

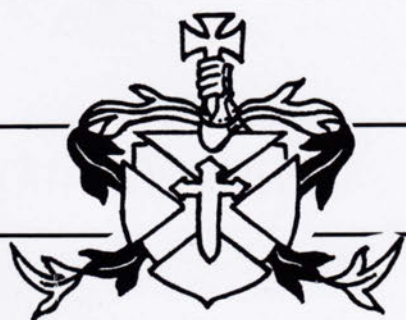


**RICHIAN**

**'87**







# THE RICHIAN

## SIR THOMAS RICH'S GLOUCESTER SCHOOL MAGAZINE

■ Editors: M.T. Eva, D.J. Mills, P.D. Mills, M.G. Ramsell, L.J. Sparey, J.P. Tawn, A.J. Tidmarsh, A.R. Trigg.

■ Art Editor: A. Mann.

■ Staff Editor: Pauline Smith

■ Staff Committee: Frank Henderson, Donald Moss, Ralph Tucker.

■ School Captain: J.C. Methven

■ Observators: S.D. Clutterbuck, R. Kitto, A.B. Methven

■ Prefects: M.A. Barton, A.B. Barwick, N.R. Clifton, A.J. Cooper, J.A. Foster, J.M.A. Fretwell, S.M. Griffin, C.P. Haines, I.J. Hayter, N.A. Howie, G.R. Jackson, T.B. Knight, J. Lovell, S.J. Moss, P.J.H. Nunn, M.J. Page, S.M. Peachey, I. Poole, T.J. Rackliff, B.D. Ravenhill, K. Richards, J.A. Sargeant, G. Sherwood, S. Silmon- Clyde, J. Stone, C.A. Weaver.

## EDITORS' REPORT

### THE RICHIAN ...

With the arrival of this 'new look' magazine, we have seen a very different approach to editing with the lively and argumentative board of editors, trying desperately to decide before the end of term, how big the new publication should be, if the paper should be glossy and whether the whole magazine should be written in italics or not. When the diverse opinions and attitudes of the editors, these decisions have been in no means easy. However, with the completion of the magazine, we hope that we have taken a step in the right direction and this magazine will be viewed as something more modern, slightly less formal and as something which will be welcomed by the younger boys as not only a tool for expression but also as a 'good read'.

However, 'enough idle chatter'; words which are now familiar to all the editors. Unfortunately this year sees the departure of five faithful members of the school's staff. How will school music manifest itself with the departure of Mr. Rangely, whose infatigable enthusiasm has led to many performances, which although have varied in style and musical content, have all had in common such a high standard. From Gilbert and Sullivan operettas to numerous annual carol services, the quality has always been high and the effort put in incalculable. Not to pinch a cliché from the 'hatchings and dispatchings' section, his presence will be sadly missed. Mr. Smith provides the groundings in the teaching of the history of the school to the younger boys and so helps to breed in them a sense of loyalty and belonging. To the older boys which have the good fortune of his teaching, his instruction on wrestling with French and German literature has

*'as a  
good  
read'*

proved invaluable. At the risk of stealing another cliché, all the editors wish him a long and enjoyable retirement. The Physics department will undoubtedly feel the irreplaceable loss with the departure of Mr. Middleton. Taking with him his memorable and sometimes unorthodox methods, which have enabled many boys to achieve high grades at 'O' and 'A' level and many of the committee can still quote the seemingly trivial Ohm's law on request like energetic parrots. Mr. Pearce's ogreous character diminishes from how exaggerated it seems to the younger boys as he becomes more human to the older and braver members of the school. They can appreciate or at least think that they can appreciate his sharp and sometimes cynical sense of humour. We have every confidence that his future projects will be as successful as his teaching here. We hope that Mrs. Morris's period of absence will be rewarding and pleasurable for her benefit and the benefit of her family, but short for the benefit of the French department.

All that remains to be said is to thank the 'computer boffins' for their patience in explaining the technology to us, of which we are very proud although it would not put Rupert Murdoch to shame. It has been an experience and an education to all the editors to see just how much hard work is needed to produce a magazine of 'Richian' quality.

A.J. Tidmarsh  
J.P. Tawn ■



## SCHOOL CAPTAIN'S REPORT



## PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

As always the year has seen a varied range of activities and I will try my best to include as wide a view as possible. The year started with the First Year Society Fair held to introduce all newcomers to the school to the character of the place. Imagine their joy when they discovered they could play Dungeons and Dragons, and go train spotting!

In September we were visited by one of the Britons being trained to become our first astronauts. He gave a lecture which included an explanation of how the USA Space Shuttle disaster took place. Speech Day was, perhaps inevitably, political in character with the guest speaker being Councillor F.M. Skinner, who is part of the Education system in Gloucester. It seems, however, that with the present plans for the city Rich's is to remain in almost the same form. The Old Richians work continuously to ensure that the school remains as it was when they were here and our thanks must go to them.

The school itself has flourished throughout the year. Sport, music and drama form the foundations of life outside the classroom and all have continued assertively this year. The indoor cricket season lasted right up till the start of the outdoor cricket season. A whole range of sports can be enjoyed and there is something to suit everybody once you have passed the grinding mill of rugby in the first few years. Weight training, bowls, badminton, volleyball and others appear in the curriculum.

On the musical side the Choir continues in strength, with the usual carol services and other official occasions to its credit. It is, however, the everyday anthems on a wet Wednesday morning that test the members and perhaps the most pleasure came from a hardly attended Evensong in the Cathedral in March.

Drama had a bonus this year in two major productions. 'She Stoops to Conquer' was produced at Christmas in conjunction with Colwell School.

After so much effort was put in by all those involved in the play it was disappointing to see so little response from the school. Many people obviously do not realise just how professional the young amateur productions are here. Similarly 'Bang!', an opera for juniors — a true test of courage for the producers! — was of a high standard and could have been better supported.

There were many other different evenings and events. The school was host to prospective first years and their parents. A team plucked apparently out of thin air won the Rotary Club Public Speaking Competition. There were instrumental and pianist evenings. The Venture Scouts were off to Norway and then won a local Bed Race. Chess marches on in its dependable manner. The First Year History Quiz was resurrected at Christmas and was won by 1T. There were numerous theatre trips to London, Oxford and Cheltenham. Some people went to hear Vladimir Ashkenazy play at Cheltenham Town Hall. The First Year went on a trip to the Forest of Dean. The Christian Union organised assembly for a week and invited a missionary into school to address us. All the exchanges to France and Germany went forward and they seem to have increased in number. The Railway Society travels far and wide. Some pupils won places in a book of short stories and illustrations. Someone was even in "The Singing Detective" on television! I could go on.

If I have missed anything or anybody in this cursory glance at a year in Sir Thomas Rich's then I apologise. There is more, which only goes to show just how much the school means. I hand on to the next School Captain and wish him good luck.

*"The old order changeth, yielding place to new,  
And God fulfils Himself in many ways,  
Lest one good custom should corrupt the world."*

☐ James C. Methven, UVIT

In my first year as Secretary of the Parents' Association, I look back at events which have taken place during my ten years association with the School and find that not much has changed!

Douglas Bruce was concerned about the future of the School in the '1977 Richian' and to-day we are no nearer a positive decision.

The Parents' Association has evolved a routine based on events which generate continued income, the major being the Covenants obtained at the First Year evening which continue to break new records each year, a combined result of a very high pressure sales pitch plus adequate liquid intake!

One routine came to an end this year with the loss to the Parents' Association of Eric Smith on his retirement. Eric was the link man on the Committee who always managed to spend the money raised to the best advantage of the School. Many thanks Eric, you will be missed.

We welcome his replacement on the Committee, Bob Hanney, and wish him well.

The major work of the Association this year has been to support the Headmaster in equipping various Departments with additional items required for the new G.C.S.E. which will have a long term advantage for pupils for many years to come.

All parents are automatically members of the Parents' Association and I would ask all present parents to become active members and support both the School and the P.A. to the maximum possible unlike the past few years when some parents, having placed their Sons at Rich's, then refused to support the School in its efforts to retain its present form, those we can do without.

Having said the above I am sure that all present parents are with us and look forward to a very active year.

☐ David H. Gettings Secretary



# FAREWELL!

*'the deed is everything,  
its repute nothing.'*



## ■ Eric G. Smith

When Eric Smith joined Rich's in September 1954 from Bristol University after holding a commission in the Royal Air Force, the school was still in Barton Street. In his first term, the School Council voted to establish a fund to provide trees and seats for what was then the sports ground at Elmbridge. Computer studies, careers education, even secondary reorganisations were items for future agendas. This term, he retires after serving the school for thirty three years.

For much of that time, he was responsible for house managing many of the school's public occasions - selling tickets, welcoming guests, and inevit-

ably being the last to leave after putting the Hall straight afterwards. He became the link between the school and the Parents' Association, whether marshalling his refreshment mums or channelling appeals for financial help from Association funds or coordinating the Association's contributions to school fetes. He, more than any other single person, was instrumental in creating that excellent relationship between parents and school which was to bear such fruits in later years in the formation of the Friends of the School and in cooperative ventures such as internal decoration. In more recent years, he has given no less commitment to his role as Careers Master. He has been responsible for establishing and steadily developing a careers education programme in the school: in particular, he has forged close links with local firms which have proved invaluable to those leaving

and to those seeking work experience in the Lower Sixth. Since the retirement of Mr. D.J. Watkins in 1986, he has been Senior Master, an office which he has discharged in his typically unassuming and efficient way, with quiet urbanity.

And amidst all this he has also taught German and French, and generations of aspiring modern linguists will remember with gratitude how, without ever totally abandoning his allegiance to Whitmarsh,

sur le tableau noir du malheur,  
il dessine visage du bonheur.

His qualities will be sorely missed his imperturbability, his droll humour his self-effacing modesty, and above all, his intense loyalty to the school. For him, in the words of one of his favourite German authors, 'the deed is everything, its repute nothing'.

To both Mavis and Eric we wish bonne retraite. *John P. Winstanley* ■



## ■ Michael W. Rangeley

Michael Rangeley's twenty-three years here as Director of Music have been marked by a high professionalism, a jealous care for the School's reputation, and always a sense of occasion. He inspired, cajoled, bullied even, but invariably challenged and stimulated, facing boys with the responsibility for their own decisions and standards of work, inside and outside the classroom.

Such perfection was not always easy to live with, but it was tempered by sympathy with performers, so that post-mortems never turned into re-cremations, and by a great sense of fun on occasions such as Junior Choir Party. It built confidence, and over the years the Choir and the Madrigal Group became able to tackle increasingly difficult works.

Under MWR's baton, music was woven into the fabric of School life. There were performances great and small, from the St. John and St. Mat-

thew Passions by a Choral Society of over 200, Concerts, Operas, Carol Services, Christmas by Candlelight, to an instrumental solo by a first year boy. With music's prominent place in the School's public occasions — Founder's Day, Speech Day, and, not least, morning assembly — no boy could be unaware of it or indifferent to it.

Further afield, as well as concert visits, Choir and Madrigal Group tours, he was to be found sharing other enthusiasms with pupils. His love of the countryside and particularly the mountains led to the Rambling Club and a long series of visits to the English Lakes. Meticulous preparation ensured safety and maximum enjoyment. His firm stride over the fells lent credibility to his anagram - name of Charlie

*'Under MWR's baton  
music was woven into  
the fabric of School  
life.'*

Meanyleg. He took a leading role in the craze for Croquet which swept the School in the Seventies'.

In the Common Room, Michael will be missed as a shrewd commentator on politics and sport, particularly Rugby and Cricket, and as a well-informed gardening adviser. We wish him and Margaret a long and happy retirement. *Donald F. Moss* ■







## ■ Graham H. Middleton

Mr. Middleton leaves Rich's after 22 years, his total teaching career.

Mentor of generations of successful 'O' and 'A' Physics Candidates, his teaching methods were to be respected.

Not a member of staff to be trifled with, he set high behavioural standards in a classroom, necessary conditions for a stage, upon which he enthused,

*'great admiration  
for the trier,'*

motivated and above all 'got through' to his pupils.

Whilst appreciating the modern ideals of the young and sympathising with their problems, he carried strong and worthy traditions from the past. Many will remember the 'red herrings' that he was only too keen to follow, showing, and instilling deep knowledge of the world ranging from the paranormal to Greek grammar and philosophy.

His involvement in extramural activities was endless. The Rowing Club, whose story is told elsewhere, Rugby coaching, Loch Ness phenomena, Five-a-side football, Junior Motor Cycle Club, Parents' Dances, Squash,

Christmas Toy Fairs, Tennis, Eastgate House and in recent years Indoor Cricket

With great admiration for the trier, he has surely exemplified that, with determination, the sky is the limit for anybody, whether first-former or adult, in work or play.

He does not take his leave of the teaching profession lightly. His standards and values are high. He sees worthy syllabus and exam content eroded funding as inadequate.

Rather than be compromised, he leaves teaching to seek new challenges. We regret but respect his decision. The School wishes him well.

*Ralph Tucker*

## ■ Andrew J. Pearce



Perhaps the end of an era; who can tell? The departure of Andy Pearce will not go unnoticed, after some twelve years of service to the school, not only in woodwork and T.D. but on the stage, in the lighting platform, mending doors, desks and dull objects in all parts of the school.

*'end of an era .....*

We shall remember his frequent castigations of "b\*\*\*\*\* academics"; his abrasive style and sharp, yet perceptive wit. Yet some of us will remember his sympathy, his ability to cheer up a winter evening at the end of a long term (and a long school day) with a few well chosen words directed at some chance remark. Rail fans will think of his good humour on long trips; those many who have travelled to France with him will remember with clarity his piercing whistle. And how could we forget Bill, the faithful Briard?

He leaves us to enter the heady world of private enterprise, building and other associated excitements. Long may his strident-voiced ghost be welcome in the cold corridors at that end of the school - once he has removed that M.G., that is.

*Ian S. Cutting*

## ■ Judith Morris

After two years of hard work and loyal service to the school we say 'au-revoir' to Judith who leaves us to await her second child. She will have, perhaps, a little more time to spend with her young family, and we wish her well.

FAREWELL !

'AU REVOIR !'

She has looked after her classes with care and attention to detail in a period which has proved difficult to all schools and all teachers. In a short time she managed to organise a good day visit to Boulogne for grateful fifth formers and worked very hard in the preparation of the visit to Cayeux, earlier this year. She has proved to be too good to leave us for ever.

*Ian S. Cutting*







# WELCOME

## ■ Steve Morgan

Steve Morgan joined STRS in September after taking a PGCE course at Cambridge University. He was appointed to teach Biology with some Mathematics at junior level, and will continue the Ecology and Naturalists Society involvement of predecessor, John Cooper.

He spent his early formative years in Bristol and after leaving school joined the Royal Air Force who sponsored his entry to Newcastle University. After a BSc with Honours in Bacteriology and Genetics he qualified as a pilot at RAFC Cranwell. On leaving the RAF he returned to New-

castle, obtained an MSc in Public Health Engineering, and then continued to work at the university as a Research Associate in the field of Applied Bacteriology.

Steve is married with a one year old daughter and his main interests are sea fishing, scuba diving, photography and travel, having spent 3 months of 1983/1984 going around the World.

We wish Steve and his family a happy stay in the area.

▲ Ian R. Bowie

## ■ Peter Lloyd

In September we welcomed Peter Lloyd to the Physical Education Department. He was educated at Henly-in-Arden School in Warwickshire. He subsequently obtained a Bachelor of Education degree at Worcester College.

He quickly became a popular and respected member of the common room and made an immediate contribution to the extra-curricular activities of the school. He took overall charge of cross-country and a rugby XV in the winter terms and junior tennis and a cricket XI in the summer. In addition he has helped to organise and develop Basketball throughout the school.

*'We wish  
them a long and  
happy stay at  
Rich's.'*

Rich's boys are already benefiting from his commitment and enthusiasm.

We wish him a long and happy association with Sir Thomas Rich's

▲ Robert N. Hanney



## ■ John Carew-Jones

We welcome Mr. John Carew-Jones, who joins us from Llandovery College, to teach physics.


"Mr. C.J." has already committed himself thoroughly to School life, and his sparkle and practical enthusiasm has already motivated pupils to a greater understanding and enjoyment of a subject which many view with awe and despair.

We wish him a long and happy career here.

▲ Graham H. Middleton







# 'A Glimpse into the Past'

by Leslie K. W. Price.

Leslie William Kenneth Price was educated at Rich's from September 1935 to February 1941.

Leslie wrote to the School recently enclosing this entertaining glimpse into times at 'Tommy's' over fifty years ago.

*My* family was pleased that I was to go to Sir Thomas Rich's, since it was in the same street as I lived; so it never bothered anyone that the Authority had not asked for me to go to The Crypt. In any case it had the reputation of being more "snobby and snooty" than Sir Thomas Rich's. Vaguely I was aware that the Scholarship girls went to Ribston Hall or Denmark Road, and that only Crypt boys and Ribston Hall girls ever met together, leaving Rich's boys and Denmark girls to talk together if ever they wished to .... and that seemed to be very rarely.

During the summer holidays my mother took me to buy my first Sir Thomas Rich's School cap. It was compulsory to wear this cap. It had six alternating segments of pale yellow and pale blue. That hat nearly led to my death soon afterwards, when it came off my head as I leaned over the railings at Clifton Gorge whilst on a school trip to Fry's Chocolate factory and Clifton Zoo and, ill-advisedly, I climbed over to fetch it back, slipped and slid to the very edge, saved by grabbing tufts of strong grass.

The prefect's hat was similar, but it had a blue tassel hanging loosely from the crown. There was no uniform, which was a kindness because my family was very poor, as was common in those end-of-the-Depression years. However, a strong satchel was both compulsory and needed.

My form room was at the top of the building that once had been the Wel-

lington Street National School. We youngers, however, were not deprived of entry into the Upper School building next door, with its laboratories, classrooms and Assembly Hall.

During my first terms, the Assembly Hall was never a welcoming place. Before entering it, we assembled in the school playground in our forms, the whole school standing in twos, silent under the watchful eyes of our form-teachers. When the call came, we went in form-by-form, crocodile style, up the steps to a small area just outside the Hall where we piled, one on top of the others, our raincoats and our satchels, each of which was threatening to burst open and throw out its load of homework and textbooks.

Already it had disgorged, ready for the coming Assembly, the Bible and Hymn Book which we were required to carry home and back to school.

The older and bigger boys went to the back of the Hall and the youngest to the front. Our formteachers stood alongside us as we waited for the Head Master to appear. He had to come from his study in the nearby detached School House, and his approach was usually heralded by a watchful prefect who had espied him coming and raced back to ring the warning bell. Instantly we would all fall silent, with heads turned towards his rostrum on the stage. Proudly dressed in his gown and cap, he swept onto stage, and from there he conducted the Assembly.



□ Every boy was required to learn *The Lord's Prayer in English, French, Latin and German*; and the service was never completed without it being said in English and in at least one other language. I found this a great trial, for I had not learned to speak in the other languages, and I never recall ever receiving written scripts to memorise.

Occasionally the system failed, and he was faced by a chatty assemblage. The lack of silence and respect for this solemn meeting meant that everyone was despatched back into the playground, each picking up his heavy satchel and coat on the way. Then, as punishment for our talking, we were ordered to run lap after lap around the playground, past the laboratories, the open-to-the-sky toilets, the cyclesheds and the five courts. That satchel and outdoor coat were heavy, and I still feel the pain and strain of those occasions.

The Head Master's name was H.F. Rogers-Tillstone. Tall, long-striding, clever, authoritarian and detached, he worried we newcomers.

We were used to stern and strict teachers, but our Junior School teachers had somehow captured our love as well as our respect, even the Headmaster. We found in Sir Thomas Rich's School men teachers and one woman teacher who were like those: but we youngsters were not given time to find our ease with Mr. Rogers-Tillstone.

Only months after our arrival we realised that Mr. W.J. Veale was acting as Head in view of Mr. Rogers-Tillstone's absence.

We never say the old Head again, for he died soon afterwards.

It was probably the lowest point in the history of the Sir Thomas Rich's School. Most of we youngsters were surprised that Mr. Veale had become Head, since he appeared to be so young, so lacking in seniority, and seemingly nothing like as clever or as haughty as Mr. Rogers-Tillstone.

□ Yet, that was the turning point in the School's history.

Without any apparent show, Mr. Veale, assisted by the LEA, changed that school from an anachronism into "the next century", and made it a place

wherein humanity, endeavour and success illuminated its progress upwards, and happiness reigned.

Early signs of change came with school uniform, less pedantic assemblies, cloakrooms and the leaving of satchels in classrooms. The Hall was refurbished as a gymnasium, with wall-bars, ropes, mats, benches, bucks and horses, leading to the joyful destruction of the archaic desks, stored on the ground floor of the National School building, that alone had served as our gymnastic apparatus. It also meant P.E. kit for the first time; but no changing rooms or showers.

It is with great affection that I remember many of those teachers, not just as names but as PERSONS, about whom I feel I could write volumes. Mr. Veale (Maths and Head), of course. Mr. Hancos (Latin), Mr. Hands (French), Mr. Nicholas (English), Mr. Williams (Chemistry), Mr. Freeman (Physics, and probably my greatest teacher. A tiny man, but a giant), Mr. Sinkinson (P.E.), Miss. Thompson (Art), Mr. Davies (Music), Mr. Saunders (Woodwork).

They worked us hard. Every night there was homework that took at least one and half hours, usually much, much longer; and done by candlelight or gaslight on the family's table, on and around which gathered my parents and younger brothers. It was always, repeat always marked. Each month the marks were added up in every subject, and a chart of form-positions appeared on the form's notice-board. Three times a year a School Report was sent out to each pupil's parents. I still have every one of mine, the first of them now fifty years old.

Indeed, I still have some of the prizes that were handed to me in the glorious Annual Speech Days, usually held in St. Michael's Church, the tower of which still stands at the Cross.

We were out of school on Wednesday afternoons, playing compulsory football or cricket on Sutgrove Grounds. That meant a two and a half miles' cycling trip in all winds and weather - and I was prone to nasty colds.

To make up our schooling time, we were required to attend school on Saturday mornings until 12 o'clock.

Once a year we had our strenuous Junior and Senior cross-country races at Matson or Chosen Hill. It was compulsory for everyone, and pride in finishing was mixed with agony for many like me who were just sprinters.

It is with great affection that I recall many of my class mates, especially Derek Long, the genius who wrote one of the school's History textbooks when he was thirteen, and whom Prime Minister Churchill sent to University America, (doing something with Wilson Cloud Chambers), rather than have him being ill-used at the front. And Manning, Hughes and West, my constant competitors for 2nd place in our form. Then Easton and Faulkner, who were to die over the Ruhr in a crashing aircraft in the Second World War; and Pearce, alongside whom I sat so often at the double desk.

□ We were in our 4th Year when Prime Minister Chamberlain came back from Munich, waving his piece of paper; and we all prepared for the war we felt was being thrust upon us. The School wasted not a moment in forming its own Air Training Corps Squadron. The boys flocked to join it, and soon we were learning to march across the playground, and to identify friendly and enemy aircraft from charts in the classrooms. We trained to be navigators and wireless operators, flew in gliders and Anson training aircraft, donned A.T.C. blue uniforms, and marched in parades to the Cathedral. I treasure photographs and ATC certificates of those days.

The older boys like me became members of the School's Home Guard detachment too, wearing our brown uniforms but swapping our brown caps for blue ones on the occasions we went off to such as Robinswood Hill or Chosen Hill to throw practice grenades, fire .303 Lee-Enfield rifles, handle anti-tank guns, use Aldis signalling lamps, and sleep out rough on all-day night field-exercises.

We also did street fire-watch and city messenger-service duties.

In those few short years we became a fine school, every bit as good, I am sure, as The Crypt: but, of course, public esteem is very conservative, and I have no doubt that the public con-

# WHY JOURNALISM ?

■ *What shall I become? What shall I do? Oh dear, the headache of choosing a career. In full sympathy with all fifth and sixth formers presently facing these exciting but daunting task we asked a number of would-be-yuppies why they yearned for a particular career.*

*We found Nigel May's lively account to be the most convincing and it is not surprising that Nigel is already a yuplet with a secure place at a School for Journalism. Good luck Nigel, or should I say Nigel "Dempster" May.*

## WHY I WANT TO BE A JOURNALIST

■ *Why Journalism?* An easy enough question it would seem, yet an answer is not nearly as simple. Everybody has to decide on day what they would like to do, career wise, and I made the decision when I was 15 years of age.

No, I could not be a Vet, as that would mean putting down animals sometime or other and I could never do that, and as for being an Optician, well I couldn't 'see' myself being satisfied with a practice in the middle of Gloucester, even if the money was good. No, I wanted job satisfaction, that was foremost in my mind. Therefore, it was time to decide what I was good at, and enjoyed. Well, I liked

writing, that's a certainty. Also I've always been obsessed with 'trivia'. I've never been happy until I found out everything about a certain subject, whether it be who my best friend is dating, or why a teacher has been off school for a week. Yes!! I suppose it's true to say I'm a 'nosey' ....

Also I decided that I could never stand an office job with its everyday nine to five routine. I wanted to be out and about, rain or shine. I didn't mind braving the elements.

**SO WHAT DID THESE INGREDIENTS WITHIN ME 'COOK-UP' WITH REGARDS TO A PROFESSION .....JOURNALISM!!!**

■ So, once the initial seed was planted in my mind it just grew and grew. The more I thought about journalism the more it appealed to me. I can be 'nosey' and get paid for it ....

Since then I've worked on the school magazine, "The Richian", my church magazine "Focus", and I have done some small articles for a Hospital magazine, "The Coney Clarion". I have recently finished a week's work experience at our regional newspaper "The Citizen". During the week I realised 'first hand' just what it is a true journalist does and now, I am merely more determined to fulfil my ambition.

I am somewhat of an extrovert, and would ultimately like to work as a television journalist, not only writing, but presenting programmes, either on 'pop' music which is a subject very close to my heart, or perhaps a light entertainment programme.

■ **WHO KNOWS? THE SKY'S THE LIMIT!!** Not that I'm saying that I don't like the idea of newspaper or radio journalism, as I most definitely do. It's just that if I had the choice I would like to move into the field of television.

Of course, I realise that the Job of a Journalist is a very 'two-sided' one. The highs are very high, and the lows are very low. It can be exciting, and yet boring, but as I saw at "The Citizen" the two tend to even each other out. Moreover, I see 'journalism' as a safe job. If you are good enough to be a journalist, as I hope to be eventually after the appropriate training, then it should be a job for life. People will always want to hear about 'news' won't they?...

So my mind is made up, and I am not going to College merely because I cannot think of anything else to do. **I KNOW I WANT TO BECOME, AND DO WITH MY LIFE AND THAT IS TO BECOME A SUCCESSFUL JOURNALIST!!** ■

## 'A GLIMPSE INTO THE PAST'

tinued to regard The Crypt as Gloucester's No.1 Boy's Grammar School. Perhaps that is why it was given its new building at Tuffley on the Southern Ringway years and years before the Sir Thomas Rich's got its on the Northern Ringway, a circumstance which consolidated the public's estimation of the two schools, one in fine new buildings and the other in turn-of-the-century buildings.

One wonders how many boys have been enrolled as Sir Thomas Rich's School Boys? One wonders how many went on to carve out for themselves fine careers? One wonders how many went on to become teachers and to pass on to countless numbers of children the excellent standards set before them by their Sir Thomas Rich's teachers. ■





## ■ CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

### ■ AIRCRAFT SOCIETY

The year began with a trip to Duxford Airfield near Cambridge. There was the large Aeromuseum and also some outstanding flying displays, making it well worth the visit.

Back at school we watched an excellent video presentation on the Spitfire. These videos and occasional quizzes continued throughout the year.

The school year ended with the now annual flight in air atlantique's Dakota. Having departed from Staverton airport, we flew over many notable sights of Gloucestershire and the rest of the county including the majestic architectural structure of S.T.R.S. itself! The flight lasted approximately half an hour and was definitely the highlight of the year. There are more events planned for the forthcoming year and new members are welcome.

*Niel Howie, U6T* ■

### ■ Chess

Overall the 1986-1987 season has been a successful one for our chess teams. The highlight of the year was undoubtedly the annual Marlwood School's competition at which we finished fourth out of the sixteen teams competing. This tournament contained some of the top schools from England and Wales including the national school's champion. Noteworthy individual performances were achieved by Jason Pegler who won the prize for the best under twelve and Andrew Gettings who won the best under fourteen. Sean Clark won the prize for best under eighteen, best board one and for the best individual performance.

In the Times National School's Knock-out, we were unfortunate to lose by a narrow margin of three and half to two and half to Cheltenham College, who managed to reach the last sixteen teams at national level.

We have entered a team in division four of the North Gloucester League this season and although we have entered a young and inexperienced team against adult opposition we still have a good chance of finishing fourth out of eight teams.

Finally we would like to thank Mr. Davies for his continued support for the chess club and team and we are also grateful to Mr. Jones for his co-operation in allowing us to use the school for evening matches.

*Sean Clark LVIR* ■

### ■ Computer Club

On Wednesday lunchtimes, the computer room is open to all who wish to learn how to program computers and to use programs that have already been written.

The club has arisen from interest shown by first and second year pupils and, more recently, third year boys have joined in. However all years are welcome.

Up until now, members have learnt how to use the exciting programming language 'LOGO' which enables hidden artistic talents to be developed. Such talents have received further stimulus with 'Paintspa'.

Many members have tackled 'BASIC', the main language of microcomputers, and we now have some successful programmers.

Future activities will depend on members' particular requirements.

We hope to use a word processing package and become experts in storing and retrieving data, which are very important applications of computers.

It is inconceivable that anyone presently in the school will not be involved with computers in some way in the years ahead. There is now an opportunity to prepare yourself!

*Ralph Tucker* ■

# SOCIETIES

## □ Christian Union

Every Monday and Thursday lunchtime there is a C.U. meeting, usually in room 3. Thursday is a more general meeting to which everyone is invited. Mondays are used for serious Bible study and a longer time of prayer.

We also occasionally invite people to come and talk to us. Last term Mr. Aston came, who was once a teacher at this school. He told us how he became a christian and his life since, gave a short talk and even sang a song.

This year has seen several joint meetings; with Denmark Road High School and Ribston School. These were notable occasions and included a talk from an ex-missionary to Africa. More joint meetings are planned and we hope and pray these will be as successful as previous meetings.

Just before Christmas it was decided to revive the old tradition of the Gloucester Schools' Christian Union ice-skating trip. In a few days, a coach was booked, ice rink arrangements made some memorable tickets printed.

Both Christians and non-Christians, boys and girls, of varying ages came. Funnily enough the coach driver was himself a Christian. With little planning or time things ran smoothly. Everybody had a good time and fortunately no limbs were left behind. Thanks to Irving Winson of Saint-bridge School who helped out a great deal.

We would like to remind everybody that the C.U. is not an elitist body. Leaders of the C.U. are from various denominations: Anglican, Evangelical and Baptist.

Christians and non-Christians are all welcome.

We hope to see you soon (Thursdays, lunchtime, Room

*The Christian Union*

## □ Railway Society

The Society's year, though comparatively quiet, got off to a flying start with the ever popular three day trip to Scotland which by leaving on the Thursday evening we were once again able to reach. During the first day of travelling through the splendour of the West Highlands, with hardly a loco in sight, there were some doubts as to whether this was a society at all, particularly when some rather suprised younger enthusiasts found themselves inexplicably on a ferry, round the Eastern Coast of Syke! The remainder of the weekend was spent in a more customary manner; taking in Depots, Major Depots, the NRM, and a much needed night's sleep in Edinburgh.

Other excursions during the year have included East-leigh works open day and various "off the cuff" trips to places as far afield as Penzance and Falkirk.

Thanks must go to ex-society head, Rich Griffith, for a great slide show, and thanks also to Mr. T for an unending supply of on-board entertainment. Highest praise goes once again to 1SC for patience, understanding and support throughout the year.

*Toby Rackliff, U6S*

## □ Model Railway Society

This is an example of the emergence of a new school society. Already, as it comes to the end of it's first active school year, several notable events have occured and the society now has its own room in which a large model railway, which is presently under construction, will occupy.

Unfortunately due to other commitments, the number of meetings we had hoped to have had were sadly not achieved. However this is soon to change as the model railway reaches a less delicate stage. The planned activities for the new year include quiz-games, videos, slide-shows, and a newsletter.

Finally, we must take this opportunity to thank many of the staff and members of the society whose understanding and help has made the Railway Society one of the fastest growing in the school.

*Richard J. Peplow, 4T Andrew J. Pearce, 4T*

## □ Naturalists Society

After a brief lapse, the Naturalists Society was reformed this year. The society's main aim is to encourage an appreciation of plants and animals. Visits are arranged to local places of interest at weekends. So far this year we have visited the Cotswold Wildlife Park at Burford, the Newent Butterfly Centre, the Forest of Dean, Bristol Zoo, Slim-bridge Wild Fowl Trust and Newent Falconry Centre.

Some members of the Naturalists Society also went to London Zoo on BAYS day, the visit being organised by Mr. Morgan.

The Society has the use of the school minibus for visits, and also a free mileage quota. As a result, travelling costs can be kept low, with admission charges frequently being reduced to school party rates, making the total costs much less than those for individuals visiting these places.

Membership is open to the whole school.

*Steve Morgan*

## □ Five Schools Association

The past year has not been the busiest year for the association. Some events, mainly social, but a few sporting have taken place during the past academic year. There have been numerous netball matches, a trip to London and the occasional disco.

The Five Schools Association which is comprised of the four Grammar schools and Kings, give sixth-formers an excuse to socialise - 'socialise' being a new Americanism for drinking - at Gloucester's 'famous' nightspots, in particular the Civil Service Club, and the more popular New County Hotel.

The profitable events of the past year will make it possible for the association to donate a large sum of money to a charity, which is yet undecided.

It is hoped to organise a number of videos and if there is sufficient interest, a trip to Bristol Ice Rink next year, with all the regular events maintained.

*Joe Clyde, L6S Adam Foster, L6T*





# MUSIC AND DRAMA

## ► School Music

The last year has again seen a tremendous range of musical activities and again standards have been high. The Christmas term saw the introduction of a new type of concert. The innovative idea was for a small scale concert in a corner of the hall with a small number of chairs ranged in a semi-circle. The first of this type, an evening for pianists, was held in October. Particularly memorable were Robert Harris, playing a Chopin Waltz, and Mr. Rangeley and Mr. Taylor with a Mozart duet. The Christmas term also saw the carol services and the madrigal group library concert. All were of a high standard, maintaining the level set by previous years and 'Candlelight' was particularly good. Highlights were 'The Carol of the Little King' at the two services and at 'Candlelight' the Basque carol 'The Infant King' and R.R. Bennett's 'What Sweeter Music'.

The Lent term started with another small concert, this time for instrumentalists and this was again a very successful evening. The rest of the Lent term was spent working for two events at the end, March the 26th and 'BANG'. March the 26th was special because the choir was to sing evensong again, at Gloucester Cathedral, and then a concert party was to hear Vladimir Ashkenazy play in Cheltenham. In the event the evensong went very well, with Leighton's stirring anthem, 'solus ad victimam', C.V. Stanfords B flat setting of the magnificat and nunc dimittis and Rose's Responses. Then in a packed Cheltenham Town Hall, we listened to Ashkenazy play Brahms' first piano concerto. It was a truly stunning performance. It was easy to understand why he is the most recorded pianist in the world.

## ► Evening for Instrumentalists

On a cold February evening, all the instrumentalists in the school gathered in the hall to perform a varied repertoire of music. The instrumentalists ranged from young beginners to more experienced players. Jason Tawn began the evening's entertainment with a lyrical piece on clarinet taken from a collection of music written by the composer, Finzi. The high standard of the evening continued throughout the first half, which comprised of excellent performances from the junior boys, Luke Fitch, Andrew Prouse and Matthew Adams, and from the senior boys Paul Trigg, James and Andrew Methven, and Andrew Tidmarsh, who gave an exciting five minutes of pure jazz on the saxophone. One of the outstanding performances of the first

'BANG' is an opera for juniors written by John Rutter, and it was performed by the first three years in the final week of term. The story is about the gunpowder plot, and it was staged in period costume on a special multi-levelled set, using the lighting to create atmosphere. Paul Snell made an excellent conspiratorial ringleader, ably supported by impressive crowd scenes involving over one third of the first three years.

The major event of the summer term was founder's day. It was held in the Cathedral and saw the introduction of a new hymn 'O come thou traveller unknown', based on the text of the first lesson. This was a very fine hymn and its addition was much appreciated by those who knew it. The anthem was 'The spirit of the Lord', taken from Elgar's oratorio 'The Apostles'. The choir's singing was particularly fine and I believe anyone who heard it would have been touched and would have enjoyed it very much.

Finally this year sees the retirement of Mr. Rangeley who has taught and conducted music here of every conceivable type and style, from an orchestra and massed singers to the madrigal group and duets. To calculate of his years of enthusiasm and hard work on school music cannot be done, but it is enough to say that he has sustained and developed a dimension of school life as important as any. On behalf of all other Richians in whom he has fostered an enjoyment of music, I thank him and wish him well.

*Andrew Methven*

half came from Nigel Blewitt of the fifth form, playing two pieces for classical guitar, which brought the whole hall to complete silence.

After an interval, during which coffee was served, the second half opened with a second performance from Jason Tawn, this time playing a slow movement from a Brahms' sonata. This was followed by an uplifting Bach violin sonata, played skillfully by Jeremy Shackleton. To close the evening, David Allen gave a pleasurable performance of a complete Sonata for French Horn by Beethoven. Even though nerves were rife in every performer, the evening was a great success and it is hoped that another evening will be arranged in the near future.

*L. Sparey, L6S*

## ► Piano Evening

Music making - especially learning to play an instrument - can be a very lonely task. Hours or even minutes - struggling with bows that won't bow, fingers that won't finger and ears insisting that this piece should sound quite different from the way you're playing it. Even when the determined student achieves a measure of dominance over the instrument - after all it's still too early to speak of mastery - the nagging doubt remains. Why? For the exam? For my Parents? For the teacher, even? She deserves some credit.

A windy October evening found several of the school's apprentice pianists performing to a select audience some of their favourite pieces. Michael Rangeley's advice of an informal setting, enhanced by a few flowers and an imaginative placing of the seats, created just the right atmosphere to bridge the gap between solitary practice and, perhaps hesitant, public performance.

With such a range of talent, style, experience and courage on hand the audience was treated to works by Mozart, Chopin and Clementi one moment and then Ryckicki, Drobner and Art Garfunkel the next. Excellent and enjoyable variety.

Before the interval Andrew Methven tackled some impressive Chopin - the Waltz in Ab being particularly seductive and after the break for coffee Christopher Parry played Mozart's B major sonata, proving that there's more to music than playing the notes in the right order. Giles Croft performed with a sense of awe Beethoven's 'moonlight' sonata - at least the first movement there of, having

shared a duet with Mathew Wells in the first half. Other major contributors were Robert Harris, also playing Chopin, Paul Trigg with a delightful Haydn minuet and James Methven and David Beard playing Bach. Offering shorter - though nevertheless demanding pieces we heard Simon Goodwin, David Hood, Alistair Priestley, Richard Page-Jones and Richard Tapen, who gave us a touch of blues whereas Matthew Adams woke the sleepers with his rattling 'Alarm Clock'.

Without a doubt, the evening demonstrated the determination of these young players to find something of value and poetry in their work with the keyboard and by a no means insignificant amount of bravado in performing what they so evidently enjoy. It is most encouraging to see music of such professional and intimate nature being promoted at school where large ensemble performances, whilst never becoming automatic can, at times, tend towards routine. No routine, however, in the final offering - a sparkling duet written by Mozart in the middle of his life when ideas and inventions flowed full stream. Nigel Taylor and Michael Rangeley underlined the form of the piece without forgetting the argument and final resolution contained within its form. Delightful

Who stole the evening? A glib answer might be the piano. As a non-playing listener I have to say all performers were excellent in their fields, entertaining in their performances and wise in their choices. I look forward to the next concert.

*Ian Cutting*

## ► 'Bang'

*"Remember, remember ..... the 8th of April."*

Whilst the story of "a soldier and explosives expert", Guy Fawkes, conjures up in our minds scenes of autumnal chill, fireworks and hot potatoes, the presentation of "Bang!", an opera for young people in April gave us all a chance to review the story from a different viewpoint. Donald Moss and Michael Rangeley drew together so many elements of the School, principally the first three years, and are to be congratulated in their fine handling of so many varied and diverse forces.

By using bold strokes of the producer's brush, Donald Moss kept the budding actors essentially in compact groups to maximise the effect of movement, light and, of course, volume. Whilst searching the cellars of Parliament, for example, the uniforms of the soldiers - black, silver white, merged to a grey of indecision underpinning the main thrust of the plot. Who was in fact guilty? Was the plot doomed from the outset or can history blame treachery? At the end of the opera the backs of the 12 conspiritors - 12 good men and true? - Created a moving yet simple theatrical statement. At the beginning, the conspiritors huddled together asking the key question "What Shall We Do?" Ironically, this is in essence the amateur actor's dilemma; what shall we do with our hands, our feet our elbows etc. etc? Good direction helped many a deputant in this production.

John McBeth was a strong Fawkes, the man who was

only doing his honourable duty. Ben Carter set the dramatic mood with his well pitched, clear voice as the wise priest who could not condone the violent solutions proposed by the conspiritors. The major characters all did their parts effectively and with great dedication. The Chorus played its broad role: the soldiers soldiered, the spectators spectated and the villagers villaged. If, however, it were necessary to select one scene then surely the duet "Together we'll do it" was the most moving. The combination of Paul Snell as Catesby and Alistair Priestly as Bates with excellent singing - what fine voices they have! Cross-rhythms in the music and the dramatic solitude of the empty stage was one of the many high points of an excellent evening of entertainment.

The music supplied by a small team of skilled musicians and percussionists was, as ever, well directed by Michael Rangeley. The costumes were just right, though once or twice the principle characters' faces were obscured by a too generous hat. Sets and lighting complemented the efforts of the actors and musicians.

This was no ordinary "school production" - no tired trooping of choruses, no delays and no silly mistakes. We were treated to a professionally-minded, dedicated and, above all, entertaining evening. Congratulations to all concerned.

*Ian S. Cutting*





Duncan Jennings   Mark Barton   Andrew Methven   James Methven

### ► She Stoops to Conquer

The stuff of Comedy remains as long as people do. Young men play practical jokes, husbands and wives disagree over money and lifestyles, girls scheme and tease, fathers and aunts try to run sons' and nieces' lives, and misunderstanding arise and schemes go wrong. All were here, in a highly wrought play, even if some elements may have seemed more credible in the Eighteenth Century: passing off a private house as an inn; a young man painfully bashful with women of his own class but bold with inferiors.

The happy overall mood of the play arises from the fact that most of the characters are agreeable at heart, with motives that are good, or at worst fairly harmless, and bear defects and deceptions cheerfully.

Comedies sometimes set two traps for players, exaggerated character parts and jolly drinking scenes! Both caused a little trouble. Diggory (Nigel May) and Jeremy (Tim Harvey) though looking and moving very authentically, rendered themselves difficult to hear, while casting necessity gave some unusually small and rather inept, though undoubtedly lively, boon companions in 'The Three Pigeons'.

Mark Barton displayed an excellent combination of uncouthness, dimwittedness and low cunning as Tony Lumpkin, and Ruth Pingriff brought out effectively the warped sense of values of his scheming and matchmaking

mother, Mrs. Hardcastle. With these two, Mr. Hardcastle, well played by Toby Rackliff, had much to exercise his patience upon, and remained remarkably genial.

The young couples have somewhat more subtle roles. Hastings (James Methven) and Constance Neville (Michelle Hounsell) showed a romance moderated by a fair degree of worldly wisdom on her part, while Marlow (Andrew Methven) and Kate Hardcastle (Jenny Bunn) were convincing, he diffident, she calculating but in a good cause. Particularly memorable was their scene where Kate's good breeding becomes clearer by the minute and Marlow gets correspondingly more tongue-tied.

The supporting roles, too many to itemise, were competently done, and a good pace and a lively spirit were maintained.

Visually the piece was a delight. The three sets were splendidly atmospheric, and the costumes, wigs and make-up flamboyantly period. A miracle of organisation backstage must have been worked to make the set changes as swift as they were. Those whose work is less conspicuous unless it goes wrong, the stage manager, props, prompts, stage and lighting crews merit praise, because it didn't!

Ron Matthews is to be congratulated on a successful and enjoyable production.

*Donald F. Moss*

## ■ SHORT STORY COMPETITION

### □ Richian Short Story Competition

The finalists were:- Upper School (4th-6th forms)

Andrew La Bouchard	5T
Justin Carr	4R
Miles Cudby	4S
Neil Hailstone	4T
Andrew Pearce	4T
Edward Winfield	4R
Martin James	4S

Lower School (1st-3rd forms)

Jon Heckleton	1T
Paul Leason	3R
Louis Delwicke	1T
Christopher Anderson	1T
Robert Lewis	1T
Michael Etheridge	1T
Nicholas James	1T

The winner of the Upper School Competition was Andrew La Bouchard; Justin Carr, second; Edward Winfield, third.

The winner of the Lower School Competition was Louis Delwicke; Michael Weaver, second was Christopher Anderson, third.

The judges this year were the staff committee members for the Richian:- Mr. Moss, Mr. Tucker and Mr. Henderson. We thank them for their help and time.

## ■ THE ASSASSIN'S DEATH

A solitary figure clung onto a window, three stories up in Marshal Butcherall's mansion. This man, clinging to the wall, belonged to a revolutionary club, who were dedicated to bringing down Butcherall's autocracy. This man had been chosen for his agility, intelligence and cunning. His mission was simple, to kill the Marshal!

He searched along the wall, until he found the window that he wanted. In his mind, the instructions given to him repeated themselves. "Now kick it in and draw your gun." This room was the Marshal's bedroom, and he was in there, reading.

Outside, the black-clad assassin waited, in his mind a battle of thoughts was raging. His first thought was this man must die. The Marshal had executed many innocent people, who had wives and children.

....His thoughts suddenly took a new twist 'Perhaps he has a wife and children too. A shrill wind blew up, rattling the shutters on the mansion.

The mental battle continued, until he saw a convoy of condemned 'traitors', heading for the execution block, a few miles along the road. This was enough for the assassin. He leapt through the window and blared out with his machine gun.



The floor was covered in broken glass and the body of the Marshal lay slumped in the velvet chair in his bedroom, now stained with blood. When he realised what had happened, the assassin began to feel sorry. What good would this murder do? One more dead person. No doubt many of his followers were just as tyrannical, and would carry on the regime.

Just then the alarm went, with an ear splitting wail. Outside the door, sounds could be heard. Shouting running and shrieking. The assassin opened the door. Luckily the guards had all left, downstairs perhaps.

The assassin's luck ran out a few moments later, he was descending an oak stairway, from the velvet hall, when he was seen. Two guards were climbing the stairway. They pulled out revolvers, and began shooting. More guards heard the noise and began to run towards the stairs.

The murderer ran, along the hall, past the bedroom door, and along a corridor. He hid, behind a chest of drawers. He thought again about the dreadful deed that he had done, and he to keep himself from weeping, in case the guards heard him.

He also reflected on the possibility of escape, out of a window maybe, but he knew that the possibility was slight. He waited for about half an hour, until the guards, who had by now probably found the body and started to search outside. Then he made his move. He leapt from cover, then he raced to a window, climbing out quickly.

He was about to climb down the wall when a bullet zipped past his head, and into the brickwork. Guards! They had him covered, and one of them shouted at him. The assassin however, simply let go of the wall, and leapt down in his suicide, his thoughts were not of courage and bravery. They were of shame 'Two people dead, were his thoughts.'

L.R. Delwicke □



# ■ THE FIELD OF BLOOD

Taken from Revelation : XX1;1

## The Field of Blood

On the day that is long, it fell, slowly. It fell without sound, forming, at first, a challenging haze of whiteness, a thick fragment of life, a wall, laid horizontal, flat to cover the greeness, that reflected the sky and made possible the life.

Even here, the flat ground resisted death, for everyone the Field lay uner a sheath of cold, effortless and in different whiteness. The air had long since stopped moving and the silence seemed to grow inside his head, intolerably faster than the little layers of white begat other little layers of white. The coldness, so bitter, and yet if gave up or demanded nothing of him, as the air lay resolutely still, a mass of stagnating impenetrable thickness.

He moved his bare feet, in the same way as he had done for so many years. For so many times he had walked in this Field, and opened old wounds which bled a crimson pain; so many times had he felt this death.

Even so, the Sun could be seen, a pale and bereff sphere, so far away if seemed dislocated, and parted from the same pale light that touched and was thrown off the whiteness. It always seemed as if he had been walking too far, that perhaps they had changed the route, and a fleeting panic seized him until somewhere he remembered that there were many more miles, like this one, to see, many more hours to complement. The whiteness that covered the greener grass and was alien to him sifted through and over the crevices of his feet. Light, like sand, and as cold and sharp as sand. He breathed in deeply, and the grains of indulgence that fell entered his lungs. With every listless step he became more fired inside, more willing to weep for the times he had lived in; fatile times; times of success and failure that God had given him; the ashen face of righteousness in the mirror, a jaded memory of the ring of grass, a crystalline sound in that dark passageway, and the fleeting regrets, and the chances he had lost; sequentially bequeathed.

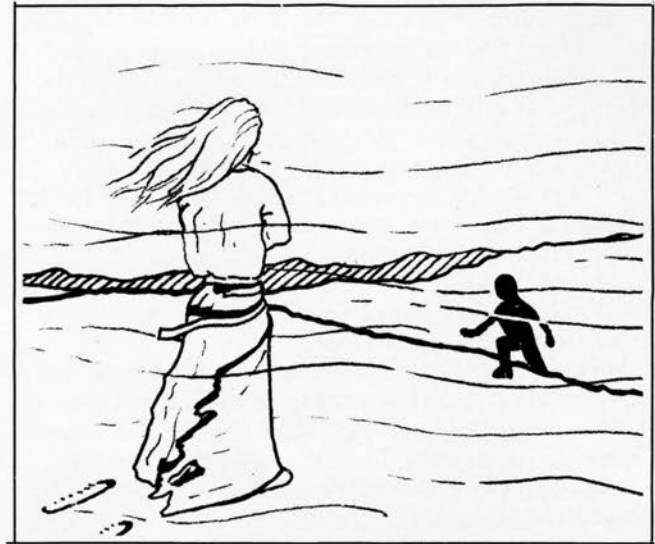
His fingers, calloused and dry like the rest of his skin. He thirsted, but the whiteness could offer no answer.

Again he stopped thinking, and kept walking, silently, with no more emotion in each step.

The lady had been waiting amongst the thickening white for longer than she cared or could remember. There had been other times, all of which had been spent, standing, waiting here. She stood still, on impudent expression of denial as her unresigned face, her hands by her side, that look of submission belying the look of hope under her disguise. The sandals on her feet were worn, older than the robe she wore, and wetted by the tears that chose to fall. She also was tired. More tired than the man. The torn robe was browned by dirt, and seemed impure, iniquitous amongst the whiteness. She sighed and stared at the sky. There were no birds around. Only the slow, monotonous falling speckles. She folded her arms and thought of nothing.

The distant figure, greyed and distorted by the myriad of falling ideals, alerted her. 'So he's finally here', she thought, almost with condescension.

The man approached without looking at his mother's face. The feeling of failure he had struck and consumed from inside. There was no longer any need to look at her. They both knew. She stood still, waiting, with her arms folded against her breasts and a look of confidence on her face. This time would be the same as any other. He approached her, neither quickening nor slowing his steps.



When only a few inches of white separated them, he stopped, his arms lay at his side, apathetic, staring down at the white.

Around his waist was rolled a tattered effete piece of linen, and above this he bled a little from an old wound. The droplets of blood fell with old dignity, abstractly onto the field, and stained the whiteness, in sequence, in despair of time; violating a kind of purity. The woman saw this and wanted to reach out to her son, but she didn't for she knew how many times she had felt exactly the same. They stood in the centre of the Field, immoved. He raised his head.

'Well?', she said, almost so quiet as to challenge silence.

With a single movement, he answered, 'It didn't work.'

She stood for a few seconds, and then they turned away from each other, out of sight, and started to walk back, towards the periphery of the Field; away from the Field. The droplets of blood had spread, and from above the redness was seen as new hope. But the blood, from hands and side, was old.

Soon they were both small in each other's sight, and time breathed a new life; once again, remaining in the light of the Sun, were the tracks in the Snow.

A. LaBouchard

*Tomorrow, remember today though the rest forget.'*

Tracy Thorn



# The Story of Sir Th

**T**he first Richians to make use of the Gloucester Rowing Club facilities did so in 1938. Rowing was not taken seriously until 1960 when Mr. Terry, an Old Cryptian, started coaching and entering crews for regattas. Success was achieved in the years 1962/3 with wins in School Fours events at Birmingham and Worcester Regattas and a win in Maiden Fours, an open event, at Worcester. Mr. Tucker was at that time Captain of Boats.

In 1965, Mr. Middleton, another Old Cryptian, inherited a Rowing Club consisting of some half-dozen upper-school enthusiasts.

Rowing competition is not of the inter-school variety, but involves open regatta competition against not only other schools, but senior clubs.

Success to date at that point had not been great, and it was obvious that rowing was a sport wherein the qualities of Science, Technique, Applied Mechanics and ultimate Team Spirit and Fitness formed an intricate interplay.

Although some success had been achieved, it was obvious that upper school groups were of too advanced an age for them to acquire new motor skills.

A new generation of 3rd and 4th formers was introduced, cash raised from self-help projects, second hand boats and equipment purchased from public school 'jumble-sales', transport trailers welded and scientifically applied daily training introduced. Saturday morning sessions became the 'Way of a Man with a Blade'.

Junior fixtures were arranged with helpful local public schools, and success in regional junior events followed in due course.

Crews were accepted as 'guinea pigs' at Coaching weekends, Mr. Middleton obtained a National Coaching Award, and was appointed Regional Junior Squad Organiser.

Trophies began to pour into Monday morning assemblies with embarrassing regularity and mothers exhausted tins of 'Silvo' as massive individual collections of tankards built up.

One Saturday in Wales, as a radio commentary announced England's win in the World Cup, a single Rich's crew, treble, won School, Junior and Senior events. The Victorian trophies, all solid silver, caused serious insurance problems on their return to Gloucester.

Eights rowing was introduced following the purchase from London University of an ex-winning Henley Thames Cup boat. Mr. Middleton, Graham recalls the boatman's incredulous look as he and David Lawrence calmly sawed the boat in half and carried away the two pieces, later to be

sectionalised for transport.

Rich's became an accepted name on the public school circuit, with regular entries at all the major Head Races and Regattas. Many old boys will recall the experience of rowing the Boat Race course on the London Tideway.

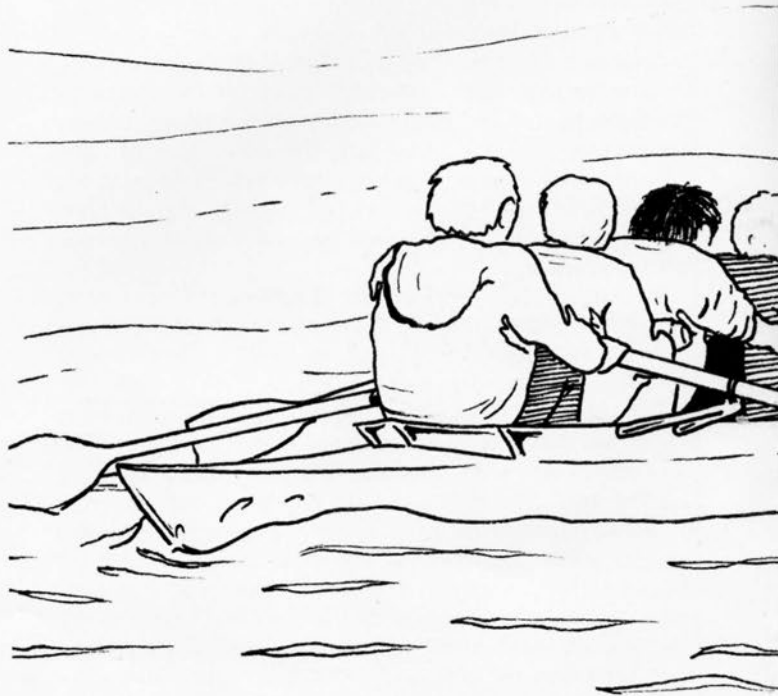
The 1968 season ended with a Silver Medal at the National Schools regatta at Pangbourne, the school being beaten only by Scottish Champions, St. Mungo's Academy.

1969 saw perhaps the peak year of the club, with over twenty Open Trophies won.

Four Richians progressed to become Captains of their University Boat Clubs.

The Boat Club's halcyon days and events consisted of a regular annual round of away competition each weekend from February through to October. Distance races from Exeter University Head to Reading culminated in the Schools and National Head Races over 4 miles.

May heralded the Dart Head in Devon, nine miles of picturesque but tortuous tidal competition. Junior status wins in this event were never relinquished.





# Thomas Rich's Boat Club.



Summer term brought sprint regattas, the major source of silverware. The Ball Cup, the Midlands Championship event for smaller schools became virtually our own property, with consecutive wins at Senior and Junior level for some five years.

Even open sea rowing was contested, including one hair-raising Bideford Head, when the whole race was sunk in a squall off Appledore. Air-sea rescue returned the crew, but the racing boat was lost.

Summer holidays were sacrificed training for the Lincoln-Boston Marathon, the National Distance Event over 31 miles of fenland, contested by senior clubs and even foreign crews put this the ultimate stamina event and the final one of each season.

The club had researched the now well-known 'glycogen shunt diet' practised by senior marathon runners, at that time only applied in West Germany, and in 1972 the clubs epic attempt was made.

Mr. Middleton relates, "Our Boston entry was a logistic challenge. Training and planning had been intense. We knew to the second where our crew had to be at each point

on that course, researched from Ordnance Survey.

We had to transport Racing Eight, equipment, special food, medical supplies and arrange accommodation.

Supporters and camp followers made the Fosse pilgrimage early on the Sunday morning of the race.

Hot conditions dictated ventilated clothing, electrolyte consumption and the inevitable fluid replacement supplies necessary in any marathon event."

The well planned event was even an anticlimax. The Club was the fastest School, fastest Eight, fastest Club and Outright winner, beat the course record by four minutes, within seconds of the time aimed for, and even relegated the British National Squad, just returned from the Munich Olympics, to a secondary position.

In 1975, news filtered through that a serious attempt had been made on the Loch Ness 22 mile record by a University Crew. The attempt had failed due to adverse surface conditions.

A Rich' expedition was mounted. It was apparent that guaranteed calm only existed on the Loch some two hours or so before dawn, soon to be broken by the prevailing SW wind funnelling northwards during daylight.

Alarm clocks were set, and with no little thought of Monsters, the crew left Fort Augustus in darkness. Accompanied by Guinness Record witnesses and a police escort on the bank, the cox set a course up the mountain-flanked black waters.

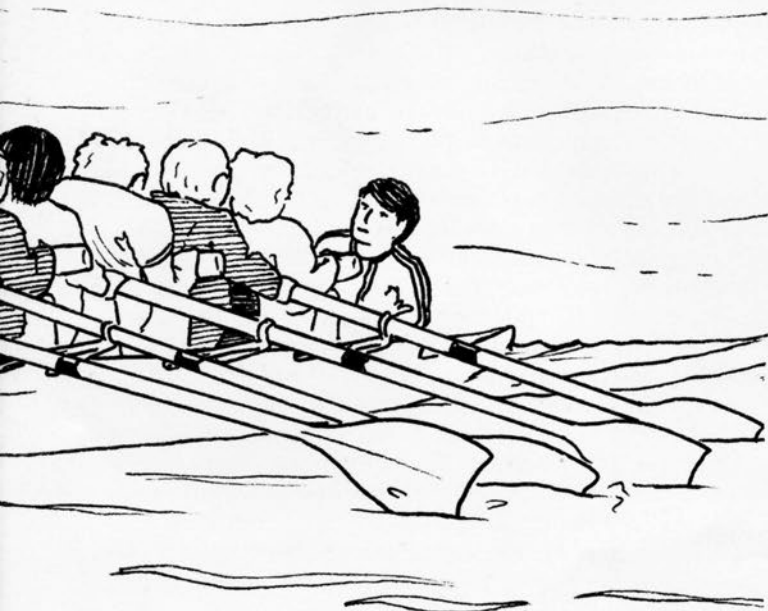
Dawn broke off Urquhart Castle, and no little apprehension was felt as the horizon became dotted by breakers, thrown up by the building v ind.

Balers were brought into use as shift rowing became necessary. The buoys at the mouth of the Inverness Canal arrived just in time as the boat limped past and sank as it grounded on the northern end. But another record was broken and this still exists in the Guinness Book of Records.

Mr Middleton stresses the terrific commitment of boys, parents, and school to the peak years of the club. He stresses the selfless dedication of Mr Bill Spear, now moved on (to Crypt), of Mr Henderson and the Venture Scout Unit for their help in transport and general enthusiastic involvement, grateful thanks to parents for monetary support, and to all enthusiasts for individual kindnesses, however small.

Memories of events and achievement never to be repeated will surely accompany for ever the Old Richians involved in the Boat Club of Sir Thomas Rich's School.

Graham H. Middleton



# TRIPS ABOARD



## The Return Of The French Exchange

Pheonix-like the exchange with La Cournne has reappeared, but not without some major changes.

The contraction of intake in the lower school has necessitated the mixture of third year boys with the customary second years. This proved to be an advantage in view of the encouragingly harmonious mixing of groups-and we could match the size of the elderly French footballers in the Great-England-v-France-Football-Match, which we won.

We abandoned the rigors of rail travel for the mixed blessing of two coaches-a blessing when in La Couronne, but very mixed on the long journey there....

La Rochelle, Cognac, swimming pools, superb school meals, the familiar pattern reasserted itself. The few girls from Denmark Road, High School proved to be excellent companions for us all, and for some of the boys, perhaps a little more. Even the weather was kind enough to send us some sun and very calm Channel crossing.

I am indebted to such fine support from Messrs. Pearce and Gallagher, Mrs. Middleton and new for this year, Miss Smith.

Well done team!

□ Ian S. Cutting

## Brittany Exchange 1987

Two crowded coaches, filled with sixth-formers from various schools from around Gloucestershire, set off on a wet April evening from a small car-park in the city, to start a two week unaccompanied exchange with one of Lannion's many colleges. From starting as complete strangers, we all established a friendship which helped us to survive the experience of being thrown into the uncertainty of staying with a unknown family. The journey lasted a gruelling 15 hours, and during the last two hours, nerves became unsettled, and silence overcame everyone. But this was soon dispelled after the arrival at the college.

The first week saw the daily gathering of most of the English at the school.

English lessons were attended by many inquisitive English pupils, and French teachers who were equally inquisitive about foreign language and pronunciations. However, between these lessons, there followed a mass exodus of pupils out of the school and into the nearest cafe.

Every Thursday, the town is transformed into a thriving street market, selling a range of exotic crepes and expensive socks. This was frequented by all, seeking souvenirs for their nearest and dearest. But the supermarket won hands-down when it came to their delicious variety of 'pain au chocolat' and chocolate. Buying of postcards and stamps became a regular occurrence in the many gift-shops, as did the consumption of cups of coffee in the various cafes. By the end of the week, the faces behind the counters which at first gave us strange looks, soon welcomed us with large grins.

The second week left us at the mercy of our French families, as the Easter holidays began. The long distances between the host families overcome by varied new means of transport. As part of the efforts to combat homesickness, social evenings were organised, including pancake evenings (!), traditional Breton music and visits to the disco in Perros Guirec. It was difficult to adapt to the traditional French evening agenda, which commenced at around 11 o'clock and finished just as the first rays of the morning sun appeared!

After seventeen days of French life and culture, we returned home with our correspondants to tell of our many new experiences.

M. Eva, L6S

J. Tawn, L6R

□ A. Tidmarsh, L6R

## Sonnenberg 1987

As the Easter holidays dawned the entire upper sixth German set (both of us) winged its way to 'Internationales Haus', Sonnenberg in the Harz mountains of West Germany. Arriving in the conference centre on the evening of Sunday, April 12th we knuckled down to work and began to get to know one another. The groups involved came from Germany, Israel, Denmark and Austria, as well as the two groups from England; our group from Gloucestershire and another party from Sheffield. Work began in earnest on Monday morning, on the somewhat daunting topic of 'Europe - a superpower between East and West'. Subjects were discussed in internationally mixed groups and so we learned to respect the interests and opinions of other younger people. The work of the conference was varied and at times aroused heated debates, especially when the Israelis were involved.

On the social side nightly discos were organised and possibilities for the more energetic included ice-skating, cross-country running, skiing, skittles and hiking. The highlight of the social week was undoubtedly the international evening when we explored each other's cultures by means of song, dance, comedy sketches and party games.

For all participants of the conference, the lasting impression of the week was that of our visit to the site of the concentration camp at Bergen-Belsen. At first, the atrocities of forty years before seemed, if not unreal, at least difficult to comprehend. As we stood side by side, Germans, Israelis and British, around the memorial to the Jewish victims of the holocaust, the inhuman reality finally hit home. The return to Sonnenberg was one of eerie silence and contemplation. The experience was indescribable and will remain with us for the rest of our lives.

By the end of the week international barriers and prejudices had been overcome and we were united in our communal spirit and dislike of the food!

We have improved our German but more importantly we had discovered a lot, not only about others but also about ourselves.

□ Ian Poole, U6 Toby Rackliff, U6



## The 1987 German Exchange

During the Easter holidays, four boys from the fourth year set off for Gottingen in the Northern region of Germany on a two week exchange along with girls from Denmark School and St. Peter's High School.

After a strenuous journey which lasted for eighteen hours, we arrived at a Gottingen school at midday. After being paired up with our families, we were soon on the way to their homes. Most of us were living in the countryside.

Easter Sunday was the day after we arrived and some had the fun of hunting for Easter eggs in the forest.

On the Tuesday, we met at the new town hall for a reception with the mayor. We then were shown a very interesting film about the town but, as it was in German, not many of us could quite catch the jist of it. We then embarked on a guided tour around the city, which was also entirely in German.

The next few days were spent at the large and very entertaining OTTO-HAYN School. Their English teacher came from California. We spent the first two lessons being interrogated by the fast-talking Germans. After the first two lessons, there was a break and everyone tried their hand at ordering some German substances from their school's tuck-shop.

The trips arranged were very enjoyable. We trekked up mountains in the Harz region, visited a quaint little village called Duderstadt near to the German Border, and went on a trip to an ice-skating rink, which was great fun some of us had the extra pleasures of going to places like Hannover, Kassel and Hamburg.

All of us enjoyed the German trip immensely, even though some of us couldn't quite get the hang of the language and all of us are intending to visit there again. We all agreed we had learned a great deal about another country's ways of living and of the German School System.

All that remains is to thank Mr. Slinger for his excellent organisation and planning in England and to Miss Henelury and Mrs. Mulford for their co-operation and friendliness in Germany.

*H. Parsons, 4T*

## Cayeux-sur-Mer - (a lesson in contact)

Under the all-embracing banner of G.C.S.E., about 40 boys of the 4th year spent three days in Picardie, in Northern France. This brief story in early April, gave these students of living language an opportunity to put into practice what they had - or should have learnt in lessons. Tasks involving direct contact with unsuspecting natives were designed to underline the importance of communications, of getting the message across. To judge by results, they were very successful.

The centre - surprisingly luxurious for such a visit - was on a wind-swept beach near Abbeville, on the mouth of the Somme. When we return next year, we'll be in a better position to exploit the resources of the area to the fullest. Language learning really ought to be good fun. We had a lot of fun this time. Who's coming next year?

*Ian S. Cutting*

## Ski Trip 1987 - Telfes, Austria

Due to lack of numbers, the 1987 ski trip was in jeopardy from the start. However, it was possible to accommodate those interested by combining with Archway School, Stroud, so making the trip to Telfes in the Stubaital Valley possible. So on the morning of the 21st February, a party of ten boys and two staff met along with 28 pupils and staff from Archway. Initially, there was very little interaction between the two schools, but the barriers were gradually worn away and before too long, we were one party.

The journey was as expected - very long and tedious, despite the numerous videos and cassettes. Many efforts were made to break up the journey, and these provided a good break and a chance to stretch the legs before the next stage. Overnight most managed to get some sleep, even if only for a few minutes, and after a stop for breakfast, we settled down to watch yet another video. Before long, it was noticed that the scenery was changing, in that there were mountains and a great deal more snow. At this point, skiers could be seen on far off slopes, and so filling us all with expectation of things to come. The journey finally ended after some 27 hours, and we all gratefully climbed off the coach and unloaded the cases into the hotel. Once more, we were fortunate to have the hotel to ourselves.



THE HOTEL

After a brief settling-in period, it was off to the slopes to get the skis and boots, which unfortunately had to be carried quite a way to the hotel. This was received with a chorus of complaints and grumbling from everyone, especially as they were told that they would have to repeat the journey in the morning.

The next morning, we were up bright and early, getting ready to start the real business of the week. After breakfast we made our way quickly to the slopes, all eager to start. The first day was dogged with minor setbacks, such as having to wait a couple of hours to get into groups, then having to wait even longer for the lift passes to arrive. Having got the lift passes and gone to the top of the mountain, we were then late getting down for lunch. Eventually, things got done, but not quite as smoothly as we would have liked.

The rest of the weeks skiing, groups were organised according to ability with each group being under instruction 2 hours each day. As staff, we rotated about the groups spending time with everyone from both schools. This helped the holiday and also enable us to have a greater appreciation of the groups as skiers. For example, in the morning you may have been with beginners taking it easy, trying new techniques with varying degrees of success, falling about with great ease and looking at some slopes with trepidation. Then, in the afternoons, it could have been a lesson with the top set on the top of the mountain, hurtling down somewhat steeper slopes trying to remain in control. As you can imagine there were many amusing incidences and crashes which kept us all on our toes.

The skiing was much that all levels could work at the top of the mountain and could always progress to the more difficult and varied slopes, with many places for 'Off Piste' skiing. 'Off Piste' skiing proved very popular and is when the skiers move from areas of flattened and prepared slopes to places between trees and over moguls very often in deep powder snow! much fun and falling over and an appreciation of the different conditions.

Throughout the week an improvement was seen in all skiers, with everybody showing willing and wanting to ski more and more. The non-skiing time was split mainly between eating and the evening entertainment. Both of these proved entertaining for the staff as there was much concern shown over the food (by pupils) and much effort in preparing the evening.

The food was very filling but occasionally lacking in variety. Breakfast and lunch consisted mainly of rolls with various fillings and soon became a ritual as there was little to surprise anyone. However, the evening meal created

great interest in trying to decide what it actually was and whether or not it should be eaten! The staff showed great courage and healthy appetites by finishing everything off and often having seconds whilst it was an effort just getting the pupils to try it. The group showed, in this respect, a poor attitude and little respect for the efforts of the hotel staff. Perhaps next year will be different!?

The evening entertainment included, as last year, a disco, bowling and some different events such as swimming and tobogganning. Of these it was the toboggan run which everybody enjoyed, and it was a tremendous success. It took place in a village further up the valley, and after a fifteen minute bus ride, followed by a twenty minute chair lift we arrived in darkness at the top of the eight kilometre run. The run consisted of a narrow track with snow and ice walls, which wound their way down to the foot of the mountain, with hair-pin bends and steep slopes causing many crashes. There were lights placed at intervals, but these did little to guide the way and it was very much a case of realising that there was a bend after having reached it, and so it was very exciting and somewhat nerve - wracking. Fortunately we all arrived safely at the bottom, each with their own tale of survival to tell. This was an experience that must be included next year.

So once again, the Ski Holiday was very much a success, and with twenty-seven boys going in 1988, it looks as though the ski trip is becoming a regular event. I only hope that any future trips are as successful and enjoyable for both staff and boys as those that have gone before.

We extend our thanks to both staff and pupils from Archway School, who created a very pleasant atmosphere, and we shall look forward to their company in the future.

*I.J. Gallagher*

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Posing on the piste



## ■ EDUCATIONAL TRIPS

## FIRST YEAR TRIP

### The York Trip

We went to York by train with three other schools. I will not describe the journey for fear of embarrassing British Rail.

In York we first visited the National Railway Museum. We saw the giants of steam railways. We saw Queen Victoria's own railway carriage and other royal carriages. We saw prototypes of the HST and APT and Stevenson's Rocket. Also we saw the Mallard (yes, the one on Blue Peter).

We then left for York Minster where we stayed for fifteen minutes.

The group then moved off to the Jorvic Viking Centre where we saw the sights and smells of a viking village. We travelled in a form of time car (nothing like the Tardis) and saw life size models of the village. Then we examined some artifacts, bought some souvenirs of the centre and left.

On the way home a pigeon tried to get in the train, but on the whole it was a great day out.

*C. Atine*

### Sir Thomas Rich's Afloat

After the cruel weather of the 1986 cruise on the Oxford Canal, we took the precaution of hiring a different boat for this year's cruise - one with central heating and a little more space! We went out southwards from Rugby on the first Saturday of the all-too-brief Easter break. For some, this was the first taste of an addictive interest; for others a reminder of the joys of a 4 mph speed limit, superb scenery punctuated by black and white lock gates, sleepy villages and quiet pubs.

The 'Warwickshire Ring' took us through Warwick, Solihull, the gloomy centre of Birmingham and the industrial wasteland of the Midlands. On through Tamworth and south once again to Coventry and then returning to Rugby, the benefits of a circular cruise were clear to us. Statistically: 120 miles; 125 locks; one tunnel; two aqueducts and slightly less loaves than last year - 22.

The weather was kind too and although we may enjoy the warm benefits of central heating on a sixty foot narrow boat next Easter, this year it was superfluous.

*ISC.*

### The First Year Residential Trip to Welsh Bicknor ☐

In the first week of October, Mr. Lockey and Mrs Jones broke new ground by taking their new First year groups abroad for three days and two nights, to help them get to know one another in new surroundings. Admittedly the foreign country was only just across the Welsh Border, but for a venture like this, with sixty eleven year-old boys, that was quite far enough.

Home for the duration was the Youth Hostel at Welsh Bicknor, which provided food, shelter and beautiful views of the Wye valley, looking at its best in the sunshine.

The first day was taken up with settling into the hostel, finding the right dormitory and then sampling the delights of youth hostel cooking. (The tuck shop would do a roaring trade over the next three days). Then to work off all the excess energy, Mr. Cutting had arrived to organise a Treasure Hunt, aided and abetted by the three sixth form prefects who had rashly come with us. The next two hours saw a myriad of small boys climbing trees, hunting under bridges and exploring undergrowth in an attempt to find twenty hidden clues. Not many succeeded.

The evening ended with the writing of diaries, followed by the explanation of the next days planned event.... the Great Trek. The idea behind this was to have a pleasant days walk through the local countryside, stopping at one or two landmarks on the way. The reality turned out to be slightly different.

The morning's section of the walk took us around a long loop in the river, following a footpath which led us eventually to Goodrich Castle. Here we rested weary legs and hot feet, ate our lunch and then explored the grounds before doing some drawings of the castle. For some reason the dungeons proved very popular.

In the afternoon the footpath took us south to Symonds Yat where another sit down gave us a chance to look at the towering rock formations and search for the ospreys reputed to nest there. They didn't appear, however, so we headed back along the river bank towards the hostel, stopping later to explore an old, disused railway tunnel. At this point our planned itinerary began to change. We entered the tunnel cautiously, inching into the darkness one by one, clinging to the safety of the side wall and regularly treading in the numerous puddles lying in wait. Then as we neared the other end and our confidence was returning, half the group turned back shouting that a train was coming. This was slightly unlikely as the tracks had been pulled up years ago, but in the dark you tend to believe anything.

Out in the daylight again we followed a footpath through the woods, intending to follow the path of the tunnel back to our entry point. That was the intention. Instead we took several false turns, rescued one boy from a savage bush, and two hours later a rather bedraggled crocodile of boys returned to the hostel, now lit up in the gathering gloom. Tea tasted good that night, and everyone slept well.

The trip on the last day was taken by coach, to the relief of all concerned. We were picked up after breakfast and travelled to Chepstow, firstly to study the castle and then to look at the town. I think the boys were grateful to see civilization again. Most took the opportunity to fill up on crisps, sweets and lemonade. Some of those came back on the coach to Gloucester, hopefully with some lasting memories. In any case we returned to school in the knowledge that we were now truly Sir Thomas Rich's First Form.

*R. Lockey*



## Shakespeare Through the Looking Glass

### The Apollo Theatre, Oxford



The aim of "Shakespeare Through the Looking Glass" was to some young people that Shakespeare is both amusing and entertaining and has a relevance to modern life, but in my opinion this production seems to have underestimated the task. Many people in the class had preconceptions of Shakespeare being boring and many were using the trip as an escape from the normal daily routine, and the idea of a bored schoolboy watching something like this and suddenly becoming interested in the great works of Shakespeare is not very realistic.

The "schoolboy" in this case was a young student who loses his way while on a guided tour of a theatre. "To be or not to be," he cried and immediately a whole host of weird and wonderful characters burst on. We were treated, it seemed, to almost every play Shakespeare wrote, and unless you knew what each play was about beforehand the whole thing was rather hard to follow. It would have been better to concentrate on just one or two plays. Luckily we did know all about "The Merchant of Venice" and the court scene was very enjoyable. I had found much of the language hard to follow when reading it, and the play was easier to understand when it was in both words and pic-

tures, as it was intended to be.

I think, too, that it was necessary for the production to communicate more with the audience, particularly when the object was to change people's views on a subject. A narrator of some kind would have been helpful in explaining what each individual play was about. The magician, Will, fitted in very well as the student's teacher, although his spells didn't seem to be having much effect on the audience, many of whom ended up amusing themselves. I enjoyed seeing the student getting involved in the plays, despite the rather puny sword-fight. If they are to make Shakespeare more interesting then the acting must be credible.

Up until now I have mainly criticized the production, which is rather unfair since it must have been difficult for the actors to succeed against the continual babbling of much of the audience. Luckily we had seats at the front and did our best to ignore other people's talking. I think the producers of "Shakespeare Through the Looking Glass" genuinely tried to interest young people in Shakespeare's work, but they do need to re-think many aspects of it in order to make it really good.

▲ David Kavanagh, 3T

## COWLEY MANOR RESIDENTIAL COURSE

We arrived on the Monday morning for the three and a half day course. We were given a short talk about the course and then were split into groups to introduce ourselves and discuss our aims, this proved to be a nerve racking experience as we had never met any of the people before.

Our partners arrived after lunch and one of the first jobs to do was to make up our beds to help our partners to do theirs. After being given precious little time to do this we had to go to our groups, re-introduce ourselves and encourage our partners to do the same. As can be expected, this resulted in many shy faces and nervous whispering. After these brief introductions, we played various games designed to help us work together and get to know each other. Fitted into this was a whistle stop tour of the manor. Every thing seemed as if it had to be completed five minutes ago. After dinner had been squeezed in we fitted in a walk around the magnificent grounds the manor possesses. Then after a short concluding group meeting it was time for our special school partners to go to bed. When we finally got them settled down, we were free.... at least until the next day.

The "Next Day" began at seven o'clock when a little boy who I vaguely recognised from the day before, turned up to wake us all, tidy our beds and generally get in the way. After we had convinced him to go and dress, we had to get our partners up and ready. The day passed with more difficult learning exercises disguised as fun games. Everyone was tired from hard first day but we had begun to knit together, both with our partners and with the group. In the evening

we had a choice, of various activities. My partner chose badge making and created a colourful "EASTENDERS" badge.

The third day was a big day. After a morning of preparation for the evening formal dinner and entertainment we were to tackle the Cowley assault course plus canoeing and a game of rounders. Although less demanding to us, to our partners the course proved very demanding, having to get wet and muddy crawling over, under and through things. In fact, it proved too much for my partner who had to stop half way. Canoeing was great fun and many more had a go than we would have expected. The formal dinner was a great event with us encouraging our partners to do a speech or to propose a toast. Then it was on to the entertainment, where everyone including the staff performed a short sketch in front of our guests and the course members. After another sing song to go to bed which we finally achieved after many attempts to settle our partners down after what had been the best and busiest day. After another gruelling late night meeting we were allowed to troop upstairs as well.

The last day, only a half day, was from the start destined to be a sad one. We went for a lengthy walk out of the manor and around the fields nearby. Although we were all sad to be leaving, there was the universal feeling of having done something worthwhile. Apart from having enjoyed ourselves, we knew that our partners had become more forthcoming and more confident, a credit to the organisation and expertise of the staff and to Cowley Manor.

▲ A. Trigg, L6T



## VENTURE SCOUT UNIT ☐

### *44th Gloucester (Sir Thomas Rich's)*

#### The Bed Race

To bed, perchance to race ....

It all started way back in 1980, when men were men, beds were just beds, and the 44th Venture Scouts were still as daft as they are these days.

The South Cotswold and Stonehouse Round Table were running a Bed Race to raise money for a local charity. We decided to enter, and about a week before the race decided to construct a "Racing Bed". It was a real bed, with added wheels of a mini and various assorted pieces of superstructure. It was possible to push it, with difficulty, but we set off hopefully one Sunday morning to the old airfield at Brockworth to join about fifty other contraptions. Things fell apart, but the centre did hold and weaving our way through the wreckage of many a bed on the uneven tarmac, we completed the ten mile (about) course in an hour and a half.

In subsequent years, when the challenge came we rose again, and acquired a ready made model complete with steering wheel, which has undergone many modifications but still is a 'goer'. Each year come rain -it often did- or shine -seldom, "Zebedee" was propelled by various means and people around the course, raising money for various charities, and blisters. But like so many innocent pastimes, professionalism and gamesmanship were creeping in. Superbeds, which owed more in their design to Raleigh Industries than Slumberland appeared, and superfit athletes pushing lightweight structures left the traditional fourposters well behind.

On 1984 two beds were entered, the new one being a genuine bed, but light and faster than the old model. As ever it was completed a little before midnight the day before the race, and on arrival at Brockworth, whilst being pushed to the pits the back wheel fell off. It was rushed over to the Church-down branch of Middleton Panels, and the weld was still glowing as it

lined up on the start line. "Blue Streak", as it was christened did well enough to win a cup for the fastest youth team, and next year we were confident of retaining the trophy, but it was not to be, as superbeds appeared in the youth section.

The next year saw a change in venue, and the centre of Stonehouse was closed to traffic as fifty beds raced up and down the narrow thoroughfare evoking memories of the Monaco Grand-Prix. The narrowness of the road and the sizeable crowd produced some near misses and a wonderful atmosphere. One again our two-old faithful beds did their stuff, producing credible times, but we could not match the bicycle based turbo models. "Next year", we thought.

It was caretaker Glynn Jones who initiated the final stages in the story by suggesting that if we wanted to win, we would have to join the superbed class and he suggested something made of outdoor plywood. We treated this as we always have treated good advice, and ignored it. The Heath-Robinson school got active, and a wonderful structure in heavy steel piping began to take shape. After three months of discussion a large T-shaped structure was lying on the Scout hut floor. It had to just lie there as it was too heavy to move. B-day minus 7, something had to be done. Common-sense prevailed with a sheet of plywood, sundry bicycle parts, some inspiration and a lot of hard work, and at dusk on Friday night a cross between a kiddie's tricycle and concorde wobbled around the tennis courts. More work, painting, adjusting, and by Sunday morning "Blue Streak II" was lined up for the start, with the ever faithful "Zebedee" behind it.

In the past anyone who was foolish enough pushed, taking it in turns to rest as pilot. This time it was to be light and reliable driver, Justin Sargent, and two fit pushers, Adam Foster and Ali Smith. Ten laps, eight miles, and many slow beds to pass as the race proceeded. There were two other fancied runners who had won in previous years and a thrilling three bed race developed, leaving all others adrift.

And, dear reader, after eight miles, after eight years, we won in a staggering 52 minutes, easily the fastest time in the history of the event

Why do they do it? I hear you ask -why indeed? Well for one thing each event raises money for various local charities, and the 44th has raised over £1300 over the years. The future? Well a new design is coming to mind vaguely ... I think.

## POEMS ☐

### Downwards To The Heavens

As out the valley they did rise,  
The glabrous city came in sight.  
With rugged tower, dark and foreboding,  
Darker yet than blackest night.

On and on and on they pelted  
As behind them wolves did chide,  
Devil's spawn of evil ages,  
Doing sorcerer's evil bid.

Wind moans for them, it dares to mock;  
With vengeful spite the rain beat down,  
Glistening on the titanic rocks.  
Unto Heaven they cried in vain.

Smooth and pitiless was the pathway,  
Smooth and pitiless was the wall,  
They could find no refuge for them,  
Down to Hell, long is their fall.

J.C. Methven, U6T☉

### A Poem

I wandered lonely as a cloud....

no, that no good,

No, cut that out.

Lets make a new and weird verse,  
Of Gobblegood and bumbleverse:  
Oddle, Doogle, Wieep nosh poohl

No, thats no good,

No, thats not new

Lets make a really wild verse,

That might make sense,

Just MIGHT make sense.

Oh dear, it seems that I,

Have already made a poem. (sorry)

Oh well, at least that gets me off the hook,

Of having to make another!

by T. Cutting ☉

# GEOGGING IN THE COUNTRY

## A Study of Flaxley Abbey (or Geography in four easy steps)

The 'A' level examiner, dictates that geography candidates produce a local study. Every year this activity dredges up mounds of facts concerning everything from bee-hives to building societies. I chose Flaxley Abbey, a Cistercian foundation that lies about 12 miles to the South West of Gloucester. Briefly this was founded in 1151 (the exact date varies from author to author) on a site in the Forest of Dean where a supporter of Queen Matilda, Milo, Earl of Hereford, was killed whilst out hunting in the Vale of Castiard and remained until 1536 when under Thomas Cromwell the smaller monasteries were closed down.

Having chose the location, the next problem was how to research the project. Inspired by an infamous work by one A.S. Pilbeam, I chose the obvious starting point and began looking at original documentary sources. The Abbots of each abbey kept a careful record of everything to do with the foundation, especially grants of land often contained in a "book" known as the Cartulary. Medieval estate boundaries were noted by recording features that were visible on walking round the estate, known as a parambulation. plus details of cultivation. The Flaxley Cartulary was available at the county records office. A good start. Problem! At dissolution the monks of Flaxley had burned major sections of their cartulary. Oh dear!

A second source of information is that of secondary documentary evidence, which, I discovered, was dealt with by two texts. Firstly, a set of historical notes written by the abbey's owner in 1887, A.W. Crawley Boevey. This book contained a transcription of a charter granted to the Flaxley monks by King Henry II, which at least gave a starting point by commenting on the grant of ironworks, firewood and other such meat and drink to the budding geographer. A second book came to light, this time a straight history by the Abbey's current owner, one F.B. Watkins. Of course the examiner is not looking for a copy of previous people's work. With two sources exhausted it was time for the dreaded fieldwork!

Thus with the long hot summer days (both of them) spent wading through mouldering books in the Records office, our third source of information comes into play:- direct survey. Armed with map, clipboard and compass (not strictly necessary, but you might as well look the part) pleasant hours were spent scrambling up hillsides, tramping across fields trying to locate traces of Cistercian land-use. Unfortunately, the Abbey site has been greatly disrupted and many of the fields bear the scars of that most peculiar of creatures, the archaeologist. But is one disheartened by such set-backs? Yes, of course one is. However, some quite interesting features came to light - terraced land to the east of the Abbey and an intriguing road on a hill to the South.

So to the fourth source of information:- the local historian. In the case of Flaxley Abbey there was its current owner, and historian, Fred Watkins. Great! Or so I thought, but one by one my ideas were dismissed.

Thus, these oft trodden avenues fully explored, the time eventually arrived to distill all the accumulated knowledge down into 4000 words. Here is a brief summary of the findings and how they were arrived at.

Above I mentioned that land to the East of the Abbey had been terraced. This clearly suggests some kind of fruit growing. In view of the Abbey's commitment to celebrating Mass and its function as a medieval hostel it seems that the terracing was for vine growing. The slope is north-west facing, not ideal for vine growing, but a similar field exists in the grounds owned by Tewkesbury Abbey.

Within the moated precincts of Flaxley Abbey lay a large fishpond (I admit to finding no trace of it, but F. Watkins assures me it was there when he bought the Abbey!). This was probably stocked with geese which provided the monks with a medieval intruder alarm. The Flaxley Valley (or Vale of Castiard, as I prefer to call it) has quite steeply sloping sides which makes it totally unsuited to grain growing and much other agricultural activity. Therefore most of the extensive Cistercian Estate, it seems to me, was devoted to sheep grazing and forestry. The latter was very much the Abbey's *raison d'être* since the kings who patronised the foundation used it a "hunting lodge" when they visited Gloucester annually. The monks were therefore obliged to retain the trees since to cut them down would have driven the forest animals away and with them the King's wealthy entourages.

The Forest of Dean (ont the boundary of which Flaxley lies) is rich in iron ore. In 1705 an artist named Kip produced a picture of Flaxley Abbey which showed a blast furnace to the south east of the buildings. The work of an industrial geographer showed that the same site had been used in monastic times and possibly even earlier. Unfortunately (for me that is) the site is now covered by a coniferous coppice. And that hillside route 7 mentioned? I maintain it was a short cut to the monastic grange at Littledean. F.B. Watkins (him again!) disagrees saying it is "where they went over the hill". Fine, but to where?

Thus we reach the end of our study. Our Examiner friend is appeased and Flaxley heaves a sigh of relief!

*S. Peachey U6S*





# SPORT.

## Athletics

The following were selected to represent Gloucester City Secondary Schools in the County Athletic Championships.

Senior:- A. Foster, M. Kilby, A. Neoleovs

Intermediate:- N. Trigg, N. Hailstone, S. Jones, M. Neocleous, R. Eva, S. Marcer.

Minor:- R. Buckley, A. Giles, B. Salter, S. Tyreman. M. Wilton.

In the Minor age-group District Trials.

R. Buckley won the 800m.

A. Giles won the 1500m.

T. Tyreman won the 200m.

## SQUASH CLUB

President: Mr. W.G. Heap

Captain: A.C. Smith

Secretary: N.R. Clifton

Treasurer: J.R. Shackleton

The County Schools League was not run this year as there were only two other schools besides ourselves, Marling and Cheltenham College, who entered. Emphasis was therefore placed on internal matches and the individual and House Tournaments engendered enthusiasm and keen rivalry.

However, the general standard of Squash could be improved if individuals played more often. To improve one must play three times a week not just once.

I would like to thank officers of the Club for their work, especially the Treasurer who has to ensure the money for the courts is collected.

Colours were presented to L.J. Sparey and A.B. Barwick.

*President*

School matches this year were non-existent because the County Schools' League was scrapped due to lack of support. To counter this greater emphasis was placed on internal competition. Wednesday individual leagues were keenly contested and this year boys from the Crypt joined the leagues.

Junior and Senior individual tournaments were well supported. The winner of the Junior Shield was P. Grainger (1R) and the Senior Shield A.C. Smith (6.1S).

The House Competition was closely fought and Westgate emerged as winners with 41 points being Eastgate by 2 points. Northgate was third with 37 points and Southgate fourth with 31.

*A.C. Smith, Captain*

## Basketball Report 1986/7

This season a Fourth year team was entered for the local School's Basketball league. It was a rather disappointing season, with the only win coming from a match against Crypt. Yet, the team demonstrated tremendous enthusiasm and worked hard to improve, and success will come as the team gradually gains experience in competitive Basketball.

Team members, such as Marcer, Cottle and Carr, all demonstrated glimpses of potential, which with practice, hopefully will lead to their development and the team's future success.

Already, preparation for next season has started, with a Third year team having played two matches, winning one of them against Severn Vale. This side shows great promise, with Clark and Fullbrook forming a firm foundation for the rest of the team. It is greatly hoped that they will be successful in next year's league matches.

It should also be noted, that Basketball teams are being prepared in the lower years. In particular, the Second years have already formed a good foundation and in order to gain experience of competition.

To conclude, a mention must be made about the Fourth/- Third year house Basketball competition. The overall winners were Eastgate, winning all their matches. At times, the standard of play left much to be desired, but the matches produced plenty of spirit and commitment. Thus, it is hoped that this will be a regular feature in the School's sporting calendar and that Basketball will prove popular in future years.

*Peter Lloyd*

## Indoor Cricket

The years indoor cricket league was a great success thanks to Mr. McBurnie and Mr. Middleton, who kept the league alive after the unfortunate departure of our well respected sportsmaster and founder of indoor cricket, Mike Bevan.

Spectators crowded into the gym to give enthusiastic voice to the games. Whether or not it was the exciting entertainment of just a place in the warm during the winter is, however, a matter for speculation.

Skill and tactics certainly played a significant part this year, as too did competitiveness. This was intensely demonstrated by Mr. Middleton and his team. Their batting, which sometimes reached 'kamikaze' levels, accounted for the success of the team, who finished second in the league and went on to become the eventual 'knock-out' winners.

By far, the most consistent team was Nigel Clifton's; not losing a single match in the league, and reaching the final of the 'knock-out'.

All other teams put in a great deal of effort, and Goode's team is the 'one to watch' in the future.

Thanks must be extended to all who took part for making indoor cricket both successful and enjoyable for us all.

*A.J. Cooper, U6S*



## Rugby 1986

Reorganisation of schools over recent years has led to many problems in competitive sport - particularly Rugby. Our school XV's now face many schools with larger numbers to select from, and therefore all our XV's invariably play teams much bigger physically.

In view of this, our XV's have had a very successful season and this reflects the effort, interest, and determination of the boys, and the strength of character shown in many very difficult situations and matches.

### 1st XV

Played 9 Won 6 Lost 3 - points for 112 against 68.

The team played with great spirit and determination against much bigger, older XV's. The pack often included five fifth formers competing against second and third year sixth. The performances of the 1st XV were the best for several seasons: it is noticeable that the team, was not defeated by another state school.

Colours:- The following already have 1st XV colours - B. Ravenhill, S. Griffin, M. Fretwell, S. Anderson.

Colours awarded to:- P. Smith, M. Hanney, J. Roberts, J. Lyne, P. Thomas, S. Wright, S. Jones.

S. Jones represented Gloucestershire under 16's, S. Griffin was in the Gloucestershire U/18 squad.

### 2nd XV

Played 7 Won 4 Lost 3 - points for 101 against 66

Again a good season, with the XV playing an attractive enjoyable band of rugby.

Colours:- The following already have colours - G. Sherwood, D. Dalby, N. Page-Jones, L. Davies.

1st XXX Colours:- A. Smith, S. Clyde, T. Knight, J. Nash, N. Gallagher, C. Weaver, P. Nash, J. Meager, I. Selwyn-Reeves, M. Peters.

### Colts (U/15) XV

Played 11 Won 8 Drew 1 Lost 2 - Points for 202 against 88

Despite several major setbacks through injuries - the team went into the last game with eight changes - the XV achieved good results and had a very successful season. A very committed and enthusiastic squad of players.

Colours:- H. Parson (Capt.), R. Fortey, R. Page-Jones, D. Wyatt, M. Neocleous, G. Henderson, R. Eva, M. James.

### Junior (U/14) XV

Played 11 Won 8 Drew 1 Lost 2 - Points for 158 against 128.

After an initial defeat the team progressed tremendously well. They demonstrated great character in several matches, coming from behind to win. Overall an excellent season, far surpassing anything they produced in the 1st and 2nd years.

Colours:- N. Carter (Capt.) N. Ward, K. Fullman, M. Price, T. Jones.

### U/13 XV

Played 10 Won 5 Lost 5 - points for 208 against 156.

### U/12 XV

Played 2 Won 2 - points for 48 against 4.

Colours not awarded to these XV's.

### Seven-a-side

In the Crypt School junior seven-a-side tournament the school sevens gave a good account of themselves.

The U/15 VII won their tournament.

The U/14 and U/13 were second in their tournament.

□ RNH.





# SPORT

## Cross-Country 1986/7

In general the Cross-country season can be described as satisfactory. The Senior team maintained many of the traditional fixtures, against teams such as Warwick, Worcester, The Army Apprentices and King Henry's/Coventry. Often, the opposition possessed greater strength in depth, but the Seniors demonstrated great spirit and determination. Thus, wins were recorded over Worcester and Warwick. The highlight of the season came with the team recording eleventh over-all place in the Oxford Road Relay Races, against many of the top Schools in the country.

During many of these races, Adam Foster consistently demonstrated a strong willingness to do well, often battling for the top places. His hard training eventually led him to represent the County in the National School's Cross-Country Championships, where he finished in 154th position. It is apparent that he has the ability to do well in the future, as well as the dedication. School Colours were awarded to Moss, Kilby and Morgan.

In the junior section, the under 13 team came second overall in the North Gloucestershire Cross-Country league. This was a fine performance, with the majority of the team comprising of first years. This is very promising, with hopefully good prospects for next year. In the team, Ryan Buckley appears to be a good prospect, not only competing well in the league, but winning the First year School Cross-Country in convincing style. Also, Steven Mitten has demonstrated that he is a fine athlete, with brilliant win in the league races, as well as the Second year Cross-Country, at School.

In conclusion, one must mention Mason, of the Fourth year, who not only gained his Junior Colours, but also won the Inter-mediate school cross-country. Therefore, it is hoped that upon this season's successes, next year will prove to be even more rewarding for those participating.

○ Peter Lloyd



ADAM FOSTER AND STEVE MITTEN



## 1st Rugby Squad 1986/7

### Back Row

R.N. Hanney, (Master 1/C Rugby)  
S. Wright, I. Selwyn-Reeves,  
P. Akerman, S. Jones, H. Parsons,  
J. Roberts, J. Lyne, P. Thomas,  
J. Jones-Griffiths.

### Front Row

M. Fretwell, L. Davies, M. Hanney,  
S. Anderson, B. Ravenhill,  
S. Griffin, P. Smith, G. Nash,  
M. Peters, T. Knight.



# STOP PRESS

## TRACK EVENTS

EVENT	YEAR	1st PLACE	2nd PLACE	3rd PLACE
800m	1	Buckley E.	Leighton S.	Baker E.
	2	Mitten W.	Bryant W.	Barnes S.
	3	Parham E.	Croft E.	Clarke S.
	4	Marcen W.	Mason N.	Howie W.
100m	1	Tyremen E.	Wilton W.	James N.
	2	Neining S.	Bryant W.	Prowse E.
	3	Wells S.	Carter N.	Getting S.
	4	Hailstone W.	Trigg S.	Haynes N.
200m	1	Tyremen E.	Salter E.	Wilton W.
	2	Neining S.	Prouse W.	Barnes S.
	3	Carter N.	Parham E.	Gettings S.
	4	Hailstone W.	Trigg S.	Allen N.
400m	1	Leighton S.	Baker E.	Cherette W.
	2	Mitten W.	Goodfield S.	Clarke W.
	3	Jones E.	Price E.	Weaver S.
	4	Haynes N.	Byrne W.	Wyatt S.
1500m	3	Parham E.	Croft E.	Washbrook S.
	4	Marcen W.	Mason N.	Winfield W.
Relay	1	Eastgate	Southgate	Westgate
	2	Westgate	Southgate	Northgate
	3	Southgate	Eastgate	Westgate
	4	Westgate	Southgate	Northgate

## FIELD EVENTS

EVENT	YEAR	1st PLACE	2nd PLACE	3rd PLACE
High Jump	1	Grainger S.	Rimmer W.	Stokes/Anderson E.
	2	Phelps S.	Yip S.	Pellant W.
	3	Canning S.	Weygang W.	Benbow N.
	4	Eva W.	Preece W.	Allen N.
Long Jump	1	Giles E.	Tyremen E.	James N.
	2	Cook S.	Neining S.	Antonijevic E.
	3	Carter N.	Parham E.	Workman N.
	4	Parsons W.	Emberson S.	Wood E.
Triple Jump	3	Jones E.	Parry W.	Loughlin N.
	4	Marcen W.	Emberson S.	Pritchard N.
Javelin	3	Jones E.	Main N.	Washbrooke S.
	4	Neocleovs N.	Carr N.	Henderson E.
Shot	1	Grainger S.	Bilous N.	Baker E.
	2	Sealey S.	Warren N.	Dobbins W.
	3	Clark S.	Fullman W.	Benbow N.
	4	Jones JP N.	Cudby W.	Edwards W.
Discus	1	Bilous N.	Knight E.	Davies S.
	2	McBeth E.	Prouse W.	Wooten N.
	3	Hiatt W.	Clark S.	Gettings S.
	4	Neocleovs N.	Haynes N.	Jameson E.

## Sports Evening

In spite of very wet conditions the Annual House Athletics Competition went ahead on Wednesday June 17th. The enthusiasm of the competition was high and performances credible in the conditions, however the support given to the event from parents was very disappointing.

Results:- (First three placing only).

### Overall Result

1st Southgate	3rd Eastgate
2nd Westgate	4th Northgate

## Cricket Results 1987

IJG extends his thanks to those members of staff who have helped make this year enjoyable for the boys involved.

1st XI	P	W	D	L
	4	0	2	2

This was a very short and disappointing season for the team. There was a good deal of enthusiasm and no small amount of ability. However games were not won mainly because of application and a lack of concentration.

Of the team Cooper and Godding have been chosen for the county squad.

U15 XI	P	W	D	L
	5	3	0	2

1 match cancelled

The U15's have shown that they are capable of playing to a good standard. There are several good and keen players in the squad. Of these Walden has gone on to represent the county. Most of the team have showed an enthusiasm for the game but at times this has not been reflected in the necessary approach to playing and practice.

U14 XI	P	W	D	L
	6	1	0	5

1 match cancelled

A very disappointing year for a team which should do better. The problems arose through a carefree attitude to practice and playing. The team showed definite weakness in batting. The effort to improve came a little too late but perhaps lessons have been learned for next season.

U13 XI	P	W	D	L
	5	2	1	2

1 match cancelled

The team has put in a lot of effort and with the help of Mr. Locky have had many good close matches. This has been a team performance with no 1 player dominating and despite many changes in personnel the side has not been weakened. The squad has shown a very positive approach, and should be looking with confidence to next year.

U12 XI	P	W	D	L
	5	4	1	0

1 match cancelled

The U12's have had a very successful season and have shown a good attitude towards the game. Of a large squad there are very few if any weak links and many boys have made big contributions to the matches. This is a side which shows a lot of promise for years to come.

## House Cricket

The house cricket showed a contrast in the ability and approach of the different players. Involved were actual cricketers, often keen players and those who were volunteered to play. This mixture has led to a good competition with a lively, sporting approach.

Westgate dominated the seniors despite a close game with Eastgate. Their strength in depth telling in the end, with 4 of the school 1st XI bowlers all doing well.

In the Junior competition only 2 matches each were completed as from these matches Northgate came out as comfortable winners. Again the games were well fought with many of the younger boys doing well against their elder. All in all the house matches provided some very good cricket as gave many boys a chance to participate. The overall result is shown in the table below.

## House Cricket

		Pts	
Senior -	1 W	(77)	Pts gained for batting and wing and winning
	2 E	(67)	
	3 N	(57)	
	4 S	(22)	
Junior -	1 N	(43)	only 2 matches played.
	2 W	(25)	
	3 S	(24)	
	4 E	(22)	
Overall -	1 W	(102)	
	2 N	(100)	
	3 E	(89)	
	4 S	(46)	





# OLD RICHIAN ASSOCIATION

## OFFICERS 1986 - 1987

President:	Andrew K. Bishop
Immediate Past President:	Dennis F. Collins
Past Presidents:	Frank O. Watkins Jack W. Dean
Hon. Secretary:	David G. Billingham
Hon. Treasurer:	David E. Mayo
Hon. Membership Secretary:	David Q. Hook

## OLD RICHIAN RUGBY CLUB

### Results for Season 1985/86

1st XV P33 W16 L15 D2 Pts For 455 Pts Agst 541  
2nd XV P29 W14 L15 Pts For 351 Pts Agst 432  
3rd XV P27 W 7 L18 D2 Pts For 286 Pts Agst 429  
4th XV P15 W 4 L11 Pts For 115 Pts Agst 232

Results so far for 1st XV Season 1986/87

1st XV P30 W15 L12 D3

The appointment of Rob Gough as Club Captain for 1986/87 has produced a commitment and competitive element to Richians Rugby, that has not been exploited for some considerable time. By personal example and with well thought out motivation and encouragement, Rob has worked wonders and the achievement of over 50 players regularly supporting and enjoying his training and coaching sessions speaks volumes for his character and determination - well done.

The Season started with a 16/14 win over Bath Combination Champions Old Sulians followed by a creditable draw against the strong Bristol Club, Gordano. In the first round of the County Cup, Saintbridge succumbed by 22/11 to a very fine Richians performance with Gary Lane kicking 14 points to add to tries from Mark Tovey and Demi Prystajecy. Eventually we were knocked out of that Cup by Dings Crusaders but not without a brave challenge from a much weakened Richians pack. Other memorable performances included wins against Bream and a draw against Cheltenham United with a close run 14/3 defeat by Coney Hill.

In the North Gloucestershire Combination Cup we were beaten 14/6, but only after a replay, by Widdett Old Boys who eventually finished beaten finalists. It is good to report that in the Boxing Day encounter against Old Cryptians the Mike Longney Memorial Trophy was regained with a 3/nil victory. Players worthy of mention include Clive Bishop, John Mellon, Jimmy Byrne, Rob Fletcher and Gary Lane who in only 16 games recorded over 120 points. It has been a very happy Season culminating in a most enjoyable tour of Plymouth for 35 players and supporters.

Rob has received good support from team Captains Nick Freckleton, Glen Jones and Andy Givens and it has been so encouraging to see Under 13, Under 14 and Under 16 junior rugby teams playing regularly to compliment the well established mini rugby section which is looked after by Dave Carter. Pete Coles and Ian Morris amongst others.

Appreciation must also be made of the efforts of Club Chairman Gerry Stone and his Committee with Secretary Andrew Miles and Treasurer Rob Wheeler the giving outstanding support. Also thanks must go to Mr. Jones, the school caretaker, and Mr Homer the groundsman for putting up with us and not least to the Headmaster Mr. Heap whose encouragement and support for all our activities were very much welcomed.

*K.D. Ray, Club President*

## OLD RICHIAN CRICKET CLUB

### Results for Season 1986

P19 W4 L15

After a promising pre-season with regular nets after Easter (thanks to the school), the inexperience of the young side showed in their inability to adjust to the weather conditions which led to some expensive bowling, disastrous batting collapses and a disappointing end to the season. Although we were unlucky to lose some exciting matches, including by 7 runs and also 1 wicket to the two eventually promoted teams.

Best batting performances include:-

M. Wiles 65 V Nine Elms  
M. Hoyes 60 Not Out V Bharat  
M. Burrows 55 V Dowty Ashchurch

Best bowling performances include:-

M. Tyreman 5-27 V Bharat  
M. Burrows 5-28 V Charfield  
A. Nash 4-19 V Dowty Ashchurch

Thanks to Mr. Heap, Mr. Jones (caretaker) and particular thanks to the Elmbridge Club Stewards.

*Martyn Tyreman, Club Captain 1987*

## THE ELMBRIDGE CLUB

As I write, this Sports and Social Club built by the Rugby Club and adjacent to the school, will have been in operation for 3½ years and much has been achieved in that time.

The Club's excellent facilities and changing rooms have given impetus to the strengthening of the Rugby Club and the Cricket Club has now become very well established. Mini and junior rugby is a very strong section, there are 5 pool teams playing regularly at the Club and a ladies netball team continues to prosper.

However, the long term success of the Club particularly in overcoming the financial challenge with ever increasing costs depends upon the support and usage especially by Old Richians, still based in Gloucester. To those and all associated with our school my message is - please visit The Elmbridge Club, you will like what you see and hopefully become members and enjoy the facilities and social attractions that the Club has to offer.

*K.D. Ray, Chairman*



## ■ JUNIOR SECTION

Chairman, David Q. Hook; Staff Liaison, Mr. John P. Winstanley; Minutes Secretary, Martin J. Cole; Social Secretaries - Duncan Sargent, Gary Bircher, Ian Henderson; Committee - John Chitty, Paul Drinkwater, Stephen Grieve, James Pearson, Graham Reed, Paul Weston, David Williams; School Reps. - School Captain, J.C. Methven; Upper Sixth, T.B. Knight, I.R. Poole, Lower Sixth, J.P. Meager, A.J. Tidmarsh; Fifth, J.A. Sargent

In comparison to the previous two years, 1986/87 has been disappointing for the section.

On the positive side membership has once again increased, although only a few of the new members have so far put their membership onto bankers order. If the Association is to flourish a large membership is vital and this can only be achieved if all members of the Association recruit ex-Richians with whom they are in contact.

Sales of Richiana this year to members have broken all previous records, with the new Association sweatshirt proving particularly popular.

Unfortunately, despite a great deal of hard work by committee members, the quarterly discos were not as successful as in previous years. Three discos were a social success, making small profits. One, however, held in January was marred by the actions of a minority of non-Richians who not only made the evening unpleasant for the organisers but wiped out earlier profits.

Other disappointments were the decline in support for the section Dinners and the Skittles team. These two items will once again be on the programme next year.

One very successful event we took an active part in organising was the Summer skittles evening. Attended by over 100 people this event will hopefully become a regular fixture in the Association calendar.

I recommend Junior members to come along and support what is probably the largest annual gathering of Old Richians.

During the past year we have supported the opposition the County Council's plans concerning funds within the Gloucester United Schools Charity and further plans to close Rich's as a Grammar School to turn it into a Sixth Form College.

Fortunately fresh reorganisation plans are now being prepared. We hope the Council's new proposals will retain Rich's as a Grammar School.

Many Old Richians will be sad to learn that Iris Pomeroy, whose efforts were largely responsible for there being any grammar schools in Gloucester today died, shortly before the Secretary of State's decision was published.

As always, I have been helped over the last year by a number of people to whom I owe a great deal of thanks. I would, in particular, like to thank the President for his support and the School Captain and Upper Sixth reps, Ian Poole and Tim Knight. Being a School rep. on the Junior Committee is a far from nominal post and the Section's continued success is thanks to a great deal of hard work put in by them and other committee members. As always, new committee members (particularly from those leaving School this year) would be very welcome as would any positive suggestions for future activities.

*David Q. Hook*

## ■ MARRIAGES

Our congratulations and best wishes for a long and happy married life to

.....  
WILLIAMS, Russell (1975-81), married to Catherine England of Staunton, Glos., in April 1987, at St. Margaret's Church of England, Corse.

## ■ OBITUARIES

We regret to announce the following recent deaths and extend our sincere condolences to their Families.

FEATHERSTONE, H.K. of Huntley Gloucester. Died 1987.

GRAY, John C., died in September 1986. He was a retired Police Officer and County Director of St. John's Ambulance Association.

HANCOX, Arthur Edward, known to countless Old Boys as Cocker, was 89 years old when he died early this year at the home of his daughter, Ursula, in the village of Harting, Sussex. Mr. Hancox joined the Staff at Rich's in 1931 and brought Latin back to the School, retiring in the early 1960s as Head of the Classics Department. Obtaining his degree at St. Catherine's College, Cambridge, Mr. Hancox served with the British Army of Occupation in Cologne after the Great War. When he came to Rich's, Cocker served as 2i/c to Captain Frank Davies with the School Cadet Corps - a dark, dapper, bespectacled man in khaki who seemed to grow in stature when on parade. Mr. Ralph Fox, who was for a long time a contemporary of Mr. Hancox at the School, when asked for his thoughts, said "Everybody loved him. He inspired pupils. Arthur was a great Scholar and he brought Scholarship back into the School." A sincere tribute which says everything. Rest in Peace, Cocker!

LYES, Norman, died 1987. The son of Alfred Lyes baker of Westgate Street. Norman flew Sunderlands with Coastal Command during the Second World War. He worked in Shire Hall Education Department and returned with reorganisation in 1974 and retired to Bournemouth. Norman did not enjoy good health during retirement; a result of a plane crash during the war. He died at Wembourne and leaves a wife, Marg, and two daughters.

MEERS, Lt.Cdr. Charles Bevan (1942-47) died suddenly in hospital on 14th August 1986. After completing his National Service with Southern Command at Devizes, he attended King Alfred's College, Winchester, where he qualified as a schoolmaster with a Diploma in Education. For a year he taught at Whitchurch, Hants., then emigrated to Canada where he earned a B.A. at the University of British Columbia. He taught in a number of schools in British Columbia, until he and his family went to Bermuda where he taught at a secondary school. Returning to UK, he was head of History at a school in Southampton before becoming an education officer at Winchester prison. His last teaching post was at Eastleigh College of Further Education. From there he took early retirement following a major spinal operation to correct injuries sustained after a parachute jump whilst in the Army. A very keen athlete and sportsman who, wherever he was, became a member of an athletics club. At various times he rowed, played rugby, and became an exceptionally good tennis player, before his operation. In the early 70's he joined the Royal Naval Reserve and rose to the rank of Lt.Commander. Whilst in Canada, he took an interest in acting and appeared in two television plays for the Canadian Broadcasting Company. He was a jazz enthusiast and, for enjoyment, played many musical instruments. Bevan spent his later years in Barton-on-Sea, Hants., and was a familiar figure striding along the beach in a constant effort to keep himself in peak physical condition. He is survived by four children - Tony, Megan, Jenny and Robin.

ROMANS, Geoffrey, a Vice President, died at Newcastle, Staffs., on 11th March 1987. He was a retired employee of Midlands Electricity Board.

WELLER, Sam, (1950-55) died on the 10th July 1983 aged 46. Sam was a loyal supporter of the School and the Association attending a number of Annual Dinners and other Association functions despite living and working in West Germany for 14 years.



# ■ LATEST NEWS OF OLD RICHIANs

- ANGELL, Ian, (1963-71) working until recently as an Immigration Officer with Customs and Excise at Heathrow, has been posted by the Foreign Office to Bombay, India, for three years "unless" he adds, I am declared persona non grata!
- AUBREY, Steve, (1960-68) is still in the Property Division of Shell U.K. Ltd. where he has been for some eleven years and is now Departmental Manager. He played a small part, he says, in the development of Shell's new concept in filling stations. We apparently have an example of this in Cole Avenue, while Steve is hoping to secure two large new filling stations at some future date in the Gloucester area. His work "also extends to offices, factories, warehouses, oil refineries, farms, pipelines - in fact you name it, I get involved at some stage, either buying, selling, developing, etc."
- BARKER, Andrew W., (1972-78), left School half way through the Sixth form in 1978 and joined Barclays Bank as a Computer Operator, working in London. He transferred back to Gloucester the following year to work at the new Computer Centre in Barnwood. In 1982 he transferred into Programming, moving to Management Services Department headquarters in Knutsford, Cheshire, where he is currently a Senior Analyst/Programmer. He lives in Warington, Cheshire, and is still single - too selfish to sacrifice expensive life-style?
- BENNETT, Simon William (1974-79), after leaving Rich's studied at Bristol as an electronics engineer then, after a spell at Sandhurst, was commissioned into the Royal Corps of Transport and is at present a lieutenant in the T.A. based at Lincoln. He started his "real life" as an Electronics Engineer for an American company based in Hampshire, responsible for the development of and training for equipment used in the manufacture of Semiconductors (?). He worked mainly in Scandinavia and Southern Ireland with about three or four trips to the U.S.A. He ended this employment as Senior Plasma Engineer but wanted to settle down. So, for a complete change, he accepted a move to Luxembourg and now works as a Foreign Exchange Broker in Luxembourg City, enjoying staying in the same place for more than five days. Still single.
- BEWLEY, Rob (1974-82). In 1984-85 Rob interrupted his Modern Languages studies at Oxford University to spend a memorable year teaching English in France. He then went on to spend a further exciting two months working with "Youth with a Mission" in Southern Germany, before returning to a more mundane existence in this country. Since graduating in June 1986 with an Upper Second Class Honours degree, Rob has been working with Cadbury-Schweppes. In April he was living in St. Albans and working as an Assistant Branch Manager for Schweppes GB in North London, but was expecting an early move to a new part of the business and a new location. Rob has recently become engaged to Rosie, a young lady he met last summer while working in Oxford. Congratulations!
- BRUCE, Andrew (1975-82) married Liz Mockett at Hillview Church, Hucclecote, in August 1985 and they are now living in Salford, where Andrew is teaching Maths in a sixth form college. Their first son, Mark Andrew, was born in December 1986 - and could signal the beginning of yet another Bruce clan!
- COOKE, Richard (1973-80) obtained his H.N.D. in Business Studies then spent 2½ years with Insurance companies in Gloucester and Cheltenham. Now living and working in Brighton for Robins & Co., Chartered Loss Adjusters, where he has been since September 1985. He plays bowls for Preston Club, Brighton (and skittles for the O.Rs when in Gloucester!). He asks if there is anyone willing to form a South-East Section?
- DAVIES, Christopher J. (1972-80), having spent eighteen months working in the House of Commons, has now effectively done a "game keeper turned poacher" and works as a Public Affairs Executive for a public relations consultancy. He has been there for a year and, although he officially "majors" on Parliamentary/political matters, manages to get involved in all sorts of things. He still works in Westminster, between Victoria Street and St. James Park. He says the office's biggest advantage is its position - right next door to a pub! He lives in South London, in Colliers Wood at the bottom of the Northern Line. "Unlike seemingly everyone else I was at school with - as my mother increasingly points out - I remain unmarried!"
- DAVIES, Gareth (1978-84) has written from R.A.F. Laarbruch, West Germany, giving news of his latest movements. He is an S.A.C. and was posted in March from R.A.F. Honington, Suffolk, to No.11 (AC) Sqn. R.I.C. (Reconnaissance Intelligence Centre) at his present location. His tour of duty is due to last for three years so he does not expect to attend many (if any) Old Richian functions. He wishes to be remembered to all his friends and states that he still enjoys reading about the School in the magazines and newsletters.
- DEEBLE, Andrew (1977-85). After spending fourteen weeks at the Dorset Police Training School, where he received a special commendation for breaking the fitness record, Andrew is now stationed at Bournemouth. Apparently those who imagine that this must be one of the quietest, least eventful postings are, he assures us, quite mistaken!
- FAULKNER, Derek F. (1934-39) lives in retirement in Banstead, Surrey. He has had a very full life in engineering, being a Chartered Engineer and a Registered European Engineer. He has been a member of the European Commission for Compressed Air, of the Committee for Compressed Air in E.E.C., of the British Standards Committee on Compressed Air in Hospitals, and of the British Compressed Air Society Committee. He was also Chairman of the Rotary Pump Commission for PNEUROP (?). He retired as Site Director of Sykes - Lacy Hulbert.
- FULLER, Howard (1975-82) graduated with First Class Honours in Electrical Engineering from Portsmouth Polytechnic in 1985, and is now getting his lines crossed for British Telecom in Ipswich.
- GEORGE, Dr. Glyn H. (1971-77) has fled from the United Kingdom for the warmer climes of the island Emirate of Bahrain in the Arabian Gulf. He is an Assistant Professor of Mathematics at the Gulf Polytechnic, University of Bahrain.
- HARRIS, Jack (1917-22) wrote a long and interesting letter - and then recommended us not to use it! However, he lives in retirement from his profession of Accountant in a cottage at Woodcote Green, Bromsgrove, Worcs. He has a few acres on which he raises a few cattle, and battles away with a large garden. He says "This garden grows larger every year, I swear. It has been suggested that I grow slower, but of course that is preposterous nonsense." For the fact that he is still alive and active he says "much of the blame must fall on my wife, with whom I have lived in unfashionable amity for 49 years." He looks forward to being able to go to Badminton when the next coach is organised. Unfortunately, his wish could not be fulfilled this year as it was cancelled - Badminton, I mean!
- HOOKE, Gordon N. (1956-65) was re-elected onto Lewes District Council, Sussex, in May 1987 as a Liberal/Alliance candidate with over 60% of the votes cast. Gordon recently took a year off from his post as head of P.E. at Brighton & Hove Sixth Form College to obtain his M.A. in Politics from Sussex University, and returned to promotion as Co-ordinator of External Links.
- JENNINGS, Paul (1974-80) graduated last year from Warwick University with a 3rd Class Honours degree in Engineering Design and Appropriate Technology. Since then he has been working at the Energy Conservation and Solar Centre in London, which is an educational charity set up to promote energy conservation and efficiency, where he works mainly on consultancy work for Local Authorities. These employ the Centre to produce recommendations of packages of heating and/or insulation improvements on estates they plan to rehabilitate. He also works on a ventilation testing service where they use a rig to measure how draughty a dwelling is, and what effect draughtproofing would have. Currently working on a report for Bristol Council. Lives in Hackney.
- LYNE, Ian (1978-85) is now at Baliol College, Oxford, studying Chemistry. Prior to going up he spent a year working with a group helping destitute alcoholics in the East End of London.
- MAYO, John (1938-44) finally said goodbye to the Army three years ago after some thirty-five years service. Since his retirement from the Army he has obtained professional qualifications in "Tourism", and is now Manager of the Andover (Hants) Tourist Information Centre. With a Richian in charge visitors to Andover will no doubt be able to get clear and concise information from the Centre! John sends his regards to all and says he will be making a deliberate effort to be at the Dinner this year.
- MAYO, Jonathon (1960-61), John's son, is presently attending Royal Air Force Staff College as a Squadron Leader.



MEALE, John has recently moved from Corse to Tewkesbury. His new address is Flat 21, The Maltings, Station Street, Tewkesbury.

MORSE, G.A. (1942-47) wrote from Pilning, near Bristol, mentioning "a few random names of contemporaries" including Gordon Cumming, John Hunt, John Etheridge, Ivor Norman, Martin Middleton, John Crouch, Peter Hodder, Alan Robinson, Peter Holmes and Mike Smart. "I was obviously Rugby orientated as you can see from the majority of the names above. Many were County players and others later played representative rugby." He was a member of the School Flight of the A.T.C., representing them in various activities. "One of my best friends was Brian Meeres who wrote an article for the magazine. I met him twice, just before he died so suddenly, when on business trips to the Bournemouth area."

MOSELEY, Jonathon (1976-83) graduated from Southampton University with a degree in Chemistry last year. He now works in Harlow for British Petroleum.

MORRIS, Kenneth J., has had a busy year one way and another. He was presented with the Silver Acorn by the Chief Scout. This is one of the highest awards in scouting. In July last year he attended a Buckingham Palace Garden Party accompanied by his wife, Marion, and their daughter. Ken is presently Chairman of the School Governing Body, and also in July he became President of Gloucester North Rotary Club, the first Richian to have achieved this honour. He is still President of the Gloucester District Scouts Association - for his fourth year! At the time of writing in April, Ken and Marion were expecting their first grandchild - well done, Iain and Mrs. Iain. Ken was made President of the Old Richians Mini Rugby Section this year - and actually turned out on Christmas Sunday to play against the Under 15 side!!

NAYLOR, David (1977-84) says that, basically, he has tried to do as little as possible since leaving Rich's (hence joining the Civil Service). Seriously, though, after Rich's he took a course in Business Studies at Kingston Polytechnic and had a period of employment in record retail with Our Price plc, establishing new outlets in South West London. Now a Civil Servant he is responsible for Asian Acquisitions and American Exchange Material in the Overseas English Section of the British Library. In his spare time he also works for the Public Services Branch of the Official Publications Library.

POBJOY, Kenneth (1933-38), lives at Lower Wick, Worcester, having retired from Midlands Electricity Board in June 1980 after 42 years service. This must surely be the Ken Pobjoy who was at Tommy's with, among others, Tom James, Owen Pearce, Wally Hobby, Dennis Hands, Guy Roberts, Les Stroud, Frank Watkins! - the names rush back.

POWELL, Darryl (1975-82) was married to Cilla at Hillview Church, Hucclecote, on a freezing day in January 1987. He works for "Ssh, you know who" in Cheltenham.

RAWCLIFFE, Rt.Rev. Derek A., BA, OBE (1932-39) left Rich's and went to Leeds University until 1942, gaining his B.A. with First Class Honours. He was then ordained and worked at the College of the Resurrection, Mirfield, and at a parish in Worcestershire. From 1947 until 1980 he held various Overseas appointments. In 1981 he became Bishop of Glasgow, an appointment he still holds.

RICHARDSON, Peter (1975-82). After graduating from Warwick University in 1985, Pete teamed up with a fellow graduate setting up a partnership to provide various community services in Coventry. This ambitious project, closely linked with local churches, is now well into its second year and continuing to prosper. Currently, P.A.R. Services is working in association with the organisation, Coventry Youth for Christ, but they are still taking orders for everything from specialist leadership training to children's birthday parties.

ROLLEY, Duncan J. (1978-85) represented England at the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh last year, swimming in the Individual Medley. Duncan regularly represents England in European events and has his eyes firmly set on qualifying for the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games.

RULE, Peter Richard (1953-59) has written from Kenilworth in Warwickshire. After too great a number of years with High Street banks and building societies, he is now a mortgage and commercial loan manager with Allied Dunbar in Coventry.

SYKES, Micheal (former Hon. Secretary now a Vice President) writes "After some 20 years association with SONY Corporation, MCS together with 70 colleagues are "axed" and MCS becomes one of the 3,000,000 + of Mrs. T's statistics. One day later MCS decides on "Gamekeeper turned poacher" and becomes Freelance Journalist, Writer and Broadcaster on matters Electronic. Enjoys seeing his name in print and getting paid for it. Decides to return to home "roots" and moves from Surrey back to Gloucester, in August 1984. Offered "wages" again by Renishaw at Wotton-under-Edge and joins their Metrology company to look after Advertising and Publicity. Moves to Wotton-under-Edge in January 1986 just as the Snow was beginning to fall and fall and fall etc. er 1986 sees his move to Group Head Office, still in Wotton but one mile nearer home .... nice to be able to walk to the Office instead of commuting to Central London every day, as in former times. By the time this is published, second child should have arrived (??) in June 1987. Watch this space.... Sadly, visits to Gloucester are fewer now than when I lived in Surrey but that is the problem of having 5 changes of address in 5 years. We are known as the "Finger" (Mene, mene tekel upharsin for those who remember their Scriptures). The moving finger writes and having writ .... moves on! At least the O.R.A. have caught up with all these changes and post letters to the present correct address. "If there are any O.R.'s in the area, in need of a cuppa anytime, especially those from 1953 to 1959, give us a bell (0453 844902) or write to 10 Mill Close, Wotton-under-Edge, GL12 7LP."

WISE, Peter (1975-82) has graduated from Southampton University with a degree in French and German, and is now working with Modern Languages of a different kind in the world of computer programming. He works for the computer services company, Hoskyns (whose shares are doing very nicely, thank you) and lives in Chiswick in West London - where he maintains the ideals of an ex-Arts student and has nothing at all to do with computers in his spare time.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

In the words of Sir Thomas Rich's will dated 16th May 1666, "I give and bequeath unto the Mayor and Burgesses of the County of the City of Gloucester where I was born and to their successors for ever All that my capital message or tenement with the appurtenances in the Eastgate Street near the Barley Market to be an hospital and to be employed by them as an hospital for ever for the entertainment and harbouring of as many blue coats poor boys therein as hereafter in and by this my will are expressed." It is an interesting thought that successors of the original Mayor and Burgesses took over Sir Thomas's property and used it for many years as the Guildhall, before further successors sold it to a building society so that the City Fathers could move this year into an old warehouse!

*Frank O. Watkins.*

### Baking Day

In goes the butter, in goes the egg,  
An arm, a hand and an odd leg.  
A pinch of salt, some apricot jam,  
The ear of a bat the hoof of a ram.  
Some fireworks go into to give it a boom  
You'd better get out it needs the room.

The brew is quiet, all is still  
The main ingredient a deadly pill  
Drop it in with a puff of smoke  
Have a sniff, have a poke.

In goes a sock a thousand years young!!!  
Some soggy mud and fresh cow dung  
This awful mixture is ready to bake,  
Who could eat this dreadful cake.

*Nicholas James, 17*





