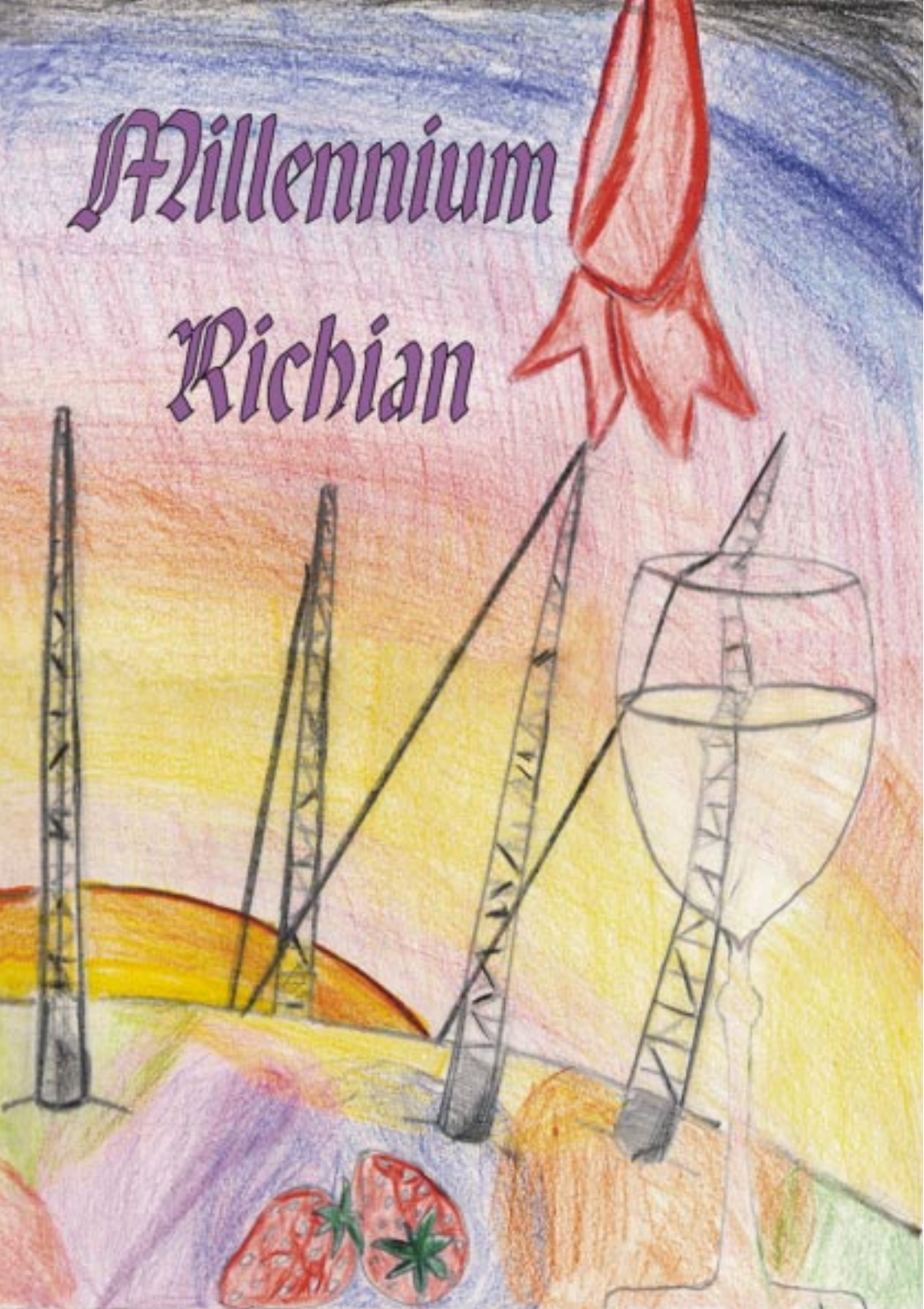


Millennium Richian



Editor's Forward

The start of a brand new millennium finds the Richian Magazine with a brand new editor.

After several years of hounding staff, students and old boys for copy, always trying to put a new, interesting and different slant on the perennially similar annual reports of school life, spending hours and hours of his own and his wife's precious time typing, designing, editing, collating, proof reading and getting printed the record of yet another full year of success and activity at Sir Thomas Rich's School, Peter Lloyd has finally put away his editor's red pencil.

Looking back over his last few publications reveals the true extent of the professionalism and sheer hard work that he has invested in each edition. The school owes Peter an immense debt of gratitude for his abilities and time spent turning piles of scribbled, often illegible articles into a coherent and frequently absorbing published record of a year in the life of Sir Thomas Rich's School. And to continue to do this for eight years deserves the highest praise indeed.

"We need a new editor for the Richian magazine - fancy taking it on?" Mr Kellie casually slipped into a conversation he was having with me at the start of 1999 academic year. Not seriously considering all the implications and caught somewhat off-guard I found myself replying, "Yes - sure. I'll give it a bash!" Mad fool that I am!!

Discussing with Peter later what it involved only brought forth a wry smile and expressions of sympathy!

Early ideas for a complete and sweeping change in style and format (after all - a new editor and a new millennium) soon receded as practicalities raised their ugly heads. Thoughts of packing the "Richian 2000 Special Millenium Edition" with colourful articles, personal insights, specialist and topical reflections and commentary, interviews and so on faded fast as it became evident that the sole source for such would have to be one's own pen.

So here it is - Richian 2000. Same A5 size, similar number of pages, content mainly black and white and much as in previous years. I hope it matches some way towards its predecessors of the past millennium and that you the reader find it an interesting and useful record of the year just ended at Sir Thomas Rich's School.

P Brown



1666

Millennium Edition
of
The Richian
Official Magazine
of
Sir Thomas Rich's Grammar
School



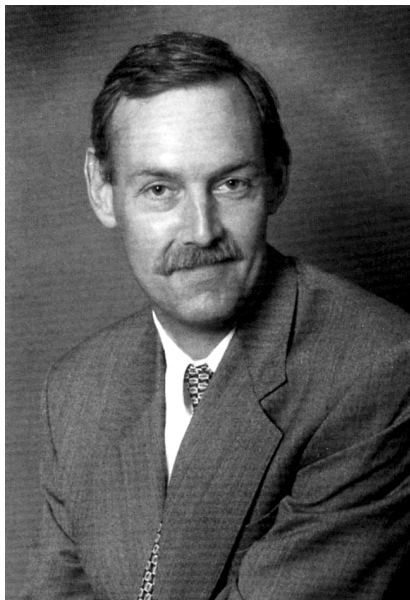
A happy Madrigal Group following their excellent performance at the annual 'Christmas by Candlelight'



**End of Year 'Cups & Colours' Presentation Ceremony
Kevin Ellis receives The Gloucester City Schools U12 Cricket Cup from Gloucestershire CCC players Reggie Williams and Damian Forder.
The different colour ribbons on the smaller house trophies belie the fact that Northgate's green decorates the all-important Cock House Trophy.**

The Headmaster's Summary

The 1999/2000 year began with our best ever GCSE performance; Year 11 gained outstanding results including many top grades. Pupils' achievements were recognised in our annual Prize Giving in September when Dr Rae, high profile ex-Headmaster of Westminster School, gave an excellent address.



The school roll was 765 pupils including Year 7 who joined us from a staggering 64 different primary schools. After several years of growth, as larger four-form entries worked through, this was our first year of stability. We have now reached capacity although we continue to seek means of improving our facilities. Hence it was good news in January when the Government announced that we have been accorded Language College status - the associated additional funding will enable the construction of a new Language Centre.

An example of recent improvements has been the Sports Hall, which enjoyed its first full year of operation. It is great to see it used not only during PE and Games lessons but also every lunchtime and after school with keenly contested indoor soccer and cricket competitions providing much entertainment for players and spectators.

This has been a year of immense activity made possible only by the tremendous commitment of all staff. We are fortunate indeed to have superb teaching and support staff. It is difficult to select a few highlights but those which come to mind immediately include the main school production "Kids? Tough!", a musical written by Mr R Watson; school

parties visiting places of educational interest far and near, including Morocco and South Africa; the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, now an established part of Richian life thanks to the efforts of Mr Dempsey; the hugely popular Globetrotters, Mrs Row's club for budding Geographers, who visited the Millennium Dome and Alton Towers as well as Amsterdam and Southern France; the Geographical Association quiz team, who competing against the top schools in the country fought their way to the final and came so close to victory; and the choral concert, a superb and much acclaimed performance of Handel's "Messiah".

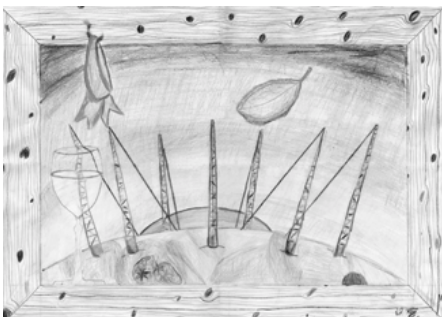
Sport continues to provide an important dimension to our provision, albeit now competing with strong and healthy interest and activity in drama and music. Well done to the Intermediate Boys swimming team upon reaching the finals of the English Schools Championships at Crystal Palace, to four of our cricket teams upon getting to the City Schools Finals, to Clive Stuart-Smith upon playing for England Under 18s at rugby whilst a year young, and to our senior rugby squad who won the County Sevens tournament.

With so much going on, life at Rich's is never dull. Our pupils benefit enormously from the high standards of education and the commitment and hard work of our staff.

Well done to all staff and pupils and thanks to Governors and parents for your invaluable support.

Garde ta foy!

Mr I L Kellie



Cover Design

The Cover of this Millennium Edition of The Richian is taken from a piece of artwork drawn by Luke Trigg of 9R.



Staff Arrivals

The school year started with the following new faces in the staff room and administration offices -



Mr Jason Nehra had been teaching for a year when he joined us from Marling School to teach Physics. Prior to his arrival in this country Mr Nehra,

who is Canadian, had spent several months touring the world.



Mr M J Buttler, came from Royal Grammar School, Worcester. Matthew has worked in the licence trade, in banking, in marketing information and has also been self-employed. He enjoys soccer, skiing, golf and other more 'leisurely' pursuits.

Mr G E Crewe joined us from Wycliffe College to take over from Mr Garry Watson as Head of Business Studies & Economics. 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.



Mr Alan Peffers joined the Design and Technology Department from St. Peter's High School, Gloucester. Alan 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?



Mrs N Poole joined us as Finance Assistant and prior to her arrival at Rich's worked at Hartpury College.



Exam Results

GCSE

In the previous summer exams Year 11 produced outstanding results, significantly the school's best ever. The overall pass rate at Grade C and above was 95.4% with 45% being at grades A and A*. The average number on passes at Grade C and above per pupil was 9.86. Of the 111 boys in Year 11 three each gained 12 passes at A and A*, 26 each gained nine or more passes at A and A*, 52 each gained five or more A or A* passes. The Year 10 boys who took their Mathematics GCSE a year early all passed

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at grades A and A*. For the first time the whole of Year 10 took the RE (Short Course) GCSE examination - all passed, 98.4% at grade C or above, 40% at grades A and A*.

'A' Level

The pass rate in all 'A' level examinations was 93.1%, which included excellent individual achievements. Congratulations to Peter Gladwell and Philip Walters who each gained four grade A passes and to Ivor Annetts, David Clifford, Colin Granger, James Thorogood and Matthew Turner who each gained three grade A passes. While not detracting from the overall success in the exams, Mr Kellie voiced his concerns over the added pressures students are facing these days : "These 'A' level results were generally as expected although there is little doubt that a number of candidates would have achieved even better results with greater commitment to school work outside school hours. We are concerned that some Sixth Formers yield too easily to the pressures to undertake long hours of paid employment as well as socialising which impinge upon the time spent on homework. Some of our students have learned to their cost that the short term gain of money in the pocket is soon outweighed by the costs of subsequent poorer performance at 'A' level and the consequences for their higher education and long-term career."

The government's Performance League Tables (love them or hate them!) showed that we were one of only seven schools in the county to show continuous improvement in GCSE results over the previous four years. The average points 'score' per pupil at GCSE was 63.6 (based on 8 for A*, 7 for A, 6 for B, etc), the second highest of all the county's 54 state and independent schools.

New Students

120 boys in Year 7 joined us from 64 different primary schools. The Lower Sixth numbered 99 students, of whom 21 joined us from ten other secondary schools. Nineteen of the Lower Sixth were girls making a total of 37 girls in a Sixth form of 191. Total pupil numbers = 765.

Upper Sixth School Leadership Team

At first assembly Will Godwin took over his official duties as School Captain and presented gowns to the rest of his 'team' - Aimee Jones & Christopher Rann as new Vice Captains and as Observators Alex Dorn, Adam Griffiths, Robert Hindley, Simon Kellie, Craig Lewis, Thomas Plant, Sarah Ritchie, Christopher Smith and Nicholas Wright.

Annual Speech Day & Prize Giving

Our Annual Speech Day & Prize Giving held on Friday 24th September, saw more than 100 students receive trophies and other prizes to mark their successes. It was an impressive evening and a wonderful opportunity to celebrate some fine individual achievements during the previous year. Two awards were given to students from each



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form reflecting effort and attainment, plus prizes, books and cups for achievement across a wide range of areas. There were also prizes for students getting top GCSE and 'A' level grades plus those who have done well in sport and those who have supported the community and the school. Presenting the prizes was Daphne Rae who worked with Mother Theresa and the Sisters of Charity in Calcutta. Her husband Dr John Rae gave the address to the gathered prize winners, proud parents, Old Richians and Staff. Dr Rae is former Headmaster of Westminster School and has appeared on many television and radio programmes as well as writing for national newspapers on educational and business issues. He spoke at the ceremony about people who have developed a wide range of talents, quoting from the film-maker Steven Spielberg, a headteacher of a school in troubled Belfast, one of his own pupils and a French general of 1789. The theme was that everyone has a particular talent. Some of these are realised early, some are realised later, some of which are unexpected.

Charities

Each Thursday morning collections for charities chosen by the students are made. This term's recipient charity was The British Heart Foundation to which we were able to donate just over £600. In addition to this form 7S organised and ran a 'Bring-and-Buy' sale for the Blue Peter Appeal raising £48 for premature babies. Mrs Arnold and her team of Open Evening helpers put their practical demonstration of Food Technology to good use and raised £23.50 for Childline by selling their biscuits. About £100 was also collected for The British Legion's Poppy Day Appeal.

New Stage Lighting

This term our stage lighting was replaced by a new system that now offers reliability and flexibility. The system saw its first real test during the staging of 'Kids? Tough!' and passed with flying colours! Special thanks to the Parents Association and The Lady Downe Charity for funding this project.

Year 7 Residential Trips to Stratford-upon-Avon

Following the success in previous years of these 'team building' trips, each of the four Year 7 forms spent 3 days away taking part in a series of educational and recreational activities and visits in and around Stratford-upon-Avon. An idea originally conceived and started by Frank Henderson during the early nineties, these trips now form an important part in helping new Year 7 entrants to the school make friends amongst their peers and forge positive group identities with their forms. See later article for more details of this year's visits.

'Kids? Tough!'

This year's major stage production by the school took place during December. Enjoyed by all who came to see it in spite of a few unforeseen behind-the-scenes mishaps - chiefly the lead character concussing himself hours before the first night opening curtain, his place being taken by the writer and director Mr Watson (who still managed to play keyboards for several of the musical numbers!). See later article.

Individual Achievements

Ryan Barnett (11T), Martyn Vallender (11B) and Paul Williams (11S) reached the final County U16 rugby trial with Ryan and Paul making selection for the County squad; Alasdair Burchill (10R) came third in the U16 épée competition in the South West fencing championships, even though a year young and qualified for the national finals;

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Lewis Ferneyhough (11B), a Leading Sea Cadet was selected to be one of the Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire's cadets, assisting him at ceremonial events including Royal visits; Daniel Gunyon and Matthew Taylor (11S) made the County U16 soccer trial and Matthew gained selection for the County teams which played against Somerset, Cornwall and Devon; Ben Dabbs (11T) swam for Gloucestershire Schools in the Western Division Championships of the English Schools Swimming Association at Tiverton and for Gloucestershire ASA in an inter-county gala; The School's Venture Scout Unit entered three teams for the annual River Wye raft race and despite disintegrating rafts and sinking buoyancy barrels two of the teams finished in third and fourth positions, all twelve rafters were awarded certificates for completing the Ross to Lydbrook course.

Tree Planting

As part of the 'Trees 2000' project, thirty volunteers from all year groups planted over 25 mature trees around the edge of the school field to mark the millennium. Tim Hayling, community project officer with the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, spent a day with the volunteers showing them how to plant the rowan and maple trees, each over six feet tall. Pictured here with Tim are sixth form students Jon Spratt and Aimee Jones.



Chess

The School entered The Times National Schools Chess competition. In the first round the team travelled to Hereford Cathedral School and recorded an excellent 6-0 victory. Well done to the team of D Bhagawati, M Gardner, S Poole, S Beddows, A Brown and J Allison. However the School then experienced a 1-5 reverse in Round 2 at Katharine Lady Berkeley's School. The School continues to field two teams in the North Gloucestershire League, in Divisions 3 and 4. These are the only teams from any school in the League; they compete against adults in all their matches.

School Visits & Trips

Once again this term students in all areas have benefited from many exciting and informative excursions from Oakleaze as members of staff have given freely of themselves and their precious time to organise trips and visits to enhance the curriculum teaching and broaden minds and experience. Some of those not covered by later articles are listed here. Budding entrepreneurs from Year 9 followed in the footsteps of the Darby family to Coalbrookdale in Shropshire - the crucible of the Industrial revolution. They visited Blists Hill, Ironbridge and the Museum of Iron. Globetrotters organised an 'ice breaker' trip to Alton towers. The English department made several trips: Mrs Spiisbury's GCSE group visited Pebble Mill Studios in Birmingham to observe a recording of 'Call My Bluff'; Mrs E Stanley organised a trip to the Globe Theatre to see 'Julius Caesar', while Mrs C Stanley took GCSE sets to the Everyman to see 'An Inspector Calls'; some sixth formers accompanied Mrs Roberts to Hay-on-Wye for a 'Winter's Tale' Workshop and students were taken to see performances of 'King Lear' and 'Macbeth'. Sixth form Art students enjoyed a successful residential trip to St Ives in Cornwall with Mrs Cormack-Hicks and Mr Lockey. They visited the Tate Gallery and the Barbara Hepworth museum and gardens as well as a wealth of smaller galleries.

The weather was perfect enabling the artists to take many photographs and produce valuable sketches for their folios and coursework. The School Choir sang and a group of instrumentalists played at St John's Church Northgate Street as part of a programme of re-dedication of the church following extensive refurbishment. Yet again the term drew to a close with the Choir performing well at the Christmas Carol concerts at St John's and Holy Trinity churches.



Cross Country

In the first fixture at Bredon School, Tim Dalton (right) won an exciting Junior race, while Peter Kellie (below) won the Senior race in style. In the National Milk Cup the Junior team ran well to qualify for the regional round but the Inters narrowly missed out. Once again Tim Dalton excelled to win the Junior race. This year's West Mercia League consisted of the usual three meetings involving schools such as Malvern College and Royal Grammar School Worcester. There were good performances from our runners with Simon Kellie winning the league and Peter Kellie finishing third. There were also good runs from



George Kirby, Nick Clark and Thomas Richards. Several boys ran well in the Gloucester City trials and went on to represent Gloucester in the County trials : K Ellis, A De-Camps (Minors), T Dalton (Juniors), P Kellie, T Richards, M Short, R Parker (Intermediates), S Kellie (Seniors). Simon and Peter Kellie and Kevin Ellis went on to gain County selection following strong performances in the County championships held at Newent School. Tim Dalton (8B) had been in excellent form this term, convincingly winning the City trials and a six school invitation race at Bredon School but unfortunately had to withdraw from the County trials due to injury.



Rugby

1st XV - P10, W8, D1, L1, F282, A74 (2 games cancelled)

This has been a good season for a strong and well balanced 1st XV. The forwards and backs combined well to cause problems for all opposition and resilience in defence made them a tough team to score against. With captain Chris Room leading from the front and Clive Stuart-Smith providing the driving force behind the pack the School were able to attack from any position and to release their free running backs. With an improved approach to training the players could have developed a more unified approach instead of relying on natural ability. This was the most frustrating aspect of the season in that real progress was not made and many games were made more difficult than they need have been.



2nd XV - P12, W8, L4, F251, A203

A successful season for the seconds who scored notable victories over Crypt, Dean Close and Kings. Early defeats were partly caused by a lack of confidence in a very young side and with many returning next year an even better season is in prospect.

Colts - P14, W7, L7, F254, A331

An inconsistent and frustrating season from the Colts. At times they played good flowing rugby but this was undermined when the team became too casual and allowed the opposition to come back. The team needs to work upon skills such as tackling and support play. However the team must be congratulated on their spirit, commitment to the School and their positive attitude when things went wrong!

U14 - P13, W8, D1, L4, F299, A109

The U14 XV had a difficult start to the season against some very good opposition and only managed two wins in their first six games. However they stuck at their task well and with a positive attitude in training and a change of style they have become a much more cohesive unit and are playing with greater control and discipline. There is a depth of talent in this year group and with continued hard work they should have a bright future. Congratulations to all in the squad for their success especially to those who have joined the squad this season.

U13 'A' - P10, W3, D1, L6, F134, A212

The U13 team this year suffered from lapses of concentration that not only gifted their opponents with tries but also ultimately lost them the chance of winning several of their games. For the most part they fought hard, particularly the forwards, showing good team spirit and commitment. The backs improved considerably as the season progressed after some fairly naive defensive play in the early games. However the side always found try scoring difficult and coupled with their "moments of generosity" this cost them several matches that they did not deserve to lose. Worth particular mention: Josh King for his unstinting and tireless work rate, Tom Dixon for his brave tackling and commitment whatever position, William Russell for his elusive and forceful running from centre, Luke Richardson for his strong attacking bursts and Simon Moody for his often unseen but effective grafting in scrum and maul.

U13 'B' - P5, W5, F109, A45

The "B" team always played with total heart and commitment even if the skill level was not at its peak. They thoroughly deserved their unbeaten record and demonstrated that there is not much to choose between the "A" and "B" teams. See later 'in depth' summary by Mr Proudlove.

Sports Centre

The Sports Hall continues to be used during the school day as an additional venue for Drama, PE and Games lessons. It is used for badminton as a Senior Games option every Wednesday afternoon as well as allowing additional extra-curricular activities eg every lunchtime it is the scene of competitive indoor football and cricket matches as well as netball and after school it is home to



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badminton, football and volleyball clubs. The Fitness Suite is well used by senior pupils during their Games afternoon and is available after school to pupils aged over 16, following an induction programme. In addition to the huge benefits to our pupils, the Sports Centre has just celebrated an outstanding first year of success in the community, including the partnership agreement with Premiership soccer club Coventry City FC, who cite us as their model Development Centre. We deliver a wide variety of sports courses on a block booking basis. Our Fitness Suite has also proved to be very popular with members, 45% of whom are female, who can 'work out' in relaxed, comfortable surroundings.

Special Assemblies

Canon Peter Nunn led our Remembrance assembly on 16th November. Prior to the service, accompanied by Martin Laird (chairman of the Longlevens Church Outreach Committee), he presented a yew tree to the School to commemorate the millennium. This was a 5 year old cutting taken from a tree which is over 2,000 years old. For one week in November the School listened to musical performances during assemblies. Owen Mason (accompanied by Malcolm Peckham) performed on the trombone and Nick Townsend (accompanied by Jonathan Phillips) performed on the flute. In our final assembly of term we welcomed Andy Deacon of Gloucester Rugby Club. Andy played for England 'A' last year and we are grateful to him for presenting our rugby cups and colours. Shown right is Andy amongst the winners of colours and merit awards while above Chris Smith receives his 1st XV colours and Tom Dixon, Nick O'Neil and Simon Moody show off their U13 Merit Award Certificates.



Parents' Association

The Parent's Association plays a very important part in the life of Sir Thomas Rich's School, helping to enhance the learning process and experience of our students.

Quiz Night

37 teams participated in December's Quiz Night, raising over £300 for the Parents' Association and £100 for the Venture Scouts through the raffle. The competition was won by 'Mixed Nuts' and a team from 10R carried off the Junior Shield.



Thanks go to Mr. Vaughan-Smith for running this very successful event and posing all those thought-provoking (and annoying!) little questions.

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Christmas Fayre

Another very popular Christmas Fayre was held this term. Many thanks to all who sold/purchased raffle tickets and to the many parents who contributed prizes and items for the stalls. Particular thanks to Mrs. Brown, the School Secretary, for her considerable assistance in organising the Fayre; to those parents who spent Saturday morning setting up the Hall in readiness and to all the parents who ran the Fayre during the afternoon. As ever it was a very successful and enjoyable event. Total funds raised for the Parents Association were £3,364.30.

Refreshment Mums

We remain indebted to the band of parents who unfailingly help at school events by providing refreshments. They are in action at Parents' Evenings, sports fixtures, the school play, 'Christmas by Candlelight' and all School functions. They do a magnificent job, their efforts are greatly appreciated.



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THE HARBOUR

The tall ship sailed into the harbour like mist in the canal

Its sails fluttered in the wind.

Masts rattled like bones of a skeleton.

The crews of the ships scuttled round like tiny ants.

Clouds rolled overhead,

Seagulls calling to one another.

Waves lapped onto the quay like a cat drinking milk.

A horn blew out across the harbour.

An engine roared like thunder.

A small fishing boat chugged out to sea.

Crates being loaded onto ships.

As darkness fell, lights flicked on like small fireflies.

It started to rain steadily like snow,

Boats began to rock like babies cradles -

A storm approached like a predator hunting pray.

The wind howled around the buildings.

Suddenly it all went calm, the storm had passed

And the people of the harbour returned,

Hurrying around like lost animals.

Peter Richards 8T

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Language College

The Department for Education and Employment announced on 20th January that our application for Language College status had been approved. The sponsorship we raised together with a DfFE grant of £100,000 will fund the building of a new Language Centre. Additional annual funding will enable us to purchase the latest technology to support language learning as well as the provision of a wider range of languages.

Our plans include the teaching of Spanish in Year 9 as an alternative to German and both Gujarati and Spanish to GCSE and 'A' level. We shall also investigate suitable Modern Language modules that could be studied in our Sixth Form General Studies programme. We shall become a centre of expertise for language teaching, working with local primary and secondary schools to help their languages provision.

It is important to stress that this enhancement of our Languages teaching will not interfere with other subjects. Our aim continues to be to provide all pupils with a well-rounded education and we shall continue to strive to achieve the highest standards in all subjects.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

A new cohort of participants began the various activities needed for the award. Training sessions started in January and included work on the country code, navigation and preparation of route-cards. In March the unit took part in an orienteering day with participants being sponsored to raise funds for expedition equipment. A First Aid course in March and April taught by the St. John's Ambulance people was staged for the Service section of the award. The boys undertook a wide selection of activities for their Skills & Physical Recreation sections of the award. As always thanks go to parents and friends who gave up their spare time to assess these. Thanks also to Ms Adamson, Mr. Crewe, Mr. Proudlove and Mr. Symmons for their help and expertise.

House Events

This was a busy term for inter-House competitions. The House Swimming Galas were keenly contested with all races of very high quality. Northgate won the Junior Gala from Eastgate, Westgate and Southgate. New records were set by Andrew Mellon (Year 7 front crawl), Timothy Dodwell (Year 9 breaststroke), David MacArthur (Year 8 backstroke), Oliver Howley (Year 8 breaststroke) and the Eastgate Year 8 freestyle and medley relay teams.

In the Senior Gala Eastgate won from Northgate, Southgate and Westgate. Records were recorded by Chris Auld (two lengths front crawl), Michael Thomas (four lengths front crawl), Lee Bell (two lengths backstroke), Darren Thompson (four lengths breaststroke and butterfly), James Taylor (two lengths breaststroke), Ben Dabbs (four lengths breaststroke) and Eastgate's medley and freestyle relay teams.

Mr. Dempsey organised the House General Knowledge Quiz. The junior event was won by Eastgate from Northgate, Westgate and Southgate. In the senior event the top two positions were reversed.

The House Music Competition was held on Wednesday 9th February in front of a Year 9 audience. The four categories - Junior Solo, Junior Ensemble, Senior Solo and Open were all keenly contested with some outstanding performances amongst the twenty items. Congratulations to all who took part and also to those who organised their House's entry. The final result was 1st Eastgate (66 points), 2nd Northgate (59 points), 3rd Westgate (57 points), 4th Southgate (53 points).

Review of the School Year 1999 to 2000 - Spring Term

The Junior House Soccer competition resulted in victories for Southgate in Year 9, Northgate in Year 8 and Northgate and Eastgate shared the spoils in Year 7. The combined results meant Northgate and Southgate were top equal, followed by Eastgate, then Westgate.

Year 7 Events

A five-a-side football tournament for Year 7 was held in the Sports Hall one Sunday, organised and run by Year 10 pupils. This event gave the boys a chance to show their sporting prowess, whilst helping to raise funds for The Year 10 expedition to Morocco. Congratulations to all teams. Players acquitted themselves admirably. The final was between 7R Team 'A' and 7B Team 'A'. A closely fought battle ended in a 2-2 draw, which 7R then won on penalties. The winning squad was Lewis Barnard, Kaj David, Kevin Ellis, Christopher Lock, Germaine Malcolm and Matthew Wright and the runners-up were Nicholas Davies, Andrew Erskine, Benjamin Grimer, Aled Jones, Daniel Kelly and Andrew Mellon. Later in the term Mr Crewe and Mr Morgan accompanied 48 boys to try out their skills on the climbing walls and bouldering room at The Warehouse in Gloucester.

Debating Society

The Society had quite a busy term. Some outspoken contributions enlivened a rather topical debate about the future of the possibly dis-United Kingdom. In a more measured way members discussed the 'honeymoon' period of the Blair administration. A "Call My Bluff" event, pitting staff against pupils was also staged. The end of term saw the annual House Public Speaking competition take place. Among the issues debated were whether music brings more benefits than sport and whether we should support the quest by some scientists to discover the key to prolonging human life indefinitely – see report later.

Oxford & Cambridge

Three members of our Upper Sixth were offered places at Oxford and Cambridge Universities, following very strong applications and successful interviews. The successful three were: Paul Baker (left), to read Mathematics at University College, Oxford; Christopher Rann (centre), to read Land Economy at Fitzwilliam College Cambridge; Thomas Plant (right), to read Natural Sciences at Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

Supermarket Vouchers

Once again the school benefited from the Tesco and Sainsbury's school computer voucher schemes. Mr A Smith & Mr Peffers were able to take delivery of another brand new computer workstation for use in the D&T department. Thanks to all parents for collecting the reward vouchers for the school – we look forward to another successful scheme next year!

Individual Achievements

Christopher Davies (9R) won the silver medal in the 'AAA' Indoor Championships for the U15 800 metres. Running in the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham, Christopher



missed out on the gold medal by just three tenths of a second.

Nicholas Walkley (10R) was selected to play in the prestigious National Youth Brass Band from April.

Ivor Annetts (who left last summer) was the first Richian to gain a place with 'The Year in Industry' scheme.

Clive Stuart-Smith (6C - right), despite being a year young, captained the Gloucestershire Schools U18 rugby team and the South West of England; Clive went on to play for the winning England U18 'A' side against Wales 'A'; a fortnight later he was called into the full England squad for their match against Ireland;

David Edwards and Shaun Hopkins (10S) were both selected for the Gloucester District U15 rugby team.

Kevin Ellis (7R) was selected for Bristol Rovers U12 team for a tournament in Amsterdam during the Easter holidays.



Malcolm Peckham (6C) won the first round of the National Chamber Music Competition in Monmouth with his piano quartet. They then went on to win the regional semi-final in March and hence Malcolm became one of four winners (from the 300 groups who took part in the competition) to play in a concert at St. Martin-in-the Fields in London.

Michael Thomas (6H - left) who played for the Great Britain Junior water polo team in Barcelona in February, then in Prague in March, in preparation for the European Championships in Turkey.

Cotswold Marathon

Several members of our Venture Scout Unit - the 44th Gloucester (STRS) - took part in this gruelling weekend event. The full marathon is forty miles, of the 165 entrants only 53 completed, the first of whom was our Mr Griffiths. The fastest team and winners of the Lowry Trophy were Old Richians Dan Wright and James Harley with Mr Lloyd, the unit's new Assistant Leader. The Senior Team winners were Joe Charles and Oliver Scarf (who left Rich's last year) with Mr. Griffiths and Adam Griffiths. Both Will Godwin and Chris Smith also managed to complete the course, D. Clifford completed 27 miles before retiring. S. Beddows, D. Stephens and P. Hillier (Longlevens Venture Scouts) won the Junior Section. The 'Half Marathon' for Scouts, at a mere 20 miles, also found most of the 165 entrants wanting, 63 completed the course. Matthew Key (11B) and Giles Moorhead (11C) finished in just over ten hours. P. Beddows (11T) was a member of the second-placed Longlevens Venture Scouts team. In total the School's Venture Scouts amassed 12 trophies, a most commendable achievement.

Indoor Cricket

The Indoor Cricket season ended with the final of the Knock-out Cup between Team G, a Year 11 squad led by Alistair Woodman, and Team F, the staff representatives. In a closely fought and keenly competitive match, Team G came out on top, primarily through their exemplary fielding, which produced three crucial run outs. In the first round of the Cup, Team G had also knocked out the favourites, Team B, led by Lewis Cook. Team B had previously carried all before them, winning all six of their League fixtures and so were worthy winners of that title. They eventually totalled 111 points out of a possible

maximum of 120, so their winning margin was fairly comfortable. The Indoor Cricket League had a brand new venue this year, being held in the new Sports Hall, which in itself brought a different challenge to all the players, giving rather more space for the fielders to cover than they had been used to in the Gym. As a result, the matches were generally more high-scoring, allowing batsmen a little more time to place their shots, although some did complain about the yellow ball being difficult to see! Special mention should go to Patrick Green and Jon Mayes for their consistent batting and bowling performances but every player who participated will hopefully have enjoyed the experience and benefited from the practice prior to the outdoor season.

Upper Sixth Geography Field Trip To Snowdonia

In early March the Upper Sixth completed their 'A' Level fieldwork with a trip to Snowdonia, based in the comfortable, modern surroundings of Conwy Youth Hostel. Fair, mild weather contrasted markedly with 1999's deep snow so features of glacial erosion and deposition were more easily investigated this year. Mrs Row led the group along Wales' most spectacular glacial valley, Nant Ffrancon, introducing students to protalus ramparts, riegels, roche moutonnees and varves (see an Upper Sixth Geographer for a translation!). The visit concluded with an hour-long walk in the massive natural amphitheatre of Cwm Idwal gouged out of volcanic rocks by a glacier over 300 metres thick. A young scientist by the name of Charles Darwin was the first to ascribe a glacial origin to Cwm Idwal. Its huge, dark and rather forbidding atmosphere made for a memorable end to a very successful trip.

Junior Soccer

U13 - P9, W3, L6, F-30, A-31

A season which was very frustrating. The team was not consistent and in many matches conceded goals through poor concentration, weak defending and a lack of pace. The team has lots of potential and will improve by working hard to eliminate its weaknesses.

U14 - P11, W8, D2, L1, F51, A17

It has been a successful season in which the boys have grown in confidence. Achievements include a 3-1 win at Newent, nine goal victories against Brockworth and Monmouth, a six goal display from James Kenny against Crypt and the 5-1 defeat of St. Peter's to qualify for the final of the Gloucester Schools Cup. The boys continue to develop their football skills and mature physically - they will be a very strong Rich's side in the future, particularly if they can approach games with a bit more cohesion, working and encouraging each other as a team.

Under 15 - P10, W5, D1, L4, F28, A23

The Under 15s enjoyed a pleasing and successful season, especially following last year when they failed to register a win. They achieved this transformation by learning to compete in a positive fashion and playing to their strengths. Confidence grew from this and apart from defeat by Churchdown, they proved they were capable of playing well against good quality opposition. The undoubted highlight of the season came in the 3-0 win at Beaufort, which was close to the complete team performance and went a long way to avenge their 6-1 defeat from the previous year. Even the 6-2 defeat by Central in the semi-final of the City Cup was no disgrace, with many positive aspects coming in their spirited attitude. Special credit was due to the captain, Philip Knight, for his invaluable leadership and commitment throughout the season.

Senior Soccer

It has proved a busy and successful term for our Senior football teams. The First XI enjoyed an outstanding season winning ten of their eleven fixtures. Their only reverse was an extra-time defeat in the semi-final of the County Cup. The team scored forty goals and key strikers are available again next year, which augurs well. The Second XI won three of their five fixtures, including emphatic wins against Monmouth School and RGS Worcester. The sixteen goals they scored were ample evidence of their attacking style. Third XI fixtures against Monmouth and RGS Worcester allowed more Richians to display their skills. A win and a draw ensued.

National Schools Swimming Championships

The finals of these Championships took place at Crystal Palace. Our medley team and freestyle team had qualified through earlier rounds held last autumn. Both teams swam well in their heats but, swimming against very strong teams in a 50-metre pool, they were unable to achieve one of the eight fastest times required to reach the final. Nevertheless the boys did extremely well to get so far. Thanks to Mr Passey for taking the teams to all the rounds and congratulations to the swimmers: Ben Dabbs, Lee Bell, James Taylor, Darren Thompson (all Year 11) and James Farley (Year 10).

Rugby

Year 7 'A' Team : P7, W3, L4; F-72, A-153

This has been a difficult season for a relatively inexperienced team. Early defeats to Bournside and Bristol Grammar could have demoralised the team. However they all stuck to the task and showed good spirit especially in defence. They will need to support each other more in attack and learn to play as a team rather than trying to take on the opposition on their own. As a result of this individual approach many scoring opportunities were lost and the efforts of the team were undermined. Despite this the team can reflect on their positive approach and commitment to training which has helped them develop throughout the season.

Year 7 'B' Team : P6, W2, D1, L3; F-137, A-128

In spite of suffering the fate common to all 'B' teams of never really being able to establish a settled side, everyone who played showed great heart and commitment to the team cause. Ably led by Harry Windsor and under the guidance of Mr. Lloyd's coaching they made very good progress from their first game against Bournside, in which their tremendous enthusiasm didn't quite compensate for their lack of experience and naivete in match situations, through to their thrilling 22-22 draw at Chosen Hill and final high scoring victory against Newent.

Senior Sevens

The team had tournaments at Marling and Wycliffe College. In the Marling tournament the School made it into the semi-final where they were well beaten by a strong Bournside team 25-7. This was followed by a disappointing performance in the first of the Wycliffe tournaments where the School did not make it past the early rounds.

The third tournament was the Gloucestershire School Cup, also held at Wycliffe College. In a tough league the School played well and showed both spirit and skill. After 29-10 and 28-19 wins respectively over Castle and QEH, they completed the league stage to move to the semi-finals with an excellent 12-7 victory against a strong Colston's team. Then against the home team the School struggled to get into any rhythm and only just

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managed to win 20-17. This took them into a final against Bournside who had beaten them at Marling. However the School were determined to correct the balance and battled to a deserved 12 - 7 victory.

Playwrights

C. Blinman, A. Day, O. Howley and S. Johnson (all 8R) received a letter of congratulation from playwright David Griffiths after Mr. Pickard sent him a copy of their work, inspired by exploration of the slapstick Commedia style of theatre. This included a study of his comedy *Flavio's Disgrace* (the theme of our Year 8 Arts Week two years ago).

Sixth Form French Exchange

Early in the term eight members of the Lower Sixth French group played host to their exchange partners from Tourcoing in North Eastern France. This was the second year of our association with the Lycée Gambetta and the relationship has been a very positive one. Seven boys and one girl from Rich's then spent a week of the Easter holiday with their French partners and families. The programme of activities include visits to Lille, Paris and the European Parliament in Brussels.

Staff Departures - Mrs Banyard

We were sorry to lose the services, at the end of March, of Mrs. Banyard who was one of our team of Science Technicians. Mrs. Banyard moved to a similar post at Wycliffe College, which was closer to home. She had been a great asset to the School - her work, which was based in the Chemistry Department, was a great support to our teaching. We wish her well in her new position.

Charities

Over the course of the term the School raised almost £600 from the weekly collections for 'Save the Children'. Their Regional Director, Andrew Hugman, spoke to the School in assembly about their work, preceded by four Year 11 GCSE Drama students who performed an appropriate introduction. Well done to Simon Moody and Nicholas O'Neil (8B) who undertook a sponsored swim and raised £237 for the BBC 'Children in Need' Appeal. During the last two weeks of term Craig Brignall, Nick Shipley and Dexter Bradley raffled a giant Cadbury's Easter Egg which created a fantastic response. Over 500 tickets were sold raising around £50 for the Chernobyl Children's Project. This charity was launched seven years ago. It was set up in response to a nuclear explosion that occurred in 1986 at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in the Ukraine. Tonnes of radioactive material were thrown into the air and 70% of these substances fell over the population of Belarus. This has left over a million children at risk of developing cancer.

Nepal

The School's link with Nepal was maintained by Mark Little, who left our Upper Sixth last summer. He reported having a great time in Pakhribas, helping at a school which is part of a British research centre, from which may be had fantastic views of Makalu, the fifth highest mountain in the world. He visited the capital Kathmandu (via an eighteen hour bus trip), took a three-day bike tour visiting Buddhist temples, saw the Langtang range plus Everest on the flight back.

Year 7 Rivers Fieldwork - Forest Of Dean

On two very contrasting days 119 pupils investigated how even a small river makes significant changes to the landscape in which it flows. 7S and 7R encountered steady rain and a turbulent river in spate. The only change in the weather was when it began

to sleet! 7T and 7B were far more fortunate, basking in glorious spring sunshine that brightly illuminated the “Bonio” dog biscuits as they floated downstream to measure river velocity. Whatever the atmospheric conditions this remains a really popular field trip. Thanks are due to Mrs Row for organising it all so well.

Globetrotters

Globetrotters were busy being quiet this term in order to raise funds for the Mozambique Flood Appeal. The country, four times the size of the UK, was in effect cut in two by muddy water up to 5m deep in places and 50km wide. The flood left a layer of silt over everything, making homes unfit to live in and drinking wells unusable. People were desperate for water, healthcare and food. 50,000 people still remain unaccounted for.

Forty two members of Sir Thomas Rich's Globetrotters club embarked on a 12 hour sponsored silence and two club members (Andrew Day and Chris Burgess right) tackled a sponsored cycle ride around the Forest. Said geography teacher Melissa Row, who set up Globetrotters: *“It is important that pupils understand how privileged they are and one way of showing their appreciation of this is by helping others less fortunate. When such disasters occur as that of Mozambique they*

are discussed by most whom watch the television or read the newspapers. Globetrotters aim to do more than just watch or read – they want to play their part”.



A cheque for £1565.45 was presented to the Regional Representative for Oxfam, Mr Michael Williams. Mr Williams gave a short talk in assembly giving thanks to all those who contributed and worked hard to raise the funds. The cheque was presented by Thomas Shorney of 7S. Congratulations to all Globetrotters involved. Pictured here are some of the ‘silent crew’ from year 7 - from left to right - Josh Wilcock,

Tom Shorney, Will Bradley, Andrew Hibberd, John Stafford and seated Iqbal Topia.

Music

This year's Spring Concert was held on 14th March. An appreciative audience heard a variety of music played by the Orchestra, Wind Band, String Group and many smaller ensembles and solos. Mr J Thompson, Head of Music commented, *“As always, I admire the way the pupils respond so well to the challenge of a concert - from a Year 7 soloist to a Year 13 member of the trombone quartet. My only slight disappointment is that there are not more people to come and support the musicians on such occasions.”*

Mr Pickard, Nicholas Townsend and Rosemary Stanley gave a presentation of early music at Richard Pate School in Leckhampton as part of the School's music week.

Associated Board Instrumental examinations resulted in passes for Geoffrey Coombs

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(Flute Grade 5), Rosemary Stanley (Alto Sax Grade 6), Adam Gardner (Trombone Grade 5), Nicholas Walkley (Percussion Grade 8). Guildhall examinees Lewis Ferneyhough (Flute Grade 6) and Richard Grant (Alto Sax Grade 7) also both passed.

Romeo and Juliet

A large contingent of mainly sixth form students staged a performance of this under the direction of Mrs E Stanley who said: *"Twenty years from now the cast will still remember the experience of being in "Romeo and Juliet". They've been wonderfully committed and they've gained an in-depth understanding of Shakespeare which will, I'm sure, enrich them for the rest of their lives."*

Annecy Exchange

After months of electronic and conventional communication twelve Year 9 and 10 boys finally set off on a journey to meet up with their exchange partners in Annecy. They spent two weeks as guests of the French families. Some managed to enjoy late-season winter sports, although the icy waters of the picturesque Lac d'Annecy deterred all but the foolhardy swimmer! The visit included the obligatory reception at the Town Hall and words of welcome from the Mayor of Annecy.

House Drama

The House Drama competition this year covered a wide range of dramatic styles. Northgate won with a surreal piece about a clown on trial; Eastgate were second with a comic 'feminist' version of Joseph; Westgate third with a Japanese 'noh' play and Southgate fourth with a realistic school drama. Each year the producers learn afresh that it's organisation skills that win House Drama. Chris Holder of Northgate deserves to be commended for his efficiency in getting his cast to rehearsals and Kate Poole of Eastgate got together a splendid array of costumes and props as well as finding a very funny script. Many pupils from the junior forms made a really impressive effort for House Drama and we look forward to seeing them perform in future school productions.

Work Experience 2000

In late March over ninety Lower Sixth students went out on a week's Work Experience. The type of placements varied greatly, ranging from engineering to commercial pilot training. The School is very grateful to all employers who were kind enough to offer places to our students. The comments which the School received from the employers were highly complimentary about our students. Next year's Lower Sixth Work Experience will take place from 25th to 29th June and if any parents have connections with local organisations and can offer a placement Mr Lloyd would be pleased to hear from you.

Table Tennis

The season closed with three school teams having mixed success in the Gloucester Table Tennis Association League. The 'A' team finished in mid-table in Division 5. Thanks to Mrs Kirby for organising the team. The 'B' team had the greatest success, finishing second in Division 6 and hence earning promotion. Well done to all the players and thanks to Matthew Mulcahy for managing the team. They enjoyed even greater success in the GTTA Handicap Competition, defeating all opponents comfortably and winning the Cup. Well done to the team of M. Meecham (ex-STRS), M. Webber (6C), M. Mulcahy (9R) and P. Kellie (11B). The young 'C' team gained in confidence and became stronger as the season progressed; they have all benefited from their first year of competition. Thanks to Mrs. Bennett for organising this team.

Success for individual players came in the County Schools Championship where Andrew Shaw (6G) won the U19 competition. Tom Burdell (9R) reached the semi-finals in the U16 event but showed his tremendous improvement this year by winning the GTTA U15 championship.

Cross Country

The key event of the term was the RGS Worcester Spring relays in which the senior team finished fourth overall after leading the race until the last leg. Simon Kellie recorded the second fastest lap of the day in a time of 5 min 53 sec. The junior team finished ninth overall in their race. The juniors had a number of races against RGS Worcester during the term. A Year 9 team beat their hosts, with Mark McBride winning in style, while the Year 7 team led by Kevin Ellis won their race. Numerous pockets of talent appear to be present throughout the School. If there was greater continuity and those with potential all represented their respective teams, then results would be more rewarding.

Lower League Supporters Club

Mr J Symmons a keen follower of lower league football himself and driving force behind this club writes – *“The club has been to four fixtures this term enjoying games in all Divisions of the Nationwide League and an Autoglass Windscreen Cup match! The football has varied in quality but has always been interesting - memorable events include experiencing the excitement of Bristol Rovers and Manchester City fans as they push for promotion and the passion of watching Cheltenham Town away from home. The boys who have attended the games have enjoyed themselves immensely, impressing not only with their high standards of behaviour but also their knowledge of the beautiful game. I am pleased to not be the only football anorak at Rich’s!”*

Worldwise Quiz

A school team entered the Geographical Association's National Schools Quiz. They won the local round, held at RGS Worcester in November, and so represented the area in the Midlands Final at Stone, Staffordshire. The team comfortably won the eliminator round when the competition quickly became fiercer. It was almost three hours later, and only on the very final question, that victory was secured. In an incredibly tense and exciting contest Nicholas Jones (11B), Jonathan Taylor and Andrew Westlake (both 11T) showed tremendous knowledge and



poise under extreme pressure. Their geography teacher Mrs Row said: *“It has been a great experience for all three boys who have worked well together, complementing each other’s strengths and weaknesses. To reach the last twelve from 500 schools which entered is a tremendous achievement.”* In the national final held at Birmingham University just before Easter Rich’s proved to be the best in the preliminary, map interpretation round, scoring fourteen out of fifteen points. Teams were then sorted into three semi-finals. Rich’s drew extremely strong opposition yet from the outset they pulled away with only with only North of England champions Queen Elizabeth Grammar school matching their points tally. Great poise and an impressive range of

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knowledge were displayed but after an hour of nail-biting competition Rich's were just pipped at the post by Queen Elizabeth Grammar School. Andrew Westlake, Jonathan Taylor and Nicholas Jones were all great ambassadors for the school. They demonstrated teamwork, flair and a wide array of geographical understanding that brought themselves and the school great credit. Well done to all three!

Business Competition

Seven Lower Sixth Business Studies students represented Sir Thomas Rich's in the annual CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) Management Challenge, held in Cheltenham Town Hall last month. The simulation involved managing a County Council's budget for a year. They produced a ten page report and gave a ten minute presentation under severe time pressure whilst dealing with unexpected crises as and when they occurred. The team worked professionally throughout and won the prize for the best presentation, which the judge described as far and away the most accomplished of the day. Well done to all team members: S. Carroll, G. Moon, G. Penter, J. Prestwich, J. Reid and D. Wynne.

STR5STR5STR5STR5STR5STR5STR5STR5STR5STR5STR5

FEAR OF LIFE

***I cowered in fear in the corner;
the sound came nearer, like
lightning.***



***I thought I was safe there, but
no such luck in hand for innocent little me.***

I closed my eyes and dreaded what was to happen to me next.

I just flickered open my eyes, wanting to have a peep, and a horrible sight met them.



I shut them quickly, just as I felt two evenly sized objects fall into my hand.

I threw the things away, shaking all over in fear.

“Come on, pay up, you landed on my hotel at Park Lane” say Gary with a hint of sarcasm in his voice.

Monopoly was definitely not my favourite game!

Michael Joyce 8T

STR5STR5STR5STR5STR5STR5STR5STR5STR5STR5STR5STR5

From out of the mouths of babes....

Sometimes what you write doesn't quite reflect what you meant to say. Here are a few choice selections of examination paper gaffes from this year's crop

“Bishops were high up in the Great Chain of Being because of their impotence.”

"The population had entered a boom period - it was a vicious circle revolving around children and money."

"Hitler was great prop for his country."

"The League of Nations decided that Germany should have a disabled army."

Founder's Day

The School gathered in Holy Trinity Church to celebrate our foundation by Sir Thomas Rich in 1666. We welcomed the High Sheriff of Gloucestershire, Major John Eyre with Mrs Eyre, the Mayoress of Gloucester, Mrs Carol Handcock, the Sheriff



of Gloucester, Councillor Terry Haines and the County's Assistant Director of Education, Tony Saunders. The Service was conducted by Canon Peter Nunn MBE and the address was given by Mr Donald Moss (Head of Classics at Rich's 1968-1997) who drew upon the lives of several 'characters' who have influenced the traditions and lives of pupils of the school. Founder's Day is an important occasion in the School year - it gives us the opportunity to remember our traditions and to take pride in our distinguished history.

Music

The dominant feature of this term's music programme was undoubtedly Handel's "Messiah" which was performed by the School Choir and Orchestra on Wednesday 10th May to a packed Holy Trinity Church, Longlevens. Supported by invited soloists, Susan Black (Soprano), Simon Tottman (Alto), Mark Davies (Tenor) and Peter Raynes (Bass) the performance was hailed by everyone as one of the best concerts ever given by the Choir. The soloists, who all sing professionally, admitted that at times they had to pinch themselves to remind them they were singing with an amateur school choir. Praise indeed - but certainly most deserved! To top it off, the School's Trombone Quartet led by Mr Phil Cowley who won the wind ensemble open event at last year's Cheltenham Competitive Festival, repeated their success this year - an outstanding achievement for Rich's musicians. Well done to Chris Smith, Tom Plant and Owen Mason.

House Cross Country Results

Year	1st	2nd	3rd
7	K Ellis	J Stafford	T Meadows
8	T Dalton	P Hanson	C Gallant
9	C Davies	M Adlam	C Mooney
10	M Short	M Smith	R Parker
11+	S Kellie	P Kellie	G Kirby



Lower Sixth Higher Education Planning

Lower Sixth Higher Education Planning continued apace. A half-day conference in school considered several questions: What are admissions tutors looking for? How does the interview process work? How difficult is the transition to university life? How can I make best use of the Careers Department in School? Looking slightly further ahead, Dr. John Ash, Director of Admissions at Birmingham University, gave students an insight into what skills employers hope to discover in young graduates. Tony Higgins, UCAS Chief Executive, offered parents and students fascinating insight into the application process and answered their many questions with unique authority. A further planning session was devoted to completing the UCAS form with particular reference to the strategy involved in selecting institutions. Finally, a visit was arranged to the

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Higher Education Fair at Malvern that allowed students to discuss issues with Schools' Liaison Officers and acquire prospectuses.

U16 Soccer

The U16 team reached the final of the City Cup by a convincing win over St. Peters 5-2. Unfortunately in the final held at Gloucester City the team did not play to their full potential and lost 2-0 to Brockworth.

Sports Day

We enjoyed a very successful Sports Evening during early June. Thanks to Mr Gallagher's careful planning and the support of all staff who played vital roles marshalling, starting, measuring, judging, scoring, manning PA systems, etc families and friends of the participating athletes were treated to some splendid competition with several records tumbling during the evening. Pictured right is Daniel Tingle receiving the Athletics Trophy from Headmaster Mr Kellie on behalf of the overall winners Eastgate.



Honours

The highest award that the School can give to any pupil is Honours. These are awarded to a small number of pupils who have made an outstanding contribution towards school life. The following students who are all members of the Upper Sixth deservedly received their Honours this term : Jonathan Phillips, for contributions to School music and drama; Thomas Plant, for contributions to School music, drama and fencing; Christopher Smith, for contributions to School music, sport and the Venture Scouts; Michael Webber, for contributions to debating, public speaking and table tennis.

Year 10 Morocco Tour - 27th May to 3rd June

Over half term twelve boys from Year 10 together with Mr Pack and Mr Symmons spent a fascinating week in the Souss Valley, east of Agadir. Staying in the beautiful, fortified town of Taroudannt - very traditional and largely untouched by tourism - trips were made to the medina and Kasbah of Agadir, the palmery at Tioute, the Souss estuary and a variety of farms along the valley. Excursions were also made to the wonderful landscapes of the High and Anti-Atlas Mountains. The drive along the Tiz n Test pass to a height of 2100m will linger long in the memory, as will Mr Pack's discovery of a scorpion en route! Being able to contrast the Berber villages, isolated in the mountains, with Taroudannt and the glossy tourist resort of Agadir helped the boys understand the vast differences in development within the country. In addition they returned with many powerful memories of Morocco - the unremitting heat, haggling in the souqs, the fascinating culture and the very friendly people included. The trip was highly successful, for which the boys are commended for their good behaviour and humour.

First Car Boot Sale at STRS

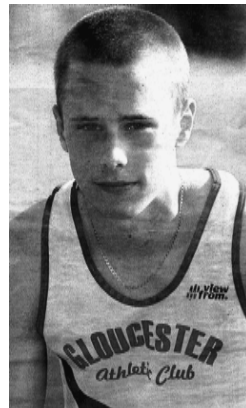
..... and what a success!! We had 54 boots (forty pre-booked) and over 395 people turned up on the day. In total we raised a fantastic £342.37 towards our new minibus.

Year 7 Activities

At half term forty boys and four staff went to Paris, making a brief stop at Disneyland. A great time was had by all with the trip including sightseeing in Paris, a visit to the Science museum and the Louvre - see later for report.

Individual Achievements

Christopher Davies (9R), Peter Kellie (11B) and Nicholas Shipley (9R) represented Gloucestershire in the English Schools Athletics Championships at Sheffield. Chris finished 5th in the Junior 800m, Peter 4th in the Intermediate 1500m Steeplechase and Nick ran a personal best time in the Junior 400m. Christopher Davies (right) also had several successes running for Gloucester Athletics Club and a bright future beckons at middle distance running.



David MacArthur (8R) gained three silver and two bronze medals in the County Swimming Championships then represented Gloucestershire in the backstroke and relay in a Three Counties Competition in Droitwich.

Ben Rodford (11R) reached the semi finals in the Fawley Cup for Junior Quad Sculls at Henley. He thus gained selection for the Anglo-French match. Ben also finished 5th in the Mens Junior 16 Single Scull event.

Nicholas Walkley (10R) who played cornet in The Flowers Band when they performed a specially composed fanfare for Prince Charles at the opening ceremony of the £97m “@Bristol” millennium project at Bristol Docks.

Dominic Wynn-Sands (10S) was selected to attend a coaching course at the Chinese National Table Tennis Centre at Beijing. Dominic will be the only westerner at the Centre, currently being used by the Chinese National squad.

Crest Awards

Each year the Design and Technology department nominates pupils for the national CREST awards, given in recognition of high quality project work. Gold, Silver and Bronze awards are available according to the complexity of work, the quality of idea, the level of craftsmanship and the amount of industrial liaison in the case of a gold award. The scheme is supported locally by SATRO (Science and Technology Regional Organisation) and local businesses. Five pupils represented the School at the awards ceremony at DuPont's Woodlawn facility. They were: David Leung, Martyn Vallender and James Allison (Silver awards), Ashley Lewis and Toby Stewart (Bronze awards). The pupils displayed work and discussed their projects with parents and visitors along with other Gloucestershire schools involved in the scheme. A further 24 pupils in Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 received bronze awards this year: Peter Chapman, Sam Johnson, Joe Lumley (Year 8); Amar Shah, Adam Woodcock (Year 9); James Farley, Tim Grant, David Palmer, Nicholas Walkley, Nathan Whittaker, Tom Williams (Year 10); Robin Boyden, Ben Cross, Tom Dunford, Ben Dunkley, Jon Hemming, Elliott Hook, Chris Jonah, Chris Jones, Andrew Low, Giles Moorhead, Ben Nash, Adam Stokes, Paul Williams (all Year 11). Congratulations to all those students who received an award.

History

This month Year 7 pupils followed in the steps of the Roman legionnaires to Corinium

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(Cirencester). Combined with a visit to Chedworth Roman Villa, boys gained a deeper knowledge of life in the province of Britannia.

Charity Collections

This term the selected charity was Mencap. The generosity of the students resulted in over £250 being collected. The total amount of money collected for charity this school year has been over £1,500. A special thanks to Daniel Newman (6G) and all his helpers who have administered the weekly collections so effectively this year.

Catering

We shall have a change of caterers from September. 'Alliance in Partnership' have the new contract to provide our food, their proposals offer "more choice and better value". Time will tell!!

Cricket

1st XI - P5, W2, D1, L1 (1 game abandoned)

The problems of unavailability due to examinations meant that the team changed constantly. This enabled many players to experience 1st XI cricket and offered the chance to develop some younger talent. In particular Tom Moseling and Raihan Bhaiyat of Year 10 showed a good potential in their two matches.

Results :

-v- Rendcomb - Match Drawn

STRS - 196 for 6 (Bobat 42, Diett 47); Rendcomb - 158 for 8

-v- Crypt - Won by 6 wkts

Crypt - 36 all out (Sherwood 3 for 3, Rayer 3 for 2); STRS - 37 for 4

-v- Worcester 6th Form College - lost by 5 wkts

STRS - 201 for 9 (Mayes 53, Davies 29); Worcester - 203 for 5

-v- Kings - Match abandoned due to rain

Kings - 179 for 9 (Hardcastle 4 for 68)

-v- Marling - Won by 6 wkts

Marling - 113 for 9 (Moseling 4 for 17), STRS - 114 for 4 (Dielt 66)

U15 - P4, W1, L3

In a season much curtailed by the short term and poor weather, the U15s failed to emulate their excellent summer last year. The first game against Marling promised much, as Tom Moseling (5-36) and Raihan Bhaiyat (4-29) reduced Marling to 105 all out, Bhaiyat also contributing fifty unbeaten runs to reach the target. Limited overs defeats at King's and Newent followed. In the City Cup final against St. Peter's, only Jeff Hodges shone with the bat (25no) in a seventeen run defeat. More positive batting was needed in a disappointing season.

U13 - P6, W2, D1, L3

A season disrupted by poor weather, but despite this a total of six matches were played. The climax of the season was the Gloucester City Rotary Cup final which the side lost narrowly to Crypt. The season was mixed overall with the U13s displaying lots of promise but greater concentration is needed if matches are to be won. Oliver Howley displayed excellent qualities as captain.

U12 - P6, W4, L2

This year's U12s displayed enthusiasm, commitment and a considerable amount of potential in their cricket throughout the short season. They listened carefully and

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responded excellently to coaching advice in trying to better their individual skills and collective performances. They fittingly deserved the success they achieved in two competitions, winning through to the finals of the Calypso Cup and Gloucester City Schools Competition. The latter they won quite comfortably at the expense of rivals Crypt, while in the Calypso Cup they didn't really believe themselves equals to opponents Pates until too late in the game and lost by 37 runs. Irrespective of the games won or lost, it was the dedication and improvements shown by all of the cricket squad, many of whom knew that realistically team places were not likely to be theirs, that was the most rewarding highlight of coaching Year 7 this season.

Staff Changes

At the end of the term we said farewell to several members of staff :

Mrs C Stanley taught English part time for eight years and left to take a career break in order to spend more time with her family.

Mrs D Gladwell taught Mathematics and Physics part time for the last three years, she too wished to spend more time with her family.

Dr M Carr, our Head of Chemistry for the last four years, left to set up his own computer business.

Mr D Proudlove moved to become Head of Geography at Archway School. He started his teaching career at Rich's in 1996, soon becoming our Head of Geography.

Mr J Symmons moved to Holland. He too began his teaching here, joining us as a Geography teacher two years ago.

Mrs M Rowbotham left to take up the post of Head of Geography at Brockworth School, having taught Geography here since 1998.

We are indebted to each for their hard work and we wish them well.

We shall welcome the following new staff at the start of next academic year :

Mr R Sims will join us from St Benedict's School in Cheltenham to teach PE/Games and Geography;

Mr D Lewis comes to us from Beverley Grammar School, Yorkshire to teach English;

Mr J Buttle, from Tewkesbury School, will teach Physics;

Mr R Birkett from John Kyrle School, Ross will be Head of Chemistry and Mr D Stone, completing his teacher training at Bristol University will also teach Chemistry;

Mr D Gowler, who has qualified as a teacher at the University of the West of England and Mr I Maxfield, from London University, will teach Geography;

Mr A Hearn will join us from Severn Vale School to teach Spanish.

Additional staff changes : Mrs E Stanley will be Head of Eastgate, Mr M Parris will be Head of Westgate, Mr S Pack will be Head of Geography, Mrs M Cormack-Hicks will take on the new role of Assistant Head of Sixth Form, another new post is School Functions Organiser which Mr D Dempsey will undertake, Mr C Eva will re-join us part time to teach 'A' level Mathematics. Mrs Hewett will be our Language College Co-ordinator, she will develop links with partner primary and secondary schools, in connection with our Language College status. Last term we said farewell to Dr Mills, he has re-joined Bath University as a researcher. And earlier this term we bade farewell to Mr Griffiths who joined Gloucestershire Constabulary; we also welcomed Mr French who joined our team of Science Technicians.

THE SHIP

*The ship glided into the harbour like a model on the catwalk
At the back you could see the propeller making froth like a cappuccino
As the sun shone down it reflected off the side to create a mass of
burning fire
The horn sounded like an elephant in distress
It glided through the water as if it was almost flying
The people on deck wave but you could not see them well as the sun
shone so bright
The name of the ship was the HMS Grand, which I thought was rather
fitting
As it came closer you could see the smiling captain, his teeth as white
as paper
The horn sounded again but this time the elephant was more
distressed.
The ripples turned to small waves as the ship came much closer
Then all of a sudden it stopped and it was as if the ship had died
Off came the passengers - it had been a good holiday
The ship just stood there saying "I've done it again!"*

Joe De Saulles - 8T

STRESSSTRESSSTRESSSTRESSSTRESSSTRESSSTRESSSTRESSSTRESSSTRESS

Year 10 German Exchange

It is a long way to Göttingen by double deckers and the party had good reason to wonder why both English and German versions have such problems regulating the heating system on the upper deck. Will the EU one day succeed in bringing the cost of flying down to a level we could afford? This would indeed be progress.

Leaving the quickly forgotten discomfort of the journey behind, the group experienced several “firsts” this year, above all, a memorable trip to Berlin, including a visit to the Reichstag with its unique glass dome. We also enjoyed the special ceremonies associated with the opening of the season for boat journeys along the Weser river. This entailed the boat taking on figures from the legends and fairy tales of the Grimm brothers, in all their medieval finery and even involved Mrs Dawes and Mr Slinger playing parts in the re-enactment of scenes from the curious, not to say, brutal treatment of a famous (or infamous) figure from the region’s folklore, Dr. Eisenbart. Both subsequently recovered!

What made the most lasting impression on members of our group? Probably the apparent informality of school life and inevitably the early finishing time for the school day, usually 1.00pm (after a 7.50am start). There was also a comment on the way that

the community life of villages is still an important feature, as is conversation around the dinner table in most families ('Neighbours' does not rule!).

As for the linguistic benefits, these tend to come to fruition later. Such exchanges are more a matter of sowing the seeds but it must be said that several of the group made a particular effort this year to keep to the target language wherever possible.

Some of the "partnerings" worked particularly well and families are now in touch with offers of family to family exchanges. These have happened before and are an excellent bonus.

DJS with input from Jonathan Ellison, Edward James and Daniel Oldham

“Herrliche Grüße auf Trier!!” Austauschbesuch

During the summer half term holiday fourteen pupils (six from STRS) participated in a German exchange with a grammar school (Auguste – Viktoria) in Trier. We left from Gloucester in the early hours of the Saturday morning and headed by minibus to Heathrow where we caught the flight to Luxembourg. There we were met by our exchange partners for the final leg of the journey into Germany.



The weekend was spent at home with our families, discovering the way of life and getting to know our partners. We were made very welcome by everyone, especially in the school, where we took part in various lessons between Monday and Wednesday.

An important part of our programme consisted of interviews with people like the head of the town's youth service, a journalist and a police officer. We recorded these interviews and intend to use this material as the basis for topics in our oral exams in the Upper 6th.

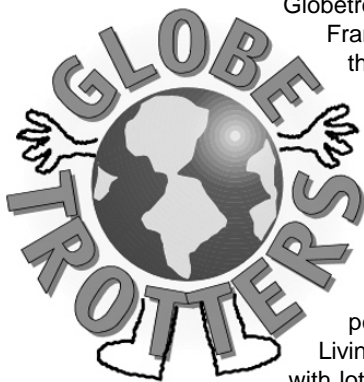
We loved the atmosphere in Trier, German's oldest town, which played such a vital role in the history of the Roman Empire. Among its many historic attractions are the magnificent Roman Porta Nigra (below) and amphitheatre. Trier really is a "must" for devotees of Roman culture. It also has the distinction of being the birthplace of Karl Marx and the hometown of Germany's 1998 Eurovision song Contest entrant.

The trip helped us enormously to improve our knowledge of German and German life. It boosted our confidence in speaking German and we left Trier with many happy memories, looking forward to hosting our partners later this autumn in Gloucester.

German Lower 6th set.

A great place to visit - especially during the annual Wein Fest!! - Ed.





Globetrotters enjoyed a busy time this year planning trips to France, Holland the infamous Millennium Dome. Despite the long journey to the Dome and the queues to many of the zones, Globetrotters and staff found the Dome to be interesting and enjoyable. There were two designated zones for each small group to visit, school presentations proved to be a great success. Each group provided Globetrotters with well thought out views and opinions. The Body Zone was voted by far the most boring, although I'm sure one and a half-hours queuing influenced this outcome. The most popular zones proved to be Timekeepers, Rest and Living Island, all of which provided fun learning experiences with lots of games!

The Holland trip was a brilliant learning experience for all of the thirty or so Globetrotters and staff who went. As well as studying land reclamation and flood protection schemes, we visited a diamond factory and the Anne Frank House.

Plenty of interesting club meetings involving presentations, talks and demonstrations by other members of staff and visiting guests were held during lunchtimes - trying to get 70-odd Globies plus speaker plus equipment into F5 has been a challenging puzzle at times!!

Towards the end of her time with us at Rich's we interviewed Melissa Row about this fantastically successful school society known as 'Globetrotters' which her driving passion for her subject had made so popular. Here is what Mrs Row had to say :



Melissa Row surrounded by a contingent of her 'Globies'

"When Globetrotters first started in '98 I was overwhelmed with the high numbers. Little did I know that numbers would climb to 78 within a year! It has been wonderful working with them - whether it be in the Forest of Dean, Brecon Beacons, Millennium Dome or Amsterdam. Staff that have helped have repeatedly commented on their high standards of behaviour and expectations of trips. Globetrotters have been keen to learn about Geography whenever and wherever. Here are a few reflections :-

Best Globetrotters Achievement - Raising funds for Mozambique

Most Educational Trip so far - Amsterdam, with visits to Anne Frank House (gave real insight as to the extent to which Jews suffered), land reclamation programmes and flood protection schemes (the amount of land reclaimed from the sea is enormous they know their geography obviously!)

Most disappointing trip - Has to be the 'great' Millennium Dome which many of the boys felt was a complete flop! Some queued for 2 hours to see a 5 minute attraction I'm sure this had much to do with their negative views expressed during their presentations.

Most difficult task - Encouraging Globetrotters to sleep at night and get up on time on all residential!!

Silliest Times - F5 parties! (Chumney Bunnies, etc....)

Best Team Game - Has to be when we all played at the Ajax stadium ... Mrs Row's team won of course - thanks lads!

Globetrotters most active members in making sure I do my job properly - Have to be Tom Shorney, John White, Jason Burgum, David Slaughter and Chris Rolfe to name but a few. Tom and John have set up the STRS Globetrotters website and Jason and committee members have continually briefed me with good ideas and helped with the administrative chores. (Thanks boys!).

'Thank-you's - The support from the Headmaster has been steadfast. The help and supervision given by many staff has enabled the club to remain popular. The activities and slide show presentations performed by staff have been enjoyed by all. Particular thanks to Ashley Burgum and pals for helping Globetrotters to take off in the first place. Special thanks to the Presidents, Vice-Presidents and committee members past and present for your great ideas and involvement. Finally thanks to the Globies who make up the club itself. You have been wonderful to work with and lead.

Greatest Expectations - That the new Geography teachers will already have Globetrotters on the move by the time this goes to print!"

**Mr Proudlove
demonstrates the
optimistic art of gold-
panning in F5 during a
lunchtime squeeze
meeting of the
Globetrotters**



South Africa Trip 20th - 28th April 2000

The trip started in ominous fashion at Gloucester bus station when Owen was approached by 2 police officers, who took his name and details down for “looking suspicious”. At the airport events continued their comic way when Mrs Row annoyed the porters by trying to enter the lift from the “No Entry” side. When we boarded the plane it transpired



that Alex (of the Lancaster variety) had never flown before and was to say the least a trifle nervous, especially as he was seated on his own away from the rest of us. A fellow traveller kindly swapped places to let me sit next to Adam. I tried to get some sleep but Alex was obviously not used to sleeping in confined spaces. I finally got to sleep but woke up later with Alex's elbow in my ear and a tray balanced on my head.

After a 12 hour flight we had arrived. On the bus to the terminal we got separated from the staff though 2 South Africans kindly (we think) offered us residence near Durban. Eventually rejoined the staff and met up with our driver for the holiday - John. We couldn't have wished for a better driver - as we shall see!

At the airport I also met Steven my friendly bank manager from back in Gloucester.

We then started off towards Pilansberg. En route John spotted two elephants wandering around near the road and he stopped for us to get real close - a breath-taking moment. Once arrived at our residence we settled in and before tea went on a wander around the camp, seeing some impala. Later that evening we were taken on a night drive, the

blackness of the night being punctured by reflections from animals eyes, some of which belonged to impala caught in the open in the headlight's glare. Mrs Row and Graham S. then held an eye counting competition - most of which turned out to be fire-flies anyway! So ended the first day.



Day two. We awoke early to a glorious morning and went tracking with John and the “Great White Hunter” - we were shown how to track and taken to a poacher's den - there had been 3 poachers operating from there with an LMG and a rifle. Then we were split into ‘poachers’ and ‘trackers’. I was a tracker. The poachers led by Mr Proudlove had a head start but soon after we had started tracking them we saw them, gave chase, nearly ran into a pool before capturing Mr Proudlove.

The others however made their escape and we lost the trail. We later picked up their trail again around a stream but it was slow and hard work..

In the afternoon we went to Sun City. My group - Scott, Tom, Owen and Graham - went swimming, ring floating (until Scott torpedoed us!), down the Death Slide and in the ring corral. Everyone had a terrific time, though Matt lost his camera. I met Steve again (so that's what these bankers do with our money!!). Afterwards we went to a lion sanctuary and were allowed to hold a lion cub. We spent the evening around the camp and John sorted out the problem of portion size with the meals by ordering the native cook to cook more. Another excellent day ended with only one question - why had Scott and Tom joined me in my bed?



Day three. Quick celebrations of St George's Day. John took us on safari in his minibus. Brian asks if there are any giraffes in the area; Mrs Row tells us none anywhere near here. Round the corner a herd of giraffes continue oblivious to their mistake. We also saw white rhino, zebra, monkeys, wild boar (no, not Boers - except John who was driving) and a tortoise. The afternoon was spent around the pool near the camp. We had a traditional barbecue for tea. John solves the problem of us having to miss breakfast due to tomorrow's early start by organising packed lunches for us all. We stoke up a bonfire and later make another trip to the main complex, to see more of South Africa's wildlife in the evenings. We are given a talk by the warden on managing the park and the uses of different kinds of trees. Again - Why is Scott in bed with me?

Day four. Left early for White Mountain - saw spectacular sunrise. Stopped off en route at Ladysmith and a few of us (some more willing than others) went around the museum which I found so enthralling that I was late back at the bus (oops!). We then went to Spionkop - the minibus could only just get up the steep sides. It was very moving to see the mass graves and war memorials in this abandoned spot. John told us of how he had taken a regimental group to the remembrance services earlier in the year. Then it was off to White Mountain Lodge. We arrived and settled down and found the trampoline. We had a lovely meal then went on a string trail. Rumour has it that some callous teacher attacked some members with sticks to keep us all ducked down but I can't believe that!

Day five. Set off early to climb White Mountain. It certainly deserved being called a mountain. After an exhausting climb we reached the top - the view was spectacular. The guides then started to set up ropes for us to abseil down this natural cliff, which included small overhangs. Matt overcame his fear of heights to abseil down with us. We then walked back down - it so happened that Mr Proudlove and Mrs Row had tried to follow us but had got lost - typical geographers!! We then had a break at the lodge

- which included trampolining. Owen managed to spectacularly cut open his knee in a tragic accident and was rushed off to hospital by John with Mrs Row, who in turn caused a stir by fainting in the hospital. The rest of us went to try out the Flussi Slide - a wire slide over a gorge. Matt again overcame his vertigo. Some of us were pushed back over the gorge and left to dangle, which judging by Alex's screams of pain, hurt when Scott put all the weight on him. Owen returned to the fold and we all helped to manoeuvre him around and fetch things for him. For our evening meal we had an "all-you-can-eat" barbecue, with Scott and I trying to out-eat one another (after 7 servings it was declared a draw).



Day six. In the morning we tried our hands at raft building - under Scott's 'expert' supervision. The raft was designed to accommodate four persons - I was 'invited' to sit on one of the barrels - how kind I thought. It was felt that my weight would help restrict the barrel's possible movement within the structure of the raft enabling the craft to float on a reasonably even keel. I got very wet much to the amusement of everyone. We then left for Durban, stopping off at a crocodile and Zulu centre en route. Brian started his arms smuggling career with a spear. Our hotel in Durban was marvellous - we had an excellent view from 28 floors up. Mrs Row was struck down by food poisoning. We had some problem at the bar when I tried to order a Coke and was honest about my age - hence ordering by Chinese whispers - thanks Graham P. We then had a geography talk - oh well, can't have everything our own way!

Day seven. Mr Proudlove had to look after Mrs Row who was really poorly, so we were left in the capable hands of John. We went shopping and a few of us met the local rugby team - talk to Graham Penter if you want to know more and have the time! The afternoon was spent on the beach - the sea sweeps in with these massive waves that wash you right back onto the beach. Mr Proudlove celebrated his birthday. In the evening we went to the fair with John and his friends. Alex threw up - some people just can't take the tea-cup ride!!

Day eight. Mrs Row was a bit better but we weren't sure if she would be able to make the flight home. John took us to a shark centre where after waiting over an hour for a French party to arrive we watched an autopsy on a shark. We then met up with our teachers and left for the airport - it was decided that Mrs Row would be better in Cheltenham hospital than Durban and so we set off home taking a short haul internal flight before transferring to the main international airline and the return 12 hour flight back to England (which Brian nearly missed due to problems with his Zulu spear at customs!).

And so ended an eventful and thoroughly enjoyable trip to South Africa's magnificent and varied lands. One we all would like to repeat one day.

Gareth Howell



Railway Society – *A Personal View by Mr S W Pack*

Ten years ago the Railway Society members somehow persuaded me to take over the club's presidency when Mr Cutting departed Rich's. Since then, the Society has continued to be quite active. During the past year I have arranged four major day trips plus our by-now-traditional residential trip to Scotland. The Model Railway section has held (fairly) regular meetings in the Autumn and Spring Terms after school. However, I shall always remember 20 December 1999 as the day the Society organised the trip for me. And, for anyone interested in rail travel, it was to be no ordinary trip.

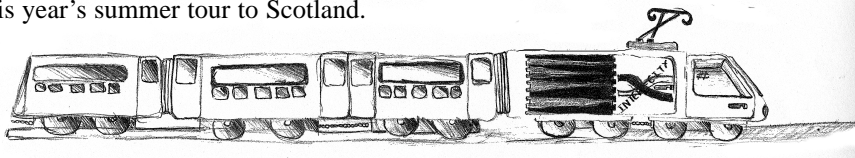
As the Birmingham-to-Holyhead express ran into Chester station, the small group of Year 10 members responsible disappeared into the doorway. There was a gathering of railway staff on the platform. A senior driver asked if I was aboard. To my considerable surprise he escorted me onto the locomotive and announced that I was to travel with him as far as Bangor. In these safety-conscious days a cab-ride is, quite rightly, a rare privilege but a most enjoyable one. For me, it was a unique experience.

The members had organised it well. They could not have chosen a better route for the trip. First North Western is one of the last operating companies to run the traditional engines and coaches which represent "real" railway travel. From the elevated cab there was a superb view of the line, which is full of interest as it runs between the coast and the mountains of Wales. We roared and rattled along in fine style, with my driver, Geoff, pointing out many notable features. The great bridges and tunnels at Conwy were a particular highlight. Many thanks to those Year 10 members who planned it all, to Mr Kellie for giving his support to their request, and, of course, to First North Western's management and staff at Manchester and Llandudno for making it all possible. I have very much enjoyed leading the society over the last ten years but it was touching to realise just how much it has all been appreciated by the members.

After that, it came as no surprise that our January trip took a much larger group to the North Wales Coast, visiting the castle at Conwy and travelling on to the end of the line at Holyhead on the Isle of Anglesey. In the autumn we travelled south to the Isle of Wight, taking the ferry from Portsmouth Harbour and riding on both the steam and the electric railways on the island. In December we made the shorter trip to Stratford-on-Avon, arriving there in style on a restored Great Western steam train from Birmingham Snow Hill. This was quite a contrast from the modern Virgin high-speed diesel which had brought us into that city's other main line station, the infamous New Street. And in April we took a circuitous route via New Street on our day trip to London. The trips are not all trains; we took in virtually all the famous tourist sights of the West End, the City and Docklands as we toured the city on foot, by bus and by tube on an unseasonably chilly spring morning. For the afternoon there was a choice of museums to visit in South Kensington, some members opting for wildlife at the Natural History Museum whilst others chose engineering at the nearby Science Museum.

Membership has continued at a very healthy level, indeed the Scottish residential trip was heavily over-subscribed. It is the enthusiasm and co-operation of the members that makes it all worthwhile. With members like ours, I can't imagine why some

people consider railway travel to be the preserve of “anoraks”! Not in our society! We are also grateful to parents for their continued support, particularly those who have helped us in running some of the trips. Thanks also to Kelsham Hanna and his staff at Llandridnod Railway Station who supply our tickets, which are always complicated and sometimes bizarre. We are fortunate that members and friends from past years frequently return to help staff our trips; one of them, Ian Ward, now gives his impressions of this year’s summer tour to Scotland.



Railway Society Annual Trip

The school Railway Society undertook its annual residential trip from Wednesday 12th July to Saturday 15th July 2000, returning to some favourite destinations in the West Highlands of Scotland. Less common, however, was the choice of departure time; recent years have seen an early morning departure on the Thursday but on this occasion the participants gathered at 7.00pm for an evening departure. An unadventurous first stage took us as far as Birmingham, where we boarded a two-coach railcar masquerading as a Virgin express - at least it was on time! This final train of the evening brought us to the famous railway junction of Crewe for an extended stop and some relaxing refreshments.

Here the adventure really started, for as the clock ticked past midnight we boarded our next train. This was the “Caledonian Sleeper”, which became famous a few years ago when British Rail tried to withdraw the service; although it was saved, the Railway Society has not travelled overnight to Scotland aboard it since 1991. The subdued lighting and reclining seats helped members to drift off to sleep as the electric train sped towards Scotland, although the need to change carriages in Edinburgh disrupted the night a little.

And then it was on through the Glasgow suburbs and out into the West Highlands proper. Now hauled by one of the popular Class 37 diesels, breakfast was taken as the scenery became ever more spectacular, crossing the remote wilderness of Rannoch Moor. Eventually we descended into Fort William for a change onto “The Jacobite”, a steam-hauled excursion to the fishing village of Mallaig, which overlooks the island of Skye. This train ran a little late - the problem was a lack of steam in the steam engine! - but made up time by some good running and cancelling a station stop. Fish’n’chips (and haggis!) were consumed at the port before boarding the return excursion to Fort William. Again there was time to explore before an evening meal in a nearby hotel, whose staff coped well with the sudden descent of 20 members onto their premises. Then it was time to retrace our route over Rannoch back to our traditional overnight venue at the Crianlarich Youth Hostel.

Self-catering is the rule at this remote location, but the group included some early risers determined to dine well. A squad of three provided a variety of breakfasts,

including fifteen Full English Fry-ups, although the other members all did their bit by washing up the remains. Then it was back to the station for a Sprinter train into Glasgow, followed by a brand-new Turbostar unit as far as Linlithgow. Here we took briefly to road transport, with a specially provided double-decker bus whisking us over to Bo'ness on the shores of the Firth of Forth to sample the preserved Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway. We also dined here (although those members who selected the curry ended up having to eat it on the train!) and had a special escorted visit round the engine sheds before returning to the main rail network. A GNER High Speed Train took us back into England, changing at Newcastle onto the Tyne and Wear Metro, an excellent example of how urban rapid transit should be done, before arriving at our second Youth Hostel at Jesmond. A pasty-and-chips supper preceded an evening of relaxation; the Hostel here boasts a pool table, always in popular demand!

And so to our final day. Unfortunately a late-running breakfast, supplied not by our own in-house caterers but by the Youth Hostel, meant that we had to hurry as we retraced our steps back into the centre of Newcastle. However, we successfully caught our train and settled into our reserved seats for the run to Leeds and Manchester. A lunchtime break was taken in the city centre here, reached by the Metrolink tram network, and the contents of our packed lunches were unwrapped, examined, and sometimes eaten. Back at the station we had to make a minor amendment to our travel plans as our intended Virgin train was running late. Then, approaching Birmingham, our train swung away onto a route normally used only by freight. Interesting though this diversion was, it cost us valuable minutes and by the skin of our teeth caught our last connection. Nevertheless, caught it was and the group settled down to a speedy final leg back into Gloucestershire. Another successful residential trip was over. Here's to the next one!

Nineteen trains, four trams, two buses and a lot of miles! (One thousand two hundred, to be precise!)



Members of the Railway Society prepare to board the Caledonian Sleeper at Fort William during their summer tour to Scotland.



Another year of music-making has flown past; it seems only like yesterday I was auditioning new Year 7 trebles for the Choir and considering what music to do for the carol services. Despite my usual worries there were apparently plenty of promising voices in Year 7 and they were soon making their presence felt alongside their more experienced choral counterparts during that awkward couple of months of 'settling in'. By half term some familiar and some 'strange' carols had been introduced and some already nearly learnt. Some boys had also volunteered themselves for other 'strange'

music in the clever guise of 'Kids? Tough!', the musical, composed and directed by Mr Richard Watson. By the time Christmas Day arrived there were a large number of pupils who could look back on a very hard term's musical work with the comforting, satisfied feeling of having been a part of some quite excellent performances - and here we must not omit our traditional, homely celebration of 'Christmas by Candlelight' - which had demonstrated much commitment and teamwork on the part of pupil and staff alike.

February saw a plethora of 'rock bands' as well as classical groups and soloists take the stage in the annual House Music competition, this year adjudicated by Mr Tony Sheppard, Head of Brass teaching for Gloucestershire. A narrow win by Eastgate was secured for a second year. This preceded another memorable Spring Concert, which featured amongst the usual spread of musical media the Sixth Form Jazz Band, led by Tom Plant. Instrumentalists and instruments seemed to come out of the woodwork for this group, which unfailingly rehearsed on a Monday after school for many weeks prior to the concert. Their rendition of 'Basin Street Blues' was tremendous - really capturing that Chicago style.

During all the preceding events a much bigger venture had been planned and was indeed underway - namely, 'Messiah'. This choice of piece was partly due to my own personal desire to do it and partly the result of a 'commission' for a choral item from the Longlevens Millennium committee. The finished performance could not have gone much better - the choir, many of whom were Year 7 boys singing their first major concert, excelled themselves to the extent that the professional soloists apparently forgot at times we were a mere 'school choir'. The orchestra, again made up largely of school pupils plus invited parents and friends

accompanied with technical skill and stylistic poise. There were many letters and comments reflecting the audience's appreciation and admiration for a first-rate performance. Personally speaking, I must admit it was one of the most memorable concerts I have had the privilege of conducting - the 'Hallelujah' chorus was just one of those rare moments when I get a tingling of the spine and a tremendous uplift from performing or listening to music. Thanks to everyone who took part!

The year wouldn't be right without the Summer Concert - even after the efforts expended in doing 'Messiah' the previous term. This year looked a bit thin without the Years 11 and 13 musicians in residence but rehearsals continued regardless of numbers attending - down to three at one wind band practice! Nevertheless the usual standards and spread of musical style and genre were apparent in a most enjoyable evening's entertainment.

One or two final acknowledgements should be made: firstly, the School's Trombone Quartet, led by their teacher, Mr Phil Cowley, once again competed in, and won, for the second year running, the Open Wind Ensemble category of the Cheltenham Competitive Festival held in May.

Nick Walkley is enjoying his privileged membership of the National Youth Brass Band, gained last March whilst Malcolm Peckham and his Piano Quartet claimed fame by finishing joint winners of the National Chamber Music competition last April. Lastly, congratulations to all those pupils who passed, many with merit and distinction or honours Associated Board and Guildhall instrumental examinations.

"Can these achievements be repeated next year?" I ask myself. The start of the Autumn Term always raises this question but is soon forgotten once the regular rehearsals get underway and the next concert or production is in mind. I merely have to rely on pupils' desire and commitment to take part and perform, and with today's pressures of homework, coursework and other extra-curricular activities I am always delighted that there are enough musically motivated pupils - and staff - to maintain the high standards of music at Sir Thomas Rich's.

Mr J W Thompson





Nick Walkley (10R) has played the B flat cornet since he was seven. In January he was chosen to play with the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain.

“For the auditions I had to do a piece that was chosen from a list of five, then a piece I chose myself and then the usual scales and arpeggios. It wasn’t too difficult but I was very relieved to get it over with and very pleased to be chosen.”

Nick has played with the championship section of the Flowers Band, which meets at Arle Court in Cheltenham, since November 1998. While playing with the band he competed at the All England Masters, the British Open and reached the national finals.

As well as the cornet Nick also plays percussion and says that the cornet was not his first choice of instrument:

“I was forced into it to start with but as I went on I got more keen.”



Mr Thompson raises his baton at the choir rehearsal for the Longlevens Christmas Carol Concert. “Eyes front Jon Roskill!!”



Stand-in scrum half Rich Morgan gets his pass away before a fringing St Peter's player can make his presence felt

U16 City Cup Final

After two terms of rugby, cross-country, football and hockey, the U16 rugby team got together for the City Cup. Even with several players missing Rich's were too strong for Churchdown in the semi-final which earned them a place in the final against St Peters. With the team playing together for the first time in over a year against a side containing several county players a big defeat looked likely. However Rich's were superb in defence and only trailed 8-6 at half time. Injuries caused a reshuffle of



Both jumpers miss!



Martyn Vallender gets caught in possession



the back line and Rich's looked very vulnerable but continued to put up strong resistance in restricting St Peters to 3 second half tries for a final score of 23-6 : an excellent performance by all players, ably led by Ryan Barnett.

Ollie Wood manages pass onto Alex Allen before feeling the attentions of St Peter's flank forwards



Sir Thomas Rich's U16 Team who gave a much stronger St Peter's side a hard contested match in the final of the Gloucester City Schools Cup in May this year

House Public Speaking Competition

This was held at the end of the spring term and followed the successful format of the previous year. Year 8 provided the audience and the Headmaster judged the competition.

The results were as follows:-

Junior Competition Years 7, 8 & 9

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

Senior Competition Years 10, 11 & 6th Form

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

Overall Positions calculated on total marks

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

Eastgate were clear winners but the other houses were separated by a very narrow margin which underlines the point that every participant has a crucial part to play. All houses are to be congratulated on the standard of presentation. It was apparent that careful preparation and rehearsal underlay the speeches and in general, speakers' projection their voices effectively.

The result of the competition turned out to be a fitting tribute to the organisational and speaking skills of one of the Debating Society's most stalwart supporters, Michael Webber. Michael has spoken on many platforms over the years. It was pleasing to observe him delivering a measured but lively speech to help secure the trophy for his house. As he proceeds to university we hope that he did not mean the audience to take the topic "Books – are they good for anything?" too seriously. The mix of styles in the Eastgate team worked well, with the speakers succeeding in directly engaging the attention of the audience without running the risk of losing pace and continuity.

Southgate may have felt that their innovative approach in the senior competition could have secured more marks. David Leung decided to enliven his presentation of "The Effects of TV on Society" with some amusing overhead projected visuals but in so doing, ran the risk of being judged to have strayed beyond the essential public speaking role. Chris Hobday who, like Michael Webber, has been a regular contributor to debating over the years, gave thoughtful and well targeted support. Perhaps however, the topic chosen appeared to be too well-worn despite the original ideas offered by the speakers.

Northgate's senior team also chose a theme based the media "No News is Good News", in which Craig Stevens and David Hardacre parodied and lampooned aspects of superficial news presentation. Craig's presentation included elements of self parody as he sought to create the atmosphere of a rather tacky "Midlands Today" spot. Again, this original form of presentation is not without risks in the context of this competition, but nevertheless, it was entertaining and thought provoking.

"The Future of the Millennium Dome" was the topic presented by the Westgate senior team. Daniel Bower and Luke Sibieta delivered their speeches with quiet authority and confidence but perhaps they too found themselves struggling to engage the attention of an audience which felt – however incorrectly – that they had heard it all before on this issue.

In the junior competition the two issues "debated" were whether music brings us more benefits than sport and whether we should welcome the prospects of scientists discovering the key to keeping people alive indefinitely. These quite challenging topics



were well handled by our younger public speakers. Amongst the memorable points was the response by the audience to James Martin's question "Who Here Wants to Die?" when lots of hands went up! Arguments raged about the true nature of sport and music but both Mr Gallagher's and Mr Thompson's jobs seem safe at the moment. It was interesting to observe how the speakers responded to the opportunities, or lack of them, for humour. Northgate for example, found themselves cast in the role of earnest statesmen, looking into a threatening future of over population and social divisions, whereas Eastgate were able to offer us the prospect of living long enough to see Tony Blair stop smiling.

Apart from the speakers mentioned by name above, the organisers would like to thank Phil Hanson, Alasdair Burchill, Matthew Key, Jonathan Ellison, Dexter Bradley, Ciaran Conway, Richard Ellison, Sam Milton, Oliver Preece, Adam Munro-Smith, Sam Porter, Patrick Daly, Matthew Smith, Michael Stanley and Adam McCance. Without exception they contributed with keenness and skill to the competition. Thanks also go to a well-behaved and appreciative audience and to our solitary judge, the Headmaster.

DJS

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Speaking of that Dome, here are a couple of first hand opinions by two Globetrotters following their visit there at the start of the year -

"I really enjoyed the Millennium dome but it was a lot smaller than I expected. The first thing we did was to watch every funny Black Adder film. I liked the song at the end most. After a Macdonald's we went into the dome. We went to the Learning Zone. I did not particularly enjoy this but there was a note which said "John, Tim is still trying to contact you on the Internet" which was quite funny. Next we went all around looking for another zone that we had planned to go to. I phoned home, lost my group and looked around on my own before joining the rest of the group at the designated time at The Millennium Experience. This show I found hard to understand. I used the Rest Zone rather a lot – you just lay there looking at the ceiling, which was changing colour. Thank you Mrs Row for taking us there." - John White (7S)

The Millennium Dome was smaller than I expected because usually the pictures on the television show birds eye views of it. It took over three hours to get there and when we did, we went straight into "Skyscope" a cinema just outside the dome. There are loads of zones inside the dome, which are situated around the central arena. We visited the Learning and Work Zone. There were lots of things to do and special shows held at scheduled times. There were queues everywhere. It took over an hour to get in to the Body Zone. Other Zones included Home Planet, Journey and Shared Ground. Shared Ground is where you can record yourself when you answer questions so that people in the future can see what we were like in the 20th century. We visited Timekeepers Zone – this was nothing to do with its name. It should have been called Ball Zone because you threw balls around. It was actually quite fun. The other most popular zones were Living Island and Rest Zones. Living Island is where you can have fun and play games and this zone had its own arcade. In Rest Zone you lie down on the floor and practically go to sleep. The colour of the walls change and music is played. You need the Rest Zone after queuing!

Overall, the dome was good but you really need two days to visit if you want to see everything – and expect to find queues. The done was enjoyed by all but if I were to go again, I would go with my family because it is a family place.” - Tom Shorhey (7S)

AND THEN THERE WERE NONE...



Nine weary venture scouts
Resting by the gate
Jon fell off a dry stone wall
And then there were eight

Eight frolicking venture scouts
Decided they're in heaven
Joe decided to go home
And then there were seven



Seven confused venture scouts
Discussing map graphics
Phil drove off in the bus
And then there were six

Six fatigued venture scouts
Only just alive

Giles fell and hurt his knee
And then there were five



Five jolly venture scouts
Walking through a moor
Ian had an aching foot
And then there were four



Four hungry venture scouts
Sat under a tree
Rich ran out of marmalade
And then there were three



Three desperate venture scouts
Looking for a loo
Rachael went behind a wall
And then there were two!



Two blistering venture scouts
Roasting in the sun
Alasdair drowned in sun block
And then there was one



One deserted venture scout
Standing all alone
Matthew's still in Greta
We forgot to bring him home!



RACHAEL BROWN



Sara Cantwell, Claire Sewell & Sarah Ritchie - three of 'zer Moulin Bleu' chorus girls who brought an added spice to the show!! Together with Jeannine Stone they danced a sultry French Night Club scene that had many a pupil taking keener interest in their French lessons following the performances!!

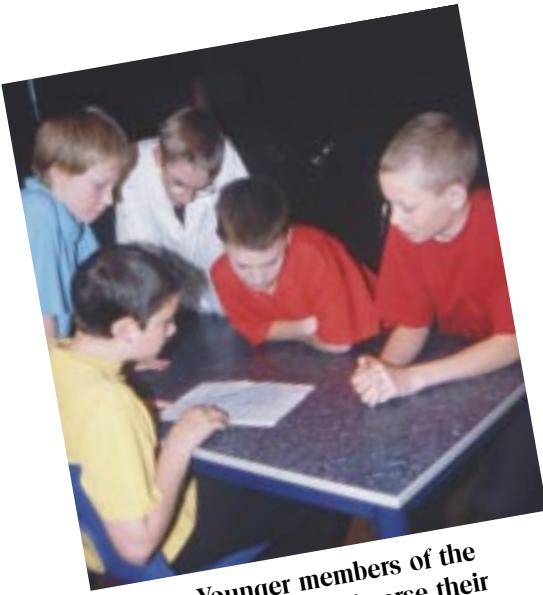
'KIDS? TOUGH!' - School Production December 2000



Over three nights in December the main School drama production was staged. Co-written by Mr. Watson and Sean McGowan it was a modern musical centred around the adolescence of Michael, the School French exchange and the global ambitions of computer firm OrcimSoft.

It was excellent entertainment, combining outstanding individual performances with clever choreography, marvellous music and superb singing by the whole cast. Over sixty pupils had stage roles and a similar number of staff and students assisted behind the scenes. The result was a credit to the School, hugely enjoyed by the audiences. Particular praise must go to Mr. Watson who invested so much of his time and energy into writing, rehearsals, direction and production. Well done to all whom took part. Here are a few glimpses

KIDS?



Younger members of the chorus line rehearse their lines and cues



Joan of Arc (Kate Poole) gets a helping hand from Napoleon (Robert Haines) to adjust her breast plate before their entrance.



Zer Moulin Bleu Dancers



Final Number & Curtain Call for lead characters



Chorus Line Colour

Expert choreography coupled with enthusiastic singing and dancing from the chorus line lifted the musical items to near professional heights



Danny Bhagawati & Keith Hardy fathoming out the new lighting control systems. "Now. This one" - "Hey! Who put the lights out!!"



Lead characters : Rosemary Stanley, front, then from left to right : Jon Phillips, Phil Kenchington, Gemma Whittaker, Vicky Taylor, Nick Townsend, Esther Barnes & Charlotte Spratt



TOUGH!

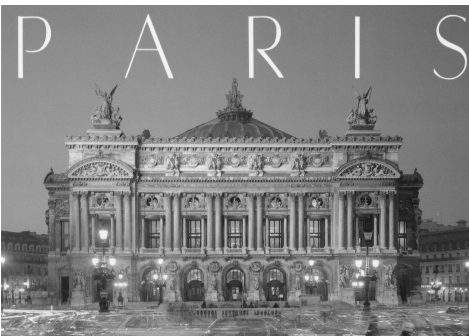
Homework??? Myth destroyed!!

Ben Panting & Piers Camp catch up on some studying during breaks in dress rehearsals





The cast crowd on stage to take a colourful curtain call at the end of a lively performance of Mr Richard Watson's musical 'Kids? Tough!'



Year 7 Trip to Paris

During the May/June half term forty year 7 pupils and four intrepid staff left the safety of the UK to brave the wilds of the continent. Our aim was to introduce some of the younger members of STRS to the cultural charms of France. The pupils on the other hand thought that they were off to Disneyland Paris. Little did they know what lay in store for them!!

Our trip included visits to some of the most famous landmarks in the world. A wet morning was spent on a coach tour of the city, taking in such sites as the Opera, l'Arc de Triomphe, Notre Dame and, much to Miss Adamson's delight, the site of Diana Princess of Wales' sad demise.



The same afternoon we visited the Eiffel tower and went to the top to experience what would have been fantastic views without the fog. Still, it was a great experience which was followed by a boat trip along the Seine.

Other activities included a morning at the fantastic



Science museum (although some might say I am a little prejudiced). Exhibits included a planetarium, submarine, fighter plane and lots of interactive exhibits explaining some of the intricacies of what has to be the most important subject on the national curriculum!!

We also visited the Louvre where boys had the opportunity to see the Mona Lisa, Venus de Milo and many other world famous works of art. Oh yes, and there was a brief visit to Disneyland thrown in for good measure....

Both staff and pupils had a great time and the trip was such a success that the whole thing will be repeated this year. Year seven pupils watch out for details.

Mr M J Parris



Years 10 and 11 Visit to Normandy – October 1999

The trip to Normandy, France for years 10 and 11 was advertised as an educational visit to further historical studies and perhaps practise a bit of French too. It was also arranged over four days of the half-term holiday which, I have to admit, at first made me sceptical as to its enjoyment value, though I can say with absolute truth that it turned out to be very exciting (very much so at times) and relaxing (perhaps not for the staff though!).

We left early on Saturday 23rd October and took a long coach journey (courtesy of Jim from Company Coaches, Pontefract) amused by Blackadder, Alan Partridge and the like on the bus video system. After a slight delay due to an incident involving a stray boulder at Maidstone, we crossed the Channel in good time.

To break the travel boredom we visited a sea life centre at Nausicaa and viewed some incredibly weird eels, fish and sharks.



Members of Year 11 relax atop a German gun emplacement overlooking the Channel coast.

I didn't choose the fish at our evening meal at the well priced "Flunch" Restaurant. The food quality was very good, only the French assume their beef is only appreciated when served rare.

On Sunday we had a packed schedule. Our first stop was Normandy War Memorial Museum situated in Caen. This town had been rebuilt after bomb damage during the war and the museum put over the horrors of warfare and the Nazi regime very well.

We then travelled further back in time to 1066 to view the Bayeux Tapestry (in Bayeux funnily enough) and took snapshots of the scenes depicting King Harold's reluctant meeting with a Norman arrow.

Seeing the beaches at Arromanches was also very interesting as this was where British troops constructed the artificial Mulberry Harbour and attempted to storm German gun emplacements. It even seemed that the hostilities didn't end in 1945 – some of our group attracted the attention of the less than friendly locals! On our journey back we made a call to see some old German pillboxes – some still with guns in them – just along the coast from Arromanches. It was quite awesome to think of what had taken place there more than 50 years ago.

Monday saw us take a guided tour, on foot, of the city of Rouen, exploring both the new and old parts of the city. Again, this city was heavily damaged during the war. Of particular interest was an old burial pit from the "Black Death" outbreak and a mummified black cat! Also of admiration was the cathedral in Rouen, which survived the bombs of WW II with only minor damage. This was a magnificent building but was slightly spoiled by the usual scaffolding!

Later on in the day we made our way to a woodland area on the outskirts where there was a small wildlife sanctuary with deer and wild boar. This made a pleasant picnic site where we devoured our lunch.

The following day we rose early (0630hours) for our long journey back to Gloucester. En route we visited a manufacturing and launch site from the V1 and V2 rocket era (which also included a surviving concrete bunker) at St Omer near Boulogne. Once again, we hurried through and made our way to Calais to catch our Eurotunnel train and then continued our journey to Gloucester with a few stops along the way.

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The Geography Department will really miss these teachers who made a considerable impact in their short period at Rich's. Melissa's first experience at the school was to take over Stuart Smallwood's classes in the spring of 1998. She quickly found her feet and established a reputation as a tremendously hard worker who always had time for students. Undoubtedly, Melissa's greatest legacy is The Globetrotters Club. Never before has there been such excitement over Key Stage 3 Geography! Trips all over Britain and across the English Channel led with unrelenting energy and innovation, have turned many youngsters into dedicated geographers who, I am sure, will go on to be star performers in the subject in years to come. At A-level, under Melissa's guidance, students have sketched and measured glacial landforms in Snowdonia and even learned how to pronounce their names! Melissa leaves Rich's to become Head of Geography at Brockworth School. Watch the pages of The Citizen to see the enthusiasm and higher achievement she is able to generate there. Congratulations on the promotion and good luck in your new role!



*He squats beside it,
Slack neck thinly shaking,
And devours his meal.*

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They had just returned from a gruelling expedition across high plains and cold mountain valleys.



Winners of The City Cup U12 Cricket Competition

**T Meadows A Erskine B Russell L Roberts J Hyett-Hudman H Pandor
O Priest C Lock K Ellis (Captain) L Barnard A Punnialingham**

**Sports Day
7th June 2000**



Adam Gardner (9R) takes flight in the Long Jump!



Luke Richardson (8S) breasts the tape in the Sprint



Supporters show their appreciation of the athletes' efforts



Luke Richardson this time is beaten into 2nd place by Oliver Howley



Mr Swann keeps track of results



Ms Adamson & Mr McBurnie put their maths skills into practice!



Freddie Pope (10R) launches the shot skywards



Mr Seales & Mr Fowler check the competitors for the next race



Winning Relay Team - Year 10



Lee Warren in the Year 7 Shot

Year 8 Rugby – ‘B’ The Team for One Season!

When Mr Gallagher approaches a member of staff about coaching a rugby team he does not expect to be turned down. Taking me completely by surprise with a quick “Would you do the year 8 ‘B’ team next autumn?”, I had none of my usual carefully prepared excuses available to me. I accepted, and Mr Gallagher gently placed me back on the ground, straightening out my crumpled collar and tie. I was committed to a rugby season with a team who were largely unknown to me. Apparently they came second quite often and their most remarkable features were a couple of kids called something like Ice and Goolie who had represented England in “talking in class” competitions! Hmmm. This was no ordinary assignment. It was no wonder that Clive Woodward had declined the invitation to leave his base at Twickers to take up this particular challenge.

As predicted by other members of the PE staff, our first training session was attended by me, Dennis with his litter picking-up device and a hedgehog with failing eyesight who thought it was dark at 1.20pm in September. OK, so I had the beginnings of a front row, but not much else. “They’ll show up for the school fixtures”, I was assured. I was not so sure. There was little else to do but wait for the season to begin the following Saturday, a tough match away to Bishop of Hereford’s Bluecoat School, and hope that I was not the only Rich’s representative at the fixture (Dennis was unavailable due to commitments with the Territorial Army and the hedgehog had taken early hibernation due to his failing health).

Quite surprisingly we had a full squad on the coach that fateful morning..... rumour had obviously gone around that the Globetrotters trip to Alton Towers had been brought forward! Once I had explained that the only “Oblivion” they would be encountering today would be their own if they didn’t stop chucking Smarties about, we settled down to mentally prepare for this clash of the titans.



U13 ‘B’Team Squad- Unbeaten Heroes of Year 8!!



Our focus was disturbed briefly on our arrival when we discovered that the opposition only had 13 players. This came as no surprise to centre, Mike Jones, who assumed that was the normal total because he never passed the ball to his wingers anyway! The game was tough affair with BHBS showing some excellent rucking skills. At times, Rich's "tackling" consisted of waving to a rapidly departing BHBS three-quarter, then falling over to simulate physical involvement in the process (and get their shorts muddy, thus appearing tough to the spectators – a fellow about 30 and 2 kindergarten-aged girls). Quite a mess. Scrum half Gazzer Mohammed was obviously doing a little

match fixing, usually passing the ball from the base of our scrum directly to an empty area of grass 10 metres behind outside half, Andy Day. Perhaps it was the William Hill Bookmakers baseball hat he had been wearing that morning that really gave him away?

Trailing at half time, I decided to try the classic teacher's pep talk approach and threatened school detentions all round if they didn't score some points soon. It seemed to work. Gazzer began to pass fast and accurately, Day began to duck and weave his way through their defence and suddenly everyone realised that victory may yet be snatched from the jaws of defeat. George Rudge, who had apparently become lost on his way to an A team game, scored a superb sole try and the ever-reliable kicking machine, now correctly known to me as Alex Gulley, popped over the conversion. We had won.

Little did I know then that this was the beginning of a long journey towards the record books. Teams don't often go a season winning every game, but this was a very special team! There was little doubt that Dennis would be unable to regain his place, and our old friend the hedgehog would have to watch the rest of the season's events on Rodent TV proudly telling his stoat and rat mates over a thimble of dandelion and burdock juice, that, "I was in that squad in the early days of the '99 season".

Fixtures followed at fairly regular intervals. On a gorgeous summer evening we took

on the "posh kids" of King's School. Despite the rumour that the opposition would have been worn out by an extra-long choir practice session at the Cathedral they put up stout resistance. Thrilling moments included some elusive running by our equivalent of Jonah Lomu, Jake George. Jake has perfected the art of avoiding capture by hiding in Matthew Skulskjy's pocket until the



enemy have gone past then darting out towards the line with only his blond hair showing above the new-mown grass. King's had no answer to this sort of attack. Solid scrummaging from Tom Roberts and Jack Milton demoralised the King's front row and the ever-reliable Steven Bosworth made a might contribution with some barnstorming runs. At one point I counted 4 opposition players hanging off different parts of Steven's anatomy, trying to bring him to the turf. When he did tumble the Virgin Trains 14.00 from Paddington was almost derailed as it passed on the nearby embankment! Once again, our win was by a narrow margin but the array of smiling faces stuffing doughnuts kindly provided by King's revealed a real sense of team success, and not a little gluttony!

Victories followed against Bourneside and Crypt. Two outstanding centres, Chris Burgess and Chris Gallant developed a style of defence that terrified their opponents. Crypt lost more territory due to the crunching tackles of the "Chrisses" than by our attacking. At one point I considered telling skipper, Andy Day, to give a penalty we had won on their 22-metre line to the opposition simply because that way we could guarantee to gain 20 metres once the Gallant-Burgess "sledgehammer" had landed yet another blow, scooped up possession and piled over for another try. Greatly to their credit,



these two had their talent spotted by Mr Brown who quickly transferred them to strengthen his 'A' team. This was a sad loss for us, but cost Mr Brown £5, a packet of Cheese and Onion crisps and a free one-year pass to play pool in the Venture Scout hut.

Our four victories from four games set up an exciting season finale against the might of arguably Wales'

premier rugby school, Monmouth. A great deal rested on the tearaway back-row of Jack White, Richard Ellison and Chris "Looney Tune" Blinman. All had made major contributions during the season but this was the ultimate test against a very well organised side in really muddy conditions. The back row did not let us down. Ellison had another outstanding game, revealing better traction and acceleration than a Land Rover Freelander. The rest of the team rallied round after Monmouth threatened to overhaul our points tally in the middle of the second half. With the mud beginning to make the rucks and mauls look a bit like a mobile chocolate mousse I paced the sideline nervously, watching the seconds tick away. At last, the whistle blew. They had done it!

What a wonderful season with a really great squad of players. Many others deserve credit and I apologise that there is not enough room to give written recognition to all who participated. Inevitably the main characters, most of who played with distinction in every game, will be remembered longest. However, I must say a sincere "thank you" to all who represented the "Played 5, Won 5" Year 8 'B' team of the 1999 season. I hope I have the good fortune to meet and work with another such spirited team before I too have to take early hibernation.

Mr D Proudlove

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Martin Carr

Martin Carr joined Rich's from St Benedict's School, Cheltenham, succeeding Mr TW Morgan as Head of Chemistry in 1996. During his time at St Benedict's, Martin undertook research at Cranfield University for which he was awarded a doctorate.

Martin introduced a modular A-level chemistry course, which led to high levels of motivation, and we anticipate our best ever chemistry A-level results when the first cohort of students completes the course this summer. He also started an after-school chemistry club for enthusiasts, who undertook a range of interesting experiments beyond any syllabus. His particular enthusiasm was to utilise the potential of ICT; he used computers to aid administration and chemistry lessons.

Dr Carr leaves Rich's for family reasons and to build up an internet business. We wish him well.



'Allo, 'Allo, 'Allo – What's going on 'ere then?

OK – it's a fair cop guvnor.

Having decided to exchange Sc1 investigations for the criminal variety and after serving three years hard labour at STRS Mr Marcus Griffiths aka solo artist Jimmy Reah has left to join the Police. The Force that is, not the band. After detailed enquiries, it finally emerged that Mr Griffiths' head would fit inside a policeman's helmet after all.



Not one to plod about, he was a highly efficient and proficient teacher (chemistry and physics) badminton star and Head of Eastgate House. He will be missed greatly from the everyday scene of STRS.

PC Griffiths has promised to pay us a visit in the course of his enquiries, so keep a watch in the neighbourhood for his uniformed person. He may have lots of stories to tell by then – a real card, I'll warrant you!

Staff and pupils at STRS wish Mr Griffiths a rewarding and happy new career, and...

May the Force be with you!

Dorothy Gladwell

Dorothy Gladwell joined the Physics Department in September 1998. During her time at Rich's she displayed great enthusiasm as she prepared and delivered her lessons. Her advice and professionalism were always appreciated.

We wish Dorothy well in her return to The School of the Lion.

ACP



From our Far Eastern correspondent

During May Robin Kenchington (9T) moved with his family to Hong Kong (leaving his brother Phillip behind to complete his GCSE exams!). He swiftly relayed this report back by e-mail :

First Impressions of Hong Kong

Hong Kong is a small place that lives large – very large! Only here will you find such a dazzling contrast of Eastern and Western Culture, sometimes blending, sometimes clashing, but always producing a startling result which makes Hong Kong the unique city that it is.

Stepping out onto Nathan Road, the main shopping street in Kowloon, you can immediately see Western shops, such as a Nike or Sony shop, and an equal balance of Eastern shops, such as Yue Hwa Chinese Products, a department store selling everything from clothes to kitchen accessories. Taking a short walk to the end of Nathan Road, you come to the Star Ferry, one of Hong Kong's most famous tourist attractions. It provides a regular ferry trip from the Kowloon peninsula to Hong Kong Island and gives an unbeatable view of the Hong Kong waterfront. Once you are on Hong Kong Island, a short bus ride will take you to the Peak Tram, a funicular tram that climbs steeply to the Peak. From there you can see some of the best and most famous views of Hong Kong.

All of that you can do by day. But it is really only at night that Hong Kong begins to light up and live up to its name – the City of Life! Street markets open, huge signs towering over the road light up – Hong Kong becomes a vibrant, bustling and certainly busy city. Even at ten o'clock at night the pavements are still crowded with people.

Hong Kong is a city that is never finished. There will always be a building site somewhere, where something new is being built, or something old – by that they mean anything that has been around for over ten years – is being pulled down. In fact, Hong Kong has so little ground space that a building rule here is "If you can't go across, go up!", and that is certainly true – Hong Kong has some of the tallest buildings in Asia.

Contrasting that, if you venture further out into the New Territories you will find many temples, especially to the Buddha, tucked away in deep forests or between green hills. Here there is a sense of peace – the bustle and movement has not moved to this part of Hong Kong yet, and I hope that it doesn't for some time. Places like the Aberdeen reservoir, or Big Wave Bay, or the Sai Kung peninsula are natural harbours to all sorts of wildlife – including parrots, monkeys and snakes. These areas should be preserved so that they provide relief from the noise of the city.

My first impression of Hong Kong has been one of amazement – there's such a mixture of cultures and styles existing in such a small area. I am really enjoying living here and I feel that I will love it for a long time now.

Robin Kenchington



President's Missive

It gives me great pleasure as the Association's Millennium President to send warm greetings to all past members of the school wherever you may be. As we grow older, and perhaps a little wiser, we become increasingly conscious of the debt we owe to the 'rock whence we were hewn' and are grateful to all who helped us in so many ways to find self-fulfilment and our place in serving this rapidly changing world.

It was a privilege to preside over the Old Richians Dinner in the spring. Some forty recent leavers and senior members of the school were present together with a good representation of older members especially from 'the Vale era.' Speeches were good and commendably brief and there was plenty of time both to greet old friends and to stroll around the school buildings now so handsomely enlarged to meet the needs of the Richians of the 21st century!

Wherever I go, I am aware of the great pride past and present Richians have in our school. It is so hard to build a school up and so easy to pull it down. In recent years standards and traditions at Elmbridge have been enhanced and raised so that Rich's now has an assured place nationally in the history of academic secondary education. The Association offers its congratulations to the Headmaster, Mr Ian Kellie, and his staff on recent achievements and also thanks them for the warm hospitality and courtesy offered so generously whenever we return 'home.' I call upon all past members to support the school in whatever way they can and to give back in some small way what they so gladly received.

I hope to see you in greater numbers at our Spring Reunion Dinner and conclude by thanking the officers of the Association for all their hard work and commitment without which it would not exist.

May 2000-2001 be a good year for us all!

Garde Ta Fei!"

J. Anthony Stocks

News of Old Richians



Editor's Note

Many thanks to all those who have contributed to this section of the magazine. David Hook has been instrumental in collecting and supplying the vast mass of information that has this year found its way into the "Old Boys" section.

"To celebrate the millennium I've tried to break the century mark of entries" he informed me handing over reams of meticulously hand transcribed notes. Thank you David!

Looking forward to 2001 we welcome early contributions of news items, photographs and suggestions.

Obituaries

John Simmonds, MBE (1937-42)

My friendship with John Simmonds was relatively brief but nevertheless close and wonderfully stimulating. John died on 19th April 2000 after a long illness which he bore with stoicism and total refusal to allow it to limit his enjoyment of life. We met when I moved to Looe in 1997 and joined the bowling club of which John was President. It transpired that our pasts had a number of common features of which Rich's was the most significant. John left the school in fact before I arrived but recollection of our schooldays was a frequently recurring topic of conversation. John was a great conversationalist, interested in every facet of life. He was a pillar of the local community having been headmaster of Looe Community School for over twenty years; after taking early retirement he devoted himself to service in the community. This included membership of the Town Council including several stints as Deputy Mayor, the Harbour Commission Vice-Chairman, East Looe Town and Primary Care Hospital Trust. He served as Chairman of the National Savings movement in Cornwall for which he was awarded the MBE in 1976. John was a member of Rotary and was founder member of the town's Probus Club.

After leaving Rich's John spent two years in the Shire Hall before National Service which gave him the opportunity to develop his great interest in flying by training as a glider pilot. After demobilisation John took teacher training at St Paul's College in

Cheltenham before taking up his first post at Weston Grammar School in 1950. This was followed by appointments as the first Deputy Head of Churchill School in Somerset (1956) and as Headmaster of Looe School (1960). In his long tenure of this post, John apparently modelled himself on our own headmaster, Peter Veale, whom he greatly admired.

John married in 1950 Kathleen Darby, a Denmark Road High School girl, who supported him to the full in all his many activities. They would have celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary two months after John's death. We extend our deepest sympathy to Kath and their daughter Jane, who also lives in Cornwall.

Dennis Baden Powell B.Sc. Ph.D. (1946-50)

It is with great sadness that we mark the passing of Dennis Powell who died suddenly on 30th November 1999 aged 68. though in recent years Dennis had experienced serious illness which he bore with positive attitude and good humour, his sudden death came as a great shock. As in his school days, Dennis was the focal point of the Old Richians of his generation, despite the fact that his Rich's career only started in the fifth form. Dennis was born in Staple Hill, Bristol but during the war the family moved to Brynmawr in South Wales before coming to Gloucester in 1946 when Dennis joined Rich's.

Dennis achieved conspicuous success both academically and on the sports field. He was School Captain 1949-50 and Captain of Cricket for three seasons, 1948-50. An accomplished batsman, he played for the County Schools XI for two seasons. As befits his Welsh background, Dennis was an excellent rugby centre three-quarter being awarded School Colours in each of his last two seasons.

Dennis was one of the first undergraduates at Bristol University to read for a degree in Biological Chemistry (1950-53) and after graduation he studied for a Ph.D. (1953-56) in the same subject under Dr Leslie Hough, an internationally renowned carbohydrate chemist.

Dennis' first job (1956-63) was with the Atomic Energy Authority at the Wantage Laboratory where he was one of a small group of scientists who started the laboratory's programmes of research into the peaceful uses of atomic energy. In particular, Dennis was responsible for the early investigations of the use of gamma radiation for the sterilisation of food and medical products including bones for transplantation.

Dennis then moved his family back to Bristol when he was appointed Chief Development Chemist of the R&D centre of the Dickenson Robinson Group (DRG). He spent the rest of his career with DRG in the field of sterile medical packaging in which Dennis was recognised as an international expert. For the latter part of his career he was responsible for the European market development of these products and he and his team built up a substantial market for them. Dennis retired in 1989 but served as a consultant to the group for several years afterwards.

BEAMISH Gareth (1968-1975) An Exploration Supervisor working for Mobil Ex, Gareth moved from New Orleans, a town that is often painted red, especially during Mardi Gras, to Magnolia in Texas.

BENNETT Simon William (1974-1979) Simon finally settled down in one way at least and married Louise Jamieson last May in Northumberland, no children on the way – yet. On the job front, having worked for Phoenix for more than two years he felt the need for change and in May he joined Synopsys “*an innovative provider of IT solutions to the wholesale banking and securities market place*”. Based in the City of London, this central location allows him to keep up his civic duties – he is a Freeman of the City of London and a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Carmen. Not content with the number of letters after his name, Simon is in his final year of study with UMIST and will this year, hopefully, add another degree – BSc (Hons) and ACIB – becoming an Associate of the Chartered Institute of Bankers. For most of their spare time Simon and Louise both compete in 1 day eventing competitions on their horses Flint and King, although Simon still finds time for flying his Phoebus 17C glider in local competitions and the occasional SCUBA trip to somewhere warm – he doesn’t do cold water!

BEWLEY Rob (Reverend) (1974-1981) After eleven years with the Cadbury Schweppes group most of which were spent in marketing, Rob left industry in 19976 to train for the ordained ministry in the Church of England. Three years, one degree and one certificate later, he was ordained in July this year at Ely Cathedral and is now endeavouring to combine being a curate in a parish just north of Cambridge with doctoral research in New Testament Studies at the University of Cambridge. This year he celebrates his 12th wedding anniversary with his wife, Rosie, who has just obtained a Deputy Headship in a local primary school. E-mail: R.Bewley@btinternet.com

BIELBY Andrew (1981-1988) Obtained a BEng (Hons) from Bath University and now lives in Bristol where he works in development for Imperial Tobacco (cigar division). Andrew married Nicky who is a nurse at Bristol Dental Hospital two years ago and was able to track down school friends Jason Mince and Nick Chandler to invite them to the wedding.

BIELBY Robert (1985-92) Former School Captain Rob left Rich’s for Christchurch, Oxford where he obtained a BA Hons in Biological Sciences. After his degree he remained in Oxford to complete research and was awarded a DPhil in January 2000. In the same month Rob took up a post-doctoral post at Imperial College London working at the Chelsea & Westminster Hospital on projects using embryonic stem cells to promote tissue repair and provide engineered tissues for transplantation. Rob is engaged to Sarah who is about to begin a Senior House Officer rotation at Northwick Park Hospital in Harrow; the wedding is set for 23rd June 2001.

BISHOP Nigel (Reverend) (1971-1976) The past twelve months have been full of change and travel. Nigel just completed a two-year course at Wesley College, Bristol

preparing for Ministry in the Methodist Church. He went to Israel for a month last July and to South Africa for a month during April 2000. He married Marlies Kürsteiner last October. She moved from Switzerland four years ago and graduated from Redcliffe Bible College last summer. They enjoy visiting family and friends in her homeland from time to time. In August they moved to Coulsdon in Surrey where they hope to have complementary ministries. Nigel will be a Minister at two churches in the area and Marlies will be looking for an opening with mission organisations. E-mail: nigelbishop.tiehab@virgin.net

BLADEN Rachel (1995-1997) In her final year at Cardiff College of Medicine studying Physiotherapy she is due to graduate this summer and has obtained a job at Gloucester Royal Hospital practising physiotherapy. Rachel also works regularly for the Gloucester Rugby team preparing them before games and providing much encouragement, rain or shine.

BODENHAM John (1941-46) Wrote to us from Wembury near Plymouth, inspired by an obituary in last years' Richian :-

"Dear Richians (especially the ancient ones),

You have heard about me in the past and nothing much changes when I reaches three score years and ten except that I now have 2 new knees! I have retired these past five years, firstly from the Aircraft Industry and lastly from Devon County Council. My hobbies include genealogy and growing rhododendrons, in particular those originating from the mountains of Indonesia where they experience equal day and night, very high rainfall and temperatures between 45F and 80F (you scholarly types can transfer that to Celsius if you feel enthusiastic). Such conditions are a challenge to create in these latitudes, leading to the discovery of just how much of a compromise can be found acceptable.

The real reason why I am persuaded to put pen to paper, or should I say 'one finger on the keyboard of the computer', stems from the sad news last year of the passing of John Axford, or should I give him his full title, Datuk Haji Ibrahim Axford, DMSM, PJK, PBB, JP'. Although he was several years my senior and had left Rich's long before I was fortunate enough to attend myself, at that time I knew him quite well. How, you may well ask, did I know him? Well, I have a sister Barbara, eight years my senior, and until about 1940 they were, in today's parlance, 'an item'. They were engaged to be married towards the end of that time but marriage was not to be.

Many is the time that I was, rather reluctantly I think, taken in tow on some courting expedition or other over the fields and many are the tales my sister relates of how I, as a youngster of about eight, totally embarrassed her in front of her beloved. Those tales I will let lie; the reader can I am sure envisage the scene. Picture the little horror requesting the toilet in the middle of nowhere and the ensuing effect upon romance.

As a family, and because dad was an engine driver, we always went on holiday to

somewhere served by rail. In-1939 it happened to be Rhyl in North Wales and John Axford came too. In those days, for the sake of propriety, John was sleeping in the guest house next door but joined us for meals. The day he attacked his dinner with too much enthusiasm and tipped the almost full plate into his lap I found highly amusing.

On another occasion, I am sure that it must have been a few months after the outbreak of war when almost everything was rationed or in very short supply, Barbara and I were invited to John's house to tea (he lived with his aunts in Ebor Road, Gloucester). Firstly the embarrassing bit. Tea consisted of little cakes, slices of buttered bread cut very sophisticatedly into diamonds and, my enduring passion, tinned sliced peaches. I am sure there must have been evaporated milk to act as 'cream' but to the amusement of the aunts and to Barbara's horror I managed to consume twenty two pieces of buttered bread with the peaches. I have never heard the last of this. The ignominy has stuck with me all my life. Secondly, however, this visit to Ebor Road was instrumental in my subsequent life. Since then such things have become commonplace, but on a table in the house in Ebor Road stood something I had never before encountered, a beautifully assembled and painted 'Frog' plastic model of a Vickers Wellesley Bomber with a propeller which rotated and an undercarriage which actually retracted. As a nine year old I was transfixed. From that moment onwards I was hooked on aeroplanes and many is the tree I have had to climb to retrieve one.

Due to wartime this sisterly romance began to fade and the engagement was off. John Axford was posted to various locations as outlined in his obituary but Barbara and I had thought him already dead. Rumour also said that he was married and had a little girl but the truth as outlined in the Richian came as a complete surprise. So different to the memory of John serenading Barbara as they came home up the back alley entrance to our house in Barnwood Road, he playing his mouth organ rendering the latest song called, 'The Donkey Serenade', which begins, 'There's a song in the air, and the fair senorita doesn't seem to care, there's a song in the air'

Happy days!"

BOLTON David (1968-1974) David read Law after leaving STRS and after graduation joined a City of London Legal Practice. He is now office manager for the same firm. He appeared on 'Mastermind' some years ago with his specialist subject as Gloucester Cathedral. David was married in January 1979 and has three sons, William, Edward and Richard.

BRADLEY Shayne (1991-1996) Signed a new three-year contract with the Premiership Football Club, Southampton in September 1999 but was frustrated by being in the reserves rather than the first team. Third Division Mansfield made him an offer he couldn't refuse and now, injuries permitting, he is able to demonstrate his skills in their first team. Shayne made six appearances for England schoolboys when younger, partnering Michael Owen in a side that included Manchester United's Wes Brown and Everton's Michael Ball.

BRANTHWAITE Suzanne (1995-1997) Graduated on 14th July 2000 with an Upper

Second Class Degree in Geography from Royal Holloway, University of London.

BRAZINGTON Stuart (1978-1986) Lives near Taunton where since 1991 he has been employed with Clarke Willmott and Clarke Solicitors. Currently senior solicitor, Stuart specialises in personal injury claims. In 1992 Stuart married Amanda, commercial manager for Pearsalls Sutures in Taunton and they have three children, Felicity who was born in 1996, Arthur and Elliot (twins) born in 1998. While at Coventry Polytechnic Stuart represented Midland Colleges at rugby union, toured California and Amsterdam and was Chairman of the college Rugby Club for 1988/9. Prior to the arrival of the children Stuart represented Taunton RFC for many enjoyable seasons and also Taunton Deane Cricket Club. Now occasional golf, football and cricket but changing nappies became more popular!

BROADY Fred (1966-71) Fred still owns and runs his shop Broady's Wallpapers & Paints in Vicarage Road Tredworth and would welcome any of his old school friends to drop in and have a chat!

BROOKS David (1960-1965) Left Rich's and trained as an Environmental Officer at the Matthew Boulton College in Birmingham. After qualifying he spent some time in Bournemouth before being accepted by VSO and sent to Kabala in Sierra Leone where he was Leprosy Control Officer for a large area of the bush. The work entailed visiting outlying villages, testing people for leprosy and administering the necessary tablets to control the disease. In all he spent 4 years in West Africa and has been back many times. Whilst out in Africa he met and married Mary Jackson who was with the American Peace Corps. They now live in Dayton, Ohio.

BROWN Colin (1967-1969) Joined the 6th form in 1967 and left in 1969 having been unsuccessful in his A level studies. He then joined the Group Pensions Department of Eagle Star Insurance Co. at their Administrative Head Office in Cheltenham. After rising to the position of Assistant Pensions Development Manager he took voluntary redundancy in December 1992. With his financial settlement he moved North to Cumbria and took a sabbatical year before attending the University of Northumbria at Newcastle's Carlisle Campus where he took an undergraduate sandwich course in Business Studies graduating in 1998 with a 2.1 BA (Hons) degree. Colin is now employed in the Central Technical Department of Carlisle based food manufacturer, Cavaghan & Gray Group Limited, a member of the Northern Foods group of companies. Colin is co-ordinating the implementation of a food safety management system across all of the company's Carlisle and Aberdeen manufacturing and processing sites. Colin is married with four sons, a daughter and four grandchildren. In the near future he hopes to travel to Utah where one of his sons lives and works and to attend the Salt Lake Temple and meet his latest daughter in law and grandson.

BROWN David P (1972-1979) Still living and working in 'Neighbours-Land' (Melbourne Australia!) with his wife Jenny and their three teenage sons Ben, James & Joe. Recently moved to PA Consulting Group as a Senior Partner. Will be returning to "home shores" over Christmas and will no doubt be sharing a seasonal ale or three

with contemporaries Kevin Neely and Ian Fletcher!

BULLED Martin (1978-1983) Martin lives in Gloucester and works as a production and material control analyst for Automold Ltd in Stroud. Married to Heidi they had their first child Joseph William in May 2000. In 1999 Martin graduated from Gloscat with an Inventory and Operations Management Diploma and also agreed to join the Old Richians Association committee.

BULLOCK Nicola (1995-1997) Has just finished the second year of a BSc (Hons) in Sports Science at Nottingham Trent University. In addition to being a member of the university basketball team which went on tour to Eindhoven in the Netherlands, Nicola is President of the Women's Rugby (Union) Club and has been selected for Nottinghamshire Women's Rugby XV.

CARPENTER Timothy (1990-1997) Currently in his third year studying a BSc in Applied Computer Science on an industrial placement at British Energy. After graduation Tim hopes to embark on a career in game design at a computer software company (3D modelling and CGI)

CARTER Nick (1984-1991) Currently in his final year of D.Phil in Geography at Linacre College, Oxford. Recently awarded the 1999 Oxford University Environment Prize for a short paper he wrote on the environment of the city. This was the first year that the award was made. Nick was subsequently made a Domus Scholar of Linacre College.

CATCHPOLE Matthew (1985-1990) After a spell of duty with the Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment Matt joined Gloucester City Council in 1997 working in the Accountancy and Exchequer Services Section. Popular with colleagues, particularly the ladies, Matt's finest hour came when he took part in the "Alternative" Beauty Contest for Children in Need. Matt left the Council in July 2000 to join the payroll section of Kraft Jacobs Suchard in Cheltenham.

CHANDLER Sean (1975-1980) Works for Kesterel Engineering Gloucester and is married to Sandra and they have three children.

CHITTY John (Reverend) (1978-1983) Was ordained at last year's Methodist Conference following two years as a Probationer Minister at Plymouth Central Hall. John is now Chaplain at Millfield School, Street in Somerset.

CLEGG Phil (1990-1997) Studying Earth Science at Jesus College, Oxford was awarded his third swimming blue this year and now holds two Oxford University swimming records – backstroke 100m (1:00:73) and 50m (0:28:12).

COLE Clem F (1939-1944) Lives in Swansea with his wife Mary. They have four daughters, eighteen grandchildren and one great granddaughter. Apprenticed Design Draughtsman at Rotol Ltd after leaving school he went on to be a Design Engineer working on aircraft and ship propellers and railway rolling stock, radio, TV and electronics. Clem was in charge of the Biological Sciences Electronics workshop at Swansea University until retirement and computer monitor repairs until a heart attack.

Clem contacted the Association thanks to an e-mail from Alan Watkins. He lists his hobbies as Ham Radio, photography and computers and admits to still not having seen the 'new' school at Oakleaze.

CONDER Katherine (1995-1997) Is about to graduate from the University of Warwick with a History degree. She has enjoyed her three years at University particularly the ten weeks she spent living and studying in Venice. She is engaged to Matthew, also an old Richian and is planning to marry him in the next few years. She has succeeded in gaining a position at Oxford University as a Librarian at the English Library.

CROFT Giles (1984-1991) Saw in the new Millennium at a crash call! In February started on a three year surgical rotation based at Jimmy's in Leeds. Is currently experiencing the weird and wonderful as a Senior House Officer in A&E at Leeds General Infirmary and recently passed the first part of his Surgical Trainee exams (one down three to go!). At the end of the rotation he plans on taking a well-earned rest and travelling for a year before commencing specialist training. Outside of work he still enjoys road cycling and this year's summer holiday will be with his trusty steed in and around the Loire Valley in France. E-mail: drfrot@hotmail.com

DANCE Edwin C (1931-1936) Left Rich's and became a student apprentice (Electrical Engineering) before the outbreak of war. Served in the Royal Navy (1940-1946) on North Atlantic convoy escort, minesweeping, motor torpedo and gunboats. Eddie then joined the Electrical Division of the Chief Engineer's Dept of London County Council before moving back to Gloucester in 1952 to work for Midlands Electricity Board where he was District Commercial Engineer, retiring in 1982. Many of Eddie's interests are focused around the parish church of Upton St Leonards, the village just outside Gloucester where he lives. A member of the Parochial Church Council for 40 years, he has been the Rector's Churchwarden for 20 years. Other interests include tower bell ringing and amateur stagecraft.

DARBY Andrew (1973-1980) Working at Alcan's R&D Centre in Banbury, Oxon since 1984 – never a dull moment! Due to a whole string of coincidences in March last year Andy was fortunate to be brought back from death and underwent quadruple heart by-pass surgery very shortly afterwards. Following that trauma and after many many miles out on the roads and fields getting fit and strong again, he's managed to get back into the Great Tew 1st XI in the Cherwell League – so far so good! Andy's wife Trish is teaching locally and their two children are doing well at school. Katrina starts secondary school in September and Michael (8) is cricket mad (a chip off the old block) and is showing real promise – already playing U.13's.

DAYMOND Andrew J (1973-81) Still living near Shaftesbury Dorset with wife Sally. Ran last year's London Marathon. (*"I know because I saw him!"* says Pete Mayo.)

DEAN Nigel (1961-1966) After five and a half years working at Sky Sports in London, Nigel has returned to ITV based near his home in Southampton. He is working

across a range of sports programmes both for ITV and other networks. These include coverage of the men's Tennis Masters series and the BT Global Challenge yacht race.

DEEBLE Andrew (1977-84) Bumped into David Hook in the 'Shed' during the game against Harlequins while visiting Gloucester for a couple of days. Andrew took early retirement from the Dorset Police two years ago following a second severe beating he had received in the line of duty. With the police pension, rent from his home in Bournemouth and a bit of share dealing, Andrew has spent most of the last two years travelling particularly in Southeast Asia.

DEGGE Austin (1990-1997) Gained a 2.1 BSc degree in Economics and Management Sciences from the University of Southampton.

DILL Matthew (1991-1998) Has just finished his second year at Cardiff University studying Business Administration. Currently taking part in a summer placement conducting a marketing audit at an engineering company in Cinderford. Last summer he spent five weeks travelling around Europe with two other Old Richians and plans to spend a few months travelling around Australia, New Zealand, Bali, Thailand etc when he graduates. He is captain of the Cardiff University men's tennis team and is involved with the Gloucestershire County team.

DIXON Alan (1950-1958) Retired from teaching in July 1999 and is now enjoying life to the full, walking, playing golf and lawn bowls, visiting friends and taking holidays out of season. He has recently contacted Nolan ('Nobby') Newbury who was at Rich's from 1953-58. He is Headmaster of Old Buckenham High School in Norfolk. They both plan to attend the Annual dinner in 2001 and would like to meet any contemporaries who can make it then, especially any members of the 1st XV, years 1957 and 1958 which had a fine playing record and an even finer social reputation!

DORN David (1953-1959) Now managing the Residential and Commercial Agencies at Smiths of Newent, Glos (Chartered Surveyors). David and his wife Catherine are proud to see their own son Alex Dorn in the present 6th form studying Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Chemistry and hopefully then off to University in September to study Engineering (destination unknown at the moment). He has also achieved the dizzy heights of Observator - far brighter than his Dad! They also have a daughter Natalie who is at Ribston Hall School. Best wishes sent to all old friends. His claim to fame - he was credited with discovering the largest recorded cobweb in the world several years ago in a cottage in Newent - a feat now recorded in the Guinness Book of Records.

DREW Richard (1977-1983) Went to Surrey University to study Civil Engineering, graduated and was offered a post with John Laing. Has worked in London, Canary Wharf, and Middle East. Spent five years in Vietnam where he met his wife Lan and they married in 1997. Richard and Lan returned to England at the end of 1998. Their son Thomas was born in March 1999. They live in Berkhamsted, Herts. Adam Jack attended their wedding and is Thomas' Godfather.

EARL Paul A (1975-1980) After a number of years working in the time-share

holiday business on the Island of Gran Canaria, Paul met and married a Finnish girl Lily. They have now moved to Finland and live outside Helsinki where Paul is an advertising executive.

EASTWOOD Harry (1946-1950) Is enjoying retirement in the Cotswolds having served in the Gloucestershire Constabulary.

EGAN Steven (1972-1976) Enjoying family life with his wife Anne and young children Esther and Ben. Recently invested in a tandem so watch out for them in the Bath area.

ELLIOTT Catherine (1995-1997) Graduated from St Catherine's College, Oxford with a 2.1 BA in law. Studying for Legal Practice Course at University of the West of England, Bristol and has a training contract to become a qualified solicitor with a firm in Bristol.

FITCH Luke (1986-1993) Who works for the Rover group in Birmingham was reported by the Church Times in October 1999 to have broken an unofficial world record by visiting six capital cities in less than 48 hours. Accompanying his father the journey was from Douglas on the Isle of Man to Dublin Castle, Stormont, Edinburgh, Westminster and Cardiff before returning to Douglas in a force 8 gale in 47 hours 48 minutes. The event raised £2,500 for restoration and refurbishment work at the churches in Douglas where Luke's father is vicar.

FLETCHER Ian (1972-1979) Still working in the Health Service as Head of Dept for Nursing at the Gloucester base of the University of the West of England's Faculty of Health & Social Care. Ian is married to Dori and they have three children Kieran, Eilish and Liam.

FOWLER Chris (1957-1964) After more than 25 years as a solicitor with his own firm on 1st January 2000 Chris merged his practice with the well established firm of Langley Wellingtons and became a consultant with that firm. Chris has become a specialist in Childcare Law and was an original member of the Law Society Childcare Panel. He is also Secretary of Young Gloucestershire, the leading youth organisation in the County. Chris takes a keen interest in local sport and is vice chairman of the Gloucester Charity Skittles League and past chairman of the Gloucester District Youth Cricket League having until only recently organised Youth Cricket Teams, many of whose players came from the school.

FOWLER Marc (1989-1996) Son of Chris Fowler above. Marc has just graduated from Seale-Hayne, faculty of agriculture, food and land use, University of Plymouth with a 2.1 BSc (Hons) degree in Agriculture. This four-year course included a certificate of industrial placement. For this he spent 15 months working on a mixed farm in Hampshire which was a fantastic experience. Marc had the honour of captaining the University 1st XI football team this year. This included a league and cup double in the Devon Wednesday league. He also played for Newton Rangers in the Westward Development league, Devon. Mark is now seeking employment and considering his

options for the future. E-mail: MIFowler@yahoo.co.uk

FRODIN David A (1990-1997) Cadet Frodin D A writes from on board RFA Sir Bedivere just outside territorial waters, Sierra Leone:

"I have been on board Sir Bedivere for two months now after spending the remainder of last year and spring of this year at college in Southampton. My HND Nautical Science is progressing well and in eighteen months or so I will sit my first professional examinations as a Navigating Officer. Half way through the course and I suddenly realise that A-Level mathematics would have been helpful. Still cannot grasp how a triangle can be spherical and as for the celestial sphere, where is Mr Carew-Jones when you need him most?"

It is great to have finally left the confines of European waters and discover that the ITCZ really does exist. My daily life revolves around watch keeping on the Bridge and correspondence work, though we do find time for the occasional Cocktail Party when hostilities permit.

I trust that the school continues on from strength to strength and that the reunion brought together many friends and, above all, Richians. Sadly, one part of my life involves being away from the rest of it!

My fondest regards to the staff and school."

FUGLER Paul (1965-1973) Is still single and living in Gloucester. Piano teaching continues to be Paul's main source of income although he is always on the lookout for freelance research work on early music and liturgy as and when it comes along, which unfortunately is not very often. Paul now teaches at Rich's two days a week, which is an excellent way to keep in touch and still be involved with the school. Unfortunately the main piece of news is that on 14th June this year Paul suffered a mild heart attack - not what you expect at 46. As it happened, the attack occurred whilst teaching at Rich's which is in no way a reflection on the school, the place he enjoys teaching more than anywhere else. Hopefully with good rest over the summer and the right medication, he'll be back fit again in September.

GEORGE Glyn (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 as 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 an elected school board officer. Glyn now serves as the 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/>). He is still involved with the Avalon East School Board (which operates 68 schools) as its (volunteer) founding Webmaster (<http://www.aesb.k12.nf.ca/govern/>). Glyn hopes to visit Gloucester again in May 2001. E-mail: ggeorge@engr.mun.ca

GILMORE Mark (1990-1997) Just completed third year of medicine studying at Queens University Belfast. On the sporting side in addition to squash, rugby, running and windsurfing, he has been mountaineering including climbing in the Alps with friends from the Bristol Climbing Club. The past two summers have been spent teaching windsurfing in Turkey and on the Greek Island of Kos. This summer he will be spending four weeks on Christian Beach Missions in Northern Ireland doing youth evangelism.

GILMORE Paul (1991-1998) Just completed second year of electronic engineering degree at Manchester University. On the sporting side, Paul takes part in running, swimming and rugby although after sustaining a severe leg injury is now endeavouring to get fit again and hopes to return to play rugby in the autumn.

GODWIN William (1993-2000) Outgoing school Captain he will be taking a year out which will include a six months stint with the charity LatinLink working in Peru. Following the Gap year Will plans to read International Politics and Strategic studies at Aberystwyth. He is being sponsored at University by the army and hopes to go on to Sandhurst in 2004. Before heading off to Peru Will plans to carry out a sponsored parachute jump and then cycle from John O'Groats to Land's End. We wish him well!!

HAINES Christopher (1979-1986) A Chartered Building Surveyor currently working throughout the southwest as a contract manager to the Symonds Group. Chris is still happily married to Natalie, née Chapman, sister of Lee (1979-1986) and his wish for a large family has come true – already a father of two, Hannah 4 and Mary 1 with a third due on Christmas Day. Still living in Hucclecote but planning to move following his youngest brother's recent arrival in the neighbourhood.

HAINES Jeremy (Doctor) (1981-1988) Lives in Wirral with his wife Nicola and children Katie 4 and James 2. Jeremy is currently a specialist registrar in anaesthesia and intensive care at University Hospital Aintree in Liverpool. He became a Fellow of the Royal College of Anaesthetists in June 1999 and is due to begin a years research in obstetric and gynaecological anaesthesia at the Liverpool Women's Hospital in October 2000.

HAINES Nicholas M (1985-1992) Qualified as a Chartered Accountant in September 1998 before deciding on a move into tax. Passed the Chartered Institute of Taxation Exams in January 2000 to become a chartered tax adviser working at Hazlewoods in Cheltenham as a Corporate Tax Manager. Nick is currently living in Hucclecote with fiancée Samantha who he is marrying in April 2001.

HARDCASTLE Mark J (1994-2000) In September 2000 Mark signed a one year contract with second division Bristol Rovers who had been pursuing him for four years. Last season Mark made eight appearances for Rovers reserves and starred in the Cheltenham Town Youth Team that finished runners-up in the County Youth League and won the League Cup. Rovers wanted Mark to turn professional now rather than when he finished his "A" levels so he opted to take his chance in football and continue

his studies at night school.

HARLEY James (1990-1995) In the five years since leaving STRS James has achieved much. Not only has he studied at Hartbury College becoming a qualified canoe instructor and practising his skills in the South of France, he is also a Queen Scout. After winning the Cotswold Marathon this year he has decided a career dedicated to saving lives is for him. After two years working at Riverside he has passed the qualifying test for the fire service in the Gloucestershire area and we wish him all the best.

HARRIS Stephen (1973-1980) Married in 1985 to Kim (met at University - Nene College Northampton) with two children (Alexandra 6 and Matthew 2) living now in East Sussex near Ashdown Forest. Stephen, now bearing letters FCA after his name, qualified as a Chartered Accountant (BSc Hons) in 1986 and has worked with major international firms of accountants as well as 6 years as a consultant advising independent firms of accountants how to meet both their professional and business obligations. Currently, Stephen is an owner/director of a firm of Chartered Accountants who specialise in raising finance for emerging IT technology businesses. Recently started playing badminton again after 15 years lay off (ouch!) and is still riding fast motorbikes. Stephen is a qualified diver and this is the only remnant of the swimming and lifesaving clubs that he used to run at School and College.

HARRIS Terrence R (Reverend) (1946-1952) Our immediate past President e-mailed us the following news:

"The new Millennium has brought many new things in its wake. It began when I conducted a Service on the beach at Sidmouth to see the town into the new Millennium. On Midsummer's Day (our daughter, Rachel's birthday) we were delighted to become Grandparents to Megan. Our son, James (a Freelance Photographer in London) had two sets of his photographs produced in 'The Financial Times' in August. I retired at the end of August, after 39 years in the Methodist Ministry. My last Sermon preached at Ministerial Synod, was published, with a picture, in 'The Methodist Recorder'. Whoever would have thought it when I was a lad at Rich's? Julia and I are now living at 27 Ashleigh Road, Honiton (0140 445634) - having already lived in Devon for 20 years. Pop in and see us if you're passing this way. (Telephone first and we're sure to be out!)" E-mail: trharris@tinyworld.co.uk

HARRISON Adrian P (1977-1984) Has been happily married to Ebba for five years and become accustomed to life in Denmark where he is a lecturer at the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University in Copenhagen teaching anatomy and physiology. A member of the American Physiology Society he is researching into and preparing a textbook on skeletal muscle physiology-M-waves, contractility and thyroid hormones. In addition to this Adrian is a partner in a small science-related company in Copenhagen, Science Advisor to Denmark's Technology Institute, has filed one and is preparing a second patent claim. For relaxation Adrian has started watercolour painting again and is an avid collector of ancient coins. He would welcome hearing

from any contemporaries and in particular any news of or from Mike Blackwell and Phil Corbett with whom he has lost touch. E-mail: adh@kvl.dk

HEAD John (1947-53) Now lives in Cirencester having retired from the Gloucestershire Constabulary. His time at Rich's included two years in the Rich's Junior School – does anyone remember Mrs Bunce he asks? John has two children and four grandchildren.

HEDGES Norman Victor (1934-1940) Qualified as a Chartered Surveyor 1960 – worked for Gloucestershire County Council Estates & Valuation and its subsequent titles, County Valuers and Land Agents Department and County Property Services Department 1956-1984. Senior Assistant Valuer. War Service 1941-1946 – Warrant Officer – Navigator 192 Squadron (special duties) Bomber Command, RAF. He has a wife Olive, a daughter Christine and two grandsons Thomas (12) and Matthew (10). His claim to fame – contemporary of Bill Hook in Rich's School Soccer and Cricket XI's of 1939-40. Played in first rugby match (1940) Rich's v George Dixon Grammar (evacuated from Birmingham during war to share Rich's facilities). Had the good fortune to have “pappa” Veale as headmaster during most of his Rich's years.

HOOK David (1972-1980) Has been Chairman of the Association for the past 3 years and continues to be a Governor at Rich's, a post he has held since 1988. Despite being diagnosed with a dilated cardiomyopathy (enlarged heart) - *“I'm on more tablets a day than my father!”* - David continues to travel around the UK and the globe when on leave from his job as a senior surveyor and valuer with Gloucester City Council based in Kimberley Warehouse in the Docks. Dropping in on Old Richian friends is not unheard of – last year's journeys included 3 weeks in North America visiting British Columbia, east and west coast USA (Dave Jerrard) and a week in Switzerland (Pete Wise). This year there has been more of a British emphasis but a week was spent in Egypt and Athens is on the agenda for later in the year.

HUGHES Brian (Bill) (1944-1951) Continues to enjoy retirement in Kings Lynn, Norfolk. A visit to Oz has helped to break the monotony of gardening and golf but he has recently ‘done’ the coast to coast walk (St Bees Head, Cumbria to Robin Hood's Bay, N. Yorkshire) raising money for Diabetes UK. Most sad to hear of the deaths of Dennis (Taffy) Powell and Peter (Porky) Holmes following those of Gordon (Oxo) Cummings and Ronnie (Teddy) Artus all of whom were compatriots in the school cricket and rugby teams at various times.

HUTTON John F (1935-1942) School Captain 1940-41 and 1941-42, writes:

“Those who remember me will perhaps be interested to know that I got married again in December 1998. My bride Helen, who had been a friend of the family for many years, and I, and the Clerk of the Court, were the only ones present at a ceremony held at the Broward County Court House in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. After retirement from Shell Research Ltd in 1984 one of my self-imposed tasks was to write, in collaboration with two others, a book entitled ‘Introduction to Rheology’ (rheology is the science of deformation and flow). Sales have passed the 5000 mark and continue

at a steady rate, since it is often recommended reading in post-graduate courses. This delights the publishers Elsevier, who consider the book one of their best sellers. A few years ago the book was translated into Chinese and last year the publishers negotiated a deal for a Korean translation. Korea paid us 600 US\$; not a princely sum but better than China who paid us nothing!"

HYETT Grahame (1945-1950) Last February saw Grahame and his wife move from Cornwall to Norwich – still a long way from Gloucester, Rich's and all that implies. The reason for the move was to be nearer Elsie's daughter (his step daughter) who had just presented them with their first grandchild. Norwich is new ground and they are impressed with the prosperous and thriving city. He still works full time in retirement mostly from his home office using the latest electronic technology, for a joinery and shopfitting company based in the West Midlands. His own daughter Beth and her husband still live in Longlevens and Jason his youngest grandson has been playing rugby for Old Richians U15s. Grahame saw him earlier this year in the blue and gold – quite a moment he says.

JACK Adam (1977-1984) Adam obtained a Degree in Pure Mathematics at Southampton University and followed a career in the Software Industry which means that he travelled to a lot of wonderful places for months at a time – Kuala Lumpur to Oman – Egypt to Abidjan. He stopped a while to live in Hong Kong but feeling the need to move on with a career, did a short stint in London before living and working in America. He now lives in Colorado and has the position of Vice President of Technology for a locally based, but internationally focussed software company. However, he has the luxury of working primarily from his home office in the mountains (NASDAQ : NEON, <http://www.neonsoft.com>). Weekends allow for skiing, hiking, biking in amazing scenery. He joined the local volunteer fire department. In the mountains this means fire, rescue and also medical services whilst paramedic services make their way here by ambulance or helicopter. Despite travelling he has still only performed mainly on 'desk jobs' so he finds this is an amazing challenge and thrill to help his friends and neighbours when they need help most and finds it incredibly rewarding.

<http://www.coalcreek.com/CCCVFD/Articles/Firefighter-Article7.html>

JACQUES Ken (1972-1979) Teaches computing at the Gloucestershire College of Arts and Technology, Brunswick Road, Gloucester.

JENKINS Andrew (1990-1997) Awarded his BA in Business Economics at the University of Leicester.

JENKINS Eric (1969-1974) After leaving STRS he was an apprentice at Smiths Industries, Bishops Cleeve, before joining the Merchant Navy as an electrical officer. He is currently working on shipping from Barrow-in-Furness.

JENKINS John (1967-1972) Brother of Eric above – after leaving STRS joined British Railways in the signalling and telecommunications engineering department in Gloucester. After a spell in the design office at Reading moved into technical

management posts at Hereford, Bristol and Exeter. In today's fragmented railway industry, he is Railtrack's Level Crossing Engineer for the Great Western Zone as well as being an advisor to 'heritage' railways on 'manual' signalling systems. Other than this, he has completed 25 years service (so far) as a Special Constable originally in Gloucestershire but now in Somerset stationed at Weston-super-Mare which is near his home. He enjoys choral music and belongs to church and area choirs. He has two daughters Catherine and Becky who also join him in these activities. Wendy his wife of 18 years is a dental nurse in the village as well as looking after her family.

JERRARD David (1976-1983) E-mailed the following to the chairman... "*Two kids Tyne and Riley. Beautiful, understanding and immensely patient wife Marion. Sales Director Americas for Sutter Home Winery. Travel too much (flew 62 times in 1999) still living in beautiful northern California – desperately trying to avoid learning Spanish. Once in a while I keep up with UK news by watching BBC Newsnight via the Internet. The older I get the more I appreciate my time at Rich's*". E-mail: thehjs@earthlink.net

JONES Aimee J (1998-2000) Planned to leave Rich's and the UK this year as along with the rest of her family she was emigrating to Wellington, New Zealand. The plan is to study business commerce and management at University 'down under' and we wish her all the best in the Southern Hemisphere. The Association hasn't had a member in New Zealand since the death of Cliff Organ in 1996 at the age of 95 so we hope Aimee will re-establish the link!

LANGMAN Paul A (1964-1972) After 11 years at Rugby school teaching maths, the last five as Director of Studies, Paul began a new role in September as Headmaster of Senior School at Saltus Grammar School, Bermuda. Picture and details including Sir Thomas Rich's name can be accessed on the world wide web at <http://www.saltus.bm>. Paul's promotion and achievements have come despite having both lower legs amputated nine years ago for a deteriorating birth defect (club feet) and he does not even use a walking stick. He has been married for 23 years to Caroline and they have two children Clare aged 20 in her final year at the University of Manchester and Christopher 18 who has just started at Durham. Caroline is currently researching for a PhD at the University of Birmingham and divides her time between there and Bermuda.

LAI-HUNG Jeremy (1990-1997) Now coming to the end of his second year of a three year Economics and Politics Degree at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. During his vacations Jeremy spends time training with the Royal Navy on his way to taking up full-time training when he graduates. "*Having university sponsorship really helps financially when in London!*" says Jeremy.

LAI-HUNG Julian (1982-1987) He has just quit a job to launch an Internet business. He would love to hear from anyone who remembers him. Please e-mail: julian@gocapital.com What has he been doing? 1987-91: Aston University; 1991-97: various jobs in Japan; 1997-99: Wharton MBA University of Pennsylvania; 1999-2000 Booz Allen and Hamilton, London. 2000 to ?? – E-business or bust!

LANG Helen (1995-1997) Playing netball for UMIST 1st team. Got a job with Nestlé beginning September. Looking forward to graduating this July with a BSc (Hons) in Management Science from UMIST.

LAWRENCE Nigel (1975-1980) Has been in the police since 1st April 1981 and having worked at various stations around the city joined the Gloucestershire Constabulary Police Dog Section in 1992 and is currently based at Bamfurlong with Max who specialises in crowd control. Married to Sue, Nigel has two children a girl (12) and a boy (8). In his spare time Nigel continues his love of rugby both by playing in and running the police team.

LEWIS John (1943-1950) Guest speaker at this year's association annual dinner. He is still enjoying post-retirement (!) academic research career. He is in the process of moving his research group from Bristol University to Bath University where he has acquired his third Visiting Professorship.

LITTLER Keith (1972-1979) Is managing director of Ten Pin Alley Limited, a Gloucester based audio facilities firm which purchased Enterprise House in Brunswick Road, Gloucester in 1999 as a new office premises for their expansion plans. At the time of the move the company employed six full time and eighteen freelance staff.

LONDON Michael (1978-1985) Since settling in London (Hammersmith) Michael worked for an advertising agency rising after eight years to Deputy Creative Director. Mike was involved in writing advertisements for both TV and press including campaigns for Daewoo, Pizza Hut and the 'Know the Score' anti drugs ads. Mike is currently writing and directing and has just completed a short film starring John Altman (Nick Cotton in 'Eastenders'). Two shorts and two feature film scripts are currently keeping him busy. Married to Claire, a producer for commercials and pop promos, they have travelled extensively, including Thailand, USA and Australia for work and pleasure.

MANN Lucy (1994-1996) Has just finished her degree in International Business with French at Sheffield Hallam University where she obtained a 2.1 Degree class. Lucy has recently started work at Allied Bakeries in Sheffield, a division of Associated British Foods where she occupies the role of Commercial Assistant using her business skills and fluency in French to support the Technical Sales managers for the UK and export and the Business Unit Manager. Lucy says she is just starting to settle after 4 years at university, one and a half of those years spent working and studying in France and having a "*totally amazing time!*"

MARRIOTT James (1990-1997) Graduated this year with a 2.1 in Physics from Bristol University.

MAYHEW Bill (1935-1940) This is Bill's second appearance in the school magazine, the first was an article 'I Try Work' written in 1937! After leaving Tommies with all kinds of memories and experiences, particularly in sports and with Bill Hook, Bill went on to study Physics at Exeter University. From Exeter he was directed into the Admiralty as an experimental officer to work with Dr Levin to develop the

communication system for the future invasion of France. Completion led to other advanced radar and electronic projects. Homesick though, he got a research appointment at Rotol, Gloucester using his physics and electronic skills. This led to a position at GEC working on the development of the UK's first sea to air missile guided system. He was then offered a contract to design the radar transmitter for the mid-Canada line and moved to Montreal, Canada. This led in turn to USA and work on the Ballistic Missile Early Warning System. In 1975 he joined the US Navy Department covering many diverse projects but culminating in systems engineering for the AEGIS System which still keeps him hard and work and still enthused. He says it seems he tried work and liked it: *"This ability to enjoy my profession I am absolutely sure was determined by the science and maths skills which were instilled in me by a great set of teachers. Ah! Little Freddie Freeman How much I owe him!"*

MAYO Chris (1978-1985) Now a partner in the European Partnership of Human Resource Consultancy, Watson Wyatt Worldwide. Having returned in 1997 from a spell working in Milan Chris' latest project is to build his own house on a plot of land he has bought in Kent, with his girlfriend, Vanessa. He still manages a little running though nowhere near the standard he achieved at school!

MAYO David E (1945-1950) Lives in Longlevens and retired five years ago after 44 years in Local Government, civil and municipal engineering in Gloucester. His interests now include following local sport, gardening, family photography and dabbling in water colour painting and woodturning. He is a member of the Old Richians Association Committee. Sons Peter and Christopher are also members of the Old Richians Association.

MAYO Peter (1973-81) Pete and his wife, Sally, are now well settled in Coulsdon, Surrey. The proximity of the local school (about 100 metres!) is a bonus for their two sons Jonathan (7) and Rory (4). For Pete, athletic endeavour is, these days, constrained to shouting from the sidelines, mainly at his friends and colleagues at Herne Hill Harriers. He says that it is still too early to say whether the next generation of Mayo's will show the same inclination to test the claimed powers of Persil to the limit. However, they are currently very keen on the shouting bit! Professionally Pete is still working within IT and has been with L'Oreal for 5 years. He has spent the last two years project managing the implementation of new supply chain and finance systems within L'Oreal. This has meant spending far too long in the damp surroundings of Manchester and too little time *"in the garden, with the family"*.

MEACHAM Ron (1940-48) Wrote to the Association to tell us about his recent trip to Le Mans :

"The second time in four years I decided to take my 1977 Alfa Romeo Spyder to Le Mans for the twenty four hour race but not to actually participate, just to observe. My car was one of four, a 1968 MGC, a 1969 Triumph TR4A and a modern Caterham 7.

On Friday morning we left Portsmouth bound for Cherbourg on the catamaran service but were delayed by fog for an hour and a half. The air conditioning on board was full

on so I was more than pleased to be wearing trousers not shorts and have a jumper to hand. The hand drier in the men's room was a useful source of keeping warm! As the French coast came into sight so did the sun and our spirits rose. One hour down the road and time to boil the kettle and eat our croissants. The weather was now quite beautiful and not a cloud in the sky as we made our way via Bayeux, Falaise and for our evening meal in Gace. We were heading for a converted farmhouse at St Mars du Desert, run by a very hospitable English couple and just forty-five minutes from Le Mans.

Le Mans is not just about racing, it is the atmosphere, the friendly crowds and the lines of old cars, mostly British. Lovely Bentleys, Aston Martins, Jaguars and Lagondas to name just a few. Thousands of people, mostly men and all having paid just £36 to enjoy the racing, the fairground, the food and the wine. Time for lunch and plenty of liquid as the sun was overhead with the temperature climbing to 38 degrees. The national anthems were played and details given of the participating drivers and their cars.

At 4pm the race began. The noise was awesome, forty-eight cars in four different categories and some with engines up to eight litres, no silencers. The raw power of these cars, flames from the turbo-chargers as they accelerate and glowing discs as they brake.

Le Mans is of course a twenty-four hour race to test both engines and drivers who stay at the wheel for three hours at a stretch. It was interesting to learn that apart from tyres, petrol and suspension even gearboxes could be changed in a few minutes.

After a few hours of watching we decided to return to the farmhouse for a meal, a sleep and then return to the track at 4am to see the sun come up and watch the end of the race later in the day. A different atmosphere at that time of the morning. People rapped in sleeping bags lying on the grass, a few worse for wear from the demon drink but the cars were still roaring by. The race ended at 4pm with the German firm of Audi finishing first; second and third. By now we were all feeling rather shattered, so a relaxing evening at a local hostelry and a trip next day to a local beauty spot on a lake with a beach where we all slept under the trees for most of the day.

Our return ferry was for 8.30am Tuesday morning. The owners of the farmhouse said that we could get to Le Havre in two-and-a-half hours so we left at 4am after a hearty breakfast. Traffic and detours meant that we arrived at the harbour gates at 8.15am with the entrance gates closed. Much waving of arms and shouts of the Entente Cordiale and we were through - the last vehicles to board the ferry.

Returned to Salisbury having driven 880 miles in a 23 year old car for what was truly a boy's own week-end."

MEERS Stephen M (1970-1977) Studied Business Studies at Aston University and returned to Gloucester where he is now senior accountant in the City Council's Accountancy and Exchequer Services Section based in Kimberley Warehouse. Stephen

is married to Tonya who works in the Legal Services of the Forest of Dean District Council.

MILLS David (1952-1959) Has just taken early retirement from Tewkesbury Borough Council after 41½ years Local Government service. His final post was that of Assistant Deputy Returning Officer for all elections in the Borough from Parish to Parliamentary. He was also in charge of Local Land Charges and the Council's Emergency Planning Liaison Office (his claim to fame being the disposal of the Sandhurst Bomb two years ago – not single handed of course!). He hopes in retirement to take on overseas election monitoring with the UK, Foreign Office, United Nations or European Union. This is where independent persons monitor elections in 3rd world or ex less free countries. He is still Clerk to the Civil Parishes of Badgeworth and Hucclecote which, if the proposals for extra housing go ahead, will keep him busy. His association with Hucclecote Scout Group continues as a member of the Group Scout Committee.

NEARY John (1972-1977) Former Sheriff of Gloucester and City Councillor for Longlevens John has recently turned his energies towards another passion – rugby football. John is Secretary of the Gloucester Rugby Supporters Association, an independent organisation that aims to give all supporters a voice in discussions about what happens at the club. A national Rugby Supporters Association is also being formed with John as the Chairman, to link the majority of clubs throughout the country. Details of membership of the GRSA can be obtained from John on 01452 424957.

NEURAUTER Peter J (1972-1979) Is head of Network for the National Sports Coaching Foundation. He is an internationally qualified ski coach and recently gained a Masters Degree (MA) in Sports Development. He is married with two children – Anton (6) and Mattias (4) and lives in Bath.

NEWCOMBE Michael (1967-1974) After leaving STRS worked for British Railways for a few months before reading English at Cardiff University. After graduation he held a number of management posts in the retail industry. After a spell in the Civil Service IT Department he has rejoined Stagecoach. He enjoys steam railways and visits old railway sites as time permits. Married Jenny on 1st January 2000 at Christchurch, Gloucester in what was the first wedding of the new Millennium in the City (and possibly the County).

NICHOLAS Philip (1939-1947) Contacted the association to apologise for being unable to attend this years annual dinner and to say how sorry he was to learn of the death of proposed speaker Dennis Powell. Now living near Kettering, Philip has seven grandchildren and sent his best wishes to past and present pupils of STRS.

OUNSWORTH Steven (1977-1982) Current occupation: senior sales executive for Japanese Automotive Systems Supplier (Denso Sales UK Ltd), responsible for commercial project management of Engine Management Systems business with Jaguar. BEng (Hons) Degree – Engineering with Industrial Management (Surrey University). Post university has travelled around America and Australia and work involves travel around Europe, USA and Japan. Hobbies: badminton, 5-a-side, mountain-biking,

golf, motor sport, eating and drinking.

PAGE-JONES Nigel (1981-1988) Married Tanya in 1995 and worked as a voluntary church worker for a couple of years whilst also studying computer programming. Obtained a job as a programmer with Compass computer Consultants in 1997. After two years with Compass Nigel accepted a job offer from a Christian friend who was starting a computer software company called “Angel Solutions”. The company mainly develop software for schools and LEA’s. He hopes that the company will be able to support church mission work in the future. Nigel and Tanya live in Liverpool with two children Sophie (b.1997) and Marcus (b.1998) – more in the future probably! Purchased a former “student house” a couple of years ago and quickly had to learn how to build walls, plaster and install central heating, almost at the end of the renovations now! E-mail: nigel@angelsolutions.co.uk

PAGE-JONES Richard (1983-1988) Has been living in Liverpool since 1995. Married Claire in January 1997. Currently working in Debt Recovery at Telewest Communications. Richard has recently taken book-keeping exams and if he passes will be a certified book-keeper. He will start looking for work in this field. Richard plays the keyboard and guitar in a music team at Frontline Church in Wavertree and has a dog called Basil!

PASSEY Alan C J (1972-1979) On leaving STRS Alan worked for a year at Rolls Royce, Bristol on an engineering scholarship. He soon realised that engineering was not for him and subsequently studied physics at the University of Reading with the intention of a career in education. A year at the University of Exeter studying a PGCE was followed by three years teaching at Strode’s Sixth Form College, Egham, Surrey and then eight years at the Royal Grammar School, Worcester. Throughout all this time he continued, by coaching, his obsession with rowing. However, deciding that rowing was occupying too much of his time (he often spent more time rowing than he did teaching) and now with a young family, Alan moved back to Gloucester and Rich’s as Head of Physics. Here he is pursuing another love of his life, music. He is married with two children.

PERKS Anthony Manning (Professor, Baron of Corcomroe) (1943-1951) Continues as Professor of Obstetrics & Gynaecology at University of British Columbia and as Donald Henry Lecturer at University of Florida Medical School. Frequently spends the summer time back in his house in Longlevens. This year made a visit with Ben Richards to his family’s ancestral home of Boconnoc in Cornwall before catching up with his old school friend Garth Lancaster at the Three Choirs Festival in Hereford. Now the proud owner of a cream coloured Cadillac Seville, which friends call (Mr Toad’s) Canary Coloured Cart!

PERRIN Will (1990-1997) Studying for a BSc in Information Technology for Business at Aston University Will was Project Captain for ‘Lending a Helping Hand and Learning about Addiction’, a one day a project for twelve people from Goldman Sachs, his University placement firm. The project’s aim was to help out with ‘Action

on Addiction' a London charity for drug and alcohol addicts.

PRICE Matthew (1984-1991) Gained a BA at University College London and is now teaching geography at Kingsbury High School, Kingsbury, London.

PRICE Stuart J (1979-1986) Gained LLB at Birmingham and is now a partner with a firm of solicitors in Birmingham specialising in personal injury.

RAWCLIFFE Derek (Rt Reverend) (1929-1939) Former Anglican Bishop of the New Hebrides (now Vanuatu) in the Pacific and Glasgow & Galloway north of the border. Derek now lives in retirement in Leeds. He remains active in many fields from local church work and Church Action on Poverty to the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement in particular working towards full acceptance of homosexuals within the Church of England and the wider Anglican Communion. In addition to all this Derek has published two books this year – 'The Meaning of It All is Love' price £3.50 – a collection of his recent articles and essays and 'The Stone and the Hazel Nut' price £2.50 – a third collection of poems. If you would like to order copies they can be obtained by post from 7 Dorset Avenue, Leeds, LS8 3RA (please include £1 postage and packing).

RICHARDS Ian (1973-80) Ian was last seen working for Woolwich Building Society, married to Andrea with 2 children and living in Dulwich. (*"This was a few years ago, though"* says Pete Mayo)

RIDDICK Steven K (1973-80) Steve has recently returned to the UK having spent many years working abroad with Arthur Andersen. This was initially in Nigeria but more recently in Saudi Arabia. His tropical endeavours have earned him a partnership at AA but at the moment his plans back in the UK are not yet clear.

RILEY Gordon (1956-1962) Fast approaching retirement from the Metropolitan Police after over 35 years service. Gordon has served in uniform and plain clothes branches in London's West End, Paddington and Notting Hill. Currently serving in Specialist Operations Branch at Houses of Parliament protecting MP's and Lords. (Barry Legge – Old Richian was MP for Milton Keynes until he lost his seat at last election). Still mad keen on all sports and hopes to spend his retirement watching more cricket and rugby and perhaps finding a less stressful part time job. Recently celebrated 30 years of marriage to Vanessa a former international ice skater. She is shortly off to Canada to judge the new skating Grand Prix series and due to judge next year's World Championships in Nice.

RILEY Robert (1972-1977) Is currently a senior procurement specialist with British Energy Generation Ltd. Based in Gloucester but more often found travelling between the company's offices and power stations in various parts of the UK. Although much of his spare time is spent being a 'taxi driver' for his two daughters aged 13 and 11 he still finds time to pursue some amateur musical interests, produce a monthly church magazine and play the very occasional round of golf.

ROBBINS Alan (1964-1972) Is to the best of our knowledge the only Association

member living in Scotland. Alan works in forestry near Crieff in Perthshire and can be contacted on alan.robbs@rts.ltd.uk

ROBERTS E A (Ted) (1946-1951) In good running order, one careful lady owner for 42 years. Unable to retire as sole support of countless itinerant booksellers and motor traders. Independent councillor on Forest of Dean District Council, on numerous committees, some quite useful. Chairman of Joint Advisory committee for Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and member of National Committee for AONB's. Spends much time trying to get funding for countryside projects from ministers and very glad nowadays of energy saved when dozing quietly in the back row of class. Hobbies and pastimes include vintage cars and motorbikes. Still driving 1924 Alvis bought four years after leaving STRS often accompanied by as many of our six grandchildren (3 of each) as will fit. Shooting including target rifle (50 odd years after being taught by dear old 'Sinky' at STRS rifle club, shooting down corridors after school), nature conservation work, glaring over gate at passing furriners and shouting across valley to sister. Believed well thought of by Springer spaniel. Untouched by scandal apart from the price of cigars. Contemporaries seen – cousin Gerald Akerman operating golf course on old family farm at Huntley (advtd.) Ken Cole, whose in-laws farmed nearby, and who frequently flies over in (or on) microlight and is currently making a bigger and better (and louder!) one. Tim Humphries whose son farms in parish and Bob Wood often seen lurking behind beard in Newent.

ROBERTS Elizabeth (1995-1997) Is in her second year studying English with politics at Birmingham University. Having decided on a career in journalism she has successfully gained a placement with the BBC at Pebble Mill and has written front page articles for Red Brick the University newspaper and also has a placement with the Birmingham Post and Mail with which she hopes to make a great contribution to journalism.

RUSSELL Trevor (1977-1982) Is branch manager for The Property Centre Estate agents in Worcester Street, Gloucester.

SALTER Wayne (1973-1981) After spending some 8 years living and working in Germany, in the summer of 1996 Wayne moved with his family to live in France close to the Swiss border. He took up a job in nearby Geneva at the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN) in a group responsible for developing and maintaining control systems for particle physics detectors. His work has primarily been for the four new large detectors currently under development which will run with CERN's new accelerator, the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), planned to commence operation in 2005. His wife and son have also benefited from the move from Germany and are enjoying life in France. Wayne continues to play cricket and is a keen member of the CERN cricket club which plays in the Swiss cricket league.

SHERGOLD Colin (1957-1963) Studied environmental health and housing at the University of Aston, Birmingham on leaving Rich's. A career in local government followed until 1986 when he was appointed deputy bursar at Cheltenham Ladies College,

a post he still holds. Colin lives near Evesham and includes amongst his hobbies walking (he was one of the first 'Queens Scouts' in the STRS unit) all kinds of music and bowls.

SMITH Christopher (1993-2000) Is taking a gap year and travelling to Canada with Nick ('Wolf Skin') Wright prior to studying Music & Sound Recording at Surrey University.

SMITH Matthew (1990-1995) Left Tommies in 1995 and spent four years studying for OND and HND in Manufacturing and Mechanical Engineering for which he gained a distinction. Having decided engineering was the subject for him he is specialising in Computer Aided Product Design at the New Telford campus of the University of Wolverhampton, a subject he is enjoying even though everyone else is two years younger than him. He is now almost engaged to Katie Conder also of STRS (she thinks they are engaged!)

STOKES Trevor John (1935-1941) Fellow of the Institute of Biomedical Science (FIBMS) – prior to retirement in 1984 was Principal Biomedical Scientist at Treliske Hospital, Truro, Cornwall in Pathology Department. Since retirement pursued hobby on South Devon Railway as Guard, Instructor and trainee guard and latterly on rota of stationmasters for Buckfastleigh Station, Devon. Active in 'Twinning' movement. Newton Abbot where he lives is twinned with Besigheim in Southern Germany and Kingskerswell twinned with Lonsee in Southern Germany. He recently wrote to our Treasurer Andrew Bishop:

"The note by Derek Faulkner regarding the school Cadet Corps and 'Patsy' Davies reminds me that in 1935 I could hardly wait to go to Rich's and join the Corps. Two memories are outstanding. Firstly the puttees that one wound on ones legs, finally tucking the end in with the handle of a spoon. This required great care otherwise this strip of khaki-coloured material unwound embarrassingly while one was marching. Secondly, the kindly sergeant major from the 5th Gloucester's who taught us drumming in the armoury of Miss Thompson's art classroom. The lack of enough drums meant that we had to use a bench top. I still have postcard sized photographs by Miss Thompson of 'Patsy' Davies in uniform and another of the Corps members, when the Corps was disbanded".

STOREY Daniel (1990-1997) Continues connection with STRS via new sport centre. Helped run sports development classes over summer holidays. Has continued to represent Loughborough University at American football and also the North of England where he received the MVP award. Possibility of representing Great Britain this year. Hopefully 2.1 in Sports Science & Mathematics at Loughborough University.

TAYLOR Anthony A (Tom) (1941-1948) Wrote to the association from Canada to say that he remains a proud member of the STRS booster club *"as I credit STRS with any success I have enjoyed over my lifetime. I was not appreciative of the scholastic or spiritual values of my alma mater until I found that I could enter most institutions of higher learning in North America when presenting my STRS credentials. If I have*

one regret it is that my sons could not enjoy the Tommies experience that my father and I did. My Dad was one of the (13 I believe) Bluecoat Boys. Whipping the Crypt school at rugby is still one of my favourite memories. At STRS I learned Shakespeare's description of the reluctant scholar – as I imagine many still do! I urge the under achievers to give it their best shot as there is a big payoff for graduating from one of the best, if not the best school in the nation."

TAYLOR-JONES Nigel (1976-1983) Since leaving school Nigel (formerly Nigel Jones) has worked in such diverse careers as Environmental Education, Landscape Gardening and Retail Management. For the last 11 years Nigel has held a position of great trust and respect within Gloucester City Museum Service. During this time he met and fell in love with Claire. In May this year Nigel married his beautiful young bride and spent a month honeymooning in a secluded lodge in Scotland. His hobbies include looking for the Loch Ness monster, supporting Gloucester Rugby Football Club and practising to start a large family.

THOMAS David R F (1969-1974) Former member of the history department at Rich's the Citizen reported in July 2000 David's position as Chief Executive of the Careers Research and Advisory Service responsible for 'the most significant shake up in careers advice since the second world war'. Since leaving Rich's David has been chairman of the Secondary Heads Association and Head of Graduate Recruitment for B.T. Looking back 26 years to his time at Rich's, David was quoted as saying "*my start at STRS was an inspirational part of my early career ... I had a very happy time at STRS which was and is as far as I am aware, one of the most outstanding state schools in the country*".

THWAITES Robin (1969-1976) Still enjoying life to the full "down under". Latest news from Robin suggested a further addition to the Thwaites family, his wife Jill's successful completion of a Postgraduate Diploma in Library & Information Studies, Rob being struck down by some exotic bacterial infection, possible job losses including his post at the University of Queensland and various attempts to fly so far meeting with success (ie the parachute opened each time!!)

TOWNLEY Lawrence (1982-1989) After teaching maths at secondary schools in Kenya and South London Lawrence changed careers in 1998 to become an Actuary working in London for a consultancy firm – he specialises in general insurance and risk management. Lawrence lives in Woking with his wife Cecilia to whom he has been married for 3 years. He is still keen on orienteering but doesn't play the guitars as much as he used to in the sixth form!

VAQAS Babar (1990-1997) In a recent letter to Mr Kellie Babar writes:

"It's wonderful to see from the recent newsletter that Tommies seems to be as vibrant and diverse as ever! Since writing to you last October, I have some more news about my progress so far. I have recently been offered a place in the University of Oxford School of Clinical Medicine starting this September. I had to face a five member panel in what was a very challenging interview early on this January. I hope to read

clinical medicine at New College for the next three years leading to graduation with the Oxford medical degree. The offer is akin to a sort of 'transfer which normally occurs solely between the Cambridge and Oxford Medical Schools but thankfully they make an exception every now and again! The BSc degree in Neuroscience at University College London is going well - I hope to present the research which my supervisor and I have done at an international conference on neuroscience later this summer. Fingers crossed, the work may be published as a research paper in an international journal. The research is on pain - and will hopefully bring us one step closer to helping individuals with chronic pain problems which currently we can do very little about. I was pleased to chat with Mr Pilbeam on the phone after receiving the offer as I had no doubt that he would be very interested. I have really enjoyed my time at Bristol and London and feel that I have learned a lot that I may not have otherwise have learned if I had been accepted in Oxford straight after A-Levels. In any case, it seems that I have been able to get the best of both worlds!"

WILKINSON Christopher (1990-1997) Chris has just graduated from Bristol University with a 2.1 in Economics and Politics and will continue at Bristol for a further year pursuing a MSc in International Relations. Continuing at university he hopes to remain an active member of the Debating Society. After a knee ligament injury he is just getting back to playing sport, representing a departmental side in rugby and 5-a-side football and hopes to try to play university rugby next year if time permits. Chris also wishes to continue learning foreign languages after having taken a basic Italian course last year. A future career plan remains somewhat uncertain although he does still aspire to be an astronaut, a world famous pop star and internationally successful sportsman, all at the same time! A trip to Hong Kong in 1999 has given him a taste of the orient and a desire to work in the Far East, perhaps teaching English in Japan for a year after university. Chris says *"I should like to continue in international politics with a career in the Foreign Office or Diplomatic Service"* – Watch this space!

WILSON David (1977-1984) Following a 10 year stint with a firm of mining/geotechnical consultants in Staffordshire, David moved with wife Karen to Worcestershire. He is back working in Gloucester for his father's geotechnical consultancy and is a regular visitor to Kingsholm. Having been 3rd XV captain at Pershore RFC last season, a bad knee injury and operation are likely to keep him on the touchline for much of this season. Contemporaries: Brian Herbert is soon to move back to the area following a long civil engineering contract (and wedding to Ruth) in Jersey. Paddy Smith continues to buy up much of Herefordshire whilst Simon Hawkins now has a family of two with wife Cath. Has anyone seen/heard from Jon Wright?

WINSTANLEY John (1962 -1988) Former Deputy Headmaster. John wrote to us at Christmas:

"I was sorry to read in the magazine that I had disappeared without trace on my retirement!! Rhuna and I are still very much enjoying life in France. We have just escaped the worst of the dreadful storms which hit the hexagon last weekend - 70 dead

in two nights. We had arranged to go to Paris for the New Year but having seen the damage and flooding, we decided to settle for a pintade and a bottle of Burgundy at home instead. Please remember me to any of the 'oldies' who are still haunting the place - Bob Hanney, etc."

WINTON Laura (1995-1997) Gained her LLB at the University College London.

WISE Peter (1976-1982) Peter is now working for a Property Insurance Company as their computing specialist in Liestal, near Basel in Switzerland. Amongst the more interesting aspects of his job is an involvement with the local fire brigade. This has led to an unofficial position as an interpreter and translator for the West Midlands Fire Service with which the Swiss brigades have a close contact. After five years in Switzerland he has just acquired his 'C' work permit, which means he can, if he wishes, remain indefinitely in the country. E-mail: WELLAUER.WISE@bluewin.ch

WRIGHT Nicholas (1993-2000) Is heading for Vancouver British Columbia for his gap year prior to studying Anthropology & Sociology next year at Oxford Brookes. Also heading to Canada's West Coast with Nick is his contemporary Chris Smith ('Smithers'). The plan is to spend six months in Vancouver and three months in Banff but at the time of departure the exact nature of the work lined up for them remained unknown!

WYNN David (1959-1966) Wing Commander Royal Air Force – recently retired from regular service – now in new appointment working for the RAF as the Senior Careers Liaison Officer for the south-east working from base office in Chatham. He avoids central London as much as he possibly can! Still active playing brass (euphonium) with top brass band in Kent and also plays with Sevenoaks Concert Wind Band. Still very heavily involved with RAF rugby (financial director of RAF rugby union) and some coaching with U21s. Daughter Kerri (24) is Project Manager with Lafarge Redland in Welwyn Garden City having graduated from Loughborough University two years ago. Son Rhys (18) sweating on A-level results due out soon and hopes to proceed to University in Cardiff. Wife Carol is still working with Esther Rantzen as Fundraising Manager for Childline.

Old Richians Association Committee Members 1999 - 2000

<i>President</i>	Anthony Stocks	William Godwin
<i>Chairman</i>	David Q Hook	Martin Bulled
<i>Hon Treasurer</i>	Andrew K Bishop	David Mayo
<i>Hon Secretary</i>	David Billingham	Ian Poole
<i>Hon Auditor</i>	Dennis Collins	Mark Robinson
<i>Headmaster</i>	Ian Kellie	Duncan Sargent
		David Williams

Old Richians Association Membership Statistics

As at 30th June 2000 the Old Richians Association had 317 full members. There are five categories of full members as follows:

Category	Number
£10 Bankers Order	243
£5 Student Bankers Order	40
£10 Annual Subscriber	7
Permanent members	17
Honorary Staff Members	10
Total	317

The Association has information on when 276 of these members were at school. The decade members left Rich's is as follows:

1920s	2	1970s	49
1930s	15	1980s	64
1940s	31	1990s	47
1950s	39	Not known	41
1960s	29		

The Association has records of where all but 8 of its members live. All but 17 live within the United Kingdom. Gloucestershire's total is higher than the true figure since a number of younger members still have mail sent to their parent's address.

Gloucestershire	160	United States	4
South West	26	Canada	4
London/South East	53	South Africa	2
Midlands	33	France	2
East Anglia	6	Australia	1
North West	4	Bermuda	1
Wales	3	Zimbabwe	1
Scotland	1	Switzerland	1
No current address	8	Denmark	1
Total	294	Total	17

**If you attended Tommies and you are not a member of the
Old Richians Association then contact David Q Hook
IMMEDIATELY!!!!**

Old Richians Association Annual Reunion Dinner 29th April 2000

The new millennium heralded a new format for the evening which was attended by about 80 people and appeared to be very much enjoyed by all concerned. The support for the Association by a large number of younger members and sixth formers with their guests was very much appreciated.

The President, former headmaster Mr Tony Stocks, was accompanied on the informal top table by the present Headmaster, Mr Ian Kellie and Mrs Kellie and guest speakers Dr John Lewis and Mr Chris Wilkinson.

In welcoming everyone the President spoke of the common bond of loyalty to the school. He made a special mention of the school's Beacon Status and its becoming a Language College.

He then introduced the guest speakers and explained that John Lewis had very kindly agreed to take the place of his school contemporary and good friend Dennis Powell who had sadly died suddenly only a few days after accepting an invitation to speak at this year's event. Both Dennis Powell and the other guest speaker Chris Wilkinson were former School Captains and both went on to study at Bristol University. By a fortunate coincidence John Lewis also maintains the association with Bristol University through his research work there.

After the Loyal Toast the President invited the Head master to give a resumé of the school's achievements over the past year. Mr Kellie referred to the very high



standards reached in academic work and the significance of being among the top schools in the country in certain national newspapers' league tables. Mr Kellie also outlined the wide range of extra curricular activities enthusiastically undertaken throughout the school and he expressed his thanks for the loyalty and commitment of all the staff. Finally he spoke of the particular success in the award of Beacon status and the securing of grants to establish the school as a Language College.

The President then invited Dr John Lewis to speak and propose the toast to the school. John, or 'Chas' as his nickname was during school days (one of his teachers at the National school where he had been as a Junior, knew his father whose name was Charles) spoke of his great sadness at having to take the place of his friend Dennis Powell. John also mentioned John Simmonds with whom he

Next the President introduced Mr Chris Wilkinson who then entertained everyone with his typical lively delivery and recounted a number of events which involved certain school contemporaries who were also present. Chris has been compared with the TV and radio personality Chris Evans and after his slick performance members could see why.

was generous applause for both speakers, indicating that the time and effort spent in preparing their contributions was very much appreciated.

In rounding off this fairly short formal part of the evening the President thanked the Headmaster for allowing the Association the use of the school for the event. He also expressed appreciation on everyone's behalf to Philip Brown and his wife and Venture Scout helpers for running the bar, and to David Hook, Andrew Bishop and Ian Poole for the overall arrangements.

Everyone then enjoyed a substantial finger buffet and a couple of hours of friendly conversation to end a very successful reunion evening.

David Mayo

STRSSSTRSSSTRSSSTRSSSTRSSSTRSSSTRSSSTRSSSTRSSSTRSSSTRSS

School Christmas Carol Concerts 2000

Monday 18th December at St John's Northgate Street

Tuesday 19th December at Holy Trinity Longlevens

(both start at 7.30pm)



Old Richians Skittles Evening

Wednesday 20th December 2000

Royal Oak Hucclecote at 7.30pm



School Founder's Day Service

16th May 2001 Holy Trinity Longlevens at 2.30pm

Old Richians Association Annual Dinner

Saturday 7th April 2001

in the School Hall

6pm for 7pm





“Recent Leavers” : The Class of '97 enjoying their reunion get-together!



Guest Speakers Mr Chris Wilkinson & Dr John Lewis, with The Association's President Mr Anthony Stocks & Headmaster Mr Ian Kellie at this year's Millennium Reunion Dinner.



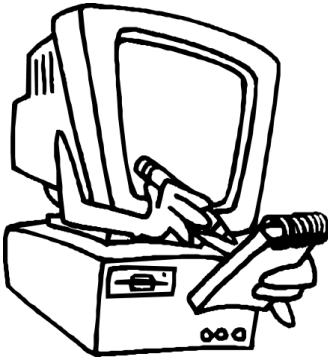
“Not-so-recent-Leavers” : Ah! Nostalgia's a fine thing!!



Year 8 D&T Food group displaying their wares after a successful practical session in the kitchens making 'Healthy Sandwiches'



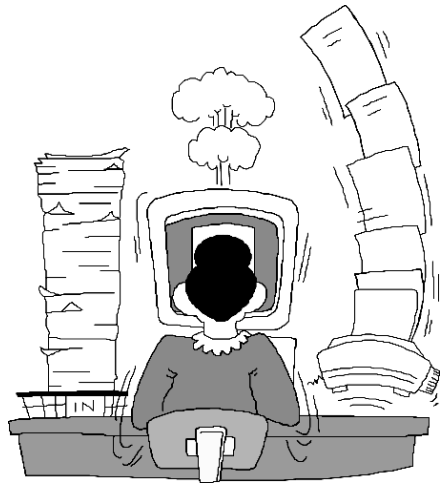
School Captain Will Godwin shares a light-hearted moment with his happy band of observers after completing their official duties at this year's Founder's Day Service



This edition of The Richian – “Richian 2000” - herald of a new millennium - has been produced entirely electronically. Instead of passing hardcopy (most of which admittedly had been printed from computer based word processing and DTP software) to the printers and leaving them the layout, paste-up and type-setting operations, the entire publication was passed to the

printers electronically stored as a (very large!) computer file. The printer then generated the colour separation files and screens for the colour images and pages – the remaining mono-colour (black) pages being printed directly from the electronic file.

So has this affected the end product which you are holding before you? Probably not – I trust there will be no noticeable difference at all between this edition and its predecessors. The process probably took a lot longer but then the editor has had to learn 3 extensive software packages and take on board (too often through painful trial and error!!) the practical implications of marrying his hard won learning to the electronic authoring and publishing process. The hope is that in future years producing The Richian will be easier and somewhat quicker. There is also the spin-off that sections of an electronic version are immediately available for integration into the school’s web-site pages on the internet.



Editor

