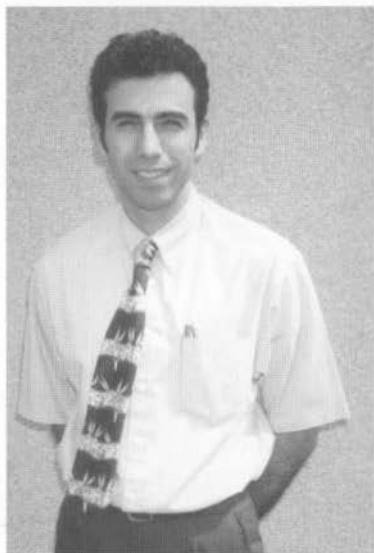


# THE RICHIAN

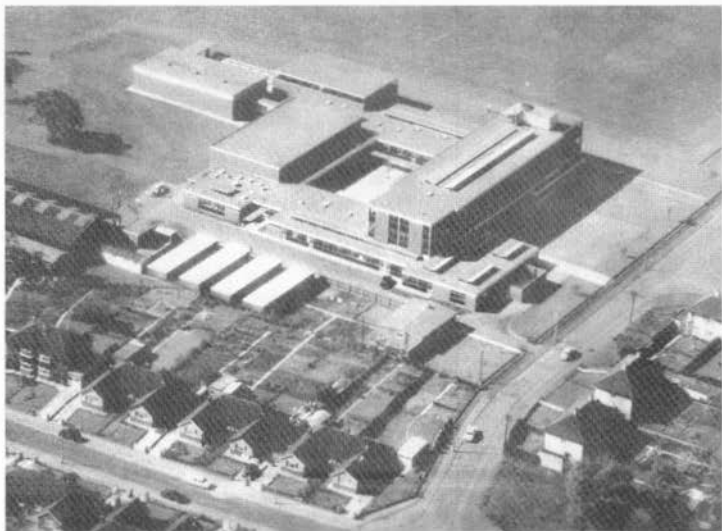
## 1999





*Above left, Mr John Drake, who retired from Rich's after thirty-six years of loyal service. All at Rich's wish him a well deserved retirement! Above right, Mr Kian Raees-Danai, who left Rich's after three years to take up a promotion at Tewkesbury School. Best of luck!*

---



*Above, an aerial shot of Sir Thomas Rich's School taken around 1964. When you compare this picture with that of the front cover to this year's magazine, it is obvious how much the school has changed and expanded over the years! Hopefully we will see more facilities!*

# THE RICHIAN 1999



## SIR THOMAS RICH'S SCHOOL

Oakleaze  
Gloucester  
GL2 0LF

Telephone: 01452 528467  
Fax: 01452 382432

Headmaster: I L Kellie, MEd, BsC

Editor: P D Lloyd, MA, BEd, HNC

## HEADMASTER'S MESSAGE

For many years only pupils from Gloucester City could attend any of the four Gloucester grammar schools and each was restricted to two forms of entry. Then the 1988 Education Reform Act abolished 'catchment areas'. At that time pupil numbers at Rich's were just over 400. 1990 saw our first three form entry and in 1992 this grew to four forms at entry. That Year group is now in our Upper Sixth and so the total pupil numbers have reached their maximum at 750. This is still relatively small for a secondary school and I believe we have maintained those distinctive Richian characteristics of good relationships and a calm working ethos.

1998 was our best ever GCSE year with an average of 9.3 passes at grade C+ per candidate. The 'A' level results were second best ever, each student gaining an average of 3.8 passes, including the top marks in the country for Economics (Janine Woodward) and Geology (Andrew Clifford). We were again well placed in national league tables, indeed the Sunday Times ranked us top equal of all schools for university entry.

A particular feature of Sir Thomas Rich's has always been the range of extra-curricular activities available to pupils. I am delighted to see this continue and even strengthen. Particular examples this year have been the excellent school production of 'Fiddler on the Roof', involving well over 100 pupils, further expansion of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, new clubs (Globetrotters and the Lower League Supporters Club) were established by new staff, the very successful Top Link rugby tournament for primary schools was organized by Sixth Formers and lunchtimes saw popular and keenly contested indoor soccer competitions.

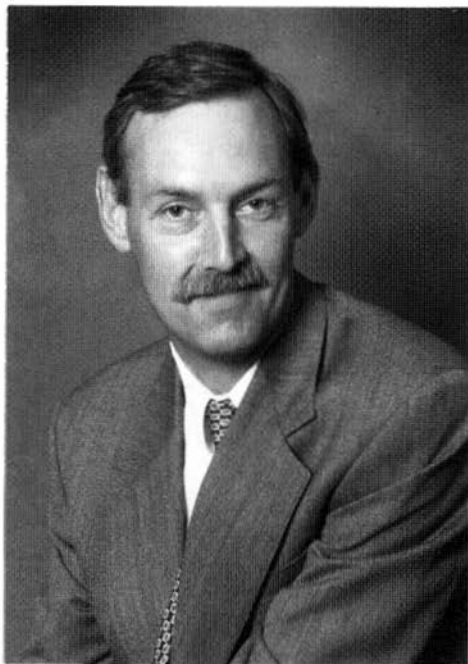
Total pupil numbers may have reached a peak, but our search for excellence has seen considerable improvements to our facilities.

The Sports Hall, plus fitness suite and changing rooms, were completed at the end of October. These are marvellous additions to the school and we were delighted that Bill Hook officiated at a formal opening in February. The new air-conditioned Music Suite was completed in June and officially opened by our Head of Music, Mr Thompson, during the interval of the July instrumental concert. A large pond was constructed in the Memorial Garden and work has continued through the year to develop it into an attractive and ecologically interesting site.

In summary, a year of further development and progress in terms of buildings and, more importantly, the educational opportunities and achievements therein.

Garde ta foy!

*Mr I L Kellie*



*Above, Rich's Headmaster, Mr I L Kellie*



## THE SCHOOL YEAR IN BRIEF

### AUTUMN TERM

The term started with a number of new staff taking up their appointments, including new Deputy Headmaster, Mr Mike Seales. The previous Summer exam results highlighted Rich's best ever results at GCSE, with 93% at a pass rate of grade 'C' and above, with the average passes per candidate being 9.34. At 'A' level there was a 95% pass rate, with 49% being at grades 'A' and 'B'. Of note was Andrew Clifford, who scored 98% in his Geology 'A' level exam and Janine Woodward, who also achieved the highest mark in the country in her Economics 'A' level exam. At Speech Day, the guest speaker was former Richian and School Captain of 1961, Professor Rees Rawlings. As usual, the whole of the Year 7 over a series of weeks embarked on the traditional 'team building trip' of Stratford-on-Avon, as well as trips to the Forest of Dean and Clearwell Caves. It was announced that Rich's would have a new Music Centre and the new Sports Hall came into operation just after the half-term break. Malcolm Sanders from the charity CLIC came into school assembly to receive a cheque for £315, raised via the weekly collections and the charity nominated for the new term was the Imperial Cancer Research charity, which in December, also received a cheque approaching £600. In late October, the school had its annual 'Open Day', with well over thousand parents visiting the school. The Drama production for the term was 'Fiddler on the Roof' and the History Department took the whole of Year 9 to Coalbrookdale in Shropshire. A group from the Sixth Form went with Mrs Roberts to see a performance of the Greek play, 'Oedipus the King' in Monmouth, while a group went to GCHQ for their 'Technology Show'. The Venture Scout unit was very busy, participating in the River Wye raft race and also a 'Dragon Boat' race competition at South Cerney. A number of students contributed to the production of 'Look out Look', published by 'Young Woodchester'. The Railway Society was busy, with work on their model layout, as well as various visits, such as to the West Somerset Railway and an eventful trip to Leicestershire. In November, work commenced on the new Music centre and the Parents' Association Christmas Fayre raised £3,000. Westgate and Southgate were joint winners of the Art competition, while Northgate won the Junior Rugby. The Debating Society were active, with debates on issues such as President Clinton's morality, the commercialization of sport, the Sixth Form Curriculum and a 'Any Questions' session was held with Mrs Roberts and Mr G Watson representing the staff. In sport, Simon Kellie won the West Mercia League individual title and in the TSB National Cross-country Championships, our Juniors and Inters just missed out on the national finals.

During the Autumn term, a new club was formed by Mr J Symmons, called 'The Lower League Supporters' Club'. Of great importance, Mr T Barton organized the implementation of a 'Soccer School of Excellence', via that great club, Coventry City F.C. The new Sports Hall was bursting with activity, with many outside organizations taking full advantage of the facilities. Indoor Soccer was the number one popular sport in the new Hall, with various years holding their own internal competitions during the course of the term. In addition to this, many Staff "got physical", by pumping the iron in the new fitness suite. On the Rugby field, the 1st XV played twelve matches, winning nine of them and the 2nd XV won eight of their ten matches. The traditional 'Quiz Night' organized by the P.A. and Mr P Vaughan-Smith, raised £300 for the school. As regards school 'League Tables', Rich's in various papers was found to be one of the top fifty state schools in the country and out of the 115 schools in the South-West, only two others beat Rich's according to the Governments own tables. There were various competition entries, with a team winning through to the District round of English Speaking Union public speaking competition. In a Euro debate, Akash Degan (6C) and Chris Rann (6B) presented the case for European Monetary Integration at the Council Chamber, Shire Hall, as part of a Gloucestershire LEA and Italian LEA partnership day. Of importance to schools, the Blair Labour Government announced regulations concerning Grammar School Ballots. During the Autumn term, the Globetrotters group, with emphasis upon geographical issues and consisting of Lower School students, undertook a trip to the Forest of Dean and Dean Heritage Museum. As usual, the term ended with a flurry of activity. The traditional events were successfully implemented, with the traditional 'Christmas by Candlelight' once again proving to be atmospheric and popular, while the two Carol Services helped to muster up the Christmas spirit. Once again, the newsletters produced by the Headmaster and Mrs Jan Brown, the school Secretary, revealed a thriving school, in which activities and events covering many areas of academic and social life had successfully been accomplished over the course of the term.

## THE SCHOOL YEAR IN BRIEF

### SPRING TERM

The Spring Term picked up, where the previous one had finished. Mr Parris organized a 'Year 7' trip to see the production of 'Oliver' at the Alexander Theatre, as well as some rock climbing. A Year 10 Art group went to Oxford to spend a day at the Pitt Rivers Museum. The Senior House Swimming gala was won by Eastgate, who also won the D Q Hook House Public Speaking Competition. On the Charity Front, Carol Hope from the Imperial Cancer Institute was presented with a cheque for £600, while later in the term, Beryl Daniels from the Ukraine Link came into school assembly to receive a cheque for £700. Mrs C Stanley, raised £460 via a Year 7 Readathon, with the money being contributed to the 'Sargent Cancer Care for Children' and 'The Roald Dahl Foundation'. On 'Comic Relief Day', £330 was raised, while 6G's Assembly raised an additional £38, with the highlight being Mr P Lloyd's soaking! Jaime Stokes (6C) also raised £136 worth of sponsorship on the day, by remaining silent for the day. The House Music Competition was adjudicated by Mr Brian Ley, Head of the County Music Service, with Eastgate the overall winners. Bill Hook, was the Guest of Honour in the official opening of the Sports Hall. There were many individual achievements, with Clive Stuart-Smith (11S) gaining his Under 16 England Rugby Cap, Simon Kellie winning the AAA's Under 20's indoor 3,000 metre Championships at the Birmingham Indoor Arena, while Alex Kirby (11S) and Michael Thomas (11S) both represented the Great Britain Junior Water Polo team. Mr Bowie, Rich's Head of Science attended a 'millennium lecture' at 10 Downing Street, by kind invitation of Prime Minister Blair. An exchange group from the Lycee Gambetta in Tourcoing, near Lille came to the school, while the school was once again successful in the CIPFA Management Challenge, undertaking various financial decision making exercises. In the House Public Speaking Competition, Eastgate came out winners. The Lower Leagues Supporters Club went to Molineux, home of Wolves, who were playing Watford, with the match ending in a draw and they also saw Kevin Keegan's Fulham win against Bristol Rovers. The traditional visit to Birds Eye Walls factory for the French "Stance" (Simulations dans le monde industriel) was undertaken by a group of Lower Sixth French students. Also, earlier on in the term, a number of Upper Sixth students attended a full day of German lectures at Aston University. A note of success came, when four Upper Sixth students, Phil Walters, Mark Little, David Clifford and Peter Gladwell, were offered Oxbridge places. The Debating Society was busy, with subjects ranging from the European Union, racism, the monarchy to genetic engineering. On this theme, a Rich's Year 10 Public Speaking team, (Kevin Penter, David Leung and Adam Stokes), just missed out on winning the Gloucestershire District Finals of the English Speaking Union competition.

On the Rugby front, the Year 7 'A' and 'B' teams both only won two of their six matches, while the 1st XI soccer team only lost one of their four matches. A GCSE history group attended a Revision Conference in Bristol, with the highlight being the trial of Adolf Hitler. The Venture Scouts entered the Cotswold Marathon and then during a wet half-term they completed some hiking and camping out on Dartmoor. Other trips included ones by a Geology group to various locations around the country, ranging from South Shropshire to Connemara in Western Ireland. Mrs E Stanley arranged a trip to the Everyman Theatre to watch a performance of Twelfth Night. The Geography department completed an 'A' level field trip to investigate Cold Environments in North Wales, visiting places such as the natural amphitheatre of Cwm Idwal. Our Bursar, Mr Burns went with the Year 10 students on the traditional Göttingen Exchange, with a number of excursions completed, such as the historic castle where Martin Luther took refuge. The Sixth Form were entertained during the term, with Anthony's Slinn's presentation on the Life of Vincent Van Gogh and Mike Hurst revealing the history of Anglo-American Popular Music. The Lower Sixth also had a number of Higher Education planning sessions and sixteen students attended a leadership course in the Wye Valley. The major Railway Society trip was to Edinburgh, via the Settle and Carlisle line, while the Model Railway Section contributed to an exhibition at Huntley and made day trips to Plymouth and Penzance. The Globetrotters Club recorded sixty-two members, with trips undertaken to the Brecon Beacons and with thirty members staying at Ty'n-y-Caeau Youth Hostel, where they tested their abseiling and climbing skills. The school had two Table Tennis teams competing in Division 5 of the local Gloucester league, with the 'A' team winning most of their matches, but the 'B' team struggling. In reviewing the term, one cannot be but amazed at the variety of events and activities at the disposal of the students of Rich's. Unfortunately, some parents and pupils are not always willing to recognize or appreciate the time and effort that many teachers give up voluntarily!

## THE SCHOOL YEAR IN BRIEF

### SUMMER TERM

With the start of the Summer Term, came the exam "silly season". The Year 9's started the ball rolling with their English, Mathematics and Science exams. Then it was full steam ahead with the 'A' level and GCSE exams and finally, everybody's favourite, the internal exams in June. The Founder's Day Service this year was held at Holy Trinity, Longlevens, with the service led by Canon Peter Nunn and the address given by Mr J A Stocks. Mr Tony Higgins, Chief Executive of UCAS, came into the school to provide a talk about applying to University and to support this, all of the Lower Sixth went to the Bath Higher Education Day. Mr Richard Watson directed and produced two evenings of enjoyable drama, with a series of short playlets, Tom Stoppard's, *The Real Inspector Hound* and Alan Ayckbourn's, *Confusions*. On the music front, there was an exciting performance of Orff's *'Carmina Burana'*, with the school choir being joined by Ribston Hall. In assembly, the school listened to James Noble, who was a prisoner of war in Burma and who worked on the "Railway of Death". He emphasized the importance of faith and how it helped him to survive. Mrs Martin, from the Ukraine Link came in to receive a cheque for £723 and explained how the charity helps to support an orphanage in the Ukraine. Six Students went to Trier, Gloucester's twin town, with Mr Slinger. Awards in the form of 'Honours' were awarded to Adel Mortin, Robert Haworth and William Godwin for their various contributions to school life over the years.

On the House front, the chess competition was won by Eastgate, while in the Soccer, Eastgate again won the Junior and Senior cups. House Drama was varied in all forms, with Eastgate undertaking *Twelfth Night*, Northgate performing "The Assembly Show", but the overall winners were Southgate, with a very well-rehearsed, "The Demon Headmaster": Best individual award was given to Philip Kenchington. In the House Cross-country, there were ties in both Senior and Junior events, with North and South both coming first respectively in each competition. On the school sporting front, the Under 13's played their Gloucester District Cup match in very wet conditions. The match was very exciting, with the team having to endure extra time, plus a penalty shoot out against their opponents, Central. Fortunately for Rich's, they held their nerve and won. Other good team performances came from the Under 16's, who won their way to the final, only to lose 3-1 to Beaufort. Mr Barton and a number of Sixth Formers helped to run a 'Top Link Rugby Festival' at the school for a number of Junior school entrants. The day was highly successful, with sport and the young players being the winners. Coventry City were now well placed at the school, using the facilities as their Gloucester Development Centre for local talent spotting. Mr McBurnie helped to arrange a Year 10 Indoor Soccer competition, with 10S being the eventual winners after a number of initial rounds in the previous weeks. As in the previous term, there were many trips, with the History department visiting the Imperial War Museum, with the focal points being on the rise of Fascism, the Cold War and other excellent exhibitions. The Year 7's went climbing at the Warehouse in Gloucester and had an Archery morning on the school fields. A number of students went on an expedition to the Cranham area as part of their Duke of Edinburgh awards and a number of candidates completed their St John's Ambulance awards. Chris Barnby, Chris Auld, Tim Hood and Gareth Howell successfully completed their Bronze awards. In the Whitsun half-term, a group of Year 10's were taken by Mr Proudlove and Mrs Rowbothan to Morocco, while a group of Year 9's & 10's went on the Annecy exchange.

Of special note, the school saw the retirement, after 36 years of Senior Science Technician, Mr John Drake, whom many Richians and former staff will remember with great memories. Other departures included Physics teacher, Mrs Vizor, Design & Technology teacher, Mr Raees-Danai and Business & Economics teacher, Mr Watson. The Railway Society's Summer tour was up to Western Scotland. Winston's Wish came into school to receive a cheque for £178 and £50 raised during the Founder's Day Service, was donated to the James Hopkins Trust. Once again, Design & Technology students received various certificates in the annual Science and Technology CREST awards. On the Cricket front, the Under 14's won the Gloucester School Rotary Cup against Kings, while the Under 13's lost in the final against Kings. The winners of the the Cock House Trophy were Eastgate once again. Yet, another action packed year, with everyone at Rich's deserving a well earned Summer holiday. Finally, William Godwin was elected as the next School Captain, replacing George Powell.

*Compiled by Mr P D Lloyd, based on the newsletters produced by Mr I Kellie and Mrs J Brown*

## STAFF DEPARTURES

### MR JOHN DRAKE

John Drake, Senior Laboratory Technician, retired at the end of the Spring Term, after almost thirty-six years of dedicated service to Sir Thomas Rich's School. John joined the staff on January, 6th 1964 at the old school in Barton Street. He first visited the new school on its present site - originally the old school's sports field, in March of that year, to plan for the transfer of resources to the new laboratories before the final move that Summer. Three separate sciences were taught in those days, as indeed they are today and John moved across with the rest of the Science Staff, which included three other Johns - namely, John Bloxham, John Cooper and John Jeffries, along with Geoff Sheard, Idris Williams, Bob Nind and Colin Hinkley. Originally, John was the only technician, responsible for all the laboratories in the Biology, Chemistry and Physics departments. As Senior Laboratory Technician, John has supervised since 1964 up to the present time, about ten laboratory technicians and he has worked alongside over thirty Science teachers, as well as seen five Headmasters during his career at Sir Thomas Rich's.

Through his time at Tommies, John has made an excellent contribution to maintaining a safe working environment, ensuring the supply of resources, materials and equipment, servicing the laboratories and related areas, including the audio-visual resources, as well as managing others. His support to teachers involved in the learning process has been vital.

Of course, technicians do not just stay in the preparation room and pupils over more than three decades would have something to say about the important things they noticed John doing for them directly and indirectly. In the early days, I understand Friday night was 'Film Night', which John helped others organize for staff and pupils. Similarly, he was involved in talks given by Gareth Edwards, David Bryant, a Red Arrows' pilot and other personalities of the day. When "Any Questions" came to Tommies, John was there to lend a hand as indeed he was with John Bloxham, the previous Head of Biology, when BBC T.V. filmed a programme on dissection many years ago.

Alongside this same colleague, John took part in the building of the school's first hovercraft and witnessed its journey across the Bowling Green! John accompanied students on Biology Field Courses and organized the breeding of budgerigars, canaries and finches, not to mention hundreds of mice, used in the early days for the study of Genetics, all kept I understand in the greenhouse and Biology preparation room! The Liquid Amber in the Quad and the Ginko in the Memorial Garden were among the many trees planted by John, who also witnessed the felling of the great Elm trees alongside the playing fields - due to Dutch Elm disease - and took part in the creation of a bird garden where Joan Arnold's pond has recently been established. Many trees were planted, several were mown down by the Council, with only one Rowan tree being left in what became the Memorial Gardens.

Helping with lighting and backstage on early drama productions, playing in the Staff Soccer and Cricket teams, maintaining the pond in the quad, being on the Health and Safety Committee and more recently as a lunchtime supervisor, are many of the other important ways in which pupils over many generations have benefited from John's commitment to Rich's.

I for one, will miss his friendship, companionship, support and breadth of experience. All of us in the Science Faculty, who have worked alongside John, both teachers and technicians, past and present, owe him a great deal.

We wish John and his wife Eileen, a long and happy retirement.

*Mr I R Bowie (Head of Science)*

---

### MRS VERA COOK

Mrs Vera Cook had worked at Sir Thomas Rich's School for seven years. Before joining the catering team, she worked for sixteen years at Oxtalls school as Assistant cook. Vera was a very popular person at Rich's with both the pupils and the staff. To many of the Lower School boys she was perceived as a "motherly figure" and her kind heart and good nature, will always be remembered. During her time at Rich's she obviously saw many of the pupils mature to the Sixth Form and move on. We all at Rich's wish Vera a relaxing and happy retirement.

*Mrs Teresa Stone*





*Above centre, we see Mrs Vera Cook, who retired from Rich's last April, with her work colleagues. From left to right, Mrs Carol John, then Vera herself, next, Mrs Teresa Stone, (Unit Manager) and Mrs Eileen Parker. At the back, Miss Caroline Kirkpatrick. Best wishes to Vera, all of us will miss her pleasant, helpful and cheerful personality!*

---



*Above left to right, Garry Watson, who leaves Rich's after four years to become Senior Teacher at Downend School, Bristol, and left, Amanda Vizor, who joined Rich's in 1996 and now leaves us to work at Twynham School, Christchurch. We wish them the best of luck in the future and hope they take fond memories of Sir Thomas Rich's School with them!*

## STAFF DEPARTURES

### AMANDA VIZOR

Amanda Vzor joined the staff of Sir Thomas Rich's in September, 1996. A graduate engineer of Christ's College, Cambridge, she brought to the department a wealth of practical skills, knowledge and understanding. Her efficiency and foresight have been a great asset to the department and school as a whole.

Behind the scenes, she has produced a vast array of worksheets and experimental sheets to supplement her "learn by doing" teaching strategy. Many of these resources have been adopted by others and they will remain in the department's schemes of work for future teachers and Ofsted Inspectors to admire. Her commitment to Information and Communication Technology has been the catalyst to many changes in the department. The efficient use of computers, data loggers and spreadsheets from Year 7 upwards has been a great step forward for many. She has shown how it can be done!

Her daily commuting from Malmesbury was often the example I chose as the epitome of reliability when local boys arrived late for morning school; she never was! Her contribution to the School Choir and the Christian Union has been greatly valued. There was even an effort to start girls' lunchtime football.

As a colleague and friend she will be missed. Her tenacious, yet friendly manner is her strength and I marvelled at her handling of awkward situations! In three years, Amanda has left a mark on the Physics and Science departments, that will remain for many years and I thank her for all she has done. To Amanda and Richard, we wish you well for the future.

*Mr A C Passey*

### GARRY WATSON

Garry Watson joined the Rich's staff in 1995, taking over the leadership of the Business and Economics department from Ian Hodgkinson. It was Pates' Grammar school's loss and our gain.

"Larry" as he was affectionately known as by the boys, soon made an impact. His contribution to school sport, particularly teams, will always be remembered and appreciated, especially by the PE department. Many will remember his "silky" skills on the indoor football arena, after school every Friday afternoon against the Sixth formers.

He will always be remembered in the Staff room for his mischievous and humorous antics, as well as his efforts in organizing social events.

Garry led the Business studies / Economics department with great success, with a 100% pass rate at grade C+ in 'A' level Business Studies in the last two years. He continued and consolidated the now annual 'Challenge of Industry Conference' held for the new Lower Sixth. He also brought success to the school in the 'Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy Competition' last year, with a 6th Form team being the winners. Garry produced further success when a team reached the national finals of the 'Local Government Management Board Capital Choices Competition'.

Other tasks Garry will be remembered for, are his leadership of Southgate and the efficient organization of the S.A.T.'s examinations. He now moves to a new appointment as Senior Teacher at Downend School, Bristol. We wish him lots of luck and best wishes.

*Mr P D Lloyd*

### KIAN RAEES-DANAI

Since arriving at the school in 1996, Mr Danai has been an inspiration and highly committed member of the Design and Technology team. He leaves us to take up a promotion at Tewkesbury School, where we wish him every success. Kian has taught a wide range of subjects at Tommy's, including Art, ICT and an enjoyable Architecture General Studies course in the Sixth Form. A qualified architect, who ran his own business, Kian trained as a teacher at Cheltenham College before taking up his post here. Kian has made a tremendous impact in many areas. He helped to develop the D&T department, contributing to the improved quality of pupils' work, the improvement in exam results and has been closely involved in the annual CREST Awards. He has helped to make stage props for productions, has closely been involved in the Young Engineers club and accompanied this year's Canada Ski trip, (which he slept through!). Kian took the Young Engineers to one of his 'first loves', Silverstone motor racing circuit, to watch a day's racing and walked us all around the pits giving us the benefit of his experience, (Kian owns and races a single seater racing car). He also accompanied pupils to the 'Tomorrow's World Live' event at the NEC last year. Maybe the most memorable trip was to "beautiful Runcom", again with the Engineers for the UK Youth Hovercraft Championships. What a wonderful field that was! Kian will be remembered by both pupils and staff for his enthusiasm, good humour and as a valuable 'counsellor' to his form. As he's only 'up the M5' we hope that he keeps in touch.

*Mr S A Smith*

## STAFF ARRIVALS

### MR JASON NEHRA

Rich's welcomes Mr Jason Nehra, who joins us from Marling School and who has been teaching for a year. Prior to his arrival in this country, Mr Nehra, who is a Canadian, spent several months touring the World. We wish him a long and enjoyable time in the Physics department at Rich's.

*Mr A Passey*

### MRS ALLYSON BANYARD

We are delighted to welcome new science technician Allyson Banyard to the Chemistry department. Although this is her first school position, she has for many years had experience in industry. Already, her knowledge and enthusiasm are proving to be invaluable. We hope she has a happy and enjoyable time.

*Mrs S Chapman*

---

## OTHER STAFF CHANGES

Other Staff changes at Rich's include: **Mr G E Crewe**, who takes over from Mr Garry Watson as Head of Business Studies / Economics and who joins us from Wycliffe College. Graham graduated from Swansea University in 1993 with a BSc in Management Science and up to 1995 was employed as a trainee Chartered Accountant with 'Ernst & Young', in Southampton. He then went to Worcester to do his PGCE in Economics and Business Studies, before joining the staff at Wycliffe College in 1996. He enjoys all sports, travel, music and various outdoor pursuits.

Joining him in the department is **Mr M J Buttler**, who comes from Royal Grammar School, Worcester. Matthew has worked in the license trade, banking, marketing information and has also been self-employed. He enjoys soccer, skiing, golf and other more leisurely pursuits.

Finally, joining the Finance department is **Mrs N Poole**, joining us as Finance Assistant and prior to her arrival at Rich's, was working at Hartpury College.

Finally, **Mrs C L Roberts**, a member of the English Department, is to change from being a full-time member of staff to part-time teaching.

All at Rich's welcome the new staff and hope that they have an enjoyable and successful time. We wish all those who are departing, all the best for the future.

*Mr I L Kellie*

---

## MR ALAN PEFFERS

With the departure of Mr K Raees-Danai, we see the arrival of Mr Alan Peffers to the the Design and Technology Department. Until recently, Alan has been teaching at St. Peter's High School, Gloucester. He graduated from Cambridge with an Engineering degree and is a Chartered Mechanical Engineer.

Of interest, Alan tells us that he spent some time perfecting the "frozen turkey bag!", as well as working in making "mustard butter" and growing garden mint! Can we believe all of this I ask?

Alan moved to Cheltenham and on the way brought up his sons to school age, as well as helping to run a toddler group, nursery and help on a PTA. Following some voluntary work in a primary school, Alan decided to undertake a PGCE course at Cheltenham and Gloucester and then moved to his first appointment at St. Peter's, before coming to Tommies.

He naturally enjoys anything technological, even railways, music, the outdoor life and of course, being part of the D&T department, Alan is keen on DIY. However, like a lot of DIY enthusiasts, he tells us that he's never been known to get the job completed! Is this a warning of things to come?

Anyway, all at Rich's, as with the other newcomers, hopes that Alan has a pleasant and rewarding time at Sir Thomas Rich's School.

*Mr P D Lloyd*

## MUSIC

This year has been yet another series of challenges and subsequent achievements. The Autumn term saw three nights of the very popular musical, 'Fiddler on the Roof', which was quite superbly performed by a committed cast, led by Matthew Mundy, (Tevye) and Becky Cook, (Golde), while Malcolm Peckham was the Fiddler. The traditional Christmas celebrations began with another enjoyable 'Christmas by Candlelight' and the school's two carol services at St John's, Northgate and Holy Trinity, Longlevens. The high standard of instrumental playing was once again displayed in the Spring Concert, featuring amongst many worthy of mention, such as three trombonists, all of whom had recently passed their Grade 8 exams with Merit - almost unique in a County school.

Soon after the concert, final preparations were being made for the Easter Music tour in Holland. It was the first time the school had sent a wind band and choir abroad on tour. Three quite different concert venues were used and the Dutch audiences really seemed to appreciate the music making. A variety of excursions added a truly holiday feel to the schedule. By the time the musicians had returned, the new Music Suite was well under way and the expectation of enjoying new facilities began to grow. Initial removal from G1 to M1 began after the Summer half-term and by the last school exam, everything was virtually in place. The school Choir completed two concerts at the Mariners' Church, Gloucester Docks during the Summer term. At the Cheltenham Competitive Musical Festival, Owen Mason, Tom Plant and Chris Smith, with their music teacher, Mr Phil Cowley, won the 'Open Wind Ensemble' category, with their Trombone Quartet entry. The Summer Concert, with another wealth of musical talent on show, provided an excellent occasion for the official opening. Head of Music, Mr Jim Thompson cut the ribbon to a fine fanfare fittingly composed for the event by our visiting Brass teacher, Mr Nigel Taylor. Everyone receiving lessons or just passing, has commented on the space, the air conditioning and the facilities now available.

I look forward to the Year 2000 with the confident expectation that music will certainly continue to give pupils a chance to express themselves artistically in the classroom and to play a major role in extra-curricular activities.

Mr J Thompson

---



*Above, left to right, we see Mr Simon Pickard, Chris Rann, Sarah Ritchie and George Powell, before the traditional and highly successful 'Christmas by Candlelight' evening. The four above, all entertained the audience with Christmas readings, while the music was provided by Mr Thompson and the School Choir.*



## SIXTH FORM FRENCH PLAY - 'L'AVARE' - 'THE MISER'



*Above, Mrs Earl's Lower Sixth Form 'A' level French set, who at the end of the Summer Term performed Moliere's play, 'L'Avare'. The play is a set text that the group have studied and was performed in front of a good natured audience, one lunch time, in the old quad. We see the cast assembled in the quad for a photograph before one of their exhausting rehearsals - a pleasant 'wind down' to the end of term!*

One bright June morning, Mrs Earl suggested to her Lower Sixth French Set, that they may like to perform a French play at the end of the Summer Term. The idea, received with enthusiasm, was somewhat naively thought of as a possible, gentle, wind-down towards the Summer holidays - a respite from grammar and revision for the end of year exams, which at the time were gradually moving towards us.

Little did we realize what was in store for us poor folk! Though the rehearsals were enjoyable and as accomplished as the actors were, acting in French proved rather more difficult than we had expected. The chosen play was, 'L'Avare', (the miser), by Moliere and it was one of the set texts that we had been studying for as part of our 'A' level French course. It is a comedy, which revolves around money, romance and jealousy.

Although it was written in the 17th Century, we decided to give our production a more up to date, contemporary, feel about it, with puffed jackets, pin-strip suits, shorts and skirts, as well as green fish-net tights! Amusingly, Perran Spear and Lewis Cook were dressed in drag, which of course produced lots of comments and giggles from the audience. However, Nick Toleman stole the show with his dramatic leap into the moat, soaking himself, some of the actors and half the audience in the process.

Chris Hobday starred as the miser, alongside fellow students, Gareth Jacobs, Mike Webber, Claire Sewell, Jonathan Phillips, Lewis Cook, Perran Spear, Nick Toleman, Nick Bailey, Joe Purse, Akash Degan and myself, Charlotte Spratt.

*C Spratt (6C)*

## THE SKI TRIP - 'A JOURNAL OF AN INTREPID RICHIAN'

### DAY 1. Wednesday, 31st March, 1999

The first day of our nine day adventure would have to begin at school, wouldn't it? Of course at an ungodly hour! We were assembled by 8.30 am outside school ready for a prompt start. The coach was waiting for us and there were no major incidents to slow us down. Everyone was here, everyone had their passport and it was a good omen that everybody was on time. Well, when I say everyone, I'm not including Mr Nicholas, who was late! I guess that's what you get for inviting 'non-Richians' to a school trip. The flight to Canada, roughly seven hours, was the first flight for several Richians. Fortunately, there was little turbulence and the on-board entertainment helped to pass the time. The food though.....well, it was airline food - what more can I say?

We landed at Montreal only a few hours after we had left London due to the time-zone differences, ready to meet our Ski Rep, Barbara. We then began the final leg of the day's travelling, a long three hour coach journey from Montreal to Quebec City, via the bleakest countryside you can ever imagine. Where were the thick evergreen pine forests and tall Redwoods the pioneers had to cut through all those years ago? Moreover, where was the snow? Instead, of the vast swathes of snow covered forests many of us expected, we were presented with a bleak, brown-grey wilderness of bare trees and drought scarred ground and not a bit of snow. Another striking feature was the straight roads, almost as if the road planners had taken a compass and said, "Right, we'll build that way!" Quite literally, the highways stretched for miles upon miles before coming across even the slightest bends. In addition, along the whole length of the highway were dotted the odd isolated homestead, farm or petrol station. Perhaps around a farm or gas station would be a few dilapidated houses, a motel or tractor supplier, but these settlements were few and far between. How anybody could live such a lonely life is anyone's guess. Through the wilderness, the journey seemed to pass incredibly slowly. When we asked Mr Raees-Danai how long we had left, his reply was "one hour!" and he gave the same reply when that hour was up and then the same answer again! We came to the conclusion that everyone of his journeys only lasted an hour! We arrived in Quebec City to be confronted with an urban sprawl of drab, weather beaten

buildings. Certainly not the smart, crisp outlines of city skyscrapers we imagine cities in North America to have. In fact, one of the taller buildings around was our hotel, the Radisson Des Gouverneurs. When we stepped into the foyer we were astounded by the plush decoration, the marble floors, miniature waterfall, escalators up to the reception area, the door attendant, polished brass... In fact, everything about the hotel cried out luxury. I don't think I would be too far wrong if I said everyone was glad to have this hotel as their base for skiing. The evening meal, a buffet of salad, pasta dishes, meat dishes and the obligatory fries, was a perfect opportunity to stock up on carbohydrates for the skiing ahead! We needed a good night's sleep not only to get over the travelling, but to be ready for a 6 o'clock wake up!

### DAY 2. Thursday, 1st April, 1999

"I didn't pay hundreds of pounds to be woken up this early....!" seemed the general consensus, but we needed to get up early so that we could get to Stoneham to get our Ski-hire sorted out. After a good night's sleep, we were raring to hit the slopes, just as soon as we'd gorged ourselves on a toast and cereal, (but no Weetabix) breakfast. This would be our first day of skiing and we would be at Stoneham for the first of our two days there. "Stoneham has an excellent reputation for its first rate ski facilities, its beautiful location and its warm and friendly welcoming atmosphere. It was just twenty minutes outside Quebec City and nestled in a sheltered horseshoe shaped wooded valley." So read the blurb in the travel brochure and we weren't disappointed. After a short coach journey we arrived at the resort to find it totally deserted. Ours was the only coach and there were few cars around. The slopes themselves were so empty and the lifts were not working. As Barbara went off to find life, we were left on the bus wondering where everybody was and our worst fears were realized when Mr Gallagher piped up. "Apparently, there's been a bit of a problem. As you can see, the resort is half-closed and they've only got enough kit for half of us, so get together with your room mate and decide who's going to ski in the morning and who's going to ski in the afternoon." The bus fell into hushed tones as we began grumbling about how badly this holiday had turned out when Mr Gallagher reappeared. Only two brave souls

had chosen to ski, only for Mr Gallagher to shout, "April Fools!" to a semi-relieved, semi-angry bus. Joking aside, we were soon kitted out and on the slopes - well nursery slope. We had to be assessed by the instructors as to our ability and so we had a short run on a nursery slope first of all. This was the first time on snow for many Richians, so it also gave us a valuable opportunity to get used to the experience. With the skiing groups decided, we all headed off onto the mountain for some serious skiing. I don't know of anybody who did not fall over at least once and even the teachers took a tumble or two, but this was taken as all part of the fun and an incredibly enjoyable time was had by all. After the first day of skiing, everybody had increased in both skill and confidence. So much so, that we couldn't wait for the next day and the fun had to end for us to return to the hotel. The evening gave us the chance to savour the delights of old Quebec City, where we visited the shops.

#### DAY 3. Friday, 2nd April, 1999

Today, we returned to Stoneham for our last day there, but our second day of skiing. The morning session seemed to pass all too quickly and at lunch, we had a chance to catch up on news from the other groups. From what I heard, there had been a few bumps and crashes in all groups, including a four skier pile-up amongst the trees in the so-called advanced group. The small fun-park here, which included a few variety of jumps and half-pipes had given most an opportunity to show their skiing ability, courage and recklessness in jumping several feet in the air. I'm not sure anybody was able to match the professional who were doing twists, somersaults and goodness knows what else in the half pipe. During lunch, several Richians took the opportunity to try a snowboard simulator. Here, their skill and balance was put to the test as the board bucked and tilted while the daring individual stood on it. There were a few notable efforts, but the best must have come from Mr Smith, who may not have lasted the longest, but certainly fell in style. A look back on the two days here: everyone has had an enjoyable experience on snow. All groups showed rapid progression in both skill and confidence, all tackling at least blue runs, with many venturing onto blacks, such as the Sous-Bois, (literally a route going through the trees and with much screaming, bumps and crashes, etc.). Some tackled the moguls in great fashion - just about all of the top group,

including Mr Nicholas, were flat on their backs at one stage and the top group almost literally threw themselves down a double black. The evening's entertainment was a trip to a large shopping mall, one so big, that it had an ice-rink and roller coaster inside it! Here we picked up the obligatory souvenirs and cheap gear.

#### DAY 4. Saturday 3rd April, 1999

Isn't it funny how on holiday you can never keep track of the date? Yet another early morning to cope with as we changed from Stoneham to Mont Saint-Anne and another kitting out session. Mont Saint-Anne is the largest ski resort in all Quebec with excellent skiing for all ability levels, all in an atmosphere related to the wilderness. Once we had our kit, we were able to venture onto this much bigger mountain for our third day of skiing. We were immediately struck by the icier conditions, (which our instructors attributed to "Spring Conditions") which made for some harder skiing and much harder falls. The runs here at Saint-Anne were noticeably steeper and longer than those at Stoneham, which made for some exhilarating skiing. Added to this was the novelty of skiing in the rain - yes, rain! As it hit us, the rain would freeze on our ski jackets, leaving most of us covered in a thin film of ice. The evening's entertainment that night was a three hour marathon in which everybody had great fun. Mr Lockey and Adam Stokes, (apologies to anyone else I missed - I went off to play pool) showed they had a certain wrist action by bowling a "Turkey", (three consecutive strikes!) Also, on offer were free samples of yoghurt including a Maple variety flavour. This sparked off a question from Jonathan Morgan that was to become almost a catch phrase for the trip - "Has it got bits in?" Upon leaving the bowls centre, we were shocked to see it snowing and during the night several more inches had fallen.

#### DAY 5. Sunday 4th April, 1999

Aargh! We lost yet more sleep as the clocks changed for Daylight Saving Time! At this stage, we really couldn't cope with all this lack of sleep. On this, our second day at Saint-Anne, we were faced with some tough skiing. The snow that had fallen in the night had left a layer of five or six inches of deep soft powdery snow on the hard ice. This made skiing treacherous as skies failed to grip sufficiently into the snow.

Not that this would stop us expert (reckless) Richians! Not happy with just skiing down the

mountain, Olaiya Ajadi managed to be brought down by a snowmobile - though I believe this was not due to a serious fall. Other unfortunate Richians were taken down by Sulaiman Moolla!

So far in the four days skiing, Sulaiman had managed to notch up a score of 'kills' through his amazing ability to ski straight.... into people! Paul "Satan" Baker followed the trend by colliding with an innocent bystander at the top of a chair lift. This evening we were treated to an Ice Hockey Match featuring the local team, the Remparts du Quebec versus the visiting Oceanics. After a frantic hour of hockey - punctuated by the almost obligatory punch-ups - we were left none the wiser as to the rules, but having had for the most part had an enjoyable time. The final score was 3-2 to the home side.

#### DAY 6. Monday 5th April, 1999

Today would be a fond farewell to Mont Saint-Anne and the last of our skiing. We generally had an easy day on the slopes, tackling the more challenging and steeper runs - including moguls. We also had the opportunity to have fun on the jumps and bumps in the two fun parks on the mountain. A look back over the three days reveals that all the groups were now much more confident and able. New skills had been learnt and old ones tried on the more challenging runs at this resort. Nearly all the groups had had experience of "off-piste" skiing, with many going through the "Enchanted Forest" - a hut on one of the pistes where the boiling maple syrup was poured out onto the snow and then wound round a stick. This rare delight was truly a savoured experience. The trouble was, how to get this huge tin of syrup I'd just bought back down the mountain.....?

#### DAY 7. Tuesday, 6th April, 1999

We were able to enjoy yet another early morning rise for the coach back to Montreal. At this point, we said a fond farewell to our Ski rep, Barbara, who had been very friendly and helpful. From Montreal, we flew direct to Toronto and from here, we caught another coach to Niagara Falls. On the way we stopped off at a service station featuring no less than four fast food outlets! We arrived at our hotel to discover that "overlooking Niagara Falls" actually meant overlooking the town - called Niagara Falls and not Niagara Falls itself. Confused? We were. The evening meal was taken at the top of the Minolta Tower, a restaurant with magnificent views overlooking Niagara Falls, (the waterfall, not the town).

Though the meal wasn't to the same standard as the views, at least there were some 3D virtual reality games for us to play before the postcards. We were also able to see the waterfalls lit up by coloured floodlights that gave them an eerie magnificence. The various shades of red, blues and greens really made the falls stand out against the night sky. Back at the hotel, we had the Ski-trip '99 award ceremony. Awards were given for, 'The most improved skier' - Olaiya Ajadi. 'The most positive contribution' - myself, Daniel Bower, (They hadn't read the journal at that point....!), 'The Gallagher award for the biggest whinger' - Mr Gallagher, (though Sulaiman Moolla was a close second!) and 'The biggest Wally and most successful chat up lines', the winner being Richard Morgan. Other awards included, 'The most disorganized', Richard Scott, 'The best dressed skier', James Breach and 'The worst dressed skier', Stuart Harper.

#### DAY 8. Wednesday, 7th April, 1999

On our last day in Canada, we started with a visit to see the Niagara Falls in the daylight. We also had the opportunity to go behind the falls for a magnificent view of an unrecognizable sheet of white water. The views from the viewing station below the falls were much more impressive and the noise was truly magnificent. After the coach trip to Toronto, we had an opportunity to go up the CN Tower - the world's tallest building and have the pleasure of visiting McDonalds. The views from the tower were spectacular, particularly standing on the glass floor. The food in McDonalds was just a little better than in England. We were also given the opportunity to visit a huge shopping Mall in Toronto City to spend our last few dollars before setting off for the airport. The flight home passed quickly for most of us as we took the opportunity to catch some much needed sleep to combat the dreaded jet lag. Unfortunately, the film they showed us was bad and the airline food, well what can I say?

#### DAY 9. Thursday, 8th April, 1999

We arrived back in England in the early hours of the morning, ready for a full day ahead of us, which would have meant a full twenty hours without sleep. Again, we had a short coach journey home, which some of us slept through. So, that was the Canada Ski trip of 1999 - a very enjoyable experience!

D Bower (6B)



## THE HOUSE PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

The House Public Speaking Competition took place during the Spring term, one Thursday in March, before an audience of Year 8 pupils. Mr Kellie and Mr Seales officiated as judges. The topics presented at the Junior level were, "Scientific advances will not improve the quality of most people's lives in the next century" and "Young people need more discipline and less freedom in their lives". The intention was to select topics which do not favour one side of the argument, with Houses drawing lots to determine whether they speak "for" or "against". The Senior competition allowed Houses to select their own topics. Eastgate presented the view that "Computers are ruining our lives". Confident delivery by Danny Bhagawati, Michael Webber and Matthew Key held the audience's attention and impressed the judges. "Is sport too commercialized?" asked Southgate. An experience David Leung, Peter Gladwell and Chris Hobday successfully incorporated humour in a sceptical treatment of the concept of modern professional sport. Northgate asked the audience to "Skip the Millennium". Craig Stevens spoke with assurance and Oliver Dobbins supported him well in a relaxed, rather "chatty" style, while Carly Noble introduced them in a direct and cheerful manner. Westgate had selected the very topical issue, "Genetically modified food". Their treatment of this question ran the risk of falling between two stools - humorous references to genetically challenged victims and serious references to the problems of the Third World. The team of Patrick Sheehy, Nick Jones and Luke Howey had nevertheless clearly taken the trouble to prepare their material well. In the Junior competition, it was encouraging to see the good presentations from the Year 7 participants, Philip Hanson, (Eastgate), Richard Ellison, (Southgate), Jack Milton, (Northgate) and Max Williams, (Westgate). Freddie Pope showed good potential and Callum O'Neil spoke in a lively manner. Jonathan Ellison employed some heavy irony and made some anarchic suggestions in his speech against more discipline and more freedom for young people. Dexter Bradley gave an entertaining presentation, denying any useful function to parents. Sam Porter gave a well researched presentation on the dangers of scientific developments, focusing on weaponry. He was effectively supported by Andrew Watkis. Adam McCance also presented a well researched talk, which would have benefited from a little more volume and Nicholas West spoke with conviction. The general impression by the speakers this year was one of competence and sound preparation. The competition lacked some of the dramatic flourishes and histrionics of previous years, but, as a public speaking competition, it was perhaps a more measured and balanced event. At least the participants gained an insight into the nature of the challenge which faces their teachers daily - to engage, enlighten and entertain an audience, not all of whom are natural listeners!

*Mr D Slinger*

---

### RESULTS

#### OVERALL WINNER

#### EASTGATE

#### JUNIOR COMPETITION

1ST	EASTGATE
2ND	SOUTHGATE
3RD	NORTHGATE
4TH	WESTGATE

#### SENIOR COMPETITION

1ST =	EASTGATE & SOUTHGATE
3RD	NORTHGATE
4TH	WESTGATE



## YEAR SEVEN ACTIVITIES

A week of highly successful activities in the Forest of Dean in 1996 and last year had set the trend for this year's event. The venue remained the same, but was changed dramatically by the heavy flooding caused by the River Wye bursting its banks in October. Despite the condition underfoot, each of the Year 7 Forms spent a day in and around the Forest, walking between problem-solving exercises, such as the 'Acid River', 'Plug the Bucket' and 'Defuse the Bomb'. These exercises completed, we ate our lunch overlooking the flooded river, before moving on to the afternoon's activities. These varied between wild games, a walk to the views of Symond's Yat and a bivouac building exercise.

The day ended where it had started, at Symonds Yat. Many thanks to all those who helped out over the four days and all the staff who volunteered their time. Thanks must also go especially to Mr Parris and David Clifford (L6G), whose help in planning the event was fundamental to its success. We all hope the guys had a fun day out in the depths of the Forest of Dean and let's hope the event continues next year!

W Godwin (LC6)



*Above, we see one of the Year 7 groups that underwent the team building challenges set by the volunteers from the Sixth Form during their adventure day out in the Forest of Dean last October.*

## SIXTH FORM GEOGRAPHY FIELD WORK

Geography, perhaps more than any other school subject, should not be confined to the classroom. From Year 7 onwards, we devise ways to take our investigations into the great outdoors as often as possible, be it to the babbling brooks of the Forest of Dean or the grandeur of the mountains of Snowdonia. Once students have chosen to take Geography all the way to 'A' level, then the only way to study geographical processes and places in sufficient detail is to arrange residential field trips to areas within a few hours' minibus ride. The staff, nestled in the relative comfort of the front seats, would love to travel farther afield, but the trend towards taller and taller Britons and Sixth Formers in particular, has not been matched by a similar increase in legroom between seats in the back of a mini-bus! All we can do is make regular stops at student approved fast-food restaurants every hour or so. I quickly realized that Burger King is acceptable, but Wimpy is, "totally sad!"

Our Upper Sixth Form Field trips in 1998-99 consisted of two weekend jaunts. The Autumn term took us to Salcombe, a beautiful village overlooking the Kingsbridge Estuary in South Devon. In the Spring term, we journeyed to the North Wales town of Conwy, dominated by the castle built by Edward I in his campaign to subjugate the Welsh in the late 13th Century. Both trips were a great success, but don't take my word for it. Mrs Rowbotham and Mr Symmons will impart some of their impressions of the Devon and Snowdonia trips, respectively.

### South Devon, October 23rd-25th, 1998.

Salcombe greeted us with torrential rain and blustery winds and we felt at home immediately! These were somewhat ideal weather conditions to study the merits of a variety of coastal defences between Torcross and Hallsands, investigate beach processes and evidence for sea level change, between Slapton and Start Point, explore the famous mudslides of Black Ven, (near Lyme Regis) and study the variety of coastal land use at Dawlish Warren sand pit! However, we were not to be beaten and managed to thoroughly enjoy each day as it came. Here are just a few ideas to help you understand what we actually do out in the field.



*Above, our intrepid Geography Sixth Formers who are just resting before they embark upon the traditional snowball fight during their now annual pilgrimage to Snowdonia for some fieldwork.*

After recording data concerning sediment transition and taking a bio-geog and a wander around Dawlish Warren, the Upper Sixth soon adapted well to the expectations of their tutors. Each student came to the conclusion that Dawlish Warren is actually very unstable and not in equilibrium, but we are still waiting to hear as to where the angular flint/red sandstone came from, if it was not brought by the last Ice Age.

The following day, all geographers revisited their childhood - collecting pebbles! Having recorded an estimate of their average maximum dimension in millimeters, students happily measured the beach profile. Once coastal defences had been looked at and drawn, students felt quite at ease when discussing and evaluating their findings later in the day back at the Youth Hostel. Their own opinion....."a very enjoyable and worthwhile field trip" - as always of course!

### **Snowdonia, March 5th-7th, 1999.**

"Above us is a protalus rampart!", Mr Proudlove calmly stated. "A what?" everyone exclaimed, peering up the mountain. In an instant, the majority of the group, twenty-eight hardy Sixth Form souls and three teachers were clambering up the rock strewn, near a vertical approach, to look at this unusual feature. Some required a little coercion, but soon followed leaving one, taking a look at the ascent and remembering his 'dodgy' ankle, to look after the rucksacks and bags. While the rest climbed, there was time to admire the fascinating scenery of the Nant Ffrancon valley. As I gazed, thoughts of my days as a Sixth Form geographer flooded back.....being able to look at such spectacular landforms and understand the processes which formed them was brilliant! Is there a better way to study Geography than to be out there doing it for real.....whatever the weather? And Snowdonia? Simply perfect!

We left school early on the Friday afternoon, hurtling up the M5, with a mixture of relief, at the end of the trial exams and excitement following the news that some late winter snow would enable us to see a 'cold' environment in all its glory. Indeed, the following day we headed into the mountains from our base at Conway to find the snowline at 300 metres and the sun just peeking through the clouds. Glorious! The day focused on the landforms with Nant Ffrancon, a glacial trough carved out during the last major period of glaciation to hit Britain - around 14,000 years ago.

Cirques, aretes, pyramidal peaks, hanging valleys' moraines, alluvial fans, lake-bed sediments, the 'Ogwen Step' and the protalus rampart were all viewed and discussed. Names were put to features, gaps in knowledge filled in and, just by being there, it became easier to imagine the sheer erosive power of the ice that once dominated the area.

The afternoon was spent within Cwm Idwal Nature Reserve - to pay closer attention to the landforms of this particular cirque. It was a surreal experience - Mr Proudlove told tall tales about the Devil's Kitchen, ghostly visions, mysterious legends and geological control. A small boy's attempt to sledge across the lake ended in failure and the foot-deep snow caused even the most earnest geographer to divert his/her attention away from the hummocky moraine. There followed the inaugural Rich's Geographers' snowballing finals, in which there was no clear winner, but plenty of fun.

The final day was a distinctly milder affair. Heading into the Arfon Lowlands to search for some depositional landforms, we discovered an esker, (or was it a Kame?) and some drumlins, which made it possible for us to gauge some understanding of the direction of ice movement in this region so many years ago. In time, we pointed the mini-buses in the direction of Gloucester and headed home under leaden skies. A happy weekend was had by all - there was a general appreciation of this stunning environment and one had to admire the willingness of those shivering individuals to listen and learn. They listened because they knew the value of it all. Years of studying at Sir Thomas Rich's School and elsewhere had informed them that there simply is no better place to learn about the landscape. So.....what is a protalus rampart? Answers on a postcard, addressed to the Geography Department!

*The Geography Department*

## **ANTHONY SLINN'S "VAN GOGH" PRESENTATION**

Initially, I don't think everyone was exactly enthralled by the idea of a lecture on the life of Vincent Van Gogh, as I feel it conjured up a rather boring image. However, when the talk began, I thought Anthony Slinn's presentation of the topic was very appealing and was not just directed at the art lovers in the Sixth Form! An enthusiastic tone did draw everyone's attention to the stage and made sure we listened attentively for some time. It really helped, that Anthony Slinn had a sincere and genuine professional interest in the topic. The use of visual aids obviously made the lecture more interesting and fun, whilst the use of different costumes, the playing of music and the recital of some of Van Gogh's personal letters, all added to the atmosphere of the event. These various "media forms", helped to bridge the gap between the story of Van Gogh's life and the images that we had perceived about him and his artwork. Consequently, many of us could and did obtain a different and clear perspective of the man's life. This was also developed, through Anthony Slinn's own personal views and opinions about Van Gogh. I also felt that many of the gaps in my own knowledge and understanding of the man were filled, particularly as Anthony Slinn had correctly assumed that the vast bulk of the Sixth Form audience did not really know a great deal about the artist. We were able to learn about Van Gogh's landscape paintings in conjunction with current photographs of the same area he had painted, as well as some surprising facts and interpretations of many of his famous paintings. Overall, it was informative and of course, helped us to appreciate art in a more objective manner!

*Bowers (6G)*

---

## **MEDLINK CONFERENCE**

Medlink is an organization that organized a four day university conference for prospective medical students. It is a nationally recognized event and it aims to educate, inform and advise you on a career in the medical profession. In addition, it helps you to learn about university life on campus, as well as the demands of being a doctor. This year, the conference was held at Nottingham medical school, with the accommodation in the halls of residence on the university campus. The outlined structure of the course involved full days of lectures given by a variety of people with a medical background, such as G.P.'s, Consultants, House Officers, Nurses, current medical students, University Admission Officers and specialist doctors, ie. Cardiologists.

To start, the course outlined the many opportunities and pathways into the medical profession. Details were given about the diversity of roles and jobs found in the profession, the training structure in medical schools and beyond, the hours of work, pay and conditions, as well as the advantages and disadvantages of becoming a doctor. This was very valuable and helped us to seriously consider a career in medicine. Lectures were enjoyable and educational. Many of the latest medical applications, advances and techniques in medicine were outlined, such as "robotic surgery". Also included in the course were some practical demonstrations, debating forums and of interest, a "casualty alert simulation", which provided hands-on experience for many who attended! Advice was also provided for the medical school application. This included some important points, such as choosing the right medical school, what courses were available, student life, university selection and of course, life as a medical student. The University Deans helped with information about application procedures and selection of students, with data on entry grades, subject requirements, applicant requirements, recommended books to read and other insightful tips.

Services offered by the conference included a practical interview with a full report on your skills and how to improve your performance. An amusing touch, was that all the delegates received a free stethoscope to see them through their medical career! The course also helped to give a full insight into life at University and I could really feel the independence of being a student, mixing with people from a diverse range of backgrounds. I would really recommend the conference to students aspiring to a career in medicine. The course was very inspirational and persuasive to people who were unsure of whether to read medicine or consider alternative careers. In short, it offered a Sixth Former everything he/she wanted to know about in relation to medicine.

*D Nemes (6S)*



## YEAR 7 RESIDENTIAL TRIP TO STRATFORD

In September and October last year, the traditional Year 7 trips to Stratford-Upon-Avon were held for all the first year forms. The three day residential trip hopefully enables the pupils to get to know each other better and develop a healthy 'Form-group' identity. Many previous Year groups have successfully embarked on this now traditional trip. As a new Year 7 Form Tutor, I wasn't quite sure what to expect. Needless to say, I was pleasantly surprised, if somewhat exhausted, by the experience. Stratford had a lot to offer our Year 7 boys and their teachers.

Day One began with the journey to the Youth Hostel in the village of Alveston, which is around three miles outside Stratford. We dumped our luggage and then embarked on the first of several walks down the Tiddington Road from the Youth Hostel into the centre of Stratford. We made our way to the Butterfly Farm. Nobody told me that despite the name, 'Butterfly Farm', this tropical building also housed poisonous snakes, spiders and scorpions. Butterflies I can deal with! While I lost my appetite, the boys seemed to be unaffected, so we made our way down to the park by the River Avon for lunch and the great 7B 'Five-aside Soccer Tournament'. I'm sure the F.A. Cup couldn't be more fiercely contested. Enough for one day?

Perhaps for me, but for the boys, they were still keen to go and the next stop was the local leisure centre for a swim and the "Sink the Teacher Competition". The walk back to the Youth Hostel seemed to be a lot further than it had earlier. For many of the boys, the march back to the Youth Hostel in Alveston was the longest they had ever had to endure in their lives. Each evening, the boys wrote in their diaries about the day's events. There were also quizzes, competitions, plus some free time in the hostel's common room. All credit to the friendly, cheerful and very helpful Youth Hostel Staff, who made our stay very comfortable.



*Above, we see Nicholas O'Neil and Simon Moody, both of 7B, hard at work during to their visit to the Brass Rubbing Centre during their Year 7 trip to Stratford-Upon-Avon last September.*

On Day 2, we started with a treasure trail around Alveston and down into Stratford. The boys had to follow the clues, answer a series of questions in teams and then meet in the park for lunch. After lunch, it was time for an open top bus trip to Shakespeare's mothers' house, Mary Arden in Wilmcote. Here we found a Tudor farm and there was a falconry centre. Unfortunately, the bus without a roof in mid-October lacked a certain tropical climate. My hair style has not been the same since and they could have cut back some of the tree branches en route! The falconry proved to be particularly popular, with the birds swooping down to collect their food from the boys' hands. I was worried that the Eagle Owl was cying up a few of the smaller boys as tasty mid-afternoon snacks, but our party managed to escape without loss. Later that afternoon, we returned to Stratford on another death defying bus journey and visited the Brass Rubbing Centre on the banks of the Avon, just below Holy Trinity Church, where Shakespeare is buried. Many of the boys produced a very attractive souvenir of their trip to Stratford, although there seemed to be an unhealthy obsession with all those brasses involving skeletons, dragons and swords. Maybe the boys had been influenced by the drama production down the road at the famous theatre, which at the time of our visit was *King Lear*.

To finish our three days, we visited the Gaydon Motor Museum on the Friday morning. The boys were able to ride in a classic car, have a tour of the museum and of course visit the shop, determinedly spending any remaining funds so that they did not have to return any cash to their parents. They also took their driving tests in small electric vehicles. Having observed the driving skills exhibited, I would advise those of you who are regular road users to seek alternative modes of transport in approximately five years' time! Congratulations to the boys, who behaved brilliantly throughout the trip. They were a credit to the school and themselves, to such an extent, that members of the public sang their praises on several occasions. My thanks also to all the members of Staff who endured three similar exhausting, but rewarding days with the other Year 7 Tutor groups. Hopefully, the trip was successful in helping the boys get to know each other and form a common group identity.

*Mr J Parris*

---



*Above, members of 7B receive some information about one of the snakes that can be found at the Stratford-Upon-Avon Butterfly Farm. Just one of many activities experienced by the boys that week.*

## THE VISIT OF HECTOR KRONE

Last April, the Lower Sixth received a number of sessions related to Higher Education and post-18 options to try and help us form a few ideas in our heads about our futures. One of the sessions revolved around the idea of a 'gap-year' and this was developed through the visit of Hector Krone. Hector was a real character and had travelled for many years around the world. It seemed that he had been everywhere, apart from China and Japan. The talk was designed for those contemplating a year off between Rich's and University. As you know, this is becoming very popular, with a number of Richians having in recent years, travelled out to Nepal.

Hector was able to convey some of his experiences while travelling in an amusing and entertaining fashion. The focus of his talk was to offer advice to us students on how to travel cheaply, without the need of going through any 'gap-year' organizations or schemes that are often advertised, but more often than not, rather expensive.

He covered issues such as, "how to pay for your year out?", with hints such as collecting travel vouchers for cheap air flights from newspapers. Of course, Hector did not buy the papers, no, he would "borrow" them from the papers provided at various locations, such as McDonalds. Hector also provided suggestions on other methods of gaining a cheap 'gap year', such as joining the crew of boats that sail the tropics or helping on fishing boats in the mediterranean.

The talk was obviously enhanced by his slides and the amusing interaction with the audience that he generated. He made the year sound worthwhile, exciting and of course cheap! Of course, it gave many of us new ideas and ones that we had not thought of or which were not usually covered by the 'gap-year' books. Above all, it convinced me that I want to undertake a 'gap-year'.

*David Clifford (6G)*

---



*Above, we see the flamboyant and larger than life, Hector Krone (Centre) being swept off his feet by our delightful Sixth formers, who found his 'gap year' lecture insightful and highly entertaining!!*

## **RICH'S UNVEILS ITS WETLAND CONSERVATION AREA**

Last April, Rich's teacher, Joan Arnold, in conjunction with students and the Environment agency unveiled its wetland and pool conservation system at the site of the old Memorial Garden. The system, which runs alongside Horsebere Brook near the school was inspired by Joan, following her trip to the Caribbean last year, when she was part of an Earthwatch Scientific Expedition to Tobago. The focus of the expedition was not just conservation work, but involved developments back home. Subsequently, Joan who was told to "Think globally, act locally" came up with the conservation idea for Rich's.

Consequently, Joan joined forces with the 'Local Agenda 21 Group' in Gloucester and raised funds to turn her conservation idea into reality. Funds were raised with the idea of producing a wildlife pond to help conserve amphibians, other animals and plants. The Environment Agency, (Lower Severn area), feel that such ventures are important, as many natural wildlife habitats in urban areas have been destroyed by the onset of weedkillers and pest controls, particularly near rivers and streams. Subsequently, they helped to support Joan's project. The Agency is trying hard to restore rivers to a more natural state and projects like Joan's are an ideal start.

Importantly, water will be collected from the roofs of nearby buildings, such as the 'Dutch Barn' and diverted into the ponds to ensure that in hot, dry Summers the wetland is kept 'wet', so that the plants, amphibians and other animals can survive. The plants forming the habitat have included purple loosetrife, water mint and fleabane. They were carefully dug up from a site near Carrant Brook and transferred to the Rich's site. As well as creating a conservation site, the project will hopefully encourage students to learn more about the delicate nature of wildlife areas, as well as the ecological characteristics of many of our plants and animals.

*Mr P D Lloyd*

---



*Above left, Mrs Joan Arnold and some of the Year 7 and Year 8 pupils helping her create a wetland and pool conservation area in the old Memorial gardens. The project has been supported by the Environment Agency and the 'Local Agenda 21 Group'. - "Think globally, act locally!"*

## MUSIC TRIP TO HOLLAND

It was the 28th March, 1999, 5.00 am and the day that the clocks went forward. The weather cold, it was dark and thirty-one people were standing outside the gates of Tommies. Why? It was the start of the music tour to Holland! After a surprising lack of tearful goodbyes, mainly due to 'peer-group' pressure, we sped off on our coach. After a short ferry trip, France merged into Belgium and Belgium merged into Holland, with the only question being, "Why are they so flat?" Thirteen hours and countless toilet stops, we ended up at our hotel, the Hotel Aanzee, Noorwijk, Holland.

The next day, my welcoming morning to Holland was an annoying bleep from someone's watch, which seemed to go on forever. Our second experience of Holland was the local sea life centre. We had a guided tour inside, which revealed a number of tanks, each with different types of fish - sharks, rays and so on. The main attraction was a glass tunnel going through a shark infested tank.

We soon had to move on, this time to an O.A.P.'s home, to give our first concert. The venue did not sound too promising, but it was nice, with marble floor, big rooms and a good cafe. The concert went well, but I think the audience would have liked it whatever we did!

After a burger and chips at the hotel, we went off to the local swimming pool. A civilized game of water polo turned into rugby, in which the Rich's lads took the advantage in the second half to win 27-5. Well done to all!

The third day revolved around one of the most famous cities in the world - Amsterdam! The concert came first and this took place in a shopping centre, with the audience appearing to enjoy it, especially the sound effects from Mr Watson's keyboard.

The next port of call was to the famous house of Anne Frank. Unfortunately, some of it was under reconstruction and the museum was only partly open. However, the museum, amongst other things, obviously contained the famous diary of Anne Frank. It just shows you how famous you can become from just writing a diary!

A short trip by boat took us around Amsterdam and it seemed that we went under every bridge in

the city, all twelve hundred of them! During the trip, we heard a tape recording in English, which of course outlined the key points of interest during the tour. Naturally, for some of us, the most popular part of the tape was the reference to the 'Red Light District!'

On the fourth day, the day started off really well, with a trip to a chocolate and marzipan factory. The factory shop was full of sweets, all made into different shapes and characters, with frogs, monkeys, fruit and of course, everyone's favourite, the Teletubbies! Naturally, a lot of money was spent here and of course, all for presents to take back home to families. During the tour of the factory, we had a 'Blue-Peter' demonstration on how everything was made.

After this, the concert followed in an open air market. As it was open, the sound seemed to disappear very quickly, but there was a healthy sized audience, who gathered around and listened to us; many of whom were interested in who we were and where we came from. Later on, back in Noorwijk, we went bowling, with the quality of performance from various members in the group being variable to say the least. However, it was good fun and no-one seemed to mind.

The fifth day of our trip, we spent most of the time travelling, but we did have some time before we left to have a look around the shopping centre in Noorwijk. However, unfortunately, quite a few of the shops were closed. We were soon on the coach and before long we were crossing the border into Belgium, at which stage a number of Sixth Formers remembered that they had left their passports in a very safe place - about one hundred miles where we had just come from!

However, we managed to continue on the journey, despite some not having a passport. We were glad to see England again after all of that flat land and it was good to see the sight of hills! Gloucester was soon on the horizon and before long we were unloading our kit and that was the end of a good trip. Thanks to the Staff, Mr Thompson, Mr Watson and Mr Slinger for taking us on our musical continental trip to the Lowlands of Europe.

*M Key (10B)*





*Above, we see the musicians who visited Holland performing a number of concerts at various venues.*

## THE HISTORY OF ANGLO-AMERICAN MUSIC

"Not another Sixth Form Lecture! Oh no, this will be boring!" Yes, that was our first thought when we heard the title, 'The history of Anglo-American music'. We all thought it was to do with folk music and consequently, many of us were not exactly enthusiastic. However, this was a horrible misconception, because as soon as I came in and sat down in the hall, the music started straight away and yes it was an old folk song! The fact there was a man standing in front of about two hundred Sixth Formers singing folk songs was amusing, but it did make me think and admit to myself that this lecture was not going to bad after all.

The lecturer was Mike Hurst, a musician who was famous just before the era of 'The Beatles'. He produced many hits as a record producer after he gave up performing. Contrary to my preconceptions, this man was very funny and interesting. We were told about the history of folk music, starting in the 14th Century and then moved on to the age of slave trade and the origins of black music. We were told in detail how the slaves amalgamated African music with religion to create a style of their own in the 18th and 19th centuries. Meanwhile, our music evolved, but on more traditional lines and Mike portrayed the contrasts with our American brothers in a humorous and satirical manner.

The lecture swiftly moved on to outline developments in the 20th Century, with the gradual rise of popular music as we know it today. We were told of one of the most famous song-writers, Irving Berlin and of course we all knew who he was! Mike told us how black music continued to thrive, via jazz and then the emergence of the 'blues'. Of course, we were behind in this country and still listening to songs like, 'My old man said follow the van' - sad really! However, in the 1950's and 1960's we did eventually catch up, mainly due to the influences from across the Atlantic, such as Frank Sinatra and Elvis. Of course, this produced 'The Beatles' and the 60's music revolution in this country and the rest is really history!

*A Degan (6C)*

## 'FIDDLER ON THE ROOF'

Last December, Rich's staged the famous 'Fiddler on the Roof' to packed audiences that filled the school hall. All during the Autumn term, Mrs Elizabeth Stanley and Mr Jim Thompson, along with many other colleagues, plus the cast of course, all devoted many hours, including weekends, to stage the musical. A special thanks must go to choreographer, Mrs Spilsbury, who had the daunting task of getting the Cossacks up to scratch! Over one hundred people were involved in the production, with actors, musicians, stage crew and costume designers. As you already know, the musical first appeared in 1964 and was based upon the book written by Joseph Stein. The story revolves around Tevye, who was magnificently played by Matthew Mundy and is set in 20th Century Tsarist Russia, at a time when the Jewish community was constantly threatened and persecuted by the authorities. Against this dark background, the story highlights how such a community fight against the hardships of life and reveals the resilience of the human spirit. Tevye is the milkman of the village of Anatevka, who is faced with the burden of contending with his wife, Golde, played by Becky Cooke and the various complicated romances that his daughters find themselves involved in during the course of the musical. The plot is further complicated by the arrival of a student from Kiev, Perchik, played by the jovial Andy Haworth, who breaks with all codes of practice and traditions, to upset the village, particularly the men folk. Tevye eventually marries off two of his daughters and tries to return to a normal and placid life, but this is soon upset, when his third daughter, Chava, played by Adele Mortin, decides to marry a Russian and to top this, the Villagers' lives are threatened by the local Cossacks. Of course, despite all of this turmoil, eventually everything turns out all right for Tevye, despite lots of heart ache on the way!

The orchestra over the three nights were fantastic, being loud and powerful, as well as capturing the mood of the production. The chorus sang clearly and the dance routines looked brilliant on the night, particularly the Cossack dancers, who of course had to be extremely energetic and fit! Overall, the musical was thoroughly entertaining for all those who came to watch and a great achievement for all of those involved - Well done everybody!

*R Kenchington (10C) / Mr P D Lloyd*

---



*Above, centre stage, we see Matthew Mundy, (Tevye), with Becky Cooke, (Golde) and behind many of the cast, who successfully staged the musical production of 'Fiddler on the Roof', in the school hall, last December. Congratulations must also go to all of the staff who helped in the musical.*

## POETRY

### THE RACE OF MY LIFE

You may begin.....  
I turn the page over and I'm off,  
Straight out of the blocks and over the first  
hill,  
My fear turns to confidence as I thrive on  
the adrenaline.

I feel settled, at ease.....revision paid off,  
All comes flooding back to my memory,  
Years of practice can turn to glory,  
As I cycle as if I were a machine.

This seems unfamiliar almost unreal,  
We didn't cover this in class,  
The corners are getting tighter,  
I have to brake.

Now things are tough, what can I do?  
Tick, tock, tick.....times getting faster,  
My grasp on the bar's like a clamp,  
Huff, puff.....I'm running out of steam.

I turn the last page, the finish is in sight!  
My final surge of energy with all my might,  
The line draws ever closer, I can hold my  
head up high,  
For I have finished the race of my life.

Craig Bryan (9R)



### KANCHENJUNGA LECTURE

Ginette Harrison is one of Britain's foremost female mountaineers. She has a long history of climbing, including the highest mountain on every continent - "The Seven Summits", with a high point of Mount Everest, 8848 metres. She is trained as a medical doctor and has worked at the High Altitude Emergency Centre on the Everest Base Camp trail.

Ginette is currently living and working in America, with her husband, Gary Pfisterer, another leading mountaineer. Gary and Ginette have been touring England with a lecture about their successful expedition to Kanchenjunga, which is the third highest mountain in the world. Ginette was the first woman to ever climb this particular mountain. The Gloucester lecture, held at Rich's last December was very successful, not only being highly informative and entertaining, but raising funds for Rich's Venture Scout Unit.

David Clifford (6G)

## G.C.H.Q. & GLOUCESTERSHIRE SATRO TECHNOLOGY SHOW



Last October, a group of Sixth Formers visited G.C.H.Q. to visit a technology exhibition and to obtain information about careers in this area. In the initial talk the students learned that G.C.H.Q.'s work involves monitoring telecommunications and electronic signals to provide intelligence for the security of the nation. However, another part of G.C.H.Q. is the C.E.S.G., (Communications Electronics Security group), which undertakes the role of ensuring that the

Government's communications and computer systems are secure. The students were able to obtain information about careers within G.C.H.Q., as well as university sponsorship. After the talk, the students were able to view the exhibition, with leading organizations showing off their highly technical products and services. Some of the exhibitors included 'Oracle', who produce sophisticated data processing and storage systems and 'Neurodynamics', with their automated data collection and selection system, which was a must for anyone in the research field. There were many other exhibitors, all promoting 'hi-tech' security and data collection systems. One came away from the exhibition feeling that if you do not have the skills to exploit and use science and technology in every aspect of your daily life, whether it be in the home or at work, then you will certainly be at a distinct disadvantage in tomorrow's world!

*Mr P D Lloyd*

---

## THE YEAR RECALLED - 1959

The First XV won 11 of their 18 matches under Captain, M J F Cooper. School journeys were made to the Lake District, Holland and a group of Sixth Formers made a 150 mile trip from Llangollen to Gloucester, using kayaks. The School Dramatic Society staged, 'The Apple Cart', by Bernard Shaw and was produced by Mr A Johnston and Mr R Fox. The House Plays included, 'Late Extra' performed by Eastgate; 'Money Makes a Difference' by Northgate; 'The Trickling of Malvolio - An excerpt from Twelfth Night' by Southgate and 'The Truth about Shakespeare' by Westgate. The winners were Westgate, who in fact won the 'Cock House Trophy', with Eastgate as runners up. Retiring as Deputy Headmaster, was Mr J R Nicholas, who came to Rich's in 1929 to teach English. The school was still hoping for new buildings and it was aired by the City Council that this may take place in 1962. Speech day was at the City Baths, with the choir singing 'Rule Britannia' and 'Rolling down to Rio'. The School Council decided that House Colours be worn at all athletic meetings and the Observators' gowns be renovated! At this time, there was a 'Gloucestershire School Captains' Association', but in 1959 it was decided that Head girls be allowed to join and fears that the Association may become a trade union did not materialize. Some Sixth Formers made a film, based on, 'The place of Gloucester, city and county, in the transport system' - where is this film now? Clubs and societies included the Photographic Society, with R D Rawlings appointed 'Dark-room Steward' and Mr Sheard credited with making the society very popular. The Scout Troop, led by M D Rogers, held their summer camp at Heddon's Mouth, Devon and St Michael's tower was officially opened, with the younger scouts signalling from the top to others located in Pitt Street. The Debating Society was interesting as usual, with one motion being, "This house would prefer to accompany its pets to space, rather than send them on in advance". The Parents' Association aired its disappointment at the poor support it was receiving. The Old Richians' Cricket Club had its most successful season to date, winning 24 of its 42 matches.

*Mr P D Lloyd*

## OF THE HILL, I AM THE CONQUEROR

*Last Autumn, Steve Mitten came to Rich's to look around his old school and kindly contributed the following article. Steve was an excellent runner and his poem certainly captures the sweat, blood and tears of running up Chosen Hill, a task which many generations of Richians have endured over the years!*

---

The setting out on this cross-country run, from the terra to the sun in  
the super high sky,  
Is of car-happy roads and lorry loads ... chain smoking, as it  
happens, as it goes,  
Is of a cycle path, with a verge on either side, leading to a local  
complex of money spinning size,  
Leading to a grammar school which handed me my tools, leading to  
the grammar school which let me run for honours more,  
Leading to an athlete's footbridge, leading to that Chosen Hill which  
has been the down fall of, an unfortunate few.  
Respect for a hill is paramount, as a matter of course ... but as a rule,  
only a fool will stand in awe of this hill's call,  
For the hill has a field of vision, a vision of fields, so can prepare for  
its ascender by assessing his fears.  
To stare at one eye, to shy could be fatal,  
To stare at both is good advice, all the better if pre-natal,  
For it only takes one eye to cry and, it's a matter of time before  
ascender becomes descender and down the snake he slides, slip slide,  
slip slide, slip slid'n away  
Is the tune the runner'll hum, so Paul Simon says.  
So stare and concentrate, climb the ladder and narrate  
"Of the hill, I am the conqueror. I have the will I am, the  
Conqueror".

The setting is set and the sun is setting, my warm-up is complete, my  
pulse is getting ....  
I slam the door which signifies the start of something fast,  
My psyche is high, my ears pick up the laughs of those I pass  
The cars, the lorries, the petrol and the diesel  
Breathe in the air, O lungs breathe in, what air you can decipher.  
The next left, the cycle path, leaves behind the aftermath,  
The runner it greets with air so sweet, the grass verge, the edges neat.  
I pass the complex, pass the junction to the school and all its  
functions,  
Over the bridge and the first style brings to an end another mile.  
The first field, the hill it sees me, running loose, running free,  
The second field, the hill it sees me, running tall, running easy,  
The final ascent, the hill it sees me, I see the hill, look up  
respectfully.  
The hill is dry, no tears to cry, I pass the peak, strong not weak,  
With more to give I stride downhill and at the foot of the first field, I  
turn my head  
And with a nod, bow to the land on which I once trod,  
I've won the admiration of .... course true, to be known as one of a  
'Chosen' few.  
"Of the hill, I am the conqueror. I have the will, I am the  
Conqueror".

*Mr Steven Mitten (Old Richian - 1985-1991)*





## I SPY!

In the distance what do you spy? What do I spy? Sun shimmers down on the sea and blinding light occurs. Shapes and colours merge into one, the boundaries of solids are broken. Me and you sitting down on the pebble beach licking into '99's and considering which game to play today. There's a seagull in the sky swooping round and down. Look out for the lighthouse red and white and out to France beyond. What do you spy? Many times have I been seated on the beach on a warm summer's day reciting this poem for my younger brother Lee. A balmy summer's day on Brighton beach means crowds, not a secluded spot in which to soak up the atmosphere. A rucksack by my side contains a packed lunch and my binoculars. The binoculars were a present last Christmas and since I have never gone anywhere without them, always hoping to see a kidnapping or a plane crash, just something exciting. Today, I am content with watching the yachts bob slightly on the relatively calm sea.

Only an hour has gone past and Lee is becoming restless and is noticing that people are beginning to drift to the town centre as the weather is changing for the worst. Blue sky has become dark cloud and along with the change goes the chance of my peaceful day. Lee will be forever moaning that he's cold or that the tide is coming in. I promise Lee that within the hour I will become bored and we can go and buy chips on the Palace pier. He reluctantly accepts.

Now, on what has become a mild winter day, we are seated on the pebble beach alone. Out on the horizon I can see two sea faring vessels travelling directly towards each other and I consider this to be very peculiar. Surely they should be trying to avoid each other? As I focus in with the binoculars I can begin to distinguish the relative size, shape and colour of the vessels. The larger of the two seems to be a green trawler of some sort, maybe a fishing trawler and the other seems to be one of those luxury boats, in white, that you find docked on the south coast of France. Not the two types of boat that you would expect to be ever closing in on one another.

A running commentary is needed by me if I am to keep Lee's attention on the sea and not on the time or the worsening weather conditions. As the boats draw nearer, I am able to see the names of the boats and the people on board. On the luxury boat, 'The Escobar', are two tall, tanned males and I'm thinking that they're Latin or Mediterranean and they are wearing the fashionable circular sunglasses. On the fishing trawler, 'Le Poison Rouge', there is a full net of mackerel and on board the trawler is standing a typical fisherman, yellow anorak, yellow sou'wester and all the usual fishing paraphernalia.

The boats drop anchor as they reach one another and the two men wearing sunglasses embrace the fisherman. I am at this point rudely interrupted by Lee who is annoyed by the lack of my narration on the situation and the fact that he has not had a look in on the binoculars in at least an hour, so his patience is wearing thin. Eager to view the unfolding situation, I give Lee a bottle of ginger beer and a lemon curd sandwich, knowing that he will be content for at least ten minutes. As I look back through the binoculars, I can see 'The Latinos', as I have nick-named them, throwing small plastic bags in which are contained white bricks or breeze blocks. This is very odd. Why does the fisherman want the bricks from the Latinos and where is he taking them to? I can only assume that the fisherman requires them to rebuild his boathouse. Yes, that's it, the boathouse must have been destroyed by the storms. There's a reasonable explanation for everything in my view.

I am a very logical and compulsive person and always record what I see and the reason for what I see in my diary. All the names of the boats and the incidents that have happened so far have been neatly logged in my yellow diary. Who knows when they might come in useful. The exchanging of the bricks is now completed and the people are settling down for a beer on the luxury boat. The fisherman has now gone below deck on the trawler and the 'Latinos' are laughing and joking with one another. They seem to be very happy with themselves. At this point nothing much is happening.

Time to have a bite to eat I think, but wait, look at all that money. Surely bricks don't cost that much? I think, there has got to be a reasonable explanation. I know the reason, 'The Latinos' must be Italian and the fisherman is paying them in almost worthless notes, because one thousand Lira is only worth about twenty pence. Again there's a perfectly reasonable explanation. The fisherman and 'The Latinos' bid farewell to each other, up anchor and set sail for the high seas. We have been on the

beach for more than three hours and for Lee's sake I think we should be getting home. The long walk down the chalk coastal path in what will be wind and rain will be treacherous and unpleasant. Our house is situated about three miles from the beach and the bus will only take us the last mile. I usually end up carrying Lee to the bus stop., but as the older brother I see it as my duty, showing him that I care. The bus ride always seems to take a lot longer than five minutes and the bus is usually late. Back at our house we sit down to a hot chocolate, with two marshmallows topping it. After Lee is tucked up in bed, Mum and I watch television.

The news comes on and reports, "A drug smuggling circle, involving Cuban drug barons and a French fisherman has been uncovered. The Cuban drug barons had been moving the drugs from Cuba on luxury speed boats to just off the coast of Brighton where you could not see the bats from either Brighton or, the intended place of distribution, Dieppe. It is suspected that the drugs, once at this point, were transferred from the luxury speedboat to the French fishing trawler, 'Le Posion Rouge'. Money was then exchanged at which point the fishing trawler smuggled the drugs into Dieppe, where they were expected to be distributed around Europe. The police are appealing for witnesses to the incident. However the police cannot guarantee protection."

What am I going to do now? Something exciting has happened to me, but now I wish it hadn't. I have information that could convict the Cuban drug barons, but the police cannot guarantee protection for me or my mother, but most importantly of all, Lee!

What a dilemma I am facing. Do I go to the police with my information or not? At this very moment, as I am considering the most important decision in my life, in come Lee complaining that I have eaten all of the lemon curd. If only he was old enough to know, if only I was old enough to know. After all, I thought that the fishermen wanted the 'white bricks' to rebuild the boathouse. How wrong could I be?

*K Penter (10S)*

---

## THE YEAR RECALLED - 1969

The Editor of the magazine was J M Smith, with Donald Moss the Staff Advisor. The B.B.C.'s 'Any Questions?' radio programme packed the school hall, with guests including Baber Gascoyne, Ian Macleod and the Chairman being David Jacobs. The Dramatic Society staged, 'The Miser', with Jim Melton in the lead role of Harpagon. Of note was the thriving 'Tiddlywink Society' and 'The Literary Society', with the latter receiving a talk on the Russian author, Dostoevsky.

Rowing was very successful in the school, with Rich's finishing in 19th position in their first attempt and being the highest state school, at the School's Head of the River raced over the Tideway. Like Rowing, Cross-Country interestingly was more successful than Rugby, with the Senior team winning 10 of their 12 fixtures and the star runner being the Captain, Ken Burlton.

The Sixth Form held its 4th Annual Dinner at the Fleece Hotel and the 'Bus Fair' raised £1,450, which would be used to purchase a 15 seater Ford Transit mini-bus. There were many trips, such as to the rugby Varsity match, a railway weekend to the north and a walking holiday around the Eifel Forests in Germany. There was also a narrow boat expedition around the Midlands and there were various sponsored walks around the Cotswolds to raise money for the mini-bus. The Choral Society went to see a production by the D'Oyly Carte production of Gilbert and Sullivan's, 'Mikado'.

A Historical Society held a quiz, had guest speakers talking on such subjects as "Industrial Archaeology" and armour. The Rambling Club, consisting of 30 members completed various walks, such as through Cranham Woods and over Cooper's Hill, the Forest of Dean and prepared for the Lake District. The Badminton Club claimed to have the largest membership, with over 60 members and had matches against teams from over Gloucester.

The Old Richians' Association reported two useful snippets of information. Firstly, Rich's first school magazine was called, 'The Plutonian' and was issued in 1909, costing sixpence. Secondly, the Association's membership in 1909 stood at 143. During this edition, advertising was evident, with adverts including Bill Hook's sport shop, Barclay's Bank, Featherstone's confectioners and L C Mitchell's, the domestic appliances retailer. Overall, this was an excellent edition!

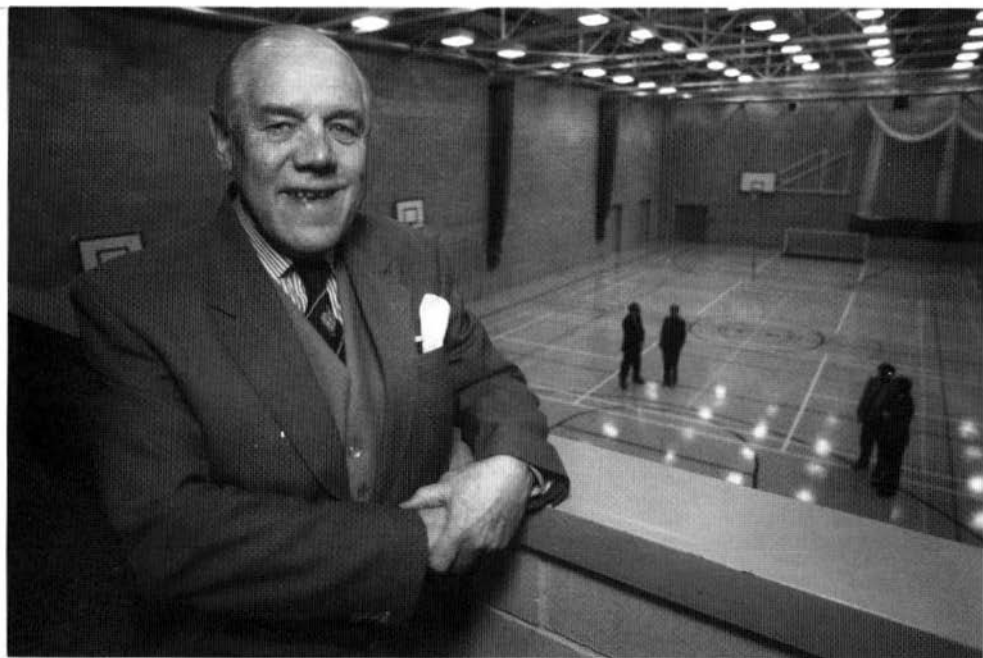
*Mr P D Lloyd*

## RICH'S SPORTS CENTRE OPENS

Last November, Rich's £900,000 Sports Centre opened, with facilities including a splendid new sports hall, fitness conditioning suite, changing and showering facilities, as well as a relaxation area. The project was funded by the Sports Council, Gloucestershire County Council, Rich's itself, as well as with National Lottery Funding. The indoor sports facilities have already catered for numerous activities, such as five-a-side soccer, badminton, volleyball, basketball, netball and hockey. Also, the centre has run a number of coaching courses, holiday activity courses and various competitions. The complex has not only enhanced sport at Rich's, but of course the local community have benefited throughout the week and this combined with the swimming pool, has ensured that 'Sport in the Community' is not just a fancy slogan, but a reality. The fitness and conditioning suite is temperature controlled and possesses the state of the art resistance and cardio vascular equipment.

Membership of the centre has been competitively priced, with interest exceptionally high, not only within the school but in the local area. The centre has proved so popular, that 'free-time' slots have been almost non-existent. To ensure that the facilities are utilized to their maximum potential and are correctly managed, Rich's last summer appointed Mr Tony Barton to run the show. His knowledge and expertise of local sporting agencies, clubs and associations in the Gloucestershire area has ensured that the complex has become a success, with an excellent reputation. Tony has also helped to nurture the potential of many young Richians with his help within the PE department during games' afternoons. Without doubt, the centre has caused a real buzz within the school and beyond the school gates.

*Mr P D Lloyd*



*Above, Mr Bill Hook, Rich's pupil from 1931 to 1939 and who represented England at Rugby from 1951 to 1952, surveys the new Sports Hall that he officially opened last February. A real asset for sport! (\*Permission to use the above picture was kindly given by the 'Gloucester Independent'.)*

## SPORTS QUIZ

### ANSWERS FOUND ON PAGE 39

- Q1. Where did the sport of Orienteering originate?
- Q2. Who was the first black player to win Wimbledon?
- Q3. Who were the first champions of the Football League in the 1888-89 season?
- Q4. Who in 1998 broke Peter Scudamore's record of 200 winners in a season?
- Q5. How many U.S. Masters has Nick Faldo won?
- Q6. When did Manchester United move to 'Old Trafford'?
- Q7. Which football star retired in 1997 to concentrate on acting?
- Q8. In which country was Greg Rusedski born?
- Q9. Why was Twickenham known as 'The Cabbage Patch' in its early days as a Rugby venue?
- Q10. Who did Will Carling play his last England match against?



- Q11. Which Formula One Circuit is on an island in the middle of a river?
- Q12. Who were the winners of the 1998 American Football Super Bowl?
- Q13. What number on a dartboard is to the right of seven?
- Q14. What was the year that the Grand National was declared void? 1991, 1995 or 1993
- Q15. What was the first black African Country to reach the Soccer World Cup Finals?
- Q16. Who were the winners of the first 'Five Nations' Rugby Championships?
- Q17. In the US Masters Golf Championships, who presents the winner with the 'Green Jacket'?
- Q18. Which Soccer team used to play at the 'Baseball ground'?
- Q19. Who did Australia beat in this year's World Cup Cricket final - South Africa or Pakistan?
- Q20. Which famous sporting event is found at Henley-On-Thames every Summer?

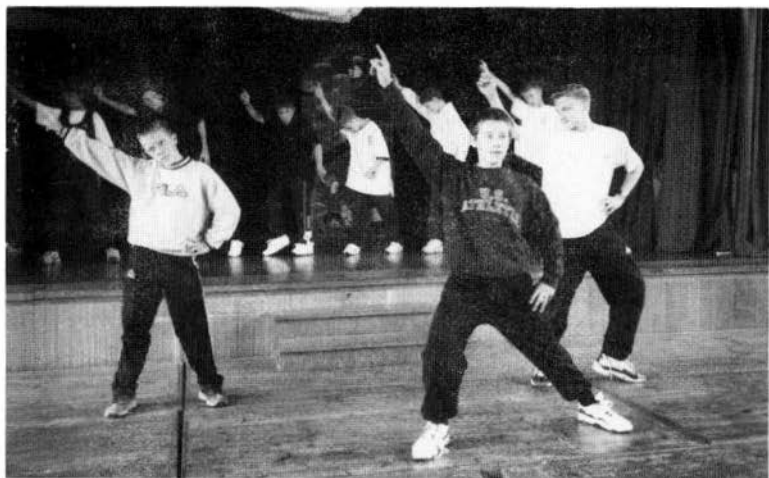
*Compiled by Mr P D Lloyd*

## THE YEAR RECALLED - 1979

The Richian was produced by the 'Editorial Team', with Mr G E Haynes acting as adviser. Arriving at the school during this academic year was Mr David Slinger. Of revolutionary significance was the arrival of Rich's first "on line" computer terminal, which was connected to the Gloucestershire College of Technology, via a telegraph line, installed by the Post Office. The magazine also highlighted a letter from the Royal Palace of Samoht Sheir, Sultanate of Ez-Aelkao, who had visited the school and now recommended a few subtle changes to Rich's, such as stronger physical discipline and an increase to the school fund, from £1 to £200, which would help for school extras, like grouse shooting or safaris to Kenya. Trips and tours were numerous, such as a Lower Sixth Geography group to Snowdonia, led by Mr Riley, on a glaciation study and the Venture Scouts with Frank Henderson recalling their 1978 trip to Iceland. The Choir celebrated its 20th Anniversary in a number of ways, which included a dinner for the senior members and past members. There was also a birthday concert and the Choir went on tour in the April of that year to Bryanston School in Dorset. The tour included trips to Sherborne Abbey, Blandford Forum and Wimborne Minster. A recording was made for the National Schools Choir Competition. The French Exchange during this year was to Rambouillet, under the direction of Mr Ian Cutting, Head of French. On the sporting front, Rowing was exceptionally successful, easily upstaging the Rugby! Rich's had already won its 4th Ball Cup and a young Alan Passey took over the coaching of some of the crews and became Captain of the club. Cross-Country appeared much stronger than it is today, with the school beating teams from Milfield, the Army Apprentices and St Paul's College. Unfortunately, the First XV only won four of its eleven fixtures, with new fixtures including Ayleston School, Hereford and Backwell School. Other clubs included, Life Saving, Backgammon, Contract Bridge, Cycling and there was an Aircraft Society. The Five Schools Association went to London, to see 'Jesus Christ Superstar'. The Old Richians' Association decided to increase subscriptions to £2 and the Reunion Dinner was held in November, with the guest speakers being John Williams and Frank Jordan. The Richian of 1979 appears to capture a school at ease, quietly and effectively carrying on the past traditions of former years.

*Mr P D Lloyd*

---



*Above, we see Year 8 pupils during rehearsals in preparation for the 'Year 8 Arts' Week' presentation. Leading these 'cool cats' during their dance routine is Ian Black. The Arts' Week involved music, drama, art & design, stage construction and many other artistic elements. Great fun was had by all!*



## DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY



*Above, we see members of Year 11 being awarded their certificates in the annual CREST Awards ceremony by Kate Bellingham, (ex-Tomorrow's World' presenter). In the picture, from left to right, we see Richard Meinertzhagen (11S), James Breach (11S), Robert Foxcroft (11T), David Haines (11S) and James Crowley (11S). The ceremony was held at 'Du Ponts', in Brockworth, Gloucester.*

It has been another busy year in the Design and Technology Department, with the Young Engineers working on two projects, the main project being the Jester Kit Car. Pupils have successfully stripped the 'donor' car of all its mechanical parts, electrical parts and trim. They have started the process of building up the car into the 'bought-in chassis'. It took many weeks to apply the two coats of undercoat and the three topcoats of special chassis paint onto the bare steel chassis. Finally, some of the Ford Fiesta parts could go on. We started with the brake pipes, rear suspension, brake servo and pedal assembly and rear axle. Next the engine and exhaust system! The club also worked on the hovercraft for a number of weeks, re-fitting parts to enable new members to experience the thrill of flight. The craft flew well one evening after school out on the field, but once again, the electrics failed at the end of the session. An all too familiar tale I am afraid! A cracked weld has also prevented further use, but it will be back! This year is a momentous one for Design and Technology, as we will now see the introduction of 'A' Level D&T in the form of the OCR 'Design' course. Approximately fourteen pupils have opted for the course, which incorporates project work in the form of a major 'design and make' project, a written case study and a written exam. We wish all the pupils luck with the course. Again, the department has been involved in the supermarket voucher/points schemes, offered by Tesco and Sainsbury's. Thanks to all those parents and pupils who collected vouchers from Tesco and Reward Points from Sainsbury's this year. It has enabled the D&T department to acquire valuable resources, which can be utilized around the school. Items we will be ordering include, a flatbed scanner, a laminating machine and computer software. We say farewell to Mr Raes-Danai, who leaves us to take up a promotion at Tewkesbury School and welcome Mr Alan Peffers to the department. Alan is highly qualified, with considerable industrial experience. We hope he enjoys working at Sir Thomas Rich's. Once again the annual CREST (Creativity in Science and Technology) awards have been highly successful, with a record number of nominations for awards. In total twenty-three pupils have received bronze, silver and gold awards. Congratulations to Richard Meinertzhagen and James Breach, who receive Gold awards for their designs of a pop-up book and CD storage system respectively. Five pupils represented the school at the CREST Award ceremony at Du Ponts Woodlawn facility in Brockworth, receiving their awards from Kate Bellingham, ex-'Tomorrow's World' presenter. Congratulations again to Richard, who was recommended for a special award, one of only seven pupils among hundreds in Gloucestershire.

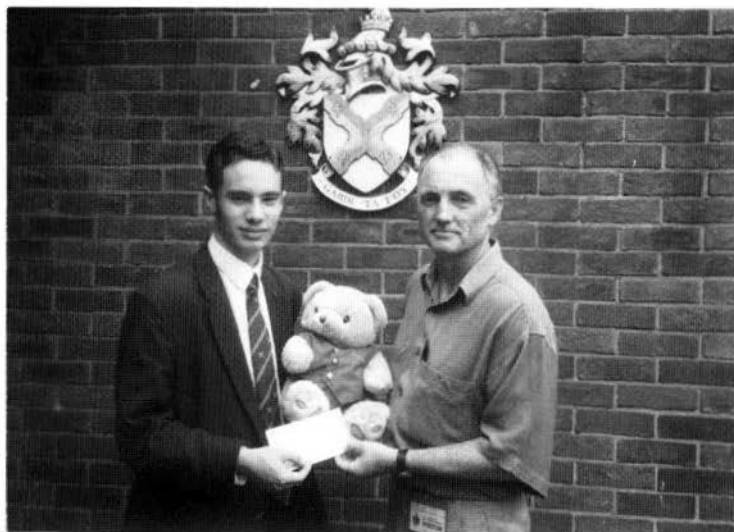
*Mr S A Smith*

## THE YEAR RECALLED - 1989

This was a year when there was a great deal of change in relation to the staff. Departing the school were Mr Ian Cutting, Head of French, Faith Jones, Geography teacher and Caretaker, Mr Glyn Jones, the latter being replaced by the famous Alan Quinn. Of note, in terms of arrivals, at the start of the year, was new Deputy Head, Mr Ian Kellie, taking over from the much respected, John Winstanley, who retired after many years service. Unfortunately, the magazine of this year did not appear to cover Mr Winstanley's retirement, nor trace his distinguished career. Reorganization in the city was still being talked about, but life carried on as usual at Rich's. Returning to Rich's Maths department, after initially leaving in 1980, was Mr Bob Fowler. Of significance, was the introduction of the T.V.E.I. initiative and the National Curriculum was here! Other innovations were 'Profiles', which the magazine focused upon, highlighting how all the Year 4 students were progressing - whatever happened to that system? During this year, phrases such as "assessment", "Records of Achievement", "Targets" and other forms of educational jargon were being uttered all over the place! The new era of education had finally arrived and how all the staff welcomed it! The 1988 Education Act was starting to have its impact on Rich's - it still is! English Teacher, Pauline Smith was the Editor of the magazine. On the sporting front, Krystian Fulman, who now ten years on, plays for London Irish, was featured wearing his England Cap. The First XV won six of its ten fixtures. Cross-country was struggling to keep alive, but Basketball was very popular and actually featured in the House Competition - whatever happened to it you may ask? The school production was 'Trial by Jury' and if you look in the 1989 magazine you will see a young David Dempsey in the background. History was made at Rich's in 1989, when for the first time the school appointed its first Observatrix, in the form of Karen Hill. The school's 'Raid the Larder Scheme' was very successful, helping the less fortunate at Christmas time. Meanwhile, a Stamp Club was struggling to survive, but the Railway Club went on a number of excursions, with one hectic trek to the North-East and Scotland. The Old Richians' Association had its Annual Dinner at the Crest Hotel, Barnwood and the President was Rich's former German teacher, Mr Eric Smith. The Junior Section was active, under the Chairman David Hook and like others, supported the retention of Rich's as a Grammar School!

*Mr P D Lloyd*

---



*Above, we see Robert Hindley of 6G presenting a cheque for £178 to Edward Russell of the Gloucester based charity, 'Winston's Wish'. Thanks to all Richians who donated money to the charities this year!*



## THE SCHOOL CHOIR OF 1979



**Choir members - (not in any order)** - Choir master - Mr Michael Rangeley, Captain - Christopher Davies, Organist - Mr Bob Fowler, Chairman - Mr Linden Huddleston, Other members - Hugo Ashby, Mark Badminton, David Barr, Roger Baynham, Roger Beattie, Paul Bliss, Andrew Bruce, Paul Bruce, Anthony Carter, John Chitty, Philip Cooper, Peter Dale, Andrew Darby, Mr Ioan Davies, Thomas Davey, Gareth Davies, Andrew Daymond, Glenn Dohman, Richard Drew, Nicholas Dyson, Adrian Fisher, Ian Fletcher, Simon Gardner, Peter Green, David Hall, Robert Heathfield, Richard Heathfield, Jeremy Hobbs, Keith Howkins, Andrew Hurcombe, Nicholas Ilifee, Christopher Jones, Timonthy Jones, Christopher Lewis, Christopher Lowe, Jeffrey Lyne, Mr Donald Moss, Andrew Mace, Stephen Mansfield, David Meadows, Colin Miles, Iain Morris, James Moss, Anthony Mouldsdale, Peter Neurauter, Alan Passey, Donovan Patterson, Patrick Phillips, Andrew Poole, Richard Prosser, Graham Sargen, Jeremy Smith, Brian Symcox, Simon Trigg, Iain Weir, Darren West, Andrew Westlake & Andrew Wilton. \* **Students** - Can you spot Mr Bob Fowler and a young Mr Alan Passey?

## THE BURSAR'S GREAT ESCAPE TO GOTTINGEN

Never again! These are the words used by me as I left the coach at Denmark Road after returning from Germany on 1st April, 1999. We had just completed our second eighteen hour coach and ferry journey with a coach full of fifty high spirited Year 10 Pupils from a number of local schools including our own. Don't get me wrong, the pupils were well behaved, the two coaches to and from Dover and Calais were very comfortable and the ferry journeys were smooth, but ..... you may be asking why did they let the Bursar escape from his office and on this trip in the first place? Well, I had lived in Germany for three years near the Dutch border at RAF Laabruich, when I was serving in the RAF some thirty years ago. I could speak a little German. Also, I felt I may have something I could contribute to the life of this school. In short - I volunteered! The journeys at either end of the trip made me seriously consider the short-comings of volunteering and the benefits of a good night's sleep.

The organization by Mr Dawes at The High School and Mr Slinger were excellent and complemented the work of the staff at the Otto Hahn Gymnasium in Gottingen. It is easy to take for granted that the whole trip just happened with the activities in Germany being an everyday event, but I know better. It was obvious that great care had been taken by the staff in pairing partners. In almost every case the partnerships were successful and benefited both sides. The amount of emotion spilled in the car park in Gottingen on our final departure was testament to the success of the pairings. My host, Burkhard Dyck, was a teacher of English and History at the Otto Hahn. His wife Pauline was English and used to teach German at The High School, in Denmark Road. They met through the exchange programme. They had two sons, Thomas and Robin, who were fluent in both languages. It was a delight at the dinner table to listen to the fluent conversation between the boys and their mother in English and with their father in German. They are only 11 and 12 years old and it was so natural for them to think and speak in both languages. If only we didn't live on an island - maybe we would be more skilled as a nation in languages.

Four trips were organized by our German hosts - a visit to the Rathaus, (Town Hall) for a short video on Gottingen, followed by an excellent welcoming speech by the Deputy Mayor and drinks (soft!) for all; a visit to Goslar in the Harz mountains, which was a weather disaster, (snow, sleet, rain and freezing winds), followed by a tour of the thousand year old Rammelsberg mine; a visit to an outdoor covered ice rink at Braunlage, a winter resort in the Harz and finally a visit to Wartburg castle (not for those with heart problems) and Weimar, which is the European Cultural Capital for 1999. All the other trips were organized by the families and pupils themselves.

My main personal interest in going was to see how the education system in Germany was organized, staffed and funded. The most obvious differences were that the pupils do not wear any uniform and the formality of dress by the staff. I observed and took part in a number of classes and was interested in the relationship between staff and pupils. Although some pupils would sit in class with scarves and baseball caps on, surprisingly I always found that the informality of dress did not seem to have any effect on the work of the school. The interaction between staff and pupils followed a totally similar pattern to what you would find in any secondary school. The few classes that I addressed were as shy in responding as our own pupils, but courteous and disciplined. The classrooms were slightly more austere than here with less displays on the walls. The school had its fair share of graffiti on the external walls, but was virtually litter free. (It is a sad reflection on our own situation to see how much more litter free the whole environment in Germany is, not just the school, but in towns as well.)

The school day is completely different from ours - it starts at 0750 and finishes at 1305 hours. There are six periods of forty-five minutes with breaks at 0925 and 1115 for ten minutes. Between each lesson there is a five minute gap to allow time for staff to move between classes (seldom do the pupils change rooms). For those staff and pupils who choose, there are snack lunches available by prior order at the finish of school. There are no team sports played between local schools and few extra-curricular activities organized as part of the school day. At 1305 my host would jump in his car and head for home and an afternoon with his family. I have a feeling that many of our teaching staff would settle for the German working conditions and pay!

The staffing of the school was quite a revelation to me and for those interested in personnel management. Staff are appointed by the Civil Servants at regional government level - in the case of



Gottingen, this is Lower Saxony and the seat of regional government is in Hanover. The staffing needs and vacancies for the region are decided at this level and recruitment is done from Hanover. The staff appointed are assigned to the schools selected for them by civil servants and they and the schools have no input on this decision. I could imagine the reaction of the Headmaster and Governors of our school if Gloucestershire County Council Education Department were to adopt a similar role. Once appointed the staff are employed and paid from Hanover and do not form any direct part of the school's budget. Pay levels seem on average to be 50% higher than equivalent teaching staff in this country. Teachers are guaranteed employment for life and cannot be made redundant. However, they are not free to readily move between schools in the region. If they need to move to a different region in Germany the picture becomes more complex. An application for transfer would be sent to the new regional government and only if a suitable exchange can be arranged will a transfer be allowed. Pensions and other benefits cannot be transferred as a right, as these are regionally based. The turnover of staff is low as a consequence and this may be seen as detrimental to the development of the school. A further surprise was that staff do not usually "cover" for each other. If a member of staff is away, his/her class simply does not get taught and under some circumstances can be sent home. The situation for working parents is difficult to manage to say the least.

The other elements of the school budget are reminiscent of this school prior to LMS, (Local Management of Schools), being introduced in 1988. Faculties negotiate internally for their budget needs and pass them to Dr Piontkowitz, 'Oberstudienrat', (Headmaster). He in turn agrees a budget with the Town Council of Gottingen and all orders and invoices are sent to them for action. There is not the same flexibility to control budgets that we now enjoy, nor the ability to let out the school facilities for the benefit of the school and the local community. Neither do they enjoy the benefit of an active Parents' Association.

As with all things, there are good and bad points to each of our different education systems and who is to say that they don't both work well. One final lasting impression is the warmth of the hospitality I received and the greater willingness of the German school to be involved in external visits. Exchange programmes are organized not only to the UK, but to France, United States and a trial with Norway was taking place during our visit. Anything that brings people closer must surely bring benefits to future generations.

*Mr R M Byrne-Burns (Bursar)*

---

## HOCKEY

Over the course of the school year a strong interest has quietly simmered in relation to hockey in the Sixth Form. As part of the Wednesday afternoon Sixth Form Games' options, 'mixed hockey' has flourished, despite the poor facilities, with a number of official fixtures taking place.

Two of the fixtures were against Newent, with initially a 3-2 defeat, followed by a 1-0 victory. At Cirencester College, the team lost 5-2. Although these were narrow defeats, the Rich's teams battled well and during the course of the season, recorded 1-0 wins over Pates and Ribston Hall. There were skilful displays from Robert Mobberley and Jonathan Mayes. Sarah and Joanna Martin, Jonathan Dorey, Tom Plant, (on-field Captain) and goal-keeper, Harpreet Dhillon, all provided solid defence in the matches. Philip Howe was 'man of the match' against Newent and Philip Gladwell was an example for everyone, with his effort and determination in the match against Cirencester.

Most improved player over the course of the season was George Powell and Andy Haworth proved to be a useful goal-scorer. Everyone involved with the team, must thank Jamie Stokes, who helped to organize the teams, but who also refereed with great confidence.

Overall, it is pleasing to see a number of individuals showing such commitment and effort towards the sport. When one considers the facilities available, ie. the school tennis courts, the teams did not do too badly and one feels that there is a positive and strong interest in the game. Hopefully, with hockey becoming more established in the school, we can string a few victories together next season. Thanks to all who participated and helped during the year!

*Mrs J Grocott*



## GLOUCESTER - TRIER EXCHANGE

Last June, a group of six Lower Sixth Students were joined by four girls from local schools and Mr Slinger for a week's visit to Trier, Gloucester's twin town, forming the first part of the German Exchange. We assembled in the Rich's car park on a cold morning and were driven to Heathrow by Jock the Caretaker. We flew to Luxembourg, which took only about forty-five minutes and unknown to me, it was the first flight that two of the members of the group had ever taken, so the trip was quite eventful for them. At the airport, we were greeted by our exchange partners and their families and I reminded my German partner that when travelling away to Europe, away goals count double! We were taken to our respective homes for the week and with the aid of some delicious food and drink, we all soon settled in well.

Trier itself, is Germany's oldest town and is situated on the Mosel. It has strong Roman origins and other claims to fame are the fact that it was home to Karl Marx, father of communism, as well as Guildo Horn, Germany's entry for the Eurovision Song Contest of 1998.

Over the course of the week, we gathered information for our 'A' level studies and got an insight into what Germany schools are really like compared to our own. Of course, we played football, but unfortunately, we lost 7-6 and we went on a 300 km rail journey to Koblenz, which only cost us £2 and were addressed at the town hall by Senior Council members.

Overall, the trip helped many of us to improve our sun-tans, as the weather was thirty degrees for the whole week, but seriously, we did improve our vocabulary, as well as gain greater confidence in the use of the language when actually speaking with the native Germans. We also learnt a most important word for our 'social' vocabulary, namely, "Kneipe", a place for social intercourse, facilitated by the consumption of the German variety of a pure source of amber nectar, which is so readily available on uttering the words, "Bitte ein Bit" (burger Pils). Yes, you've guessed the meaning of "kneipe".

C Hobday (6C)

## RICH'S STUDENTS VISIT MOROCCO

So, Morocco is very hot, dry and of course, remote. It also contains lots of dangerous things, such as deadly snakes, scorpions, dodgy roads and even, be warned, the local natives! Subsequently, what a perfect place for a school trip, containing students from very sheltered backgrounds. Our home was a 'Educational Centre', although the word 'Educational' was just an excuse to call it a place which was relatively well decorated, reasonably clean and fairly cool. Our guide was Saide, who was very helpful, kind and contradicted what we had been warned about in relation to the native guides. So wanting to explore straight away, we went to the city of Taradant and upon arrival went to the local "Souks" or market. Saide led us through an amazing array of stalls, selling books, clothes, wood carving and all the things you come to associate with a North African street market. With the streets only a few metres wide, the collection of stalls, donkeys, motorbikes and humans, all added to the chaotic atmosphere of a street market. Of course, this was not a film set out of Casablanca, but the real, traditional thing!

Paradise Valley provided a rest from the bustle of the town and it was named so because there is a river running through the valley floor, with palm trees and wild flowers surrounding the area, amidst an arid desert landscape. After a few days of the 'real' Morocco, the western genes started to have withdrawal symptoms and we headed towards the resort of Agadir, which possessed a five mile long, white, hot beach, with warm blue sea and lots of wonderful sites! Of course, you all know that the only thing you can do on such a beach is play football. In a game involving sunglasses smashing, mouths full of sand and a brilliant goal scored by Mrs Rowbotham, the team who were supposed to be better, were comprehensively beaten, 4-2. One of the tourist traps that most of us fell into was of course the statutory 'camel ride', with the locals shouting, "Cheap student price camels!" The general movement of a camel is hard to describe, but up, rock, bump, down and forward probably best describes the motion!

The Atlas Mountains are much easier, with the mini-bus just moving left, then right for hour upon hour. However, it is the best way and when we got to the top, one man claimed that he had walked for twenty-four days from the Sahara and up this 7000 feet mountain! "Oh Yes, we believe you!" Take note, the mountain was twice the size of Ben Nevis.

After six days, we all desperately wanted to go back to dear 'old blighty', so you cannot imagine our disappointment when we were told that we could not, because there was not a plane for us! Therefore, we had the distress of having to stay in a 'Five-Star' hotel, with lots of rich guests looking on in horror! A day later, after more sun, swimming pools, beach and fine food, we eventually boarded a plane and came home. As regards Morocco, don't believe everything you read in the tour guides!

*An intrepid Richian adventurer!*



*Above we see members of this year's Morocco expedition, experiencing the sites of Agadir beach. The members were, from left to right, David Barrow, Saide, (our guide), Jon Hemming, Matthew Key, Richard Umbers, Chris Hayward, Geoff Coombs, Neal Giles, Paul Beddows and Andrew Nurden.*

## SPORTS QUIZ - ANSWERS FROM QUESTIONS FOUND ON PAGE 32

- Q1. Sweden
- Q2. Arthur Ash
- Q3. Preston North End
- Q4. Tony McCoy
- Q5. Three
- Q6. 1910
- Q7. Eric Cantona
- Q8. Canada
- Q9. Because it had been a Market garden.
- Q10. Ireland
- Q11. Montreal
- Q12. Denver Broncos
- Q13. 19
- Q14. 1993

- Q15. Zaire
- Q16. England
- Q17. Last year's winner.
- Q18. Derby County
- Q19. Pakistan
- Q20. Rowing

*Quiz compiled by Mr P D Lloyd*

*\*Note: If you would like to contribute a quiz etc., then simply pass it on to next year's Richian Editor, Mr P Brown.*



## GLOBETROTTERS - THE LOWER SCHOOL GEOGRAPHY CLUB

The Lower School Geography Club was set up in September, 1998 and one of its aims was to enhance the geographical learning of students from Years 7-9, at Key Stage 3 Level, by exploring as many different environments as possible. The club soon obtained a membership of sixty-one and elected a President, Daniel Humpage (7B), with Max Williams, also from 7B, being the Vice-President. The club is assisted by various 6th Form helpers, who do a great job in monitoring the club, helping and assisting whenever needed. They are often in great demand when a quiz competition takes place!

Above all, Globetrotters is about discovering and enjoying the world we live in. As well as visiting places, such as the Dean Heritage Museum .....

or walking in the 'Sculpture trail' in the Forest of Dean to explore and investigate the natural environment.

At present, twenty-four Globetrotters are currently in the process of planning a week long trip to France in the year 2000. Not only will it aid the students' knowledge in relation to Geography, but it will assist them in other cross-curricular areas, such as Biology, History and of course, French. During the visit, the group hope to visit extinct Volcanoes, explore Mont Lozere and the Cevennes National Park. Highlights on the trip should be river rafting, caving and real mountain biking, all of course with plenty of landrover back up!

The club has consistently met every Thursday lunch-time in F5 during the course of the year, with well attended meetings, which have included quizzes, videos and preparations for future trips. Because of the active nature of the club, Gloetrotters has proven to be exceptionally popular and anyone in the lower years can join.

Mrs M Rowbotham



*Above left, students at the Dean Heritage Museum and below, preparing for their rock climbing trip.*



## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE 44TH VENTURE SCOUT UNIT

Looking back over the year, one thing strikes me above all else - the way in which the intervening time has just whizzed by. They say time flies when you are enjoying yourself and I think that can truly be said of the unit and its members. So what has the 44th Gloucester (STRS) Venture Scout Unit been up to these last twelve months?

In spite of the Citizen's attempts to re-christen everyone, reschedule major district events and decrease the VSL's age by twenty-five years, (I could easily pass for 21 - honest!!), we achieved successes in the Wye Raft Race, (1st & 3rd), in partnership with the 38th VSU. We were Junior Champions at the South Cerney Dragon Boat Racing Meet and in the Cotswold Marathon, we returned overall the fastest individual times. We also had teams claiming second place and produced a creditable finishing time in the Novice section of the full thirty-eight mile event.

We have been involved with two main fund-raising events - the Five Valleys Walk in aid of the Meningitis Trust and sponsorship of our Cotswold Marathon runners yielded a major part of £425, raised for the Cobalt Appeal Crack Cancer Campaign. In addition to our ongoing service to the school in running the Tuck shop, we

have provided refreshment services at several sporting and social functions - the modest profits from which have boosted our summer expedition funds.

Special congratulations are due to Jody Ballard and Tim Andrews, former Rich's students, who both received their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards at Buckingham Palace in July. Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Awards have earned by Will Godwin, Nick Wright and David Clifford. Venture Scout Awards have been presented to David Clifford, Chris Smith, Will Godwin, Adam Griffiths, Perran Spear, Nick Wright, Andrew Norman and Ben Panting. Several members of the Executive were selected by the school to attend a leadership course at the Wilderness Centre.

New members admitted this year have included Giles Moorhead, Phil Kenchington, Geoff Coombs, Ollie Bain, Rich Clark and Lucy Payne. The more astute reader will have noticed the last name is of the female variety! Yes, the 44th Executive, after much heated debate, has rejigged the Unit Policy and welcomed its first female member of the unit. We hope she enjoys her stay!



Above members of the 44th Gloucester (STRS) Venture Scout Unit. From left to right, Chris Smith (6R), Perran Spear (6C), William Godwin (6C), David Clifford (6G) and standing behind is the Unit's leader, Mr Phil Brown, who teaches ICT at Rich's. The members highlight the £425 they raised for the Cobalt Crack Cancer Appeal, after completing the Cotswold Marathon. Well done to the lads of the 44th!

The hut continues to make demand on time and our finances. Heavy rains in the February found several holes at floor level, which were not discovered until the chipboard flooring and carpeting in the store area had been well and truly soaked, resulting in rampant mould! New guttering and paint for the exterior is planned, as well as water-proofing operations round both doors.

Speaking of rain and all things wet, last summer's expedition to Scotland can best be summed up as damp! Talk about Scotch Mist!! But we didn't let the fine Scottish Summer weather dampen our spirits and still managed to find plenty of active and cultural things to occupy our bodies and minds! Trips to the Isles of Mull, Iona, Staffa, Kerrera, Seil, were interspersed with fishing and cycle treks. We ended our stay with an ascent into surprisingly cold mists to notch up the highest Munro, Ben Nevis and later celebrated in style at a traditional ceilidh - six hundred plus, people and musicians crammed into the small stone barn lit with candles and still smelling vaguely of its previous occupants. It was a question of everyone "doh-cee-dod-ing" together or not at all. Given the increasingly vigorous nature of the Celtic dancing, (aided no doubt by the influence and frequency of the local waters being imbibed, we wriggled out before any fatalities ensued!

Earlier this year the newer members of the Unit accompanied by some of the "old-stagers", spent a very cold couple of days on Dartmoor, practising navigational skills and experiencing winter hiking conditions. We were accompanied by a local guide - one Lee Rounce, a previous 44th member himself and now teaching in the Plympton area, just south of Dartmoor. The third day we climbed the highest Tor on the moor, (Yes Tor) and found out just how easy it is to get totally disoriented in the mist! South became North and it was only by some very careful analysis of some of the larger boulders on the Tor ridge, which were shown on the map, that we were able to confirm that somehow we had completely reversed our bearing in the mist as we climbed to the summit. It was quite eerie in fact, as the mists slowly swirled around the top of the Tor. The ancient boulders and weathered rock outcrops seemed to move in and out of the mist. It prompted one of the younger members to report the slighting of some gorillas trailing us and for a moment we all thought we had seen them too!

Of course, many of the activities mentioned above are the sort indulged in by many other Venture Scout Units, although there may well be a few significant ways in which our programme and outlook vary from what would be regarded as the traditional view of Scouting. I believe that it is inevitable, that our approach is rather different to other units because of the limitations imposed and the very real advantages gained by a "so-called Sponsored Closed Unit". We have loyalists and ties with the school, as well as to the Scout organization as a whole. One advantage is that we have a ready communications system which cuts down on much of the formal business that is necessary in a unit that can only meet once a week. A disadvantage is that if we are not careful, we can forget we are part of the much broader national and international brotherhood of Scouting.

The major difference however, and the single factor that makes our Unit unique, at least in this part of the country, is that nearly all of our members join the unit without having previously been members of Scout Troops. Under these circumstances, some experienced leaders may argue that we cannot run a "proper" unit, as our members lack the necessary scouting skills and background. Experience has shown me that this is not the case and that despite our sometimes unconventional outlook towards some aspects of the "traditional scouting package", we nevertheless are doing Venture Scouting and doing it well! There is a world of difference between the attitudes and needs of a group of articulate and discerning active young adults and the average group of scouts or cubs and consequently, this must be reflected in the organization of our Unit.

The proof of the pudding is in the eating, as the old saying goes and by sampling what we have had to offer over the years, a reasonable number of young men have developed the skills, broadened their outlooks, met and overcome challenges, given service to many and enjoyed themselves by partaking in Venture Scouting in the style of the 44th!

In concluding this report, I must pay tribute to all those people without whose support and help, direct or indirect, the Unit would not be able to function: past members for help with leading activities, parents, the Executive, the ever helpful school care-taker, Jock, who often turns a blind eye to much of our comings and goings, Mr Kellie, the school Headmaster for his continuing support and enthusiastic approach to the Unit, Mr Byrne-Burns, the Bursar, for his considerable amount of time he readily gives up to manage and oversee our finances and last, but not certainly not least, my wife, Celia, for her long suffering patience and for giving up her solitude on vacation, as family holiday, yet again merges with the Summer Venture Scout expedition!

*Mr P Brown*



## THE RAILWAY SOCIETY

The Railway Society is one of the oldest established clubs at Rich's and proves as popular as ever, attracting around thirty members from different groups across the school. Members are able to enjoy outings by rail to various destinations across England, Wales and Scotland, way beyond the image of "train spotting". Excellent value for money is offered at £10-£12 per day trip, covering travelling expenses and visits to places of interest along our route. The group is led by Mr Pack and a few other adult leaders, including ex-pupils and staff. We welcome (almost) anyone with us, so please do join us for some great days out!

Our first venture of 1998 was a 'localised' trip to Leicestershire and the preserved Great Central Railway - intended to provide a relatively short outing to prepare our new influx of Year Seven members for what was to come! We left Gloucester at the modest time of 8 am and unusually headed south-east towards Swindon in order to work our way around a diversion and a lengthy bus journey to Birmingham.

The trains all ran to plan for the day's itinerary, including a steam hauled journey along part of the former Great Central line, until our penultimate train was cancelled at Birmingham on the return. With a little bit of "gentle persuasion", Mr Pack forced 'Virgin Trains' to provide our group of twenty with taxis back to Gloucester - we refused to be put on a bus!

Next we organised what is probably the most ambitious day trip made by any school club ..... Gloucester to Edinburgh and back in a day, as well as time for lunch in the Scottish capital! In the small hours of a cold Saturday morning in February, a group of thirty society members and leaders met at Gloucester and Cheltenham stations in order to catch the first northbound 'cross-country' train of the day. Our journey north from Birmingham to Edinburgh included a detour via the highly scenic Settle and Carlisle line. We made it to Edinburgh just in time for a bite to eat at 'McDonalds' and for a stroll up to the castle, before having to make our way south down the East Coast main line to Newcastle and then back to Gloucester, arriving on schedule at about half past nine that evening.

Eight weeks later, in April, we were at Gloucester station at the same early time as before. This time our destination was Portmadoc. Having started off on the familiar run up to Birmingham, we caught one of the last few remaining locomotive hauled train services to run to North Wales, with a change at Llandudno Junction to connect with a train along the delightful Conwy Valley branch to Blaenau Ffestiniog.

From here the group experienced a return journey to the Cambrian Coast town of Portmadoc on the 13.5 mile long, narrow gauge Ffestiniog Railway, which runs through the Snowdonia National Park, displaying some of Britain's finest scenery. Having had a game of football on the beach at Colwyn Bay later, we continued our return journey to Gloucester, where we arrived late that evening.

Sir Thomas Rich's is host to a Model Railway club which is currently constructing a large 00 Scale layout which we hope to be able to exhibit in the future. As well as this the model section runs a number of small group trips for the devoted rail enthusiasts and this year our destinations have included the West Somerset Railway, Penzance, Newcastle and Plymouth (on trains hauled by the recently restored 'Deltic' diesel locomotive), Holyhead (on the 'soon to be withdrawn' class 37 diesel locomotives) and Manchester.

On the Manchester trip we were invited for a tour of the power signalling centre at Piccadilly (where five members experienced how the whole of Manchester's main line railway network is controlled), and then around the old Stockport No.2 manual box. In May, 1999, three members had the opportunity to drive a number of locomotives at the Ffestiniog Railway, Portmadoc.

Yet again, another well organized and highly enjoyable day out. Railway Society trips are open to pupils from all year groups next year as usual and possible outings include London and the Isle of Wight. Any other ideas are welcome.

We would like to thank all of this year's leaders and members for their support which ensures the constant success of the Railway Society.

Hope to see you all again next year!

*L Haigh (9R)*



*The 3,300 horsepower 'Deltic' diesel locomotive runs round its train at Plymouth in February, prior to hauling members of the Model Railway Society to Birmingham.*



*Members of the Railway Society bask in the Summer sunshine at Mallaig, terminus of the West Highland line, after arriving aboard the 'Jacobite' steam train on the four day trip to Scotland in July.*

## THE RAILWAY SOCIETY - THE SCOTTISH TRIP

The Railway Society's four day trip, (July, 8th-11th, 1999), to Scotland was like a well constructed symphony or a gourmet meal with delicious and varied courses and a new experience for me.

Carlisle and its castle provided an interesting activity break in the middle of the first day, which had begun with a 5.30 am meeting and a 5.48 am departure from Gloucester. After a further break in vibrant Glasgow we eventually reached Crianlarich Youth Hostel.

The next morning saw us very early breakfasted and joining the Sleeper (which had set off from Euston the evening before for a full and magnificent day's journey through the Highlands, with near-cloudless skies and superb views of mountains and moorland, lochs, coastline and islands. From Fort William, 'The Jacobite' steam train took us on to Mallaig, our furthest point. The midges were waiting for a second go at us on our return to Crianlarich with the sun still shining at 10.00 pm.

Our third morning dawned cloudy and wet, but dried out as we travelled south. We shopped in Glasgow and in a remarkable logistical tour *de force*, a team of eight produced twenty substantial and nutritious packed lunches on the crowded three-quarters of an hour journey on the Edinburgh shuttle. Ordinary passengers looked on in amazement and (well, I think it was) admiration. We saw the principal sights of Edinburgh in style from an open-topped bus and were regaled with some bloodthirsty tales from that city's often gruesome past. After a relaxing break in Princes Street Gardens, (but shopping for some!) we headed south again by comfortable GNER train and Tyne & Wear Metro to Jesmond Youth Hostel in Newcastle, a cool spacious one with pool table, excellent meals and very friendly wardens.

A late (8.00 am) breakfast before a full final day: the packed lunch team performed its miracle again between Newcastle and York; then on to Leeds and Keighley, where we Railway Children spent the afternoon with steam on the Worth Valley Railway. Back then to Leeds and on to Birmingham in a Virgin train whose air conditioning had failed in our carriage and resulted in a mobile sauna. Supper at McDonald's revived us for the last leg to Gloucester.

These trips do not just happen. Steve Pack's detailed knowledge of the working of the railway network, combined with long hours of research and (mostly) patient negotiation, telephoning and letter-writing, quite apart from his thoughtful management and meticulous passenger care on the trips themselves, are what make them happen. He could have made a fortune as a travel agent or courier. Instead, he works for us members, free. Good on you, Steve!

*Mr Donald Moss*

---



Above left, Mr Anthony Slinn and right, Mr Mike Seales, Rich's Deputy Headmaster. Last Spring, Mr Slinn presented to the 6th Form a highly interesting lecture on the 'Life and work of Vincent Van Gogh'.

## CHARITY NEWS



*Above, Nick Jones, (10B) presents Carol Hope, representing the Imperial Cancer Institute with a cheque for £600, raised from the weekly collections during the Autumn term.*

Over the course of the year, Rich's pupils have once again been particularly charitable, with many organizations benefiting. Money has not just been raised through the weekly collections, but through various other events. For instance, Mrs Caroline Stanley staged a 'Readathon' with students from Years 7, which raised £460 for the 'Roald Dahl Foundation' and 'Sargent Cancer Care for Children' organization. 9T were sponsored to recite a poem for National Poetry Day and raised £20 in the process.

A Further £21 was raised by 7S for 'Childline', when they made and sold biscuits. During the Autumn Term, the school raised £600 for the Imperial Cancer Institute and the 'Children's Society' received £192 from the two Christmas Carol Collections. In the Spring Term, Beryl Daniels of the Ukraine Link visited the school to receive a cheque for £700 and 6G raised £38 for Comic Relief by soaking Mr Lloyd with some unsavory liquids during their Form assembly. Jamie Stokes of 6C amassed £136 for remaining silent for a whole day. In the Summer Term, the Gloucester based charity, Winston's Wish were the nominated charity, with Edward Russell receiving a cheque for £178 on behalf of the organization. The Founder's Day service raised £50 which was donated to the James Hopkins Trust. A special thanks must go to Robert Hindley, Mrs Julie Austin and Form 6G in for their hard work in administering the collections. Above all, everyone should be thanked for their kind donations and hard work during the course of the year. Thank you!

*Mr P D Lloyd*



*Robert Hindley, (6G) presents Beryl Daniels of the 'Ukraine Link' Charity with a cheque for £700.*

## FINAL RUGBY RESULTS

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
1st. XV	12	9	0	3
2nd. XV	11	8	1	2
U.15's	16	13	0	3
U.14's	13	8	0	5
U.13's 'A'	12	10	0	2
U.13's 'B'	6	3	0	3
U.12's 'A'	6	2	1	3
U.12's 'B'	6	2	1	3

## FINAL SOCCER RESULTS

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
1st. XV	4	2	1	1
2nd. XV	4	3	0	1
U.16's	5	3	0	2
U.15's	7	2	0	5
U.14's	5	0	3	2
U.13's	7	6	0	1

(\*U.13's CITY CUP WINNERS 1999 / U.16'S CITY CUP FINALISTS)

## FINAL CRICKET RESULTS

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
1st. XV	3	0	2	1
2nd. XV	0	0	0	0
U.15's	5	0	2	3
U.14's	8	7	0	1
U.13's 'A'	11	9	0	2
U.13's 'B'	1	1	0	0
U.12's 'A'	5	1	0	4

(\*U.14's ROTARY CUP WINNERS 1999 / U.13'S ROTARY CUP FINALISTS)

## RICH'S BT TOP SPORT RUGBY FESTIVAL

Last May, Sports Development Officer, Tony Barton and a management team of Sixth Form Students organized, hosted and gave up a day, to deliver a festival of rugby for primary school pupils at Rich's. Over 150 boys and girls took part in the BT Top Sport Rugby Festival and the day was so successful, that another one is planned for next year.

Helping with the rugby imitative was Ecclesiastical Insurance and the trophy competition was sponsored by Naylor, Powell and Leigh Estate Agents. The trophy was awarded to a combined Abbeymead/Tuffley Primary school team and was presented by Clive Stuart-Smith, who this year won his England Under 16 Rugby Cap. Clive came on in the 37-7 defeat of Italy and played a full game in the 23-20 defeat of Wales.

Barnwood C of E School won the Plate Competition, which was sponsored by 'Iron Man Leisure' and was presented by Mike Teague, while the 'Fair Play Trophy', which was sponsored by Old Richians' RFC was won by Dinglewell Junior School. Above all, the day was about fun and enjoyment, with the real winners being the pupils themselves, plus the game of rugby. A special thanks must go to Tony Barton and the Sixth Formers, who ensured that the event was highly successful and put Rich's on the map as a real provider of 'Sport in the Community'.

*Mr P D Lloyd*

---



*Above, we see the trophy winners of the BT Top Sport Rugby Festival, held at Rich's last May. The team was a combined Abbeymead/Tuffley Primary School combination. In the background, from left to right, we see Rich's Sports Development Officer, Mr Tony Barton, next Clive Stuart-Smith, who won his first England Under 16 Cap this year and presented the winners with their trophy. Then Ben Dempster and George Powell, two of the many Sixth Formers, who gave up their time to make the organization of the event highly successful for all the boys and girls!*



## COVENTRY CITY PAINT RICH'S SKY-BLUE!



*Above, we see some of the local youngsters who have been attending Coventry City's 'Development Programme', that has been operating at Rich's since last April. Far left, we see Mr Tony Barton, Rich's 'Sports Development Officer', who was instrumental in negotiating and ensuring that Rich's became a 'Development Centre' for Coventry City.*

Last March, Sports Development Officer at Rich's, Mr Tony Barton, produced a major boast for soccer in the local area and the school, when he successfully sealed an agreement with Premiership soccer club, Coventry City. Thanks to the hard work of Tony Barton, Rich's was selected as a 'Development Centre' for Coventry City F.C. This was all the more pleasing for me personally, because being ardent 'Sky Blue fan', it was great to see the school being linked with such a great club! Also, Rich's being so closely linked with Rugby, it was pleasing that the outlawed 'round ball' was having a boast within the school. (Please don't quote that to Bob Hanney!) In April, after all the local primary schools had been asked to nominate talented individuals, over one hundred talented youngsters between the ages of 7-11, were given trials at the school.

Coaches from Coventry City were present in the assessment process and the lucky ones were invited to Coventry City's Football academy, while many other talent individuals since the Spring, have been attending the soccer development programme held at the school. The benefits to the school are considerable, forging closer links with the local soccer community, as well as ensuring Rich's becomes a centre of excellence in the area. Coventry City have donated kit and sports equipment and the system should ensure in the future a good influx of youngsters to the club's academy. The youngsters on the development programme at the school have been developing key skills, positional awareness, tactical knowledge and have gained considerably from the coaching expertise at hand from the numerous coaches operating the scheme. The programme has also catered for those youngsters with a talent for goal-keeping, offering specialist coaching in this department. Overall, the scheme is very comprehensive and all the youngsters involved should benefit hugely from the centre. It's good to see money and time being invested in tomorrow's superstars. Who knows, the centre could nurture the next Michael Owen!

*Mr P D Lloyd*



*Above, we see the Under 13's - Year 8 Soccer Team, that won its way through to the City Cup Final and beat Central in a thrilling match on penalties, after extra time. Far left, we see the coach of the team, Mr Tony Barton. The final was held at Gloucester City's ground in very wet conditions.*

---



*Above centre, Nick Trainer representing Gloucestershire County Cricket Club, who came to Rich's last July, to present 'Colours' to our young cricketers. We see Nick seated in the 'old quad' surrounded by all the players who had been awarded colours. Congratulations to them!*

# THE OLD RICHIAN'S' ASSOCIATION

## Old Richians' Committee:

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

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT - TERRY HARRIS

Your President at a distance, (down in Sunny Sidmouth) is pleased to be invited to contribute again to 'The Richian'. The mention of 'Tommies' brings back memories and some which only happened earlier this year. I recall a very well organized and well attended Grand-Buffer evening last April, when Wally Long addressed us and took us on a tour of South Africa. There were forty under-twenties present!

The fine attendance at the Annual Dinner was largely due to the efforts of Chris Wilkinson, David Frodin, Jeremy Lia-Hung and Hassen Bali. It is good to keep in touch. It looks as if the younger Old Richians are intending to make sure we keep the 'The Old Richians Association' going. Some who are older should follow their good example and become fully paid up members. I also want to express our grateful thanks to the School Captain, George Powell, for his support and hard work on behalf of the Association and wish him well in the future. Finally, I would like to thank Graham Reed for his service on the Association committee, brought to an end by a transfer to the Isle of Wight. We wish him and his family every success and happiness in their new home.

Those who knew Jack Dean (1926-1932) were saddened to hear of his passing. Jack joined the Association Committee in 1933, was President between 1979 and 1981 and was an active committee member until his death. Others who have been brought to my attention who have died recently are, Norman Rigby (1942-1949), Peter De Lance-Holmes (1942-1950) and Ronald Artus (1943-1950). I would express our sympathy on the Associations behalf to those who mourn.

Someone asked me how I became a Minister in the Methodist Church? That preparation began at 'Tommies'. In the Sixth Form we had Scripture Lesson, first period every Monday morning. Mr Nicholas told us that we would be taking the lesson in turn. He proceeded to give each of us the title of a book of the Bible - Genesis, Exodus, etc... "Harris - 'Amos'." We were expected to introduce it to the class. I went to see the Minister at the old Northgate Methodist Church, Revd. Horace Cleaver, who was writing a book for local Preachers on the Old Testament. He lent me several books to read about 'Amos'. It came round to my turn to take the lesson sooner than anticipated. Some of my contemporaries got through their allocated book in no time at all. I had become so fascinated by this eighth century, shepherd-prophet of Tekoa., in the southern kingdom of ancient Israel, that I took up the whole time of that Scripture Lesson. Mr Nicholas was amazed and my compatriots delighted, since they had more time to prepare their material for another week.

On returning the books to the Minister, he asked me how I had got on. He noticed my enthusiasm and encouraged me to join a group of young people who were going to various chapels conducting services with a qualified Methodist Preacher. I jumped at the idea. An important incident had happened in my Christian pilgrimage in a temporary classroom building in Barton Street, where a teacher had given me a task to do which I enjoyed.

Teaching is a great profession and it's hard and so often seems unrewarding. (My wife and my daughter, Rachel, are both teachers and I know!) Let us remember, that 'Tommies' is helping to shape the lives of the next generation. As Old Richians reading this article, I hope you will seek to support 'Tommies' because you are where you are partly because of what happened at this School in Gloucester. Thank you for your interest and support.

I count it a privilege to write to you as your President.

Garde ta Foy!

*Terry Harris (President)*

# THE OLD RICHIAN'S' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DINNER

**FAX**

## NOTICE

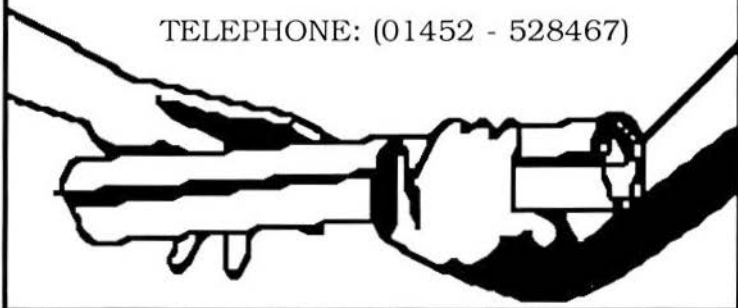
THE OLD RICHIAN'S' ASSOCIATION  
INVITES ALL MEMBERS, FORMER  
PUPILS AND THEIR GUESTS, TO THE  
ANNUAL DINNER, TO BE HELD IN THE  
SCHOOL HALL ON

SATURDAY, 29TH APRIL, 2000 -

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)



## THE OLD RICHIAN'S' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DINNER REUNION

This year's event took place on Saturday, 10th April, and was attended by between eighty and ninety people. As in 1998, an encouraging feature was the support for the Association provided by the large contingent of recent school leavers and present Sixth Formers who attended.

Whilst past decades were represented by a few regular stalwart attendees, they would undoubtedly welcome meeting more of their contemporaries to ensure that the annual reunions rekindle more of the very many friendships which may have lapsed for various reasons over the passage of time.

So, if you have not been to one of these events before or perhaps not for the last few years, why not resolve to definitely attend next year's reunion, which will be the first time in the new millennium.

The President, the Rev. Terry Harris and Mrs Harris were joined on the top table by the Headmaster, Ian Kellie and Mrs Kellie and guest speaker, Mr Wally Large. Unfortunately, Mrs Large was indisposed and could not be present.

After the President had said grace, everyone enjoyed the knife and fork buffet. Then, following the loyal toast and a short break, everyone returned to their seats to hear Mr Wally Large, an old boy from the 1930's era, propose the toast to Sir Thomas Rich's School.

Mr Large gave an interesting resume of his career from early school days at the National School in London Road, then at Rich's and initially, followed by spells at Gloucester Aircraft Company and then RAF Cranwell. As well as learning to fly at Staverton, Wally told us about experiencing the delights of the 'Tiger Moth'. After the war, Mr Large explained how he secured a job in the Colonial Service.

He recalled many incidents and experiences from his postings in several of the countries on the continent, which to most people at that time were known only from names of entries in treasured stamp collections. Mr Large recalled meeting an Old Richian, Mr Ken Deacon in Dar-es-Salaam.

Other experiences included the short lived 'ground nut scheme', meeting Dr Hastings Banda of Malawi and his appointment as Town Clerk to oversee the creation and organization of a brand new capital for the state of Botswana.

In conclusion, he read a poem he had first seen abroad on a hospital wall and then invited all present to join in the traditional toast to the "The School".

In his response on behalf of the school, the Headmaster, Mr Ian Kellie illustrated the very high standard of facilities now available compared to those of the Barton School premises, an example being an air conditioned music room. He said that links with the former site were fast diminishing, as Alan Pilbeam, who taught in the old buildings, as well as the new, was now semi-retired and Laboratory Technician, John Drake, who has also served in both locations, was now retired.

Mr Kellie said examination results had again been excellent, with attainments in two subjects being the highest in the country. In conclusion, he said the choice of Rich's as a Beacon School, one of only twenty or so, considered as centres of excellence in the country, was a testimony to all concerned.

In his final remarks, the President referred to the recent deaths of Jack Dean, a loyal member of the Association's committee for over sixty years and Norman Rigby, one of the two brothers in the school in the 1940's.

He said he was pleased to pass on greetings received once again from Mr and Mrs Veale. After expressing thanks to all involved in organising the event and stressing the important influence Rich's has had on very many people, he concluded by emphasizing the school motto, "Garde ta Foy".

The evening was rounded off with the raffle draw under the Direction of David Hook and his helpers.

Garde ta Foy!

*Mr David Mayo (Old Richians' Committee)*



1666



Above, Headmaster, Mr I L Kellie greets Professor R D Rawlings, who was the 'Guest of Honour' at last September's annual Speech Day. Professor Rawlings was at Sir Thomas Rich's from 1956 to 1961, as well as School Captain in 1960/1961 and grew up in the Elmbridge/Longlevens area of Gloucester. He is Professor of Materials Science and Dean of The Royal School of Mines, Imperial College, London.

### NEWS FOR 'THE 2000 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 1ST CRICKET XXII 1939*

*Standing - (left to right) - L W ROSSITTER, G HALE, R J HINDS, G E LONG, T J VICKERY, L REDBURN, F H BOWN, D WINTERS, E PICKTHORNE, K WHEATLEY, W MAYHEW and F G WORKMAN.*

*Front row, seated - (left to right) R D FORREST, A MOODY, P R BANNER, D CONDICK (VICE-CAPTAIN) W G HOOK (CAPTAIN), N HEDGES, J HORNE, J H MANNING and W T WILLIAMS.*

*Front row, seated on grass - (left to right) F H COLLETT and D A WITTS.*

## 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

To ..... Bank PLC

Branch Address .....

.....

.....

Date ..... 20.....

Please cancel all previous 'Bankers Orders' in favour of the Old Richians' Association and in future make the payments detailed below, debiting my / our account:

Bank and Branch to which payment is to be made: Lloyds Bank PLC

Account to be credited: 'Old Richians' Association'  
Number 1 Account

Account Number of Payee: 0519145

Amount: £10.00 (Ten Pounds)

Date of Payment: 1st July, each year

Date of first payment: .....

Payments are to continue until you receive further notice in writing from me/anyone of the joint account holders.

Title/Name of Account to be debited: .....

Account Number: .....

Member's Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

Years at Sir Thomas Rich's School:

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

Signature. ....



*THE 1ST CRICKET XI 1949*

*Standing - (left to right) - J G LANCASTER, R J ETHERIDGE, N W DICKINSON, J W LEWIS, B H HUGHES, D W MOSLEY AND K B IBBOTSON.*

*Front row, seated - (left to right) C R J FROWEN, P B BARNES, H T SIMS, D B POWELL (CAPTAIN), P M DE L HOMES AND A J COOKE.*

# 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 any former 'Old Richians' for the 2000 Richian Magazine. The next magazine will be produced by a new Editor, Mr Phil Brown. News items, photographs or suggestions will be most welcomed. Many thanks!

*Mr P D Lloyd (1999 Editor)*

---

## OBITUARIES

**ARTUS RONALD CBE (1943 - 1950)** Ronald died at the age of sixty-seven and was Chief Investment Manager of the Prudential Assurance Co. In 1956 he married Brenda Touche and the couple had three sons and a daughter. The marriage was later dissolved and in 1987 Ronald married Dr Joan Mullaney. He left Sir Thomas Rich's in 1950 and went to Magdalen College, Oxford and in 1954 he joined the Prudential. In 1958, he became the head of its Economic Intelligence Department. In 1971, Ronald moved into the investment management side of the company and in 1975 he became Chief Investment Manager. As a result, Ronald was greatly involved in the "City". This resulted in Ronald being involved in the reorganization of the Merchant Bank, Keyser Ullman. Other notable achievements of Ronald was when he was made a member of the board at Prudential in 1984 and then he became Deputy Chairman between 1985 and 1990. He also was involved as a member of the Working Party that came up with proposals to reform the Lloyd's Insurance Market in 1992 and he became founder director of one of the CLM Corporate Fund. Ronald served on various boards and committees, such as the Financial Law Panel, the CBI City Industry Taskforce and the Accounting Standards Committee. He also held various directorships, such as being a non-executive director of GEC and Imperial Cancer Technology. In 1991 Ronald was awarded the CBE and he had a great interest in opera and English watercolours. Overall, it was evident from Ronald's career that he had tremendous influence on the Prudential's portfolio.

---

**DATUK HAJI IBRAHIM AXFORD - (DMSM PJK PBB JP)** (1930's) Ibrahim Axford died in Malacca, aged 77 on the 19th September, 1998. Ibrahim (formerly John and to some Jan) had a colourful, eventful and unusual career and life. As John Axford, he entered the Electrical and Wireless School, RAF Cranwell in September, 1937 after leaving Rich's, at the age of 16 to train as a Wireless Operator Mechanic. On passing out in January, 1940, he was posted to St Athan, where the Air Ministry Research Establishment, (later to become the Royal Signals and Radar Establishment) was temporarily based. His job, along with other apprenticeships was to undertake the ground and air testing of newly developed airborne radar's - Aircraft to Surface Vessel (ASV) and Aircraft Interception (AI).

In the Spring of 1940, whilst on detachment at Pembroke Dock, he was one of the pioneer operators, as an aircraftman, of ASV Mk 1 in Sunderlands on convoy patrols in the Southwest approaches. In the middle of 1941 at St Athan, after the test flight of A1 Mk4 in a Beaufighter, the aircraft stalled on the approach, dug its starboard wing into the ground and cartwheeled across the airfield, fortunately he escaped with only a knee injury.

After navigator training in Canada, he was commissioned in 1944 and then flew on operations with No. 192 Squadron, (Halifax). In 1947, he was Flt. Lt P1 at H.Q. No. 90 Group. After leaving the RAF, he joined the Colonial Police and arrived in Malaya in 1952 as an Assistant Superintendent. He served throughout the Emergency and was badly wounded, being hit eleven times by small arms fire, when his police patrol (3 in number) was ambushed by a gang of Communists, thirty strong, in 1955.

Returning to Malaya after four months convalescence in the U.K., he was told by an informer that the gang was taking a certain route through the jungle. Taking a heavily armed police platoon, with few rations, they lay in wait for twenty hours until the Communists passed by. Axford's platoon eliminated the Bren gun section that had severely wounded him in the first ambush. The following year, he converted to the Muslim faith, taking the name of Ibrahim; some time later he became a citizen of Malaysia. His last police appointment was Chief Police Officer (Superintendent) of Muar, a district in the State of Johore.

On his retirement from the Royal Malaysian Police Service in 1963, he became manager of a 5,000 acre rubber plantation and was awarded a gold medal for efficiency by the Federal Land Development Agency. On his next retirement in 1980, he and his wife, Maimunah, undertook a pilgrimage (Haj) to Mecca. He worked for a number of voluntary organizations for more than thirty years in the State of Malacca, was a Justice of the Peace and was awarded the PJK (Pingat Jaksu Kebajikan), a medal for service to the public. Since 1993, he had been Commissioner for the Red Crescent, State of Malacca.

On the 15th October, 1994, he was invested by the Governor of Malacca, with the honour of the DMSM, (Darjah Mulia Sri Melaka - The Exalted Order of the State of Malacca), which carries the title of Datuk, for political and public service.

He was a keen amateur radio enthusiast with the call-sign of 9M2GV.

Datuk Haji Ibrahim and his wife, Datin Hajji Maimunah, visited the UK in October, 1992 and he attended the Annual RAF CAA Reunion at RAF Locking.

He is survived by his wife, Maimunah and his son, Maidin.

**The obituary was prepared by Air Commodore AJB Clements CEng FIEE RAF RAF (Retd) - President RAF CAA. The obituary was kindly sent to the school by Mr W Huggins, MBE, (Gloucester), who is Secretary and Historian of the RAF Administrative Apprentices Association. Bill spotted the obituary in the 1998/1999 Winter Edition of the RAF Cranwell Apprentices Association magazine. Thanks to Bill and the Editor of the above magazine for allowing us to print the obituary notice in 'The Richian'.**

---

## **DEAN JACK WILLIAM (1926 - 1932)**

Jack was one of the most loyal and long serving members of the 'Old Richians Association' committee, joining the year after leaving Rich's. He was an active member up until the time of his death in February, 1999. For over forty-five years Jack was a dependable and popular employee of Mitchell's in Northgate Street, employment which was only broken by six years service in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946. Part of his war time service was spent defending the besieged island of Malta against the onslaught of German and Italian aerial bombardment.

As a member of the 'George Cross Island Association', Jack regularly revisited Malta, being awarded the 'Commemoration Medal' by the Malta Government in 1993. He also featured in the commentary dealing with the defence of Malta in the recorded series, "Images of War". In addition to being President of the Old Richians' Association (1979 to 1981), Jack was also President of the Gloucestershire Budgerigar and Foreign Bird Society. Jack was also Chairman of the 'Arcadians Sports and Social Club of Gloucester'. A great supporter of the School, Jack was a regular at Founder's Day and Speech Day, accompanied by his wife, Peggy, who in declining health, Jack looked after.

We give our condolences to Peggy in her loss.

## **DE LANCE-HOLMES PETER WILLIAM (1942 - 1949)**

Peter died peacefully at his home in Clevedon, Somerset, on June 5th, aged 68 years. He had suffered badly from ill-health during the last few years of his life, but he showed great determination and humour which were evident when I first met him at school. He had endured ill-health from asthma until he was fifteen years old and was unable to participate in sport until that age. It was at this time, (1946), that I joined the School and Peter was scorer for the School first cricket eleven.

During the next few years he showed great determination and enthusiasm to do well at sport. In 1947, he was awarded second team colours at both cricket and rugby. In 1948, he received first team colours in both sports and was vice-captain of rugby, in which sport he was selected to play for Gloucestershire Schools. In 1949, he was School Captain of rugby and represented Gloucestershire County Schools once again and was reserve for the England Schools Team.

Peter participated in other school activities with special interest in the Dramatic Society and was a N.C.O. in the Air Training Corps; he was the School Senior Observer. He was average academically and showed no indication he would carve out for himself the brilliant academic career he was later to achieve. In 1949, he left school to do his National Service in the R.A.F..

After leaving the R.A.F., Peter attended St. Paul's College, Cheltenham and obtained his Certificate of Education for Teaching in 1953. He went to Bristol to take up his first teaching post at Blaise Junior School, where he spent five years, before moving to the Bristol Technical School until 1962. During this period, (1955 - 1960), he studied as an external student and obtained a B.Sc in Economics from the University of London. He became a lecturer and then Senior Lecturer at the Bristol College of Commerce, 1962 - 1969.

In 1966, he moved to Bradford and studied full time for a year to obtain an M.Sc in Management Studies, which he received in 1967 from the University. He returned to the College of Commerce, which later became part of the newly formed Bristol Polytechnic. In 1969, Peter became Principle Lecturer and was appointed as the first Head of the Polytechnic's Department of Business Administration and Management Studies. In 1978, he became Assistant Director of the Polytechnic, with special responsibility for the South West Regional Management Centre.

In 1982, his responsibilities widened to include additional aspects of the Polytechnic's external affairs, including the development of continuing education and regional liaison with local higher and further education institutions, industry, commerce and the professions. He was a member of the Polytechnic's governing body.

Nationally, he also served on many academic and education committees and it is interesting to note that included in this long list was his membership of The Governing Body of Gloucester College of Arts and Technology, (1980 -1990). Internationally, he served under the auspices of the World Bank and Overseas Development, as an educational consultant. This took him to Nigeria, where for six years after retirement from the Polytechnic, he led a team of consultants advising the Nigerian Government on the development of its polytechnic system. Other assignments included work in Swaziland, Ghana, Singapore and Malaysia.

By 1988, the asthma that he suffered as a boy had returned and he decided to take early retirement from the Polytechnic which was later to become the University of the West of England. In 1966, the University honoured him by admitting him to an Honorary Fellowship of The University of the West of England in recognition of "exceptional service to the University".

Peter met his wife, Mary, in Cheltenham, when Peter was at St. Paul's and Mary at St. Mary's. They were married at Llandaff Cathedral, Cardiff in 1957 and I was delighted to be their best man. My wife and I would like to join many old boys and their families in extending our deepest sympathy to Mary, their three sons and Peter's mother.

**Many thanks to Dr Dennis B Powell (1946 - 1950) for his kind contribution.**

**Note: Dennis kindly provided some further information for our readers -**

**ALBERT CUMMING**, father of Gordon Cumming, unfortunately died earlier this year in Norfolk at the age of 92. Many Richians will remember him, as he was a friend of Bob Hook, and Bill Hook knew him very well.



## **HEAP WILLIAM GORDON (Former Headmaster of Rich's from 1973 - 1989)**

**Gordon Heap died while on holiday in Majorca, on the 20th August, 1999.**

William Gordon Heap, who died aged 65, retired as Headmaster of Sir Thomas Rich's in 1989.

Gordon Heap, as he was best known, was born in 1934 at Stretford in Manchester and was educated at the Grammar School in Preston. From there he graduated to Emmanuel College, Cambridge, where he attained a degree in Geography.

From 1958 to 1963, Gordon was a Master at King's School in Gloucester, teaching Geography and assisting with games. Whilst there, he helped to change the school game from soccer to rugby, for which some have never forgiven him.

It was during his period at King's that I first met Gordon, as we both played for Gloucester Old Boys' RFC. He was a wing-forward - a keen aggressive tackler of any opposition, but always a true sportsman.

In 1963, he moved to Solihull Public School as Head of the Geography Department and then in 1969 was appointed Deputy Head of Aldridge Grammar School, Warwickshire.

When, in 1973, Headmaster Tony Stocks applied for and accepted the post of Headmaster, at his old school - Wolverhampton Grammar School - Gordon was one of over one hundred applicants for the post of Head of "Tommy's", becoming one of the shortlist of five, from whom the final selection was made.

Not knowing I had become a City Councillor, imagine his surprise when we met in the Guildhall and were placed next to one another on the same lunch table, prior to the main selection meeting of Governors and Councillors.

During his personal interview, one of the younger Governors asked him if he agreed with capital punishment in the school, to which Gordon's quick reply was, "Only for poor spelling!!" The Governor himself needed to go back to school to understand the difference between "Capital" and "Corporal". It showed Gordon's great sense of humour.

As many will know, Gordon's appointment was unanimous and amid the then current political educational debate, which was giving great uncertainty to the future of the school, he solidly went about his job in a truly grammar school way. He was a disciplinarian, but was always a fair listener.

At age thirty-nine, he was the youngest Headmaster in the U.K. and was also the only English Headmaster affiliated to the Welsh Secondary Heads Association.

Always being first and foremost a Richian, he was concerned that the residue of monies remaining from Sir Thomas Rich's original legacy, of several hundred years before, was likely to be lost in general council funds. As a supporter of the newly formed 'Gloucester United Schools' Charity, (Tommys, Crypt, Ribston and Denmark Road), he led a deputation to London to fight their case and came back having won the day for Gloucester. Such was Gordon's principled determination.

In retirement, Gordon took another personal challenge of buying an old house in Gloucestershire, restoring and refurbishing it. Such was his enthusiasm, he sold it on completion and took on another in Painswick.

His early roots in Preston and his continued interest in education, lured him back there to take up teaching again, but this time he worked in an EMAP project of "Homework for Under-Privileged Children", under a European Community scheme.

He even again showed an interest in Rugby Football, by becoming Vice-President of the Preston Grasshoppers RFC. I know that W.G. (Gordon) Heap's presence whilst at Sir Thomas Rich's Grammar School, will always be remembered.

Gordon Heap married Shelia in 1961, - they had twins, Sarah and David.

**Written by Norman P Partridge (Chairman of Governors - 1974 to 1986).**

## 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.**

**BAKER Steve** (1971-1978) Steve, a former player for Gloucester RFC was in 'The Citizen' last year in his capacity as Severn Trent's Customer Service Manager for Gloucestershire, presenting the 'August Young Citizen Award', a joint project between the newspaper and the water company.

**BALLARD Jody** (1990-1997) Jody is now studying at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth for a BSc in Geology, which he started in 1997.

**BARBOUR Richard** (1976-1984) After leaving Rich's, Richard went to Brighton to study Civil Engineering. He has worked in Bristol for a Consulting Engineers company, first as a 'Structural Engineer' and then later as a 'Project Manager'. He worked for the 'Sultanate of Oman', which was a magnificent experience. Richard took up skiing and he explains that he became obsessed by it, taking two winters off work to ski and train as an instructor. In 1997, he took a job as Manager of 'Gloucester Ski & Snowboard Centre'. He is now qualified as an English Ski Council Coach and Tutor and a member of the National Association of Sports Coaches.

**BARNES Malcolm** (1949-1954) Malcolm lives in San Mateo, California and contacted 'The Citizen' newspaper in December, 1998 trying to get in touch with old friends, in particular, Peter Bailey. If you know of Peter's whereabouts or would like to contact Malcolm please ring Dennis Apperly, (01452 - 420627).

**BEAMISH Gareth W J** (1968-1975) Gareth lives in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA. He is married to Joni, who is an artist and they have one son. At present, Gareth is an 'Exploration Supervisor', working in the Gulf of Mexico for Mobil Ex. His interests are varied, including geology, history, sailing and scuba diving. He tells us, "Life in New Orleans is unique in the U.S.A., as there seems to be a party going on most of the year. It would be great to meet some of my contemporaries if they are ever visiting."

**BIRCHER Gary** (1978-1985) One thing leads to another and with the birth of child number three, Jonathan George in January of 1999, (a brother for Frances and Matthew), a change of house was called for and the family moved in August. What do they say about the most stressful things in life? Congratulations to Garry and Judith.

**BLEWITT Nigel C** (1982-1989) One of the first pupils in Gloucestershire not to be sent to a school solely for visually impaired children, Nigel went from Rich's to Cardiff University to study Management Services. In 1998, Nigel graduated with a PhD in Labour Economics and now works at the Institute of Welsh Affairs in Cardiff.

**BRADLEY Shayne** (1991-1996) Shayne is currently a member of the Southampton F.C. squad. He was welcomed back to Gloucester in June of this year to present awards to young members of the Gloucester Primary School's Football Association.

**BROWN Phil** (1989-1995/6) We were informed that Phil received a 2:1 in Modern Languages from Liverpool.

**BURDETT Martin** (1989-1996) Martin has just gained a 2:1 B.Sc in Geography from University College, London. Congratulations to Martin!

**CLEGG Phil** (1990-1997) Phil won his second Oxford swimming "Blue" during the annual Varsity Gala at the 50 metre Perevale pool in Ealing. A fast winning time of 63.04 seconds in the 100 metres Backstroke beat his Cambridge opponent and was within the national qualifying time which is the standard required to be awarded a "Blue". Oxford beat Cambridge in both the men's and women's events.

**COOKE Chris** (1989-1995/6) We were informed that Chris received a 2:1 in Mechanical Engineering from UMIST.

**CROFT Giles P Chris** (1984-1991) Giles tells us that he has completed his first year as a Junior Doctor and is now training as a surgeon. He is currently living and working in York as a Junior House Officer in Orthopedics. In February, Giles hopes to gain a place on the York Surgical Rotation and this will cover the three years of the Basic Surgical Training. Needless to say, Giles will have to work on New Year's Eve! Unfortunately, due to courses and the cost of exams, plus all of his medical school debts, Giles' plans for more exotic travelling have been put on the back burner until after training! Instead, Giles has rekindled his love of cycling and has been exploring the local area on his doorstep - 400 miles of West Scotland and 250 miles of the Yorkshire Moors completed on the last two holidays that he has had. Giles tells us that he is currently saving up for a bike that has more gears! Other spare time activities have involved organizing other peoples' social lives as President of the Hospital Doctors' Mess and weekly badminton at the local club.

**DEAN Nigel** (1961-1966) Nigel is about to enter his fifth year at Sky Sports in London. He currently produces a football "phone-in" four nights a week, plus "Hold the back Page", a programme in which journalists debate football current affairs.

**EDWARDS Meurig** (1989-1996) We were informed that Meurig received a B.A., 2:1 in Biblical Studies, from Sheffield University.

**EDWARDS Phil** (1994-1996) Phil recently visited Rich's new sports' centre and while on his visit told the Editor that he had just graduated in the Summer with a 2:2 in Sports Science from Exeter University. He is currently living in Gloucester and hopes to undertake some work in Sports' Development locally, before embarking on some travel abroad. Phil also mentioned Tom Radcliffe who is making his currently making his mark in sport at Exeter. Phil still has contact with Martin Burdett, who has also graduated in the Summer. To the Editor, it only seemed like yesterday that Phil and his contemporaries were in the Sixth Form! I must be showing my age!

**FAULKNER Derek** (1934-1939) Derek lives at Barnetts Hill, Peasmarsh, near Rye in East Sussex. Derek was asked to supply us with some information and very kindly sent the following information and reminiscences - many thanks Derek, just what we want!

Derek entered Tommies from Calton Road School in 1934, leaving Rich's in 1939 to become an engineering apprentice at the local firm of Williams & James. After a spell on the shop floor, he entered the drawing office and then spent eight years studying Engineering Science and technology at evening classes at Gloucester Technical College. He was elected as a Chartered Engineer by the Engineering Council. During these years he became a Chief Draughtsman and finally Chief Engineer before leaving the company in 1967. For many years, Derek had been involved with Naval and Hospital Compressed and Vacuum Systems. He then joined a London firm of System Engineers and became Technical Director and subsequently Managing Director, before resigning at the age of sixty through ill-health. During this time he became chairman of the British Compressed Air Societies.

Derek tells us that he has many family connections with Gloucester Schools. His twin elder cousins joined 'Tommies' at an early age, entering 'Winnie' Thompsons' kindergarten class in the school house, before moving into the main school. His sisters entered Denmark Road and Ribston Hall respectively. Of his own children, one went to Denmark Road and his son went to The Crypt. Derek tells us that in his retirement his hobbies include computers, photography and the maintenance of a large garden.

His memories of Tommies in the 1930's are very clear. The pride in wearing the yellow and blue sectioned cap, with the house button on top, the prefects with their coloured tassels. He remembers 'Patsy' Davies' insistence that he joined the school Cadet Corps, with the subsequent horrors of those incredibly rough army uniforms that left my bare legs raw and drilling with a World War I rifle that felt as heavy as himself. Derek also remembers the days of 'Rogers-Tillstone' and the fantastic sight of his speedy walk across the Park on his way to lunch, in full gear, motor board fixed on his head and his long gown flowing behind, a tall thin bearded man, quite frightening to a ten year old. Derek also remembers 'Freddie' Fox and Wednesday afternoon's soccer matches on Sutgrove, as well as the boots he used to wear.

Other memories of masters include, 'Ike' Williams, the long suffering Mr Tully, Mr Sinkinson, Mr Nicolas, Mr Baxter, the unforgettable 'Freddie' Freeman with his 'cauliflower' ears and the way he used to lift a boy six inches taller and much

heavier, above his head was some feat! Lastly, Derek remembers Mr Veale, a very kind and helpful Headmaster, who must have despaired at my lack of maths knowledge.

Derek tells us that unfortunately, the recent death of Harold Trinder, a great friend since his days at Calton Road School, has resulted in him losing contact with information about news in Gloucester and in particular 'Tommies'. Just before Harold's death, he and his wife drove Derek around the areas of Gloucester that he had known during his school days. Derek was shocked, in his opinion, at the desecration of a beautiful city, particularly when he was taken to Cromwell Street. He was disappointed when he was confronted by a 'scrap-yard' of a car park, where the once elegant 'quad' had been and saddened to see the school house standing out like a 'sore-thumb'. Derek says that perhaps one of the biggest shocks was the disappearance of those great structures, the Fives' Courts, where he spent many happy hours. Obviously, reading Derek's notes, you realize that things change, but not always for the best!

**FEE Robert** (1990's) Last October, the school received the good news from the University College, London about Roberts' graduation, with a BSc 2A (Upper Second) in Mathematics. Congratulations to Robert!

**FLETCHER LES N** (1932-38) Les served with the 7th armoured Division, (Desert Rats) in the Western Desert, Tunisia, Italy (Salerno), Normandy, Belgium, Holland and Germany during the Second World War. Incidentally, he informs us that while he was in a cafe in Holland he met an Armoured car driver named "Pritchard", who was the laboratory assistant during his time at Rich's. From 1947, until retirement in 1980, Les was in the Civil Service in the 'Valuation Branch' of the Inland Revenue, ending up with the rank of Principal. In his retirement, Les took up writing for radio and television, writing regularly for 'Week Ending' and the 'News Hudlines' until 1986. Since then he has written for a number of T.V. shows, including 'Little and Large' and 'Russ Abbot', as well as for German television. Sketches written by Les have been seen shown in ten European countries. A widower, Les lives in Rottingdean, near Brighton.

**FOSTER Richard** (1977-1984) After terminating a planned medical career and taking a year out to collect his thoughts and some funds, Richard took a degree in Accounting and Finance at Kingston Polytechnic, graduating in 1989. He went on to train as a Chartered Accountant with Touche Ross and spent four years assisting with the liquidation of BCCI, the Arab bank that hit the news headlines! He then decided on a career with a bank that had more of a future, joining the Bank of Nova Scotia in 1996, leaving a year later to move to ABN AMRO Bank, where he still works as an Internal Auditor. In 1998, Richard met Jill Atkins, an American citizen from Virginia. They were engaged in May, 1999 and will be marrying in February, 2000. Richard can be contacted by e-mail at "richard.foster@cablenet.co.uk"

**FRODIN David** (1990-1997) In May, David wrote to Mr Kellie to let us all know what he had been up to. At the time of writing, David had been informed that he would be joining the good ship RFA Fort Austin, a stores ship carrying 'bombs and beans', in Southern Italy. The ship was part of the NATO task force in the Adriatic. Before this news came through, David had been serving on board RFA Olva, a fleet support tanker working in the South Coast Exercise Areas for Flag Officer Sea Training, assisting the Royal Navy with their training programme for ships coming out of refit and those going off on deployment. David tells us that he has now seen everything of Plymouth and Portsmouth! Also, during his first trip, he experienced everything from engine room watches to painting things grey! On a positive note, David's Executive Officer and Commanding Officer both had strong words of support and were enthusiastic about his potential as an officer in the Royal Fleet Auxiliary. Best wishes and good luck to David!

**GEORGE Glyn (Dr)** (1971-1977) Glyn has spent the past eleven 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. He has also been involved as a community volunteer in the school system. For more than seven years he was elected school board officer. Glyn now serves as the Vice Chair of the School Council of Booth Memorial High School, Web Site, "http://www.booth.k12.nf.ca/" and is also a member of the provincial executive of the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of School Councils, Web site, "http://www.stemnet.nf.ca/nlfsc/" Glyn is still involved with the Avalon East School board, which operates 68 schools as a volunteer and is its founding "Webmaster", "http://www.aesb.k12.nf.ca/" Glyn hopes to visit Gloucester in May of 2001. He can be contacted by World Wide Web, "http://www.engr.mun.ca/~ggeorge/" or email: ggeorge@engr.mun.ca

**GOLDUP Stephen** (1989-1995/6) We were informed that Stephen received a 1st in Chemistry from Oxford.



*Above, from left to right we see Rich's Headmaster, Mr I L Kellie, Mrs Kellie, Guest Speaker, Mr Wally Large, Mrs Harris and Old Richians' President, Rev. Terry Harris, gathered in the school foyer, before the start of the Old Richians' Association's Annual Dinner Reunion. (Held in the School hall, last April.)*

---

**GETTINGS Andrew J** (1984-1991) Andrew has become a Chartered Engineer, (C.Eng) and is now a full member of the 'Institute of Mechanical Engineers, (I.Mech.E.). Congratulations to Andrew on his achievement! He is currently working for British Energy, based in Barnwood.

**GETTINGS Richard D** (1977-1984) Richard, having served in 'The Royal Hong Kong Police', is now a Detective Constable with the South Yorkshire Police, stationed in Doncaster. He and Christine have a second child, Thomas, a brother for Sophie.

**HARRIS Terence R** (1946-1952) After leaving "Tommies" Terry trained as a Hospital Laboratory Technician at Gloucestershire Royal Infirmary between 1952 and 1956. He continued his studies at Sir John Cass College, London when in the R.A.F. Institute of Pathology and Tropical Medicine, Halton (National Service 1956 and 1958). He then trained for the Methodist Ministry at "Didsbury College" Bristol between 1958 and 1962. From 1962 to 1964 he was a Probationary Minister in the Marlborough Circuit of Churches, where he met Julia, who had gained her B.A. (Hons) in History at Exeter University and went to Marlborough Grammar School to teach History. Terry was ordained at the 1964 Methodist Conference held in Sheffield. Julia and Terry married in Gerralds Cross in 1964. They have a daughter, Rachel, who is now a teacher in Slough and a son, James, who is a Freelance Photographer in London. Terry ministered in Baldcock from 1964 to 1969, then went to Caversham, Reading from 1969 to 1974 and from here back to Gloucester to work from 1974 to 1980. His next move was to Exeter, (1980-1989), then Plymouth (1989-1995). For the last four years, Julia and Terry have been at Sidmouth Methodist Church and will retire next year. Destination is unknown!

In April, Terry gained a three month sabbatical to study the separation of the early Christians from their Jewish roots, to learn Hebrew at the Exeter Synagogue and to find possible links between the Synagogue 'Torah' Readings in the days of Jesus, with the writing of the Christian Gospels. As a lad, Terry, was the Secretary of the 'Tommies Stamp Club'. He still gives lectures on "Methodist Philately" and "Tin Can Mail" (Niuafu'ou) to various Philatelic Societies. He has



recently resigned as Ministerial Secretary for Further Training in the Plymouth and Exeter District, Governor of Sidmouth Community College and Chairman of Manstone Youth Centre. He remains Chairman of 'Christians Together in Sidmouth' until October. Terry has been invited to see the town into the 'Millennium' at a Beach Party to be held in Sidmouth.

**HAZELL Leighton** (1989-1995/6) Leighton received a 2:1 in Law and German from Liverpool.

**HITCHINGS Edward** (1985-1992) Edward is currently at Queen's University, Belfast in the Department of Microbiology. We are told that he walks most weekends, when he gets away to the Mountains of Mourne.

**HITCHINGS Joseph** (1990-1997) At the time of writing, Joseph was a second year student at Manchester University in the School of Dentistry. He tells us that he is enjoying life in Manchester and all that the city has to offer.

**HOOK Gordon N** (1956-65) Gordon returned to political activity after a four year sabbatical in May, 1999, by winning the seat in the Buckland Ward, Newton Abbot for the Liberal Democrats. The seat, on Teignbridge Council, had been previously held by Labour for over thirty years! When not at council meetings, Gordon can be located at his "Spar Shop" in the sea-side village of Shaldon. Any Old Richian passing is very welcome to drop in and say hello!

**HOWKINS Keith** (1974-1981) Keith is getting married to Karen, who he met via the 'Ramblers Association', and the service will take place in October. He lives at present in Belper, Derbyshire.

**JENKINS Michael W M** (1943-1948) Michael who worked for the 'Gloster Aircraft Company', went to New Jersey, USA in 1963 to work for Curtis Wright. He then moved to Georgia in 1963 to work for Lockheed. He retired in 1988, but a month later became a Professor of Aerospace at Georgia Tech, a university of 14,000 students.

**JODRELL Duncan** (1970 -1977) Mr Kellie, Rich's Headmaster, received a phone call from Valerie Calvert, former Science Technician at the school, who kindly informed him that Duncan has moved to Edinburgh University, where has been appointed as a 'Reader'. Upon leaving Rich's, he went to Southampton University, then to the Royal Marsden Hospital where he was a specialist in breast cancer. Many former staff and pupils will remember Duncan, who was to be found in one of the late Frank Henderson's science sets.

**KERRY Alexander** (1991-1998) Alex has been on a gap year in Nepal, where he has been teaching and trekking. He will be studying Law at Durham University from September, 1999.

**KERRY Victoria** (1995-1997) Vicky is currently in her second year studying Medicine at Manchester University. She is looking forward to beginning her clinical training on the wards in September and hopes to become a Pediatrician eventually.

**KOLLER Adam** (1987-1994) Adam obtained a 2:1 in Engineering Science at Christchurch, Oxford.

**McBURNIE Duncan** (1989-1996) We were informed that Duncan received a 2:1 in Mathematics from Oxford.

**MITTEN Steve** (1985-1991) In September of last year, Steve visited the school and saw for himself the various structural changes to the school buildings. As many of you will recall, Steve was an excellent athlete, regularly competing for the school at cross-country and middle-distance athletic events. He was also a former School Captain and after leaving Rich's he became a 'Systems Analyst' before becoming Assistant Manager at The Greyhound, Longlevens. Steve completed an 'Access Course' at Gloscat and at the time of his visit, he was preparing to read Applied Psychology and Sociology at Surrey University. We wish him well and hope that he rekindles his excellent running ability! Many thanks to Steve for his contribution, which can be read on Page 28.

**MONANARO Peter J** (1974-1981) Peter married Ruth Hall in September, 1998 at 'Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Leigh-On-Sea.

**NAYLOR William M** (1992-1997) William left Rich's in 1997 to attend Welbeck College to take his 'A' levels and start his career in the army. He obtained his results this Summer, achieving four grade B's. He is now going to

study 'Electronic Systems Engineering' at the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham. After his degree, William then hopes to go onto Sandhurst to train as an Officer in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. Best of luck to William!

**NEININGER Patrick** (1958-1965) Patrick lives in Bury and is still a G.P. in the town after twenty-one years. He tells us that he is a keen Rotarian, having been President of Tottington & Bury West Rotary Club. Patrick is now a Club International Committee Chairman and hopes to do some serious travelling when he retires! In the meantime, his children are doing the travelling, with his eldest daughter, Sally, spending the Summer in Greenland looking for Fossil Fish, as she is completing her PhD at Cambridge. Patrick's second daughter, Anne is at Leeds University, studying French and German. His 3rd and 4th daughters are still at school, so subsequently, Patrick says that there is no chance of retiring!

**NEWMAN James** (1987-1994) James wrote to the Headmaster to inform us all at the school that he had finally graduated as a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery from Manchester University. He asked the Head to pass on his thanks to all those members of staff who had a role in his education at Rich's, particular those who had helped him secure the necessary grades when he was studying for his 'A' levels.

**NEWMAN James** (1989-1996) James has just been awarded a B.Sc degree in Computer Science from Southampton University.

**NICHOLAS Bill** (1995-1998) We are pleased to announce, that in the past year, former Chemistry and Games teacher at Rich's, Bill Nicholas, has become the proud father, with mother, Sheryll, giving birth to a baby girl, Georgina, who weighed in at 7 lbs 2oz. Bill's links with Rich's were not totally severed upon his departure last Summer, for he returned to help lead the successful Ski trip to Canada in the early spring. By all accounts, Bill's time-keeping was spot on as usual! All at Rich's wish the happy couple all the best and hope that they do not endure too many sleepless nights!

**PAGE Malcolm (Brigadier)** (1937-1944) Malcolm attended the British Commonwealth Ex-Services League Conference in Barbados last May. He has been elected to the Executive Committee and the Finance Sub-Committee of the B.C.E.L. As a member of the council, he represents the Somaliland Republic. Malcolm currently lives in Henley-On-Thames.

**PERKS Anthony Manning (Dr)** (1943-1951) Anthony, who was School Captain in 1950-1951, lives in Vancouver, Canada. He tells us, "Dr Perks, Professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Professor Emeritus of Zoology in the University of British Columbia, has succeeded to the Barony, Lordship and Honour of Carcomroe, as 16th Baron. The Barony was established by Queen Elizabeth I by Letters Patent in 1575 and confirmed by Queen's Fiant in 1583. The first Baron, a scholar and poet, was responsible for the destruction of part of the Spanish Armada".

**PERRIN Will** (1990-1997) Just before embarking on his second year at Aston University studying for a BSc in Information Technology for Business, Will was awarded a Bursary by the University to attend the Annual Festival of the British Association for the Advancement of Science in Cardiff. At the time of writing, Will had been accepted for a placement year with Goldman Sachs, the investment bank, based in Fleet Street, London, which he will start in July, 1999.

**POOLE Ian R** (1982-1987) Ian who is a Civil Servant at GCHQ, Cheltenham and known to many as the 'Ticket Organizer' for the Old Richians' annual dinner, married Miss Elizabeth Kellaway, at 'The Sacred Hearts Church', Charlton Kings, Cheltenham on the 25th September, 1999. A keen traveller, Ian and his new wife took their honeymoon in Kenya. Ian is keen to point out that they met through hockey, rather than a connection with Liz's work for the Gloucestershire Constabulary - We believe you!

**POOLE Tim** (1989-1995/6) We were informed that Tim received a 1st in Mathematics from Cambridge.

**QUINN David G** (1957-1962) David tells us that he is a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and is a Valuer with the Alliance and Leicester Bank Plc. He has a married daughter and a son, as well as three stepdaughters. Four of the children have graduated from various Universities, with the fifth in her second year of a Biomedical Science & Chemistry degree. Eighteen months ago, David was elected Secretary of the Central Baptist Church in Leicester, which consequently leaves him very little spare time. He however is a keen gardener and

woodworker. The church he is involved in employs a Community Worker, who leads a team of Volunteer helpers, which helps to staff a "drop-in" centre for lonely or mentally frail city centre residents requiring support. They have also appointed a part-time City Centre Retail Chaplain.

**RAWLINGS Rees (Professor) (1955-1961)** As already highlighted in this magazine, Professor Rawlings was the Guest of Honour at our Speech Day last September. Many of you will recall, that Rees was School Captain in 1961 and he is now Dean of the Royal School of Mines at Imperial College, London. His wife, Anne, as outlined in the school's newsletter, is a renowned Horticulturist.

**RIDDICK Steve (1973-1980)** Steve is a partner with Arthur Anderson, (the professional services firm), and has recently transferred from the firm's Nigerian practice to Saudi Arabia.

**RILEY Gordon A (1956-1962)** Gordon has spent the past thirty-five years in the Metropolitan Police. He is nearing retirement and is currently employed in the 'Specialist Operations Branch' at the Palace of Westminster, keeping a watchful eye on the members of the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

**ROBBINS Alan (1964-1972)** Alan left Rich's in 1972 and went to study Forestry at Aberdeen University and since then he tells us that he has never gone back to England to live! He is still involved in Forestry, having set up a company in 1984. Alan lives in Gilmerton, Crieff, Perthshire and tells us it is a useful staging post for those venturing north, such as the Venture Scouts! He also wants to know whether the Old Richians have a 'Web-site' yet?, as he has lost touch with many of his contemporaries. Alan has three children, with two of them having left school. He wishes the Venture Scouts his best wishes and anyone wishing to get in touch with him can do so via, [rtsadmin@sol.co.uk](mailto:rtsadmin@sol.co.uk) or [alanrobbins@hotmail.com](mailto:alanrobbins@hotmail.com).

**ROSE Brian (1942-47)** Brian who lives in Gloucester, worked for the Dowty group for thirty-three years, but recently took early retirement. Since his retirement, he has been engaged in a 'Quality Consultant business', being kept busy with contracts in the UK and from Canada. Brian is still very active with the Churchdown Male Voice Choir and this year, he has been very busy organizing their millennium tour to Washington DC and Baltimore, USA. When he actually finds any spare time, he likes to pursue his interests of water colour painting and genealogy. The latter, a hobby that he recently took up and now finds fascinating. Of course, like true Gloucester men, he follows the 'Cherry and Whites!'.

**SARGENT Duncan (1977-1984)** Duncan and Elaine are pleased to announce the arrival of Thomas Edward on the 15th February, 1999. With his brother, Matthew being born three years and three days earlier, on the 12th February, 1996, the savings funds has already started for their joint 18th and 21st birthday party!

**SARGENT Justin (1983-1990)** Justin lives in Worcester and completed the London Marathon this year in aid of 'The Macmillan Cancer Fund'. Unfortunately a good holiday in Canada just prior to the event broke the training regime and the chance of a personal best time!

**STEVENS Terry (1955-1962)** Terry is a Senior Teacher/Head of Science at Oaklands R.C. School, Waterlooville. He is also a Director of the Choral Society. Terry tells us that he still enjoys watching rugby, even if it is at Havant Rugby Club, where he met Peter Price. Terry lives at Hordean, Hants.

**SYKES Michael (1954-1959)** Michael has recovered from a heart attack in 1997 and continues as Group P.R.O. for Renishaw plc, Wotton-Under-Edge. He tells us that he has recently met (and identified from a school photograph - 1959) Gordon Philips, who was running the Wotton arts' Festival and Graham Bowery, Environmental Officer, Stroud District Council, both of whom were at Rich's from 1956 to 1963. Michael's wife, Glenys is Town Clerk and children, Jessamy and Robin, both attend Katharine Lady Berkeley's school, Wotton-under-Edge. Michael does not visit Gloucester much these days, as his mother, aged 87, has now moved to Wotton. Family History and computers continue to be Michael's absorbing hobbies. Finally, he tells us that anyone passing through Wotton-under-Edge who remembers him is welcome to contact him via email [famsyk@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:famsyk@globalnet.co.uk) or simply phone him.

**TAUDEVIN Chris (1979-1986)** Chris lives in Draycott, Derbyshire and is currently involved in Construction Site Management. He graduated in 1990 from Loughborough with a Mechanical Engineering degree. Many of you will know Chris as a talented cyclist, but he tells us that around 1990 he switched to canoeing and now competes

internationally in "White-water Freestyle". He is currently single and tells that another hobby of his is old performance cars.

**TAYLOR Steven** (1989-1996) Steven has just graduated with a B.Sc degree in Physics from Southampton University.

**TRENT Aiden** - Aiden performed tracks from his new C.D. at a concert in the Gloucester Docks in July this year. This was his first live performance. He tells us, "I got fed up with selling other peoples' records and my ambition is to be a famous singer and entertainer". Aiden was an employee of HMV in King's Walk. Watch this space!

**VAQUAS Babar** (1990-1997) Babar is reading Medicine at Bristol University, where he has gained distinctions and last Summer was awarded the Ralph Wolferston Prize for coming top in the 'Human Basics of Medicine' unit of his course. He wrote to Mr Kellie in October last year, relaying the excellent news that he had come first in his Summer exams out of the 170 students on the course. Babar is aiming for a BSc (Hons) in the Year 2000 in addition to his medical degree. He tells us that he has taken up Clay Pigeon shooting as a distraction from his studies. We wish him lots of luck!

**VICARY Rachel** (1994-1996) Staff who remember Rachel will be interested to know that she gained her "Blue" at Oxford, for Women's rugby and was a member of the team that defeated Cambridge.

**WRIGHT Daniel** (1992-1997) Daniel was in 'The Citizen' newspaper during the Summer, with a story relating to his proposed sponsored climb of the mountain, Mont Blanc, which is 4,807 metres high, in aid of the local Cobalt Unit Appeal Crack Cancer Campaign. Unfortunately, ill health meant the climb had to be temporarily postponed. In December of 1998, Dan arranged for the mountaineer, Ginette Harrison to come and speak to the school Venture Scout Unit after joining her successful Himalasan Expedition during his gap year in Nepal. The next big project for Dan is in the Autumn of next year, when he hopes to climb to the top of the 8,153 metre Cho-Oyu mountain, which borders Tibet and Nepal. Good luck to Daniel!

---

**DON'T FORGET TO SEND THE EDITOR INFORMATION FOR THE 2000 EDITION!**

---



**REMEMBER TO SUPPORT YOUR OLD SCHOOL AND  
JOIN THE OLD RICHIAN'S ASSOCIATION - THE  
MEMBERSHIP FORM CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 56 -  
NEW MEMBERS ARE MOST WELCOME!**



Above, some of the members of the Upper and Lower Sixth Form who went to the G.C.H.Q. & Gloucestershire SATRO Technology show, held in Cheltenham, last October. (\*picture by the kind permission of Dick Webb - G.C.H.Q.)

---



Above, we see various members of Year 7 during a trip to the Forest of Dean and a visit to the 'Sculpture Trail'. One of the many activities undertaken during the course of the year!





1666

**SIR THOMAS RICH'S SCHOOL**

Oakleaze, Gloucester GL2 0LF

Telephone: 01452 528467 Fax: 01452 382432

2