

# THE RICHIA



\* 1998 \*



*Above, Rich's winning Management Team, who during the Spring Term, participated in a management training event held at Cheltenham Town Hall and which was organised by the 'Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy', in conjunction with Stroud District Council and hosted by Cheltenham Borough Council. The event was designed to raise awareness of Local Government Financial Decision Making and Rich's team, under the supervision of Head of Business Studies, Mr Gary Watson, won the event. The team are pictured above, being presented with their prizes by former Deputy Mayor of Cheltenham, Mr Garth Barnes. The team, from left to right, are Phil Walters, George Powell, Peter Gladwell, Colin Granger, Carly Noble, Tim Jacobs and Sarah Brown. Congratulations to the team and Mr Gary Watson.*

# THE RICHIAN 1998



## SIR THOMAS RICH'S SCHOOL

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## HEADMASTER'S MESSAGE

1997/8 has been a year of marvellous achievement. Our academic results were our best ever, continuing impressive annual progress and taking Sir Thomas Rich's into the national spotlight. A-level results placed the school thirteenth amongst all state schools in England and earned the accolade from 'The Times' of the most improved school in the country. Further commendation followed when we were named in Her Majesty's Chief Inspector's Annual Report as one of the Outstanding Schools, based upon Ofsted reports and examination results with comparable schools. I and our Chairman of Governors, Miss Wilton, received a plaque from Stephen Byers MP at a presentation ceremony in London in April. At this event we were invited to become one of the country's first Beacon Schools, a Government initiative aimed at ensuring the spread of good practice. We submitted our plans and were accepted as one of 75 Beacon Schools, one of only 23 secondary schools in the scheme.

Our buildings have reflected visible evidence of the school's progress and development. After hearing the great news that the Sports Council had awarded Sir Thomas Rich's £400,00 to build a Sports Hall there were several months of bureaucratic inertia. The award was made in November 1996, but at last, on 23rd March, 1998, the builders arrived. The end wall of our multi-purpose hall was demolished and work continued apace on the new Sports Hall, plus fitness room, office, store and changing facilities. Towards the end of the year, there was news that our facilities would improve further; thanks to the commitment of the Local Authority and of our Governors, a new Music Centre is to be built during the next school year. Combined with tree planting around the field perimeter and the Environment Agency's work on building a pond and conservation area in the Memorial Garden, the accommodation and school environment would be the envy of past Richians.

But one constant at Rich's is the quality of curricular and extra-curricular activity within the school. Examination results are evidence of the high standard of academic work, but our extra-curricular life continues to thrive and provide important opportunities for pupils to participate and achieve. Individuals have attained excellence, including England Representation for Robin Tipper (rugby), Piers Camp and Matthew Ward (canoeing), Michael Thomas and Alex Kirby (water polo); teams have fared well (winners of the CIPFA management challenge, finalists in the Geography Association world-wide quiz, bronze medallists in the National Schools swimming relay); an impressive range of clubs and trips have been organized, from Costa Rica expedition to the Duke of Edinburgh Award (started this year, thanks to Mr Dempsey) and a widening range of House events (House music and Public Speaking were re-introduced this year). Crucial to any school's success is its staff, I have no doubt that Rich's impressive achievements over recent years are a direct result of having a tremendously hard-working and committed staff. It is always sad to see a member of the teaching or support staff leave, although it is a natural consequence of promotion and retirement, and it provides opportunities for new staff to be welcomed.

As the school has grown over recent years, it is clear that we have benefited from the skills and interests of new staff. However, it was a particularly poignant end of year, when Mr Alan S Pilbeam retired as Deputy Headmaster after serving Rich's for 37 years. He has been an extraordinarily loyal servant to Sir Thomas Rich's whose steadfast commitment in so many areas of school life has contributed significantly to the progress of many hundreds of individual pupils and to that of the whole school. We are fortunate to retain Mr Pilbeam's expertise, albeit on a part-time basis.

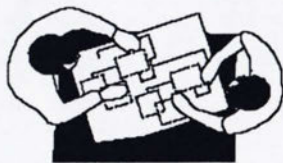
This has been a year of great activity, endeavour and progress. Well done to all staff and pupils and thanks to Governors and parents for your invaluable support.

Garde ta foy!

*Mr I L Kellie*



## EDITORIAL



THIS IS ISSUE NUMBER SEVEN FOR ME AS EDITOR OF THE SCHOOL RICHIAN. WITH EACH EDITION I TRY TO THINK OF NEW AND NOVEL WAYS OF PRESENTING THE MAGAZINE. HOPEFULLY, THIS YEAR'S COPY OF 'THE RICHIAN' IS A LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM PREVIOUS EDITIONS. AS USUAL, MAY I THANK ALL THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED AND ENSURED THAT THERE IS PLENTY OF VARIETY TO CATER FOR ALL THE DIFFERENT PARTIES THAT RECEIVE THE MAGAZINE. ONCE AGAIN, EVERYONE CONNECTED WITH THE SCHOOL CAN BE PROUD OF YET ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR. THE MAGAZINE AIMS TO CAPTURE ALL THE KEY MOMENTS OF THE YEAR, SO THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS CAN APPRECIATE THE HARD WORK, DEDICATION AND CONTRIBUTION OF ALL THOSE CONNECTED WITH SIR THOMAS RICH'S SCHOOL.

HOWEVER, A SCHOOL MAGAZINE SHOULD NOT JUST BE A HISTORICAL RECORD OF THE YEAR AND THIS YEAR I HAVE TRIED TO PLACE GREATER EMPHASIS ON THE WORK OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PEOPLE IN THE SCHOOL - THE PUPILS! IT IS THEIR HARD WORK AND COMMITMENT THAT ENSURES THE CONTINUED SUCCESS OF RICH'S.

FINALLY, A SPECIAL THANKS TO MY WIFE, ANNE, WHO HAD THE PLEASURABLE TASK OF PROOF READING THE MAGAZINE!

MR P D LLOYD (EDITOR)

## STAFF DEPARTURES

### MR BILL NICHOLAS

Bill's confident and "laid-back" approach has made him a popular and respected member of staff. He arrived at Rich's in 1995, after completing his PGCE course at Bath University, where he had also obtained his Engineering degree. Upon arriving at Rich's, Bill was time-tabled to teach Science, particularly chemistry, but he will mainly be remembered for the tremendous contribution that he made to the PE department, with his involvement during the games' afternoons and particularly his impact on Rich's rugby teams. Both staff and pupils have come to enjoy his company and teaching. Despite his short time at Rich's, he has contributed greatly in many areas and his enthusiasm in many aspects of school life (except paperwork!) has had an enormous impact. Bill has contributed fully towards the extra-curricular sports programme, helping to raise standards and improving the quality. He has also been Head of Eastgate and was the Secretary to the Gloucester and District Rugby Schools Football Union at Under 16 level.

Overall, Bill will be greatly missed and we wish both Sheryll and Bill the very best of luck in the future. Finally, all I would like to add, is that I am reasonably confident that with a filo-fax and a new brief case in hand, Bill may possibly arrive at his new school, Marlborough, on time!

*Mr I J Gallagher*

### MR GEOFF NORTON

Geoff arrived at Rich's in September, 1995, from the world of commerce to teach a combination of Business Education and Geography. His industrial experience has proved to be of great benefit to students of business studies and his contributions in geography have been equally valuable.

In September, 1997, Geoff became the co-ordinator of the Year 7 Induction programme, a programme which is envied by many schools across the county. Subsequently, field trips, sports events and various other activities were organized by Geoff for the benefit of the new students.

Geoff will also be remembered for his love of soccer and his support for Liverpool FC. He provided tremendous help to the PE department by helping to run teams and referee matches. His silky indoor soccer skills will be missed on Friday's, when the staff play various 6th Formers in friendly matches.

He leaves the teaching profession to return to the world of finance. All of his colleagues express our sincere thanks to Geoff, for his outstanding efforts while at Rich's, his pleasant nature and we wish him well for the future.

*Mr G Watson*



*Above, Mr Bill Nicholas who left at the end of the Summer Term. His Rugby coaching will be missed!*

## STAFF DEPARTURES

### MR STUART SMALLWOOD

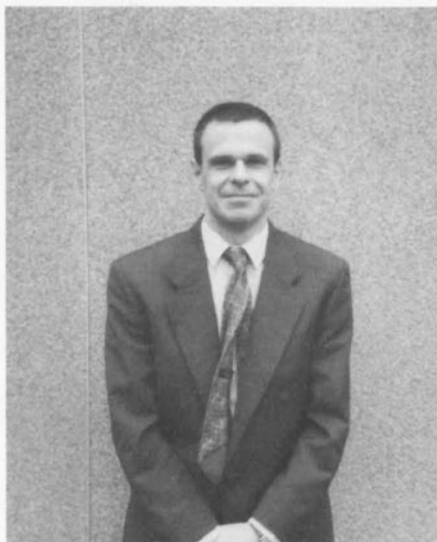
At the end of the Spring term, we bid a sad farewell to Stuart Smallwood, as he departed to take up the appointment of Deputy Headmaster of Bishop Wordsworth's School, Salsbury.

Stuart joined the geography department in September 1989, with degrees from Leeds and Cambridge, as well as experience with the Inland Revenue. He quickly made his mark by setting the highest standards in all activities. His first class teaching, keen interest in the subject matter and the respect he gained from colleagues and classes for his fairness, efficiency and vigour, enhanced the work of the department, which he led in later years. New levels of examination successes were achieved, the flow of good geographers to university continued, field course provision was expanded and the initial plans for the 1998 Costa Rica expedition were made.

However, his contribution to the school went far beyond the confines of G2. The Sir Thomas Rich's Cross Country league was formed, charity collections became part of the school week, methods of sharing good teaching practice were adopted by other departments and acceptable haircut lengths were modelled!

We are grateful for the thoughtfulness, energy and vision that he brought to the school and wish him and his family good success in Salsbury.

*Mr A Pilbeam*



*Above, Mr S Smallwood, who left Rich's last Easter. All the staff wish him the best of luck!*

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### MRS VALERIE CALVERT

Mrs Calvert retired from Rich's at Easter, after serving twenty-six years in the Science department as a Technician, where she was assigned primarily to the chemistry laboratories. Her standards and expectations were very high, as all staff and pupils who came into contact with her will know.

Many of us will remember the inestimable help that she supplied towards the school drama productions over many years. Mrs Calvert's help was tremendous, often making costumes for the various productions and assisting in the make-up for the cast.

Teachers and students alike have been grateful for her efficiency in the laboratories over the many years that she has served the school, whether it be setting up practicals or in ensuring the safety of the laboratories. Mrs Calvert will be greatly missed, but we wish her a happy and rewarding retirement.

*Mr I Bowie*



*Above, Mrs V Calvert, who retired after 26 years service from Rich's at the end of the Spring term.*



## MR ALAN PILBEAM - RICH'S RETIRING DEPUTY HEADMASTER

A.S.P. is not simply a teacher; more an all-round institution.

Richians, past and present, have appreciated his qualities in many differing roles: as a Geographer with a particular gift for inspiring original and stimulating local studies - indeed, there was a book in it; as the leader of field trips both at home and abroad; as Head of Department, who encouraged and helped junior colleagues to develop their careers; as the coach of the Colts Rugby XV, whose standards of play and attitude to the game improved steadily; as a singer in the Choral Society; as the preacher in Assembly of interesting and beautifully constructed sermonettes, worth going out of your way to hear; as the adviser on university entrance - of the choices and procedures he has an encyclopaedic knowledge, and many have benefited from his Oxford connections; above all as a schoolmaster with an extensive knowledge of his students, and a sympathetic understanding of the well-intentioned rogues as much as the high fliers.

A Sussex man, Alan Pilbeam was educated at Lewes School and St. Catherine's College, Oxford. After teaching in the East End of London, he joined Rich's in January, 1962, and soon, on the retirement of John Meale, became Head of the Geography Department. Latterly, as Deputy Head, he has done much, in a time of considerable public uncertainty about such matters, to foster good behaviour in the school and high standards in work, sport and the arts.

At a much earlier stage in his career, Alan might have been tempted to return to research and it is our good fortune that Rich's was sufficiently tempting for him to remain here. Although, Alan retires as a full time member of staff, he will continue for a time with his UCAS work and some 'A'-level teaching. But there is also another book in preparation, then, probably, a return to academia.

Alan will be remembered for his equable temperament and his wit, which can be barbed in a good-humoured way if the occasion calls for it. He will be greatly missed. We thank him for his committed and distinguished service to the school and wish him and his wife, a happy and fulfilling future career.

*Mr Donald Moss*



*Above, Rich's Deputy Headmaster, Mr Alan Pilbeam, who retired this Summer, after thirty-seven years' service to the school. Past and present Richians wish him a happy and rewarding retirement.*

## STAFF ARRIVALS

### MR PHIL BROWN

Mr Brown was appointed as an Information Technology teacher and Network Administrator from the start of the Summer term. He comes to Rich's from Oxstalls School, where he was Head of Information Technology.

He brings with him industrial experience, as he has previously worked at Dowty's as an Aerospace Designer. This post involved him in the administration of Computer Aided Design Systems.

Mr Brown is not new to the school. Since 1980, he has been involved with the Venture Scouts. He is a former pupil of Rich's, where his successes included his role as Cricket Captain. Cricket has remained part of his life and during the Summer term, he helped to coach the Under 14's.

Pupils will be able to benefit from Mr Brown's appointment and we hope he has an enjoyable time at the school.

*Mr M Hale*



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### MR JONATHAN SYMMONS

Mr Jonathan Symmons is a graduate of the University of Nottingham and completed his PGCE at Bristol University this Summer. Jonathan will be teaching predominately Geography, but with some General Studies and Games thrown in for good measure.

Among his interests, he lists soccer, hockey and cricket. Subsequently, he should be a good asset to the PE department. Between his degree and teacher training, Jonathan worked in a variety of jobs to finance several international trips to places as exotic as India and Zimbabwe.

His enthusiasm for the 'Great Outdoors' has already led him to volunteer his services to our very popular Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

I wish him the best of the luck and a very successful time at Sir Thomas Rich's School, particularly the Geography department.

*Mr D Proudlove*

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### MRS MELISSA ROWBOTHAM

The Geography department is delighted to welcome Melissa Rowbotham, who came to Rich's during the Summer term to teach many of Mr Smallwood's classes after he had left for Bishop's Wordsworth. Her ability and enthusiasm made her the obvious choice to replace Geoff Norton, when at the end of the Summer term, we heard of Geoff's impending 'retirement' back into the world of finance.

Melissa graduated from the University of Plymouth and completed her PGCE at Bath in 1997. The highlight of Melissa's undergraduate course, was winning a much coveted place on a student exchange between Plymouth and Perth, Western Australia. Nobody is better qualified to assure students that, despite David Waugh's opinion, Australia is not a "Less Economically Developed Country!" Melissa will also be teaching the GCSE Religious Education course.

As with Jonathan, we wish her a pleasant and enjoyable time at Rich's.

*Mr D Proudlove*

## STAFF ARRIVALS

### MR MIKE SEALES

We welcome Mike Seales as Deputy Headmaster. Mr Seales main responsibility will be as Head of Sixth Form, where he has the difficult task of succeeding Mr Alan Pilbeam. Mr Seales hails from the North East, where he attended South Shields Grammar School. He read Politics, Economics and History at Lancaster University, then qualified as a teacher at Westminster College, Oxford. His teaching career began at Sandback School in Cheshire, then he moved to Pocklington school in York as Head of Department of Economics and Politics. He progressed to become Housemaster, then came down to the Royal Grammar School, Worcester, where he was Head of Sixth Form. This entailed academic and pastoral duties of two hundred 'A' level students, similar to Rich's, although they were housed in a purpose built £2.5 million Sixth Form Centre - something of a contrast to our Sixth Form Common Room. Under Mr Seales leadership, Royal Grammar School's 'A' level results and university entrance record were impressive, so we are confident that he will soon feel at "home".

Mr Seales represented England Universities at Soccer and played cricket to a high standard, eg. Senior League in Durham and Cheshire. He has obviously kept fit, completing the Worcester half-marathon on several occasions.

An indication of his commitment was that after three days of gruelling interviews and presentations, when he was telephoned to be offered the post at the end of the third day, he was not at home - he had gone into school to run his soccer squad's regular training session. With his enthusiasm for the wider life of school, Mr Seales will surely settle at Rich's.

*Mr I L Kellie (Headmaster)*



*Above, Rich's new Deputy Headmaster, Mr Mike Seales, receives the notorious 'Detention Book' from retiring Deputy Headmaster, Mr Alan Pilbeam. Who will be the first entry under the new Deputy?*

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### MS MARGARET ADAMSON

Margaret Adamson joins the Maths department after two years teaching at King's School, Gloucester, where she was the Commanding Officer of the RAF section of their C.C.T. She took a BSc in Engineering at Durham University, where she learned to fly and is currently studying with the Open University. Her interests include, music, hill-walking and camping. We look forward to her lively enthusiasm in the classroom.

*Mr R Fowler*



## STAFF ARRIVALS

### MR TONY BARTON



*Above, pictured in Rich's memorial garden, is Mr Tony Barton, Sports Development Officer. All at the school wish him every success with the new Sports hall and a pleasant time with the PE department.*

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Tony Barton joins Sir Thomas Rich's School in the newly created role of the Sports Development Officer, coinciding with the near completion of the new sports hall, where he will also undertake some teaching of School PE and Games.

Married with three children, all of whom are heavily involved in sport, including his daughter, who is currently teaching the equivalent of 'A' level Sports Studies in New Zealand.

A keen sportsman, winning a number of representative honours over the years, he completed his PGCE at the University of Wales College, Newport, in 1996. Tony is a qualified and practicing coach in a number of sports disciplines and has particularly focused in recent years, in delivering the F.A.'s Coco-Cola Football Development Programme to youngsters throughout the area and is a member of the Football Development Panel.

Tony also brings with him a wealth of business experience particularly within the service industry at senior management and director level together with a fine track record of sports development. He instigated a wide and varied programme for all ages and interests with many new initiatives, in conjunction with the English Sports Council, the Youth Sports Trust and B.T. Top Sport to name but a few.

Having also established excellent business partnerships with numerous clubs, organizations and individuals including the Allied Dunbar Premiership Club, Gloucester R.F.C., The Gloucestershire Rugby Football Development Squad and Spartans R.F.C., The Gloucestershire F.A. School of Excellence, Gloucester City Hockey Club, Cricket Clubs, Football Clubs, Badminton Clubs, The L.T.A. and various others; he now plans to establish similar relationships at STR's and contribute to the further success of the school.

*Mr Tony Barton*

## STAFF ARRIVALS



*Above, Rich's new teaching staff. All at Rich's welcome them and wish them a happy time at the school!*

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### DR STEPHEN MILLS

Sir Thomas Rich's and in particular, the Chemistry Department, welcome Dr Stephen Mills, PhD, CChem, MRSC, to the staff, students and parents of the school. He will be replacing the popular Mr Bill Nicholas, whose departure to Marlborough College will be sadly lamented by both the Chemistry and PE Departments. Stephen has recently completed his post-graduate teacher training at the University of Bath, but he is not a newcomer to teaching. While working as a post-doctoral research associate, also at the University of Bath, he taught organic chemistry and other chemistry related subjects to undergraduates. His background in organic chemistry, medicinal chemistry and biochemistry will provide us with a wealth of experience for the department. With a keen interest in stand-up comedy, he will no doubt prove to be very popular with all age ranges.

*Dr M J Carr*

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*Above, from left to right, Science Technician, Mrs M Beeley welcomes new Technician, Mrs S Chapman.*

## SCHOOL CAPTAIN'S REPORT

There is a saying in the north of England, "All good things have an end - except black pudding which has two." Indeed, the end of my seemingly short seven years at Rich's has arrived, as has my all too brief stint as Captain of the 'School'; a position of great honour and responsibility, but above all, a position to be enjoyed.

I must begin with the most important matter; that is to thank the Staff, Prefects and my loyal team of Observators, for their support in all aspects of my captaincy. Also, a special thanks to Vice-Captain, Janine Woodward, whose support and assistance over the year has been invaluable, enabling me to cope with the stress of tackling the dreaded 'A' levels and ensuring the smooth running of the school at the same time! The memories which I take away with me from Sir Thomas Rich's reflect the varied and healthy lifestyle of a lively school. Sport has provided a vital escape from the demands of study and memories of the First XV Rugby team will always remain with me. In particular, the sense of 'togetherness' and the teamwork between the members of the Clan of '98'.

As I near the end of this report, I feel I should mention several people, who have played an important role in ensuring that my captaincy has passed without incident, but would normally not be mentioned in such an article. I would like to thank Mrs Julie Austin and Mrs Barbara MacDonald for their endless photocopying, the catering staff for accepting my excuses when certain 'duties' were not carried out by one of the prefects and Mrs Jan Brown, who has put up with my frequent presence in the office over the past year! If being School Captain has taught me one thing, it is that in a school such as Rich's, everybody plays their part; nobody could be considered to be an insignificant part of the school.

It only remains for me to wish my successor, George Powell, all the best for the next year. I hope he enjoys his year as School Captain as much as I have. Good luck!

Garde ta Foy!

*M Brown (U6C - School Captain - 1997-1998)*



*Above, Rich's Chairman of Governors, Ms. Jan Wilton bids farewell to Michael Brown, Rich's School Captain.*



## THE RAILWAY SOCIETY

The Railway Society is one of the oldest established clubs in the school and possibly one of the most active. Currently we have between thirty and forty members, proving a popularity way beyond the image of "trainspotting". In fact, the Society is for anyone who enjoys travelling to places of interest by rail and offers excellent value for money, at around £10 to £12 for a visit to destination hundreds of miles away. Not many clubs can beat that! Of course, we do run trips more locally and to places of railway interest. Our first day out this school year was to the Severn Valley Railway at Bridgnorth for their Gala Weekend. This was followed by a more varied and ambitious trip to the Yorkshire Pennines, where we visited the 'olde-Worlde' hillside village of Haworth, taking a ride on the steam-worked Worth Valley Railway. London was the main destination last winter. The trip was sufficiently popular to run on more than one date. Most members opted to visit the Science Museum, where the Science of Sport Exhibition proved particularly interesting. Some of the members chose to see rather more of the city, travelling by bus, tram and even by

boat. Whilst luxury does not usually rate highly on our trips, some members did enjoy the extra comfort of First Class on this visit. They were less pleased that I successfully defended my record of winning the Monopoly competition! Since Easter, we have travelled to the hills of Denbighshire, taking a ride on the scenic Llangollen Railway. We have also revived the Model Railway Section, after a gap of several years. Meetings are held after school, usually on Mondays or Wednesdays and we are gradually building an exhibition-style layout. The model section has an annual membership fee, currently £3, but our trips are open to anyone interested, subject to space being available. Obviously, the trips take a fair amount of preparation and we are grateful to Mr Moss for failing to retire completely from Rich's and helping to lead on several trips. Thanks are also due to those parents who continue to support the Staff of Gloucester booking office for coping with some decidedly unusual ticket requests. Finally, thanks of course must go to the members for ensuring a thriving Society!

*Mr S Pack*

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## YEAR 10 GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP TO DORSET



*During the Summer term, Year 10 embarked on a field trip to the Dorset coast to study various coastal features and to analyse the impact of tourism on the local community.*

*Left, we see three of our intrepid Year 10's, Graham Penter, (far left), Brian O'Neil, (middle) and David Short, (far right), striding up one of the coastal paths.*

*It appears that based on David Short's face, the three students after three hours of searching are still trying to locate Lulworth Cove!*

*Contributed by Mr D Proudlove*

## SIR GAWAIN AND THE GREEN KNIGHT



*Above, we see members of Year 8 during rehearsals of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight.*

At the start, we were a little sceptical that we could put on a performance in only two days, but this was the task and formed the basis of this year's, 'Year 8 Arts Week'. Due to the lack of time to organise such a complex event, hectic preparations were undertaken. Wisely, we elected to video and record the event, right from the initial preparations, up to the actual performance. The drama group had heard the story beforehand on a cassette and subsequently had a fair idea of what they were doing. With the performance day looming over them, they were confident that they would learn their lines and moves on stage. However, the art group were lucky, for they had three weeks to prepare before the event and were well able to finish in plenty of time. The music group were under pressure to write and perform their compositions. From our perspective, it was good to wander around the school and record all the hive of activity that was being undertaken in preparation for the big performance. We even recorded Mr Pickard throwing a tantrum during a rehearsal on day one! Mrs Spilsbury was on hand to help choreograph the movements of the actors on stage and from our angle we saw some weird and wonderful actions from students who usually had two left feet! The music group secretly locked itself away to rehearse and would only let us in at invited times to record them. Many of the cast grew to fear the dreaded camera as we popped up in unexpected places. By the second day of preparations, the production seemed to come together, with all the groups joining for the dress rehearsal. Each part of the performance was closely assessed by the various teachers and minor alterations were made. The production looked feasible and the chances of it being pulled off were realistic by mid-morning. All morning, the Arts' group suspended banners from the ceiling of the stage and frantic minor adjustments were being made to the actors' costumes. By two o'clock the Year 7 audience rolled into the main hall, along with many parents. Behind the stage curtains, last minute panic set in amongst the cast. Finally, the curtains opened and the first scene rolled on, in which Sir Gawain is challenged to decapitate the 'Green Knight'. However, the Green Knight's head re-attaches itself and he orders Sir Gawain to find him in a year's time, so he can return the favour! The next part of the play saw Sir Gawain looking hard for the Green Knight again and on his journey he is attacked by 'Spriteo'. Sir Gawain is then entertained by a Lord and Lady, who have heard of his quest and know where the Green Knight is to be found. Sir Gawain attracts the attention of the Lady and before he leaves, she gives him a magic belt, designed to protect him from any harm. Then comes the encounter with the Green Knight! If you want to know what happened, then I suggest you ask a Year 8 student or better still, borrow our video recording of the performance and see for yourself.

*M Jones & R Buckle (SR)*

## 44TH GLOUCESTER VENTURE SCOUTS

Eighteen months has elapsed since Frank Henderson's untimely death and there are many people who still miss him being around, as well as the support and friendship that he often provided. Yet his enthusiasm and commitment is still clearly reflected in and by the unit members themselves whose high achievements and loyalty ensure that Frank's spirit remains as constant an influence as ever in the daily life of the 44th VSU. It is as much a tribute to Frank's guidance as it is to their own achievements that five members of the unit were presented with their Queen's Scout Award - the highest honour Scouting affords - at a ceremony in Gloucester Council Chamber at Shire Hall last Easter. Special congratulations to Tim Andrews, Jody Ballard, Andy Clifford, Mark Gilmore and Phil Reid.

So what of other things achieved by the 44th members during the last twelve months? Dan Wright, a contemporary of the above, has spent nine months in Nepal, living with a Nepalese family, teaching in their local school and (inevitably) setting out on mountainous adventures into the Himalayas. By the next edition of the 'Venture 44', Dan's story will be told!

An "old face", (86' vintage) has returned - viz one Jason Stone - to train some of the younger members on the finer points of compass work and help develop their map reading and navigation skills. He and Lee Rounce, (another 44th "old timer") led them onto the wilds of Dartmoor and Bodmin Moor last February, braving some of the worst winter weather for ages. For those of you who can recall, the temperatures were up in the 70's and the sun blazed down from an azure sky - shorts were de rigour and several members were seen swimming in the sea and playing beach footie in between hiking trips!

Last Summer's expedition was a memorable visit to the Beara peninsula in south-west Eire, where several of the party completed their Duke of Edinburgh expedition sections. Fishing and the local seafood specialities were of the highest standard and the spartan camping facilities at Allihies were more than compensated by its beautiful setting, as well as the friendliness of the local population.

Another high point was staging the lecture given by survival expert, Ray Mears, who held his audience spell bound and intrigued, as he recounted his experiences while living with people whose daily battles with nature have changed little for generations. Special thanks go to Mr Steve Wright of Radio Gloucester's "Country Matters" for initiating the project and to Field and Trek for their sponsorship of the evening.

Climbing skills continue to be developed at regular sessions down at the Warehouse in Gloucester and successes were claimed in the River Wye Raft Race, where we came 2nd and 3rd respectively. In the Cotswold Marathon, we obtained winners and runners-up trophies.

With new members getting involved all the time, the unit continues as a vital and integral part of Sir Thomas Rich's School.

*Mr P Brown*  
(Venture Scout Leader)

## **RICH'S BECOMES A BEACON SCHOOL**

In April, the Headmaster and the Chairman of Governors were invited to an awards ceremony in London at which plaques were presented to "outstanding schools", ie. those identified in Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of School's Annual Report as, "schools which, as well as achieving high examination performance in comparison with schools in similar circumstances, are shown by inspection to be providing a good quality of education and delivering high standards."

At this ceremony Stephen Byers MP, the Education Minister heading the Standards and Effectiveness Unit, announced the intention to use these schools to help to spread good practice and 170 schools were invited to take part in this "Beacon Schools" initiative. The intention is to set up a network of such schools, each with identified areas of strength. Each school will retain its Beacon School status for three years. National funding of £1.8 million per annum has been allocated to support the scheme.

All types of school were included - nursery, primary, secondary and special. 150 offered to take part and submitted plans to show how they would do so, of which 75 were accepted. We are delighted to be in the first group

of Beacon schools, one of only 23 secondary schools in the country to have this honour.

At the time of writing the precise details have yet to be finalised as to which areas of strength will be offered and how we shall be integrated into the national and local plans. Our intention is to open our doors to visits from teachers, students and those who may be considering teaching as a career.

The award of Beacon School Status is a tremendous achievement and further recognition of the national reputation of Sir Thomas Rich's.

*Mr I L Kellie (Headmaster)*





## **A RETROSPECTIVE ON SIXTH FORM EXCURSIONS - GEOGRAPHY FIELDWORK AT 'TOMMIES'. (1989-1997)**

What makes one subject different from another? There must always be at least one indefinable quality which conjures up the uniqueness, the essence of a subject - that catches its spirit through imagery, rather than phraseology, through poetry rather than prose. For geography at Tommies, that essential aspect is encapsulated by fieldwork and in particular the traditional residential trip run for the Lower Sixth during the Summer term. I suspect it would be the same for most geographers and students; the enduring memories come from far flung locations, rather than the daily classroom treadmill.

The great outdoors will leave an indelible mark on anyone, wherever the field course visits and Tommies students have been almost to the ends of Britain over the past eight years. Giggleswick provided the dramatic scenery of Pen-y-Ghent and the Settle to Carlisle railway. Exeter and the south-west riviera coast gave a contrast, with deck chair and wind break gaining precedence over the backpack for three years! Thnce to Arran, from where my most vivid memories come. Glen Rosa unwinding into the mists of distance below my feet seems a vivid picture, as does the scramble along the A'Chir arête to meet the field centre group, who were visible as tiny ants 2000 feet below in the valley. Heady stuff indeed! And finally to Snowdonia in the Summer of 1998 - a tantalizing prospect. I wish them luck.

Of cours, there is the down side too. The late nights, the mini-bus breakdowns, the wondering whether the coast will still be the same as when you visited it last! The transport cock-ups, the cold showers, the horizontal sleet and the fog. I am normally fairly uneasy at the start of the trip, contemplating what could go wrong and usually breathe a big sigh of relief when everyone's back in one piece. The teaching can be tiring and the learning worse, especially if you have a vindictive, but tedious taskmaster who keeps you working until 10.00 in the evening. I feel for Sixth Formers sometimes!

This retrospective is a postive affair. Fieldwork has been one of the foundation stones for the development of Sixth Form geography during my time at Rich's. It is what fired my interest as a geologist and a geographer - my hope is that it has done the same for the Sixth Form geography students over the past eight years and that it will continue to do so long into the future.

*Mr S Smallwood (Now Deputy Headmaster of Bishop Wordsworth)*

## A SHORT STORY - LONELINESS

His fingers were freezing and he couldn't grip the snow covered rock. When he glanced up, all he could see was the rope snaking up towards the sky. He carried on climbing, but every movement was harder than the last. Finally, he pulled himself up over the ledge where his team-mates had already pitched the tent and started cooking that evening's meal. The food was welcome after the harsh climb. As they settled down to eat, James and Mike were already discussing hard parts of the day's route. When they crawled into the tent, it seemed even colder inside than out and this just added to his feeling of desolation and exposure.

He was wondering why he was there. Back at the hotel in Chamonix, it had seemed like such a good idea. After meeting his old friends from all that time ago in the university climbing club, it had only seemed right that they should go and climb one of the great peaks. James and Mike regularly went climbing together and he was there to do some alpine walking. A spell of bad weather had pushed them together in the bar where they settled down to reminisce of their years at Oxford.

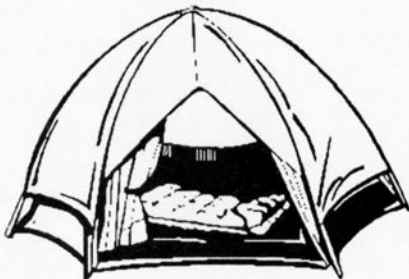
He was woken by the howling of the blizzard. As he glanced at the luminous dial of his watch he saw it was half past three. Next to him, James groaned and mumbled something about the gales.

"What's the noise? What time is it?", asked James.  
"Three-thirty".

James groaned again, "Might as well go back to sleep then, if this keeps up we won't be going anywhere in the morning."

He was woken again round seven, the wind did not seem to have lost its vigour, so he settled back to try to ignore the storm. James and Mike were discussing blizzards they had weathered and seemed to be enjoying themselves.

Four hours later, the blizzard had not lost any of its ferocity. Fortunately, the ledge that they were camped on was very over hung, which meant that it didn't get totally covered in snow. Around mid-day, the storm stopped as quickly as it had started. As they crawled out of the tent, they saw that there was a fresh layer of snow on the floor of the ledge and it had almost covered the tent. He took out the Iridium satellite phone and dialled the international weather laboratory to get a weather report for the next three days. It was going to be colder than normal and there was probably going to be another blizzard in two days. He reported back to James.



"We either press on and hope to get back here before the blizzard, or we can go back," he said.  
"Yes, Mike and I have been thinking about this. We have decided to press on and try and reach the summit before the next blizzard."

Mike was already stowing his kit and James was wearing his harness. He crawled out of the tent and put on his boots, the crampons still in their plastic covers from the night before. The air was bitterly cold, it stole his breath before he had a chance to breathe it. He wondered why he had bothered to use the phone.

During the afternoon they were walking up one of the snow slopes connecting the rock and ice pitches. He was thinking to himself that the climb was getting harder as he was getting more and more fatigued. Mike, who was climbing behind him, was also struggling. Suddenly Mike shouted a warning. Before he had time to brace himself, the rope snapped tight and he was sliding down the slope with Mike. To his amazement and relief, he found that he'd stopped falling, thanks to James at the top of the rope. He hooked his ice axe into the snow, pulled himself upright and found to his surprise that he did not seem to be badly injured. Mike climbed up to him and they moved on up the wind-blown plain towards James. When they reached the leader, they asked him how he'd managed to stop them.

"Even before I heard Mike shout, I knew he'd go, so I dug in a belay."

They gazed out of the tent looking at the sunrise, the morning was the most dangerous time of the day as the sun heated up the snow, causing the possibility of avalanches to materialize. This meant that thousands of tons of snow were rolling down the mountain and if they got in the way of any of these, they would go to a powdery grave. He hoped that they would be safe, although their tent was sheltered by the rock, there was still a risk.

"Look", called James, "first one of the day".

"This is like that time on K2", said Mike, "when we had to dodge the avalanches as we went up that snow pitch."

"That was a sunny day like this."

"Wasn't it lucky we found that boulder we could get under."

"Great fun though."

He pulled himself onto the summit and stood up. As he rigged the belay, he marvelled at the view. It was truly amazing, he looked down and saw the route they had taken and then further out he saw the valley of Chamonix and in the distance the great lake at Geneva. He was soon joined by James and Mike. As they stared at the wonder of the view, they heard sounds of people coming up the gentler southern escarpment. When they turned around, they saw four people dressed in the same heavy mountain gear as themselves. When the party got closer, they realized that they knew them.

"Hello", he shouted, "you're the last people we expected to see here."

As they settled down to talk of the climb, one of the other party asked if we had been camping out during the blizzard.

"Yes, it was magnificent", said Mike.

"Didn't you find it rather lonesome out there?"

"Of course not", replied James, "I'm never lonely with my friends."

On the way down, he thought about the conversation and wasn't sure. He had been close to Mike and James for nearly a week. However, upon deep reflection, he had come to realize how lonely he really been during their adventure.

*D Chivers (10R)*

## THE RECORDING OF 'GOES WITHOUT SAYING!'

The nice thing about teaching and playing a musical instrument is that sometimes after all the marking has been done, one has a little bit of time to doodle around and come up with some tunes. When I amassed eight or nine of these compositions, all on disk on my sequencer at home, I thought it would be an idea to have them recorded properly - live drums instead of sequenced ones, live instruments instead of half-way decent sounds from various modules linked to the computer. So, last year, I got the chance to do just that. So, a twenty-four track studio in Bristol was booked, the car loaded with gear for the week and off we went.

Having set up all the instruments and got a good drum sound on the first morning, it was then down to the important business; making a cup of tea! I think we must have kept a fair few plantations in profit during the week we were at the studio.

The great thing about studio work is that you can keep re-doing a take until you get it right - very valuable given that some of the song contained temp changes which would have impressed Rick Wakeman. Entering each track also took time; on the first day we eventually emerged into the Bristol night at about 2.30 am. During the next four days, we recorded eight tracks and then it was time for the mixing to be done. This is when the sound levels of the various tracks are set and any effects which may enhance the sound, (reverb, chorus etc) are added. The tracks were then mixed onto DAT and mastered onto CD.

The tracks themselves are diverse, ie. electric mix, rock, classical, jazz etc, but instrumental progressive rock is about as fashionable at the moment as cheesecloth shirts and stack-heeled books, so why do it at all? Simply because I now have a top quality recording of my own material and it was great fun working in the studio - plus, I enjoy listening to it, and that goes without saying!

Mr R Watson



Above, Mr Richard Watson, proudly displays his CD, which features a compilation of various compositions that he produced and recorded. Orders can be placed direct with Mr Watson!





## THE RAILWAY SOCIETY'S SUMMER TOUR TO SCOTLAND

In July, 'The Railway Society' embarked upon their annual Summer tour. As usual, we reserved the best and most ambitious trip until last. This was the residential tour to Scotland, which this year ran to four days. One Thursday morning, soon after the exams, a group of twenty were seen making their way to Gloucester Station in the early hours of the morning. The ultimate destination was Mallaig, terminus of the highly scenic West Highland Line, which was reached on the Friday lunchtime.

Two nights were spent in the Highland village of Crianlarich and a third in the very different surroundings of Manchester's smart new city centre youth hostel. I was relieved that a very complicated jigsaw of time-tabling worked almost flawlessly and we arrived at Mallaig in style aboard the last remaining regular steam train on the national network. Of course it was not all travelling; there were museum visits along the way to York and Glasgow, as well as the more active members climbing the Minster Tower at York.

My own courier skills were sharpened at Fort Willaim as around forty Japanese tourists attempted to ensconce themselves in our carefully reserved First Class seats, before realizing their mistake and retreating in disarray to the lounge car. There was a keenly competitive edge to some of the encounters at the pool table as we relaxed during our evening in Manchester.

This was the longest, largest and most complicated visit we have attempted for several years, but it lingers in my memory as one of the most successful of all and I hope the members enjoyed it as much as I did!

*Mr S Pack*



*Above, we see 'The Railway Society Summer Tour Group' taking a short break from their journey at Clenfinnan Station on the West Highland Line. Far right, tour organiser, Mr Steve Pack.*

## YEAR 7 FOREST OF DEAN ACTIVITY COURSE

The idea of the Forest of Dean Activity course for Year 7 was introduced last year by David Frodin. Following the success of this venture, it was agreed that this year's Upper Sixth would organize a similar programme in the autumn half-term break. Assisted by several members of last year's Upper Sixth, Daniel Wright, David Frodin, Neil Abbot and Jeremy Lai-Hung, plus a willing team of prefects and Venture Scouts, the four activities programme was instigated, with each of the Year 7 forms having the opportunity to participate. Although the Year 7 students' enthusiasm for the 'great outdoors' varied from slight to high, all seemed to enjoy at least part of the day's exploits.

Before lunch, they faced a series of 'task stations', which were spaced apart from each other, ensuring that part of the challenge was to actually find the activity. The navigational instincts of many of the Year 7's was greatly appreciated by some of the Sixth Form Leaders, who had momentary lapses of their sense of direction! Each task station was home to a different activity; defusing bombs, crossing acid rivers and tying each other in knots. They all provided the opportunity for lateral thinking and also provided lots of amusement for the leaders!

In the afternoon, the new Rich's recruits were briefed in army fashion by Dan Wright before taking part in a commando-style team 'wide-game'. The boys used up any remaining energy by tearing around the forest trying to take over each other's 'base', without getting caught by opposing team members. Even just watching the exercise was an exhausting event.

I really enjoyed running the activity days and do hope that they are continued in the future. They provide an excellent chance for new Richians to meet and get to know some of the more senior students in the school in a relaxed and informal environment. I definitely think that this helps the new boys to approach Sixth formers more confidently when they have problems that they wish to share with someone other than family, friends or staff.

The activities were designed to introduce the qualities of leadership, teamwork and companionship. However, overall, I hope that the day out in the Forest was a fun experience, enabling the Year 7's to make and strengthen friendships, while gaining an appreciation for their natural environment.

*A Clifford (U6G)*

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## RICH'S TO HAVE A MUSIC CENTRE AT LAST!

The Local Education Authority and the School Governors have each committed £100,000 to enable the construction of a new music centre. At long last, this will provide good facilities for our music teaching and practices.

The Music centre will be built as an extension to the new Quadrangle, facing the Oakleaze road entrance. It will comprise of two teaching rooms, three practice rooms and a storage area, all sound-proofed.

Building work is due to commence in the Autumn term of 1998, with completion some time during the academic year. For thirty years, Rich's musicians have struggled in cramped accommodation, it is excellent news that such a major improvement is imminent.

Mr I L Kellie (Headmaster)



## JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR

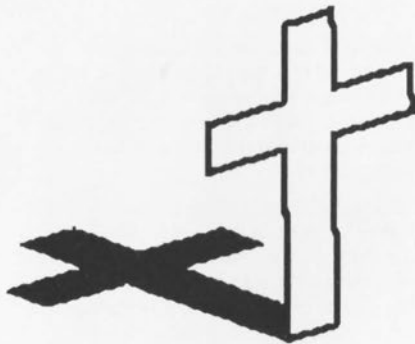
Last December, Mrs Elizabeth Stanley produced and directed Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's production of Jesus Christ Superstar. During the three nights that the production was staged, over nine hundred people came to watch. The actual production involved one hundred and fifty students from Rich's. Many of course formed the cast, but contributions were made to the lighting, sound and staging of the production. Mr Jim Thompson directed the orchestra, while Mrs Jane Spilsbury was at hand to choreograph the dance routines. Of course, the actors and chorus took centre stage, but one must not forget all those people who were involved behind the scenes and whose contribution to any school production is essential if it is to succeed. The production was kindly sponsored by Boots the Chemists and this year the lighting and sound was enhanced with the help of Cheltenham Staging Services.

Mrs Stanley was very pleased with the outcome of the production, particularly as unlike Joseph and his Technicoloured Dreamcoat, the music was written for professional singers, making it very demanding. Many hours went into rehearsing the production, but despite the hard work the students had terrific fun and enjoyed themselves. Naturally, there was anxiety and nerves as the performance nights drew near, but the cast and technicians rose to the challenge.

During the performances, many students emerged as potential superstars. There was fourteen year old Malcolm Peckham, who played Judas with great conviction and authority. Meanwhile, Guy Grimsley portrayed the evil Herod with lots of gusto and delighted many people in the audience with his cameo in a Garry Glitter routine. Other bad boys in the production included the menacing Matt Mills as the High Priest, Caiaphas and Stephen Morris as the evil Pontius Pilate.

The star of the show was Steven Collins who had the lead role of Jesus and many who came to see the performances will vividly remember the final scene, when the stage crew cleverly engineered the dramatic crucifixion of him. A huge wooden cross that was on loan from St Matthew's Church was used to effectively suspend Jesus and bring the show to a climax. To add to the technical problems of pulling off such a dramatic scene, the lighting and sound technicians had to ensure that they got their act together as well, to ensure the full impact of the scene. Praise must go to Mrs Stanley and all of her cast for pulling off a very ambitious project. Apart from entertaining lots of people, it highlighted the fact that Rich's has a lot of artistic talent.

*Mr P D Lloyd*



## POETRY

### A Real Crowd

A soft, hazy day  
Not a cloud in sight.  
The team bus arrives;  
A huge cheer!  
Flags flying  
Small boys smiling,  
The wind whooshing through their hair;  
Jumping up, just to catch sight of their  
gods.

A sea of red stands,  
Eleven heroes run onto the pitch,  
Like messiahs, they are worshipped  
The crowds, ecstatic,  
Expecting a win.  
The chairman, calm and confident.

A whistle blown,  
The match begins,  
The crowd simmer down, but then  
A player runs,  
The crowd all rise -  
Synchronised.  
A fierce shot, like a bullet .....  
But a great save.



Clouds creep into the sky,  
Sun and haze long gone.  
Anxious, the crowd await .....  
A thundering volley,  
Struck!  
A goal!!!

Silence.  
The rain falls steadily.  
The crowd despair, but then  
Number nine skips past a tackle,  
Is clear through,  
Rifles in a shot,  
Scores!  
The crowd all jump and sing and shout,  
Willing the team to win.

But time is almost done.  
A watch consulted,  
The whistle blown for the end.  
Disappointment.  
Some even distraught.  
But, loyal as ever,  
The crowd will return.  
Next Saturday,  
A new game!  
A new hope!

A Thakor (SR)



## THE GERMAN EXCHANGE TO GOTTINGEN

The German Exchange is probably one that none of the group will forget for various reasons. Nine Year 9 students, along with members of Denmark Road survived the eighteen hour coach journey. A warm welcome from our partners awaited us upon our arrival. After a day to recover from the journey, we all went to the nearby town of Goslar with our German partners, where we were given a guided tour of this beautiful medieval town. Then we were taken down the old Goslar mine.

The weekend was free for us all, to spend time with our German partners and their families, before we all met up again on the following Monday, at the host school. Luckily, our first lessons were held by our German teacher, enabling us to recuperate from the very early morning start. Some of us had got up at 5.30 am. We attended only one lesson that Monday morning, because when the Germans were in periods 3-6, we went on a guided tour of Gottingen. The next day, Tuesday, we went to Eisenach, which proved to be very interesting for all concerned, as we visited the castle of Elizabeth of Thuringen. The inside of the castle was attractively decorated and there was a display about Martin Luther, the first man to translate the Bible into German. Our next major trip was by train to Hann-Munden, another beautiful medieval town, followed by a long walk. The last visit of the exchange came when we went to the town hall, where the local mayor gave us a friendly talk, followed by a tour around the local museum.

The last weekend of the exchange was again spent with our host families, but on the Friday evening there was a party for everyone, with a band playing all types of music, various amusing games and other forms of entertainment. Before we knew it, we were boarding the coach back to England and our exchange trip was over. All who took part had happy memories, with the participants feeling that it had been very beneficial, both linguistically and socially.

M Cox (10B)



*Pictured left, the members of the Upper Sixth Public Speaking Competition Team, who represented the school. The competition was held at Pate's School, Cheltenham and was organized by the Rotary Club of Cheltenham. The team did not win, but performed to a high standard and were unlucky not to be judged the overall winners. The team were, left to right, Tristan Meredith, centre, Simon Aldrich and far right, Jennie Bennett.*

## YEARS GONE BY!

### The Richian - 1958 - Forty Years Ago!

Of note, Miss W M Thompson, who taught art in the school, retired after forty years service. She was replaced by Mr J A Taverner, who unfortunately died in 1997. School trips were abundant, with the main ones being to Glengarriff, Ireland and the area around Interlaken, Switzerland. Rich's main dramatic production was, "The Winslow Boy", while the House plays included, "The Thistle in Donkey Field", "The Knave of Hearts", "The Monkey's Paw" and "Midnight to Dawn". Senior House rugby was won by Eastgate, while the 1st Cricket XI won five of their twelve fixtures. Southgate were the overall Cock House winners. The Annual Speech Day was held in the City Baths, with Professor A Victor Murray, of Cheshunt college, Cambridge, being the guest speaker. Of interest, on Mondays, the morning act of worship was held at Brunswick Road Baptist Church. In 1958, a Parents' Association was formed and one of the first challenges for the association was to raise funds to re-carpet the library floor. The Railway Society went on trips to Bourneville, Tyseley and Monument Lane. Meanwhile, the Scout Troop was very active, cleaning out St Michael's Tower, evening hikes around Haresfield Beacon, rehearsals for a 'Gang Show', a trip to the Isle of Wight and a weekend camp to Minsterworth. A Photographic Society met regularly during the course of the year, with activities including demonstrations on "Fine grain developing" and "Taking Portraits", to name but a few! The Debating Society was in full swing, with motions for example on such issues as, "This house has no confidence in Her Majesty's Government" and "This house considers that Boadicea was unjustified in poisoning herself after her defeat by the Romans". The School Council held a number of meetings, with one meeting being dominated on how the school should deal with the problem of litter. Another decided to re-introduce the "House Colours" to help differentiate the houses during sporting events. Importantly, one of the meetings was used by the Headmaster to announce the introduction of "Prefects' Detention". The magazine reported that examination results for the year had been "average" and the boys received their "O" level certificates in a School Assembly from the Rev. E C Pritchard, the Rector of St. John's. The main sporting success of the year came from two pole-vaulters, B D Dixon and R L Butt, who won silver medals, (Intermediate & Junior, respectively), at the National Athletic Championships for Schools, held at Houghton-le-Spring. Finally, the Old Richians' Association's Annual Dinner had a record attendance, due to the fact, that retiring art teacher, Miss Thompson was present. It is evident from reading the 1958 Richian magazine, that for many pupils the school was the hub of their social lives.

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### The Richian - 1968 - Thirty Years Ago!

The school had been at Elmbidge approximately four years by now. The magazine was produced by a committee, comprising of Staff Advisor, Mr Donald Moss and the Editor being a R C Harris. The school Captain for the year was P A Wood. Mr Idris Williams left the school in July, 1968, after thirty-nine years of teaching chemistry, to be replaced by Mr T W Morgan, who arrived from Hampton Grammar School to teach chemistry. There was a school trip to the Rhineland and one of the highlights of the year was the construction by Mr E J Pritchard and his helpers of the school's very own bowling green. The Choral Society gave two performances in March, of J S Bach's, St. John's Passion, with over 140 pupils and staff participating. Drama was evident in the form of John Mortimer's double bill, "The Dock Brief - David and Broccoli". There was an Electronics Society in the school, as well as a Life Saving Club. On the sporting front, the 1st XV only won four of its twelve fixtures and the 2nd XV only won four of their ten fixtures. Meanwhile, the cross-country 'A' team had a very successful season, winning all of its twelve fixtures. Basketball was thriving in the school, with over twenty-three games being played, of which eleven had been won. Fixtures included the likes of St. Paul's College, RAF Lyneham and Cheltenham Technical High School. The Historical Society was very active, with talks ranging from, "Air Power in Vietnam", to "The Russian Revolution" and trips included one to the Roman town of Viroconium. Of interest, this year witnessed the "third annual Sixth Form Dinner". The Cock House was won by Northgate, and for the 1967-68 season, the Old Richians' 1st XV won twenty of its thirty-five fixtures. President of the Old Richians' Association during this year was R A Gabb. The Parents' Association had a "Travel Evening", in which slides and films were displayed. As usual, there were the Friday night film shows, with films such as the "The Night of the Generals" and "Bridge on the River Kwai" being shown to large audiences. The Debating Society continued to have some interesting topics for discussion, such as, "This house believes that education is the root of all evil" and "This house believes that Apartheid to be a courageous solution to a difficult problem". Other clubs in action during 1968 included, a Scientific Society, Stamp Club, Angling Club, and a Aeromodelling Club, to name but a few. The Scouts won a district Six-a-side soccer competition. The third Old Richians' London Dinner was held at Rubens Hotel, Westminster, organized by the late Stanley T Jones.

*Mr P D Lloyd*

## A SAFARI ALONG CINDERFORD CYCLEWAYS - (COSTA RICA EXPEDITION TRAINING)

*Yes, I know that the Forest of Dean bears little resemblance to virgin rainforest, but I've a powerful imagination! Last October, the Costa Rica Expedition Force underwent some training. Cinderford proved rather difficult to find for one mini-bus, which missed the turning and carried on towards Chepstow. A three-point turn, several false starts and an unguided tour of Cinderford town*

# Outdoor Recreation



*centre, followed in quick succession before camp was finally established in front of the ACT centre. The local wildlife in town seemed to take pleasure in voicing their opinions on army life en route between the pub and disco, but most of the team still managed a decent night's sleep eventually.*

*Morning arrived and somewhat later, a collection of rather bedraggled expeditioners surfaced and got ready to depart for Coleford. The styles varied from compact, aerodynamic packs to massive framed objects which appeared to have all their owner's belongings on the outside! The team split for the walk. Mr Proudlove and the A team planned their route, met their deadlines throughout the day - and then got hopelessly lost in a field near Bracelands and blamed the map! Mr Smallwood and the others got lost in a quarry at the start, but then discovered a new concept called map reading and kept their bearings for the rest of the day. The evening's entertainment at Bracelands was varied in style. First came the spectacle of sixteen different types of pot noodles, cooked in different ways that would make you shudder.*

*Next came the collective brainstorm about how to clean burnt pot-noodles off the pans and finally, the post-prandial sport of pegging out Mark Willis in his waterproof, (which resembled a tent groundsheet).*

*The Sunday walk back to Cinderford was efficient both in planning and execution, with the group leaders becoming progressively more sensitive to the disparate abilities of a whole team of people. What is certain is that a disjointed group of novice mapreaders and campers left for the Forest on the Friday evening, but returned on the Sunday very tired, but with greater confidence and competence after their weekend experience. It may not have been the tropical delights of Costa Rica, but it was a very useful team-building exercise.*

*Mr S Smallwood*

## COSTA RICA EXPEDITION TRAINING - (a visit to Wyld Court, near Newbury)



*Above, from left to right, George Powell, Mark Willis and Tim Jacobs get acclimatized to the tropical heat that is simulated at the 'Rain Forest Centre', Wyld Court, near Newbury.*

The Costa Rica group visited Wyld Court, near Newbury to experience rain forest conditions. The Rain Forest Centre consists of three very large greenhouses of 1,860 metres squared, set up to show the conditions in Cloud Forest, Amzonica and Lowland Tropical areas.

Each area provides an insight into the plant and animal life encountered in these regions. The temperature and humidity are carefully controlled to make it as authentic as possible. The Cloud Forest area is created by spraying very fine jets of water out into the hot air. Each time this happened the boys were enveloped in mist and frequently disappeared from view.

We attempted to recognize and identify plants that we might encounter in Costa Rica. There are many plants which originate from Costa Rica, as Wyld Court is the World Land Trust Conservation Centre. It works closely with conservation groups in Costa Rica propagating rare plants for reintroduction. Without question, both staff and students alike were surprised at the intense heat and humidity. It was good to realize what to expect when we actually do go to Costa Rica, although inevitably the climate will still be a shock to the system for all of us!

*Mrs J Arnold*

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## LEADING CLIMBING COURSE

As part of the Year 11 and Sixth Form Games programme, a group of pupils during the autumn and spring terms attended the climbing centre, 'The Warehouse', in Parliament Street, Gloucester.

During each Wednesday afternoon that they attended, the students undertook a programme of indoor climbing instruction. In the Autumn term, seventeen students completed and passed the 'Basic Competency Certificate', to allow them to climb safely.

Six of these students decided to opt for the more demanding 'Lead Climb Course'. They were the first school group to undertake the course at the centre and pass it.

*Mr R Lockey*



## THE ANNE FRANK EXHIBITION

With the re-birth of the History Society, it was decided that our first trip would be to pay a visit to the Anne Frank Exhibition in Gloucester Cathedral. The members were able to obtain a real grasp of the persecution that the Jews experienced at the hands of the Nazis during World War II. We also learned a great deal about Anne Frank and her family, who during the occupation of the Netherlands, went into hiding with the assistance of the Van Pels family and Doctor Pfeffer, (referred to in her diary as, the Van Darns and Doctor Dussel). From the exhibition, with its various videos, plus a guided tour, the group came face to face with some very sobering facts about the ruthlessness of the Nazi regime.

The exhibition, which formed part of a European anti-racism initiative, informed us of the brutal realities of the Nazi concentration camps, such as Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen, where Anne eventually died. It told us how the Jews were discriminated against, publicly humiliated, tortured and persecuted. We obtained a detailed insight into the cruel treatment that these people experienced in occupied Nazi Europe.

Anne Frank hid secretly in rooms behind some offices for over two years, before they were eventually betrayed by someone, who to this day, is still unknown. Anne and her sister were taken to Bergen-Belsen where they both died. Ironically, this happened only a month before the camp was liberated in 1945. Our first society visit certainly revealed the darker side of human nature and the terrible suffering of the Jews during the Second World War.

*C Richards (9C)*

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### Anne Frank

Restrained, bolted and barred,  
Trapped under an icy surface,  
Holding on to sanity,  
Before sinking to the bottom.

Wondering and wishing,  
When will it end?  
The Innocent are dammed,  
Slowly losing their grip.

Taken and tied,  
To places of death,  
Where the demons lurk,  
With spears and spikes.

Warm rays of hope,  
Breaking through,  
Yet my grip is tired.  
I'm slipping into  
The cold depths below.

*J Allison (9R)*



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*Items contributed by Mr P Vaughan-Smith and Mrs J Grocott - 'The History Society'*



## POETRY

### Working day

The cock crows.  
Noise and laughter fill the air,  
The place is bustling with excitement,  
Another day's begun.

A circle of light fills the air,  
A great ball of fire hanging on a string,  
Showing the fields in all their glory,  
Now the action can begin.

Cranks and whirrs envelope the place,  
Deafening out all noise.  
The fields are being ploughed and sown,  
Ready for next harvest.

The day wears on.  
The place is fogged in an endless sea of  
noise,  
Til the ball is lowered through the air,  
Suddenly the noise grows low.

The light has gone.  
And with it the noise,  
The farm has been switched off!

G Kirby (11R)



### Twister

A beacon of danger,  
Whispering on the horizon.  
As it slices its own course,  
No set route planned.

People try to reach safety,  
But it can't be beaten.  
No one can argue,  
It does as it chooses.

The lucky are avoided,  
The rest are crushed,  
As it flattens before it,  
Without debate.

In its wake is left devastation,  
Destruction and death.  
You may be safe this time,  
But wait, another one is close behind!

D Cowley (11T)

### What are we doing?

There once was peace all around,  
People were friendly, talked to one another as  
they worked,  
Out in the fields with their ox-drawn ploughs.

Everyone knew everyone then,  
Market day was excitement, especially for the  
young,  
Who were taught the proper way.

But now, these are only memories,  
And very often referred to as the 'good old  
days'.  
Everything is different now.

Busy towns they grow and grow,  
And appear to have links to all the world by  
busy roads,  
Which take them to the supermarkets.

Executives work in high rise offices,  
No link to the real world, just computers and  
computers,  
Denying real friendships.

B Sills (11S)

## YEARS GONE BY!

### The Richian - 1978 - Twenty Years Ago!

The Editor was Roger Yeomans and in his address at the start of the 1978 edition, he highlighted the energy, endurance and patience of producing the school magazine - Nothing has changed! In this academic year, staff arrivals included Mr M Bevan to the PE department and Mr G Haynes to the English department. Departures included two language teachers, Mr Edmund Tickner and Mr Tim Saluveer. The guest speaker at the annual Speech Day was Sir H Montague-Finniston, who promoted the idea of education addressing the two R's - 'Reason & Responsibility'. The school presented a Christmas concert, which was Handel's Messiah. Rambouillet was the destination for a number of second years, while the German exchange between Gottingen and Rich's was in full swing during the Easter holidays. One of the highlights of the year was the 'Bus Fair', with many attractions, such as 'soak the bloke', army displays and various other money raising ventures. There was also a highly successful sponsored swim, a Folk Night, Cock House Party and a concert by a Welsh Choir. A group went to the Lake District, while the Debating Society decided that soccer was anti-social and racism was not posing a threat to society. The Historical Society, with Mr Barrington a key member, undertook a sponsored walk in aid of the 'Jubilee Appeal', visited Erddig Manor, near Wrexham, Ironbridge, Avoncroft museum and the Staffordshire museum at Shugborough. The 1st XV only won 3 of its 11 fixtures, but Rowing was thriving, with successes at Evesham and Hereford regattas to name but a few! The school also possessed a thriving Angling Club, with many competitions being undertaken. The Chess 1st team won 8 of its 18 matches, while the Cross-Country teams competed all over the country and the Squash Club had its most successful year. Rich's also had a Cycling Club, with a trip around Chedworth taking place. A Bridge Club was also set up, thanks to the arrival of a Mr Davis and reached the regional rounds of the Daily Mail Cup. The Railway Society had problems with rising costs, but managed trips to South Wales, Humberstone, Greater Manchester and the Teeside area. Meanwhile, the Venture Scouts held its 10th anniversary, with the Senior and Junior sections both winning the 38-mile Cotswold Marathon. There were also plans for an expedition to Iceland in the summer. Rich's Naturalists' Society was a newly formed club during this year and arranged many trips in the local area, with guest speakers invited by Mr J Y Cooper to talk on a range of subjects, including, 'Wildlife of Dungeness'. On a sad note, the magazine reported on the death of English teacher, Mr Frank Bradford. Finally, the Parents' Association found itself busy with meetings relating to the local secondary schools reorganization plans!

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### The Richian - 1988 - Ten Years Ago!

The Editor was English teacher, Pauline Smith. The Headmaster was Gordon Heap. Of note, much respected Deputy Headmaster, Mr John Winstanley, who joined Rich's in 1962, retired at the end of this academic year. Other departures included maths teacher Mr Ioan Davies. However, Rich's welcomed a number of new staff, such as Viv Rees, who taught RE, technologist, Alan Preece, musical director, Alisdair Jamieson and French teacher, Pam Joshua. Mr Ron Matthews produced and directed the play KES during the autumn term, while Rich's witnessed a group of musicians who called themselves the 'Dixieland Jazz Band' and included Mr Frank Henderson.

The French Exchange was La Rochelle organized by Mr Cutting. One of the highlights of the year was the charity event 'Red Nose Day'. Mr Gallagher arranged for the school to take part in the 'Weetabix Sponsored Run', which was in aid of raising funds for Olympic athletes taking part in the Seoul Games. The total amount raised was £2,177 and on the actual day, there was a special guest appearance by Olympic Swimmer, Sharon Davies. During the year, Basketball was thriving, with the Under 14's winning 9 of their ten matches. The sport, now long forgotten, was also part of Cock House Competition. The 1st XV won 7 of its 10 matches, while an Under 16 side won the Gloucester City Schools' Cup at Kingsholm. Mr McBurnie ran a very successful Indoor Cricket League, with a staff team winning the league, but not the cup.

The Railway Society went to Scotland, the Gloucestershire & Warwickshire Railway, Manchester and London. The school also boasted a Model Railway Society, which unfortunately had to accommodate itself in the boiler room, but it managed to get out of there for a trip to Alton Towers. Other clubs reported in the magazine, included the 'Home Computer Club' and the Christian Union. The Chess Club had a very successful season, competing well in the local leagues, as well as entering tournaments, such as Marlwood. Key players included Andrew Roderick, Adrian McBurnie, Adrian Stokes and Andrew Gettings. The President of the Old Richians' Association was Mr Eric Smith, former Modern Languages teacher at Rich's, with the annual dinner being held at the Crest Hotel, Bamwood. Overall, the magazine once again captured another busy year at Rich's.

*Mr P D Lloyd*

## GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ - ANSWERS ON PAGE 48

- Q1. In Shakespeare's play Othello, who was Desdemona's husband?
- Q2. On an Ordnance Survey map, what does a black rectangle, with internal crossing lines represent?
- Q3. What is Ballistics the science of?
- Q4. Which famous book did Laurie Lee write?
- Q5. What does D.C. stand for in Washington D.C.?
- Q6. Which famous queen was Anne Boleyn mother of?
- Q7. What is the height of a horse measured in?
- Q8. What instrument measures a person's walking distance?
- Q9. An animal that eats both plants and animals is described as what?
- Q10. What is the leader of the House of Commons called?
- Q11. What sort of creatures would you find in an apiary?
- Q12. What is the common name for hydrogen hydroxide?
- Q13. Where does the Chancellor of the Exchequer officially live?
- Q14. What was the Marshall Plan of 1947?
- Q15. Where would you find the Coccyx?
- Q16. Which is the largest island in the West Indies?
- Q17. How many pounds are there in a kilogram?
- Q18. Which British King was the last monarch to be killed in battle?
- Q19. What is the fastest land animal?



- Q20. Joseph Priestley discovered a gas in 1774, What was this gas?
- Q21. In Paris, Napoleon Bonaparte's famous victories are commemorated by a famous monument. What is the name of this monument?
- Q22. Who baptized Jesus in the River Jordan?
- Q23. What is it called when atoms are split?
- Q24. Who wrote the book, the Wind in the Willows?
- Q25. Which famous book did William the Conqueror order to be compiled?
- Q26. The Roman numeral 'C' represents what?
- Q27. Jerome K Jerome wrote a famous book about some men rowing down a river. What was it called?
- Q28. Which planet travels around the sun every 248 years?
- Q29. What is the fourth sign in the Zodiac?
- Q30. What does I.Q. stand for?

*Mr P D Lloyd*

## THE SCHOOL YEAR

### Autumn Term

The school year started off with news of some excellent exam results, with a 97% pass rate at 'A' level and the average points per candidate being 3.9. At GCSE, the pass rate at grade 'C' and above was 92%, with the average number of passes being 8.5 per candidate. Dennis Silk was guest of honour at the annual Speech day in late September, and Year 7 embarked on the traditional trip to Stratford. Andrew Clifford (6G), along with some other 6th Formers organized an activities programme in the Forest of Dean. The school announced a millennium project which involved members and friends of the school pledging to nurture tree seeds in preparation for planting the young samplings produced around the perimeter of the school fields in the year 2000. Early on in the term, the Rich's Cross-Country League was held, with the Under 16's winning their category, while the Under 14's came third overall. In October, a group of Richian Minstrels gave a concert of music dating from 1300 to 1600 to members of a junior school in Leckhampton. The Railway Society went on an excursion to the Severn Valley Railway Gala at Bridgenorth and the Yorkshire Penines in November.

A Year 10 GCSE Art group visited the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford, while over fifty members of Year 7 went to Clearwell Mines. The Parents' Association raised over £3,500 at the Christmas Fayre and in November, the Government announced its official School and College Performance Tables, with Rich's achieving the highest standards of all State schools, (including Grant Maintained), in the South West, for the fourth successive year. During the term, over £600 was raised from the weekly charity collections and it was decided that the money raised would be donated to the RSPCA. In December, the Costa Rica expedition group underwent some basic training in the tropical region of Dartmoor. Of note was the restoration of the school's harpsichord, which was originally built by French and Latin teacher, Mr John Burrow, (1951-1984). It was successfully used in the school's 'Christmas by Candlelight' evening at the end of the term. A group of 6th Form Geographers went on a field trip to Salcombe, while a team qualified for the regional final of the Geographical Association Worldwide Quiz.

The Duke of Edinburgh Unit, comprising of over thirty members, successfully completed a First Aid Course. A group of 6th formers produced and performed Tom Stoppard's play, 'Every Good Boy Deserves Favour', in front of the 'General Studies Groups'. The First XV won 7 of their 13 matches, while the Seconds won 8 of their 12 matches. Westgate won the House Art, while Northgate won the House Quiz competition overall, with West and North sharing the Junior House rugby competition. As usual, the highlight of the term was the school production, which this year was Jesus Christ Superstar, which involved over 150 students and over 900 people came to the three performances. During the latter part of the term, the Band of the Royal Parachute Regiment (Aldershot) came to the school to run workshops for our musicians and provide the school with a full concert. Three former students, Tom Hinton, Duncan McBurnie and Chris Poole represented Oxford University and won the inter-university bell ringing contest with Cambridge placed second. Ironically, Tim Poole, another former student and brother of Chris, represented Cambridge.

A number of key staff announcements were made at the end of this term. Mr Pilbeam announced that he would be retiring after 37 years at Rich's, at the end of the academic year. Meanwhile, Mr Smallwood successfully secured the post of Deputy Headmaster at Bishop Wordsworth's School, Salisbury, while Mrs Calvert, a member of the Science Technician team, announced that she would be retiring at Easter, 1998. The term finished with the traditional carol services at St. John's and Holy Trinity. Once again, the Autumn term had been particularly busy, with sport, music, drama and many other extra-curricular activities enhancing the excellence produced in the classroom. For many of the staff, the term had simply zoomed by!

*Compiled by Mr P D Lloyd and based on the termly newsletter sheets.*

## Spring Term

The Spring term picked up where the previous one had finished. Year 11 went straight into their GCSE mock examinations. Rich's received two excellent pieces of news in the early part of the term. Firstly, another crop of sixth formers were formerly offered places at Oxbridge and secondly, the school was officially named in OFSTED's annual report, as being one of the highest achieving schools, based on the achievements of the previous academic year. As usual, there was a number of key trips, with Year 8 visiting The Commandery, Worcester, while a number of Year 9 & 10 students completed the French Exchange, by visiting Ancey. Also, on a French theme, a group of sixth formers went to the Birds Eye Walls factory at Barnwood, to take part in the annual "Stance Day", i.e. 'Simulations dans le monde industriel', where they embarked upon various industrial role-play activities - all in French of course! On the sporting front, a swimming relay team, consisting of Lee Bell, Ben Dabbs, James Farley and James Taylor finished in bronze medal position at the National English Schools' Swimming Association Relay Championships at Wolverhampton, with Milfield being the event winners and setting a new national record. Mr Norton, helped by Daniel Tingle and Phil Knight, gave up their Saturday afternoon to run a Year 7 Indoor Soccer tournament, in which a team from 7T ran out as the eventual winners. House events were in full swing, with the highlight being the return of the Music competition, which was won by a very able Eastgate group, led by Malcolm Peckham. Mr P Brown was appointed as Rich's new ICT teacher. Soccer was thriving at Rich's with a full quota of fixtures and team of the season was the 1st XI, very ably led by Leon Ford and David Nichols. The team played 5 fixtures, winning 4 of them. A group of Young Engineers formerly launched a major project, which was to build a kit car, based on a Ford Fiesta Mk 1 and called Sylva Jester. The team aimed to complete the project over a 12-18 month period and obtained sponsorship from various groups, such as Bristol Street Ford Motors, Cheltenham & District buses and SATRO. The club also went to the Tomorrow's World Live Show at the NEC in early February.

During the half-term break, a 6th Form Classical Studies group, accompanied by Mrs Grocott, Mrs Roberts and Mr Vaughan-Smith went to Athens for seven days. On a historical note, the History Society went to Cheptsow Castle, while the Costa Rica group explored the steamy atmosphere of Wyld Court, near Newbury, where there are three very large greenhouses, that simulate rainforest conditions. In March, the Lower Sixth embarked on the traditional Work Experience programme, with placements ranging from accountancy to conservation work. A group of 6th Formers went on a Leadership course in the Black Mountains. The Duke of Edinburgh group were busy preparing for their expedition work and completed a First Aid course. Late on in the term, a group from the Upper Sixth staged Arthur Miller's, 'The Crucible' and Mr R Watson organized a trip to Ben Elton's play, "Popcorn". There was the Spring Concert, with items ranging from rock to folk music. A Geography Quiz team, consisting of Michael Webber (11S), Peter Bulinson and Gareth Aubrey (10S) successfully won their way to the national finals of the Geography Association's 'Worldwise Quiz'. Two teams from Year 8 and 9 participated in a French Speaking Competition, held at Beaufort school, with the Year 8's winning their event with style and great confidence. Also, on a winning note, was Mr Gary Watson's Management Challenge team, who won a competition organized by the Chartered Institute for Public Finance & Accountancy. The team won £300 for being the best "overall team" and for presenting their management decisions in the best manner. Another team entered the Rotary Club Public Speaking competition, held at Pate's and were unlucky not to win. At the end of the term, young Richians kindly donated over £1,000 to charity, with £500 being presented to the Macmillan Cancer Relief. The end of the term signalled the start of building work on the extension of the sports hall and other facilities. Finally, the term ended with the retirement of Mrs V Calver, after 26 years' service. Also, Mr Smallwood left to take up his new post at Bishop Wordworth's school in Salsbury after nine years' service at Rich's.

*Compiled by Mr P D Lloyd and based on the termly newsletter sheets.*



## Summer Term

The first part of the Summer term simply flew past. Much to the amusement of the staff, the Geography department appeared to be out of school most of the time on various field trips. The Year 7's conducted an excursion from Cleeve Hill to Winchcombe, while the Lower Sixth had a lively time in Snowdonia. Then the Year 9's went to Bridgnorth and Bewdley, while the Year 10's went to the Devon coast. Just before half-term, the whole school turned out for the 'School Photograph' on the tennis courts and the annual Founder's service took place in early May, with the Right Reverend David Bentley, Bishop of Gloucester addressing the school at Gloucester Cathedral. Mr Slinger led a joint Rich's/High School contingent on the traditional Gottingen exchange, in which the group visited Berlin as part of their tour. The Headmaster announced that Rich's had been invited to become a 'Beacon School', as a result of it having been quoted in Her Majesty's Chief Inspector's Annual Report, due to its last OFSTED report and the school's examination record. In May, the traditional end of 'Key Stage 3' examinations in English, Maths and Science were undertaken by Year 9. Of great importance, was the building work that began at the start of the term on the extension to the Sports hall. Already, by the Summer half-term, the contractors had erected the outer framework, foundations and were starting on the brick-work. In relation to House events, a delayed Senior House Soccer tournament commenced, with Northgate overall winners, beating Westgate on a penalty shoot-out in the final. Meanwhile, early in the term, the Chess competition finally finished, with Eastgate overall winners. On the music front, a Choral Concert took place at St Catharine's Church, while a group of instrumentalists took part in a 'Kaleidoscope' day of music and drama, held at Lonsdale Methodist Church. Congratulations from the Headmaster were given to Andrew Clifford of the Upper Sixth, in relation to him receiving the highest award given in the Scouting movement, which was the Queen's Scout Award. Early on in the term, the whole of the Lower Sixth went to Bath University to attend the Higher Education Fair and Conference. Mr Dempsey and his Duke of Edinburgh group were busy, with practise expeditions in the Cotswolds and First Aid classes. In conjunction with individual successes, Clive Stuart-Smith represented an Under 16 England President's XV in a match against Bristol Schools and he also captained the Gloucester District Under 15 XV. Piers Camp (11S) and Matthew Ward (10B), represented England in the Pan Celtic canoe slalom championship at Lucan, near Dublin in May. Other good news, included the announcement that the school would have a new Music Centre and it would be built as an extension from Q6 & Q7. The Railway Society went on its annual Summer trip, with the destination this time being, the Western Highland Line in Scotland. Meanwhile, last minute preparations were underway for the Costa Rica group, who at the end of the term set off for San Jose, via Heathrow. Year 8 participated in a two day 'Arts' programme, culminating in a production of 'Sir Gawain and the Green Knight'. The traditional musical Summer Concert was held, featuring a large variety of items, from Eric Clapton's, 'Wonderful Night' to Bach's 'Double Violin Concerto'. The cricket season was very poor, due to the terrible weather, resulting in a large number of matches being called off. The 1st XI played four, winning two and losing two. Meanwhile, a very experienced Westgate team won the House Cricket competition, but overall, the 'Cock House Trophy' was won convincingly by Northgate. Well over £200 was raised from the weekly 'Charity Collections' and was destined for the 'Cancer and Leukemia in Childhood' charity. The History Department organized trips, with Year 9 visiting the Ironbridge Gorge, while Year 7 went to Chedworth Roman Villa. During this term, everyone watched with great anticipation, as the extension to the Sports' Hall progressed rapidly. The Technology department were grateful to receive funding for a major investment in 'Lego Dacta' gear, which would be used to demonstrate the principles of gearing. The funding came from 'Whitbread' and the 'Science and Technology Organization'. Finally, the term ended with a number of staff departing. This included, Deputy Headmaster, Mr Alan Pilbeam, after 37 years' service, Mr Geoff Norton and Mr Bill Nicholas, who both came to Rich's in 1995.

*Compiled by Mr P D Lloyd and based on the termly newsletter sheets.*

## THE HOUSE PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

This took place on the last Thursday of the Spring term, before an audience of Year 8 pupils, together with some Sixth Formers, who obviously thought the event was related to their 'General Studies Programme'.

The format of the competition was different this year. The juniors were given the task of arguing the case for or against two propositions, while the seniors retained the freedom to decide their own issues for debate.

The standard of presentation and the content of the junior speeches were generally very pleasing. The Southgate team in particular, consisting of Richard Yemm, Jonathan Ellison and Philip Foster, spoke with clarity and conviction in favour of the introduction of coeducation

throughout school. Northgate put up a sound defence of the status quo, but it suffered a little from being slightly rushed. The other issue discussed by the juniors was whether television does more harm than good.

Nicholas Jones, the Westgate main speaker, spoke clearly and with authority, if rather too fast at times. Eastgate opposed their case, with Paul Beddows putting forward a thoughtful case in favour of television bringing the world into our homes. Some of the effect was lost, however, because of Paul's rather too quiet delivery. The judges, Mr Pilbeam and Mr McBurnie, felt that the juniors put on a good performance, especially taking into account that they were addressing an audience largely of their own age.



The topics dealt with by the senior teams were, 'European domination of Great Britain', (Northgate), 'The Spice Girls are really aliens', (Southgate), 'The Millennium', (Eastgate) and 'Madness', (Westgate). Despite "guidance" from the organizer that the intention of each presentation should be seen as primarily an attempt to win over the audience to a point of view, the teams largely adopted the view that they were there to entertain, rather than to inform. Westgate in particular attempted to rediscover the "wacky" tradition established in previous years by Northgate's Chris Wilkinson; and they almost pulled off a clear victory, largely through Stephen Morris' lively presentation, punctuated with many ironic references to staff idiosyncrasies - always a popular device in these competitions! The choice of the 'Spice Girls' themes by Southgate was generally well received. Chris Hobday's heavy irony at the expense of the Girls seemed to strike a chord with the audience, and Nathan Woodhouse gave effective support, with staff once again on the receiving end of various quips. Northgate's treatment of our relationship with E.U. came a little too close for comfort to "little Englanderism", while Eastgate's treatment of the Millennium, while humorous in parts, became a little laboured.

The organizers understand the difficulty of holding the attention of an audience of one age-group for some ninety minutes, without resorting to a variety of dramatic or humorous devices. Certainly humour plays an important part in public speaking, but it is worth repeating the assertion that oratory which is designed to move the thoughts and feelings of an audience is a worthwhile aim and one which would achieve the highest commendation from the judges.

Mr DJ Slinger

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#### HOUSE PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION - FINAL RESULTS

| <u>JUNIOR</u> |       | <u>SENIOR</u> |              | <u>OVERALL</u> |       |
|---------------|-------|---------------|--------------|----------------|-------|
| 1ST           | South | 1ST           | South & West | 1ST            | South |
| 2ND           | West  | 2ND           | -            | 2ND            | West  |
| 3RD           | North | 3RD           | East         | 3RD            | East  |
| 4TH           | East  | 4TH           | North        | 4TH            | North |

## THE HOUSE MUSIC COMPETITION

The demand for music-making is becoming increasingly high. Therefore, I was not totally surprised when it was suggested to me last October that one of the school's oldest House competitions be resurrected. For indeed, there are not many who can remember the last back in 1986. I decided to give the Senior pupils in each house the responsibility of organizing their respective entries without significant help from me. The date was fixed and so began the lengthy period of audition and selection after varying degrees of persuasion, cajoling and probably, in certain cases, arm-twisting to fill in the five category entries: Junior Solo, Junior Ensemble, Senior Solo, Senior Ensemble and Open.

As with all House competitions, there seemed at the outset to be an unfair bias towards one particular house in terms of 'available' musicians. However, the eventual standard achieved by all the houses was surprisingly of equal standard. I was most impressed with the effort that went into some of the ensembles, although it was very apparent from the last minute frantic rehearsals that not everything had quite been prepared enough for public airing!

The Junior Solo started the whole competition (or, as I would rather call it, festival) off with two fine cello pieces - both, rather longer than three minutes, the limit set, but nevertheless, they were impressive. A cornet performance of great eloquence and a very brave treble solo rounded off an event of very promising talent.

The Senior event augured great things too and indeed we were not disappointed with accomplished performances from all four musicians. I found it difficult to establish clearly an outright 'winner' from hearing four quite contrasting styles all of a very high standard. Compared to the Ensembles, again which revealed an amazing abundance of musical variety, the Solos proved a very close run thing when reduced to marks out of twenty. I really enjoyed the bravery, nerve, commitment - call it what you will - of the Ensemble entries, from the Northgate Junior String quartet to the Westgate Senior rock group. After the Eastgate Piano Duet version of Grainger's 'Country Garden', I wondered if the piano would ever be the same again (!) and it was difficult not to smile and admire the bravura of the last minute, spontaneous Northgate Senior Duo performing, 'Wild Thing' - achieving a well deserved second place.

To follow this seemed a difficult feat, but Northgate's all costumed rendering of 'Summer Nights' easily topped the chart for best choreographed entertainment. As with one or two other entries, however, the only blemish on an otherwise excellent performance was the use



of word sheets, which I think, next time, will be a 'non-requisite'. Overall, it was a superb afternoon of abundant musical talent and entertainment, even though the last performance finished at 3.27 pm - giving the adjudicator time literally to announce the final marks and positions! I would like to thank Mr Richard Ling, Head of Gloucestershire Instrumental Service, for kindly giving up his afternoon to be with us and for giving his expertise in judging the competition. His adjudication was duly published outside the Music room and revealed comments which reflected a very high standard of performance alongside most helpful analyses of individuals' technique and musical presentation.

### FINAL RESULT

|     |           |           |
|-----|-----------|-----------|
| 1ST | EASTGATE  | 83 Points |
| 2ND | SOUTHGATE | 79 Points |
| 3RD | NORTHGATE | 78 Points |
| 4TH | WESTGATE  | 74 Points |

*Mr J W Thompson*



## THE CRUCIBLE - A VIEW FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

When the idea of a Sixth Form production started to circulate just before Christmas, I had in mind initially something fairly light-hearted, like Stoppard's, 'The Real Inspector Hound' or Ayckbourn's, 'Confusions' perhaps. After all, I reasoned this was the last year of 'A' levels for the Upper Sixth and they would not wish to do anything too demanding. Besides, I did not want them to be distracted from their studies. How wrong I was! "Wouldn't it be a good idea to do a play they were studying for their English 'A' level anyway?", they reasoned. "Absolutely", I responded, "but you're studying 'The Crucible'. All right then, will do it!", came my reply.

So much for the light-hearted. The play, 'The Crucible', deals with weighty issues - ostensibly about the Salem witch trials in Massachusetts in the late seventeenth century, although the play was really born from Arthur Miller's experience of Senator McCarthy's 'Communist witch-hunt' in the 1950's. Indeed, as I re-read the play a few times, it dawned on me what a difficult task we had taken on - it is an intense and demanding play, demanding on both actors and audience and I wondered if we could possibly do it justice. However, as the rehearsals progressed, my fears were gradually laid to rest. The cast approached the task with gusto, (most of time) and their confidence was infectious. This dissipated somewhat when the weeks seemed to shoot past and the performance dates loomed large on the horizon. It was also most inconvenient that rehearsals had to pause for such peripheral activities as 'A' level mock exams!

As always, a few weeks before the production, I and others, wondered if we had not been a trifle ambitious. How could a young cast portray such emotion, such mental torture, such cruelty on a school stage? Once again, I underestimated the Sixth Form. Watching the dress rehearsal made me realize how impressively they could deliver the passion and turbulence of the play, with Dan Delwiche, Hannah Godwin, Janine Woodward and Stephen Morris, particularly effective. As a Director, one can only teach so much - how to deliver lines, where to stand etc, but the raw emotion has to come from the actors and the entire cast delivered it in bucket loads. The only thing which was not there in bucketloads was an audience and that was a crying shame, for those who were there saw two performances of startling maturity and commitment.

It is on the notion of commitment that I should like to finish. To have eighteen Upper Sixth formers, (and one Year 11 pupil - Chris Brown) give up so much of their time at such a crucial period was remarkable - all more so, given that 'The Crucible' needs a fair degree of line learning - it is a "wordy" play. My thanks go to all who helped in this production and especially to Matt Mills, who not only acted out of his skin as John Proctor, but kept spirits up during the days when I felt it was not going to plan. All I can hope, is that in the future, more people will support the school productions - believe me, it's worth the effort.

*Mr R Watson*



*Above, Matt Mills, (John Proctor) and Lucy Wraith (Abigail Proctor), pose during the dress rehearsal of Arthur Miller's powerful play, 'The Crucible', which was directed and produced by Mr Richard Watson last April.*



## THE COCK HOUSE REPORT

As is the tradition, this year's competition started off with House Art. Westgate once again secured victory, narrowly beating Northgate. This year, the competition has seen a few adjustments. Specific events, like the Art, Drama and House Athletics were awarded 'double points' to highlight their value and the depth of student involvement required by each house to successfully compete in them. Also, the traditional house points for academic work from the half-termly Order Grades, did not count this year. Other innovations this year, included the re-introduction of House Music. The next event took place in November, with Junior and senior teams taking place in Mr Vaughan-Smith's House Quiz competition. Junior winners were Westgate, while the Senior winners were Northgate. Just before the Christmas break, Junior Swimming was completed. As usual the races for all the years, from 7 to 10 were very competitive. Out of the 35 races, Northgate won 18 of them and subsequently won the swimming from South, followed by East and last of all, Westgate! Also, before the winter break came Junior Rugby. As usual, rivalry was intense, with Southgate winning the Year 8 tournament, Northgate the Year 9 and controversially, Northgate taking the Year 10 competition from Eastgate. The Year 10 'decider', between North and East had to be abandoned, due to Eastgate's very unsporting conduct. Accusations of bias, cheating and victimization flew around the school for a number of days after the event. Thankfully, Mr Gallagher stood to his principles and the Year 10 Eastgate team were quite rightly disqualified. The players should know better! They should be mature enough to realize, that without a referee, there would not be a game!

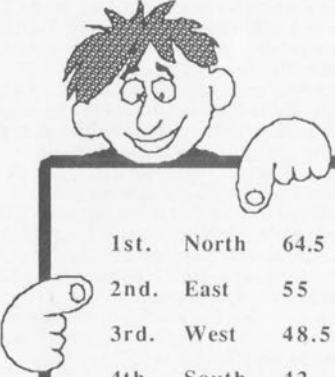
After Christmas, the spring term witnessed an intense period in the overall competition. First came Senior Rugby and in a good, competitive, but friendly competition, favourites Eastgate took the title from Westgate. This victory by Eastgate was the signal for this particular house to make their mark on the competition. After a poor start, back in September, Eastgate made amends in the Spring term, quickly closing the gap on early pace makers, West and North. West did not help their cause by producing some weak performances in some key events. Subsequently, Eastgate took full advantage, by adding to their Senior Rugby victory, the Music competition and

the Senior Swimming event. So, by the end of February, Northgate were leading with 22.5 points, then Westgate on 21.5, followed by Eastgate on 19 and Southgate in last position on 17. It was very evident to all the Heads of House, that the competition was still anyone's. One must mention House Music, as it finally made a reappearance after a number of years absence. Students from each house performed solo/ensemble and open events. The items performed were varied and catered for lots of different tastes. The adjudicator was Mr Richard Ling, Head of the Instrumental Service in Gloucestershire and he commented on how impressed he was with the high standard and commitment by the students involved. He also commented on the bravery of the soloists to sing to the large audience present. The final outcome of the competition, was that Eastgate, under the expertise and enthusiasm of one Malcolm Peckham came first, with 83 points, followed by Southgate on 79 points, then Northgate on 78 points and finally, Westgate on 74 points.

After the Spring half-term, the pressure on the houses really intensified, with competitions revolving around chess, drama, public speaking and soccer. This was a critical stage for all the houses, particularly as the points margins between them was so tight. The key to success was rallying the troops and slick organization. North and East pulled well crafted plays in the house drama to take seven points each, with Malcolm Peckham again orchestrating East's effort, while the star for North was Craig Stevens (9c). Junior Soccer was won overall by North and standards were very high in the Public Speaking, with South gaining their first competition win of the year. Thus, moving into the Summer term, North led with 34.5, followed closely by East with 31, then West on 28.5 and finally South on 26.

The Summer term started off with House cross-country, with Southgate winning the Senior and Northgate the Junior trophy. The Senior soccer competition was won by North over West, being decided on a penalty shoot-out. Eastgate won the chess competition, with 35 points followed by Westgate on 29 points. At this stage, with Athletics, Tennis and Cricket still to be decided, Northgate were found to be in a two horse race with Eastgate. Taking up third spot was Westgate, while Southgate

## FINAL COCK HOUSE RESULT



|      |       |      |     |
|------|-------|------|-----|
| 1st. | North | 64.5 | pts |
| 2nd. | East  | 55   | pts |
| 3rd. | West  | 48.5 | pts |
| 4th. | South | 42   | pts |

were in the wooden spoon position. However, with the departure of Mr S Smallwood, Southgate had new impetus, with Mr G Watson taking over as Head of House.

House Athletics was won by Northgate, who had dominated the pre-sports' evening events to obtain a good lead. Eastgate won the Chess. Meanwhile, during the Summer term, House Tennis proceeded and again, due to excellent organization, North won both the Senior and Junior competitions. With House Cricket remaining, the competition appeared already lost by East and when Westgate won the Cricket, North had sealed their first 'Cock House' win for twelve long years. Congratulations to all of the members of Northgate House!

*Compiled by Mr P D Lloyd*



*Pictured left, Adrian Croney, proudly shows off 'The Cock House Trophy' which Northgate won this year, the first time for twelve years. This was mainly due to their excellent organization and united 'House Spirit', which guaranteed maximum participation from the students and consequently, a very competitive edge to the activities that were contested for over the year.*

*The House Captain for 1997-1998, was the popular Dan Garbutt, who along with Mr Gallagher ensured that Eastgate's monopoly of the event finally came to an end!*

## POETRY

### Winter Paper Round

Brrringggg.....! Brrringggg.....! alarm bells  
in my head!

Stretch out, hit alarm clock ..... and then  
curl up in bed.

My brain begins to register, my heart  
drops to the ground,

I open up my eyes in shock as I realise  
..... Paper Round!

Slowly I lift the covers, to face the doom I  
dread,

When all I really want to do is go back to  
bed.

I put on four thick layers, to protect me  
from the cold;

For, to survive a winter paper round you  
must be brave and bold!



I slowly walk outside, where the cold clings to  
my face,

I hop onto my bicycle, decide I'm going to  
race;

And, as I start to pedal, the wind chill stings  
my skin,

And I begin to realise, four layers are just  
too thin!

Arrive at my employer's shop, lift the heavy  
load,

Weighed down by some hundred pounds,  
I stagger to the road;

Slowly make the journey, surfing snow and  
rain,

Falling off my bicycle, but braving all the  
pain.

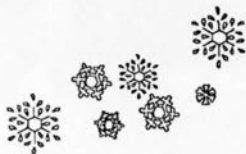
My battered body reaches home, my  
round is at the end,

I can't believe I've made it, for it drove me  
round the bend!

My day's now clear of worries and I've  
survived the pain,

But I can't relax for ever - for tomorrow I  
do it again!

A Low (9R)



## CLASSICAL CIVILIZATION TRIP TO ATHENS



*Last Spring, Mrs Grocott, Mrs Roberts and Mr Vaughan-Smith and a group of Sixth Formers enjoyed a seven day excursion to Athens during the half-term break. Above, we see some members of the Classical Civilization Studies Group soaking up the sun, atmosphere and sites of Athens.*

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## THE CHALLENGE OF INDUSTRY CONFERENCE



*As part of the 'new' Lower Sixth Induction Week, Mr Gary Watson, Head of Business Studies, along with Gloucestershire TEC, plus key local businessmen, staged the now traditional 'Challenge of Industry Conference' in July. Above, we see Mr Geoff Norton helping some of the new Lower Sixth with one of the many 'scenario' business problems that were set to challenge the students.*

## POETRY

### The Universe - my life story

All the matter in the universe  
Compressed to a speck of existence  
Then: a cosmic bell rings,  
Gravity takes five,  
And the universe relieves itself,  
Exploding into life.

A cosmic mushy pea-soup.  
A universal bomb demolishes the house  
of space,  
Scattering itself everywhere.  
Over the space of many years  
Simple gases form beach-balls,  
Bobbing in the sea.  
Gravity pulls tighter and tighter,  
And the balls burn.

Waste matter becomes pebbles,  
Circling in the sea, around the  
beach-balls,  
Some big, some small, and  
Pebbles around pebbles, around  
pebbles, around pebbles.  
Then the great burning beach-balls  
deflate  
And become empty shells,  
Floating.

Gravity tugs together and whirlpools  
begin to form,  
Eating all that surrounds them,  
Growing faster and fuller still.  
Balls, pebbles, stones make up their  
meals,  
And, as they eat each other,  
Soon nothing is left.

The sea swallows the sky  
And the land rips in one.  
They devour one another,  
And, neatly, fold up.

A Langley (9R)

### The Storm Cat

*The Arctic winds had finally come:  
A wave of gloom rolled across the distant hill.  
Where a ragged dog stood -  
A stray one, you would have said -  
Facing the fierce wind.  
Its coarse brown coat  
Blown gently at first, but  
As the wind came closer,  
Growing darker yet, and more severe.  
It arched itself, and became  
A great storm cat.*

*Its giant paws smothered the dog.  
Threw him to the ground.  
The storm cat played with him.  
Teased him.  
Chased him down the hill.  
Across the fields.*

*The desperate dog grew tired,  
Yelped, barked his despair: but  
No-one could hear him.*

*Darting, the dog  
Used up his last ounce of energy  
To run through the wind and the rain.  
The storm cat did not give chase.  
She sat and cleaned herself.  
Licking one paw, then another.  
Until, raising a powerful leg,  
She stamped upon wet ground.*

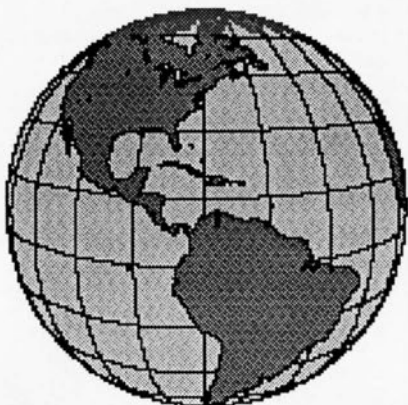
*An avalanche of fallen snow  
Slid down from a far-off peak.  
Hunted the dog.  
Swept him down.  
Buried him beneath a blanket of  
Soft, fresh snow.*

*Contented, the cat  
Stretched her legs.  
Yawned, glanced back, and,  
With a loud purr,  
Leapt into the moonlight -  
To seek another victim.*

*R Boyden (9R)*



## EARTHWATCH MILLENNIUM FELLOWSHIP VISIT TO TOBAGO TO STUDY THE LAND CRABS



I was lucky enough to be chosen, along with ninety-nine other teachers, education and conservation officers, to take part in Earthwatch scientific expeditions. I was allocated a place on the trip to study Land Crabs of the rain forests of Tobago, for two weeks last August.

After a ten hour flight, we landed in Tobago and as we taxied down the runway, I could see that we were somewhere exotic, as all along the runway were white Cattle Egrets and coconut palms. This was the paradise Island of the Robinson Crusoe film, if not the actual island. It was to be the beginning of an exhausting, but fascinating fortnight.

Dr David Maitland of Napier University, Edinburgh and Dr Paul Ward of Leeds University led the project. David was very focused on the crabs, but Paul had a much wider view of things and was a great source of information on all the mammals and birds of the islands. The group consisted of a Junior school teacher, a Secondary school geography teacher, a lecturer in Sociology, an Education Officer at the Commonwealth Institute and three conservation officers from around the country. We spent the first few days setting up the project, collecting items from the shops, including wellies, buckets, sieves and sandwich boxes, with which to catch the crabs. We also visited the Ministers of Agriculture and Fisheries to introduce ourselves and the project, travelled to parts of the island to identify the best sites to study the crabs and tried to acclimatize ourselves to the heat and humidity. We then spent our next week driving around the island to our selected sites, trying to catch crabs with buckets and sieves, wading up the streams leading into the rain forest, getting bitten by many insects and driving back again holding buckets of slopping water and fierce crabs, who seemed intent on escaping. When back at the Inn, we took over an outside lounge to set up a laboratory and measured, as well as weighed the crabs, noted their sex, colour, and the agility of their claws.

We were shown how to glue the transmitters on the carapace of the medium and larger crabs, as well as how to use the Mariners (radio tracking devices) to track the crabs. The funny sight of two people attached to each other by a lead, holding a heavy radio receiver and an aerial wading up the stream, clambering over large rocks and under fallen trees, became a regular occurrence. We also experienced frightening night trips up these streams, when we saw snakes (including a rather large python) cane toads,



eels, whip tail scorpions, hundreds of fireflies lighting up the hillside, tree frogs and many unidentified insects making incredible sounds. The crabs could be seen sitting in the mouths of their burrows, usually far too big to catch. I hope that a method of catching these large crabs is devised by the next group, we only managed medium sized ones, the burrows are quite deep and nobody fancied plunging an arm down into a two foot deep hole. These crabs are very aggressive and can deliver a very severe crushing to a finger. The smaller red crabs are quite spectacular and stand on their back legs holding their front claws high in the air. They also knock these large claws together very quickly to cause a clicking noise.

Unfortunately, the fortnight went far too quickly and I hope that over the three years that the study will run, finding out more about these crabs will help with the conservation projects on Tobago, (which has been in the forefront of conservation and preservation of habitats since 1773. Now that I am back, I am expected to contribute to the local community and their efforts for conservation. Already, projects in school have been set up, such as the development of a wildlife pond and conservation area. Also, I have distributed 'pledge cards' to interested people who want to plant trees, initially nurturing them from seeds, for the millennium around the school.

Mrs J Arnold

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Above, Rich's biology teacher, Mrs Joan Arnold proudly displays one of the crabs that she had the pleasure of fixing a tracking device to, during her Earthwatch Millennium Fellowship trip to Tobago last August. Luckily for Joan, this one did not get his claws into her!

# THE MANY FACES OF DRAMA AT RICH'S



## SPORTS QUIZ - ANSWERS ON PAGE 48

1. What four tournaments make up tennis's Grand Slam?
2. In rowing, what is a sculler?
3. How many consecutive misses eliminate a high jumper?
4. Name the sequence for sinking the coloured balls in Snooker?
5. Where were the 1948 Olympics held?
6. In which city would you find the home of the soccer team, Ajax?
7. Name a former England soccer manager who was the first to be capped at every level in the game?
8. In which country was golf's 1997 Ryder Cup held in?
9. Name the six venues that are used for Test cricket in this country?
10. Which famous British athlete was the first to hold the world records for the mile, 800 and 1500 metres simultaneously.



11. Name two midland soccer clubs that have won the European Cup?
12. What do the initials of the I.O.C. stand for?
13. At what soccer club would you be at if you were at High Field Road?
14. In which sport would you be playing if you were taking part in the 'Super Twelves'?
15. Which cricket county won the 1997 County Championship?
16. Which soccer club was the only club to win the F.A. Cup and take it out of England?
17. Who captained the British Lions in the 1997 tour to South Africa?
18. In a game of chess, how many pawns does each player possess at the start of the game?
19. Which two Edinburgh soccer clubs contest a derby match?
20. In which sport would you watch the Kentucky Derby ?

*Mr P D Lloyd*

## THE CHEMISTRY SOCIETY

On Tuesdays, Years 8 & 9 join forces to perform forensic tests on smarties and M'n'Ms to arbitrate in a bitter dispute, in which smarties accuse M'n'Ms of copying the dyes used to colour their crispy coated chocolates. Evidence indicates that some, but not all, colours do in fact use the same edible dyes. Regrettably, much of the evidence has since disappeared. Subsequent work has the team investigating and developing their own ideas for electrophoresis. "What's that?" you say; well all students at Rich's are invited to come and find out!

On Fridays, after school, sixth formers have been investigating a mystery which has been baffling Geologists for some time - what causes a transformation from brown iron (III) oxide on sand to the red form in sandstone and what is responsible for the reduction of iron (III) compounds to iron (II) compounds in very localised regions of sandstones and mudstones. This chemical process produces green patches in otherwise red rocks and probably involves the presence of buried organic matter.

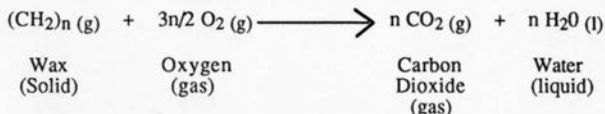
Years 10 & 11 also have their own sessions, in which the chemistry of photographic paper has been investigated with simple pictures being taken using light sensitive chemicals absorbed onto paper. The objective of the tests was to find a way of holding the chemicals on a transparent acetate sheet, thereby providing the group with a photographic film.

It must be said that the work of the Chemistry Society is not a simple opportunity to play with chemicals, but a chance for students to learn how to become real scientists, solving real problems and presenting information in an authentic way. An opportunity to put theory into practice.

With investigations including Chromatography as a forensic tool, electrophoresis, making their own photographic paper (and the camera to use it in), the club is now investigating one of the most commonly held misconceptions in the teaching of the topics of the composition of the atmosphere. It is generally (and correctly) believed that dry air contains 20-25% (approximately) by volume of oxygen. However, the method most commonly used in schools to demonstrate this fact is to burn a floating candle in an upturned gas jar and measure the height of the column of water sucked into the gas jar to replace the used (NOT burned) oxygen. Lo and behold, if the water does not rise into, approximately, 20-25% of the gas jar! QED the atmosphere contains approximately 20-25%!

Unfortunately, the theory does not really 'hold water' quite as well as the gas jar does. Consider the following assumptions about the chemistry of the process .....

1. The wax is a pure alkane hydrocarbon of formula  $H-(CH_2)_n-H$ , where  $n$  is a large(ish) number (about 17 to 35) and, for the purpose of a rough calculation, may be approximated to  $(CH_2)_n$ .
2. The wax is completely burned forming water and carbon dioxide only.
3. Any water produced will condense and occupy a negligible volume.
4. Carbon dioxide does not have sufficient time to dissolve into the water to any significant amount before the test is completed - usually a minute or less.
5. The chemical equation for the combustion would be .....



By examining the equation, it can be seen that the drop in volume should be equivalent to only  $1/3$  of the volume of oxygen used up in the combustion, since the remaining  $2/3$  is replaced, volume for volume by the carbon dioxide! The problem is, if we see a loss in volume of 20% and this is only  $1/3$  of the volume of oxygen, then, does that mean that the atmosphere contains 60% oxygen or is something else happening?

As with most "real life" problems, there is likely to be several factors which affect the result. Do these factors cancel out so that the demonstration is accurate after all, or is it pure chance that the water fills 20-25% of the gas jar? What is really happening? If you think that you can solve the problem, or at least work in a team that solves the problem, then why not give it a try in the 'Chemistry Society' at Rich's. See Dr Carr for further details.

*Dr M Carr*



**SPORTS QUIZ:  
ANSWERS FROM PAGE 46**

- Q1. Wimbledon and the French, U.S.A. & Australian Opens.  
Q2. An oarsman who sculls/rows on his own, with two oars or 'blades' as they are known, in a single seater racing boat.  
Q3. Three  
Q4. Yellow, green, brown, blue, pink and black.  
Q5. London  
Q6. Amsterdam  
Q7. Terry Venables  
Q8. Spain  
Q9. The Oval, Lords, Edgbaston, Headingly, Trent Bridge and Old Trafford.  
Q10. Sebastian Coe  
Q11. Aston Villa & Nottingham Forest  
Q12. International Olympic Committee  
Q13. The 'Sky-Blues' - Coventry City  
Q14. Rugby Union  
Q15. Glamorgan  
Q16. Cardiff City  
Q17. Martin Johnson  
Q18. Eight  
Q19. Hearts & Hibernian  
Q20. Horse racing

*Compiled by Mr P D Lloyd*

**\*If you would like to contribute your own taxing Sports Quiz for next year's Richian Magazine, then simply compile it and send it to the Editor, c/o of Sir Thomas Rich's School.**

**GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ:  
ANSWERS FROM PAGE 31**

- Q1. Othello  
Q2. A greenhouse  
Q3. The science of projectiles  
Q4. Cider with Rosie  
Q5. District of Columbia  
Q6. Queen Elizabeth I  
Q7. Hands  
Q8. Pedometer  
Q9. Omnivore  
Q10. The Speaker  
Q11. Bees  
Q12. Water  
Q13. No. 11 Downing Street, London  
Q14. A plan to provide economic and financial assistance to the countries of War torn Europe after WWII.  
Q15. At the base of the Spine  
Q16. Cuba  
Q17. 2.2046 lbs  
Q18. Richard III  
Q19. The Cheetah  
Q20. The nature of Oxygen  
Q21. Arc de Triomphe  
Q22. John the Baptist  
Q23. Fission  
Q24. Kenneth Grahame  
Q25. The Domesday Book  
Q26. One hundred  
Q27. Three Men in a Boat  
Q28. Pluto  
Q29. Cancer  
Q30. Intelligence Quotient

*Mr P D Lloyd*

**\*Trivia Quiz contributions for the 1999 Richian Magazine are most welcome!**

## POETRY - THE WAR TO END ALL WARS?

Through the mud he did march,  
blue with cold, he was tired and  
soaking wet,  
rucksack and rifle slung upon his  
back,  
his forehead dripping with rain and  
sweat.

Thinking of friends lost in battle,  
pain and sorrow was pictured upon  
his face,  
trying to overcome the tiredness,  
the battle field was a terrible  
place.

Hell lingered all around him,  
a cold, black, darkness filled the  
air,  
he remembered home, his wife and  
children,  
all he wished for was to be back  
there.

Blood and gore was all around him,  
the fierce enemy had too many guns,  
they did not care for the land,  
which was the prize that to be won.

The war was finally over, the  
fighting had all been done,  
Victory and freedom filled the air,  
Johnny and the boys had eventually  
won.

*L Roberts (9S)*



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## HISTORY TRIP TO THE COMMANDERY - WORCESTER

Last January, Year 8 went on the now annual trip to The Commandery, Worcester, to view the English Civil War exhibition. The exhibition outlines the history of the war, 1642-1651 and Worcester's part in it. When we arrived, we were split into groups and given a guided tour around the centre. We also had a lecture on the various weapons that were used during the war, ranging from pikes, pistols, muskets and swords. Some selected students had the honour of wearing some of the body armour used during war by the cavalry and they found it surprisingly heavy to wear. One of the highlights of the day was a demonstration on the technical aspects of firing a Civil war cannon, a long and sophisticated method I have to say! Some of us had a go at loading it, trying to follow the correct procedures, but unfortunately, our guide told us that if we had been really firing a live round, all three of us most probably would have been killed! All of us agreed, that apart from lunch and the weapons talk, this was one of the key moments of the day. After the canon demonstration, our group moved on to watch a film, which was a reconstruction of the battle of Worcester. For our teachers, the visit had most probably been the fifteenth time they had been to the centre. However, on the way back on the coach, we tackled our fudge purchased from the centre, jotted down notes and browsed through the books that depicted the horrors of the English civil war. Then it was lots of reflection on what we had learnt on our trip in the next few history lessons back at school.

*N Walkley (8R)*

## **'THE BASIC APPROACH REAPS RICH REWARD' -**

(AN ARTICLE WRITTEN BY BRUCE KEMBLE AND PUBLISHED IN 'THE TIMES' NEWSPAPER ON THE 18TH NOVEMBER, 1997).

(The article was written after Rich's excellent 1997 Summer Examination Results and permission to reproduce the article was given by 'The Times' Newspaper).

The most improved schools in the Government's restyled tables are those that have made most progress at GCSE. But some others are celebrating just as spectacular a rise at A level.

For a school to rise 100 place in the Summer league table is remarkable, but to soar 300 is an astonishing feat. This success has just been achieved by the Sixth formers taking A levels at the Sir Thomas Rich's grammar school, on the outskirts of Gloucester.

In one table this summer, the school broke into the top 50 and today it is listed as 13th among England's state schools at A level. Ian Kellie, the headmaster, is delighted, but he says, "We don't preoccupy ourselves with league tables. A school that concentrates on exam results is likely to lose in the long run, because it is the top of the pyramid, the consequence of an awful lot of good work going on lower down. We concentrate on the basics".

The average points score for this year's A level candidates at Sir Thomas Rich's was 28.2. For the past three years, the school has had the highest achieving sixth form in the south-west of England. Mr Kellie's essential philosophy is: "Letting the teachers teach and giving them support." He also believes in providing lots of extra curricular activities, including a successful bowls club. "If it is all drudgery, just lessons, they don't put their best efforts into it."

His staff grade the pupils every half-term, so that they and their parents know how they are doing in each subject. Teachers award grades for both effort and attainment. "We give letters from A to E for effort and grades one to five for achievement." he says. "There is a full staff meeting a week after the grades, so we soon pick up any fours or D's".

His deputy, Alan Pilbeam, who has been at the school for 36 years, says, "We were lucky in having a very able group of pupils this year. In the past, we tended not to supervise them so much, but expectation of performance has developed over the years and now they assume they are going to get there, and they usually do."

Sir Thomas Rich's is not as selective as many grammar schools. There are five applicants per place and it takes from the top forty per cent of the range. To get into the Sixth form, a pupil needs at least five grade B's at GCSE.

**Copyright: BRUCE KEMBLE/'THE TIMES' 18 November 1997**

## SOCCKER



*Above, the Under 13's, who upon reflection, had the best season of all the Rich's sides. Thanks must go to Mr Norton for his enthusiasm and help with the team. The team reached the semi-final of the City cup, where they narrowly lost to Central. The results of the other school teams were variable, with the 1st XI winning four of their five matches, while the Under 15's won 1, drew 1 and lost 2 and the Under 14's lost three and won one. However, the popularity of soccer is strong at Rich's.*

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### THE TEACHER

**The Teacher: a fast, furious machine,  
With no care for pupils, as long as they're keen,  
Work up to the ceiling in an assortment of piles,  
It's the teacher at weekends who relaxes and smiles.**

**The Teacher: a caring, deaf lumbering machine,  
Who loves every pupil and teaches between,  
The lessons are dreary for some it may seem,  
But the teacher in lessons is enacting a dream.**

**The teacher: tidy, efficient, clever machine,  
Has no room for pupils in her non-stop routine,  
Runs to a timetable, has no time to spare,  
If only she'd slow down, she'd have more time to care.**

**Teachers: Have one objective in mind,  
To teach us their best subject  
Be cruel to be kind,  
Their essays, detentions, reports and stern words,  
Are to give us an education which everyone deserves.**

**G Stevenson (10B)**

## A NOVEL COMPETITION FOR ALL YOUNG RICHIANs!

*Below you will find a novel competition which is open to all Students, (Years 7 - 13) of Sir Thomas Rich's school.*

*All you have to do is to identify the famous books from which the opening sentences below can be found.*

*Once you have identified all the books correctly, then simply write down your answers, plus your name and form. After that, simply hand in your answers to Mr Lloyd.*

*The winner will be drawn in assembly on Friday, 11th December, 1998 and will receive a £10 book token. A special thanks to Mr R Watson for compiling the competition.*

*So please, no apathy this year, let's get some entries. Good luck!*

### Which books do these famous opening sentences come from?

1. It was a bright cold day in April and the clocks were striking thirteen.
2. It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife.
3. A few miles south of Soledad, the Salinas river drops in close to the hillside bank and runs deep and green.
4. No one would have believed in the last years of the nineteenth century, that human affairs were being watched keenly and closely by intelligences greater than man's and yet as mortal as his own .....
5. These are my New Year's Resolutions;
  1. I will help the blind across the road
  2. I will hang my trousers up .....
6. It was love at first sight. The first time Yossarian saw the chaplain he fell madly in love with him.
7. On Friday, 12th June, I woke up at six o'clock and no wonder; it was my birthday.
8. I was born in the year 1632, in the city of York, of a good family, though not of that country, my father being a foreigner of Bremen who settled first at Hull.
9. In these times of ours, though concerning, the exact year there is no need to be precise, a boat of dirty and disreputable appearance, with two figures in it, floated on the Thames .....
10. "What's it going to be then, eh?" There was me, that is Alex, and my three droogs, that is Pete, Georgie, and Dim, Dim being really dim, and we sat in the Korova milkbar, making up our rassoodocks what to do with the evening .....
11. The boy with fair hair lowered himself down the last few feet of rock and began to pick his way towards the lagoon.
12. Stately plump Buck Milligan came from the stairhead, bearing a bowl of lather on which a mirror and a razor lay crossed.
13. One thing was certain, that the white kitten had nothing to do with it - it was the black kitten's fault entirely.
14. Once there were four children whose names were Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy.
15. Garp's mother, Jenny Fields, was arrested in Boston in 1942 for wounding a man in a movie theatre.

*Mr R Watson*

## RICH'S CHARITY FUND RAISING

Last Autumn, two Sixth Formers, Cathy Potter and Hannah Godwin instigated a weekly charity collection during Thursday's form period. Each tutor group was circulated with a collection bag, upon which students throughout the school could make donations. The idea being, that most students and staff always have the odd bit of loose change in their pockets, which could be donated to charity. This 'loose change' gradually over the course of the weeks mounted up to a substantial amount, resulting in the school being able to make some significant donations to charity. A small team of sixth formers assisted the two girls, helping to administer the collection and compile weekly accounts. In the foyer, a bar chart was compiled, indicating the weekly contributions of all the tutor groups in the school and significantly, indicating which group was the most and least charitable. The end result of this was that Form 9B was the most charitable and Forms 11S, 10B and 7T were the least, by a long way!

To make the scheme accountable and democratic, a whole school election was held, where pupils could nominate and vote for the charities that would benefit from the first year's collection. It was decided that in the first year, one charity would benefit each term.

During the first term of the operation of the scheme, over £660 pounds was raised for the RSPCA, but it was rather sad that nobody from this organization could be bothered to come to the school to collect the cheque and say a few words to the students. However, in the Spring term, the Macmillan Cancer Relief charity was the beneficiary and just under £500 pounds was raised. It was pleasing to see Mrs Harriet Roch-Berry, Gloucester Chair of the Macmillan Cancer Relief come to school one morning and address the students during assembly. She outlined the work of the charity and naturally, thanked all those concerned.

In the Summer term, the nominated charity was the CLIC, Cancer & Leukemia in Children. Once again, over £200 was raised for the charity. The most charitable form in the school was Mr Proudlove's 9B. Thanks must go to Nick Jones for keeping the foyer chart up to date! Overall, the scheme has been a great success and despite all the media attention revolving around the National Lottery and its affects on smaller charities, it is good to see that Rich's students are generous, particularly in these very materialistic times!

*Mr P D Lloyd & Mr S Smallwood*



*Above centre, we see Mrs Harriet Roch-Berry, Gloucester Chair of Macmillan Cancer Relief being presented with a cheque by the co-ordinators of Rich's weekly charity collection. From left to right, we see Hannah Godwin, Mrs Berry, Cathy Potter and staff representative, Mr S Smallwood. During the course of the three terms, over £1,500 was raised for charity from the weekly collections!*



## COSTA RICA TRAINING WEEKEND IN DARTMOOR

The tropical rain forests of Costa Rica in July are unspeakably warm and humid. They are also teeming with vegetation and other unmentionables, most being blessed with fangs and claws. However, we were in Dartmoor, South-West England, in December and it was barren, inhospitable and there were bitterly cold, biting winds. It seemed that only the local wildlife were suited to cope with the inhumane conditions, unlike your average hiker!

Naturally then, Dartmoor was where the school's first expedition team were informed that they would spend their main training weekend in preparation for the Summer trip to Costa Rica.



Nearly fifty 'Goretexed' groups had been assembled in the past years from all over the British Isles. The excitement as we got together was almost tangible, as thoughts wandered to such exotic destinations as Borneo, Bolivia and India. However, these thoughts were soon lost as we embarked upon our Dartmoor training.

Our mission, (we had already chosen to accept it!), was to feed, shelter and navigate ourselves, working on something known as 'a team', for three whole days. Not relishing the idea of eating grass or sleeping in hastily constructed 'homes', or asking sheep for directions, we were relieved when we were supplied with maps, tents and specific directions to the local supermarket. The initial assembly point was a school near Tavistock.

Morale then hit an all time low, as it was announced that Mark Little and myself were selected to be the gourmet chefs for the weekend, being allocated a budget of £43, from which we were expected to feed 17 cold, hungry, wet and unhappy hikers! Our selection of rations were soon to come under fire by the first afternoon break.

Mrs Arnold had kindly volunteered to fill the boots (metaphorically speaking of course) of Mr Smallwood, who conveniently had announced, that as he was off to Salsbury, to take up a new teaching post, it would be better if Mrs Arnold underwent the experience in Dartmoor - sounds like a cop-out to me! In a strange way, Mrs Arnold, Mr Proudlove and our two World-Wide Challenge representatives, seemed to be looking forward to the weekend a great deal. Did they know something we didn't? or were they just expecting to obtain lots of amusement at the possible problems that we would encounter? Or could it have been possible scepticism about whether some of us, who had very suspect fitness levels, would actually manage the weekend? It all soon became very clear, when with great glee, they told us that we would at some stage have to cross a river and consequently, would get very wet, cold and most probably miserable.

We were off! Skilfully determining the correct route to 'Base Camp 1', by using various road signs and by assessing key land marks. We nominated a leader for the remainder of the first day as we sped away from civilization. The pace was fast and sustained, consequently resulting in our team being one of the first to arrive. This enabled us to set up our tents. Sadly, I recall that there were no campfire songs, as many of us were not rugby players. On that first night,

we were soon fast asleep, eagerly awaiting and anticipating the next day's hike. Our 'debrief' for the day had been good. We were organized, quick, direct and dynamic. Subsequently, this put us in good spirit for the rest of the journey.

Waking at the refreshing hour of 7 am, we were glad of breakfast, although neither Mark nor I were willing to take responsibility for the dehydrated milk. The days' hiking took us to places where the views to be had were spectacular to say the least. A number of us had the opportunity to experience leadership and navigation at first hand throughout the day. We coped well, dealing well with a 'staged emergency' and arriving at our second camp-site in good order. The pace remained quick, with no reported blisters and an interesting meal was consumed eagerly in the evening. Personally, I enjoyed my noodles and meat-loaf. Night was soon upon us, as the last tent was pitched with remarkable efficiency. So far there had been no cross words amongst the group, no injuries, no complaints and no problems. We were succeeding - I think! Eventually, we were informed by the World Challenge reps, that they would be willing to take us anywhere in the world. A real compliment! However, we declined this offer, as Costa Rica would be enough to start with.

After finishing off the rations, by basically putting everything into the last scheduled meal-break, we settled down for the night and by Sunday lunch-time, we were back in Tavistock, being 'debriefed'. We were also told of the guaranteed adventures that we would be experiencing in the following Summer months. The mini-bus was loaded up with rucksacks, bodies and we subsequently left Dartmoor to the burning home-fires of Gloucester, where upon the return, it started to rain upon us for the first time in three days. Our absorbing training weekend was over and we could now feel fully confident to tackle Costa Rica, which has similar climatical features as Dartmoor in late December!

R Wood (6R)

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## YEAR 7 GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP



*Above Mr Proudlove outlines some of the key surrounding features on top of Cleeve Hill. The Year 7's examined 'land-use' during their field trip, which incorporated walking from Winchcombe to Bishop's Cleeve, mapping out the changing land features and analysing the reasons for these changes.*

## POETRY - GAS

As the stench of disease fills the air,  
And the silence of a hundred men waiting,  
For the order for their deaths to come,  
The dreaded cloud comes drifting,  
Ready to choke and burn,  
To cripple and decay,  
The chemical destroyer  
Merciless and pitiless,  
Without remorse,  
Making no distinctions,  
Friend or foe,  
Officer or gentlemen,  
Or common man,  
All succumb to the silent killer.  
The green gaseous assassin,  
As it reaches the trench,  
Across the land no man owns,  
The men it touches with its claws,  
Choke and splutter,  
Clutch at their chests,  
Not yet dead,  
But still living as they fall,  
As they fall foul of the horror,  
that is chlorine gas.

*R Savory (9C)*



## POETRY - LIFE

The mourning  
The grief  
That are alike  
Through death.

The joy  
The pleasure  
That are born  
Through birth.

The love  
The agony  
That are a part  
Of marriage.

Life is a broadness  
The whole depth of time  
With earthly commodities  
Destroying faith built amiability.

Life is a wonder  
That no one should ponder  
Like all gifts  
Life is an irreplaceable treasure.

Life can be an indefinite term  
It can be eternal, or even an epitomizer  
Morally correct, or evil  
Great in penitence, or a bewitched cult  
There are only divisions  
Only two regions.

Life is full of sacrifices  
How great or how small  
Indirectly, or directly  
Built on thee, and thee on life  
The two are one in faith.

None can say that  
Life is none of these  
Contrastingly, all, of these  
Are pity, in life.

*R Holland (9C)*

## WAR POETRY

*As dawn breaks, I am called up,  
For it is my time to die and be with,  
my fellow soldiers.*

*All around machine guns blaze,  
and people scream, but every now  
and then there is silence which will  
be broken by the boom of a mortar.*

*We are all given our lecture from our  
generals and are then sent over the top,  
Soldiers around me drop like flies,  
When.....Crash!*

*I am flying through the air, like a bird,  
Just leaving the war, when thump,  
I am on the ground, not able to move.  
I shut my eyes and think of home,  
because it's the last time I think of it.*

*The enemy approaches me and stands just  
in my sight,  
He laughs, points his weapon and then.....*

*O Bain (9C)*

*Passed hand to hand, the wishes, the  
dreams, the hopes of an entire  
generation, an entire nation, sent to  
war.*

*A score of old men leading our boys to  
die,  
while we watched, in horror, in pairs, in  
grief, the disbelief at what we lost.*

*The pain so bad, the wounds so deep,  
until at last, our boys went to sleep.  
Their names carved in stone, never to  
come home again.*

*Least we not forget them,  
At least we can grow old.  
Our hearts must never be so cold,  
We must not run, we must not hide,  
We must remember those boys who  
died.*

*R Davies (9C)*

## THE TILT THEATRE COMPANY



*Above, members of the Tilt Theatre Company, who came to Rich's in March to run a 'Macbeth workshop' with Year 11 & 10 GCSE English students. This was followed by a lively and vibrant performance of the bard's play. The day was designed to enhance the students' understanding and knowledge of the play, with the emphasis being on 'interpretation', 'imagery' and 'symbolism'.*

## GEOGRAPHICAL ASSOCIATION WORLD-WISE QUIZ

Three of Rich's students bravely fought their way through to the national finals of the Geographical Association's World-Wise Quiz competition. This was the second year that Rich's had entered a team, with members Gareth Aubrey, Michael Webber and Peter Burlinson earning the school and themselves, £110 worth of vouchers. The quiz competition consisted not only of basic geography questions relating to atlas work, but there were also questions on topical contemporary issues affecting the subject. The preliminary round was held in Rich's main hall, with the campaign starting last December. The team comfortably won on their home turf, winning by a clear ten points. They then proceeded to become South West Champions in the regional round, which was held at Queen's College, Taunton, last March. In this round, they beat off strong opposition, with Clifton College and Heles School, Plymouth, pushing Rich's hard, right up to the last round. Rich's beat off Clifton College to record a famous victory, by 30 points to 23.

Consequently, the team reached the national final, which was held in Leeds, at the university, in April and consisted of twelve teams, eight from England, two from Scotland and one each from Wales and Northern Ireland. Rich's faced St Patrick's Grammar, Armagh, The Perse School, Cambridge and Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Blackburn. Having seen the first semi-final, the team was quietly confident, but this was to be premature. A combination of unbelievable obscure questions, poor team performance and a lack-lustre approach resulted in the team losing badly to the opposition. Despite this disappointment, we must place the result in context, for we had reached the last twelve out of 395 schools initially taking part and this was highly creditable. The overall winners were, The Perse School, but next year the Rich's team will remain unchanged and we can go forward with greater experience and a better understanding of what to expect.

G Aubrey (105)



*Above, Rich's winning Geography quiz team. From left to right, we see Gareth Aubrey, Peter Burlinson and Michael Webber. The team reached the national finals at Leeds University, out of 395 initially schools entering the competition. This was a great achievement and the same team will enter next year!*

## SIXTH FORM MANAGEMENT COMPETITION

Last March, a team of seven Sixth Formers took part in a Sixth Form Management Competition, which was organized by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. The event was held at Cheltenham Town Hall and hosted by Cheltenham Borough Council. The organizer was Nick Hatton, from Stroud District Council, who is an Audit Manager. In total, thirteen teams entered the competition and the winning team was Rich's. Each of the participating teams had to role-play a management team for a fictitious local authority - Clipton City Council. Their brief was to run the authority for the day, dealing with a variety of management problems, from formulating proposals to meet a budgetary reduction of ten per cent, to dealing with irate council tax payers. They had to present and discuss their decisions, justifying how they arrived at their final conclusions.

The idea of the competition was to raise awareness of the work of local authorities and also develop management and team building skills. The competition also demonstrated how the work of councils can be challenging, exciting and taxing. Too many young people, working in the public sector have a poor image and the competition was designed to squash this myth. Mr Watson, Rich's Head of Business Studies was obviously delighted with the team's performance and praised the confidence, maturity and positiveness of the sixth formers. The prizes were £25 worth of book tokens, but the main winners were the participants of the event, plus Rich's reputation as a haven of management potential. One wonders which one of the Rich's team will be the next Sir Harvey Jones or be a high flying Richard Branson?

Mr P D Lloyd

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## YEAR 9 GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP TO BEWDLEY AND BRIDGNORTH



*During the Summer Term, the Year 9's embarked on a Geography field trip taking in the delights of Bewdley and Bridgnorth. Part of the day included transportation from one town to the other by steam, via the 'Severn Valley Railway'. Above, we see our intrepid explorers waiting on the platform, as the steam train rolls in to take them up the line to Bridgnorth. The field trip focused on various aspects, such as the analysis of commercial premises in the respective town centres, town location, interviews with members of the public and transportation access into the towns. A memorable Geography trip!*



## DRAMA - EVERY GOOD BOY DESERVES FAVOUR



Last November, a handful of Sixth Formers, plus Jamie Maj (8T), successfully staged Tom Stoppard's play, 'Every Good Boy Deserves Favour'. The short play formed part of the Sixth Formers General Studies Programme and was performed in front of a live audience. In the picture we see the cast. Top, from left to right, Matthew Mundy, Janine Woodward, Richard Wood and Jamie Maj. Front, seated, from left to right, Stephen Morris and Guy Grimsley.

## FINAL RUGBY RESULTS

|            | Played | Won | Drawn | Lost |
|------------|--------|-----|-------|------|
| 1st. XV    | 13     | 7   | 0     | 6    |
| 2nd. XV    | 12     | 8   | 0     | 4    |
| U.15's 'A' | 18     | 9   | 0     | 9    |
| U.15's 'B' | 4      | 3   | 1     | 0    |
| U.14's 'A' | 16     | 8   | 2     | 6    |
| U.14's 'B' | 3      | 2   | 0     | 1    |
| U.13's     | 15     | 8   | 1     | 6    |
| U.12's 'A' | 6      | 5   | 0     | 1    |
| U.12's 'B' | 8      | 6   | 0     | 2    |

## RUGBY - FIRST XV - CAPTAIN'S REPORT

This was a season of highs and lows for the 1st XV. It all began on the 10th September, 1997, with a home fixture against Churchdown. The 44-0 victory was a pleasing result, but it could have been more, had it not been for a large number of penalties which we gave away. Next came Chosen Hill and a number of former Rich's students played for the opposition. They were defeated 22-5, thanks to strong mauling from the forwards and good running out wide from Tim (the wing) Jacobs and Omar, (quicker than Tim!) Chotoye. A week later, in an ill tempered match, St Katharine's School were beaten 31-20, with a strong performance by Pete Rose at Scrum-half, but a disappointing defence by the back line, (ha, ha girls!). This was followed by an excellent 29-22 victory against a good Marling side, mainly due to the good defence by centres George, (whiter than white) Powell and Simon, (the quieter brother) Wilkinson. Also, good performance in this match came from Justin (aggression) Williamson and quite startling kicking by Ryan (noseman) Bevan.

After four initial wins, the team came down to earth fast with a 44-0 defeat by St. Peter's, a score line that did not fairly reflect the difference between the two teams. The performances of the front row of Robin (I taught him all he knows) Tipper, Mike (don't you know who I am?) Brown and Hassen (the Man-child) Bali, were strong, as they dominated the opposition for most of the game. The visit of Cheltenham College ended in a 5-0 loss that was due to a very good defensive performance by the opposition, rather than a poor performance by the School, although it could have easily been won. The final game before the half-term was a 48-5 defeat against Dean Close, from which a number of key players, my self included, were absent due to County trials.

King's School were defeated 22-13, in a game that saw the debut of the half-back pairing of Matt (Dilly) Dill and Chris (nice hair/dodgy pass) Rann, as well as good performances from Dan (the race driver) Tipper and Paul (aaagrhh!) Gilmore. The best team performance of the season came in the first half of the next game against Newent. Played in foggy....., no cloudy conditions, the school dominated the game, mainly due to exceptional line-out performances by the second row of Chris (gommo) Rooum and Dan (The beast) Crowley. The narrow victory of 11-10 did not fairly reflect the first half performance and the score could have been higher, had it not been for Mike Brown tripping over a blade of grass with a clear run to the try line. Shocking!!!

The only success in the 31-5 defeat to Wycliffe was the try scored by an exceptionally good looking blindside flanker. The 18-5 defeat to Crypt was hard fought, ask Mike Brown and could have gone the other way had we got our nose in front from the start, (again, ask Mike Brown). The final game of the season was a disappointing 44-11 loss to a strong and talented Bournside team and is best forgotten.

For me, the highlights of the season would have to be Robin Tipper's selection to play for the England Under 16 team and Chad (the Forester) Thomson's selection for the County's School's Under 18's team - a year early! Congratulations to both these players, as well as a special mention about Matt Dill, whose improvement and eventual call-up to the 1st XV was excellent. I must also express my general thanks to all the players, for their commitment on the pitch. Thanks must to Mr (ginger Joe) Gallagher, as well as Mr Bill (Billy Nick) Nicholas for their excellent coaching and support throughout the whole season. I must also apologise to Mr Mike (Swanny) Swann, for stealing all of his 2nd XV players when we were short of players for the firsts. With a good nucleus of players left over to play in next season's First XV, I feel that the school should have a great deal of success and record some good victories. Good luck!

*D Garbutt (6C)  
(First XV Captain)*

## THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD AT RICH'S

Members of the school have been participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Award for some time, either through the school's Venture Scout Unit or through outside organizations. Two years ago, it was felt that there might be sufficient demand for an Award unit at the school and this impression has been more than justified by the numbers joining the unit since then. The Award is designed to reward interest and participation in a wide variety of extra-curricular activities. It is open to any young people between the ages of 14 and 25. It is available at three levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold. For many people, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award conjures up images of camping expeditions, but in fact this represents only one out of four of the sections that need to be completed. In order to give some idea of the variety of pursuits that are undertaken, some of the options have been selected and the participants briefly describe what is involved:

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### PHYSICAL RECREATION - BOWLS

I selected bowls because I played once before and so I phoned the local indoor club at Bentham and found about someone who was willing to teach me the finer points of the game. After four hours, I was allowed to join in a game with some of the other club members. Gradually, I became reasonably competent and since then I have won a few matches and have purchased my own set of bowls.

*Gareth Howell - Year 10*

### PHYSICAL RECREATION - Dance

I selected Ballroom and Latin American dancing for this section. I have been assessed in each of my lessons and for every half-hour of preparation, I gain one point. To complete the section, I need 24 points.

*Richard Grant - Year 9*

### PHYSICAL RECREATION - Windsurfing

I decided to do my main hobby for this section, which was Windsurfing. I started to windsurf about a year ago, because my French Exchange partner was really into the sport. For the award, I had to achieve the Royal Yacht Association Level 1, which basically means that you have to sail in a triangle shape, regardless of wind direction and avoid other water users coming towards you. I have to complete at least nine hours of Windsurfing.

*Douglas Chivers - Year 10*

## SERVICE - First Aid

The majority of this year's bronze participants decided to opt for the First Aid course as the Service part of the award. The course was run by the St John's Ambulance Service and ran for seven two hour sessions after school from March to May of this year. The group was taught a wide range of skills from emergency procedures to mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, as well as C.P.R.. We also specialized in how to deal with various cases, from asthmatics to epileptics. The course ended with a short written test and a practical on emergency procedures, which all the group passed.

*Dolin Bhagawati - Year 10*

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*Above, David Hardacre (10s) starts to place Gareth Aubrey (10s) into the 'Recovery position'.*

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## SKILL - Amateur Radio

Robert Foxcroft and myself chose to do Amateur Radio at Churchdown school for our Skill Section. We had to complete several soldering exercises, construct radio systems, learn the morse and phonetic alphabet and gain a general understanding of the subject. At the end of the six month course, we aimed to obtain a full licence, allowing us transmission across the airwaves.

*Tom McCoy - Year 10*

## SKILL - Motor Maintenance

For my Skill Section, I decided to tackle Motor Maintenance. For this, I have been going to the local Technical College to strip down and re-assemble a car engine. I have been taking a Vauxhall Cavalier apart and selecting spares from it. Also, as part of my skill acquisition, I have been stripping a carburettor and gearbox completely. Obviously, my aim is to be fully competent in motor mechanics.

*James Willet - Year 10*

These are only a few of the literally hundreds of activities that participants can follow to count towards the award. The Skill, Service and Physical Recreation sections allow a great deal of personal choice, making the award accessible to virtually anybody. Assessment is based on improvement over the period of participation, rather than achieving a defined level of attainment, so that dedication and perseverance, rather than physical or academic prowess is rewarded. Interestingly, such skills are often of great interest to potential employers. The expedition section of the award also gives pupils the opportunity to work together as a group. The following report is by David Hardacre of Year 10:

"AFTER A WEEK OF RAIN AND BAD WEATHER, OUR EXPEDITION SEEMED TO BE DOOMED. HOWEVER, WHEN WE ARRIVED AT THE SEVERN SPRINGS CAR PARK IN BRIGHT SUNSHINE, WE ALL THOUGHT A MIRACLE HAD HAPPENED. DESPITE OUR FEARS THE RAIN DID NOT COME AND OFF WE WENT IN HIGH SPIRITS. THE MORNING WENT BY QUIETLY AND DESPITE HORSES AND A SLIGHT DETOUR, THE WALK WAS GOING WELL. THE STOP FOR LUNCH WAS APPRECIATED BY ALL, ESPECIALLY GARETH HOWELL, BUT IT WAS AFTER THIS THAT THINGS STARTED TO GO WRONG. WE REALISED THAT OUR ROUTE WAS PLANNED DIRECTLY THROUGH PRIVATE LAND, BUT WE WORKED TOGETHER AND AFTER SOME DELIBERATION, WE MANAGED TO RECTIFY THE SITUATION. WHEN WE ARRIVED AT CRANHAM, OUR MEAL WAS WELL RECEIVED AND AFTER DINNER WE HAD SOME FREE TIME.

IN THE MORNING WE ALL GOT UP AT 5'O'CLOCK FOR SOME STRANGE REASON, PACKED UP AND ATE OUR BREAKFAST. AFTER A SHOWER OF RAIN, THE MORNING BECAME VERY SUCCESSFUL AND WE HAD PLENTY OF TIME TO ABSORB THE BEAUTIFUL SCENERY. SPIRITS WERE GOOD IN THE FINAL STAGES, BUT WHEN WE GOT BACK TO SEVERN SPRINGS, WE WERE ALL IN NEED OF A GOOD REST"

*Mr D Dempsey*



*Above, members of Year 10 prepare for their expedition, starting at Severn Springs.*

## HOW OUR ENVIRONMENT AFFECTS THE WAY WE LIVE

Our environment is everywhere and we all have several environments. An environment is a place we live, work, socialize - everywhere is our environment. These environments are very special to us. We would not live or work, or do other things, if we did not have an environment. Our environments do affect the way we live and behave, more now than ever before and we must recognize this fact. The most talked about environment is the Earth's environment. Over the centuries, humans have severely changed the Earth's environment. Factories and cars have caused the build up of carbon dioxide, which has caused the Earth to heat up. This is, of course, the well known 'Greenhouse Effect'. Aerosols and fridges have pumped out dangerous CFC's into the environment, causing the ozone layer to deteriorate. We have littered the seas and land with rubbish and chemicals. Nowadays however, we are more aware. Some of us recycle a lot more, we use less CFC's and initiatives, such as sharing cars and walking to work are promoted. These changes in lifestyle are all due to the changes and effect of our environment. Humans produce millions of tonnes of litter every month, let alone in a year. Most of it is simply buried, but this is becoming a problem, as we are gradually running out of land-fill sites to hide the waste. Yet, there is hope. Many schemes have been launched to encourage recycling. Most things can now be recycled, glass, paper, clothes, plastic, metal and garden waste. It is now coming to the stage, where we will all have to recycle more, especially as the earth's natural resources run out. The whole notion of recycling has been brought about due to the effect waste is having on our environment. We now see many products advertising their 'greenness', from unleaded petrol, to 'CFC free' fridges. Again, consumers are demanding and requiring more environmentally friendly products, all because of the environment.

However, one of the major problems, the car, has not really been addressed. Millions of people everyday in the world commute to work by car. Despite extensive campaigns to encourage people to abandon their cars for more friendly modes of transport, most of us still use the car to get to our destinations. Thus, emissions from cars continue to affect our environment and consequently our health. Sooner or later, the problem will come to a head and the human race will have to make some stark choices. Who will be prepared to leave their car at home on a wet, cold and miserable winter's day in order to preserve the planet? Yet, we must consider other environments, such as our social environment, like school, work or when we are having fun. School affects our lives more than anything else when it comes to our personal development, often more than we realize. School educates us, teaches us manners, enables us to make new friends and gives us a foundation for future years. The knowledge, skills and experiences that we gain during our school days will shape our lives, right up to retirement. Friends made in school are often forged for life. The school environment often affects our personality and the way we live and perceive our world.

Another key environment is work. This environment, like school affects us in many ways. Again, we forge new friends, learn new skills, gain new experiences and learn to cope with life's pressures. With our free time, we enter a new 'social environment', in which we relax, enjoy ourselves and relieve the stress generated at work. We meet people with similar interests, forge relationships and gain fulfilment. One of the major environments that we experience, is the 'home environment'. The way that we are raised, the habits that we develop and the way our parents behave towards us, affect the way we live. We are taught manners as a child and this puts us in good stead for when we become adults. Our views, beliefs and values are built up from the way that we are brought up. These may affect whether we are a 'good' or 'bad' person, but are more likely to shape us as we grow towards maturity and adulthood. Habits from home often continue throughout our lives, but not always good habits either! However, good habits learnt at home definitely do affect us throughout our lives, even little things like putting the toilet seat down or putting your knife and fork together at the end of meal. Parents, however, probably have the greatest effects during our upbringing and the way we live at home. They constantly affect our lives, even when you move away, you eventually come back to visit them. Their habits and beliefs, taught to you when you were young, deeply affect your life and the bond between parents and children affects your personality and behaviour in other environments. Many environments affect the way you live in different ways and at different times. There are, however, rules now governing the Earth's environment, as well as various 'hidden' conventions, which you unconsciously adopt when in different social environments. I feel your home environment is the most important one of all. For it is here, you learn to love, to share and to care.

*M Webber (11S)*



## YOUNG ENGINEERS CLUB

The school's Young Engineers Club this year embarked upon a major project, by building their own car. Under the supervision of Mr A Smith, Head of Technology and Mr Raees-Danai, the club intends to build a Sylva Jester Kit car. The car is a two-seater, beach-buggy-style vehicle, with a Ford Fiesta engine and other mechanical parts.

As seen in last year's edition of 'The Richian', the club's interest is already well established, as they completed a hovercraft project for entry into the National Youth Hovercraft competition in 1997. Fund raising for the project has been very successful, with £500 each donated by Bristol Street Ford, Gloucester and Eagle Star. Also, £200 from Stagecoach, the bus company, and SATRO, (Science & Technology Regional Organization), providing a further £100. Support has also come from the Parents' Association. The project will give all the pupils involved a greater understanding of the engineering aspects involved in the manufacture of a car and hopefully

demistify its technical system. It has already proved to be exciting and challenging to those boys involved. Progress by the boys so far includes, completely stripping the Ford Fiesta of all electrical and mechanical parts, to be left with only the basic shell. Preparing the chassis supplied by the kit company and painting it ready for assembly has already started and is well under way. The variety of skills involved in the project will equip our students in preparation for their Design and Technology exam courses and help them in a wide range of practical areas outside the school.

However, the group has a long way to go, as the total cost of the project is likely to be in the region of £2,300, with the chassis costing £500 alone. A new fibre glass body has to be purchased, as well as paints and other additional extras. Once the completed car emerges, Mr Smith hopes that all those who sponsored the project will have their names and logos printed on the car's bodywork.

*Mr A Smith*



*Above, Mr Smith and some of the members of the Young Engineers Club undertaking preparatory work on their kit car technology project. 'The Jester'.*

## FINAL CRICKET RESULTS

|         | Played | Won | Drawn | Lost |
|---------|--------|-----|-------|------|
| 1st. XV | 4      | 2   | 0     | 2    |
| U.15's  | 4      | 3   | 0     | 1    |
| U.14's  | 3      | 1   | 0     | 2    |
| U.13's  | 2      | 0   | 1     | 1    |
| U.12's  | 4      | 2   | 0     | 2    |

### SHOULD WE BE CELEBRATING THE MILLENNIUM?

The year 2000 will be viewed as a pivotal date in human history. There are some, who, in their faith in science and modern technology, believe that it heralds a new age, in which things can only get better. Other simply believe it is the dawn of a new beginning, a chance for mankind to put things straight. There are others, however, who believe that mankind has set off a chain of catastrophic events which he is incapable of curing. So, critical questions are raised. Firstly, is the dawn of a new millennium or of a century really worth celebrating? Who is celebrating it and why? Does mankind really have what it takes to put the problems he has created straight? These are the questions that will now be analysed during the rest of this discursive essay.

On observing the attempts to celebrate the Millennium, I wonder whether or not things are really getting better and whether the trends in science and politics really indicate a better future for the Earth after we have celebrated the Millennium. By observing the progress made in this century, should we not be able to predict future events and avoid further disasters? At the start of the 20th Century, it looked like mankind was at last getting it right. Although the world still did have problems, history shows that there was relative peace. However, historians acknowledge that somehow things went wrong. They all seem to say the same thing: just as things were progressing, the First World War came along. The world fell apart and the turmoil increased. The problems left by the First World War remained and together with the failure of the League of Nations, a world-wide economic slump and the success of evil dictators, caused yet another devastating conflict, in the form of World War Two. Since then, things have hardly improved. Starving children are on the news constantly, food crises spring up all the time, one after the other and wars appear on the increase everywhere in the world, from the Balkans to the Middle East. Global disasters also appear on the increase, with floods, droughts and earthquakes appearing to be the norm. There are various fields of science - medicine, technology, engineering and other forms of research, but they have not really helped us to understand the reasons for all of these problems. Alarming new evidence of future disasters and problems are always looming from the world of science. For instance, antibiotics such as penicillin were heralded as revolutionary when they were first prescribed, helping to cure hundreds of people and many diseases over the years have been thought to have been wiped out. However, new strains of bacteria and viruses are appearing, threatening the human population. The battle between man and nature is an enduring one, but it seems apparent that nature always has surprises. Diseases are not now being cured by traditional antibiotics and they are becoming more resistant.

Other threats come from other sources. For instance, it took the scientists a long time to realize the harm of aerosol cans and refrigerators with the release of CFC's and their affect on the ozone layer. Subsequently, environmental damage is now starting to surface and the human cost can be measured by the increase in cancer related diseases. The facts are that no matter how beneficial science is, it has its limits and disadvantages, often resulting in some form of social or human cost. With the advance of science and technology, it is a worrying fact that many new discoveries and inventions have drawbacks. Pollution is soaring and there seems very little we can do about it. More threats come each day, such as AIDS or CJD, both of which are baffling the scientists at present. The question is whether man can overcome these problems, many of which he has created himself in the last century. Are we to see more chaos and catastrophes in the new century?

Despite the doubts about it, the Millennium is still going to be celebrated, whether the world has problems or not! But why? Is it really because everyone is optimistic about the new era or is it simply an excuse to have a wild party, or is it simply an opportunity for a few people to make a lot of money? There are thousands of schemes going ahead in this country to celebrate the Millennium, all of which cost a great deal, mainly being paid for by the taxpayer. Of course, one must refer to the famous 'Millennium Dome'. Many of these projects will help local communities and even the nation as a whole. New facilities will be built for people to enjoy, but who will benefit from them financially? I think many industries will benefit, such as the Tourist industry, the Construction industry and the Leisure industry, to name but a few. Foreigners will travel to see and use these new facilities. Trade and commerce will increase and generate income for many people. So, inevitably, it seems that the whole Millennium experience simply boils down to money and simple economics.

However, pouring so much money into such projects as the Millennium Dome can lead to disastrous effects. Hasn't man learned yet about how this can lead to further trouble? Shouldn't all the tax revenues be used for real practical projects first, like reducing NHS waiting lists, investing in Education and helping valid welfare issues in this country? Wouldn't it be a better way of celebrating the millennium to fund these areas first, rather than throw millions of pounds into schemes which will only boost tourism and certain groups in society? Why not spend the money and time on trying to solve some of the problems of the world first. Is it not the case, that most of the conflict in the world stems from money in the first place?

Nowadays, we have a huge advertising industry. It is capable of twisting things and influencing people. Consequently, as the millennium approaches nearer, it is likely the media industry will 'hype' the whole event up. Slogans, advertising, merchandising and other novel methods will be used to ensure that we spend lots of our money on friends and family. Lots of toys, flowers, cars and other commercial goods will be sold and given away as presents. When all this 'hype' is going on, who will remind us of the real reason for celebrating 2000 years since the birth of Christ? Perhaps some religious groups will try, but these will be drowned out by the commercial industries striving for higher profits. This is what happens with Christmas already, as it has become a commercial holiday, rather than a religious and holy day. People will be influenced to celebrate something that means nothing to them and the real meaning behind the event will be lost.

Whether or not we believe in the Millennium is worthy of celebration or not is based on how we answer the following: Will the next century see any real improvement in life on earth or not? and Are we celebrating it for the right reasons? I personally do not think that mankind really does have the capacity to turn his mistakes around and make enough advances to neutralize the many mistakes it has made. Our whole future depends upon science, but ironically if this fails, then there is little room for optimism. Finally, let's forget the millennium celebrations and spend the money on eliminating starvation, finding cures for diseases and preventing human conflict. Then we can really celebrate something of worth, rather than something that is simply commercialized.

*C Richards (9C)*

# THE OLD RICHIAN'S' ASSOCIATION

## Old Richians' Committee:

|                 |                  |                |               |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|
| President:      | Terry Harris     | Jack Dean      | Ian Kellie    |
| Chairman:       | David Q Hook     | Graham Reed    | Alan Pilbeam  |
| Hon. Treasurer: | Andrew K Bishop  | Duncan Sargent | Michael Brown |
| Hon. Secretary: | David Billingham | David Frodin   | Gary Hyett    |
| Hon. Auditor:   | Dennis Collins   | Ian Poole      | Alan Speed    |
|                 |                  | Mark Robinson  |               |

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT - TERRY HARRIS

Let me start by thanking our retiring President, David Hook, for doing an excellent job. I have known him and his parents, Bill and Joan, all my life - what a wonderful family they are. When David phoned me here in Sidmouth, to invite me to be your President, I asked if he had mixed me up with another "Harris" - as I'm no sportsman or academic!

I felt highly honoured and could not refuse, as I owe a great debt to "Tommy's". David assured me, "All you have to do is attend and chair the Annual Dinner (which Julia and I enjoyed in April); be present at Founder's Day in the Cathedral (which I wasn't unfortunately, as I had to conduct a funeral); turn up at Speech Day in September (which by the time you have read this article, I will hopefully have achieved) and, if possible, come to the AGM". David telephoned recently and said, "By the way, could you get your Report to me as soon as possible." PAUSE "What report?" says I. "It will appear in 'The Richian'." "Oh!"

So here it is..... It gives me great pleasure to write as your new President. Before proceeding any further I must say a grateful "Thank you", on your behalf, to David Hook, for all he has done and continues to do as Chairman, and for the gracious way he informs me what your President should be doing. It's great to be part of a team. We appreciate the work of our Secretary, Treasurer and Committee members in maintaining this Association.

At the Annual Dinner it was a pleasure to meet our Headmaster and his wife, and to review acquaintance with our Guest Speaker, Tony Jarvis (former Headmaster) and his wife, Brigit. There was a greeting from my Headmaster, Peter Veale. Another former Headmaster, Tony Stocks, was present. We were supported by members of staff (both past and present). With sadness, we remembered members who had died, Frank Watkins, Roderick Tapp (27 years old) and Doug Wynn. We shall treasure the memories we have of them.

From early days I had an affection for "Tommy's", even before becoming a pupil. My father, Reggie, attended the school in Barton Street and my uncle, William Dance. My cousin, Daniel Stephenson (Rocket), was a contemporary. On leaving Widden Street in 1946, I went to "The Golden Anchor", Southgate Street, to buy a Blue Blazer (with customary new penny in the pocket). Yes, over fifty years ago! Sportswear was to come from Bill Hook's Sports Shop in Westgate Street. There is a joke about someone in an English lesson who sounds like me. I imagine Mr Nicholas saying, "Harris, give me two pronouns." To which I reply, "Who, me, Sir?" This next one is true! Mr Tully said when I passed my 'O-levels', "Harris, your papers must have got mixed up with someone else's!" David Joseph taught me to swim and I've been trying to keep my head above water ever since!

It amazes me to think that I have spoken at Speech Days at "The Ruben's Hotel", London Reunion and at the "The Crest Hotel", Gloucester. If you had known me at school, you would say it's a miracle.

On leaving Rich's, I trained as a Biochemist at Gloucester Royal Hospital, Southgate Street and at the Institute of Pathology and Tropical Medicine, R.A.F. Halton, then spent four years at Theological

# THE OLD RICHIAN'S ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DINNER

## NOTICE

THE OLD RICHIAN'S ASSOCIATION  
INVITES ALL MEMBERS, FORMER  
PUPILS AND THEIR GUESTS, TO THE  
ANNUAL DINNER, TO BE HELD IN  
THE SCHOOL HALL ON

SATURDAY, 10TH APRIL, 1999 -

FROM 7.00 pm ONWARDS!

DETAILS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM  
THE OLD RICHIAN'S ASSOCIATION,  
c/o SIR THOMAS RICH'S SCHOOL,  
OAKLEAZE, GLOUCESTER, GL2 0LF  
TELEPHONE: (01452 - 528467)



College, Bristol, training for the Methodist Ministry. In my last appointment in Plymouth, we built a new church, which had four hundred young people attending various activities during the week. I am now Methodist Minister in Sidmouth, where we have a wonderful full church on Sunday mornings.

Being President, I feel, is a way of expressing my indebtedness to the Staff and my contemporaries who have helped me in ways that they may never be aware of. Teaching and running a school is not an easy job. Our present Headmaster and Staff are doing an excellent job or this School would not have been made a "Beacon School" today. It is made possible through the pupils who co-operate in the process. Teaching is a great profession. It is often hard and unrewarding. (My wife, Julia and our daughter, Rachel, are teachers, and I know!) Let us remember that "Tommy's" is helping to shape the lives of the next generation. The Old Richians' Association is here to support this school in some small way, in achieving that end.

I own a tremendous debt to the school. So now you know why I am proud to be numbered among the Old Richians. We do need all the support we can get. It was very encouraging to see last year's leavers from the Upper VI - filling three tables at the Annual Dinner. It's wonderful to see young ladies present too. "Never had it that good in my day!" (That's not a quote from the late Stan Jones! Incidentally we were contemporaries at the Barton School site). Let us seek to gain new members, regardless of age, to share with us in supporting our school in every way we possibly can.

Garde ta Foy!

*Terry Harris (President)*

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## THE OLD RICHIAN'S ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DINNER REUNION

Another year, another successful Reunion Evening enjoyed by all concerned. The increased number attending this year was due in no small measure to the considerable and much appreciated efforts made by David Frodin and Chris Wilkinson, who encouraged many other recent Sixth Form leavers to attend.

The newly installed President, The Rev. Terry Harris accompanied by Mrs Harris, was joined on the top table by the Headmaster Mr Ian Kellie and Mrs Kellie and the guest speaker for the evening was Mr Tony Jarvis, accompanied by Mrs Jarvis. After the President had said Grace, everyone enjoyed the usual substantial knife and fork buffet meal, before rising to drink the loyal toast to commence the formal part of the evening.

In his opening remarks, the President referred to a number of members who had sadly died recently, Frank Watkins, Doug Wynn, Jack Parker and Roderick Tapp. He reminisced about certain teachers during his schooling in the 1940's and 1950's, before inviting former Rich's Headmaster, Mr Tony Jarvis to propose the toast to, 'The School'.

Mr Jarvis commenced by expressing his pleasure at being invited to return to the school as Guest Speaker for this event. He recalled the interviews prior to his appointment as Headmaster in 1990, a time when there were various problems concerning the school's buildings. However, he was delighted to see the many improvements and additions which had been achieved as ample proof of Shire Hall's enthusiasm for Tommy's as a good school. Mr Jarvis recalled the loyalty and

support of the staff and referred to them as a 'good crew'. He spoke of his particular sadness at Frank Henderson's death. He also recalled Stan Jones as a great supporter of the school and someone for whom nothing was ever too much trouble.

In closing to propose the toast, Mr Jarvis said that Sir Thomas Rich, when making his bequest, could not possibly have anticipated the extent to which the school would develop and become known for its quality and achievements.

Responding on behalf of the school, the Headmaster, Mr Ian Kellie thanked Mr Jarvis for his remarks and emphasized the gratitude he and the staff owed to him for getting the initial improvements going. He referred to the school's prominent position in the National League tables, the high level of 'A' level passes and the Commendation in the OFSTED report.

In summarizing the wide range of activities undertaken at all ages in the school, Mr Kellie picked out just a few of the academic, sporting and other results achieved. In conclusion, he said it was pleasing to be able to indicate that high standards were being maintained in all aspects of life at Rich's.

After the President read a letter from Peter Veale extending his best wishes to the Association and everyone present, the evening was rounded off by the raffle draw, which had been organized by David Hook and his loyal band of helpers.

Garde ta Foy!

*Mr David Mayo (Old Richians' Committee)*



## THE REASONS WHY? BY MALCOLM PAGE

David Hook, our former President, asked me two questions on the telephone last February. Why had I just visited the Somaliland Republic and why I had written a book about the King's African Rifles and the East African Forces? The answers to the two questions are linked.

I first went to what was then the Somaliland Protectorate in April, 1947, having left India in January and with a short posting to Greece in between. The journey to Somaliland was not direct; by plane from Athens to Egypt, by ship to Mombasa, rail to Nairobi (for interview and posting to the Somaliland Scouts), back to Mombasa, by boat to Mogadishu and, after a week in Mogadishu, a truck journey of six days to Hargeisa, across the Ogaden. For the next four and a half years, I stayed with that unit, mainly in the Protectorate, but at times over the borders, either in Ethiopia or Somalia. I got to hear a great deal about the Somali people and their nomadic way of life, as a lot of our time was spent on patrols to protect the pasturists and their flocks of goats, sheep and camels, or enforcing collective punishments by 'camel snatches'. I toyed with the idea of becoming a Colonial Civil Servant, but the selection board wanted me to go to Malaya as a Police Officer, so I declined and remained in the Army.

I maintained contact with Somaliland even after independence in 1960, through the Anglo-Somali Society, of which I am now President. In 1981, when I was in Somalia as a guest of the Government, I went to Borama, on the Ethiopian border of the former Protectorate, to discuss with the people of the town the possibility of their having a friendship link with Henley-on-Thames. This link was forged and, in 1983 Dr Noel Snell, (then Mayor of Henley), visited Borama to cement the alliance. I am now Chairman of the Henley Borama Friendship Association, (H.B.F.A.). Army connections with East Africa was maintained through the King's African Rifles and the East African Forces Dinner Club, of which I am now Vice-President, and I also represent Somali interests on the Council of the British Commonwealth Ex-services League, (B.C.E.L.).

So it was a combination of these activities which took me to Somaliland in October 1997. The timing was dictated in part by the season and because the Society had sponsored through Book Aid International the shipment of consignments of books to the library in Hargeisa and to Bosasso, and I wanted to ensure that they had arrived and were being cared for, and to develop the next stages of the project. I travelled with Tony Scawin, a former Scouts Officer, who had served in the Protectorate administration later. We had various objectives apart from the book project. They were to ascertain the current political and economic situations - Somaliland had declared itself independent of Somalia in 1991 after a brutal civil war in which over 60% of Hargeisa's buildings were destroyed by bombing and shelling. The civil war disrupted communication completely, and I had gone out in 1992 to re-establish communication with Borama in particular. We also wished to see how the people of Borama had fared in the interim; as there had been a cyclone in August, 1996, which had killed several people and damaged many houses, and if the stock of spares we had sent for the 'Henley' power station were being put to good use, and to assess other needs. We also visited many schools, and other establishments, and attended a meeting of Trustees for the embryo Amoud University.

In Hargeisa and Borama we met many Somali veterans, including some whom I had known earlier and some who had been wounded in Burma, but who had not received their pensions due to the break down in administration at the time of the civil war. Their cases are now with the B.C.E.L., with a view to getting them some money. We also gave some aid to them, to the old people's home, the orphanage and to the school for the deaf.

The story of the book, 'K.A.R. - A history of the King's African Rifles', by Malcolm Page, can be told more briefly. The first major campaign involving the K.A.R. had been in Somaliland against the 'Mad Mullah', Seyed Mohamed Abdillahi Hassan, from 1900 to 1920. This gave rise to the Somaliland Camel Corps and in 1940, when the Italian forces invaded Somaliland, the Camel Corps took the initial shock. Later, at the battle of Tug Argan Gap in August, Captain Eric Wilson, who was commanding the Machine Gun Company of the Camel Corps, was left for dead, but survived and emerged from an Italian prisoner of war camp in the following year to receive the Victoria Cross, which had been awarded posthumously. After the re-occupation in 1941, the Camel Corps was revived, the Somaliland Scouts were formed and two Somali battalions of the K.A.R. were raised. 71 (Som) Bn K.A.R. was in Burma and fought the battle of Letse, where, with the help of an Indian Mortar Battery, they killed 253 Japanese in a single day and captured six officers' swords. So I had some knowledge of what had gone on before, and in helping to edit the K.A.R. & E.A.F. DC magazine, 'Rhino Link', a great deal of anecdotal material was received, which my colleagues and I felt merited a wider readership. Leo Cooper, the publisher, is a member of our club and he agreed to publish - not the anthology that we had

originally projected, but a new end to end history of the K.A.R. AND E.A.F., starting before the formal establishment of the K.A.R. in 1902 and continuing past the end of the 1945 war, dealing with their contributions in Malaya, in the Mau Mau campaigns, the run up to independence and a little afterwards. The first version, with 298 pages, 43 photographs, one cartoon and several maps, is now available at £25. A formal launch was planned at the National Army Museum in Chelsea, for the 24 March, 1998.

Meanwhile, Henley College, De Montfort University and Book Aid International are taking a great deal of interest in getting Amoud University off to a good start.

'K.A.R. - A History of the King's African Rifles and the East African Forces', (1998) is published by Leo Cooper, Pen & Sword Books at £25.

*Contribution to 'The Richian' made by Brigadier M B Page*

Many thanks to Malcolm for his contribution to the magazine. Hopefully, it will encourage more Old Richians to send in articles and items of interest for next year's edition.

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*Above, Rev. Terry Harris, the President of the Old Richians' Association*

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### **NEWS FOR 'THE 1999 RICHIAN MAGAZINE'**

THE EDITOR IS ALREADY SEEKING INFORMATION FOR NEXT YEAR'S OLD RICHIAN'S ASSOCIATION SECTION. PLEASE SEND INFORMATION ABOUT YOURSELF AND ANY OTHER FORMER PUPILS (notes on school dates, achievements, occupations, experiences, qualifications, hobbies, interests, sport, travel, family news and photographs would be welcomed) TO DAVID HOOK, 1 KINGSHOLM SQUARE, GLOUCESTER, GL1 2QJ OR 'THE EDITOR' - THE RICHIAN MAGAZINE, SIR THOMAS RICH'S SCHOOL, OAKLEAZE, GLOUCESTER, GL2 0LF.

**DON'T DELAY, SEND THE INFORMATION TODAY!**



## THE 'OLD RICHIAN'S' ASSOCIATION'

Return to: Mr A K Bishop, Hon. Treasurer, 'Island Cottage', The Leigh, Gloucester or  
c/o Sir Thomas Rich's School, Oakleaze, GL2 0LF

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Account Number: .....

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.....

Years at Sir Thomas Rich's School:

From ..... to .....

Signature.....



*THE 1ST XV, MICHAELMAS, 1948*

*Standing - (left to right) - R J MEACHAM, R E DREWITT, D B POWELL\*, K L MORRIS, J D WILLIAMS, B J LANE, H T SIMS\**

*SEATED - (left to right) - M H SELWAY\*, P E BIRT\* P W de L HOLMES\*, G W CUMMING (CAPT.)\*, J A ROBINSON\*, N P RIGBY\* , S W BROOKES\* - (\*-1ST XV Colours)*

# NEWS OF OLD RICHIANs

## EDITOR'S NOTE



Many thanks to all those people who have contributed to this section of the magazine. As usual, I have tried to cover as many news items relating to the 'Old Richians' Association' as possible. I would like to thank particularly, Mr David Hook, in helping me compile this section. As customary, the Editor would welcome any news of of any former 'Old Richians' for the 1999 Richian Magazine. Please do not hesitate to contact me at the school. News items, photographs or suggestions will be most welcomed. Many thanks!

*Mr P D Lloyd (Editor)*

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## OBITUARIES

**CHATER Ivor Francis** - (circa 1919-1924) Ivor died on the 20th June, 1998 at the age of 91. He was employed by the Gloucester Corporation Electricity Department until Nationalisation, when it became the Midlands Electricity Board. For the M.E.B., Ivor was a Mains Engineer and until recently lived in Hucclecote. He is survived by his son, Mike, but his wife Lillian sadly has already passed away.

**CUMMING Gordon W** - (1941-1948) Gordon died suddenly of a heart attack in Norwich, during November, 1997. He was known at school as 'Oxo', a nickname believed to be derived from an uncle who was called the same. Gordon would not claim to be a great academic, but he was a fine sportsman. He was a brilliant scrum-half, captained the school rugby team and played for Gloucester Rugby Club when he was eighteen. He also played for the school 1st XV, but Gordon would tell you that his lack of success at cricket was due to the following incident:

*The school was playing at Tewkesbury Grammar School and as Gordon walked to the wicket, the Tewkesbury master asked Gordon what he would like, meaning his guard. Gordon replied, "A slow, full toss outside the leg stump please Sir" This was heard by Eddie Pritchard, the school sports master, acting as square leg-umpire. Eddie was not amused, and according to Gordon from then on Eddie always called him Gordon in the winter months and Cumming in the Summer. I know the story to be true, because I was the batsman at the other end. Gordon was also a very fine athlete and gymnast.*

Gordon left school to do his National Service in the R.A.F. as a physical training instructor. He then went to St Paul's College, Cheltenham, where he obtained a Diploma in Physical Education, (1951-1954). The following is a short resume of his career in Education:

1950-1951 Taught at King's School, Gloucester

1954-1956 Richmond Grammar School, Yorkshire (PE & Art)

1956-1960 Monkscroft Secondary Modern, Cheltenham (Head of PE)

1960-1966 Whaddon Primary School, Gloucester



1967-1969 John Hampton Thame Primary School, Oxford (Deputy Headmaster)

1970-1985 Headmaster of Blackdale Middle School, Norwich, Norfolk

In 1969, Gordon spent a short period in Pittsburgh, U.S.A., setting up a Primary School to be run on British school lines. Gordon retired in 1985 and continued to live at Little Melton, just outside Norwich, where he compiled and published the monthly village magazine. He enjoyed gardening and caravan touring in Europe. He had spent summer holidays for thirty-five years, with his family in Polzeath, Cornwall, where he had a permanent caravan.

A very large number of mourners attended Gordon's funeral at Norwich, representing the many friends and colleagues from all over the country that held him in high esteem. His father, Albert, also attended at the age of 91. He lives in Norfolk and must be one of our oldest old Richians. Albert was a contemporary of Bob Hook, brother of W.G. and was Treasurer of the Old Richians' Association for many years.

Gordon and Pamela, (nee Wayman, Denmark Road High School), were married at St Marks, Gloucester in 1952. My wife and I would like to join many old boys and their families in extending our deepest sympathy to Pamela and her family.

Many thanks to Dr Dennis B Powell (1946-1950), Bristol.

**PARKER, Cyril Leslie Jack** - (1929-1937) Jack was born on the 31st December, 1920 at Elmbridge Farm, (now the site of Haven Court, Elmbridge Road), which had been his grandfather's farm. Jack enjoyed his time at Rich's, starting in the Preparatory School. After leaving school, he went to work in the office of the West Midlands Farmers, despite the prompting of Winnie Thompson to accept the offer to train as an architect. Office work did not suit Jack and after six months, he left to work for his Uncle Sidney Tincknell, (Bill Hook's father-in-law) on Little Elmbridge Farm, the orchard of which is the site of the present school at Oakleaze. On the 19th July, 1952, Jack married Betty Wright and in 1956 they bought Harpers Farm at Ashleworth, where he was to farm until his death at the beginning of April this year. Immensely proud of his school, Jack was a member of the Association from the day he left Barton Street. He kept in touch with a number of former pupils and staff and was particularly kind to Winnie Thompson, visiting and chauffeuring her, particularly when her health and eyesight began to fail. Well liked and respected in Ashleworth, as well as beyond, Jack and his wife were early supporters of the ecumenism, being active at both the Parish Church and the local Hartpury Methodist Chapel. The Association offers its condolences to his widow Betty and son John.

**TAPP Roderick C** - (1982-1989) Roderick was a former member of the Junior Section Committee of the Old Richians' Association for three years. He left Rich's for Exeter University, where he gained a degree in Biology. Rod joined the Royal Navy, serving on H.M.S. Coventry and H.M.S. Beaver, where he was awarded the N.A.T.O. medal for his service on the Bosnian operations. Later, he served on the nuclear submarines, before illness forced him to take a job on shore.

Despite his illness, Rod excelled at his job and at the age of twenty-six he was a Divisional Officer, responsible for training recruits, then as his condition worsened, as a Personnel Selection Officer, interviewing new recruits. Rod came to one of the School Carol Services at Christmas, but succumbed to the cancer he had been fighting in January of this year.

**WATKINS Frank O (Major)** - (1932-1937) Frank died in January, 1998 at the age of 75, having suffered from a weak heart for a number of years. Frank won a scholarship to Rich's, where he developed many of his lifetime interests. These included a love of poetry, as well as an equally active interest in the army and support for Gloucester rugby. A member of the Rich's Cadet Corps, he represented the city at the coronation of George VI. On leaving school, Frank joined 'The Citizen' newspaper, hoping to become a reporter, but soon changed course, to become an accountant, mainly due to the lack of journalistic vacancies. A member of the Territorial Army, because of his youth, he was not able to serve overseas when war broke out in 1939. However, he was eventually transferred from his father's old regiment, the Glosters, to serve firstly in the Royal Engineers and then the Royal Artillery with the Eighth Army in North Africa. He was involved in the relief of Tobruk. At the end of the war, he married his boyhood sweetheart, Patricia Rimmer and returned to Gloucester at 'The Citizen' newspaper, where he continued as an accountant until his retirement. He continued his association with the military and became involved in the Army Cadet Force, commanding the Gloucester Battalion upon becoming a Major. A member of the Old Richians' Committee for many

years, he was very proud that both his sons, Alan and Malcolm also attended his old school. He was President of the Association in 1982 and 1983. Frank for many years edited the Old Richians' section of 'The Richian' magazine, only giving up due to ill-health.

**WILLIAMS Tom N** - (1939-1945) A number of Old Richians', including his brother, Bernard and former Headmaster, Mr Peter Veale took the trouble to contact the Association with the news of Tom's death from cancer on the 30th June, 1998, at the age of 71. Tom was School Captain, Northgate House Captain, Cricket Captain and Vice Captain of Association Football while at Rich's.

His skills are well remembered from a letter sent by his former Headmaster. As well as being a talented sportsman, Tom was also a scholar, reading science at Wadham College, Oxford. After working for Kodak at Hemel Hempstead, he moved to Australia to take charge of Kodak's colour processing at Melbourne, from where he remained a loyal member of the Association, keeping a strong interest in Rich's and Richians. The Association offers its condolences to his wife, Doreen, his children and grandchildren, as well as his family still living in the United Kingdom.

**WYNN Douglas Ralph** - (1931-1936) was born in Lydney on the 1st May, 1920, but the family moved to Gloucester and with his elder brother, Victor, went to Tommy's. On leaving school, Doug joined the West Gloucester Power Company in the Drawing Office. With the outbreak of war, Doug was called up into the R.A.F. as an Instrument Technician, serving with distinction, mostly with Mosquito Squadrons, based in the Azores. On leaving the R.A.F. at the end of the war, Doug returned to his job as an Engineering Draughtsman and after Nationalization and various re-organizations, ended his career as a Senior Engineer with the M.E.B. Married to Gladys in January 1947, Doug was proud that his three sons, David (1958-65), Keith (1963-70) and Paul (1965-73) all went to Rich's. A member of both the Association and the Parents' Association Committees, Doug was a great supporter of the school and with his wife, who sadly died a couple of years before him, he was one of the early members of the Sir Thomas Rich's Bowls Club. Interested in singing, brass bands, table-tennis and woodwork, he was a member of 'Probus' and attended Lonsdale Road Methodist Church.

Many thanks to David Hook, Alan Watkins and David Wynn for the above entries.

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*Above, the rear of some of the old Barton Street Buildings that many Old Richians' will have fond memories of and which contrast sharply with today's splendid school buildings at the Oakleaze site.*

## NEWS UPDATE ON OLD RICHIANs

*(The Editor would like to inform all readers that all the information about the following Old Richians has been written in good faith and based purely on the details supplied to him from various sources).*

**\*IF YOU HAVE NEWS OF ANY OLD RICHIANs OR WOULD LIKE TO BE MENTIONED IN THE MAGAZINE YOURSELF, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT THE EDITOR C/O SIR THOMAS RICH'S SCHOOL.**

**BALL David** (1959-1964) David has completed twenty-two years in the R.E.M.E. and is a retired Sargeant, serving three years in Bosnia with the United Nations and I.F.O.R.. He is now attached to the United States Peace Force in Hungary, where he is living with his wife Margaret.

**BALL Gareth** (1963-1970) Gareth obtained a BEd at Crewe & Alsager College. He spent ten years at St. Christopher Special School, Bristol. He is now teaching English and Music in Germany. Gareth is married to Christine, who recently had their first child, Rebecca.

**BALL Vivian** (1965-1969) Vivian is married to Hazel and they have two children, Harry and Kathryn. The family lives in Bristol.

**BAYLISS Richard** (1990-1995) Last summer, 1997, Richard left Gloscat, where he had undertaken a full 'A' level programme and the news we had from Gloscat, is that he has moved into full-time employment.

**BENNETT Simon** (1973-1979) After a spell with the army in the former Yugoslavia, serving with I.F.O.R., Simon decided to leave the services and is now working as a Project Services Manager for Phoenix International, which is based in Mayfair. Simon is to be congratulated on his engagement this summer to Louise Jamieson. They plan to marry next May.

**BEWLEY Rob** (1974-1981) Rob has just finished his first year at Ridley Hall, Cambridge, where he is training to be ordained into the Church of England. After 11 years in industry, he has found the past year hard work, but exhilarating!

**BISHOP David** (1974-1981) David is married to Sue and they have two children, Cathryn aged ten and James, aged 6. David works for the National Westminster Bank in their commercial lending section, based at Aztec West, Almondsbury. He is heavily involved in the local Round Table, with David being Chairman this last year. David visits Gloucester quite frequently. Often by coincidence, his visits take place around the time Gloucester Rugby Club have their home fixtures. In conjunction with this fact, David travels to places on Saturdays during the winter when Gloucester are playing their away fixtures. David currently lives in Weston-Super-Mare.

**BISHOP Nigel** (1971-1976) Nigel has been accepted as a candidate for the Methodist Ministry and begins his training in September at Wesley College, Bristol.

**BOLTON Matthew** (1990's) Matthew has obtained a First Class Honours degree in Mathematics from the University of East Anglia.

**BOOTH Frank B** (1955-1963) The Editor received a letter from Frank last March, in which he told me that he was fascinated to see glimpses of people he knew when he was at Rich's in last year's edition of 'The Richian'. He remembered Frank Henderson as a student and of course Peter Veale. Interestingly, Frank stated in his letter, that judging by the contents of the magazine, the general culture of Rich's that he knew when he was a pupil, appeared to have been maintained. He explained in his letter that his final year at Rich's was the last year that the school was at the Barton Street site and he recalls a young Geography teacher called, Alan Pilbeam, who had just arrived at the school. Also, he remembers of course 'Ted' Veale, 'Joe' Worrall and 'Jasper' Stocks. Frank remembers the sixth form common room being at the top of the old Georgian listed building, which tended to sway in strong winds! Of interest, he tells us that in his final year, he and Mickey Spiller attended 'A' level Economic classes at the Gloucester Technical College during school hours and of course had to wear school uniform, much to the amusement of the rest of the class. While at

Rich's, Frank was a keen cyclist, racing for Gloucester City Cycling Club. Since leaving Rich's, Frank gained a degree in Economics at University College, London and following two years' full time study at the London Bible College, gained a Diploma in Theology from King's College, London. From 1973 he has worked at Eagle Star, Cheltenham and in 1978 became a Fellow of the Chartered Insurance Institute. At present, Frank is currently an assistant manager at Eagle Star, specialising in pensions legislation. In 1987, he was licensed as a lay reader in Gloucester Diocese and in 1990, he was invited to plant a new church in Cheltenham. Since that time, he has been on the Glenfall Fellowship in Charlton Kings, which involves regular leading and preaching. Also, since 1993, Frank has been a Governor of Oxstalls Community School, in Gloucester and since 1995, the Chairman of Mission Encouragement Trust, a registered charity which supports workers in Eastern Europe. Frank has been married to Grace since 1973 and they have two children, Ben, who is currently reading Physics at Oxford and Kirsty who is currently studying at Glosca. Frank lives in Charlton Kings, Cheltenham. Many thanks to Frank for his kind letter and I hope that the above inspires other Old Richians' to write to the Editor and outline their memories of Rich's, as well as their achievements, since leaving the school.

**BRADLEY Shayne** (1991-96) Shayne signed "Association Schoolboy Forms", with Southampton Football Club at the age of 14 and was taken on full time as a Youth Trainee after sitting his GCSE's and leaving Rich's. Hoping to emulate England Captain, Alan Shearer, who followed a similar route ten years ago, Shayne has been offered a two and half year contact with the Premiership side. Currently playing for Southampton Youth, the reserves and the South East Counties representative teams, the eighteen year old hopes to make it into the first team - watch this space!

**BROWN Philip J** (1969-1976) Last February, Rich's appointed Philip as its new Information, Communication and Technology teacher. Until his appointment, Philip was Head of ICT at Oxstalls Community School. He is also a member of Rich's Venture Scout unit.

**BOURNE Andrew** (1990-1997) Andrew came to visit the school in the Spring. He relayed news of his tour of South-East Asia, as well as a visit to Australia and New Zealand. An interesting and rewarding 'gap' year for Andrew.

**BRUCE Rob** (1977-1984) Rob left Unilever and the North-West after eight years. He is now working as General Site Manager for 'Cussons', in Nottingham, the company that produces 'Imperial Leather' soap. Rob currently lives in Swanwick, Derbyshire.

**CAMERAN Don** (1968-1975) Don left Rich's in 1975 and went to Oxford in 1976, where he read French & German at Queen's. He obtained a Second Class degree and then went to Bristol for a P.G.C.E. course. He has been teaching at Sherborne School, Dorset, since 1981. Don has been a Housemaster of a boarding house, Westcott House, of over sixty boys since 1994. For seventeen years, he has been married to Alison, who is a former pupil of Chosen Hill. They have two children, Andrew, 13 and Jackie, 9.

**CHAPMAN Lee R** (1979-1986) Lee is scrum-half with Matson United and captained his side to a 13-10 extra time victory over Coney Hill in the Worthington Bitter, North Gloucestershire Junior Cup final on the 11th May, 1998.

**CLEGG Phil** (1990-1997) Phil who is reading Earth Science at Jesus College, Oxford, has been awarded a 'Blue' for swimming. He represented Oxford in the 'Varsity Gala', in which he won the 100 m backstroke in a time of 62 seconds. Full 'Blues' are only awarded to swimmers who race in the Varsity Gala and who reach the very high standard of achieving a time within 6% of the national qualifying time. Phil's Gala was in February at Reading and he competed in the 100 metres backstroke. Richians should note, that Phil is a former West of England Champion at this distance and also at 200 metres. Phil's time of one minute two seconds is well within the national championship standard. Finally, it should be noted that Oxford won the Varsity Gala.

**CONDOR Kate** (1995-1997) Kate has just completed her first year at Warwick University, studying Renaissance and Modern History. She has found it enjoyable, but very demanding. Kate tells us that she has taken up rowing and at the time of writing, her crew had just taken part in their first regatta, coming unfortunately last! Interestingly, Kate has spent the summer travelling around Europe, concentrating on Italy, where she hopes to try out her newly learned Italian on some of the unsuspecting inhabitants.

**CROFT Giles P** (1984-1991) After what has seemed a life-time of studying according to Giles, he has finally qualified as a Doctor in July, 1998. He wrote to David Hook and explained how the 'real' work starts now, with six months of general surgery at the famous Jimmy's hospital in Leeds, followed by another six months of general medicine at York District Hospital, both in the role of House Officer. After all this, Giles hopes to pursue a career as a surgeon. During the Summer, before he started work, Giles took time off to travel in South East Asia once more, spending more time avoiding being shot or kidnapped in Cambodia, as well as finding time to marvel at the incredible Temple complex at Angkor. Following this, Giles spent a fortnight trekking and scuba diving in Thailand. Giles hopes to visit Laos and Burma next Summer if he can find the time. Apart from Giles' good academic news, he had time to celebrate the marriage of his sister, Justine to Greg. Giles' sister is studying to become a fully-fledged psychiatrist. Giles would like to thank David Hook, the Old Richians' Association and the school for all their support before and during his time at university.

**DAVIES Christopher J** (1972-1980) Christopher has, after ten years living in London, returned to the West Country, just in time for his eldest child to start school. Living in Bath, Chris works in Bristol, heading up the regional office of a national public relations company.

**DEAN Nigel** (1961-1966) Nigel continues his career as a Producer at Sky Sports, working nationwide on the league football coverage, having spent three years on the Rugby Union. He has two daughters, Lucy, age 13 and Jenny, aged 11 and he is married to Christine, who works as a Sister at a hospital in Southampton. The family have lived in Southampton since 1983.

**De LANCE-HOLMES Peter** (1942-1949) Peter has retired from Bristol Polytechnic, now the University, West of England, where he was Assistant Director up to 1988. He then worked part-time, for a further two years as a Consultant to the Director, followed by more consultancy work in Africa, (mainly Nigeria and Ghana), Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong. He is now semi-retired and lives in the South and for three to four months in France. Peter was made an Honorary Fellow of the University, West of England, in November, 1996. He is married to wife Mary and has three sons. He meets with some of his former contemporaries, such as Dennis Powell and John Lewis, from time to time.

**ETHERIDGE Michael** (1986-1993) Mike has obtained a First Class Honours degree from Nottingham.

**FARNOL Robert** (1990-1995) Gloscat informed the school that Robert successfully completed his 'A' level programme and is currently in higher education at Sunderland University.

**FLETCHER L N** (1932-1938) He currently lives in Rottingdean, Brighton and is interested to find out some information about his contemporaries. Fellow Sixth Formers include, W G Hook, D C Clare, H T Richards W J Marshall, D Hale, T Overthrow, D Claridge and he remembers the surnames of Wasley, Wyman, Reeves and Curtis. So if you have any information on the above, please contact him via the Old Richians' Association. Mr Fletcher obtained his school certificate in 1936 and Higher School Certificate in 1938. Between 1940 and 1946 he did his war service with the 7th Armoured Division (Desert Rats) in the Western Desert, Tunisia, Italy (Salerno), Normandy, Belgium, Holland and Germany. He tells us, that while he was undertaking his war service, he was sitting in a cafe in Holland, when he met an Armoured Car driver, by the name of Pritchard, who ironically was once a laboratory assistant during his time at Rich's. After the war, between 1947 and 1980, Mr Fletcher was a Civil Servant in the 'Valuation Branch' of the Inland Revenue, ending up with the rank of 'Principal'. Upon retirement in 1980, he took up the hobby of writing for radio and television. For radio, he regularly wrote for programmes such as, 'Week Ending' and 'The News Hudlincs' until 1986. He has written comedy sketches for television programmes shown on the 'Little and Large Show' and 'The Russ Abbot Show', as well as one or two children's programmes. He has also written for German television, with some of his sketches having been shown in ten different European countries. Mr Fletcher is a widower, with his wife having died last October. Many thanks to him for his letter and hopefully his request for news about his contemporaries will be answered upon publication of this magazine.

**FRODIN David** (1990-1997) David, who has taken a 'Gap Year', has been accepted by the Royal Fleet Auxiliary for Officer training - congratulations go to David. We also learnt during last Summer term, via an article in the Cheltenham Echo, of David's expedition to Greenland, as part of a six member team travelling a week early to set up a 'Base Camp' in preparation for eighty adventurous students. The expedition was organized by BSES, formerly the British Schools' Expedition Society. David's job was to lug seven tons of food, climbing gear and other equipment ready for the students. Apparently, rifles were important part of the supplies, in case the expedition members were

attacked by polar bears. As many of you read in the Richian Magazine a few years ago, David is well use to sub-zero temperatures, as he went on an exhausting trip to the arctic circle via Norway two years ago.

**GEORGE Glyn Dr.** (1971-1977) Glyn has just completed his first ten years as a resident of St. John's, Newfoundland, (on the extreme eastern edge of Canada). During that time he has been an associate professor of mathematics in the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science at the Memorial University of Newfoundland. In the 1989 general election for school boards, he was elected to membership of the Avalon Consolidated School Board. The next election was delayed by a lengthy process of constitutional change in Newfoundland's education system. His four year term finally expired in February of 1998! Glyn was an elected officer of the Board, as Secretary, for over seven years. He is still involved with the successor Avalon East School Board, which operates over eighty schools and has acted as its volunteer founding 'Webmaster'. ("<http://www.aesb.k12.nf.ca/>") Glyn hopes to visit Gloucester in May, 1999. Glyn can be contacted in the following way,

(World Wide Web "<http://www.engr.mun.ca/~ggeorge>" or by e-mail: [ggeorge@engr.mun.ca](mailto:ggeorge@engr.mun.ca))

**GOLDUP Stephen** (1989-1996) Congratulations are in order for Stephen, as we received news that he has been awarded the 'Fitzgerald Prize' for chemistry, at Exeter College, Oxford.

**HARRIS Kim** (1965-1973) Kim lives in Fenstanton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire and is a Managing Director of Entrix Computing Ltd. It is a company that he jointly owns with his wife, Jo, and which was formed when his previous company, 'Tymlabs' was sold in 1992. He is based in Huntingdon and the company distributes communications hardware and system management software. It recently opened up a sales office in Oregon, U.S.A.. Kim and Jo have a son, Tom, who is eight and they live in the village of Fenstanton, Cambridgeshire. Kim's main occupation outside work is flying. He trained as private pilot in 1993 and now has over 700 hours flying single and multi-engined aircraft. He also flies in British Aerobatic Association Competitions. For those inclined towards the Internet, Kim's company has a web site at, <http://www.entrix.co.uk>, including an aviation section.

**HINTON Tom** (1990-1997) News of Tom from Oxford, in which we hear that he has taken up rowing and is representing Jesus College in their 1st VIII. The school heard late in the Summer term, that Tom had been made Captain of Boats. Congratulations to Tom!

**HOBBS Jeremy** (1976-1983) Jeremy is working as a Clinical Education Manager at the Royal United Hospital, Bath. Having worked there for thirteen years, initially as a student nurse, Jeremy finally crossed over into management a few years ago. He is currently completing a MSc in Management Development with Social responsibility at Bristol University. Unfortunately for Jeremy his soccer career was curtailed by leg fractures two years ago, which required several operations and subsequently he has retired from the active part of the game. He has been married for eight years to Trixie and they have a son, Tobias, who is six months old and growing fast! Jeremy lives near Coleford, Somerset.

**HOLDER Leonard H** (1936-1941) Leonard previously gave an update to the magazine in 1985. However, he explains that he left Rich's in 1941 to go and live in Bristol. He joined the Civil Service, but he continued with the A.T.C. 179 Squadron, Bristol, as a Flight Sgt. In March, 1943 he joined the R.A.F. as a Pilot/Navigator and after his pilot training, he was transferred and trained as a Navigator to Canada, as they were in great demand at the time. Leonard tells us that he flew Ansons, Wellingtons and finally the Mosquito FBVt's from Yorkshire. After the war, he decided to stay in the RAF, but in 1947 the new Labour Government of the time, cut expenditure and production of two seater aircraft. Subsequently, Leonard left and joined the Local Government in the Building/Engineering Departments in the South East of England. He eventually found himself at Essex County Council Architects Divisional Office, in the post of Building Surveyor, for by this time Leonard had qualified as A.R.I.C.S. Careers moves continued, with Leonard moving to the London Borough of Bromley as Principal Surveyor in the Architects Department, where he was elevated to F.R.I.C.S. He eventually retired from Bromley in 1984 and October of the same year, took an appointment with a West End Architect Group supervising structural and layout improvements to a large British Telecom Building in London until 1986. Leonard then moved to Cornwall, between St. Ives and Landsend. He worked on a project in the area for the above company. In 1987, he became Navigation and Meteorological Instructor for 1900 Squadron, St. Ives A.T.C. and eventually got back to flying by helping R.A.F. Cadets and this allowed him trips into the mid Atlantic and all over the country in Nimrods, Jetstreams and D.H. Chipmunks. Due to his wife's ill health, Leonard returned to Kent in 1996. As a closing note, Leonard was pleased to attend Founders' Day in May, 1998 and revisited the school. He has also spoken to his old Headmaster, Mr W J Veale on the phone.



**HOSKIN David** (1960-1968) David is the Vicar of St Mary's Church, Beverley and has recently been appointed Rural Dean of Beverley. Despite being kept quite busy, he still finds a little time to pursue his interest in miniature engineering. He is currently constructing a one eighth scale coal-fired working model of a GWR 0-4-2 tank locomotive. For those with long memories, these are the little locos that used to work the 'Chalford Tich' on the Gloucester to Stroud Valley service in the good old days of steam. The model will be big enough for passenger hauling on the local Model Engineers' Society track in one of the Hull parks, where he is a familiar sight in overalls, grease-top hat and dog collar! The rest of the Vicarage household consists of one extremely tolerant wife, Jan; daughter Stephanie, who has just graduated with a degree in French from Warwick; and son Christopher, who is in the middle of an engineering degree at Newcastle.

**HUGHES Brian (Bill)** (1944-1951) Brian now lives in North Wotton, King's Lynn, Norfolk, after a spell in Cumbria and after teaching in Kenilworth, Warwickshire as Head and Deputy Head seven years ago. He is finding the routine of gardening and golf very relaxing, especially after teaching! This year he has been Captain of the Seniors at the Golf Club. (Frank Jordon, please note!) Consequently, life is a little more hectic, especially when the putts don't sink. Unfortunately, Brian tells us that he is usually on holiday when the Annual Dinner is on, but he hopes to make it one day and maybe meet up with Graham Hyett and Ernie Snow et al! PS. Brian tells us that he still has Christmas contact with Peter Veale.

**HUGHES GARETH** (1990-1997) We were informed that Gareth has represented the UMIST 1st XV.

**JENKINS John** (1967-1972) John lives in Winscombe, Somerset and in 1982 married Wendy. They have two daughters, Catherine and Rebecca. After leaving school, he worked for the Railways and has been involved in signalling engineering during his entire career. With the changes in recent years to the railways, due to privatisation, John finds himself working for Railtrack Great Western, as the Level Crossing Engineer. He held previous posts at Gloucester, Reading, Newport, Hereford, Bristol and Exeter! Of note, is the fact that John is still a Special Constable, usually seen in Weston Super Mare and in his spare time he enjoys choral singing, cycling and walking.

**JONES Simon** (1993-1995) Simon has graduated from Leeds University with a 2:1 in Economics and Politics.

**LAI-HUNG Jeremy** (1990-1997) Jeremy, who has taken a 'gap' year, told us that he has been accepted for Officer training with the Royal Navy at Dartmouth in January, 1998. In fourteen highly intensive weeks, he was militarized and became as fit as he has ever been! He soon became a power boat handler and qualified in navigation, strategic studies, as well as engineering. Following this, there were two months aboard the type 42 Destroyer, H.M.S. Birmingham, designed as an introduction to life on an operational warship. At the time of writing, Jeremy was back at Britannia, Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, studying before he 'passes out' as an Officer. He will then go to university in London for four years to study Politics and Chinese, before resuming his naval career. Also of note, Jeremy was on the Old Richians' Committee briefly, before leaving for Dartmouth.

**LEWIS John Dr** - (1943- 1950) John moved to Looe, Cornwall in 1997, where Old Richian, John Simmonds, retired Headmaster of the Community School, is a pillar of the community. He still commutes weekly to Bristol University, where in "retirement", John still has a research group in the Chemistry department, funded by the American Government and which is working towards the discovery of new treatments for drug abuse. John tells us that he recently received 'The Nathan B Eddy Award' for a lifetime achievement in drug abuse research. John sent us an extract from 'The Cornish Times', dated the 26th May, 1998, which highlighted his award. The award is made annually and John is the 25th person and only the 3rd Britain to receive it. The award cited John's thirty years' achievement in the discovery and development of new painkillers and treatments for heroin addiction. Of interest, John spent 27 years at Reckitt and Coleman, where he was Research and Development Director. He retired in 1992 and then took control of the research unit at Bristol University in a collaborative research venture with US scientists in the University of Michigan and Stanford Research Institute, California. Congratulations must go to John!

**LLOYD Peter** (1986 - current) Peter, who is a member of Rich's PE Department and Editor of the school magazine, was successfully awarded an M.A. in Education (Management) from the Open University. He took three years to obtain the award and thanks must go to his wife, Anne, who frequently took out their two very lively boys, Owen and Rhys, to enable Peter to have 'peace and quiet' to work on his various assignments and exam revision. He received his award in May, 1998, at a ceremony at the International Convention Centre, Birmingham. Editing the school magazine, studying for the course, looking after two lively boys under the age of five, plus teaching, are not to be recommended to anyone! You must have determination, endurance and a lot of support from your wife!

**MACE Melvin** (1990-1995) Gloscat informed the school that Melvin successfully completed his 'A' level programme and is currently in higher education.

**McBurnie Duncan** (1989-1994) Duncan must be congratulated, for we hear that he has been awarded an 'Exhibition' in Mathematics at Exeter College, Oxford.

**MITCHELL Philip F** (1981-1986) Philip married Miss Lorna Hemming at St. Nicholas Church, Hardwicke, early in the Summer of 1998.

**MOODY John B** (1949-1954) After four years as a Police Cadet upon leaving Rich's, John served as a Police officer in the Gloucestershire and Avon and Somerset forces for thirty years. On retirement from the Police Force, he was employed as an Enforcement Officer, dealing with waste regulation in the Trading Standards Department on Avon County Council. For the last two years he has been employed as an Environment Protection Officer by the Environment Agency. John is married with a son and daughter and has an eight year old grandson. His interests are numerous, including rugby, cricket, travel and playing with his grandson.

**PAGE Malcolm (Brigadier)** (1937-1944) Malcolm has written a book which is entitled, 'KAR - A History of the King's African Rifles'. Last February, he wrote to David Hook and kindly agreed to write an article for the Richian magazine about the above book and also a visit he paid to the Somaliland Republic. Many thanks to Malcolm for taking time out and writing an article for 'The Richian Magazine'. Let's hope that it encourages other Old Richians to do the same! Malcolm's article can be found at the start of the 'Old Richians' Section in this magazine and it makes fascinating reading. At the time of writing, Malcolm was living in Henley-on-Thames.

**PEARCE Andrew** (1989-1994) Andrew visited the school in April and broke the good news that he has been awarded a place at Sandhurst. He is currently at Reading University, studying psychology and will complete this in the year 2000. Andrew has also been awarded a bursary from the army.

**POOLE TIMOTHY** (1990's) The school received during the Summer term, a letter from Tim's tutor, Mr Nicholas Denyer. The letter relayed the excellent news that Tim has successfully been awarded a First Class in Part IB Mathematics this Summer, while at Trinity College, Cambridge.

**PROUSE Andrew** (1985-1992) Andrew graduated from London University in 1996 with a Second Class Honours degree in Education, specializing in Physical Education and Music. He has just finished his second year of school teaching back in Gloucester and will remain here for the next academic year. Andrew would like to eventually take a year out and travel, possibly spending some time teaching in Africa and/or South America. His great musical interest continues and he plays regularly with various local orchestras, as well as touring abroad and being on the staff of the National Childrens' Orchestra.

**PURSER James R Dr** (1941-42) Dr Purser wrote to the Editor of the magazine in May with a 'flyer' which advertised his book, 'Doctor on Call'. The book is an autobiographer of his career as a doctor in Nigeria during the fifties and it also includes his time at Rich's. In the book we discover how an operating theatre is run without electricity, what not to tell 'witch' doctors and why lumps and bumps are not what they always seem..... The 'flyer' explains that the book is perceptive, informal and frequently humorous. It is a delightful read for both medic and 'lay-person'. Many of Jim's contemporaries, as well as other Richians, can purchase the book at a good bookshop. A number to help you order it is, No. ISBN. 1861069707. Jim currently lives in Chisledon, Swindon. \*

**RADCLIFFE TOM** (1990-1997) Since leaving Rich's for University, Tom has achieved a great deal of success on the sporting front. He has represented Exeter University at 1st team level, both at Soccer and Cricket. Tom has also been on tour to America, acting as a coach of soccer in Manhattan. As many of you will know, Tom was an excellent sportsman during his time at Rich's. Congratulations on his success and best wishes for the future! Of interest, we were told that Tom, as with many Richians, using the Internet at University has proved to be highly popular, with many formers students keeping in touch via 'E-mail'. Let's hope that in the very near future, Rich's will be fully linked up to the Internet and information from Old Richians can be sent direct to us.

**REFFELL Frances** (1990's) Frances graduated on the 9th July, 1997 from Bath, with a B.A. (Hons) and is currently teaching at St Peter's R.C. school, Horton Road.

**ROBINSON J A (Robby)** (1942-1950) Robby lives in Macclesfield, Cheshire and he has accepted the post of Director of Flight Test at the International Test Pilot School, Woodford. He is currently renewing his licence and looking forward to getting upside down again!

**ROBINSON Mark** (1973-1980) Mark is currently a Business Banking Manager with Lloyd's Bank in Gloucester. He has worked for Lloyd's for eighteen years and interestingly, is currently working with another Old Richian, Graham Reed. Mark is married with two children and still lives in Longlevens. He is a season ticket holder with Gloucester RFU, is a Governor with Elmbridge Infants School and plays cricket with the Lloyd's Bank Cricket Club in the Citizen Evening League, as well as occasionally playing for Old Richians' Cricket Club.

**SERGEANT Peter S** (1964-1971) Peter lives in Loughborough, Leicestershire and kindly sent us some extensive notes about what he has been up to. He writes; "I am still teaching English at Loughborough Grammar School, though much of my time is now spent wrestling with the intricacies of public examination administration since my appointment as Examinations' Officer in 1996. I joined the staff at Loughborough in 1975, straight from Westminster College and I am now about to serve under my third Headmaster, Paul Fisher, formerly Head of Mount St Mary's at Sheffield. For the last sixteen years I have been an officer in the RAFVR(T), as a member of the School's Combined Cadet Force and as well as receiving the Cadet Forces Medal for service in 1994, this year I was awarded the Certificate of Good Service by the Air Officer Commanding Headquarters Air Cadets at Cranwell. Of the other Old Richian members of the family, David (1963-1969) is now running a successful school fund-raising concern, in which he is helped by Michael (1968-1976); Timothy (1972-1978) is doing very nicely in the building business; and James (1979-1986) is working for 'Dunn and Bradstreet'. Our sister, Alison, who attended Denmark Road High School, has just returned from South Africa, where she and her family have been living for the past eighteen months. I mention her, as she did not have the opportunity to attend Rich's, but probably feels as if she was there!

Of non-family Old Richians, I believe that Paul A Langman (1964-1971) is Director of Studies at Rugby School, but of the other members of my intake year, (the first First Year intake on the Elmbridge site in 1964), I know very little. Perhaps these pages of 'The Richian' could remedy my failure to keep in touch with the likes of Richard Samuel, Robin Plane, Steve Robins, Alan Robbins and Adrian Whitney. Dr Grantley Lycett (1969-1971) lives close by as he is on the staff of the Nottingham University School of Agriculture at Sutton Bonington and we occasionally meet in Sainsbury's. Most of my sketchy knowledge of my contemporaries' whereabouts and careers comes via Mark Bryant (1963-1970) in Sydney, who is not only a better correspondent than I am, but also is someone who managed to be on holiday in France during the World Cup Football Tournament. Suspicious that. Old Richians who went to Westminster College at the same time as I did, were Phil Hunt and John M Smith (both 1963-1971), so they must still be teaching out there somewhere as must Meredith Myers (1966-1973) from whom I bought my first car for £40.00 during my final year at College.

Perhaps a suitable occasion for a reunion of the first First Year at Elmbridge might be arranged sometime soon? Just a record of who is doing what where would be nice. There must be someone who remembers who came up with the 'trigonometry mnemonic', 'Silly old Henry Caught A hippopotamus Trying on Anoraks!' I think it was a character called O'Leary, but I know that Alan Sinkinson was trying to teach Graham Middleton's 2B Maths at the time, though he was easily distracted by fungi left on his desk which he would identify and elaborate on at great length. Suggestions as to the mnemonic's author should be addressed to the Editor!

**SHANN Richard** (1990-1995) Gloscat informed the school that Richard successfully completed his Advanced GNVQ programme in Built Environment and is currently in higher education.

**SIMPSON Stuart** (1988-1995) While travelling on a bus, the Editor of the magazine saw Stuart and found out what he was up to these days. Many of you will recall, that Stuart was a fine athlete and frequently raced for the school during the cross-country season. Unfortunately, Stuart was running in a steeplechase race in Oxford and upon jumping one of the barriers, landed badly, damaging his knee. Consequently, his running career is on 'hold' at the moment, after an operation and Stuart expressed the view that it was unlikely that he could really run competitively again for a long time. At present, Stuart works in a public house in Quedgeley. He also told the Editor that his brother, Brian, an Old Richian, is in the R.A.F.

**STOREY Daniel** (1990-1997) Daniel has represented Loughborough University's American Football 1st team.

**SUTTON Richard** (1990-1995) Richard successfully completed his Electrical Installation and Servicing course at Gloscat and is currently in full-time employment.

**VAQUAS Babar** (1990-1997) Last October, the Editor of the magazine received an article about Babar, which had appeared in, 'Equalities Newsletter - European Year Against Racism - Special Issue - October, 1997'. The article explained how Babar had in 1995 obtained ten Grade 'A'\* GCSE's and in 1997 straight 'A's' for his 'A' levels while at Rich's and how this went against all statistical data for young men of his ethnic origin. The focus of the article was to highlight, that whatever ethnic background one comes from, with motivation anything can be achieved. Obviously, Babar can feel proud that he was being promoted in the article as a 'role-model' to all young people. Babar is currently studying medicine full-time at Bristol University.

**VINER Alan** (1962-1970) Alan still lives in Shrewsbury and is very busy with his musical activities. This involves private teaching, accompanying, recital work and composing. He is on the staff of the Music Department at Ellesmere College, teaching piano and organ, as well as music theory. He has taken part in a performance of Britten's, 'St. Nicholas' in Lichfield Cathedral, which formed part of a Commemoration Service to mark the anniversary of the 'Woodard Schools' and this reminded him of Rich's performance of 1969 in St Catharine's Church with Michael Rangeley. As part of the service, Alan shared a piano duet part and the soloist was the young Philip Langridge, now a singer of international acclaim. Alan tells us that he is always honoured to read the activities of the Rich's music department and also of the Railway Society, which he jointly ran with Daniel Roe and Martin Hall for four years. At the time, the 'joint' Presidents were Mr Stocks and Mr Donald Moss.

**VOYCE M A** (1946-1952) Mr Voyce kindly wrote to Rich's Headmaster, Ian Kellie, last November, congratulating the school on its success in the National League Tables, which he had read in the Times newspaper. He also commented in his letter on the influence of Mr Veale and how Rich's instilled certain values, which he carried with him throughout his professional career. Mr Voyce has retired as a Consultant Pediatrician and NHS Medical Director. He now lives in Truro, Cornwall.

Mr Voyce also kindly wrote a letter to the Editor of the Richian Magazine and was able to identify his brother in the photo of the 1947 Cricket 1st XI which was published in last year's edition. He explained that the photograph was taken just outside the Physics laboratory, in the playground, at the old Barton street site. In those days, the teams played their games at the park in Horton Road and also at Coney Hill. Mr Voyce commented on the 1947 Cricket 1st XI, stating, "that team was an excellent blend of talent and characters and of course, I wonder how each progressed?" Hopefully, readers of the Richian will be able to shed some light on some of these players and the Editor can publish the responses in next year's magazine. Mr Voyce explained that his brother, after leaving Rich's, did National Service in Malaya at the time of the riots in Singapore and then joined the Metropolitan Police, reaching the rank of Inspector. During his career with the Police, his brother had several citations for bravery. Unfortunately, ill-health forced him to leave the force and unhappily, he died about four years ago.

Many thanks to Mr Voyce for his letter. Hopefully, other Richians will be inspired to write to the Editor and recall some of their memories of Rich's!

**WILKINSON Chris** (1990-1997) Chris, who is currently at Bristol University, continues to entertain audiences, for he has represented the university in Debating.

**WISE Peter** (1975-1982) Peter is now writing software for the likes of BMW and Citroen in Switzerland. He tells us that he is worrying a lot about the Millennium bug and believes that he is the first Richian to have lived in a place called Tschugg.

**WRIGHT Daniel** (1990-1997) Daniel completed a 'gap-year' before embarking on his university course. His travels took him to Nepal, where he travelled, explored and taught. Regular up-dates of his exploits, via post-cards, arrived at the school and were posted on the staff common room notice board. According to the reports, Daniel clearly had a great time and the travel definitely broadened his mind! We received a fax message from him also, in which he told us that the teaching was hard, but at the time of sending it, he was about to embark on an expedition from Kanjenjunga, in the Himalayas, where he was to act as a porter!

**DON'T FORGET TO SEND THE EDITOR INFORMATION FOR THE 1999 EDITION!**

## Notes

## Notes



## Notes



*Above, Rich's 1997-1998 1st XV Rugby Squad*

*Top row, left to right, S Wilkinson, J Williamson, C Rooum, C Thomson, G Powell, A Mohungoo, T Jacobs.*

*Middle, left to right, Mr B Nicholas, (Coach), P Bevan, O Chotoye, H Bali, P Gilmore, D Tipper, R Patel, Mr Gallagher, (Coach).*

*Front Row, seated, left to right, P Rose, R Tipper, D Crowley, D Garbutt, (Captain), M Brown, M Dill and C Rann.*



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