street. Bill opened the shop in 1947 and since then supplied generations of Richians with their sports kits. Standing outside his shop, Bill could always be seen deep in conversation with passers-by (probably discussing the three R's — Rich's, Richians and rugby!). Westgate Street will never be the same without him. We wish Bill and his wife every happiness in their retirement. (I'll bet he thought he was going to sit around all day and enjoy the life of Riley!!).

JORDELL, Dr. D.I., when he isn't touring the country in his M.G. or playing in a folk group, is now working in Southampton General Hospital as a Senior Houseman.

JONES, Martin, is a computer operator at R.A.F., Innsworth. Understood to be still young, fancy-free and single.

KILYAN, Richard, is a popular local D.J. He unfortunately had his records stolen early in the year. His loss actually featured on Central T.V., in 'Police 5'. (We hope you recovered them, Richard, or that they were well covered by insurance).

LANE, David, works in the Computer Section at R.A.F. Innsworth. He recently got engaged but we have no information on the lucky (?) young lady. Perhaps next time.

MARTIN, Revd. Raymond W., (? 1944-1949) has been inducted as Rector of Redmarley d'Abitot with Upleadon, Oxenhall, Panntley and Bromesberrow (hope those are all — and in the correct order).

MELLON, John, qualified at the end of March as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court. Articled to our Secretary, David Billingham, he is continuing with the practice as an Associate Solicitor. John is an Old Richians committee member and a member of the rugby club.

MORGAN, Cliff, most interesting letters have been received from Cliff who is among our older Old Richians. He will be 84 on September 24th this year and lives in Ngaruawahia, New Zealand. He tells us that he is in perfect health and at the time of writing had 'just sawn and split about 10 or 12 tons of firewood and stowed it in the basement' ready for winter which starts about the end of May. He has been a widower since 1965 and has three daughters and a son, ten grandchildren and one great grandchild. Cliff sent some N.Z. newspapers and a number of fine view postcards which almost had the whole of the Old Richians committee packing their bags.

OWEN, Richard (1957-1962), another long-serving member of Old Richians R.F.C. was a leading light in the building of the Elmbridge Club. Dickie is married with three children and lives at Upton St. Leonards. He is Managing Director of his family's firm of electrical contractors, M.B. Owen, Ltd. (Honest, it wasn't intentional — leading light and electrical contractors).

PALMER, Ian, is another Old Richian who works at R.A.F. Innsworth. We begin to wonder who doesn't!!

PARSONS, E.H., was known as 'Uncle Eddie' to those who attended the many children's parties held at the Guildhall in Gloucester City Council he held various positions and appointments, retiring as Chief Administrative Officer and Mayor's Secretary. He was awarded the M.B.E. on retirement. For many years he was Secretary to the Western Section of the Showman's Guild of Great Britain and was made an Honorary Life Member in recognition of his services. He lives in retirement in Tuffley.

PASHLEY, Chris, works on oil rigs in the North Sea as a well-logger (whatever that is!). He apparently only works for six months in each year and we sincerely hope they are the right ones. (Note for hopeful Old Richians — we are told there are no vacancies!)

PHILLIPS, Pat (1974-1982), has been promoted to Administration Supervisor at the United Biscuits West London depot in Southall. He lives in Surbiton, Surrey.

PRESTON, Steve, is presently working as a town planning assistant in Coventry, having finished his studies at Cambridge and completed his post-graduate year at Wye College. (Hope you have some better ideas, Steve, than our local 'bods').

RAY, Keith (1955-1960), is President of the Old Richians R.F.C. He has been associated with the club ever since leaving school and played a key role in the emergence of 'The Elmbridge Club'. He is married with three children, lives in Minchinhampton, and is Manager of the Stonehouse Branch of Lloyds Bank.

RIDDICK, Steven K. (1973-1980), having gained an Honours degree in Commerce, has now left Birmingham University to become a Trainee Chartered Accountant with Arthur Anderson & Co. Birmingham.

OLD RICHIAN'S RFC

Results — Season 1982/83

1st XV	P33	W16	L15	D2
2nd XV	P32	W18	L13	D1
3rd XV	P26	W17	L 7	D2

For Season 1983/84 Nick Freckleton, as Club Captain, has seen his 1st XV improve with every game and to date have recorded 17 wins out of 28 matches. It is still a young side and has a promising and encouraging future — there have been regular places for the Fletcher family, Robert, John and Mark, Clive Bishop, Jerry Lane and Gary Lane. Gary has already scored 140 points this season, there have been some exciting tries from Demetrio Prystajewski and Vice Captain Jimmy Byrne has always given good support.

The sweetest victory of the Season came against old Cryptians on Boxing Day and enabled the Club to recapture the Mike Longney Memorial Trophy. The 2nd XV and 3rd XV have had outstanding seasons and much of this has been due to team Captains Clive Howe and Glyn Jones. The 2nd XV with 20 victories already have played some excellent rugby and the efforts of Ian Morris, Paul Everson and Andy Wakeham deserve mention.

The highlight of the season was undoubtedly the opening of our clubhouse which was performed by Mr. Heap on December 22nd 1983. It was a proud moment for all of us, not least the building committee of Gerry Stone, Richard Owen and Tony Wheeler who must have felt that a lifetime's ambition had been fulfilled. The Elmbridge Club, as the Social Club is known now, gives us the best facilities in the town and with support from schoolboys, which will be actively encouraged, the future of Old Richian rugby is assured. The club has been built to a high standard, has showers, changing rooms, 2 bars, a committee room and kitchen and with club member Jon Shelton as full time steward is open every day and for those who have not yet seen it, it is well worth a visit.

I would again like to record our thanks to Mr. Heap whose constant help and encouragement has been significant and also to Mr. Griffiths and Mr. Jones who have supported us once again in our activities.

K.D. RAY

OLD RICHIAN'S CRICKET CLUB

Like the proverbial phoenix the Cricket Club is raising itself again.

Up to the time of writing this (before Easter) meetings have been held — a Captain, Secretary, Treasurer and two fixtures secretaries appointed — and the club is off the ground.

For the first year we cannot expect to play anything other than 'friendly' evening games with, perhaps, an occasional Sunday battle.

The cricketers will have a headquarter at the Elmbridge Club and, by kind permission of the Headmaster, the use of facilities at the School.

Good luck to this new reformed section of the Old Richians Association — may the sun always shine on you except when your opponents look like winning!

RULE, Peter, is Area Manager with the West Bromwich Building Society in Warwick although, in February, was apparently considering pastures new. Very active in the Chamber of Trade in Warwick and in the organisation of that City's local carnival.

SHORT, R.H.B., is the Senior Partner with Graham & Son, Estate Agents, Valuers and Auctioneers in Gloucester. He specialises in the valuation and auctioning of period furniture and effects, and is well-known in this field. It was nice to see Bob at the last Annual Dinner.

STONE, Gerry (1954-1959), is Director of the building company he formed, J.W.S. Ltd., which was responsible for building the Elmbridge Club. Gerry is another Old Richian who has been associated with the rugby club since leaving school, and is now a local rugby referee.

THOMAS, Steve (1977-1982), a member of Cheltenham and Counties Harriers, was County Champion at 100, 200 and 400 metres last season. He broke records at several meetings, including Oxford and Yeovil. A week after being chosen to run for England, Steve was invited to run for Wales!! He declined and has now run twice for England in the 400m relays. Steve trains under Tony Hadley with Birchfield Harriers and has been rated 12th best 400 metre runner in Great Britain by Athletics Weekly. His is surely a name to look for in international competitions of the future.

WATKINS, Alan O., from 1st April 1984 was promoted to Public Relations Manager with National Express, the nationwide coach company based in Birmingham. His duties include responsibility for promotions.

WILLIAMS, Andrew P. (1973-1980), graduated from St. David's University College, Lampeter, with a second class degree in Geography and has now been commissioned into the Gloucestershire Regiment. He is presently undergoing officer training at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. He has played soccer for his Company, run for the Academy, and will shortly represent the Academy in sculling. (Andrew, another Old Richian said your degree should be useful for map reading!)

WILTON, David, now back in Gloucester, is working as a Systems Analyst at Walls Ice Cream factory.

art & design — *Richard Bowers* —

Richardson