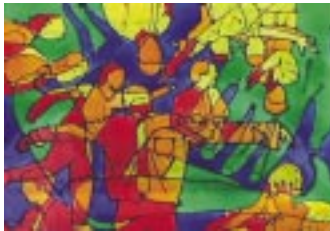


Richian 2001

Art Gallery of 'Riches'

During June the Art Department put on a marvellous exhibition of artwork generated by Sixth Form students as part of their 'A' & 'AS' level coursework. The wealth of creative talent on show was phenomenal with pieces encompassing all forms of media and composition styles. Just a few examples have been used to decorate the cover inside & out. Let us not overlook the inspiration and guidance of our Art Teachers, Mr Roger Lockey & Mrs Melanie Cormack-Hicks, whose complementary talents inspired such creativity.





The Richian

2001

Official Magazine
of
Sir Thomas Rich's Grammar
School



Junior House Rugby December 2000

And the rain, rain, rained on Elmleaze fields,
Churning up the mud into a quagmire,

But that deterred not our Year 8 heroes
From fighting for the honour of their House!

Mr Sims carries the flag in as the heavens
open up again;

Westgate reflect on what might have been;

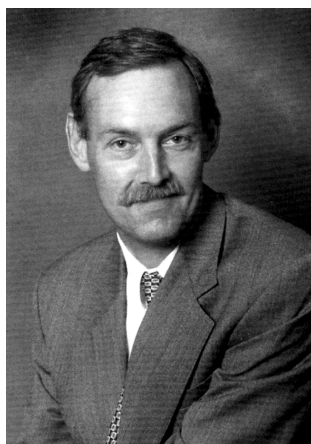
Eastgate champions enjoy the camaraderie
now battle is done & won!



Headmaster's Summary

Academic Year

2000 to 2001



It is always difficult to summarise the huge range of activities and achievements recorded by our pupils through a school year. Thus what follows inevitably omits much detail but I hope it conveys some of the excitement of the year, some of the success of our pupils and reflects the way in which the three aims of Sir Thomas Rich's were put into practice.

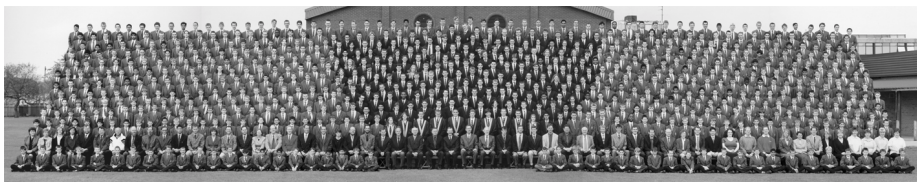
The achievement of the highest academic standards – our examination results in summer 2000 were our second best ever at A-level, with a 97% pass rate and half of all grades were A or B. The Mirror ranked us 23rd in the country. Our GCSE results were our best ever, all Year 11s gained at least seven passes at grade C and above, the average was equivalent

to just over nine grade A passes per candidate. We featured on Central TV news as 6th in the country. Eight of our Upper Sixth gained places at Oxford and

Cambridge Universities, equalling our highest number of Oxbridge successes.

In April the Government introduced a School Achievement Award to recognise those schools which have achieved consistent excellence in examinations – we were delighted to be amongst the first recipients.

The achievement of the highest standards of appearance and behaviour – we were determined to record for posterity the school at the turn of the millennium. We were thwarted by bad weather until, at the fifth attempt, the photograph



was taken. It shows a school to be commended upon its smart, distinctive appearance.

Even greater determination was shown by five Richians who attained international representative honours: two at Water Polo, one each at orienteering and athletics and Clive Stuart-Smith captained the England Under 18 rugby team.

The provision of a wide range of extra-curricular activities – highlights of the year included the performances of “Oliver!”, instrumental concerts and the choir’s rendition of the “St. John Passion” by Bach. The Under 15s won the Gloucester City schools soccer cup and the Under 12s won the Rotary Club’s cricket cup. An extensive range of clubs, societies and activities (too many to list) continues to provide opportunities for pupils to participate and develop.



Our first year as a Language College saw delays to the construction of a new Language Centre although we eagerly anticipate its completion during the coming year. We now support the teaching of languages in local primary schools and provide native speakers in local secondary schools. We held a European Evening and an International Week and we hosted visits from the European Theatre Company.

Schools cannot function in isolation. We benefit from the support of parents, Governors, local business and we particularly thank the Parents’ Association which has been especially active and organised a series of successful events through the year.

To all involved with Sir Thomas Rich’s I extend my thanks.

Garde ta foy!

Mr I L Kellie

Editorial

Richian 2001.

I must be a glutton for punishment but one Richian edition was not enough! As you will read and see from the packed pages of this year's magazine the school year 2000-2001 has yet again been crammed full to overflowing with frenzied activities and happenings!

The reputation of Sir Thomas Rich's as an academic centre of excellence has been indubitably enhanced further by its exam results but I am utterly convinced it is the so-called 'extra curricular' offerings of the school that makes it what it is - a caring and purposeful community whose influence goes far beyond the school gates.

I would especially like to pay tribute and thank that dedicated band of adults - teaching and non-teaching staff - who tirelessly take on the responsibilities for these 'outside lesson' activities thereby facilitating our students to grow in maturity and develop their full potential. Important life skills are thus nurtured and cultivated - some would argue I fancy that these are far more important than academic learning and knowledge.

So what of this edition? Again the 'traditional' elements recording for posterity the progress and cycle of the school year. Change a few names and a lot of the annual 'reports' may appear to be repetitive. Yet remember for most of those involved it was their first and perhaps only time so to strike too drastically with the editorial pen alters the very raison d'être for the school magazine.

I have challenged the printers by including more photographs within the pages and tried to ensure that scaling them down too much does not lose detail.

I look forward to being able to provide extracts from this edition on the internet. Developments are underway for presenting a school website for public consumption. We already have an 'intranet' (only accessible from the school network) which is beginning to evolve nicely. Look out in the New Year 2002 for : www.sirthomasrichs.gloucs.sch.uk

It's bit of a mouthful I know and should cause several cases of RSI typing it out but that's the domain name we have been told to use by BECTA (some government 'quango' overseeing school's ICT provision).

It only leaves me to conclude by saying, "Have a good read!" You never know, you may find some reference to you somewhere in the following pages!!

P Brown

Editor

Staff Arrivals

The school year opened with eight fresh faces on the staff role -

Mr David Lewis joined the English Department from Beverley Grammar School in Yorkshire.

Mr Ian Maxfield is a newly qualified teacher (NQT) who joined the Geography department. He studied at Birmingham University for his first degree in Geography before attending Goldsmith's at the University of London to get his PGCE (Post Graduate Certificate of Education).

Mr Rob Birkett came to us from John Kyrle School Ross to be our new Head of Chemistry.



**David Lewis -
English**



**Ian Maxfield & David Gowler - both Geography
Rob Birkett & Dan Stone - both Chemistry**

Mr Rob Sims crossed religious traditions having taught firstly at St Peter's Gloucester then St Benedict's in Cheltenham and brings a local rugby tradition with him to the PE/Games department; he will also teach some Geography.

Mr Dan Stone graduated with a chemistry degree at Manchester University before training as a teacher and gaining his PGCE at Bristol. We understand Mr Stone is a keen cyclist and plays a sharp game of badminton.

Mr Tony Hearn joined us from Severn Vale to augment the Language department and teach Spanish.

Mr John Buttle joined us from Tewkesbury School to teach Physics and lower school Science.

Mr David Gowler joined the Geography department bringing a wealth of experience from his previous work as a cartographer. He completed his PGCE at UWE Bristol having spent some time working with the British Antarctic Survey.



Tony Hearn - Spanish

John Buttle - Physics

Rob Sims - PE & Games



We also welcomed part-time Mr Chris Eva as teacher of Mathematics. Mr Eva (left) is no stranger to the school having been a regular supply cover teacher here.

Mr Bob French (right) joined the Science department as a Laboratory Technician towards the end of last year. We wish him and all the new members of staff a happy and fruitful time at Sir Thomas Rich's!



Examination Results - Another fantastic year for Tommies!

GCSE

Year 11 gained the Schools best ever GCSE results. The overall pass rate at grade C and above for all examinations taken was 98.3%; of all results 47% were at grades A and B. The average number of passes at grade C and above per pupil was 9.91. Of the 132 boys in Year 11, ten each gained eleven passes all at grades A and A*, a further thirteen each gained ten A and A* passes, quarter of the year each gained nine or more A/A* passes and half the year each gained at least six A/A* passes. For the first time 100% of Year 11 gained the benchmark five or more passes at grade C and above - indeed this boundary was exceeded comfortably. The average points score per Year 11 boy was 64.3 (based on A*=8, A=7, B=6, etc.) which is equivalent to over nine grade A passes. The thirty Year 10 boys who took their Mathematics GCSE a year early all passed at grades A and A*. Year 10 took the RE (short course) GCSE examination - all passed, 93.8% at grade C and above, 47.4% at grades A and A*. These are outstanding results, well done to Years 10 and 11 and to their teachers. The day after the results were announced we were well placed in national press "league tables" eg 8th in the country according to The Daily Express, Central TV featured the school as 6th in the country.

'A' Level

The overall pass rate was 96.7% from all entries, of which 49.5% were at grades A and B. These were very good results, the second best we have had. Particular congratulations to Paul Baker and Tom Plant, who each gained five grade A, and to Julie Ingram, Chris Rann and Jeannine Stone who each gained four grade A passes. Twelve members of the Upper Sixth gained at least three grade A passes each and a further sixteen each achieved two at grade A. The average UCAS points score per candidate (based on A=10, B=8, C=6, etc.) was 26.8, ensuring that we shall maintain our excellent record for university entry. Again this resulted in high placings in newspapers tables eg 23rd in the country in The Mirror, 24th in The Guardian. Well done to the Upper Sixth, we wish them well in their future studies and careers.

Mr Kellie however voiced the concerns of all the staff when he said: "I would like to make the point again that the pressure upon Sixth Form students to undertake excessive hours of paid employment and to spend evenings socialising is in direct conflict with the demands of academic study. It requires strength of character to resist but there is overwhelming evidence that immoderate time devoted to the former has a direct and detrimental effect upon the latter. Sadly, this is brought home to the students who have succumbed, when they receive their results."

New Pupils

We had 111 boys in Year 7 who joined us from 58 primary schools. The new Lower Sixth had 114 students of whom 24 joined us from other secondary schools. Fourteen of the Lower Sixth were girls which gave us a total of 36 girls in a Sixth Form of 206. Total pupil numbers at the start of the academic year were 753 (compared with 765 in September 1999).

Individual Achievements

Congratulations were due to:

Adam Farr (L6C) on being long-listed for an Examination Board GCSE Coursework prize. Adam was one of 62 candidates selected from GCSE entries for his outstanding Geography project;

J Boyd, D Edwards, R Herrick, P Knight and M Mohamed (all Year 11) who were selected to represent the County Schools Under 16 football team;

Nicholas Day, Timothy Dodwell, Mark McBride and Kirk Owen who were selected to represent Gloucester City Schools Under 15 football team;

Rachael Brown, Geoff Coombs, Matt Key, Richard Yemm (Lower Sixth), Alasdair Burchill (Year 11) and Ian Black (Year 10) - and Mr Brown - all members of 44th Gloucester (STRS) the School's Venture Scout Unit, who completed the 21-mile Stroud Valleys walk, raising over £300 for the National Meningitis Trust;

C Steward (10T) who was selected to represent Gloucester Scout District at the World Scout Jamboree in Thailand during the Christmas holidays;

Matthew Gardner (U6R) and Craig Stevens (L6B) who performed solos, on piano and violin respectively, in front of the whole school in morning assemblies; Matthew also won a £200 commission from Gloucestershire Music Service to compose a piece for a wind quintet;

Will Godwin, last year's School Captain and Chairman of the Venture Scout Unit, who raised over £450 for Winston's Wish by undertaking a sponsored parachute jump;

Samuel Johnson (9R) who became the Gloucestershire Under 14 boys' archery champion in the Junior County championships;

Adam Sheppard (L6R) who has been awarded, in the face of very strong competition, an RAF Sixth Form Scholarship;

Mr Seales upon completing the Great North Run half-marathon in 1hr 53mins, in the process raising £205 for MIND and St Clare's Hospice, Jarrow;

Malcolm Peckham (U6R) who was soloist, playing Greig's Piano Concerto, for the Gloucestershire Youth Orchestra in the Stroud Music Festival. His performance was appreciated as technically and musically excellent by the audience;

Matthew Key (L6R) for gaining his Bronze Award in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme.

Trier Exchange

We welcomed into school a party of students from Trier Gloucester's twin city in Germany. They were guests of students studying German in the Upper Sixth.

Year 7 Induction & Activities

Each of our Year 7 forms enjoyed a wide range of activities during three days spent at Stratford upon Avon. This residential visit is the first of several events organised by the

head of year 7 Mr Parris in order to assist our new pupils to settle into Sir Thomas Rich's.

Later on during the term three groups of boys braved the floods to go caving at Clearwell in the Forest of Dean. These were deep level caving expeditions with some very tight squeezes (especially for teachers!) and challenging sections to negotiate. The boys did extremely well and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. I hope the washing machines coped with all the additional mud taken home!!

A group of parents and pupils visited the Everyman Theatre in Cheltenham to see '*Jack and the Beanstalk*'. This gave everyone the opportunity to get into the Christmas spirit and celebrate the end of a successful first term at Tommy's.

Thanks to all staff who gave up their time to take groups out.

Art

'A' Level Trip to Chester & Liverpool

As part of the introduction to their Art coursework unit, the Sixth Form Art students took part in a four-day residential visit to Chester and Liverpool at the end of September. During their stay the pupils were treated to a practical workshop at the Tate Gallery in Liverpool as well as visits to both of Liverpool's Cathedrals, the Walker Gallery, Port Sunlight and the Lady Lever Art Gallery, with a further opportunity to do some sketching in Chester town centre. The visit proved to be an intensive period of study with additional evening practical sessions held at the Chester Youth Hostel, which also supplied accommodation and full board. All the pupils returned from the visit with a large amount of visual material, which provided them with enough ideas for successful coursework units.

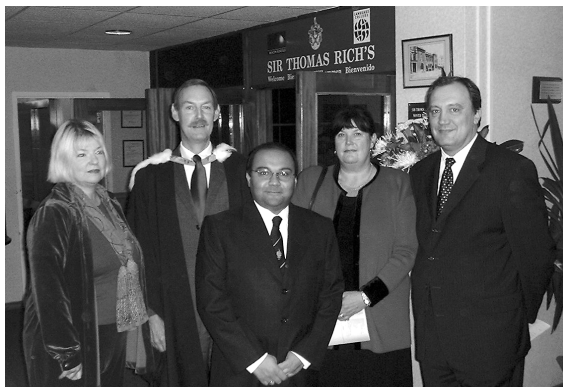
Year 11 Trip to the Pitt Rivers Museum

Early this month all the Year 11 Art students visited the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford. This is the third time that the Art Department has used the museum as the starting point for one of its GCSE units. Once again it proved to be a very useful resource, housing a treasure trove of artefacts for the pupils to study, with objects ranging from a full size totem pole to samurai armour and shrunken heads. Each pupil chose one particular culture to study in depth, recording as many images as they could during the day. This formed the basis for their final GCSE coursework unit, culminating in the manufacture of their own original artefact.

New Minibus

The new school minibus arrived shortly after half-term. It is a Mercedes 'Sprinter', a most spacious and comfortable mode of transport. We are indebted to our Parents' Association for the funds that enabled us to purchase both this minibus and a new trailer. The trailer allows for safe carriage of bags and equipment for residential visits. The minibus has a wide range of extras, including racks for stowing bags, an automatic gearbox and a separate rear compartment heater. The seats comply with the highest safety specifications as well as giving passengers much more room than normal. Thanks also go to Mr Burns who spent much time investigating all the possible alternative makes and models.

This new minibus replaces the old blue minibus. It is worth mentioning that the Parents' Association also funds all the running costs of our minibuses -servicing, repairs, tax, insurance and fuel. They are absolutely essential for our extra-curricular programme as well as educational visits.

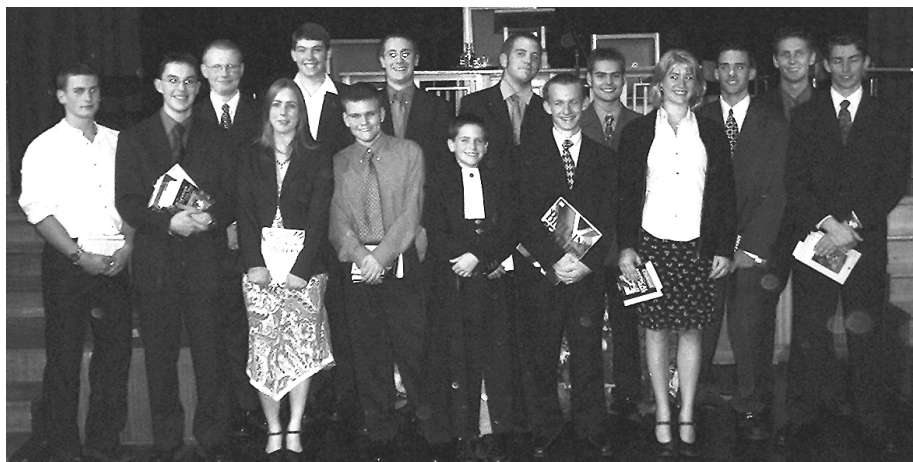


Speech Day

Our annual Speech Day and Prize Giving was held on the 29th September. We were delighted to welcome Avi Chaudhuri as Guest of Honour. Mr. Chaudhuri (above) was a pupil at Rich's from 1977 to 1985. He is now a London barrister. He gave an excellent speech to a packed hall. He also presented a grand total of 124 prizes to pupils. Our Speech Day is a highlight of the School Year. It is an opportunity to emphasise the importance we place upon academic achievement, hard work and contributions to school and wider life. Well done to all the prize-winners.



Top right - Venture Scouts and Prize winners Chris Smith, Adam Griffiths, Nick Wright & Will Godwin, who we picture immediately above shaking hands with his successor as School Captain Michael Thomas. Below - Prize winners and sixth form leavers.



Clubs

The usual variety of clubs and activities were active this term. Thanks to Jo Prestwich and Owen Morley (Upper Sixth) for starting up the Film Club again, with popular showings on Monday/Tuesday lunchtimes. N Whittaker, E Knox (Year 11), P Foster and G Bowman (Lower Sixth) spoke to the School in assembly to describe the Duke of Edinburgh Award. The Venture Scouts combined with other Gloucester Units to power the Gloucester District boat to victory in the County Dragon Boat races at South Cerney. The Debating Society held an "Any Questions" event in the hall. The common theme to all these events is that, although teachers may be in the background to offer support, the events were organised and run by pupils.

Performance Tables

The Government published its official 'Performance Tables' on 16th November. These confirmed the excellent attainment of our Y11 and U6 students in their examinations and resulted in the usual flurry of very positive local and national publicity. *The Citizen* stated that we are 'the top-performing school in the county'. The *Western Daily Press* featured an article that commenced "Two West schools proved it is possible to buck the national trend and show that boys can perform at exam time. Sir Thomas Rich's in Gloucester was the top school in the West..." In *The Sunday Times* "Parent Power" supplement, of the top 500 schools in the country, we were one of fifteen secondary schools featured in the South West and we were third in the country in their table of The Top 20 Schools for Languages.

Headmaster at Prestigious Awards Ceremony

Mr Kellie writes –

"I was honoured to be invited to represent Sir Thomas Rich's at a Reception organised by the County High Sheriff for the Heroes of Gloucestershire 2000. At the Gold Cup Room at Cheltenham Racecourse His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent awarded certificates to individuals and organisations who have brought credit to the county. It was a privilege to be associated with authors J K Rowling and Jilly Cooper, international sportsmen and women, representatives of leading businesses and a wide variety of individuals who have in their many ways benefited the people of our county. It is a great credit to the School that the work of our staff and pupils, with the support of Governors and parents, has been recognised and honoured."

Language Centre

There have been many developments resulting from our Language College status:

We have broadened the range of languages on offer. All pupils continue to study French in Year 7, French and German in Year 8, then pupils study two languages from French, German and Spanish in Year 9. These three languages will each be offered through to GCSE, all pupils will be required to study at least one. We have already established a Spanish GCSE set in Year 10. Spanish is also offered to A-level, a Lower Sixth group started in September.

There has been some interest in learning Gujarati, we are pursuing the possibility of teaching this language from September.

Our plans for the construction of a Language Centre have been enhanced through the acquisition of additional funding. We are hoping that a 5-classroom block will now be realised. The change will mean some delay to the project with a revised completion

date mid 2002. One of the rooms will contain a networked suite of computers to allow use of the latest teaching methods and software, it will facilitate links with foreign countries and schools abroad and allow distance learning of minority languages.

We hosted a Sixth Form European Conference, *Dialogue on Europe*, organised by the LEA's International Office.

We were delighted to welcome into our Lower Sixth Monika Boniecki from Vienna and Carina Breschke from Berlin. They were studying 'AS' levels while improving their knowledge of Britain and of the English language.

Mrs Hewett, our Language College Co-ordinator, established links with local primary and secondary schools. Early developments were the arrangement of language teaching for Year 4 and 5 classes in Longlevens Junior School and the shared use of our French Assistant, Murielle Ruffier, with Barnwood Park School for Girls.

Open Day

Our Open Day and Open Evening were held on 11th October. We welcomed a large number of visitors through the day and the hall was filled twice in the evening with families who had come to look at the displays of pupils' work. It was fascinating to overhear guides, primarily Year 8 boys and Sixth Formers, who spoke with authority, interest and appreciation of Sir Thomas Rich's. They were excellent ambassadors for the School. It is gratifying that we remain a popular school with a good reputation.



Sam Davies (L6) explains to a budding year 6 scientist the intricacies of reaction indicators

Roma/Firenze Tour

Twenty Sixth Formers greatly enjoyed a visit to Italy in October, staying in Rome and Florence. The Colosseum, Vatican City and Uffizi Gallery were wonderful. A heatwave provided an extra bonus!

Attendance Certificates

Attendance Certificates were awarded to the 240 pupils who have had no absence throughout this term. That has involved attending 140 sessions (half days). The School's view is that 'if you're not in school, you're not learning', so well done to all those who have achieved a 100% record this term.

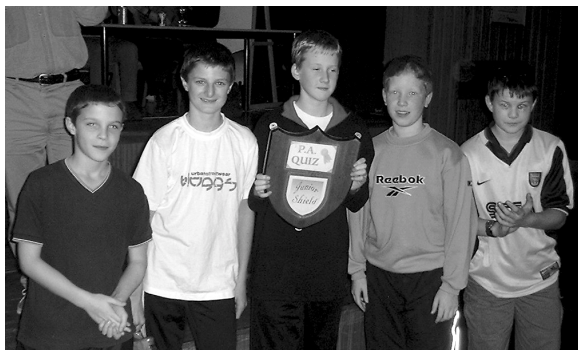
Lower Sixth Ecology Field Trip

During October 48 Sixth Form students and five staff spent three days at the Wilderness Environmental Education Centre in the Forest of Dean. The course covered a vital part of the new AS Biology syllabus including the study of ecosystems and conservation issues. Most learning was achieved through fieldwork, with areas of investigation including population studies, quadrat analysis, mammal traps and a comparison of plantation and semi-wild wood.

Parents' Association

Quiz Night

In another hugely successful Quiz Night over 200 people in 39 teams competed for the trophy, eventually won by the staff team. Hurrah! A team consisting of members of 7S won the revived Junior Shield. Over £300 was raised for the Parents' Association and the STRS Venture Scout Unit was on hand again to organise the raffle and open up the Tuck Shop for interval refreshments.



PA Quiz Junior winners- Matt McGrigor, Luke Barns, James Kennedy, Tom Bell & Paul Edwards

Christmas Fayre

Many thanks to all the parents and pupils who ensured a successful Christmas Fayre on 9th December. The stalls were well stocked - our thanks to the parents who contributed. A group of dedicated parents spent the Saturday morning setting up, ready to open the doors at 1pm. A large number of visitors called in, a significant number from the local area (thanks to parents who posted 'flyers' in advance) plus many parents and pupils. All stalls fared well, those selling and those offering the chance to win prizes. The Parents' Association raised a record total of £3539.21. This sum included the proceeds from the sale of raffle tickets - thanks to all who contributed. The PA awarded prizes to the pupils who were the best salesmen - Luke Trigg (10T) sold 55 books and Phillip MacDonald (8B) sold 35.

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, School Drama Production, Christmas by Candlelight and all school functions. They do a magnificent job and their efforts are greatly appreciated.

Free Books For Schools

Last year's crisp munching promotion yielded 30 new books for the Library. Over 70000 tokens were collected. Thanks to our Librarian Mrs Ryder for co-ordinating the collection and for carrying out the greasy tasks of cutting out and sorting all those fiddly little crisp packet tokens!!

History

A party of 48 Year 11 GCSE History students visited the Imperial War Museum where they focused on the thought-provoking Holocaust Exhibition.

Geography Fieldwork

The Lower Sixth Geography groups visited Castleton in the Derbyshire Peak District for three days' fieldwork in November. They studied the famous Main Tar landslip and the Padley Gorge woodlands in detail. The attractive scenery compensated for the variable weather, which included sleet, hail and gales as well as occasional sunshine.

Railway Society

The troubles on the rail network did not stop the Railway Society making a trip to Manchester on 25th November, where a visit was paid to the excellent Museum of Science and Industry in Castlefield.

House Events

The first of this year's House competitions was completed with a high number of entries for House Art. It was obvious that many of the pieces had been given considerable time and care: a selection of the entries were put on display along the Library corridor. The overall result was very close, with Southgate edging ahead of Eastgate, Northgate and Westgate. Thanks to Mr Lockey for organising and judging the competition.

House Rugby. In extremely muddy conditions Eastgate won the Year 8 and Year 10 events, hence the Junior Competition. Westgate won in Year 9 and finished second overall, ahead of Northgate and Southgate. The Senior House rugby became a victim of the weather and had to be re-organised as a 7-a-side tournament: Northgate were unbeaten, showing style going forward and tenacity in defence.

Duke Of Edinburgh Award

Besides the Venture Scout Unit which run the Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards alongside the Scout Movement's Venture and Queen' Scout Awards, Mr Dempsey organises Bronze and Silver Award training for other interested students in year 10 and above. This term a new cohort of seventeen Year 10 pupils started their Bronze Award. The scheme changed slightly this year and the pupils received brand new planners and record books that help them to organise their participation in the award. There was also interest from older pupils wishing to start the Award at Silver level. All participants started work towards their skills, service or physical recreation section this term.

Charities

£685 was raised for the School's nominated charity this term, the RSPCA, through Tuesday morning and Free Dress Day collections. £116 was collected for The Royal British Legion through the sale of poppies in School in the week leading up to Remembrance Sunday.

The Blue Peter Appeal was for used stamps to raise enough money to build and equip three village clinics in a remote part of Peru, high in the Andes. Mrs Arnold's form 7S ran a successful collection box for used stamps throughout the appeal.

Collections taken at the School's Carol Services raised £91 at St John's, Northgate (for the Church Appeal) and £100 at Holy Trinity, Longlevens (for Winston's Wish).

Public Speaking

On 4th December Lee Confaloni, Peter Hards and Amar Shah (Year 10) took part in the English Speaking Union Public Speaking Competition for the Cheltenham area. Victory went elsewhere but our three gave very proficient performances. Peter chaired his section authoritatively, Lee gave a lively and humorous talk and Amar, who asked some pertinent questions, deserves special mention for having undertaken his role as 'questioner' at the very last minute, as a result of illness on the part of another pupil. A colleague from another school commented on how he had enjoyed the presentation, not least because it was relaxed and direct rather than larded with too many rhetorical flourishes. Well done to the participants, who gave up their evening for this event. It

was a very worthwhile experience, whether they won or not.

English Department Trips

Year 9 pupils went to see a performance of *Twelfth Night* at Birmingham Repertory theatre;

Year 10 GCSE students saw a Theatre-in-Education presentation of *Macbeth*, by the Black Cat theatre group;

Year 11 GCSE students attended a *GCSE Poetry Live!* event at Bath and Upper Sixth 'A' level English students saw a performance of *King Lear* at the Bristol Old Vic and later attended a *study day* on the play which took place in Birmingham.

Thanks to Mr Pickard, Mrs Spilsbury and Mrs Stanley who organised these events, with support from other colleagues within the department.

Oliver!

"The School Production 'Oliver!' was a triumph for all concerned." Writes Mrs Stanley (Producer). "My favourite review was a comment passed on to me 'My mum says it's the best night out she's had for years'. The cast's enthusiasm and enjoyment were infectious and all three performances went really well. I think the moment I realised all would be well was two weeks before the production when my car broke down on the M5 and I couldn't make the Sunday rehearsal but the cast managed a run-through without me."

"I can't single out everyone, but must make special mention of Matthew Key's masterly performance as Fagin, Alan Bills' suitably waif-like Oliver and Sara Cantwell's feisty Nancy. However, it's teamwork that counts in drama and I'd like to say a very appreciative thank you to all those members of the cast who were just reliably there at every rehearsal, singing out the lines and mastering the movements."

"We also, of course, have a strong staff team, not just myself and Mr Thompson but everyone who helps with props, scenery, makeup, lights, costumes, etc. My supportive colleagues even provided the empty bottles of gin!"

Cross Country

The major highlight of the season was Peter Kellie's performances in the West Mercia League. He became champion, with no other athlete coming near him in the races. His domination of the races reflects all his hard work in training at Gloucester AC. Other pleasing performances in the league came from Tom Richards, Paul Oxenbury and Richard Parker, while Michael Short coming back from injury continues to show lots of promise. The Senior Team came second overall, behind RGS Worcester, out of the six teams competing. They were a credit to the School, representing Rich's in a tough sport.





Rugby Round Up - Season 2000

We were delighted to welcome Junior Paramore to our final assembly. Junior, No 8 for Gloucester RFC and Western Samoan international, presented rugby colours, cups and merit certificates to a large number of pupils, reflecting the extensive involvement of the boys in school representational games.



1st XV - P11, W9, L2, F-248, A-132

A very successful season for the squad both on and off the pitch. They trained and played with a strong team spirit and developed into a very cohesive unit. A large and direct set of forwards created, through their sheer physical presence, a steady stream of good quality ball for the backs. In all games they created problems for the opposition and they were the driving force behind the team's success. The backs, when at full strength, used the possession with pace and invention.

Unfortunately, injuries to senior players in the backs, including the captain, disrupted the flow and direction of the team in the latter stages of the season. This was particularly noticed in the Daily Mail Cup 4th round match v Pangbourne College where a weakened team were beaten 32-7. This followed good matches and victories against Stowe School (25-7) and Pates (17-10). The whole squad played a positive role and can be proud of their achievements and the progress made. They all deserve special thanks for their efforts and for making the season positive and enjoyable.

James Crowley receives the Senior House Rugby trophy on behalf of Northgate from Junior Paramore, Western Samoan international and guest of honour at the term's final assembly.

Eastgate won the Junior House trophy.

All in all the House competitions were completed in atrociously muddy and wet conditions.



2nd XV - P10, W3, L7, F-113, A-196

A difficult season for a very young side who only played three genuine second teams, winning two (Kings and Wycliffe) and losing one (Chosen Hill). Nevertheless, the side played with great spirit and commitment making first teams from Beaufort, Marling, Rendcomb and Churchdown and mixed teams from Dean Close and Bournside work very hard. The final matches fell victim to the weather.

Colts XV - P16, W10, D1, L5, F-131, A-153

The Colts enjoyed a moderately successful season. The squad trained hard to produce an attractive brand of attacking rugby, securing quick ruck possession which was moved wide to the dangerous runners in the backs. A number of excellent tries were scored in this fashion. When the weather took a turn for the worse, the boys did not abandon their attacking instincts and continued, to their credit, to play 15-man rugby. The wet conditions did, however, mean an increase in handling errors, which were often the difference between victory and defeat. The highlights of the season were the excellent performances in the National Daily Mail U15 Cup. Again, backs and forwards combined to play aggressive, fast rugby in attack, whilst defending the gain line with determination and vigour. The team was unfortunate to be knocked out in the fourth round in a game where they could not turn a huge amount of possession into points. The Colts were ably captained by David Cole, who led by example both in training and playing matches.

U14 XV - P11, W1, D1, L9, F-137, A-277

A disappointing season as reflected in the team's record. Lack of commitment from certain areas plus poor tackling resulted in the team losing matches, which could have been won.



U13 Rugby Merit Certificate Winners

**Andrew Erskine, James Enderby, Lee Warren, Kevin Ellis, Germaine Malcolm,
Harry Windsor, Aled Jones**

UI3 XV "A" Team - P8, W5, L3, F-123, A-84

This season saw the squad grow considerably in maturity and ability. At the start they played as a group of individuals and early fixtures against strong opposition exposed their lack of cohesive team play. Some hard training sessions and expert coaching assistance from Mr Gallagher were well attended by the whole squad who showed considerable improvements - forwards working together as a close knit unit began dominating the loose play and the backs impressed greatly in the way they started running the ball at pace. By the end of the season they had strung together five wins on the trot, all against difficult opposition, and formed a tight knit team that promises much for the future. While the whole squad deserves credit for the way they have progressed, displaying great character, humour, heart and determination, there are three individuals who must be given special recognition: Kevin Ellis whose lion-hearted performances at scrum half set the captain's example, Lee Warren whose work rate at No.8 was phenomenal and whose fearsome charges, ball in hand, well earned him the nickname 'Rhino', and Aled Jones whose quiet manner belied the turn of pace he injected into the backs, frequently breaking out of defence with exciting runs to set up vital counter attacks.

U13 XV "B" Team - P2, W1, L1, F-49, A-21

The “B” team managed only two fixtures this season. The first against Kings “A” team they narrowly lost 20-21, in spite of scoring more tries; the second against Crypt they won convincingly 29-0.

Linden C Huddlestone (1924 - 2001)

Linden Huddlestone, who died in January 2001, was Head of English from 1969 to 84. We mourn his passing and share the sadness of his wife, daughter and grandchildren.

Many Richians will remember Linden's tall lean figure, with his aristocratic-seeming looks and bearing, and his pipe which he would stow away still smouldering in his jacket pocket to the consternation of his colleagues and friends. He dressed with a certain colourful flamboyance, and his green suede shoes even became the subject of a pastiche song. His sense of humour ran the whole gamut from the plain, indeed earthy, to the highly cerebral. His more sophisticated jokes often worked on several levels at the same time, or jumped stages. They were not for the slow-witted or the faint-hearted!

Linden's leadership of the English Department allowed each teacher under light guidance to develop a personal style and to pursue individual interests. As a result there was a healthy and creative diversity and the subject flourished. While maintaining rigorous academic standards and encouraging the high fliers to outstanding achievement, Linden offered sympathetic and good-humoured help to those who struggled, and took equal pleasure in their more modest successes. As a young teacher joining the department I was grateful for such a helpful and nourishing atmosphere in which to learn to teach a subject which was not my main one.

Mr Huddlestone directed many school plays. They were thoroughly reflected upon and meticulously researched and choreographed. Every entrance, exit and movement was diagrammed in advance, which allowed rehearsal time to be used effectively to develop the production; drawing on the actors' ideas and playing to their strengths. Particularly memorable were Ben Jonson's 'Bartholomew Fair', Brecht's 'Galileo' and 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', and, in conjunction with the Choir/Madrigal Group, Britten's 'The Golden Vanity'.

A wide range of other enthusiasms meant that Linden touched school life in many ways, although it was his mischievously proud boast that he had never in his long career attended a rugby match. He did, however take a lively part in the game of croquet which enjoyed a brief vogue in the school in the late sixties/early seventies. Linden was a member of the Choir and Choral Society for well over a quarter of a century and had a great love of music and an extensive knowledge of it. During his membership he played a full part in the several tours the Choir undertook, entertaining us wittily in our moments of relaxation. A passionate interest in architecture and garden history and design was generously shared with the school in his general studies courses and in the History Society, which he took on numerous visits to houses and gardens. He shared the leadership of a visit to Venice, Florence and Pisa. He was also something of a railway enthusiast, and devised and accompanied some interesting expeditions for the Railway Society.

Mr Huddlestone had from his boyhood loved travelling in England. His knowledge of its roads and landscapes was wide, not to say encyclopaedic. Outside his teaching he had navigated in car rallies. For his ordinary travelling he rather engagingly favoured the use of a collection of maps dating from the thirties, and enjoyed recalling an old route where it had been superseded by a newer one.

Linden Huddlestone loved life and was at ease with himself. He was a deeply civilised and many-faceted teacher, colleague and friend.

Don Moss

Rich's Collects Yet Another Award!

We are almost becoming blasé about receiving awards but this should not detract from further national recognition the school received this term. The Government, in an initiative designed to reward successful schools and encourage excellence introduced the School Achievement Award. The Department for Education and Employment analysed schools' results, compared them to other similar schools and looked at progress over the last three years - Mr Kellie was delighted to announce that Sir Thomas Rich's was in the first group of schools to win one of these prestigious awards. In the letter informing him of our success Minister of State Estelle Morris thanked all staff, teachers and support staff for all their hard work and commitment.

Sixth Form

We received a very complimentary letter from the National Blood Service thanking Sixth Formers who attended a recent blood donor session and were a credit to the School.

Mr Pickard organised a Lower Sixth team (D Leung, J Boley, G Coombs) who took part in the Public Speaking competition organised by Cheltenham Rotary Club at UCAS Headquarters last month.

Mr Seales' programme of preparing students for higher education saw the Lower Sixth visit an Higher Education fair in Malvern and attend a day's conference in school. Barrie Clark, SLO from Swansea University, spoke to the Upper Sixth about "The Transition to Higher Education".

Foot And Mouth Disease

Although day-to-day school life was largely unaffected by the Foot & Mouth outbreak, several educational visits were restricted or cancelled. For example the Year 10 Geography visit to Lulworth, Sixth Form Geology trips to Devon and to Ireland, the Year 8 History trip to Chedworth plus the County Rugby Sevens competition as well as hockey and rugby matches v Newent were all cancelled.

Duke Of Edinburgh's Award

The foot and mouth epidemic had a substantial impact on the training programme with many events having to be postponed indefinitely. Despite these set-backs training for the Expedition section of the award and participation in other sections continued. Miss Adamson talked to participants about emergency procedures and the weather, Mr Birkett provided information about equipment and campcraft and Mr MacGregor from St John's Ambulance gave an interesting presentation on expedition safety and First Aid.

European Evening

We held a European Evening on 28th March featuring displays and the tasting of food and wines from different countries. However the main focus of the evening was a variety of stage performances, including music, fashion, games, poetry and playlets. Participants included our pupils from Year 7 to the Upper Sixth as well as Year 4 and 5 pupils from Longlevens Junior School and pupils from Barnwood Park High School for Girls and Oxstalls Community School. Our thanks to all who took part and provided an excellent evening's entertainment, also to their teachers who rehearsed and prepared them, and particularly to Mrs Hewett, our Language College Co-ordinator, who organised and oversaw the event.

Soccer

Senior Teams

Our First XI again enjoyed an outstanding season, conceding only two goals in open play and scoring sixteen, winning all but one of their league matches. Sadly, the foot and mouth epidemic and an unexpected early exit from the County Cup on penalties resulted in fewer games this season.

The Second XI enjoyed a most successful season. They won all four matches played, scoring 21 goals while conceding only 1. For second successive season we fielded a Third XI allowing an increasing number of boys to become involved in competitive football at Rich's.

U15 - P6, W4, D1, L1; F-20, A-5

The U15's had a very successful campaign this year. They conducted themselves in a very sportsman-like and mature manner off the pitch and demonstrated a high level of skill, determination and commitment on game days. They made it into the County semi-final following a record of four wins, one draw and one loss.

U14 - P7, W5 D1, L1; P-26, A-18

The U14's displayed a new determination in many of their games this season, competing well against everyone except Churchdown, when they produced their poorest performance by far. Apart from this, they showed an ability to defend in an organised manner as well as the capability to create and take their chances in attack.

U13 - P6, W3, L2, D1; F-18, A-15

A mixed season, but the U15s won enough league matches to go through to the semi finals of the City Cup Competition. The side has considerable talent but needs to become more physically assertive and improve its defensive record. The team's best performance came against Churchdown where the side went 2-0 down but fought back to produce an excellent 6-2 win. The future looks bright for this side.

Attendance Certificates

Well done to all pupils who received Attendance Certificates as a result of no absences throughout the term. Despite some unpleasant viruses doing the rounds almost 200 pupils managed uninterrupted attendance.

Talent Show

On the last Saturday evening in March a large audience enjoyed a Talent Evening, organised by Mrs Cormack-Hicks and the Sixth Form Committee to raise funds for the National Meningitis Trust. A number of groups plus individual musicians performed together with a yo-yo display and a comedy act. The school's Venture Scout unit assisted with refreshments. Overall it was a very successful evening which raised over £600 for this important local charity.

International Honours

We were delighted that four Richians were selected to represent their country. Congratulations to each of the following upon achieving this tremendous honour.

Alexander Kirby (U6S) played for England Junior Water Polo team in a tournament in Prague last month, with competitions in Poland and Bulgaria to come.

Clive Stuart-Smith (U6R) was selected to captain the England Schools Under 18 rugby

team against France.

Joseph Taunton (8R) represented England in an international orienteering competition in Cologne, against Belgium, Germany and Holland. Joseph finished second in his class, helping England to win the tournament.

Michael Thomas (U6S) was selected for The England Men's Water Polo squad, competing for the North Sea Trophy in Denmark.

Well done to them all.

Year 7 Rugby

'A' Team: P6, W3; L3; F-66, A-73

'B' Team: P6, W3, L3; F-67, A-143

After a difficult start against good and more experienced opposition, Boumside and Bristol Grammar School, the teams were not put off and have recovered well. Victories against Marling, Crypt and Chosen Hill schools are testament to their positive and determined approach. They are to be congratulated on their efforts throughout the season both on and off the pitch.

PA Quiz Night

The Parents' Association Quiz Night saw thirty teams try to answer the 200 questions. The overall victors were a team of Upper Sixth Formers, while the Junior Trophy was won by 9R with their Form Teacher Mr. Peffers. The event raised £200 for school funds and the Venture Scouts who helped by running the Tuck Shop and managing the raffle also benefited.

Assembly Speakers

We welcomed Barbara Kew from GARAS (Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers) who spoke about the plight of refugees. The following week Liz Davies told us about the work of receiving a cheque for £712 on behalf of the NSPCC, our nominated charity for the term.

Year 7 Soccer

As part of the Year 7 induction programme, Mr Parris organised a five-a-side indoor soccer tournament in the Sports Hall. Nine teams competed, initially in two leagues, then semi-finals leading to a team from 7R winning the final (T Lingwood, C Lyall, P Neveu, J Pickup, R Rees, J Spurway) with a 7T team as runners-up (B Biscoe, W Bradwell, A Downes, L Murdock A Patel, I Topia). Our thanks to Ian Black for organising the prizes and the Year 10 referees who did an excellent job throughout the tournament.

Individual Achievements

Congratulations to:

A Lower Sixth Business Studies team of M Bond, L Crocombe, M Granger, M C Lee, A Macey, A Maxted and R Morgan who came third overall in the CIPFA Management Challenge at Cheltenham Town Hall and also claimed the prize for the best written report;

Martyn Adlam (10T) who was the regional winner in a national competition run by the Premiership Rugby Union sponsors, Zurich. He was presented with his award at half-time during the Gloucester v Leicester clash at Kingsholm. The school also benefited to the tune of £2000 worth of rugby equipment.

Steven Smith (U6C) who achieved tremendous success in two separate competitions. He finished amongst the 50 highest scoring students in The British Physics Olympiad and hence progressed to the final stage prior to selection of the top physicist in the county. He then took part in the British Informatics Olympiad for which he had to write 3 computer programs in 3 hours - as a result he won through to the national final held at Corpus Christi College Cambridge;

Alastair Swetman (U6S) who received a Merit Award, worth £300, together with an unconditional offer, as a result of his Entrance Scholarship examination for Aberystwyth University;

Dominic Wynn-Sands (11S) who won the County U16 table tennis championships. Dominic went on to represent the County in the English Schools Championships at Aston Villa.

Raymond Rees 7R who won the CLIC Christmas Painting Competition first prize of £25, with £100 given to the School;

Adam Langley (L6R) who was invited to speak at a conference on networking in New York.

Peter Kellie (L6R) who won the South West Schools cross county championships in Bournemouth.

School Honours

The award of Honours is reserved for a small number of students who have made outstanding contributions to the life of Sir Thomas Rich's School. Three senior pupils were awarded Honours at the final assembly of term:

Dolin Bhagawati (U6S) for supporting school chess, the Debating Society and Public Speaking, the links with The Milestone School, sound and lighting for drama productions as well as help with Open Days and Year 7 Induction Day;

Simon Poole (U6S) for his involvement over many years with the Choir, the Madrigal Group, school music at concerts and musical productions, and school chess:

Matthew Key (L6R) who has contributed significantly to school drama (performing and helping elsewhere), the Choir and the Madrigal Group, he has helped to organise and run the School Badminton and Table Tennis Clubs and he is Chairman of the School's Venture Scout Unit.

The School is indebted to all three.

Countryside Competition

A group of Year 8 pupils attended a Countryside Competition along with representatives from twenty other schools. They were set three tasks during the day, including map work, designing car parks and building electrically-operated information boards for a country park. The Sir Thomas Rich's team won first place in the map reading exercise and were commended for their skill and accuracy. Well done to A Broadhead, K Ellis, P Gorman, G Hopkins, C Lock, S Parker, J Taunton and D Wells.

House Events

Drama

Our thanks to Mrs Stanley for overseeing the House Drama competition which saw a high standard of competition. Many of the casts had put a great deal of time and effort into ensuring strong performances. Also thanks to Mr Watson for undertaking the

difficult task of judging and to the Sixth Formers who got their teams organised and prepared. The winner was Southgate, with Eastgate and Westgate tied in second place. The award for Best Individual Performance went to James Darrell (7T).

Public Speaking

Mr Slinger organised the annual Public Speaking competition on Monday. In front of the Year 8 audience each House was represented by a chairman, main speaker and supporting speaker. In the Junior competition, arguments were put for and against becoming a millionaire and the internet, with Southgate just pipping Eastgate. Teams in the Senior competition were free to choose their own topics, although the state of the current music scene and how good/bad life is nowadays dominated their thinking. The result was close, with Eastgate victors by one point.

Quiz

Mr Dempsey organised the General Knowledge Quiz. Eastgate just pipped Northgate in the Junior Quiz, with the Senior Quiz being won by Westgate whose team answered 37 out of the 40 questions correctly. However, overall, the victors were Northgate.

Swimming

The Junior House swimming gala was held early this term. Westgate won in Year 7 but Eastgate won in Years 8 and 9 and drew with Northgate in Year 10. So the overall victors were Eastgate. In the Senior competition Northgate were too strong for the other Houses, winning eight of the eleven races.

Music

A lively, varied and high-quality House Music competition was held before an audience of Year 9 pupils. Each House entered musicians in the four categories: Junior solo, Junior ensemble, Senior solo and Open. Classical, blues, rock and rap were played on a variety of instruments, by groups and sung by a massed choir. Mr Hearn who had the difficult task of judging each entry. A very close competition was won by Eastgate.

Lower Sixth Art Trip To London

The omens were not good for the Lower Sixth as they travelled to London on the morning of 5th February, this being the day of the Underground strike. Contingency plans had been made, but nothing could be done about the extra volume of traffic trying to get into the Capital by road. Thankfully, any delays were reasonably short, so we were only slightly late arriving at our first destination Tate Britain. This meant that the students could still gather all the information they needed to begin their second AS unit, before moving on to the companion gallery, Tate Modern, in the afternoon.

One major advantage of the traffic disruption was that the second gallery was virtually empty and our students could therefore enjoy the crowd-free environment whilst producing sketches of their chosen paintings and sculptures. A further bonus came in the form of a free boat journey down the Thames to take us back to our minibus, before the drive back to school.

What could have been a nightmare journey actually turned out to be a useful, pleasant and (almost) hassle free day!

Staff Pantomime

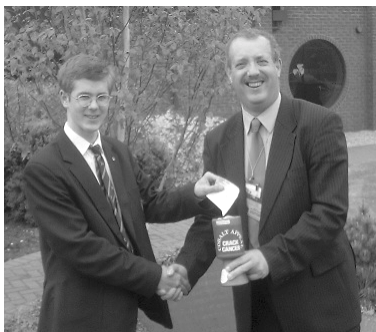
Mrs Stanley wrote a pantomime, 'Jacques et Le Genetically Modified Beanstalk', in which all the parts were played by staff. It was performed one lunchtime at the high

end of the pantomime season and its box office receipts raised £127 for the School's nominated charity NSPCC.

Cotswold Marathon

Four teams from the school's Venture Scout Unit, 44th Gloucester (STRS), entered this year's events - two senior teams competing in the forty mile course and two junior teams in the twenty mile event. The weather and ground conditions were, atrocious - over 60% of all entrants being forced to retire, including both junior teams. Our senior teams completed the gruelling course. The unit's AVSL, Peter Lloyd, together with Adam Griffiths and Daniel Wright recorded the fastest time of the night of 9 hours 27 minutes.

Our other team of Matthew Key, Giles Moorhead, Geoffrey Coombs and Richard Holland were several hours behind them but being one of the few complete teams to complete the course, they lifted the Lowry Senior Trophy. Well done to all those who took part and thanks to all those who pledged money for the teams, all of which went to the Cobalt Unit's Crack Cancer Campaign.



Matt Key Chairman of the school's Venture Scout Unit, hands over to Dave Bennett a cheque for the Cobalt Appeal's 'Crack Cancer' Campaign

Oxford & Cambridge Universities

Congratulations to the following members of our Upper Sixth who gained places to study at Oxford and Cambridge Universities: Paul Grayson, Biological Sciences at Christ Church College, Oxford; Steven Smith, Computer Science at Churchill College, Cambridge; Simon Clarke, Chemistry at St Peter's College, Oxford; Simon Poole, Mathematics at Churchill College, Cambridge ; Dolin Bhagawati to read Medicine at Christ Church, Oxford; Rosemary Stanley, French and Italian at Balliol College, Oxford; Afzal Junglee, Computer Science at Keble College, Oxford.



Many of our sixth form now take a gap year to broaden their experience of life, frequently travelling the world. It came as no surprise therefore that last year's 'seniors' in the school's Venture Scout unit opted to do just that. Andrew Norman and Dave Clifford spent several months touring in South America enjoying spectacular scenery. School captain and Unit Chairman Will Godwin followed them out to Bolivia for several months working with the charity Latin Link. Nick Wright and Chris Smith took themselves off to Canada during the winter to work their way in Vancouver. It is from there that Chris e-mailed us this report.



"Life after Venture Scouts.

Whenever I said that I was going to Vancouver for a gap year, everyone used to say 'Oh, I know someone there', or 'I've got family there'. Now that I've been living here for 3 months I've come to realise that most of the world has contacts here. It is truly a multiracial society with people from all over the world living here.

I suppose one of the reasons that they all flood here is because of the fantastic surroundings. Situated on the edge of the West Coast mountains and the Pacific Ocean, British Columbia boasts some very nice countryside indeed, from the lakes and forests of Vancouver Island to the 2nd biggest granite monolith in the world. The 'Chief' in Squamish is a climbing mecca and I hope to join the mad fools this spring in hanging on by 2 finger nails above a 200ft drop to big jagged boulders below. Whoops, don't tell my parents that bit!

Myself and Nick Wright managed to get jobs on a local ski resort operating the lifts where one of the bonuses is a free ski pass. We both bought snowboards and soon found ourselves hurtling down the hills trying to avoid all the amateurs about. It's funny, but when in Ventures you have those meetings where you sit there while someone practises putting a triangular bandage on you and you never think it will happen for real. Well it does! The other day I found ski patrol putting a triangular bandage on me because I had managed to tear 3 ligaments in my shoulder. Doing what? Yep, snowboarding!

Anyway, this gap year has been fun and I have learnt a lot but in a strange way I think I will miss the Cotswold Marathon. Nevermind, I can always just run 40 miles out here for the hell of it. Or maybe not!! See you all in the spring!

Chris Smith"

STRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRS

From out of the mouths of babes

"Wimbledon is a tennis toenament."

"Too much fat is dangerous because it raises our celestial level."

"Minors invented pasties when they were down the mines."

"So we visited the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester, where the interactive Xperiment! science centre and the aviation hall with its flight stimulator proved to be especially popular with our new members.

Exam paper goof :

Question - "What is gluten?"

Answer - "Someone who eats too much fat"

Exam Fever!

Increasing national emphasis upon assessment is having a real impact upon school life. The Summer Term is now so much dominated by examinations - trial AS (Lower Sixth) and SATs (Year 9) exams, GCSE/AS/A-level for years 10, 11, 12 and 13, with School end-of-year exams held at the end of June – that our normal school life grinds to a virtual stand-still. Not only does this exam mania take our Year 11, Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth students out of circulation making sports and other extra curricular events a virtual impossibility to maintain (yet another nail in the coffin lid of schools cricket!) but also there are occasions when the Sports Hall, the Gym and the Hall are all full of examinees. Perhaps we should take a lesson from the educational system in Eire where they close schools for teaching during June and open them purely as examination centres?

U15 Competition Finals

Rugby - The U15 rugby team contested the final of the Gloucester City Schools Cup at Kingsholm against St Peters School. Despite a very committed performance from the whole team, in atrocious conditions, the school lost by 13 points to nil. Everyone tackled bravely throughout but just couldn't make the breakthrough they needed.

Soccer - Having fallen at the first hurdle in The Gloucester City Schools Cup last year, the U15s made sure this time, just! They won a hard-fought game at Central Technology College to get to the final where they met Churchdown School. In a tense match neither team scored in normal time, extra time was going the same way until the last moments when David Cole slid the ball past the goalkeeper. Well done to the entire squad!

Choral Concert

The annual choral concert was held in Holy Trinity Church on the evening of 15th May. The full choir was supported by orchestra and guest soloists, providing a magnificent performance of Bach's St John *Passion*. Experts suggest that no Bach works are more profound or more moving. A large audience was treated to an evening of outstanding music. Congratulations to Mr Thompson and to all the performers for an excellent concert.

Mr J Carew-Jones

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death, on 27th April, of John Carew-Jones. The School was well represented at his funeral in Gloucester Cathedral.

Mr Carew-Jones graduated in Physics at the University of Wales then gained his teaching certificate at London University. He started his teaching career at Colfe's Grammar School in London and was then Head of Physics at Llandovery College for 28 years. He joined Rich's in 1986 and became our first Head of Science. He retired in 1992 but continued to help us out as a part-time and supply teacher until shortly before his death. John was always a tremendously loyal supporter of Rich's and a valued member of staff. We count ourselves fortunate to have benefited from his service.

Founder's Day

Our annual celebration of the foundation of Sir Thomas Rich's was held at Holy Trinity Church on the afternoon of 16th May. The service was led by Canon Peter Nunn. Guests of Honour included the County High Sheriff, the Mayor of Gloucester, the Sheriff of Gloucester and the Chairman of Gloucestershire County Council. The address was

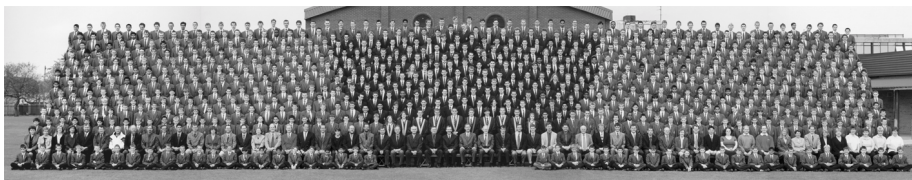
given by Mr S D Smallwood, who was our Head of Humanities until 1998 when he left to become Deputy Headmaster of Bishop Wordsworth's School in Salisbury. The choir sang two extracts from St John Passion for the anthem.

Mr Smallwood stressed to an absorbed congregation of pupils, staff, dignitaries, parents and old boys the importance of making the most of one's opportunities. Don't be like the chicken from the eagle's egg and spend all your time scratching around within the limited confines of the chicken run, when you have the potential and ability to go much, much further. Lift up your head and view the horizons open to you; take the opportunity to stretch your wings, feel the breeze and fly!

Scuba Diving

Some of our Year 11 and Lower Sixth students underwent scuba diver training in the school swimming pool during Tuesday lunchtimes. Upon completion of this training they qualified as PADI Open Water Divers. This is the world's most popular diver qualification and Coral divers who carried out the training have arranged free scuba try-dives for any Years 11-13 students interested in taking the course during the next academic year.

Take 5 - WHOLE SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPH – at long last!!



After four bookings during the previous year each of which had to be aborted because of rain, snow and/or high winds, our attempts to record a photograph of Sir Thomas Rich's at the turn of the new millennium were finally successful. On 9th May pupils, teachers and support staff were organised, cajoled and arranged on steep-banked staging erected on the school field and the millennium school photograph was duly recorded for posterity.

Sixth Form Events

Mr Seales' programme of preparing students for higher education continued with a Higher Education Evening for Lower Sixth and parents, led by Tony Higgins, the Chief Executive of UCAS, the organisation, which handles all university applications.

The Upper Sixth enjoyed their final General Studies lesson – a talk by Mike Hurst on *The Music Makers*. Mike is a record producer and was one of The Springfields, backing group for Dusty Springfield.

Congratulations were due to Scott Beddows, James Crowley (U6), Richard Morgan and Matthew Taylor (L6) who went with Mr Barton, our Sports Development Officer, to Bath University for a national Top Link conference. The students won the award for demonstrating outstanding leadership qualities.

Samantha Kloos (U6R) became the first ever recipient of a Merit Award for Sir Thomas Rich's Netball. Samantha had worked hard through the year to develop netball amongst our Sixth Formers.

Occasionally we present Honours to pupils who have made outstanding contributions to the life of the School. At the final assembly of term we presented Honours to –

Keith Hardy for his role as part of the Admin Team for the school computer network, for developing the School's intranet structure and for his expert help over the years with the sound and lighting for School productions;

Rosemary Stanley for her contribution to School music and drama and towards the day-to-day running of, and loyalty towards, the School.

Year 7 Activities

On a sunny Sunday in May a group of year 7 boys tried their hand at archery. They learned the skills and techniques involved and then used them in a series of mini competitions. Various smiley faces and balloons were ruthlessly destroyed and there were also more traditional activities using targets and apples. The supervising staff escaped unscathed!

Over half-term forty Year 7 boys accompanied Mr Parris, Mrs Arnold, Mr Dempsey and Mr Nehra to Paris. Chris Parry (7R) won the prize for the most impressive diary.

Indoor Cricket

This year's indoor cricket league title was decided just before Easter when the only two unbeaten teams played each other. Team B led by Alistair Woodman (L6C), beat Team F, captained by Dominic Wynn-Sands (11S), by six wickets to claim the title. In fact Team B dominated the league this year, not only winning all their fixtures but also gaining maximum batting and bowling points in every game, to win by a comfortable margin. Our thanks to Mr Lockey, who organised, umpired and scored all the indoor cricket matches, held during Thursday lunchtimes.

New Telephone Numbers

May saw the advent of a new telephone system with a super-duper ISDN30 line being laid into the school and telephone engineers and miles of cable bursting out of the roof spaces. The troubled frowns staff wore during the following weeks were nothing to do with the piles of exam marking or the stress of teaching 9R but as a result of having to come to terms with such technological advances (?) as message forwarding ability, voice mail, phantom phone boxes, and of course pre-recorded instructions to press 1 for this and 2 for that and 3 for the other. Wasn't that yellow message slip swiftly and obviously taped into the pigeon hole an effective means of communications? Who says new technology is always better?

Railway Society

Despite Railtrack's continuing programme of delays and cancellations, The Railway Society managed to run two day trips by train this Spring. In March a group of 25 travelled to the village of Haworth in the Yorkshire Pennines, taking a trip on The Worth Valley steam railway. On 12th May twenty members visited Welshpool in Powys, where they enjoyed a ride in the sunshine on the narrow gauge line to Llanfair, Caereinion.

Table Tennis

In the Gloucester League, our "A" team enjoyed its most successful season, finishing runners-up in Division 5. Our "B" team, having gained promotion the previous year, found life tough against older and more experienced players. Our young "C" team showed considerable progress and achieved a string of most creditable results.

Well done to Thomas Burdett (10R) and to Christopher Pigott (7R), winners of the Gloucester Table Tennis Association Championships in the Under 17 and Under 15 groups respectively.

Athletics

The following athletes were selected to represent The Gloucester District at the County Championships.

Senior: Peter Kellie - 3000m,

Intermediate: Michael Short - 800m. Nicholas Shipley - 400m, Steven Broughton - Long Jump and Triple Jump, Alexander Pike -100 m.

Junior: Kevin Ellis - 1500m, Philip Hanson - 800m, Luke Richardson – Shot, Issachar Foster - Discus.

Göttingen Exchange

Over twenty pupils from STRS and The High School, Denmark Road, took part. They all came back with positive memories of Göttingen, with its relaxed, informal university-town atmosphere; and once again this year we were treated to an express train journey to Berlin, which becomes more impressive year by year as the building programme approaches completion. We also enjoyed a taste of a beautiful medieval town, Goslar, with its palace dating from the period of the Holy Roman Empire German Nation, not to mention the other taste some of us indulged - for German cream cakes!

Our STRS contingent was relatively small in number but very appreciative and keen to recommend this good value package to all who want to experience another culture at the grass roots. At a little over £200 all - in, the German Year 10 Exchange is a feature of the language learning scene at STRS which, merits serious consideration!

À Votre Santé

On Tuesday 8th May we welcomed the European Theatre Company to our school. The play "À Votre Santé" was enjoyed by our Year 8 and 10 pupils. The company lived up to its reputation of providing high quality foreign language theatre. The performance was lively, funny and skillfully arranged to allow even our young learners to follow the plot. Although one hour's immersion in French was quite demanding, it proved to be a successful and stimulating event. We look forward to welcoming the company again to our school.

House Events

Public Speaking

The D C Hook Public Speaking Cup was won by Eastgate, winners of the Senior competition, by just one point from Southgate, who won the Junior competition.

Cross Country

Mark McBride won the Yr10 race, Timothy Dalton the Year 9, John Stafford the Year 8 and Luke Barns the Year 7 race. Northgate (11 points) won the overall competition from Southgate (8), Eastgate (6) and Westgate (5).

Chess

Eastgate (28 points) won from Southgate (21), Westgate (19) and Northgate (17).

Junior Soccer

In Years 7-9, Eastgate won from Westgate; Southgate and Northgate tied.

Senior Soccer

Eastgate completed a clean sweep of soccer titles with Westgate second, Southgate third.

Athletics

At the end of our Sports Evening Northgate just pipped Eastgate with Westgate and Southgate struggling to stay in touch.

Work

Through the five Order periods every pupil who achieved a "1" for Effort gained a House point. (Any "5"s lost House points). The Junior competition, Years 7-10, was won by Eastgate from North, then South and finally West. Eastgate also won the Senior competition from Southgate, then Northgate and Westgate.

Tennis

Northgate won from Southgate, Eastgate, then Westgate.

Overall, in the Cock House Competition Eastgate forged ahead from early in the Spring Term. They won nine of the events outright and invariably finished second in the others, leaving the other three Houses in their wake. Rumour had it that Head of House Mrs Stanley was force-feeding everyone 3 Shredded Wheats every morning (those frequent drama rehearsals were just a front!).

Several students were nominated by their Heads of House for certificates for outstanding contributions to House Events. These were presented to: S Cole, J Paddy, G Penter (Upper Sixth), D Leung, T Richards, J Taylor (Lower Sixth).

Individual achievements

Congratulations to:

Owen Mason (U6R) on passing his recital certificate for the Guildhall School of Music and Drama;

Christopher Parry (7R) for achieving a 97% distinction in his Grade 5 Music Theory examination;

Thomas Wise (7B) on his selection for the Cotswold District Under 13 boys' hockey team;

Charles Woolhead (10S) who won the Duologue category at the Cheltenham Literary Festival.

Alex Winter (7B) who was selected and played for Wales U12 cricket team.

Sam Johnson (9R) on his selection for the Gloucestershire at U16 level for the Junior Inter-Counties Archery Tournament.

SATs

The results of the National Curriculum tests taken by Year 9 pupils in May are:

	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Level 8
English	9	46	53	
Maths	2	19	67	20
Science	7	54	47	

Charities

Over £300 was raised for the school's charity this term, the National Meningitis Trust.

Row, Row, Row Your Boat - Year 7 take to the water

On three separate days in July groups of twelve boys spent a day sailing & canoeing at Croft Farm Water Park. They each had the opportunity to practise their paddling skills both in individual kayaks and canoes. Sailing gave the boys the opportunity to develop new skills and work as a team, with two per boat. This popular activity was once again a great success. Special commendation to Mr Parris, Mr Maxfield and Mr Gowler who braved the elements along with the pupils!

Sixth Form Induction

Ninety prospective Sixth Form students spent a week at the beginning of July team-building and developing the skills required for study at A level. The first morning was spent on Impressions Management, a lively session focusing on presentation techniques. Under severe time pressure, teams produced excellent presentations on a wide variety of wonderful new product ideas. The winners won a meal for two at a local restaurant.

On subsequent days groups departed for the Wilderness Centre in the Forest of Dean where a variety of problem-solving tasks were attempted, while others were joined by local business leaders to work on business simulations. Never before have 16 year-olds been so engrossed in the intricacies of car park design!

An action packed and sun-soaked week was crowned with a morning of study skills run by Mr Seales followed by a barbecue - and boy did it rain!!!

New Year 7 Induction Day

The prospective Year 7 pupils spent a full day in school, getting a taster of what to expect in September. They had the opportunity to meet staff and sample some typical lessons. An excellent team of sixth Form students led by Adam Sheppard acted as guides for the boys and arranged afternoon games. A series of drama presentations were directed by Mrs Stanley.

This important day helps allay fears and gives the boys the opportunity to spend a day with their new class mates. A good time was enjoyed by new pupils and staff alike.

Crest Awards

Each year the Design & 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 & Technology Regional Organisation) and local businesses. Four pupils represented the school at the awards ceremony at DuPonts' Woodlawn facility. They were James Crowley (Gold award), Michael Smith (Gold award), Alex Marles (Silver award) Richard Parker (Silver award). The pupils displayed work and discussed their projects with parents and visitors along with other Gloucestershire schools involved in the scheme. A further twelve pupils in years and 11, 12 & 13 received Silver and Bronze awards this year.

Athletics

There were some outstanding performances this season. The school came first in the meeting with Churchdown and Crypt and second to Pates in the meeting with Crypt, Pates, Bournside, Marling and Archway. Throughout the season the following records were broken: Nick Shipley (Year 10) ran 400m in 54.57 seconds and Steve Broughton

(Year 10) jumped 5.83metres in the Long Jump and 12.53metres in the Triple Jump. Steve Broughton, Kevin Ellis, Phil Hanson, Alex Pike, Jon Puddick, Luke Richardson and Nick Shipley all had County trials. Luke Richardson (shot putt) and Steven Broughton (long jump and triple jump) went on to represent Gloucestershire at the South West Schools Athletics Championships at Exeter. Peter Kellie who was selected to run for Great Britain in the 2000 metres steeplechase at the World Youth Championships in Hungary.

Soccer Tournament

Mr. Barton organised a 5-a-side soccer competition for primary schools, based at the Sports Hall. It was extraordinarily popular with over 1000 pupils taking part. Many thanks to the Year 10 boys who helped, in particular Nicholas Day and Mark McBride.

International Week

A wide range of activities was organised for our International Week. The European Theatre Company held drama workshops, pupils enjoyed Japanese drumming sessions as well as Kendo, they visited German enrichment classes in Bristol, there were taster lessons in Japanese, Mandarin and Sign Language, our 6th Formers performed 'Tintin en Amerique' and heard about the importance of language skills in today's workplace.

Staff Changes

We bade farewell to three of our teachers – Mr R N Hanney, who retires as Senior Master after almost 34 years at Rich's. Mrs S I White, who has taught French and German, full-time for five years and part-time since 1990. Mrs White will concentrate upon teaching in the primary sector. Mr R W Watson, teacher of English, drama and music, who is moving to the School of St Helen and St Katherine in Abingdon. We are grateful for the tremendous contributions, which all three have made to Sir Thomas Rich's.

In tribute to Mr Hanney's service to Sir Thomas Rich's, Mr Kellie writes -

"I believe that a school is as good as its staff. Rich's is an excellent school because we are blessed with a superb teaching and support staff, from those beginning their careers to those retiring. This summer Mr R N Hanney retired from full-time teaching, having joined the school in January 1967. Generations of Richians remember Mr Hanney with tremendous respect (and dare I say affection?!), as their Maths and/or Games teacher, and latterly as our disciplinarian Senior Master. I am delighted that he will remain with us, albeit part-time, but Sir Thomas Rich's and many, many Richians owe a debt of gratitude to a unique character."

We welcome in September

Mr C D Carter as Assistant Headmaster, joining us from RGS Worcester.

Miss D Brake, teacher of French and Spanish, from Bath University.

Mrs A Briscoe, English teacher, from Patchway School, Bristol.

Mrs C Castle, Food Technology teacher, from The High School.

Other staff changes: Mr I Bowie takes on a new role as Coordinator of Teaching and Learning, Mr M Parris becomes Head of Biology, Mrs J Arnold will be Head of PSHE, Mr D Gowler takes on Head of Westgate.

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Cricket Season 2001 - Close of Play Summary

1st XI

v. Rendcomb

In cold and damp conditions the School were made to work hard for their runs by some tight Rendcomb bowling after having been put into bat. School 115 for 9 dec. Moseling 25, Sherwood 17, Martin 14 no. In reply the School bowled well and had Rendcomb in difficulties but could not quite finish them off. Rendcomb 51 for 9. Bhaiyat 5 for 15, Moseling 3 for 10.

v. Crypt

Batting first the School got off to a good start and built a substantial total of 179 for 6 dec. McLellan 86, Green 51. Crypt also started their innings well and looked comfortable at 80 for 1. However the School plugged away and kept the pressure on but again were unable to finish off the Crypt innings. Crypt 143 for 8. Whitmore 3 for 31.

v. Worcester VIth Form

The School batted first in a 35 over match. Against some good early bowling they found it difficult to score and lost two early wickets. However Tom Moseling (74 no) carried his bat through the innings and created a low but defendable target of 135 for 6. In reply Worcester looked comfortable and scored freely despite some good bowling and fielding from the School. The School kept working and wickets began to fall after Worcester's key batsman was superbly run out by James White. This was the turning point and the School went on to win by 9 runs in a close finish. Worcester 126. Sherwood 3 for 20.

Following a long layoff for examinations the 1st XI then had two fixtures left to finish their season.

v. Marling

On a good batting wicket the School won the toss and elected to bat, scoring 212 for 4 dec. Green 61, McLellan 57, Whitmore 34. In reply Marling scored steadily and held out for a draw on 187 for 6. Sherwood 3 for 46 was pick of the bowling.

v. Newington College Development XI (Australia)

Unfortunately, persistent rain caused the game to be cancelled without a ball being bowled to leaving us 1-up in the "series" (started six years ago). I am sure Newington will allow this little dig as they hope to return next year with a younger team to put the record straight!

2nd XI

The 2nd XI played two fixtures both drawn. In the first fixture against Rendcomb highlights were a breezy 74 scored by James Williams and the tidy, effective bowling of Ilyas Pandor. The second fixture against Crypt saw the batsmen dominate with Peter Woolley dominating the scoring.

U15 - P6, W4, D1, L1

The 2001 season was highly satisfactory for the U15s. Apart from losing in the first round of the County Cup and a high scoring draw at Pates, the team won all their matches and beat all their major rivals.

The season opened at Crypt in a typically low scoring affair for the time of year. The

rustiness of the Crypt batting enabled swift progress through their innings. As was to be the pattern in games ahead, captain James Kenny led from the front with tight bowling, which yielded 4 wickets, and Ed Quigley provided the stability for the Tommies innings with 20. A modest target of 56 was overhauled with only 3 wickets to spare.

Against Bournside in the 30 overs County Cup Competition, we were batted out of the game at home by a century from the county captain, which provided the lion's share of the improbable total of 188-1. Despite exciting front foot batting from Tim Dodwell in an unbeaten 52 and another well-constructed innings by Quigley of 42, we were never in the chase and finished on 145-6.

Travelling to Marling without the injured Quigley, whose broken hand threatened to keep him out for the rest of the-season, technical deficiencies in the - batting were exposed by an uneven pitch. Only James Martin played straight enough to reach double figures, and 52 all out seemed indefensibly low. Nevertheless, Kenny was supported well by the hostility of Dodwell and the accuracy of Salim Veshmia, and Marling were fired out for 43.

There were no problems with the pitch at Archdeacon Meadow as we took on King's on the county wicket. As expected King's were able to exploit the fast and even surface and accumulated 119-5, though intelligent spin bowling from Jonathan Dickie helped to peg them back at the end. Kenny finally found his form with the bat and his unbeaten 49 was the major contribution to an exciting last over victory.

At Pates only Veshmia took wickets as the home side declared on 194-2. This total was too large to get but did not allow enough time to bowl Tommies out. The game petered out with us on 107-4, again Kenny and Martin contributing most heavily.

The last game of the season was in the ever-pleasant setting of Rendcomb, and proved an easy victory with a good team performance in the field. Each of the six bowlers took at least one wicket to dismiss Rendcomb for 72. With Quigley back in the team, victory was easily achieved for the loss of only one wicket.

There were good performances from the whole team throughout the season. Dexter Bradley deputised for Quigley behind the stumps ably enough to retain that position for the final game. The fielding, particularly the close catching, was - excellent. The competitive and authoritative captaincy of James Kenny created a strong team spirit that helped in large measure towards the U15's success.

U14 - P8, W0, D1, L7

A difficult and disappointing season for the U14 team. There is plenty of ability but consistency is needed in performance. If the side batted well, bowling and fielding were poor, and vice versa. However the large squad worked hard and trained well throughout the season and remain upbeat. There's always next year!

U13 - P9, W3, D3, L3

The squad has demonstrated its strengths to good effect, developing individual skills and furthering an excellent team spirit which all augers well for the future. Two weak areas remain - a certain naiveté in the field (eg ptimistically keeping a slip and leg slip with only ten fielders on the field during the closing overs of a 20 over game against Beaufort) and the large number of wides conceded by all bowlers as they strived to make something happen every ball (they need to learn that patience is a critical weapon in the bowler's art).

This year the team again won through to the City Challenge Cup final against St Peters. Put into bat on a damp track, runs were hard to come by and with St Peter's coach setting his team's fields (!), Rich's only managed to post a total of 99-3 (Roberts 37 no, Erskine 30). Some early tight bowling began to make the Rich's total look as though it would be enough but too many wides and a crucial dropped catch let St Peters off the hook and they won by a 7-wicket margin.

Some outstanding performances include:

Laurie Roberts 50 no v Pates, 55 no v Oxstalls (and a batting average of 73)

Andrew Erskine 60 no v Oxstalls

Peter Blencowe 5 wickets for 10 runs v Beaufort

Lewis Barnard 5 wickets for 4 runs v Rendcomb

Cieran Conway who took on successfully new roles of wicket-keeper and opening bat.

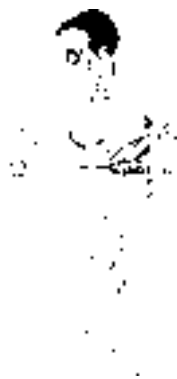
U12 - P6, W4, L2

A lack of continuity in the fixture list, plus examinations and unpredictable weather caused disruption for the team. However they reached the Gloucester City Rotary Cup Final, beating Churchdown, plus Oxstalls on the way. In the final they played Crypt and won a close match on the last ball. A 'B' team played Pates, losing, but displaying lots of potential. Overall the team, appears very promising with key players Alex Winter and Andrew Downes displaying excellent quality. Congratulations to Alex Winter who has consistently represented Wales at U12 level.

STRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTR

Nostalgia ain't what it used to be – neither is school cricket at Tommies! Or at any state funded school for that matter. Back in the 'good old days' (twenty five years ago if you really want to know!) the summer term's sporting activities were dominated by the extensive cricket fixtures – all games played to time, the art of grafting out a solid knock honed to perfection, long stints in the field requiring concentration and stamina with ample opportunity for slower bowlers to develop their beguiling craft of flight and spin. We had a groundsman who lovingly tended two – I say again – two full squares, one for Junior and one for Senior fixtures. Three or four rolled and cut strips he also provided on Games afternoons for those hopeful Bradmans and Lakers whose skill levels kept them out of serious contention for the year team places. Extensive fixture lists took us all over the county - to represent STRS at cricket was something extra special.

Apart from rare fixtures away to those green oases in the desert of school cricket – the private schools – we now ask our budding test stars to play the lottery version of our once noble game, the '20 over bash', on a single strip of plastic carpet, tacked out between the ruts, divots and often ankle-high grass of the football pitches. Our senior school cricket relies heavily on players whose development is substantially afforded by local clubs, and for that we must be thankful. The senior fixture list is heavily curtailed by the ever-lengthening exam season and demands on individuals to get out and earn money to support their further studies make consistency of team selection a nightmare. Sadly I feel there is little we can do to alleviate this. The junior sides however are a different story. We need to pamper them more with improved playing and practice facilities, provide dedicated and specialist coaching support focused on the selected teams and individuals within the teams, establish close links and working partnerships with local clubs. It wouldn't take much to set the ball rolling – what we have and what we do now given the paucity of time and lack of proper resources for the game is a miracle in itself. How much more could we achieve with the right framework and financial support?



ROBERT N HANNEY

Mr Hanney joined the school in January 1967 as a Games and PE Master. He knew the school and its ethos from playing rugby against it for East Dean Grammar School and from his friendship with athletes from the school representing Gloucestershire in the national championships.

He immediately began working with Frank Bradford in coaching some outstanding 1st XV's, capable of more than holding their own with the best in the country. These teams were well drilled and having got the basics right played with flair and enjoyment and each season players reached county and international standards.

He later became Head of Games and PE and then began a series of rôles that used his organising skills and attention to detail to the great benefit of the school. He ran some fêtes on a grand scale. He was responsible for setting out the hall for events, large and small, he became the staff representative on the Parents Association Committee, Staff Governor, Head of Careers and latterly, Senior Teacher with special responsibility for the Years 7-9. Then there was for the

privileged few "Mr 'Anney's Math's Set" which had almost cult status in Years 10 and 11. Each year dire results were predicted for those classes and each year there were the 100% success rates.

His dry sense of humour heightened many drab moments in the common room and earthed SMT meetings. He is a shrewd judge of character and his comments were often memorably pungent, vivid and apt. The rocky image belied a proud father and grandfather and a sensitive thoughtful and caring person particularly to those in genuine need.

Thirty four years of total commitment to the school and its standard and traditions, a willingness to take on the less glamorous tasks to enable the school to run smoothly and a response from boys that moved from fear to respect and then to gratitude is no mean record and to which the end of term retirement celebrations paid high tribute.

We wish you Bob a long and fulfilling retirement, many contented returns from Twickenham and are glad we shall continue to benefit from your presence for a few hours each week.

Alan Pilbeam



Richard Watson



Richard Watson joined STRS in 1996 and has taught English, Drama and Music. A talented musician and composer, he has put on a number of productions at STRS, including 'The Crucible', 'The Real Inspector Hound', and his own musical, 'Kids, Tough!' He has also overseen a Jazz group within the school. Sixth-formers will have reason to remember him as a key player in the staff indoor football team who regularly take on the sixth-form in 'friendly' matches on a Friday after school. His quick-wittedness, and ability to turn a phrase, have made commentaries at Sports Evening rather more lively than a simple presentation of the results.

Richard leaves us to return to his roots, in Abingdon. The school to which he moves has its own Theatre, so we may well speculate that

he has been lured away by the promise of greater opportunities than we can currently provide for drama and theatre. (Is there a benefactor out there who would like to help us set up our own theatre?). As Richard moves on we take this opportunity to wish him well in his new post.

Sarah White



Sarah White joined the staff in 1980 and had the distinction of being the only female member of the teaching staff for several years until others gradually "took the plunge". It is a very differently structured staff to which she says farewell than the one she joined originally. This process of change must be one that Sarah will reflect on with interest and insight.

From the start, Sarah involved herself actively in a variety of school activities, giving spirited stage performances in several productions as well as playing a key part in supporting and accompanying French and German exchanges.

Outside Rich's Sarah has enjoyed taking up opportunities to broaden her experience with part time commitments in primary schools, which now include an increasing amount of foreign language teaching. From September she will have the chance and the time to develop this further as well as enjoying to the full the delights of living in Randwick. There will also be (or should be) more time to devote to choral singing, one of Sarah's great loves.

Sarah will be greatly missed. We wish her and her family every happiness in the next chapter of their lives and look forward to seeing her regularly when she comes over to Longlevens to teach junior school French.

MUSIC 2000-2001

I was very pleased this year to have taken into the choir 15 new trebles from Year 7. It is always a relief to find that there is some enthusiasm for singing in an increasingly and unaccountably apathetic attitude amongst the majority. The choir has had another good year. As usual, the traditional carol services were given with assured and exciting vibrancy from the choir, whilst the previous week had seen the more intimate atmosphere of 'Christmas by Candlelight' sung, read and played by the Madrigal Group, readers and Mr Pickard's instrumentalists respectively.

The main dramatic event of the Autumn Term was the production of Lionel Bart's ever-popular 'Oliver'. Mrs Stanley produced a refreshing interpretation with outstanding performances by Matthew Key (Fagin) and Sara Cantwell (Nancy) and excellent support from the other soloists and chorus, and let's not forget the small, but superb band of accompanying instrumentalists. There were many memorable moments over the three nights but the triumph of succeeding in getting Fagin's beard to stick on the last night and Bill Sykes' (Scott Beddows) dramatic descent from the lighting bar after being shot certainly rank among the best!



The Madrigal Group

It is always with some trepidation that I embark on the year's big choral work for the Summer Term concert. Will the choir like it? Will the new trebles cope with the demands of long and tiring choruses and will the tenors, as usual, moan about how high the part is and can they change to bass?! So it was with this year's chosen work - J.S. Bach's 'St John Passion' - a challenge for any choral society, amateur or professional. I had invited professional soloists and an excellent orchestra to perform with us in May; all that was left was for the choir to learn the music! Some of the orchestra and soloists had asked me whether I was bravely "doing it all," to which I had replied rather mystified, "why, of course!" The only omissions were one chorus, two arias and a few sections of recitative. Bravely or not, on March 15th the choir and assembled soloists and orchestra gave, in my humble opinion, a musically staggering performance, capturing the anger of the Jewish rabble, the frustration of Pilate and the serene submission of Jesus. We were rightly praised for the quality of the singing - particularly, the trebles, for whom this had been their first experience of this type of choral performance. Gratifyingly, despite all the hard work and high notes they all seemed to enjoy it and have come back for more! I haven't yet decided what we shall do next May. I might be open to suggestion.....

During the rehearsals for the St John Passion, two other annual musical events took place, namely House Music and the Spring Concert. There may have been a good degree of competition in the former, but there certainly was a good deal of excellent music-making and opportunities for budding singers and instrumentalists to 'take the spotlight'. The result was close with Eastgate just clinching it - and no, it wasn't Malcolm Peckham who won it again for the winning house! It was he, however, alongside

Matthew Gardner, who contributed to another enjoyable concert in March - the Spring Concert - with their splendid rendition of 'Jupiter' from Holst's 'Planets' Suite, arranged for piano duet. Many other 'regulars' and newcomers also made their mark that night, either performing solo, in small ensemble or else in one of the larger groups - Orchestra, Wind Band or String Group. The variety of style and mood created another good evening of music, enjoyed by what was a disappointingly small audience. The same can be said of the Summer Concert, recently held in July, where the performers again gave of their best to an audience, which they probably outnumbered! This concert, incidentally, provided the platform for the farewell performances of some of our outgoing Upper Sixth musicians who, between them, had amassed a very large number of public appearances on behalf of the school in the form of instrumental concert, carol service, Speech Day, House Music and so on and so on. Paul Grayson and Rosemary Stanley performed the piano duet version of Dvorak's Slavonic Dance in G minor whilst Malcolm Peckham and Matthew Gardner gave Faure's 'Dolly Suite' First movement (piano duet) and Malcolm played his Music College audition piece, Liszt's Concert Study in A flat. To all of these and to musicians of the school, may you continue to enjoy, and thrive on, your music-making in the future!

JWT



The 'Pit Team' (orchestra!) for "Oliver!"

On the left is Matthew Gardner who has contributed greatly to School Music and in June's 'Youth Makes Music' Festival at the Cheltenham Town Hall he saw the first public performance of his prize winning composition.



“Oliver!” Scrap Book

‘Brownlow’
Craig Stevens



‘Fagin’ Matt Key &
‘Dodger’ Alastair Stanley

“Oliver” - a Producer’s Thoughts

So there I was, stuck under a bridge beside the M5 looking down at my immobile car and wondering how the rehearsal was going without me. It was a cold Sunday in November and more than an hour had gone by since I called the breakdown services - so much for the special effort they’re supposed to make for women left stranded on their own.



“Pucker Up!”
Claire does Jon’s lip gloss!
“And stop kissing the
chorus girls!”

I’d spent a long time earlier in the term with the junior chorus, hammering home the moves and they too managed to get through the routines that Sunday without my being there to yell at them. I think everyone who saw the production was impressed with their standard.

Work on the December production begins in June or July as Mr Thompson, Mr Lockey and myself consider the practicalities of the score, the set design and the possible cast. Many staff contribute in their various ways; we couldn’t operate without the design technology staff or without Mr Passey’s expertise with the lighting. For “Oliver!” we were missing someone who was usually part of the team: Mrs Spilsbury who usually does a substantial part of the choreography. Mrs Spilsbury had had an operation at the end of the summer term and whilst she was back at work she felt she ought not to over-commit herself. However, she led the make up team as always.

I thought quite a lot about homeless people, street children and down-and-outs as I sat there huddled in my husband’s sheepskin flying jacket and ran over Nancy’s line about “all winds and all weathers ain’t good for fancy clothes”. I worried about my “Big Issue” seller - but I didn’t worry one bit about my cast. I knew they’d been fine without me.

We had a really good team working together there, and both Mr Thompson and Mr Passey commented after the rehearsal on the commitment and professionalism of the whole group, who’d just got on with things without me.



“Please Sir -
I want some more!”



‘Oliver’ Alan Bills



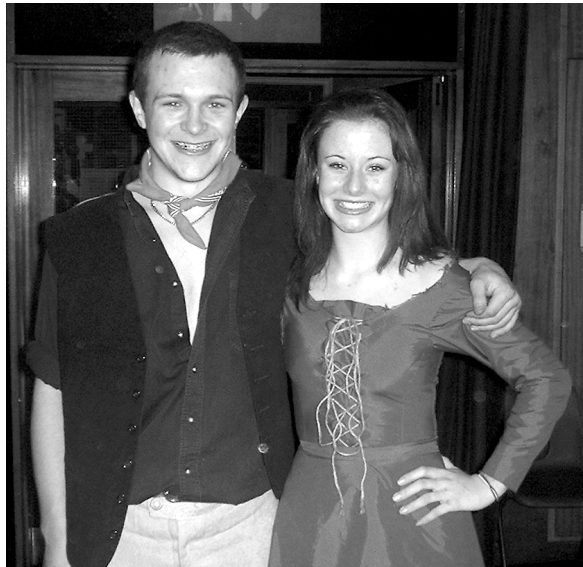
Set designer Roger Lockey, who spent many an hour, brush in hand, painting the backdrops that brought the London street scenes to life.



“Any pockets to pick?”



The Good, The Bad & The Ugly? - You choose!!!



Don't they make a luvly couple!

**‘Bill Sykes’ Scott Bedows &
‘Nancy’ Sara Cantwell**

Everyone must by now be aware that the new AS levels had had a serious impact on our extra-curricular activities. It looked as if next year the system would have to be simplified and our 6th Form would be able to participate more. We look forward to the next production which will be “Oklahoma!”

ERS



Junior & Senior Chorus



Debating Election 2001 - The Future of Britain

As Blair's postponed General Election approached, political tensions heightened in the Lower Sixth with rival camps' political debate spilling into valuable 'AS' **Level revision time**. **It was decided, then, that a small Mock General Election for Sixth Form was to be arranged to provide a breather for LVI who, even with a dash of modesty, had been studying far too hard - well in most cases anyway - and also to clean the muddying political atmosphere.**

So, with keen candidates in the form of Messrs Jones, Key, Merrett and Sibieta, each representing a chosen political party ('No-one said they chose them themselves' - Matthew), debate was held on a fine afternoon in the New Quad.

Proceedings were led by a five minute presentation from each candidate followed by both pre-submitted questions and questions from the floor - with some key issues of economic performance, national identity, the Euro... even the undying theme of the class of 2002,

gibbons & chimps and free zoo entry, emerging. Even blatant electioneering from the Labour camp in the form of free zoo entry, however, was not to faze a growing support for William Merrett's Conservatives, noted by hefty cheering any time William opened his mouth. Unlike another familiar Tory William, one would suppose.

Excellent oration from all candidates enabled them to put forward their manifestos to the electorate: - The Conservatives placing emphasis on Tax, while Labour pushed on with more 'prudent' public spending and the Liberal Democrats and Greens pitching the case for more taxation, to fund a return to fee-free University and improving public services.

The promise of better services and non-fee university, however, was not to appeal to the young people whom would actually join the electoral register for the next time Tony Blair calls his General Election. Some sign of instant gratification through tax cuts (where did I put those marshmallows?) or possibly disillusion in public services under Labour 1997-2001 led to a slightly dubious but nonetheless definite win for William Merrett's Conservatives with the following figures: -

The Conservative Party	(William Merrett)	38%
The Liberal Democrat Party	(Matthew Key)	28%
The Labour Party	(Luke Sibieta)	22%
The Green Party	(Nicholas Jones)	12%
Turnout		60% (approx)

Thanks To All Those Who Arrived, Candidates and Event Secretaries!

David C Leung (U6T)



Serenading the Voters! Tell me honestly - would you vote for any of this shifty crew?



James Enderby 8T enjoying his ICT lesson - Logo today



Sahl Badat, Sowar Uddin & Mohammed Bhula of 7R in the Library



Phil Hanson looks the part at the controls of an Army scout helicopter



Assault Course - Chris Gallant & Phil Hanson lead the way forward

“A Day in the Army - A Girl’s Perspective”

On a cold March morning we set out by coach for Chepstow Army Barracks for a “Personal Development Day” arranged by Mr Lloyd.

At the barrack gates we were greeted by a man with a gun - this was very off putting and intimidating. When we actually got into the centre, all of the schools had to congregate on the benches. We were informed that we couldn’t participate in the paint balling and quad biking activities due to the current outbreak of foot and mouth disease. Shame!

As it was very, very cold (I might add that the teachers spent the majority of the day indoors) the instructors took us through a vigorous warm-up. We had to run around a large area and when they shouted various numbers, we had to either: touch the ground with our right hand, left hand or jump in the air, whilst shouting the number. This was very tiring and if we didn’t shout the number loud enough they then proceeded to make us carry out the activity again. HARSH!

We were then divided up into separate groups, in which we had to remain for the rest of the day. Unfortunately the groups that we had previously sorted ourselves into were classed as irrelevant by the organisers according to their strict regime.



We then started the activities. My first was the gruelling task of completing an army assault course. A few of the harder obstacles were (thankfully!) excluded. This activity was in preparation for the competition that was going to take place between all of the teams at the end of the day.

As the day went on we took part in various other activities including archery, shooting and various command tasks. It was freezing cold and only one of the activities was indoors.

At the beginning of the day we were informed that any bad behaviour would result in spending the rest of the day on the benches. Unfortunately there were a few mishaps with members from another participating school, who refused to participate in any of the tasks without some sort of rejection - resulting in the majority of that school spending the day on the benches, ultimately being sent home early in disgrace.

After a day of snow, ice and freezing cold wind, just as our time at the centre was coming to an end, the sun finally came out! The results of the competition were announced (my team came third).

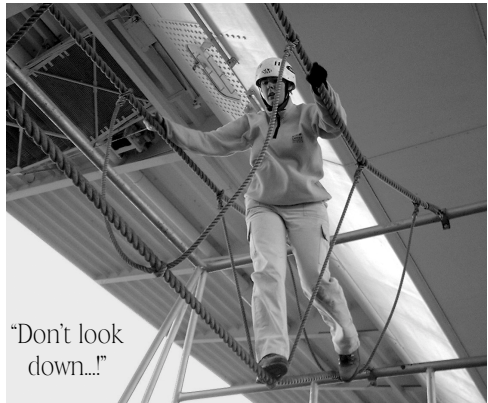
Overall due to the very cold weather and the exclusion of the more exciting activities, the day turned from our expectations of an enjoyable day to one of the most physically demanding and arduous days of my life.

I informed the army that was the last that they had seen of me!

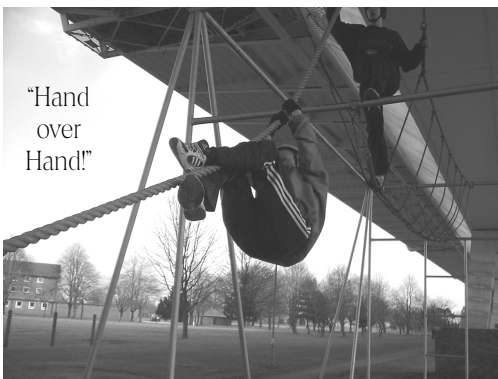
Claudine Douglas



“Step out - it's only a small gap ...!”



“Don't look down...!”

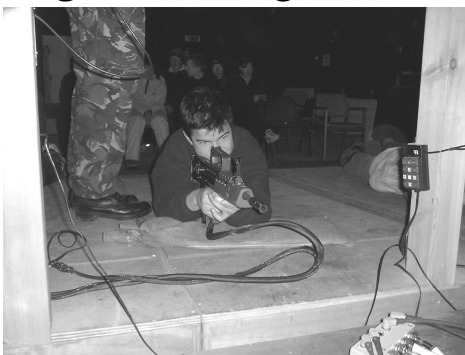
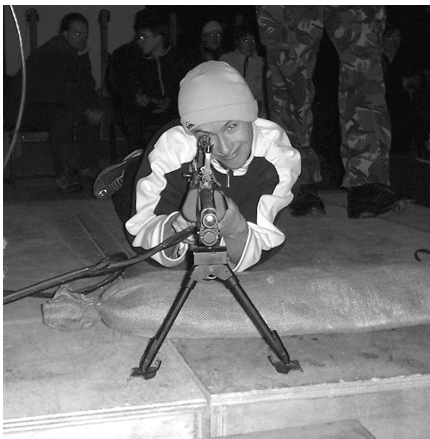


“Hand over Hand!”

Six foot high walls to get over, narrow walk ways and ledges to inch along, water jumps, swinging bridges and lots of ropes way up high - all the exhilarating ingredients of the famous army

Assault Course

The Shooting Gallery



In excess of 1500 electronic rounds were fired during a variety of combat scenarios - total 'hits' - 12



Load up, Take Aim, Fire!!



Photo Caption Competition

Can you think up a funny caption for this photograph?
If so send your suggestions to The Editor of The Richian.

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Overseas students Carina Breschke & Monika Boniecki preparing a meal as part of their General Studies course



Josh Wilcock 8B presents his Healthy Snack during his Food Tech lesson



**Lower Sixth French Set perform
"Hergé's Adventures of Tintin!"
à la mode STRS et
en français naturellement!**



Language College News

The school has had a very active year since its designation as a Language College. Many pupils have had the opportunity to travel abroad; others have participated in language-based activities such as drama and language workshops. Pupils have visited performances by the European Theatre Company and demonstrated their language and theatrical skills during a European Evening hosted at the school.

The Primary School initiative has got off to a very good start. Four local Primary Schools have introduced French into their curriculum. Amongst these is Longlevens School whose enthusiasm for languages has led to the introduction of German in Year 4, French in Year 5 and next year Spanish in Year 6.

Sir Thomas Rich's has welcomed a number of visitors from abroad to the school. Murielle Ruffier, our French assistante for the year contributed much to the work of the department and was also active at Bamwood Park. Monika Boniecki from Austria and Carina Breschke from Germany studied alongside our pupils for one semester in the Lower Sixth. Kamel Boulkenafet an Algerian soccer international and Lyda Zapata from Colombia have assisted in the teaching of Games and Spanish respectively.

The school has responded to the challenge of introducing new languages. Spanish is now offered from Year 9 and through language clubs from September 2001 Sixth formers will have the possibility of learning Spanish, Italian and Latin. Gujarati is also being offered to pupils. Staff have shown the desire to learn a new language too! Intensive language courses in Italian and German will be running after school during the autumn term and this provision is also available to parents.

Some highlights from the year –

Visit To 'King Drosselbart'

On a Monday afternoon in November a group of 18 pupils from Years 9 and 10 set off to The Ladies' College, Cheltenham to see a production in German of "King Drosselbart". The story was based on the Grimm Brothers' tale, King Thrushebeard but was given a modern slant. The Princess was turned into a spoilt supermodel, the King becomes her agent and the Prince an American PR magnate. The performance was fast-moving and well-acted, although the German challenged our pupils to the limit. Panic seized the boys, however, when the cast descended into the hall to interview the spectators. Two boys retreated to the far corner of the hall! We hope the moral of the story that good manners always pays was not wasted on the boys!

European Conference

On Wednesday 29th November 2000 Rich's hosted a European Conference with many students from schools all over Gloucester joining us. The aim of the conference was to make us all aware of how important the subject of 'Europe' is becoming and why it affects us so.

The day was divided into several activities that were entertaining, informative and interesting. Our first task was to promote a particular country for EU membership. The results overall were well thought out, showing good research and in some cases very humorous, as Owen Mason and Malcolm Peckham serenaded us all in an attempt to gain more votes for Poland. It worked too!





Throughout the rest of the day we took part in discussions on European Citizenship and issues that affect European countries, all of which saw some serious arguments and good ideas ensue.

To round off the day, a European quiz tested our knowledge of all things European from languages to footballers, currencies to politicians.

Overall it was a very enjoyable day and I'm sure it made many people more aware of the ever increasing European society in which we are now living.

Many thanks to Mrs Hewett and Mr Hodgkinson and the European Resource Centre for their hard work in making the day such a success.

Nick Jones L6T

The Göttingen Exchange 2001

The first thing I noticed when I arrived in Göttingen, besides the aching all over my body from 19 hours travelling in a coach, was how friendly everyone was. The fear that people had been feeling on the coach vanished as soon as we saw our exchange partners and their families. It may sound clichéd, but it was true. They were as friendly and good-natured people as you could wish to meet. And despite the fact that we were strangers at the start of the exchange, their hospitality and friendliness soon bridged any gaps that had existed even before the first day was over.

Every day I saw how close the family was and the thing that really made me pleased that I was on the exchange, was the fact that I was not treated as an outsider. I was welcomed into that family and I was sorry to have to leave it. But of course, they were so pleased to be able to show a hand of acceptance that they invited me to come and visit them and stay with them whenever I wanted to (as did most people's exchange families).

We also had some lessons in the Otto-Hahn School and I was again pleasantly surprised by the mutual respect between students and staff.

Everyone in Göttingen was friendly, helpful, and always eager to speak English!

Alastair Stanley 10R

International Week

The school held an international week from 16th to 20th July. Pupils enjoyed taster lessons in Japanese and Chinese and were also given an insight into a very different culture. Some pupils were able to learn sign language, the fourth most common language in the UK.

A number of departments introduced an international flavour into their lessons. The Physics department conducted a quiz on international scientists and inventors. Year 12 Chemistry pupils carried out an assignment on Professor Ahmed Zewail, the Egyptian Nobel Prize winner for Chemistry in 1999. In RE Year 8 looked at the work of Christians helping drug addicts in Hong Kong and gang members in the USA, while Year 9 carried out a comparative study of the "Assisi Declarations on Nature."

Year 7 Historians focussed on England's attempts to maintain a presence in Europe during the time of the 100 Years' War and the Year 8 Arts Experience took as their theme this year 'Artists from around the world'.

The week concluded with a visit from John Westendorp from the charity Action

Aid. After an assembly on the work of the charity he spent the day engaging pupils in discussion on topics such as education, famine, natural disasters in the developing world. The school will be supporting the charity Action Aid next term.

Other highlights from the week include -

Japanese Drumming

As part of the week of activities with an international flavour, Years 9 and 10 were treated to a taste of Japanese, or *Taiko*, drumming, courtesy of Mr James Barrow.



Mr Barrow, who initially studied at Aberystwyth University, had spent four years living in Hiroshima. It was there that he developed a particular interest in the art of *Taiko* (literally, 'drum'). He learnt how this drumming relies as much on drama as it does on rhythmic skill. Indeed, the more flamboyant one's gestures and movements are, the more visually exciting it is for the audience.

One of only four full-time practitioners of Japanese drumming workshops in the UK, Mr Barrow seemed very knowledgeable and full of enthusiasm.

He explained that there are three types of drum, the *shime* (small, made of cowskin and tensioned with ropes), the *oke* (larger, made from sake barrels and also tensioned with ropes) and the *miya* (the largest type, made from bullskin and fixed with nails). The *chappa* are small brass cymbals used to emphasise the main beats and the *kane* is a brass bowl played with a beater, the tip of which is made from deer antler. This instrument is very important in keeping the pulse with its clear, high-pitched sound.

Some performances are often accompanied by a flute, of which there are three types, we were told. The most popular is the *shakuhachi* - an instrument intensely difficult to procure from specially selected bamboo and also incredibly difficult to





play; the *yoko bue* and *shino bue* are straighter, seven- or eight-holed flutes which produce a less enchanting sound than the *shakuhachi* but are easier to play.

Before drumming, the *Taiko* performer must exercise extensively prior to making the athletic movements required, and when ready to play, a low posture, similar to that used by martial arts exponents and oriental dancers is assumed. Our Year 9 and 10 pupils made valiant efforts to adopt this position but many soon found it very draining!

Mr Barrow proceeded to teach the pupils a rhythmic 'song' or piece which was learnt in broken-up, short 'bursts', separated by loud, rhythmic shouts. Two teams of boys gradually put the fragments of drumming patterns together to produce a most respectable performance by the end of the session.

The effort of physically wielding the beaters correctly, assuming the right posture and concentrating on getting the various rhythm patterns in the right order was extremely tiring for the boys but I think the discipline involved in working as a team and the resulting satisfaction of performing a piece of music 'from scratch' was most rewarding for all.

French Drama Workshops Monday 16th July 2001

International Week at Sir Thomas Rich's got off to a theatrical as well as linguistic start with two drama workshops run by actors from the European Theatre Company who in May had performed their French play 'À Votre Santé' to an audience of Year 8 and 10 pupils. In the morning they worked with a group of thirty Year 7 boys. After warm-up exercises (in which accompanying staff were encouraged to participate!) the boys were divided into two groups to perform tableaux or scenes such as 'on the beach' or 'scoring a goal'. The moment the action froze and all movement was to stop proved especially challenging for some of our pupils! The emotion card exercise which followed demanded that the boys delivered a line of French text in different moods and this certainly forced all involved to reflect upon acting technique. 'Mirror' and 'Trust' exercises built on this work and helped to develop a sense of togetherness, essential for ensemble acting, within each group before the final presentations to an audience of their Year 7 peers. The afternoon session for twenty of our Year 9 pupils followed the same format. Dramatic interest was heightened by the arrival of ten girls from Barnwood Park School who joined in the workshop. Once inhibitions were cast aside the Tommies boys and the Barnwood Park girls had, as the European Theatre Company advertising brochure promised, a positive and fun experience using drama as a means of putting their language skills to use.

German Workshops

Eight year 9 and year 10 pupils participated in workshops organised by the Education Department of Bristol University and provided by the Goethe Institute (the German equivalent of the British Council).

The emphasis was on rôle play activities of various kinds. There was lots of interaction and fun and there was also considerable variety, as the afternoons were interspersed with relevant video clips on which to base the acting activities. The events were worthwhile and enjoyable. Sadly for financial reasons the Goethe Institute is unable to offer as many such events as it used to. Those that continue to be offered deserve support.

International Business Studies

During International Week we carried out a selection of internationally themed tasks and activities across a wide range of subjects to familiarise ourselves with the cultures, ways of life and general happenings in other countries around the world. The week offered essential learning because usually the basis of our education is focused around Britain and international studies are often overshadowed or marginalised.

Getting involved in the spirit of internationalism, the business studies department offered their students a variety of interesting tasks and activities focused around Europe and the economic activity that occurs across European countries. We had a quiz on the European Union (EU), the Euro and Britain's position in relation to the two subjects. We discovered that the EU was set up after the Second World War in 1957 to enable European countries to trade freely with one another and to make the likelihood of a further war more difficult. The EU offers businesses a larger market, the incentive to improve efficiency and the potential for growth and economies of scale. We learnt that if the Euro (a single currency replacing the national currencies in many EU countries on the 1st of January 2002) is adopted here, UK businesses would benefit from consistent pricing of exports and imports, and commission won't have to be paid when trade occurs with another EU country.

Changing currencies from the Pound to the Euro will pose a number of problems though affecting everyone and more specifically businesses. Initially people may decide that they don't want to change currencies (a Referendum is promised); if the currency change is implemented, it is anticipated that a large amount of forgery will take place; mechanisms that accept coins will have to be changed; businesses will have to adapt to different cross border trading and there will be a certain amount of inflation.

The Euro as a currency will be exclusive to countries of the EU of which there are currently 15 members. 12 of them have decided to adopt the Euro.

In our lessons we learnt about the economies of the EU countries and more specifically exchange rate mechanisms. We discovered how to work out the currency exchange rates and how the strength of the pound affects imports and exports. We ended an eventful and rewarding week on a controversial issue - the EU and the Euro and the benefits and limitations of joining the single currency. We were challenged to produce two conflicting tabloid articles one strongly in favour of the Euro and another fiercely opposing the Euro. Both articles were highly biased, drawing together information gained from previous lessons, general business studies knowledge and many technical skills.

What we learnt during this week about economics, the EU and the Euro will play a vital part in our lives because as future voters, we will be asked to give our opinions on whether Britain should adopt the Euro. Also as we move into major employment, information about trade around the EU and about the Euro will be essential. Information on exchange rates will be important for us in the near future as we begin to change money to different currencies to use when on holiday for example. Generally the international week in the business studies department was very rewarding and we look forward to a similar event being staged next year.

Luke Materacki 10T

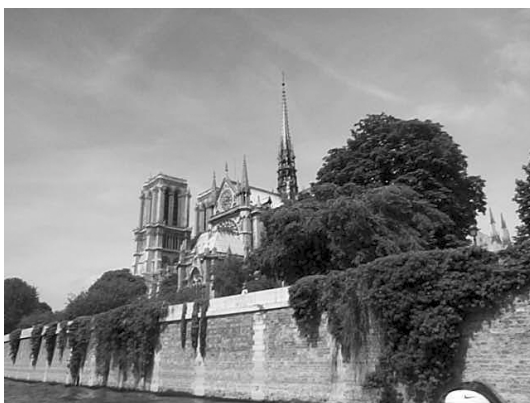


Year 7 Trip to Paris

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!!



Paul Edwards, Cain Penkethman, Alex Thomas & Tom Bell relax at Disneyland



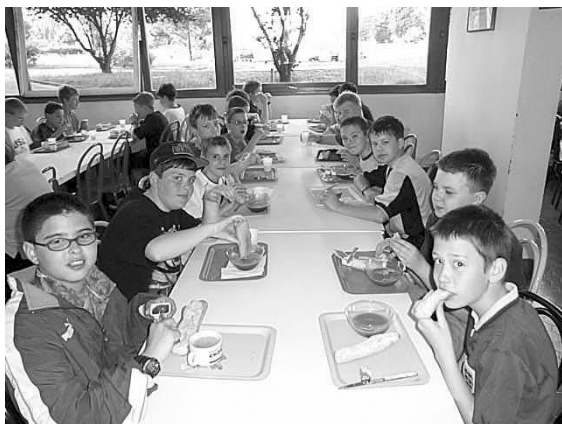
Notre Dame Cathedral from the Seine

Our trip included visits to some of the most famous landmarks in the world. This year the weather was particularly kind to us, making the scenery even more attractive. We spent the first morning on a coach tour of the city, taking in such sites as the Opera, l'Arc de Triomphe and a stop at Notre Dame cathedral.

The same afternoon we visited the Eiffel tower and went to the top to experience fantastic views and overcome any fear of heights! This was followed by the best way to see Paris, a boat trip along the Seine, which offered a different perspective on this beautiful city. Even the boys were amazed!!



At the top of the Eiffel Tower



Le Petit Déjeuné

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....



Alex Winter - ever ready with the phrase book!

Both staff and pupils had a great time. The boys were a credit to STRS and deserve praise for their exemplary behaviour. Year seven pupils watch out for details of next year's trip.

Mr M Parris
Head of Year 7

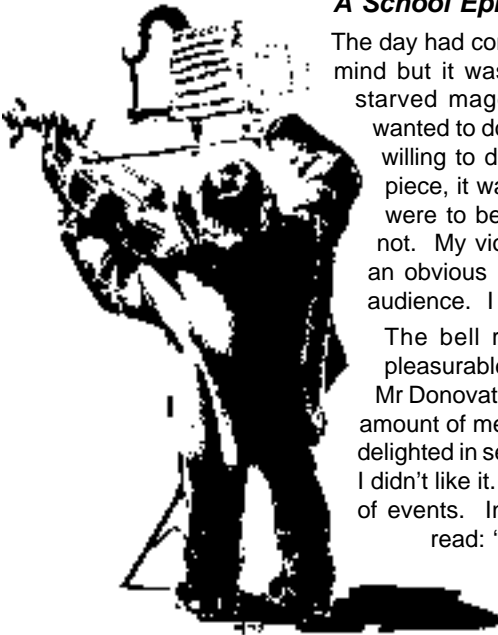


Sur le bateau

Jon Chappell, James Darrall & friends



"A School Episode"



The day had come. I tried to put it all to the back of my mind but it was always there, gnawing at me like a starved maggot, looking for flesh. I never really wanted to do it anyway. There was just no-one else willing to do the job. I knew that I could play the piece, it was just the hundred-odd year nines that were to be my audience, whether they liked it or not. My violin teacher had always said that I had an obvious lack of confidence when playing to an audience. I suppose this was proof of that.

The bell rang, signalling the end of a not so pleasurable lunch-hour. "Time to tune up boys", Mr Donovat yelled. There seemed to be an unusual amount of merriment in the tone of his voice, as if he delighted in seeing us squirming with fear and anxiety. I didn't like it. The boy next to me passed a program of events. In big, bold lettering, right at the top, it read: "House Music 2000, Sir Thomas Rich's School". Those words felt like some one stuffing a snowball down the back of your shirt on an icy-cold winters day.

Just as I thought nothing could get any worse, I noticed out of the corner of my eye, at least three-quarters of my class had assembled at the very rear of the hall. Whether they had come to mock me, or to cheer me on, I didn't know. I just didn't like the way they were pointing me out at the front of the hall, as if I were an exhibit at a museum. Before I could do anything about it, Mr Donovat started the dreaded "opening speech".....

By now, I was closer to being a nervous wreck than I had ever been. The starved maggot had somehow evolved into a hyped-up rattlesnake. I couldn't help but shake as it writhed and wriggled around, somewhere just below my diaphragm.

Being first in the competition didn't do much for my confidence either. In fact, it seemed to feed the stomach-dwelling snake, feed my fear and give me a severe need to visit the Gents. I wanted to be sick, run away and wet myself all at the same time. I was in flight or fight mode now. I could almost feel the adrenaline surging and gushing throughout my entire body. "Fight or flight, Tom", I said to myself, obviously wishing I could choose the latter of the two.

"We will start today's competition with Tom Roberts, playing a Vivaldi Concerto on the violin". The booming of voice of Mr Donovat fell upon me like the death sentence. I could quite picture the music stand as the gallows awaiting me, with an audience of bloodthirsty Victorians. I picked up my Violin, still wracked with fear, and headed up to the stand, which was perched on the stage. I handed over my fiddle to Mr Donovat, to make sure it was properly in tune (he was also going to accompany me in my solo).

I tried not to look at the audience but I couldn't resist. Their eyes reflected my fear like those of a tiger, all of them watching and waiting for the tiniest mistake, when they would pounce.

I had a quick glance at my piece, and with my violin ready to play, I took my stance. I

counted myself in and I was off. All the way through the piece I was willing my fingers to hit the fingerboard in the correct places. As it was a fairly brisk piece, I was concentrating on not getting my fingers in a knot and praying that I didn't get lost on the manuscript.

As I neared the end, I knew I had done it. The audience clapped, as if I had tamed them from stalking tigers into playful kittens. I took my bow and, blushing, ran back to my seat in the front row. As it happens, I was shaking more than I was before!

Even though I didn't come first (I was beaten by an annoying tadpole of year seven with curly hair) I still felt as if I had fought my fear and won.

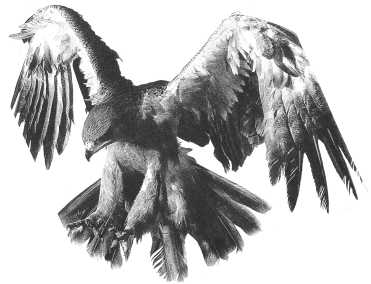
Tom Roberts 9S

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PROMETHEUS AND THE EAGLE

Flying down from the heavenly sky
Heroes hear a monstrous cry
Eagle, Eagle! the people shiver
He's come to feast on Prometheus' liver
Blood and bile create a stench
to free him needs Herculean strength
I only gave fire! he cries in pain
but soon the eagle's back again.

Michael G Delwiche L6R



As we wait will we live or die?
Will we die here in service,
Or die as old men?
Will we live for another day,
Or will we lay in the carpet of red?
Will we wait for it to come
Or will it find us?
Every day we only see mud,
Hear the sound of shells and
Smell the bodies of our friends.
As we wait will we live or die?

Michael Price 9B

The Tale of the Cotswold Marathon 2001

As spring beckons the Annual Cotswold Marathon closes upon us. After a few light beverages and a bit of a chat down at the Old Richians' Skittles evening it is decided that once again we will be stupid enough to venture out on a cold night to run/walk 40 miles around the Cotswolds. We decide upon a team, myself Adam Griffiths, Will Godwin, both members of Sir Thomas Rich's between 1993 and 2000. I was an Observer and a member of the Venture Scout Unit. Will was School Captain 1999-2000 and Venture Scout Chairman. Our third team member was Daniel Wright who was present at the school between 1992 and 1997. I am now studying Electronic Engineering at Plymouth University, Will is on his year out and Dan is at Liverpool John Moore's University studying Outdoor and Science Education.

The team had to consist of three people, however you can have extra people who are not members of the main team. One of the Venture Scout Leaders Peter Lloyd, who is an avid marathon runner, wanted another crack as he was on the winning team last year and fancied his chances again this year; I must add though that he only just beat my team by a time of 34 seconds!!!! Now that we had joined forces we were feeling quite confident.

It was now a couple of months until the event so a rigorous training scheme was drawn up. For myself this included no consumption of alcohol, (I made up for this afterwards though!!!), running everyday (although the odd day was missed) and healthy eating. My flatmates at University estimated that I ate in excess of 20kg of pasta.

The Friday before the Marathon soon came and after my last lecture at 15:00, it was a mad rush getting everything together to come home for the weekend. It was early to bed that night after carbohydrate dumping of pasta - again. Our start time was 17:00 hrs Saturday afternoon - the first team to head off - we prefer this as it means that we can take advantage of the good going and the better weather.

One minute to go and they're counting us down, adrenalin pumping and raring to go, the last few seconds seem to take forever, then all of a sudden we hear GO!!! And off we set, a nice steady pace to start we thought, yeah right we'd got from Murray Hall to Chosen (Churchdown) in just over an hour!!!! We had soon completed the half marathon in 4 1/2 hours, this being where the scouts finish, the quickest time for the scouts to this point was about 6hrs!!! So we could safely say that we weren't doing too badly.

Unfortunately due to injury Will had to drop out later on at checkpoint 11. I blame it on the fact that they serve the best bread and butter pudding in the land and Will was unable resist the temptation. Because of

this we couldn't go for any of the team awards, as Will was part of the main team. We were still allowed to continue as we had Peter Lloyd with us and therefore we could go for individual awards.

Undeterred we ventured on through the cold, wet weather through valleys and what seemed like the biggest mountains in the world, but in fact only big hills, to finish in the fastest time of 9hrs 27mins. Unfortunately this was slightly slower than last year but considering the weather and other contributing factors we were extremely happy with our result.

We soon kicked off our muddy boots and retired to our 5 star hotels - our sleeping bags - where we slept for the rest of the night, in eager anticipation of the presentation at 10:00 on Sunday. We each received Boots (a small trophy) and a certificate for completing the marathon in the quickest time. The press then jumped us upon and our stories/photos were published in the local press the following day.

This was a fantastic event, introduced to me by Frank Henderson, who some of you will know was a teacher at Sir Thomas Rich's and our Venture Scout Leader for many years and who sadly died of cancer in 1996.

Now I just can't wait for next year so that I can push myself just that little bit harder to try and achieve a better time. We're not far off the record for this new course and I am sure that one day we can reach it. Like I keep telling myself, go for your ambitions and aspire to climb as high as you can dream.

Adam Griffiths (1993-2000)



Railway Society

Nobody who uses the railways regularly is likely to forget the last twelve months in a hurry; the year is surely engraved in the memory of the travelling public for all the wrong reasons. If it wasn't freak weather flooding the tracks and undermining the tunnels it was driver shortage causing last-minute cancellations. Then came the Hatfield crash with the ensuing immense disruption due to emergency repairs, precautionary speed restrictions and myriad other factors. Journeys could vary from the merely inconvenient to the downright bizarre as many trains ran several hours late. And to cap it all, the fares available to groups such as ours were increased substantially.

We in the Railway Society like to reach our intended destinations confidently, return our members home at the expected time, and offer superb value for money. That we were still able to do this against such a background represented a minor triumph. A new generation of members has already become seasoned rail travellers with some impressive journeys accomplished.

Our first day trip of the school year came in late November, just as the service disruptions were at their height. We had to go north, as a tunnel had collapsed on the line to Swindon. So we visited the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester, where the interactive Xperiment! science centre and the aviation hall with its flight simulator proved to be especially popular with our new members. An uncharacteristically early mid-afternoon departure from Manchester allowed us to reach home on time just before that day's rail service degenerated into farce.



Mr Donald Moss surrounded by a cheerful crowd of Railway Society members at Haworth station

For our March trip, we had planned to go on the Bluebell Railway in Sussex. The tunnel had been repaired, but then an embankment in Sussex got washed away. So we headed north once again and visited the Worth Valley Railway, a steam-worked branch line running from Keighley into the Yorkshire Pennines. Needless to say, our actual route and schedule north of Manchester bore little resemblance to that which we had planned, but frequent reference to our maps and timetables enabled us to reach our destination and return home punctually without too much difficulty.

Sadly we had to say farewell to Mr Donald Moss on this trip as he was moving away from Gloucestershire shortly afterwards. Generations of members and leaders have enjoyed Mr Moss's genial company and infectious enthusiasm on Railway Society activities. We would like to thank him sincerely for his very varied contributions to the Society, which range from taking a group to lay track near Welshpool in earlier days to some highly efficient shopping in Edinburgh to feed our hungry members on a recent

residential tour to Scotland.

Coincidentally, our next trip was to Welshpool, where we may have travelled over the aforementioned track laid by past members. Certainly some of the track there was rather bumpy, which probably supports this theory! Nevertheless, on a gloriously hot and sunny spring day we journeyed by the narrow-gauge steam train which ambles along from Welshpool to Llanfair Caereinion. The open balconies on the Austrian built carriages proved very popular with everyone, giving a breezy and intimate view of the Mid Wales hill country traversed by this line. At Llanfair the Railway's very friendly management treated some of us to a tour of the sheds, whilst other members relaxed in the sun by the riverside.

And so we came to our by now traditional highlight of the year, the three-day residential trip to Scotland. A group of twenty, drawn largely from Years 7 and 8 this time, set off from Gloucester Station early on a Thursday evening last July. Once again we travelled north through the night aboard the Caledonian Sleeper bound for Fort William, waking up in time to enjoy the wonderfully scenic West Highland line on a bright and sunny morning. At Fort William we exchanged our impressively powerful diesel locomotive for the last remaining steam-hauled service on the Railtrack network, the Jacobite train which runs on to the terminus of the line at Mallaig through stunning mountain and coastal scenery. Here the brave (or foolhardy) could consume haggis and chips before we returned to Fort William for a hearty evening meal at the local pub, where the bar staff rose magnificently to the challenge of serving a sizeable school party.



Having alighted from the Caledonian Sleeper after their overnight journey north, a few members of the Scottish tour party prepare to board the “Jacobite” steam train at Fort William station

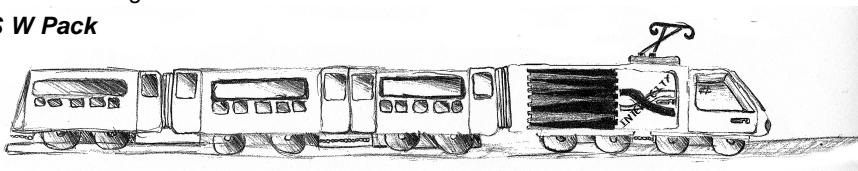
Suitably refreshed, we boarded the evening train for the two-hour run through the moors and mountains to our regular overnight base, the comfortable and convenient Youth Hostel at the Perthshire village of Crianlarich. Here the local wildlife, in the form of the dreaded midges, welcomed our arrival as their own opportunity for a hearty bite.

Returning south, we spent the next afternoon at Glasgow's Transport Museum, successfully avoiding most of the Rangers fans that were flocking into the city for the first match of their new season. A more entertaining encounter was that with a large number of boisterous and ill-behaved young Italian tourists, who invaded first our carriage and then our seats on the long journey south to our next overnight stop at York. This was our cue to quickly instil some no-nonsense British discipline into this mob, to the horror of their ineffectual courier but the delight of everyone else on the train.

After a comfortable night at the superb York Youth Hostel we headed for Rotherham, scenically about as different from the West Highlands as one can imagine, and the newly-opened Magna. Housed in the enormous former Templeborough steelworks this attraction presents spectacular sound-and-light displays of electric-arc steelmaking, fire, air, and much else. We had also arranged for a large and delicious picnic to appear, prepared and delivered by two of my relatives from the locality. Then, just as the logistics appeared to have reached perfection, nemesis struck. A bus was required to reach Sheffield Midland station for the train home. Some things never change. When the Railway Society catch buses in Sheffield the result is always trouble. That day the buses were running to a random number table, not a timetable. When one eventually appeared, the driver refused to accept that our Scottish banknotes were actually British Sterling. Calls of "Don't be daft" and "You're late already" from his common-sense Yorkshire passengers seemed to change his mind. Maybe the sheer impossibility of ejecting our entire group from his miserable vehicle dawned upon him. And so it was that we reached the platform at Sheffield just as the train for Cheltenham drew in to return us home from the ninth, and possibly the most successful, Scotland trip under the present Railway Society management.

We hope everyone involved will want to join us for many more trips next year, and the Society is always pleased to welcome new members who enjoy railways or railway travel. It's been great fun!

Mr S W Pack



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"Freedom is not worth having if it does not include the freedom to make mistakes"

- Gandhi -

"God often visits us but most of the time we are not at home"

- - -

"History is just gossip that's grown old gracefully"

- - -

"The mind is like the stomach; it's not what you put in it, it's what you digest"

- - -

Work Experience

On Monday 25th June I set off at 7.20am for Oxford. I was going to spend three days of my work experience week in the Department of Pharmacology at Oxford University with Professor Susan Greenfield. She is one of the chief researchers into Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease in this country (remember the TV series last year called 'The Brain Story'?).

Much of the work is carried out by a team of scientists who work closely together trying to find ways of preventing the onset of these two diseases if not a cure. Some of their work involves various experiments with the enzyme acetylcholinesterase that is present in large amounts in the brains of affected people.

On my first day I was taken up to the labs. I don't know why but I expected to find a large lab with many people in white lab coats pouring over experiments. A totally false image! It was in fact a group of about five or six small labs. There were white lab coats but they were on the backs of doors, not backs of people!

On that first day I was not allowed to carry out experiments however I was allowed to use a pipette which I found much easier to use than the ones in school and far more accurate. Much of the work is carried out in hoods (like a fume cupboard) and before anything is placed in them it needs to be sprayed with 70% ethanol to keep things as sterile as possible.



On my second day I was much more involved; firstly I prepared some flasks with lysozyme to be used for growing tissue cultures in. I was then taken to see the electron microscope. I helped to prepare some slides to be ready to have samples placed on

them for examination under the electron microscope. Tiny aluminium discs with a hole in them needed to have a layer of plastic placed on them, on which the sample could be placed. A normal glass slide was coated with liquid plastic. The speed at which the plastic runs over the slide determines the thickness. Then using a razor blade the plastic is scored and the slide placed in water to allow the plastic to float off. The discs are then placed on the plastic using forceps. The covered piece of plastic is then taken out of the water with a piece of waxed paper and left to dry. All of which seemed easier than in fact it was.

I was taken to the dark room through some doors that looked like something out of Dr Who, designed to stop any light coming in. I watched a photo taken by the electron microscope being developed from its negative. I was also talked through some of the more complex equipment up in the laboratory.

My third and final day was the most interesting. Firstly I watched and then to my surprise was allowed to carry out the following. I was given the head of a rat that was only a few days old. Using scissors to cut the skin and skull up the middle, I then separated the two halves and scooped out the brain. When I did this there was a lot more blood than when I was being shown the procedure. The brain was then cut in half, and the cortex removed to reveal the hippocampus (the part we were interested in). This was then placed on a tissue cutter and cut into sections 4 microns wide. It was placed in a dish with distilled water and then by looking through a microscope the sections were separated. This is very difficult to do as it required good co-ordination, as you cannot see what you are doing very well (you are looking down the microscope to carry out the actions). The separated sections were placed in the fridge for a couple of hours so that any damaged membranes could heal.

I was taken across to the chemistry department as they wanted to pass a sample through the mass spectrometer. It looked nothing like the diagrams out of the text books. It was a large rectangular box with a metal cylinder attached that was all rigged up to a computer, which displayed the results.

As a couple of members of the group were leaving that day, we all went punting on the River Cherwell in the afternoon. This was a very pleasant way to round off my week in Oxford.

Luiza Patorski L6H

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House Public Speaking Competition

This took place on the last Monday of the spring term before an audience of year 8 pupils. The results were as follows:

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

Senior 1st - Eastgate, 2nd Equal - Westgate & Southgate, 4th - Northgate

The Overall Positions (calculated on total scores) were -

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

The propositions tackled by the junior competitors were : "We don't want to be millionaires" and "The Internet is more of a curse than a blessing". The seniors selected their own topics. Whether by chance or a little bit of cross-fertilisation of ideas in the planning phase, it emerged that the senior teams focused on two broad themes;



promoting creativity in music and comparing the “good old days” with the present day. Space does not permit a critique of all the speakers’ contributions but the following in particular caught the writer’s attention:

For Eastgate Seniors, Gareth Howell complete with cloth cap, haranguing the audience in typically scathing fashion. In their Junior team Tom Constable spoke very clearly and forcefully. Southgate deployed their experienced speakers well. David Leung’s contributions over the years have always been of real interest. It was good to see Jonathan and Richard Ellison establishing a family tradition as well as Michael and Richard Duxbury. Northgate relied on another stalwart of the competition, David Hardacre, who spoke with genuine conviction about his concerns for the future of music. The Junior team produced a lively and well argued case, Michael Jones in particular speaking with authority. Westgate while not being favoured by our judge (the Headmaster) nevertheless produced very competent performances with Ian Black delivering his points in a punchy style, nicely balanced by Adam Langley’s calm, measured delivery. For the Juniors, Alex Winter spoke very clearly and Matt Smith deserves an appreciative word for standing in at the last moment.

All the other speakers deserve our thanks and congratulations for playing their parts well. They were Daniel Beard, Chris Palmer, Sam Porter, Will Savory, Peter Butler, James Hewlett, Dexter Bradley, Lee Confaloni, Alasdair Burchill, Chris Stanley and Chris Cooper. We look forward to their continuing support in years to come.

D J Slinger

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Business Studies & Economics Departmental Review

September 2000 saw a record number of students opt for Business Studies GCSE. 70 students in three classes are well on their way to becoming Britain’s entrepreneurs of the future!



On 1 March 2001, seven Lower Sixth students represented the school in the annual CIPFA Management Challenge in Cheltenham Town Hall. Having won prizes in the last two years the pressure was on but as in previous years the team was selected by lottery. The seven members of the team were (from left to right in the photo) Leah Crocombe, Alun Macey, Andrew Maxted, Richard Morgan, Man-Cheung Lee, Mark Granger and Michael Bond. They worked extremely hard during the day as members of the local town council. Amongst various projects and emergencies that they were presented to them they had to put together a report and presentation. They were delighted to win the prize for the best report and came third overall.

New for September 2001, we are hoping to launch a school bank in collaboration with HSBC. This will give all students in the school the chance to deposit and withdraw money from their HSBC accounts in school as well as giving others the valuable opportunity to gain experience in managing and running a retail bank.

We have also launched our own web-site at www.richbusiness.org.uk. This contains

Looking ahead we are preparing to take Year 11 to Cadbury World to explore the use of marketing and production facilities at the UK's favourite chocolate manufacturer. The Upper Sixth will be visiting Dowty and Lanes Pharmaceuticals, delving into the opportunities and threats facing two fiercely competitive industries in the 21st Century.

[illegible]

"No way, are you mad?" said John as Dave and his cronies outlined the plan to steal some goods from the local shop.

"What if you get caught?" exclaimed John, momentarily stunned, "your mum will go absolutely crazy."

They were standing on St. Michael's Street corner, which was situated about two hundred yards from the estate where they all lived. It was mid August and the school holidays were in full swing. Characteristically Dave was bored. This meant that everybody else was bored, or at least they had to look like they were. Dave was a well-known troublemaker, but this plan was certainly his most audacious. To any outsider he was the obvious leader of the group. He was about six feet tall and he was reasonably intelligent, but he wouldn't dream of showing it. He was also one year everyone's senior. The reason he hung around with them was that nobody else could stand him. He was utterly self-opinionated and thought himself vastly superior to everybody around him, including all adults. His cronies just thought that they were just lucky to know such a wonderful person and they followed his instructions, regardless of what they involved, to the letter.

72

John thought that the outside of the shop felt extremely hot, even for the middle of summer, but he suspected that it was just nerves. He went through the plan in his mind for the final time:

Dave would walk to the counter, speak to Mrs. Jones and ask her if she would be kind enough to get him the huge sweet jar that she kept underneath the counter. It always took the old lady an age to retrieve the jar, and even longer to actually bring it up to the counter. Whilst she was doing this John would sneak quietly into the shop and quickly put as many Mars Bars, Snickers, Bounty's and Picnics as possible into the oversized pockets of his dad's huge work coat.

John looked carefully at Mrs. Jones, as though he was seeing her for the first time in his life. She had a kindly face and she was old, his mother was always telling him how Mrs. Jones had been middle aged when she was only four years old. He suddenly felt extremely guilty, how could he even contemplate stealing from such a kindly, innocent old lady? Unfortunately, it was too late, before he knew what had happened, Dave was asking her if she would be kind enough to get him the sweet jar. John walked into the shop, his heart hammering as if it was some kind of animal, and he stepped towards the stand that had all the chocolate bars on it. Then, as quietly as possible, he shoved as many as he could into his pocket; seeing that he still had some time, he took another handful. Then, as silently as he had entered, he slipped out of the shop, to leave unsuspecting Mrs. Jones to serve a very polite Dave.

Afterwards, John felt so guilty it was hard for him to think about anything else. His conscience seemed to scream at him:

"Thief!" "Thief!" "What would your mother think if she knew?"

John decided that if this was the best feeling that being rebellious could offer then Dave and his cronies could keep it.

George Rudge 9T

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Year 7 Visit to Stratford-Upon-Avon

Day 1 : Wednesday 11th October 2000

After arriving at the youth hostel we deposited our bags and walked two miles into Stratford!! Our first stop was some waterlogged playing fields where we had our lunch and some of us played football.

Half an hour later we went to the local adventure playground where by far the best thing was the zip line.

We then went to the butterfly farm. In the first and largest greenhouse they had over three hundred different types of butterfly and moth. In the next greenhouse they had many types of caterpillar - some making cocoons. Next, after looking at and feeding koi carp in a pool there, we went through to 'Insect City', where I was the only one who

didn't mind holding a large (but fortunately not carnivorous) cockroach. I am not one of those people who get scared of 'creepy crawlies', but the legs of the cockroach felt really weird on my skin. Next, and the highlight of this establishment for me, was 'Arachnoland'! I think that you can guess what was in there! They had a Black Widow spider as well as one of the largest types of spider in the world - a member of the Tarantula family (not yet fully grown in this case, only about 16cm across). As a final treat, they had about five scorpions, but we weren't allowed to handle these for some reason.



Arachnophobia? Not Chris Pigott!

A short walk then took us to the local leisure centre for a leisurely swim. The pool was of a decent size that was perfect for surface dives - even with no goggles. Once more we walked two miles back to the hostel for dinner at 6pm. After a reasonable meal of pasta to keep our strength up we spent the evening playing various games. My friend Jamie and I relieved all newcomers to the Monopoly board of their money in remarkably quick time before retiring, unbeaten, at about 9.30pm.

Day 2 : Thursday 12th October 2000

After a hearty breakfast we set off in groups of three at five-minute intervals on a sixty-three question treasure trail, which eventually led into Stratford and there we had our lunch at the same adventure playground as the day before and yes, the zip line was still my favourite! The lunch was not of the highest standard but about 50% was edible.



Winners of the Stratford Football Competition

Our guide was called Wendy; she was most informative, especially about the Shakespeare time-line. We passed Ann Hathaway's cottage—which had recently been re-thatched at a cost of £12,000, which was paid by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. The day was warm, the sun shone; it was perfect for an open top bus ride, better than last year I've heard.

The bus dropped us off at Mary Arden's House and we were shown round by a guide. Just down the road was a Falconry centre where a trainer was trying to make a young female Lammer Falcon stay flying so that she could cope with living in the wild where she would have far less things to sit on.

Once again we caught the open top bus back into Stratford. This time our guide was not only informative, but also told jokes! Our final call of the day was at the Brass Rubbing Centre where I made a hopeless rubbing of a griffon, which I was disappointed

about because I'd hoped to make a good rubbing. We then returned once more to the hostel where I had a nourishing meal of shepherd's pie. After another games evening we had a massive big-scale pillow fight, which was eventually broken up by a call for 'room inspection', which sent us rushing to our dormitories!

Day 3 : Friday 13th October 2000

On our final day, after breakfast and packing, we squashed into the minibuses and set off to Gaydon Heritage Motor Museum. Once there we had an interesting talk with slides and then we were shown round the Formula One display. We then went back to the cinema room and from there we went, in groups of four, on a ride in a 'Classic' 1950's car, used by the police. In its day it would have cost about £600; it was old



fashioned, but I must say that I did like it a lot!

After each group had had its ride it was allowed free time until 12o'clock when we met back at the cinema for lunch. I spent my free time looking at Classic and Vintage cars.

After our lunch, we went round to the mini driving course and were briefed and tested. There were six cars, but only four were in working order. Along with about half the class I passed my 'driving test'! After the 'Pupil of the day' award, which went to

Formula 1 Exhibition at Gaydon Manor

Andrew Sagar, we packed into the minibuses and drove back to school, where we unloaded, collected our bags, and went home.

For me, the highlight of the whole trip was the motor museum, which I will certainly visit again, hopefully soon.

Sam Brewer 7T

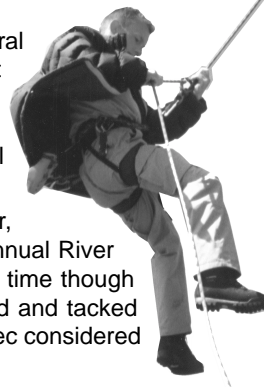
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Annual Report of 44th Gloucester (STRS) Venture Scout Unit

September 2000 to August 2001

This year has been a very eventful one for the unit with several high points but also a few low ones as well. Freshest memories of a truly brilliant summer expedition to the Beara peninsula in Eire serve to remind me of all the good things about the unit and its unique role bridging school and scouting. More of that later!

Harking back to last September, new plans for a faster, 'winning' raft were shelved with the cancellation of the annual River Wye raft race due to excessive rain and flooding. Much time though was still spent in the hut cutting and banging as we fitted and tacked down the hardboard underlay for our new carpet. The Exec considered



it about time we invested in some proper floor covering instead of making do with other people's cast-off carpets and having finally fixed all the perennial leaks a brand new hard-wearing carpet was laid at the end of September. Although a sombre brown colour it is proving a sound investment.



The Five Valleys walk was enjoyed by 7 of the unit raising money for the Meningitis Trust and this was followed by a sunny autumnal Sunday at South Cerney Dragon Boat races in which several of the unit combined with other Venture Scouts to paddle the district boat to victory in the Junior section.

A Silver Duke of Edinburgh expedition to the Forest of Dean was staged during the October half term with the purpose of investigating the forest's industrial heritage and present day economy. Activities were fairly low-key during the whirl-wind of Christmas festivities although in between the carol services and the school production of Oliver (in which our chairman Matt Key gave a wonderful performance as Fagin and several other unit members took important roles) we managed to run a very popular lower school disco to raise funds for the unit, as well as running the raffle and Tuck Shop for the PA Quiz Night.

The new year programme focused on the Cotswold Marathon - extremely arduous conditions resulted in very few teams completing the course intact. Pete Lloyd, Adam Griffiths and Dan Wright actually posted the fastest time but missing their fourth team member Will Godwin at the end of the gruelling trek round were no longer eligible for the team trophies. Success did come to Matt Key, Rich Holland & Geoff Coombs whose team was one of the few Venture teams to finish intact and they won the Senior section trophy. Generous sponsorship of all those who took part yielded around £300 for the Cobalt Appeal.

February half term took us to Dartmoor again where Jason Stone and Lee Rounce once more came up trumps and provided for us not only the usual high standard of wilderness expedition training but also organised a highly successful climbing session. Congratulations to Lee and his wife Michelle on their first born - Joshua.

At this point of the year the unit's morale was severely dented by two events. Firstly we were informed that the catering company who ran the school canteen had finally agreed the terms for improving the dining area and their taking over of the Tuck Shop area (which had been threatened for over a year) was now set to happen at the end of the summer term. Initial thoughts about relocating the Tuck shop were dealt a blow when the head decided that the Tuck Shop should close. Secondly as we looked more closely into the Scout Movement's revision plans for Scouting in the new millennium, it dawned on us that it was not just the name "Venture Scout" that was being changed but that our very existence as a Unit was going to be terminated and it would be the District Scout Council that would decide if we were to continue and in what form.

With the advent of yet more examinations (AS levels) activities during Easter and the summer term were likely to be low key - the foot and mouth outbreak saw to it that they almost stopped altogether! We did manage to run another successful lower school disco (proceeds this time split between charity and the summer expedition fund), we ran a successful bar at the Old Richians annual dinner and a not so successful one at the end of year staff leaving 'do', we were pleasantly surprised by the number of



prospective members from year 9 who turned up at our meetings in July and right at the end of term we held a canoe training session in the school pool from which we hope to rekindle the unit's involvement in canoeing.

The foot and mouth crisis left us contemplating no summer trip at all right up until the end of May. However The Irish authorities seemed to get their act together far more quickly and effectively than the UK government agencies and having kept the disease away by stringent disinfectant procedures at all their ports and border entry points, were welcoming the tourists back to their green and pleasant land with "business as usual".

So a short 8 day trip was hastily organised, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions authorised, last minute ferry bookings made and off we went.

The party represented the full age range of the unit from new members "Stubby" & "Sheepy" through to "old boy" Adam Griffiths. We even had two leaders on a summer



trip for the first time since 1992 - AVSL Pete Lloyd managed to obtain a pass-out from his good lady wife Ann and thoroughly enjoyed his first expedition away with the 44th - the first of many more to come we hope!!! We were blessed with superb weather, the fishing was good, Matt Key, Rachael Brown, Dan Dales, Jon Ellison and Adam Griffiths all completed 4 day expeditions (counting towards Queen's Scout and Duke of Edinburgh awards), the



Healy pass and Hungry Hill were conquered, local hospitality shared, new friends made and a wealth of happy memories brought back.

With unit numbers slightly down from the previous year and the prospect of Venture Scouting ceasing altogether by the end of 2003, it did cross my mind that this year was perhaps the beginning of the end for the 44th VSU as we had known and loved it. By the time August 2001 had come round though it was abundantly clear that demand for our own unique brand of Venture Scouting is still high as more than a dozen prospective new members from year 9 clamoured to join the unit. This encouraging rush of new blood helped us move on from some disappointing moments experienced earlier in the year and determines one to ensure that in some way or other the 44th Gloucester (STRS) will continue to provide the life enriching challenges and rewards it has always done for the members of Sir Thomas Rich's school.

Phil Brown VSL



Geology Field Trips

Asturias-Galicia (N Spain) 21st - 31st October

The Upper Sixth Geology set travelled to Santander via the 24-hour ferry from Plymouth in order to visit the Costa Verde as part of their 'A' level field studies coursework and overall geological experience. We arrived to find the temperatures pleasantly warm, the people (almost none of whom spoke English) very friendly, the scenery of the Picas de Europa and the numerous gorges spectacular and some excellent geology.



We travelled from east to west along the Northern Spanish coast, crossing a complete (but now eroded) ancient fold mountain belt, ending up at its core in Galicia, which used to be attached to Brittany before the Bay of Biscay opened.

Amongst the geological highlights was a complete 350 million year old coral reef with fossil corals and other inhabitants still in their position of growth. We stayed in very comfortable hotels in three places along the coast - Ribadesella, Gijon and San Ciprian; at each students overcame the language barrier to make friends with locals, learning some Spanish in the process! A highly worthwhile and enjoyable trip. During our stay the weather was marvellous for late October - no rain and temperatures 17 - 20°C. The voyage back across Biscay however was extremely rough and slow, causing a delay in our arrival back home of seven hours.

South Cornwall 3rd - 5th November

Members of the Lower Sixth AS Geology group travelled to Boswinger Youth Hostel (near Perranporth) on Friday, stopping off at Portishead to learn some basic field techniques - this was their 'initiation'. The Saturday dawned fine and we spent a very full day looking at folds, granite and its surrounding country rock and ending up at the actual contact at Rinsey Cove.

Sunday was forecast to be stormy and wet, which it proved to be! We persisted with short stops to avoid getting too wet and were rewarded in the afternoon with watery sunlight at Coverack on the Lizard, where we stood on the ancient Moho - the boundary between the earth's crust and mantle, long ago thrust upwards and eroded down to reveal the junction. Another enjoyable, entertaining and educational trip.



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Silently

Silently the tiger prowls in its midnight habitat

Silently the birds beating wings carry it through the air

Silently the eyes roam the open page

Silently the hand makes swirled and whirled movements on the page

But most silent of all the moss grows steadily along the darkened wall



Softly

Softly the new-born kitten calls

Softly the children play in the halls

Softly the birds fly through the air

Softly the leaf of a tree falls in despair

Softly the rain caresses the ground

Softly the world spins round and round and round

Soft is skin but softer still is the mushroom sitting on top of the hill

Andrew Faulkner 7B

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STRICTNet

We frequently get asked about the school's computer systems and *"Have we got a website?"* Let me change my hat over and fill you in a little on the development and progress of the school's educational computer systems

The government is placing more and more emphasis on the development and use of 'IT' skills within education – or is it 'ICT' to use the latest acronym. A quick lesson is in order here I think (with another of my hats!) :

'IT' = Information Technology

'ICT' = Information & Communication Technology

Any wiser? Me neither! To most people this means 'computers'.

In the pre-dawn age 'before computers' (surely that's what BC means now?) information and communication meant something much simpler and more fundamental – reading and writing, using books and pens.

Now, as we're so persuasively told by the marketing hype of wanna-be-rich computer sales companies and executives: *'... a single click on the mouse can open up a whole brand new world of information and communication possibilities; experience not only words but interact with pictures, sounds, animation and film; something no-one can afford to be without, especially the youngsters of today*' Wow! Let me sit down to catch my breath! *'... and of course working electronically we will be so close to creating a paperless society that to get hold of any paper you'll have to visit the ...'* Thank you!

So what have we done here at Tommies to embrace this wonderful new technology and fall in line with what darling Tony insists is the only way forward for our education system?

Computers at STRS are in fact nothing new. The Richian of 1979 records that epic day the school's very own computer terminal produced its first intelligent message. The terminal in question was just that – a large pedestal mounted daisy wheel keyboard/printer interface connected to an ICL 2903 mainframe at Gloscat via a GPO phone line. By 1982 a thriving computer club had started and not long afterwards in 1983 they had even managed to buy their very own first computer – an 'Apple'! So from tiny acorns mighty oaks do grow.

By the time yours truly arrived on the scene in 1998, STRS had itself two rooms full of personal computers or should I say workstations since they were all connected into one big network able to share data and resources. Unfortunately, due to disparate operating systems, insufficient investment on hardware and network administration software, pupils who knew far more than their 'elders and betters' on the staff (and used this to their own advantage!) and no dedicated technical support staff, use of the system for lessons had become a bit of a lottery at times.

Looking back it seems we have moved on during these last 3 years by similar strides to the advancement from those early Apple days to just before the second of the computer rooms was added in late 1997. We now have a fast networking infrastructure capable of running throughout up to 100Mbps, a LAN of some 55 workstations shortly to be increased by adding a further 25 workstations in the D&T design office, the Library, Careers Room and Sixth Form private study area, a consistent user interface at and commonality between workstations, a 512Mbps internet connection secured via our own proxy server firewall and filtering software, proper data security procedures

in place, corporate virus checking software, an extensive library of educational CDs, pupil e-mail addresses soon to be assigned, staff training and support programmes established, an intranet website developed by the students, a system control and monitoring program written and developed by one of the 'A-Team', a thriving computer club teaching important programming skills, The list goes on!

By no means though are we now at the forefront of information and communication technologies – that would require, to misquote a certain cow-poke from Rock Ridge 'a ship-load of dimes' and would be totally inappropriate for the purpose of properly educating our students – but we do have a functional and effective resource which many schools would envy.

Little of this would have been achieved without the support and expertise of several of the students themselves. A key element in what I consider is now an effective, successful and well managed resource are the students who form the 'A-Team' – my administrative helpers who have taken on their respective roles with assurance, maturity, responsibility and a degree of professionalism that is staggering. The knowledge some of them possess is scary to say the least and the patience they generally show when explaining to humble 'sir' suggests they would make good teachers! (If only they would log their system alterations and set-ups more thoroughly!!)

We are about to embark on the development of an external website for the school and I'm sure this will cause many of the so-called professionally designed ones on the 'net' to pale into insignificance when it is launched – hopefully in the new year 2002. Watch this space!

What of the future? Who knows? Save to say that we are currently going through an exciting – albeit expensive! – change in the emphasis and methods of teaching and learning. The proposed language centre system will certainly aid this process enormously. For my part, supported by my 'A-Team' students, I will endeavour to maintain an effective computer resource for all the students and staff, present and future, who pass through our wonderful school on their journeys of discovery and learning.

STRICTNet – what does this stand for? **Sir Thomas Rich's Information & Communication Technology Network**. And of course we also have **STRICTWeb** – I leave you to work that one out!

A final thought. Will the 'Blue Coat Boy' be displaced by the 'Blue Chip Boy'?

P Brown



Adam Langley



Keith Hardy



Ian Hill



Afzal Junglee

The STRICTNet 'A-Team'

OLD RICHIAN'S ASSOCIATION

Letter from the President

It has been a pleasure to serve the Old Richians Association for the last two years as its Honorary President. On your behalf I have attended the annual Speech Day, the School Founders Day Service (now held in Holy Trinity church Longlevens), the School Carol Services and more recently the lively retirement party given by the staff to Mr R H Hannay at the end of thirty four years of cheerful, unflagging service to the school. It was good to be in the chair at the Annual dinner in the spring and to see such a splendid amalgam of young and old clearly enjoying themselves. Much credit is due to those who organise this event, especially to David Hook who does so much to keep the Association alive and outgoing.

I congratulate once again the Headmaster and his staff on another splendid year of achievement not only in terms of academic success but also in the wonderful range of activities which take Richians into every part of the country. I send greeting on your behalf to Peter Veal, past Headmaster now trying to move the Queen Mother in terms of longevity of life and still retaining a lively interest in the achievements of the pupils of his day. At Easter, I met two sixth formers from Methodist College Belfast who spend their private study periods in the A S Worrall Centre dedicated there to the memory of Peter Veale's successor from 1957 to 1961. I share your sense of loss at the death of two former members of staff, Mr Linden Huddleston and Mr John Carew-Jones both highly respected and able Heads of Departments in their day. I expressed delight (and astonishment) to John and Audry Cooper on celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary in August.

I have again been pleased to note how many past members of the school have attained success and distinction in posts of heavy responsibility at home and abroad. We all belong to a community committed to the pursuit of excellence, a quality sorely needed in our modern world at every level. May each of us continue to bring distinction to the school, using to the full the talents entrusted to us. So shall we "keep faith" with the intention of our Founder.

May the Old Richians Association prosper in the days ahead! I appeal to all former members of the school to support the school in whatever ways you can, thereby repaying a little of the debt we each owe to it.

To all former students, whether Association members or not, I send my warmest greeting and best wishes for your future.

Garde Ta Foy!

J Anthony Stocks

***The Old Richians Association
Annual Reunion
Saturday 7th April 2001***

Among the 80 or so people who attended, the President, Mr Tony Stocks, was joined on the top table by the Headmaster and his wife, Mr and Mrs Ian Kellie, with guest speakers, Mr Gordon Hook accompanied by Mrs Hook and Mr Daniel Wright.

The President gave a warm welcome to everyone and in particular the ladies present. He also made special mention of Mr David Ball who was over from America.



Ian Kellie & Tony Stocks with guests of honour Dan Wright and Gordon Hook

Mr Stocks then spoke of his sadness in having to report the death of Mr Huddlestone a few months earlier and that another former member of staff Mr Carew-Jones was terminally ill.

Noting that membership of the Association was increasing Mr Stocks said that 30 of last year's leavers joining had also helped to lower the average age - 45% of members were now aged 40 or under. He complimented the Association on the existence of the Richian Trust, set up several years ago at the instigation of David Hook and which had already given financial assistance to several Richians and Old Richians undertaking special projects.

Having expressed thanks to the organisers of this reunion, the President then invited everyone to join in the Loyal Toast.

In welcoming the first guest speaker Mr Gordon Hook and his wife the President said it was a particular pleasure to see that Gordon's father and mother, Bill and Joan, as well as Gordon's brothers John and David were also present.

In his entertaining speech Gordon recalled his fear of failing the 11 plus exam but having arrived at "Tommy's" he soon came to regard Alan Dixon as his hero.

Gordon explained how Mr Stocks, together with Mr and Mrs Joseph, had introduced him to the joys of travel and that his early lessons in rugby were courtesy of Mr Howard Terrington.



He also emphasised the influences of Mr Huddlestone and Mr Frank "Bill" Bradford and he spoke of the considerable contributions made by Mr Eddie Pritchard to various aspects of school life, many being outside rather than inside the classroom.

Gordon who had the distinction of playing fullback for England Schoolboys, said that probably the highlight of his rugby representing Sir Thomas Rich's School had

been when playing with Alan Pontin, who was an outstanding athlete, in the very successful "Sevens" team which won the prestigious Oxford Sevens Tournament in 1963.

Gordon closed by proposing the traditional toast to "Sir Thomas Rich's School and all that its name implied".



Bob Crockford and friends enjoy the evening

The President then introduced the second guest speaker, Mr Daniel Wright whose grandmother had in fact taught Mr Stocks when he was five years old at a school in Manchester.

Daniel recalled taking part in the school's drama productions and referred to the considerable support and encouragement given to all the casts by the Producer, Mrs Barnes and Musical Director Mr Thompson.

Daniel said that his time in the school's Venture Scout Unit, under Frank Henderson's leadership had many highlights, although the "near starvation" experience on an expedition to Norway was certainly notable among them.

Although having only moderate success at geography at school, Daniel acknowledged the support and encouragement he had received from Mr Pilbeam and Mr Henderson which had undoubtedly developed his interest as he was now engaged on a course with the aim of teaching geography himself. Daniel concluded by proposing a toast to all Old Richians and the Old Richians Association.

In reply to the earlier toast to the school the Headmaster, Mr Ian Kellie, recalled the various special status awards which had been received in recent months. He said that the granting of Language College status in particular had the added advantage of producing additional funding. In this connection Mr Kellie said the introduction of Spanish to the curriculum was proving especially popular.

Mr Kellie also gave details of the year's further excellent GCSE and 'A' level examination results which ensured that the school once again remained very highly placed in the

various league tables produced by the media. He made special mention of certain pupils being selected for national teams in rugby, water polo and orienteering. In closing, Mr Kellie emphasised the responsibility he felt towards the Old Richians Association to maintain the standards and traditions of the school.



Mark Gilmore and company share a joke

The President thanked the Headmaster for allowing the Association to view and use the school premises for this reunion and he also thanked the number of current and former teachers who were present, for their support.

After requesting Gordon Hook, on his return home to Devon, to offer on behalf of the Association and especially everyone present, warmest good wishes to Mr W J (Peter) Veale who is now 98 years of age, Mr Stocks concluded by reading a favourite poem.

Canon Rev John Evans then said Grace before everyone enjoyed the finger buffet with sweet and coffee, followed by further convivial conversation with suitable promises to return again next year, all being well.

David Mayo

For Your Diary

Old Richians Annual Dinner

***Saturday 6th April 2002
in the School Hall
6pm for 7pm***





Old Richians Newsdesk

Latest Information on Past Pupils

All information contained in the following entries has been written in good faith and based purely on the details supplied to the Editor from various sources

ABBOTT Neil (1995-1997) Obtained a 2.1 BSc in Geology at Liverpool University.

AUBREY Stephen (1960-1968) Steve is still Property Director at Smiths Group, the company created by the merger of Smiths Industries and TI Group at the end of 2000. Not content with having half of Bishops Cleeve in his portfolio, the merger has brought large chunks of Dowty property at Staverton which were retained by TI from the sale to Messier (though half of that burnt down recently!). Indeed he now has nearly 1000 properties in 47 countries to look after and, as a result, hasn't got to Cheltenham once this year. In case he 'chooses to retire' at the next merger/take-over, he has bought a house in south west France for de-stressing. *"John Burrow's 'A' Level French has come in useful at last!"*

BAGGOTT Matthew R (1980-1985) Lives locally and works for Frank Timothy Associates, Architectural Services of Brunswick Square. One of Matt's recent projects has been to design the new language block for Sir Thomas Rich's.

BAILEY George (1933-1937) Contacted the Association from his home in Eastbourne *"my main news is that I am still in the land of the living!"* George is also to date the oldest member to forward his e-mail: george.bailey@btclick.com

BALLARD Jody (1990-1997) Jody followed up his Geology degree by successfully completing a PGCE in July 2001 (again at Aberystwyth). He is now a qualified teacher of Geography with Games. Having spent a summer residency as a House Supervisor at a Bell Language Residential school in Cambridge he is now living in Cardiff and teaching on a temporary contract in Penarth.

BEWLEY Rob (Reverend) (1974-1981) After eleven years as a marketing professional with the Cadbury Schweppes group of companies, Rob responded to what had been a growing call and left industry and the Midlands in 1997 to train for ordained ministry in the Church of England in Cambridge. 4 years later he has one more degree, one certificate and two ordinations under his belt (ordained deacon in 2000 and priest in 2001) but can't seem to escape from East Anglia. He is now endeavouring to combine being a curate in a busy parish just north of Cambridge with doctoral research into Mark's Gospel at the University of Cambridge. Rosie, his wife of 13 years, has just completed her first year of a Deputy Headship in a local primary school. By one of those strange turns of events that occur in life, he has just baptised the son of a former Richian and the grandson of a former member of staff, as James Foster had recently moved to this part of the world and become a member of Rob's church. E-mail: R.Bewley@btinternet.com

BISHOP David (1974-1981) Still working for the National Westminster Bank “though with a slight Scottish accent following the take over!” Based at Aztec West near Bristol working as a manager in the lending operation. Living in Weston-super-Mare where the family have been based for eleven years. Involved with the Round Table and now coaching rugby at Hornets RFC at U10 level for which son James plays. Tries to get Gloucester as often as possible - it seems easier in the winter when Gloucester are playing at home! E-mail: bish@froblo.fsnet.co.uk

BOURNE Michael (1992-1994) Recently completed a PhD in Seismology at the University of Leeds. His PhD involved looking at the tectonics of New Zealand. *“I’ve really enjoyed my four years up north - Leeds has been a nice place to live and the work’s been interesting”* said Michael who joined Rich’s in the Sixth form. *“The project has also been great since it has enabled me to do lots of travelling. I’ve been to France, Germany, Italy, USA, Australia, New Zealand (twice) and Singapore. I’ve also spent 3 months living in Holland. In October I start a job with BP but before that I’m off to New Zealand and probably Ethiopia for the University! **Should be really fun before the hard work of a normal job begins!**”*

E-mail: michael_bourne@yahoo.com

BUBB Stanley G (1923-1927) A regular attendee at the Annual Dinner wrote to the Association from his home in Poole : *“I must be one of the oldest of the Old Richians as I have just celebrated my ninetieth birthday and remember that we were known at one time as ‘Old Plutonians’ (after Pluto the God of Riches). As I understand it, there are now as many girls as boys at the school but in my days you were not allowed to speak to a girl unless you could prove that she was your sister (Cousins - No!). The Headmaster then was Herman Francis Rogers-Tillstone MA Special (the whisper was that he was not really an MA but had been given special permission to use the title). Other teachers I remember were ‘Shirty’ Sherwood, Freddy Freedman and of course Miss Winifred Thompson (never to my knowledge known as ‘Winnie’). When I left school in 1927 I started as an apprentice with Boots in Bristol and in 1933 qualified as a ‘Chemist and Druggist’ later known as ‘Pharmacist’ and managed Boots branches in Keynsham (Somerset) and Cowley Road, Oxford. A few years on with the help of my wife (Nurse Olive Hunt) and her cousin John Singer, I opened my own Pharmacy in Reading - later adding three branches in Reading and one in Bournemouth. Later we ‘retired’ to live in Poole and disposed of all the shops including the one in Bournemouth. Soon after this we started again in the name of Branksome Chemists Ltd and at one time had five pharmacies in the area. I was Secretary of the National Pharmaceutical Union locally and for nine years represented the South of England on the NPU (now NPA) Headquarters in London (St. Albans). I was at one time President of the Bournemouth Chamber of Trade, have been President of the Parkstone Chamber of Trade and am still President of the Poole Chamber of Trade. I am also Honorary Vice President of the Rural Pharmacists Association.*

What a good education they gave me a Tommy Rich’s - still I believe the best school in the Country.”

CROCKFORD Albert ‘Bob’ (1921-1926) Is still coming to school regularly in his 91st year. He is a stalwart of the Bowls Club, enjoying the friendship of many ‘younger’ members. Bowls and gardening combine to keep him in good health. In the winter he has been keeping his mind active by writing some memoirs of his life - particularly the wartime period - for his three grandsons (two of whom went to a Bluecoat School!). He recommends everyone to jot down memories of past times and events before they fade. He has attended the last two Reunions.

CROCKFORD Robert ‘Bob’ (1951-1959) Albert’s son, now enjoying his second year of retirement, still living in Crawley, Sussex, where he has been for just over 30 years. He was with the Railways for 36 years, finally helping towards the planning and construction of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link now under way in Kent. He still has fond memories of the STRS Railway Society in the 50’s. He has also attended the last two Reunions and this year thoroughly enjoyed the company of Rob Nind, John Cook and Wilf Hudd (and their wives), but with a sad remembrance of Frank Henderson.

CROFT Giles (1984-1991) writes : *“Currently on a Surgical Rotation based in Leeds, I’m working on the Vascular Unit at Jimmy’s, having just completed a particularly tough six months of General Surgery. Despite complaining about the lack of life outside of the hospital that a career in surgery entails, as with all surgeons in reality I’m never happier than when found with a scalpel in hand! This attitude will probably change as I start to work towards the next lot of exams in the coming months. What time I do find outside of work is spent trying to maintain a certain level of fitness through visits to the gym and out on the bike now the warm weather is approaching. A recent getaway involved visiting friends working for the British Council in Egypt, experiencing the sights and sounds of Alexandria, Cairo and of course the Pyramids. This trip enabled me to add to a growing portfolio of travel photography - another interest which I would gladly spend more time and effort developing if only it were available.”* E-mail: drfrot@hotmail.com

DEAN Nigel (1961-1966) Working in television sports productions in Southampton. Latest project is the Volvo Ocean Race, producing programmes for both ITV and International distribution, a follow up from another sailing race the BT Global. Wife Christine has just taken a new job working in a research unit for Alzheimer’s disease. They have two daughters, Lucy 16 and Jennifer 14. E-mail: ndean23@aol.com

DAVIS John (1945 - 1950) Now semi-retired from his PR consultancy in Hull, John has been spending more time on his hobby organisation, the Long Distance Walkers Association, and was able to mark the Millennium with an historic and record-breaking event. The first point on land that the Meridian Line touches on its way from the North to the South poles is on East Yorkshire’s remote North Sea coast just north of the seaside town of Withernsea. John’s 24-mile ‘Where Time Begins’ challenge walk over a circular route from Withernsea last September attracted 169 walkers from all parts of the country (and included one from Australia). The 11-mile length of the Meridian between Tunstall on the coast and Sunk Island on the Humber Estuary (the Line’s first overland stretch) was the longest stretch of off-path permissive walking

for a challenge event with the biggest-ever number (22 farms) of individual concessions. Close co-operation with the farming community (the walk was timed to take place immediately after the harvest and before they started working the land again) gave walkers the unique experience of literally 'walking the line' directly over fields, through hedges and across ditches (the Gloucestershire version of the latter being a very poor relation of a Holderness drain!). John said: *"Although it is one of the most important spots on earth, the Meridian's first landfall has been sadly neglected and attention was only drawn to it when, for the first time, Ordnance Survey marked it on its Millennium maps. As it turned out 'Where Time Begins' helped put the Holderness area on the map and should go on record as the best value event of the Millennium Year. By comparison with the Teflon tent a bit further south along the line, we attracted slightly more than the anticipated attendance, and with higher cost entry on the day (£7.50) added to the £6.50 each of the pre-bookings, the planned marginal surplus was also exceeded. For their money our visitors enjoyed free car parking, refreshments at checkpoints along the route and (this being a major pork producing area) a hog roast at the finish. Added free attractions included a giant straw sculpture 'M' built overnight by Patrington Young Farmers to straddle the Meridian, a variety of international shipping on the Humber Estuary and rare marsh harriers circling Welwick Marshes. No lottery funding was sought or required for this memorable day out. Methuselahian Old Richian walkers will be welcome at the next 'Where Time Begins', provisionally arranged for the second Saturday of September 3000."*

I'm sure everyone's got it in their diaries!

DYKE Neil (1964 - 1972) Is currently living in Bristol, where he is Sales Manager for a specialist software company selling to the deregulated electricity and gas markets world wide. Neil spent most of my working life working for UK Electricity Companies but escaped to the real world when a tap on the shoulder came a couple of years ago from an old colleague. He now lives out of a suitcase, travelling throughout Europe and the North America which can be a lot of fun but does get it's own back when it comes to keeping fit!! *"I play squash whenever I can, including the Bristol & Avon Leagues, have two children, Leanne who at 17 has just got a driving licence (oh no, my daughter on the road!) and Paul who is 16."* Neil attended last year's Annual Dinner with contemporary Clive Browning and is keen to contact anyone from his year in an attempt to have a good contingent for next years Dinner. So contact Neil now and if you know any Old Richians of that vintage please bring this to their attention. E-mail: neil.dyke@mmtenergy.co.uk

ELLICOT Catherine (1995-1997) Finished a postgraduate diploma in legal practice this summer and started as a trainee solicitor with a law firm in Bristol in September. At the end of July Catherine got married and is now Mrs Gregory! She and her husband will both be moving to Bristol to start their married and working lives there. E-mail: littlecathcox@yahoo.com

FRAPE Andy (1979-1984) Still happily engaged to Catherine and living in Longlevens. Horrified to learn that he will have clocked up 17 years at GCHQ in

October but pleased to have earned a promotion in July. Highlight of the year has to be bumping into J Y Cooper, D I Joseph, “Bunny” Burrows and “Bomber” Jefferies within a three week span. Mr Jefferies is still driving his immaculate navy blue Jaguar. Frighteningly, he still remembers giving Andy a detention in 1981!

GILMORE Paul (1991-1998) Graduated July 2001 from Manchester University with 2.2 Honours BEng in Electronic Engineering. At present working for Pennant Training Systems Ltd as an Electrical Project Engineer.

GODWIN William (1993-2000) Former School Captain. Contacted the Association from Bolivia in June this year where he has been working with the Christian Charity ‘Latin Link’. Will has been working in the City of Sucre and then the town of Potosi which lie at an altitude of almost 4500m and is dominated by the mountain Cerro Rico which is mined for silver. Projects with local churches have included building a football/basketball court, plastering and painting the ground floor of a church, teaching English and helping with services - a challenge since they are conducted in Spanish and Quechua and last between two and three hours. Prior to returning to the UK Will plans to travel around the ‘area’ with visits to Lake Titicaca and then Machu Piccu in neighbouring Peru.

HARRIS Terence R (Reverend) (1946-1952) writes : *“The first year of retirement has been fascinating and full of interesting opportunities. Moving into a new three-bedroom house in Honiton did not mean there was nothing to be done! Some seventy boxes of books were stored in the garage, with other items, which would not fit into the smaller house. These have been reduced - some being sold at Hay-on-Wye and others distributed to young Ministers. Fortunately my successor was coming from Canada, without furniture, so items could be left in the Manse at Sidmouth. (Problems will arise when he moves back in twelve month’s time!) There was a virgin garden with no Alan Tichmarsh available. (I would have preferred Rachel de Thame!) Julia and I have been working hard and things are getting into shape. Patio is now complete and lawn laid and rockery in the process of construction. (What I learnt in Biology at STRS didn’t help a lot!) I am preaching once a month wherever I’m invited. Yes, I am being invited, since there is a shortage of Ministers. ‘Oh, so that explains why you are being invited!’ I thought I would put that in before someone else did! I have a couple of lectures to give on ‘Tin Can Mail’ and ‘Methodist Philately’. Julia and I have been joining in the local National Trust’s activities and are endeavouring to swim twice a week. I’m continuing my studies in Biblical Hebrew. Friends and family have been visiting. A highlight, since I last wrote, was the privilege to baptise our granddaughter, Megan, in St Andrew’s Methodist Church, Slough. I had wanted to give the blessing in Hebrew but Julia said that Megan wouldn’t understand it. Maybe a Jew wouldn’t have understood it either! Shalom!”*

HITCHINGS Joseph (1990-1997) Started his fourth year at Manchester University in the School of Dentistry in September this year having spent the previous month inter-railing in Spain and North Africa.

HOOK W G (Bill) (1931-1939) Former School Captain and England and Gloucester full back, celebrates his eightieth birthday in December 2000 and continues to be an active member of Kendal Road Baptist Church, the Probus Club of Gloucester and helping out with collections of goods for the Gloucester 'Save the Children Fund' shop where his wife Joan works one morning a week. After much consideration of the possible consequences Joan agreed to cable TV, in particular Sky Sports, for the rugby as Bill's 80th birthday present. Since the acquisition numerous friends have been invited to watch the oval ball be passed around including former Rich's sports master David Joseph whose views on the England and Wales games may not mirror Bill's!!

HOWKINS Keith (1974-1982) Lives in Belper, Derbyshire and is married to Karen who in November 2000 gave birth to Christopher – weighing in at 6lb 8oz. Amongst the other changes Christopher has brought with him is a need for more space and a move to a larger house – also achieved since last year!

JAMES Martin (1982-1989) Studied biochemistry at Bristol University from 1991 to 1994, gained his BSc, winning an award in his final year for best project, then undertook research into proteins for 2½ years at Leeds University before moving to Dundee University (1997-2001) where he gained his PhD. He is now employed at Helsinki University in Finland.

JAMES Nicholas (1985-1992) Studied Body Movement and Physical Education at Liverpool University where he gained his BSc. He is now working in computers with Hewlett Packard in Manchester.

JERRARD David (1976-1984) Writes : *“Still living in Northern California. Still working for Sutter Home Winery. Now managing exports to Asia, Latin America, Canada and Caribbean - guess favourite and least favourite destination for winter business trips! Every two years like clockwork, we seem to change one component of our lives. This time we have added to the family and have a 10-month-old daughter 'Kinsey Scout'. Now we are up to 3 children - scary when they out number the big people in the house! Just this week found out Richians has a web site and am proud to say was the first to sign the guest book. A great link for those of us who wandered further than Hucclecote away from Rich's.”*

JEFFREY Kenneth (Reverend) (1952-1959) Has left Ditchling in Sussex and returned to Gloucestershire where he is now living at Leysbourne near Chipping Campden. E-mail: kenneth@pavilion.co.uk

MILLS David (1952-1959) Took the plunge and retired early from Tewkesbury Borough Council in March 2000. Took a time to get used to it now very much enjoying life. They have spent more time in St David's in Pembrokeshire amongst the many friends they have made there. In November 2000 he was privileged to be appointed to the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina. There were 74 from Great Britain in a force of 700. He was posted to Zenica in the central region to help with their Parliamentary and Municipal Elections. It was an inspiring 12 days that brought home the other Europe of which most of us

are not aware. He hopes to do further work in this field in the future. Towards the end of 2000 he decided to give up as Clerk of the Badgeworth Parish Council. In January 2001 he was asked to do some election consultancy work with Stroud District Council.

MUTLOW Russell (1926-1932) Visited the school for the first time since leaving in 1932. He became a salesman then a clerk at Gloucester Railway Carriage & Wagon Co. then a fireman, joined the RAF then returned to the railway company as it became Winget, part of Babcock & Wilcox. He retired as Works Manager in 1975.

OVERTHROW Thomas Leslie (1931-1936) Of Whiteshill, Stroud passed away on the 16th August 2001 after a short illness. The Association offers its condolences to his widow Isabel.

PAGE-JONES Nigel (1981-1988) Last years entry in the Richian noted that Nigel and his wife Tanya had two children Sophie and Marcus with the comment "*more in the future probably!*" This proved to be an accurate prediction with the arrival of Melissa Louise on 29th April this year. In addition to a new daughter Nigel also took a new job as software designer with the Liverpool company Brainboxes. E-mail: nigel-pj@yahoo.com

POOLE Geoff (1969-1976) Was the subject of an article in the August 2001 edition of Cotswold Life. British Junior Power Lifting Champion in 1979 he now represents Britain on the Masters (over 40's) circuit and is the World Masters Champion at the Squat Lift. As a member of Gloucester Colts Geoff took up weight training to help his rugby. Finding the sport enjoyable he began entering competitions with considerable success. Power lifting isn't really compatible with rugby, however, and despite a number of Gloucester First Team appearances he opted to pursue power lifting. Geoff trains at the Severnside Club in Barnwood, which is run by Mick Barry, the father of two Old Richians.

ROBERTS Elizabeth (1995-1997) Liz gained a 2:1 in English from the University of Birmingham this summer then took off for a holiday in Australia where she hoped to meet up with some fellow Old Richians. She begins a new job in the autumn at the Basingstoke Gazette as a trainee journalist. E-mail: eroberts41@hotmail.com

ROBINSON Mark (1973-1980) Mark still lives a stone's throw from the school in Longlevens and currently works for Lloyds TSB Commercial in Barnwood. Has met other Old Richians in his bank career including Gary Hyett and Graham Reed. Mark is a former Cross Country Captain of the School and still enjoys the challenge of running over Chosen Hill when his fitness permits him! Fervent supporter of Gloucester RFC and local member of CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale!) E-mail: Mark_Robinson@cableinet.co.uk

SALTER Wayne (1973-1981) Wayne continues to work at CERN (European Organisation for Nuclear Research) in Geneva in the domain of control systems for particle physics detectors. He is in the process of building a house in nearby France, where he lives with his wife and son. This is proving to be a very long and

administratively complex process and hence is proceeding only slowly. He still enjoys cricket and plays for the CERN side in the Swiss Cricket League and made his highest ever score of 153 no during the 2000 season. He has also recently returned to running after many years off because of injury. Email: wayne.salter@cern.ch

SANTOS Rowell (1991-1996) Graduated on 10th July 2001 gaining BA (Hons) in Graphic Design & Illustration from DeMonfort University.

SARGENT Duncan (1977-1984) Moved in January to Marlborough Stirling plc, a major software solutions provider to the Life and Pensions Industry. Is currently working as a senior business analyst, assisting new and existing clients in the design and specification of new products and services. In addition he has represented the Company in various running events since joining and trains most lunchtimes. Duncan still lives in Longlevens with his wife, Elaine, and two children Matthew and Thomas. He keeps a watchful eye on the comings and goings at Gloucester RFC and participates in the 'occasional' round of golf.

SARKAR Indranil (1983-1985) Took his engineering degree at Delhi College of Engineering. Worked for 3 years at an automobile manufacturing company in India before taking his MBA at the Indian Institute of Management. Worked for Citibank and ABN Amro bank and is now a Master of International Affairs at Columbia University, New York.

SAUNDRS Abbi (1995-1997) Awarded a 1st Class honours in Genetics at Nottingham University.

SHORT R J B (Bob) (1950-1955) Well known local chartered surveyor has been practising for over 45 years in Gloucester. For over 30 years Bob has been a partner and more recently Head of Short, Graham & Co. Auctioneers and Valuers, a company whose roots date back to 1893. Based in Clarence Street many Old Richians will be familiar with Bob's auctions held at St Barnabas Church Hall in Tuffley. In April this year Short, Graham & Co was acquired by the Cotswold Auction Company (formerly Hobbs and Chambers Fine Arts Department) but rather than hanging up his gavel this move will see Bob take the rostrum at sales in Cirencester and Cheltenham in addition to Gloucester.

STUART-SMITH Clive (1994-2001) Before leaving school this year in August after taking his 'A' levels, Clive signed a contract with Gloucester RFC and then toured Canada, Australia and New Zealand with the England Rugby Football Schools' Union (18 group) - a side he captained against France in April this year.

TAYLOR A A (Tom) (1941-1948) E-mailed the Association from Calgary, Canada where he emigrated on leaving school. Tom's uncle had returned to England with the Canadian Army in 1943 and convinced the young school boy to join him when he left school, a move he says he has never regretted. Tom graduated from the University of Alberta School of Dentistry in 1956, retiring in 1989. In 2000 he and Lavone had the pleasure of a visit from globetrotting school friend John Bodenham and his wife

Margaret. During the four day visit Tom was able to take them to Banff, Lake Louise, The Tyrell Museum and Claresholm where John trained with the RAF during his service days. This year Tom was elected as a Councillor for Division 3 of the Municipal District (County) of Rocky View, Alberta. E-mail: lhartwell@cadvision.com

THOMAS Michael A (1980-1986) In September 2001 Mike married Joy Connell at St Mary Magdalene Church, Yarm-on-Tees. Mike who has previously worked with BBC Radio Gloucestershire, Radio Wyvern, Severn Sound and Five Live is now news editor at Centre FM in Tamworth. Joy works as a graphic designer for Isaac International and the newly weds will be living in Branston, Burton-on-Trent.

WATKINS Keith M (Reverend) (1972-1977) Is serving in rural northern Kenya as a minister in the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

WATKINSON Anna (1996-1998) Awarded a 2.1 BSc in Economics and Accounting at Newcastle University

WHITE Lt Stephen P (1977-1984) Back living in the Gloucester area after being stationed in Gibraltar. Married to Fay, they have two children Harriet and Alexander. Earlier this year Steve completed the first phase of Officer Training at Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, following which he was posted to the Navy's Computer Centre at Corsham.

WILKINSON Christopher (1990-1997) writes : *"Having completed my undergraduate degree in Economics and Politics at Bristol university in 2000, I am currently pursuing an MSc in International Relations also at Bristol. To complete my course I must write a dissertation, which is about foreign policy studying the triangular relationship between the United States, China and Japan. It will mainly focus on the strategic position in the Asia-Pacific region and its consequences. In October, once my dissertation is handed in, I have a job teaching English in Japan. I don't know as yet where in Japan I shall be but I am going over with a private English conversation school called GEOS Corporation. I shall be in Japan for 12 months and have managed to coincide this nicely with the football world cup, which is being hosted jointly by Japan and South Korea in the summer of 2002. So if anyone has done this before or wants to come over to Japan and try to grab a couple of the world cup games then please feel free to get in touch. After that I really have no idea. I still want to work in the US at some point and have a desire to explore China and India too but these are all pie in the sky ideas at the moment!"* E-mail: chriswilko100@hotmail.com

WILTON Fiona (1996-1998) Awarded a 2.1 in Communication from Cardiff University.

WRIGHT Chris (1993-1998) Having spent the 6th form at Millfield School, Chris has taken a Gap. He has been working for The Marsh Group and Price Waterhouse Cooper, both in London and now is off for a well-earned break, backpacking in Thailand. On his return he will take up his place at Manchester University to read a degree in International Business, Finance and Economics.

WRIGHT Lorna (1996-1998) Lorna has just graduated from Nottingham Trent University with a 2.1 in Physiology and Pharmacology. She is now off to Loughborough University to take a MSc in Exercise Physiology, hoping this will lead to a career working with sportsmen and women.

Old Richians Association Membership Statistics

As at 30th June 2001 the Old Richians Association consisted of 386 full members. There are five categories of full members as follows:-

<i>Category</i>	<i>30th June 2000</i>	<i>30th June 2001</i>
£10 Bankers Order	243	264
£5 Student Bankers Order	40	83
£10 Annual Subscription	7	10
Permanent	17	17
Honorary Staff	10	12
TOTAL	317	386

The last twelve months have been particularly encouraging with an impressive 21% increase in the total membership. A large part of this increase came from the year 2000 leavers who, encouraged by School Captain Will Godwin, became by far the largest year leavers group in decades to join the Association. With one fifth of the membership coming from school leavers who left in the last 4 years and 40% of the membership aged 40 or under we are not faced with the problems of predominantly elderly membership like many similar organisations. We should not be complacent however since even in the last 4 years only 83 of over 400 leavers joined the Association.

All members are asked to encourage all former pupils they know to join the Association.

[illegible]

**Don't
Forget!**

Annual Reunion Dinner
Sir Thomas Rich's School Hall
Saturday 6th April 2002

Old Richians Pages

[illegible]

Sports Day 1927

**In 1927 on the 7th day of June
There was clapping there was cheering
Throughout all the afternoon.
The Rich School Field was crowded
Like the Strand in London town
And people stayed about there
Till the sun was going down.**

**Boys in shorts and running shoes
Were racing round the field
And a man was selling ice creams
From a wooden cart, two wheeled.**

**What all this 'ere excitement?
Says a bobby to his pal
'As there bin a 'weddin' ere
Or just a funeral?**

**It may have been a murder
Or perhaps a suicide
But the row them folks is making
Puts a cup tie in the shide**

**What, don't ya know what this is,
Says his comrade of the force,
Today's the Rich School Sports me boy.,
Today's the day of course.**

Stanley Bubh





Mr Sims explains the rules to the Year 7 4 x 100 Relay first leg runners

Sports Evening 6th June 2001

Luke Murdock breasts the tape just pipping William Bonner



**Mr Barrington
instructing the Year 9
Javelin competitors**



**Martin Abrams
Year 9 Long Jump**



**Nick Shipley receives the House Athletics
Trophy from Mr Kellie. However following a
stewards enquiry the Trophy eventually went to
Northgate not Eastgate.**



**Ashley Taylor
Year 7 Shot Competition**





The background of the entire page is a bright yellow with a mottled, textured appearance, similar to marbled paper. Several dark, wavy, horizontal lines, possibly representing water or a landscape feature, are painted across the lower half of the page. The lines are dark brown or black and have a slightly irregular, hand-painted quality.

Sir Thomas Rich's School
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