

A surrealist painting featuring a woman's face with large, expressive blue eyes and long, dark eyelashes. Her face is pale and appears to be emerging from a dense thicket of dark green foliage at the bottom. A large, dark, textured hand is placed on her forehead, with fingers slightly spread. The background is a mix of dark, swirling colors and some lighter, more defined shapes, suggesting a dreamlike or abstract environment. The overall style is painterly and evocative.

The Richian 2003



Personal Study by Oliver Howley 11R
GCSE Art Module Final Piece

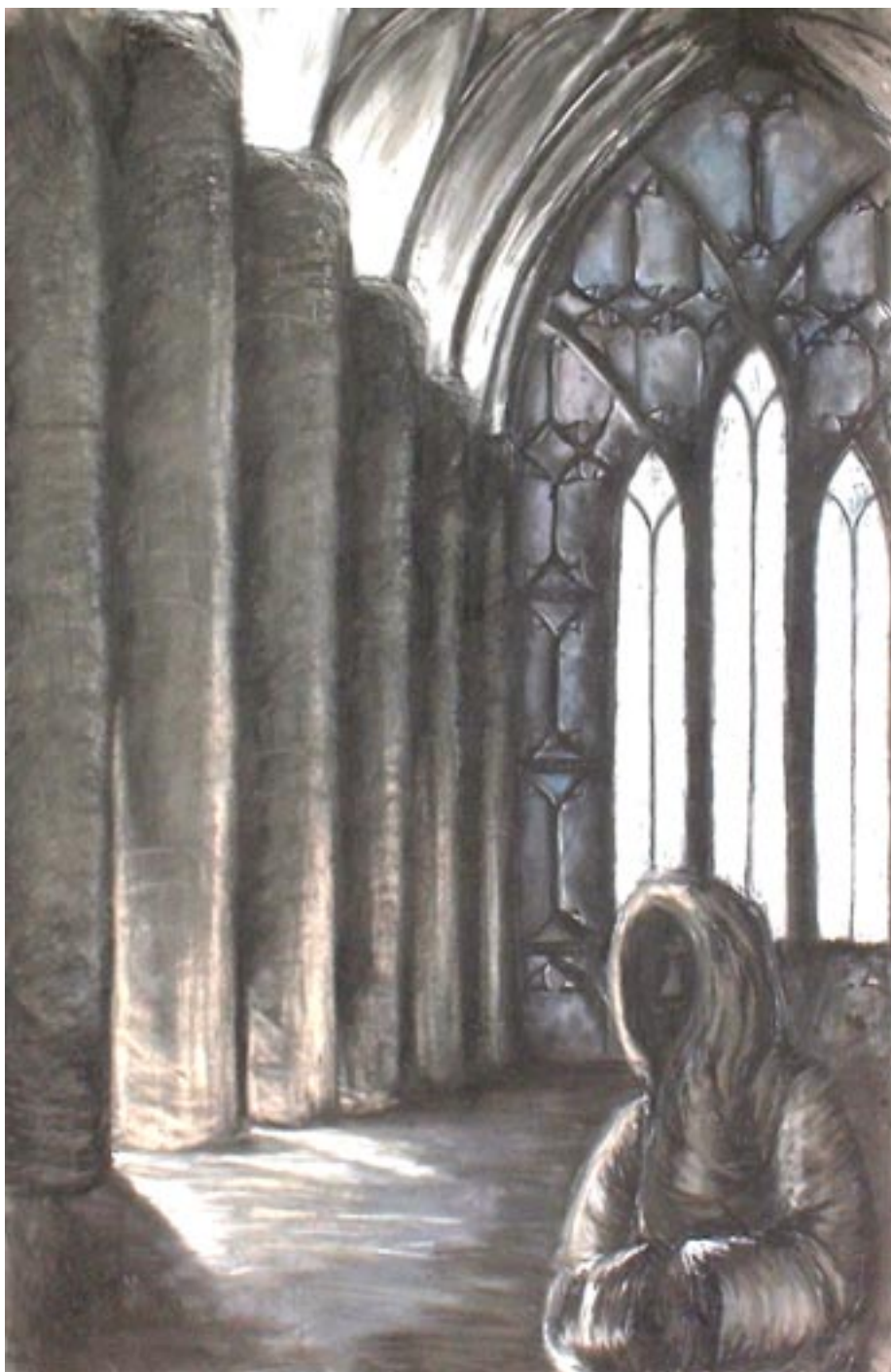


The Richian

2003

Official Magazine
of
Sir Thomas Rich's Grammar
School







**School Captains Tom Moseling & Katy Winter
With the School Observators, Head & Deputy Head of Sixth Form
Mr Seales & Mrs Cormack-Hicks**



Editor's Pre-ambleWell, it's that time of year again. Autumn Term nearly half gone, rushing heedless and headlong towards the season of frolics and festivities we mistakenly interpret as Christmas - another deadline with the printers rapidly looming large and David Hook still stuffing Old Richian news snippets through my letter box : "Just a couple more .. it's not too late yet, is it?"

Proofing copy strewn about my feet like fallen autumn leaves I pause for a moment to ponder the content of these pages and the sheer magnitude of human endeavour and achievement they represent. And this is just one year in the life of a community which reaches far beyond the artificial boundaries of classroom walls and school gates.

To depict the helter-skelter of daily life at Rich's is a nigh on impossible task but I trust I have managed to distil the essence of what it means to be a young Richian at school and the opportunities and successes of the year just past.

This year has seen great upheaval in the world, with violence and discord seemingly the norm for many, many people. The issues surrounding the Iraq invasion and overthrow of Saddam Hussein have proved a major topic of debate and discussion, many of our students grappling with and facing the moral issues raised by the conflict.

Another conflict, this time political, is about to erupt on our doorstep concerning the future direction of education in the City of Gloucester and its impact on STRS - more of that overleaf.

The positive ethos of the school and the expectations of our dedicated staff take learning beyond the mere academic. Our students are not afraid to meet challenges head on and see them through. In a world narrowed by prejudice and made complacent by apathy, they are open to face and take on new challenges; they are critical of received 'wisdom' and popular beliefs, thinking for themselves and making their own judgements; they are confident in what they do and that what they do can make a positive contribution - a real difference.

Is this not the real essence of education?

PB October 2003

STOP PRESS!!

October 2003

The LEA has just announced its 'Educational Review' promising to permanently alter the face of secondary education in the county but seemingly focusing much of its planning for change on the city schools in Gloucester. There are several options and possibilities - nearly all of which affect the future well-being of Sir Thomas Rich's school and would radically and irrevocably alter the successful ethos of our school, if not destroy it altogether.

The educational argument for change is the underachievement of a sizable percentage of pupils in the city - but surely instead of damaging those successful institutions such as Rich's, the LEA should be asking why pupils elsewhere are underachieving expectations and devote more resources at the points of contact with those pupils?

With a declared implementation date of 2005 I think that the die is already cast and the 'consultation and review' period is just a smoke screen of mis-information and spin - just as the recent 'reviews' over the special schools proved to be. The bottom line is as always money. A short term decline in pupil numbers (meaning less funding from central government) and the need to find cash to support 'other projects' are the economic reasons for change. And as we all know financial reasons always override any other considerations, no matter what the politicians tell us.

Instead of taking the short-sighted, financially driven option - in which no doubt somebody will be deriving a lot of personal wealth - let us use the opportunity of falling numbers to put right the underachievement and poor reputations by focusing pro rata more teachers, time and resources where they are really needed. Struggling pupils need more time and help to overcome their difficulties - more care and support. We could give them that by careful planning and use of what is already available.

And what of the National Curriculum itself? And the emphasis on assessment targets and testing? Academic hoops we make our children jump through to determine their worth. Resulting league tables of academic achievement that polarise rather than harmonise. Perhaps we all need to have a hard look at the reasons and motives behind education itself?

Time will only tell - but to just "wait and see" may be the biggest and most apathetic blunder any true Richian or supporter of this superb school of ours could ever make.

So what is it that makes STRS so special and unique? Take a trip through the pages of this magazine - each one provides a snapshot view into the vibrant daily life of the school community. Life enhancing experiences at every fresh turn. But don't take my word for it - ask the students themselves! After all, it's their future that is being threatened. **Ed**



Headmaster's Annual Summary Academic Year 2002-2003



The school year 2002/2003 saw a vast range of activity and achievement. We are indeed fortunate to have staff who are prepared to commit untold additional hours to broadening the educational opportunities we provide and pupils who are keen to take part and hence experience and benefit from them.

For a change I shall start with the examination results, which were as impressive as ever and a credit to our teachers and students. At GCSE everyone gained at least eight passes at grade C and above, indeed 43 of our 108 Year 11 boys each passed eight or more subjects at grades A or A*, and well over half of all grades were A or A*. The pass rate at AS level was 97.4% with 54% being at grades A and B. The average number of A-levels passed per candidate was 4.1 with 66% of grades being A or B. *The Independent* and *The Guardian* both ranked Sir Thomas Rich's examination results as 22nd in the country.

However these results are not simply the result of good teaching and pupils' hard work, nor are they the sole aim of the school. They are the culmination of an astounding diversity of curricular and extra-curricular activity. As examples of the rich variety, residential visits took place in Shropshire (Yr8 ICT), Stratford (Yr7 Induction), Snowdon (Geography), Antrim (Geology), Chester (Art), Mallaig (Railway Society), South Wales (Leadership Training), Oxford (Master Classes), Dartmoor (Explorer Scouts) as well as Duke of Edinburgh expedition overnight camps. Our language students took part in exchanges to Annecy, Trier and Göttingen, undertook work experience in Aachen and Brittany, and spent ten days in Spain. Day visits to all corners of the land enriched subject teaching and extra-curricular life.

Some of the highlights? The Year 8 Arts Experience in July culminated in an impressive variety of performances. Anne Fine's *The Book of*

The Banshee was the innovative school musical, the Junior Drama group performed *The Pardoner's Tale*. Sport England presented us with their "Sportsmark Award", which ended a year of success in many fields, for example the U13 rugby team was undefeated, in soccer our U19 team got to the final of the County Cup and the U12 and U13 XIs both won their City Cup finals, the U12 and U15 cricketers won their City Cup finals, indeed the U12s were undefeated all season and progress to the national rounds of the Calypso Cup next year. The instrumental concerts were as varied and enjoyable as ever, the choir and orchestra performed Parry's *I Was Glad* and Britten's *St. Nicolas* in their May concert. The Cock House competition proved one of the closest ever. The school's facilities continued to develop, with the completion of the new Design & Technology Design Suite in December.

A fascinating development in 2002/3 was the establishment of a link with PMM Girls' School in Jinja, Uganda. Mr Seales and Mr Crewe spent ten days in Jinja at Easter and we hosted PMM's Headmistress and ICT Teacher in July. As a practical way of commemorating our Foundation by Sir Thomas Rich, whose 1666 legacy provided for the education of "20 poor boys", pupils organised fund-raising events to pay for the education of 20 girls at PMM school - their magnificent efforts succeeded in collecting over £4,000.

A year in the life of Sir Thomas Rich's cannot possibly be described in one short article - 'The Richian' is an attempt to give a fuller flavour. However I am delighted that the school continues to provide not only teaching of the highest quality leading to excellent examination results but also a wealth of opportunities to ensure that our pupils receive a broad education in the fullest sense.

Garde Ta Foy!

I L Kellie

STRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTR

I have included more original work by the students in this year's edition - for that I am grateful to the contributors but can always accommodate more! So rather than start with the usual reviews of each term's activities, here are a few items of original work



The Rucksack

I am the rucksack.
I sit on peoples' shoulders.

I climb so high.
It looks so scary,
Hope I don't fall.

I get full of books,
Don't forget my goodies for lunch.
People think I'm cruel
Because I hurt their shoulders.

Children chuck me down,
Like I'm some rubbish.
They should show more respect,
They couldn't live without me.

I go through all weathers.
I get used for goalposts.

When I'm full,
People try to cram things in.
It feels like I'm going to explode!

I am the rucksack.
I sit on peoples' shoulders.

Aaron Beard
75

The Locker

I am a locker,
A metal casket, a tomb in which
Secrets are sealed.

The children smash me, bash me,
They ram that hellish demon of a
razorblade
Into my squeaky clean hole,
No one respects the locker.

I am a slave to the human race,
Having junk forced into my
mouth.

I keep their smelly rugby boots,
Not able to spit them out.

But once I am locked, no one else
can enter

To see what lies within;
I may hold forbidden secrets,
prized possessions,
To see them though you must get
past me
The gatekeeper.

I am the locker,
A metal casket, a tomb in which
Secrets are sealed.

Greg Lamb
75

The Filing Cabinet

I am the filing cabinet,
I contain all the most important things.

My drawers are shiny grey,
My handles are neat and clean,
My sides are splattered with ink,
My back is lined by cobwebs.

Inside my cavernous belly
Is stored all the children's records,
Inside my cavernous belly
Is held all the teachers' notes,
I retain secrets long forgotten.

The things I hold,
The long history of the school,
The wise thoughts of the headmaster,
The evil sins of the pupils in detention,
The achievements of the smartest scholars.

All the life around me
Rushes about each busy day,
While I spend all my years
Steadfast and static by my wall.

Teachers' drawers and shelves
Are scattered about the school,
But my appetite is the greatest,
My knowledge is superior,
I am the champion storer.

I am the filing cabinet,
I store all things.

James Wilkinson 75

The academic year started in September 2003 with improved Art and D&T facilities. The old Art rooms received a face-lift leaving them mauve and fresh, albeit lacking the planned office.

As part of the development for D&T, a new Design Suite extended their facilities, complete with networked computer workstations and CAD/CAM software. The main workshop also benefited from a new layout and workbenches, although many-an eyebrow was raised over the disposal of the existing workwork benches - consigned to a fiery cremation on the school playing fields!

Steve Hancock, the Head of D&T, takes up the story



Developments in D&T

The new academic year 2003/4 started in turmoil. The building work which was due to be completed was running late [as usual] so when we returned in September whilst most staff were preparing for the new year we were simply trying to get the workshop into a habitable state to

receive students on the first day of term.

We had to get the rooms into a state to enable us to teach all our lessons in the workshop without the luxury of a design room. We struggled through the autumn term with noise, dust and the occasional swearing builder!

The completion date for the new rooms gradually regressed closer and closer to Christmas! The examination groups managed to continue their folder work, despite the difficulties of working in the workshop environment, fortunately the new benches provided a reasonable surface to work on as little practical work had been taking place on them.



One end of the workshop



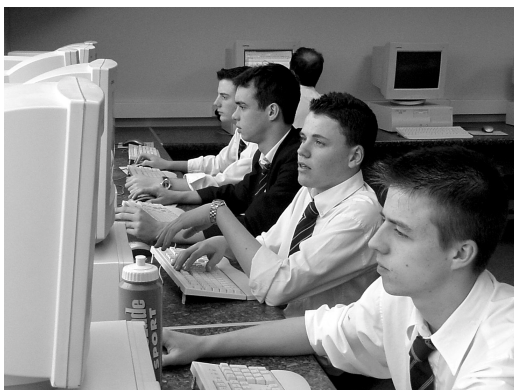
..... and the other!!



November - the new room nears completion!

January finally sees us move into the new room. New tables and chairs provide an excellent facility for the students but the main aim of the new room was to provide computer aided design and computer aided manufacturing facilities. With this in mind new side benching was installed and soon after ten new PCs linked to the school network. This was the beginning of a new era within D&T. Students of all ages could now use these facilities in a vast range of ways to help support their Design & Technology work.

Students were now able to research much more easily through a range of network software database packages and the internet. They can present their thoughts, ideas and views in a clear and up to date manner using a variety of word processing, spreadsheet, DTP as well as other presentation techniques. Graphic packages enhance the quality of the drawing work that the students have to do for their folders and examination portfolios. They are also able to design and develop their ideas using CAD software such as Pro Desk Top, a powerful Computer Aided Design package as used in industry.



As usual, the examination course students produced a broad and varied range of products in support of their coursework. In year 11, we had projects ranging from a carrot observation bird box/plant pot holder to a pencil shaped waste bin for a primary school. In year 12, some top quality projects ranging from furniture, children's play equipment and storage devices. Year 13 surpassed this with computer desks, storage devices, art work stations and even an educational guitar.



Year 11 GCSE Projects

The system also provides excellent teaching resources to help students with their examination coursework and exam preparation and revision, with the internet providing excellent resources such as those provided by wonderfully named web sites such as "Hognose Sam". These resources became widely used by students in the run up to exams in May and June.

Throughout the year, all year 7 students have been trained in the basic use of the Pro DeskTop CAD software, which they are then able to use in their project work to draw their design ideas and convert these directly into working [Orthographic] drawings. Students in years 8 and 9 have also had introductory lessons into the use of Pro DeskTop and successfully incorporated this work into their projects.

As we approach the end of this academic year, phase two of our development sees the installation of ten more PCs in the room. This will make the facilities far more useful for all students studying D&T. It gives us the opportunity to teach new courses, and new courses are being developed ready for next year.

And the future? We are hoping to get sufficient financial support to be able to purchase CNC/CAM [Computer Numerical Control/Computer Aided Manufacturing] equipment. This will then enable us to mirror what is happening in the real world of product design and manufacture, where students will be able to design and make using the schools own ICT facilities, combining these new skills with the traditional craft skills learned previously.

Year 13 'A' Level Projects





This emblem is that of the Parvatiben Muljibhai Madhvani Girls' School, in Jinja, Uganda. Through a contact of Mike Seales the idea of us linking up with and supporting this school was first mooted early back in 2002. For some while the relevance of the traditional Founder's Day service had been questioned and a more appropriate celebration of the school's founding benefactor was being sought.

It seemed logical to somehow combine the two

New Focus for Founder's Day Celebration will raise money for Ugandan Link School

Our plans to celebrate the school's foundation in 1666 took a new turn in 2003.

In the future a series of events will be scheduled for the end of term around March/April, and will include:

showing our Year 7 pupils the sites where the school started (St John's Northgate, the Cathedral, the Guildhall and The Old School House) and explaining their significance;

a week of assemblies in which aspects of the school's history will be explained;

fund-raising to support our link with the Parvatiben Muljibhai Madhvani Girls' School, in Jinja, Uganda.

The idea behind the latter is that our pupils should be more actively involved in doing something to commemorate the school's foundation. The school was founded in the Will of Sir Thomas Rich, made on 16th May 1666. In this he bequeathed to the Mayor and Council of Gloucester "the sum of six thousand pounds to be disbursed by them in purchasing land that shall be of the yearly value of three hundred pounds or upwards", which was to be spent on "the yearly maintenance for ever of twenty poor boys with diet, lodging, washing, clothing and other necessities in blue coats and caps" and an annual payment to "an honest, able schoolmaster" who was to reside in the Hospital and teach the boys to write and read. It seems appropriate that, in the spirit of Sir Thomas Rich's generosity, we emulate his benevolence by raising funds to enable twenty poor children to receive an education. In the UK education up to the age of 16 is compulsory and free - however that is not the case in Uganda. We would like to provide funding which will allow twenty children to go to our link school who would otherwise not be able to do so.

We estimate that we would need to raise the equivalent of between £12 and £15 per month per child. The intention is to receive reports of the children so that our pupils can see the benefits of their activity. Possibilities of exchanges/visits also exist.

During 2003 we set about the process of finding out more about the Ugandan school - Mr Seales and Mr Crewe spent two weeks there before Easter and we hosted the Headmistress Petronella Lujwala and the Head of ICT & Physics Ben Ligwale during the final 2 weeks of term in July. Both were very rewarding experiences for the participants and with the news that our pupils had responded magnificently and raised well over £3500 by the time the summer holidays came around, we were able to declare the Link between both schools well and truly forged!

Founder's Trail

Year 7 pupils spent a Wednesday morning in Gloucester exploring the school's history.

They started in St John's Northgate, site of Sir Thomas Rich's baptism, visited the Guildhall where The Blue Coat Hospital opened in 1668 and The Old School House (all that remains of the Barton Street school) as well as the Cathedral, the Docks and locations around Gloucester.

The morning enabled pupils to see how the school developed in the context of discovering something of Gloucester's history.



Mr Pilbeam addresses Year 7 in St John's Church

The visit took place 39 years to the day after the school moved to our present buildings.

A special thank you to Mr A S Pilbeam for all his hard work in researching and planning the Trail and also for starting the morning by giving pupils an insight into the foundation of their school.



Jaz White inspects the silverware in the Cathedral's Treasury while members of 7B celebrate finding the next Rich's related plaque on the Founders Trail



Follow the Founders Trail at www.strs.org.uk

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Starting with a lively visit by the New Life Band from Tanzania in October and culminating in Africa Week in July, Africa became a recurring theme for many activities during the school year.

What follows is a brief kaleidoscope of these events - some being extracts from fuller articles on the school website: www.strs.org.uk



New Life Band from Tanzania

The Tanzanian Dance and Drum Band "New Life" brought a refreshing blast of African rhythm, movement and song to the school assembly stage. Several members of staff joined selected pupils to dance to the New Life rhythms, much to the delight of colleagues and students alike!



During their 10 week tour, the Band have visited schools and churches in Gloucestershire. As well as giving concerts, they have taken part in church services, school assemblies and been involved in school lessons. The seven members of the Band speak excellent English in addition to their native Swahili, and their music is traditional African rhythm, played on drums with singing and dancing.

Organised through the good auspices of parent Mr Denley and the Emmanuel Church in Cheltenham, the band members also spent the rest of the morning talking and working with several classes.

Areas of focus included -

Talk about differences between Britain and Tanzania; conditions of housing and work; the area from where the group comes; historical background; (*Geography & History*)

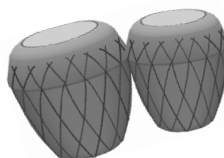
The rhythm of their music and how it can be used in poetry; culture and traditions; (*English*)

Beliefs, Vision and Mission; use of music in their Christian ministry in Tanzania and abroad; (*Religious Education*)

Musical traditions of Tanzania & East Africa; different styles; playing methods and descriptions of their instruments; chances to join in. (*Music*)



Warming the Drums



Yemesirik (Lentil Stew) - Ethiopia

Funkaso (Millet pancakes) - Nigeria

Nshima (Corn/maize meal porridge) - Zambia

Nhopi (corn/maize meal with pumpkin) - Zimbabwe

Citizenship Day - Year 10

Thanks to some excellent organisational skills by Mrs Arnold, Year 10 were treated to a series of eight lectures and workshops in this information packed Citizenship Day.

Topics ranged from personal finance, Trading Standards, the wider role of the Army in today's world, Energy & Sustainability, Global Food Issues; the latter proving a popular workshop during which students cooked some of the staple foods from around the world, many from African countries.

Founder's Week - Fundraising for Uganda Link School

The first week in April saw a frantic series of fundraising events which admirably augmented the charity fund for our partner school in Jinja Uganda. The aim was to raise £3500 which would enable 20 children to gain an education who would otherwise not do so, emulating Sir Thomas Rich's philosophy when he founded our school.

Headmaster Mr Kellie wrote in the April newsletter -

"I have been delighted and impressed by the ingenuity and energy of pupils in devising schemes for raising money and the enthusiasm with which they have organised events."

The events staged included: a cake sale, penalty shoot-out competition, Junior Drama Club staged 'A Pardoner's Tale', James White (7B) was sponsored to stand all day, a Bring-&-Buy sale, Shave the Teacher, Free Dress Day, No Homework Day, Uganda Quiz, the choir being sponsored to sing all of Psalm 119, Rock Concert, indoor cricket, 7-a-side rugby, Music Fair. Previous to these the Sixth Form had put on a Fashion Show, about which Sarah Thurlow writes:



Cake Sale - Very Popular!

We began the Show fifteen minutes late; not, unusually, due to technical difficulties (thanks to Richard Parker, Toby Stewart and Alasdair Burchill) but due to the overwhelming response of the public who kept flooding in through the door! The reason - to see over fifty Tommies lads and lasses dressed up, strutting their stuff as models to help raise money for our newly forged link school in Uganda.

It obviously worked - although much of it came together on the final day, with myself and Andrew Adams, as the evening's compères, frantically writing our scripts as we saw the clothes, and the section leaders - Nick Day, Martyn Adlam, James Williams,



Penalty Shoot Out!

James Farley and Shelley Portlock, Kait Gazzard and Sascha Kerkof - all worked hard to organise and choreograph their aspiring 'models'. We had everything from skateboards flying across the stage, to full bridal wear and ballroom dancing, thanks to a variety of clothes lent to us by our sponsors : D2, Top-2-Toe, Marks & Spencer, Horace Barton, Chanticleer and Hargraves Sport.

Everyone enjoyed themselves and by the end of the evening we had raised about £400!



Sarah Thurlow

Mr Seales' Uganda Diary

DAY 1

Travel weary and after a long drive from Entebbe to Jinja, we arrive at PMM Girls' School. The school is about 500 strong, age range 14-18. School assembly had been delayed to await our arrival. The girls gather in the open air and greet us with evident enthusiasm.

The assembly then takes on a familiar pattern and school uniform, classroom tidiness, hair styles are all agenda items. No punches are pulled, it's name and shame. I must say that my first impression was that the girls were very well presented in their neatly pressed white blouses and green or maroon skirts, depending on age.

We very soon receive our weekly programme and it is made clear by the Headmistress that she would be delighted if we were able to sponsor some of her girls. Many find it a great struggle to pay the fees, equivalent to about £200 per year, and thus are forced to drop out of school. The girls, incidentally, are bilingual, but the language of education is English. It is against the school rules to speak in their local language.

The school day starts with lessons at 8.00am, often ends with games/activities which finish around 5.00ish. GEC and I take part in a volleyball game [the school has only one volleyball]. In its simple way, this proved to be one of the highlights of our time here.



School Assembly - Open Air Style

The girls were absolutely glowing, radiant, enthusiastic; laughing heartily with each other. It was, in short, a wonderful, joyful, priceless celebration of our common humanity.

Only later in the day am I able to catch my breath and make some jottings on the amazing array of sights and sounds which we have encountered today. Take the scorching heat for granted.



Volleyball at the end of a school day

Colourful open air markets with goods laid on the ground; pot-holed roads, cyclists pushing their goods-burdened bikes up hills too steep to ride; women toiling in the fields in the burning sun or walking along roadsides with baskets skilfully balanced on their heads; the plethora of roadside shops selling a seemingly infinite variety of wares - food and drink, sofas, beds, iron gates, coffins. I should not neglect to mention the boda-boda men. These are taxi cyclists who ply their trade around Jinja, you simply sit on a comfortable seat positioned above the rear wheel. There are many of them so market forces keep prices low: the ride from the guest house to town cost 500 shillings, about 17p. I did hear that some boda-boda charge according to passenger weight, which seems fair enough to me.

How can a country with such high average temperatures and so little rain be so beautifully green?

DAY 2

Our morning is spent on a tour of several subject departments. It soon becomes clear that resources are both very scarce and often very old. One book between three is not uncommon, teachers sometimes dictate notes and many classes contain between 40 and 50 children who are attentive and very well behaved generally. The girls study a two year course to "O" level and a further two years to "A" level. We are able to obtain some recent exam papers which make interesting reading, not least the Economics ones. It turns out that the biologists still do dissection, I wonder whether this is still the case in England. Cockroaches [rather bigger than ours!] toads and rats all come under the knife.

As we wander around the school we find maxims on notice boards : "To fail to try is to try to fail." At the end of our tour we wonder how the school can achieve so much with so little. It certainly puts into perspective the debates at home about class sizes and resources. The school is operating with books we would long ago have got rid of and I'm left feeling that if we can arrange reliable transport, there will be plenty of material that PMM would be delighted to receive from us.

DAY 3

In the morning we visit Jinja market with Dorothy and Richard. Dorothy seems to know half the population of Uganda's second city and is greeted warmly by many as we proceed. She proves a tough negotiator as we attempt to buy some gifts, telling stall holders that she will return if they give her a good deal. As all of this is done in the

vernacular, Richard occasionally explains what is going on. The market itself is huge and rambling, selling a very wide range of exotic and not so exotic fruit and vegetables as well as poultry [pick your live bird] and hardware. “Snappy” Crewe is in his element, but not all stall holders are mad keen to be photographed. I hope the shots develop well, after all we risked our skins to get them.

While walking through the streets of Jinja we come across a patch of ground on which millet is drying out in the sun. This will eventually be made into malwa [beer] by Ugandan women. The strength of the brew depends on local taste. This proves an interesting example of the informal economy at work.



Dry roasting the millet for the local brew!

We have lunch at Jinja sailing club, which is pleasant, but not as grand as you might be thinking. We are right on the edge of Lake Victoria and there is a bizarre notice about crocodiles not swimming here. I wonder, who's going to stop them? A short distance away is a fish quay and adjacent to it a series of huts occupied by charcoal makers. They are desperately poor, abjectly so. I wonder how long it would take them to earn the price of lunch at the sailing club, which for us was perfectly reasonable.



Main Street - Jinja

DAY 4

GEC comes into his own today. We spend the morning, or at least he does, in the computer room teaching both staff and pupils alike. It turns out there are 10 computers for 200 students reading computing. Still, he likes a challenge. It transpires that the computer room is also the library and so I'm able to do a bit of impromptu economics teaching. A few students are wrestling with economic growth and the principles of supply and demand. Great, a chance to join in. Pity about their text books which are ancient.

The Headmistress I had expected to meet at PMM had been transferred to another school. She would have no control over this. This afternoon we travel into the hills to meet Proscovia Mpabulungi in her new domain, a girls' boarding school at which she, herself, was educated. She often shares her breakfast with the monkeys which invade the compound. She greets us warmly, gives us a tour of the school and shares with us one of the best anecdotes of the trip. As we make our way towards the school pond she explains that, in her school days, it had a particular significance. "Girls who shouted out in prep were made to stand by the pond - in the dark." Work it out for yourself and never complain about school detention again.

Proscovia asks if we can help her find a link for her new place, Wanjange Girls' School. We will try our best.

Driving back to the guest house we see girls from PMM carrying gerry cans of water at 6.45pm [this is after a school day lasting from 8.00am-5.00pm] We soon learn why. The notice board at the guest house states simply: "sorry, no water." At least we can avail ourselves of the outside shower, most Ugandans have no such luxury. "Water is life." Never have I felt this so acutely.

GEC and I sit down for an evening meal at the "Triangle" close to the guest house when a young white man approaches me and says, "Aren't you Mr Seales?" He turns out to be Ollie Dobbins, an Old Richian, out here on a geography field trip with Gloucestershire University. He has heard of our visit from a current year 11 boy at Rich's. Further conversation reveals that one of the uni staff, Jayne Roberts, has expertise in transporting goods out here. I think this might be the same lady mentioned to MCH by a current Rich's parent. A contact to cultivate.

DAY 5

I awake with a distinctly dodgy tummy: no fruit for breakfast. This is House Drama day which I have described separately. It's a case of soldiering on. Still no water at the guest house, but I am able to use the outside shower: indescribable joy!

Over the evening meal another illustration of the "global village." We meet a man who knows the Godwin family really well - Will Godwin was School Captain a few years ago. I judge dinner unwise, but enjoy a few drinks. We are joined by Henry, a gapper, who calmly informs us over his egg and chips that he has malaria. Fortunately, it hasn't suppressed his appetite.

DAY 6

A bad night. Amin's revenge has taken full control. White water rafting clearly unwise - impossible. GEC goes off with the Gloucester Uni. crew. I manage tea and toast for breakfast before doing a little hand washing with water drawn from the well in the garden.



Mike Seales with his hosts Ben Ligwale & Petronella Lujwala

Malarial Henry then emerges, keeping up his spirits with tea and peanut buttered toast. He has suffered a bad night of the most vivid “larium dreams.”

Amin’s revenge is enervating so much sleep and lounging around.

From bad to worse: Newcastle 2 Man Utd 6 and later a text message, Gloucester 25 Newcastle 23. Woe, woe and thrice woe. Try, through gritted teeth, to be magnanimous in defeat.

DAY 7

I was woken in the night by the pouring tropical rain, but get up to find little evidence of it. The rafters are watching the video. Amazing. GEC is in his element [if you see what I mean] I hope we can incorporate some of this footage into our video. Mind you, nothing is without cost, his legs are the colour of Ugandan earth.

In the afternoon I sit in the guest house garden watching the Gloucester geographers practise their role in a “cultural extravaganza.” They are good sports, sorting themselves by height for their rendition of “Heads and Shoulders, Knees and Toes.” Their performance was also to include the “Hokey Kokey.” Wish I’d been there.

DAY 8

To Makereri University, Uganda’s Cambridge. Highly selective, the place has nicely laid out lawns and an atmosphere of serenity.

We move on to visit the tombs of the former kings of Buganda, one of Uganda’s old kingdoms. One particular king, we are told, had 84 wives. Such bravery.

Next stop is the Entebbe Nature Reserve, at which we seem the only visitors until we encounter a troop of small children. The reserve contains the remarkable shoebill stork which resembles a creature from the age of dinosaurs. We suddenly make a left turn to find that the park borders a beautiful golf course. We stare towards the green with the tree-lined fairway beyond. The Bursar would be in his element.

DAY 9

I meet a lady from Bristol Cathedral School, Sarah Pearce, who tells me of TOFTA educational trust. She suggests that they might be helpful in selecting students for sponsorship. I will e-mail the director.

On arrival at school, I'm met by Johnson who tells me of his plans for environmental education at PMM. He's a real man of action as his impact on the compound and the creation of a garden [small holding!] show.

Next stop a meeting with Genevieve and Nelson of the Fine Art department. GEC and I admire some work only to be told that it's not up to exam standard. Oops! GEC asks the staff to explain on camera, which they do with great aplomb. They go on to explain the many uses of gourds, which, incidentally, Johnson grows in the garden. Weird, but interesting things.

In the afternoon we set off to visit the father of Proscovia Mpabulungi, our original link Headmistress. His welcome is truly overwhelming even by Ugandan standards. Oranges are fresh picked from the garden and mixed with passion fruit to make a wonderful refresher. A retired man of substance, his 11 children all have master's degrees and one is currently Minister for Power. A picture of him hangs proudly in the sitting room. He shows us his biogas system, recycling cow dung and saving on electricity. Despite their lands and cattle, he and his wife still live on the edge of a village.

This wonderful gentleman is one of the very few old people we have met in Uganda. I wonder what the country's population pyramid looks like? Sadly, I don't need to wonder at all.

Jerome drives us back through villages where utterly grinding poverty is evident. Yet somehow girls and boys from here turn up to school in uniform every day. How can this be? This was, I think, the most telling part of the whole adventure and reminds me, brutally, of exactly why we are here. Our efforts can make a difference, I've seen it with my own eyes.

A final evening meal with invited guests, including three current Headteachers. This proved a fitting finale. Dowdie, my original contact in Bristol, and now Head at Kiira college is among our gathering. We talk of our hopes for the future and Dowdie makes a brief speech [Ugandans love the formalities] in which he expresses his wish that we will come to achieve a deep understanding of Ugandan culture. I think, over time, we will. The benefits for PMM are more obviously material.

We receive a variety of gifts. Why is it that those who have so little are often the most ready to share what they have?

And so we have come full circle, from a meeting at a Bristol eatery to a restaurant on the shores of Lake Victoria [the eatery was more expensive, incidentally] in ten months. A link established, new friendships made, unforgettable memories, hopes for the future.

The end of the beginning.



Africa Week

7th - 14th July 2003

Following the very successful visit by Mr Seales and Mr Crewe to Uganda earlier in the year we were delighted to welcome to STRS our Ugandan visitors Mrs Petronella Lujwala (Headmistress) and Mr Ben Ligwale (Head of Physics and ICT). Familiarisation with the English school system, lesson observation and curriculum planning, although important components of their visit, were not allowed to dominate their days. Excursions to places of local interest and visits to concerts and the theatre ensured an action-packed week. The good humour and friendliness of our visitors have made a lasting impression on us all and we look forward to furthering our link with the PMM School in Jinja, which has certainly been strengthened by this visit.

To coincide with this visit a number of activities were organised to enable pupils to enjoy the richness of African culture and to understand some of the issues which face Africa today.

Visit by Martin Parks from Christian Aid

Martin was able during the course of the day to visit a number of classes and speak of the problems which confront Uganda and other African countries today.

The problem of debt as an obstacle to progress was discussed. Developing countries borrowed huge sums of money in the Sixties and Seventies to build hospitals and schools. High interest rates have resulted in an increase in the debt to approximately 10 times the original amount. As Africa struggles to deal with the debt it is hampered by unfair World Trade rules, which benefit the richer countries whilst "ripping off" the poorest people. 80% of what we use comes from developing countries.

HIV is a dire problem in Africa. 28m Africans have HIV. (40m people worldwide have AIDS). Education as a means of tackling the epidemic is of extreme importance. Progress has been made - the infection rate in Uganda has dropped by around 14%.

We were encouraged by Martin to balance our picture of Africa with a celebration of its "wealth"- its diverse people, languages, culture, scenery and wildlife.



Staff with trays of chocolate for pupils to sample

"Chocolate" by the Fairgame Theatre Company

Year 7 and 8 pupils had the opportunity to watch this highly entertaining but thought-provoking drama into the suffering and poverty caused by unfair trade. The setting for the scene was the Ivory Coast. 43% of the world's chocolate originates from here. Whilst prices paid to the farmer have dropped the price of chocolate has risen, thus ensuring increasingly high profits for large companies.

The drama featured the fictitious "Inter-choc factory". The wealthy director and his wife enjoy all the trappings of the high life but increasingly the wife becomes aware of the cost of this life style - slave labour, kidnappings, empty

promises of well-paid work, beatings - and pays a detective to investigate. His findings confirm her worst fears. The play ends with the poignant and symbolic suicide of a slave. Trapped in slavery with no hope for the future suicide represented the only choice available to her, the only escape.

We can, however, do something to improve the situation. Fair Trade goods ensure that farmers are offered a fair price for their products. By buying these we offer hope for an eventual end to this exploitative practice. Supermarkets are increasingly stocking fair-trade products. To encourage pupils to buy these they were able to sample some fair trade chocolate.

Fair Trade Tuck Shop



8T took up this theme and set up a fair trade tuck shop, selling a staggering £200 worth of fair-trade products during the week. On offer were tea, coffee, chocolate, biscuits, pineapples and confectionery.

Swahili

Africa boasts a wealth of languages and dialects. We were very fortunate to invite Leopold Chaligra from Tanzania to the school to give us a taste of “Swahili”.

The Swahili language is basically of Bantu origin. Some scholars attribute the formation of the Swahili culture and language to the intercourse of African and Asiatic people on the coast of East Africa. The word Swahili, meaning coast, was used by early Arab visitors to the coast and was ultimately applied to the people and language. For centuries Swahili remained as the language for the people of the East African coast. Trade and migration from the Swahili coast during the nineteenth century helped to spread the



Leopold Chaligra & the Swahili class

language to Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Congo, Central African Republic and Mozambique.

Today Swahili is spoken by an estimated 50 million people and after Arabic is the most widely understood language in Africa.

The ambitious taster lesson included a brief history of Swahili, a guide to its vocabulary, pronunciation, greetings, a song and grammar! The enthusiastic approach was much appreciated and whetted our appetite to learn more.

Local Food

Year 9 pupils investigated food grown in Uganda and produced some interesting dishes.



*Yote ni sawasawa sasa
Asante sana kwa msaada wako*

African Drumming

A week which set out to focus on Africa would not be complete without African Drumming. Drum Crazy was able to provide the expertise. Expertly guided by John, the facilitator, the gym reverberated with the sound of African drums. In the course of the day over 100 pupils and some staff were able to beat out the rhythms.



**J
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Year 8 Arts Experience Week - “African Impressions”

The fifth annual Year 8 arts experience week proved to be just as important and enjoyable as its predecessors. It provides a whole year group with the opportunity to become involved in the arts for a short, but in-depth period, giving them memorable experiences not possible in the normal timetable. It also provides a focus at the end of the summer term for both staff and students alike, and guarantees that the year ends with a bang!

This year's theme was inspired by the school's recent link with the PMM Girls' School in Uganda. For 3 whole days all of the Year 8 students were involved in designated art workshops which culminated in a stage performance to parents and peers. Movement, Drama, Music, Dance, Film, Art - all provided elements for this colourful and exciting presentation. Sixth former Ruth Hill was on hand throughout to provide the following report and photographs.

The arts week this year ended with a performance of drama, dance and music - props, clothing, colourful backdrops, posters, concert programme design and even some of the instruments being made by the art students. They were shown new techniques such as Batik, dying of textiles, plaster moulding and block printing.

Mrs Spilsbury taught her group an African Gumboot dance, provided with an introduction about how the dance originated in the African mines. This dance was taught at first by listening to Queen's “We Will Rock You” to provide a strong beat, and ended up being performed with an African song used in the Gumboot show.

The drama that followed was in quieter contrast than the dance! Mrs Stanley's group provided a poem about arriving in Heathrow, and an African village tale. The poem was dramatised with attractions to help illustrate the points while the whole group repeated the poem. The drama piece was about a hole which appeared in a road at an African tourist spot where the locals increased their earnings by taking cars across the hole. This play was added to by the use of imagination, instead of using a large number of props.

The other drama group, led by Mrs Briscoe, introduced the audience to the African Creation Myth, Waloube and Buramu. The drama centred on a tale about a family. It involved a battle and family issues such as death. The costumes were provided by the art students who made a variety of colourful and unusual masks as well as batik patterned and block-printed capes.





Mr Lewis screened a film made and produced by his group. It was shot around the school, including in the memorial gardens; this was possible due to the good weather during the week. The film involved the use of guns and traditional tribal weapons, some of which were made by the students. It portrayed the history of mishaps in Africa and their legacy, war and famine and the effects on Africans today.

The musicians provided three percussion pieces. Music also brought the performance to an end with the whole year singing two songs - Bebethandaza & Siya hambe - accompanied by some percussion. It's amazing how powerful and infectious the beat of African music can be!

After watching the different stages of this week, I was impressed by the sheer hard work put in by the teachers and the whole of Year 8, to provide a week full of involvement, learning and activity as well as a highly entertaining performance.

The 'Arts Team'

John from Dram Crazy

Mr Pickard

Mrs Stanley

Mrs Spilsbury

Mrs Briscoe

Mr Lewis

Mrs Roberts

Mrs Gormack-Hicks

Mr Lockey



Hakura Matata

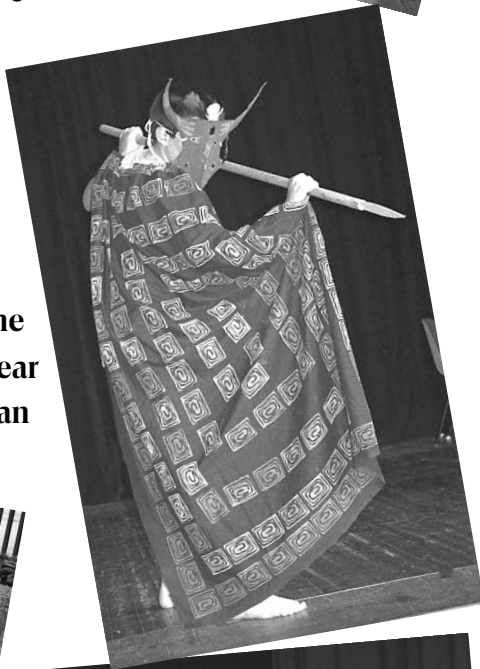
W a i o a b e & B u r a m u



Feeding The Chicken



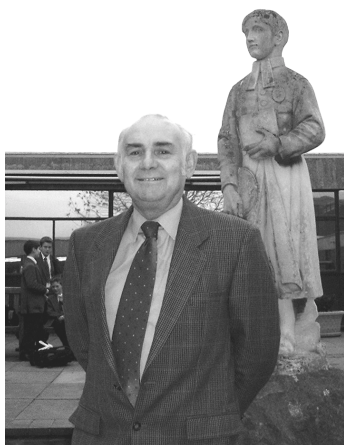
The
Spear
Man



The
Family
Fight
Scene



This year brought with it a vast array of individual achievements by students and staff alike. With apologies to those overlooked, here follows a selection from the long list reported in the newsletters and elsewhere during the year ...



Mr Ian Bowie - our Head of Science, was nominated for a Teaching Award, a so-called 'Plato', in the Secondary Science Teacher category. Two members of the assessment panel spent a morning in school, observing Mr Bowie and talking to colleagues and students, as a result of which he was short-listed. At the awards ceremony at UWE Bristol Mr Bowie was given a Certificate of Special Commendation (and £250 for the school!). Congratulations to Mr Bowie upon this marvellous achievement in recognition of his excellence in the classroom and his hard work and commitment to teaching.



Michael Thomas (STR 1994-2001) - our School Captain in 2000/1 - was selected for the full England men's water polo team. He was a member of the team which won the North Sea Cup in Belgium by beating Denmark, Sweden, Ireland & Scotland.

William Godwin (STR 1995-2002) was made Queen's Scout at Easter. William was our School Captain in 2001/2 and Chairman of the 44th Venture Scout Unit.



Our picture shows the Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire HWG Elwes with the 44th's Queen's Scouts Will Godwin, Rachael Brown & Matt Key. Easter was a busy time for the 44th as several of its members took on representational duties for the District & County. Will Godwin & Matt Key formed part of the Queen's Guard of Honour at Gloucester Cathedral when Her Majesty came to distribute Maundy Money. Will then went on to take part in the St George's Day parade at Windsor Castle.

The School received a "Sportsmark Award" from Sport England. This recognises our well-balanced physical education curriculum and our extra-curricular programme which offers all students access to a wide range of opportunities, together with sporting links with the local community.



Richard Farrow (7B) ran the fastest time ever by a UK U13 for the 800m indoors - 2 min 20.9 sec - in Birmingham. Richard already held the best UK time for 1500m indoors but managed to lower that as well by a further 6 seconds to 4 min 53 sec.

James Broady (7B) who swam for Gloucestershire and the Southwest at Millfield School and Bath University, where he achieved national qualifying times for the 100m and 200m breaststroke. This qualified him to swim in the national age group championships in Sheffield at the end of July.

Robert Payne (8T) emulated James' feat, in the same two events. Robert also won 2 gold, 2 silver and 2 bronze medals in the Gloucestershire Championships.

Thomas White (9B) finished 2nd in the 50m freestyle competition in the Welsh National Championships and completed our trio of swimmers who competed in the national championships in Sheffield. All three acquitted themselves well.

Matthew Hopton (7B) **Jonathan Maxted** (8R) & **Nathan Young** (7R) each won Gold medals for recitation at the Cheltenham Festival.

Nicholas Walkley (U6C) was awarded the Maud Wright Memorial Shield for his outstanding service to the National Youth Brass Band. Nicholas was also invited to play cornet with the Williams Fairey Brass Band from Stockport, the national champions, in a CD recording weekend.

Oxbridge Entrants - The following were awarded and gained places at Oxbridge this year: **James Hodge** at Corpus Christi Oxford to read Chemistry, **Akshay Nair** at Oriol College Oxford to read Medicine, **Richard Parker** at Emmanuel College Cambridge to read Engineering, **Tariq Piperdy** at St Peter's College Oxford to read Chemistry and **Michael Smith** at Wadham College Oxford to read Economics & Engineering Management.

Shaun Hopkins (U6T) was selected for the Gloucestershire U18 rugby team.

Samantha Lyons was selected for the All England Netball Association 'talent squad', a major achievement along the route to full international honours.

Jonathan Maxted (8R) gained two gold and three silver medals at the Bristol Festival where he also won the trophy for the best U15 solo acting.

William Russell (11B) was selected for the Gloucestershire U16 rugby team.

Robert Litchfield (10R) represented Gloucestershire Army Cadets in the Cadet 100 competition at the Inter-Services 'Skill at Arms' meeting at Bisley.

Ashley Burgum (U6H) gained a place at the Oxford Air Training College. He will train at Oxford and in the United States to qualify as a commercial pilot.

Matthew Hopton (7B) was awarded first place for poetry recital at the Kingswood Drama Festival in Bristol. Matthew also gained second place for acting and bible reading.

Philip Hanson (11R) represented Gloucestershire in the English Schools Cross Country Championships in Brighton, where he finished 99th in the Intermediate Boys race.

Katrina Woolcock (L6S) was successful in gaining a place on a British Council 'German Pupil Course'. Katrina is one of only twelve students who spent two weeks in either Braunschweig or in the Berlin/Brandenburg area.

Laurence Haigh (U6R) and **Toby Dalton** (U6H) were awarded Honours for their dedication, commitment and help to the Railway Society over the past 7 years.

One of the school's recent leavers Clive Stuart-Smith (seen here with Mr I J Gallagher) took a break from Gloucester RFC squad training at Kingsholm, in order to present the rugby trophies, colours and merit awards at Autumn Term Final Assembly.

Whilst at Rich's Clive gained international honours with English Schools and he has been included in the England International Squad.



SENIOR RUGBY

1st XV - P9, W3, D1, L5, F-111, A-162

This was a frustrating season for the 1st XV. In all matches the team showed the ability to pressure the opposition and to cause real problems. Unfortunately the team was unable to maintain this level of performance and so several games slipped away when perhaps they could have been won. The squad showed a good commitment both on and off the pitch but lacked the focus to move the level of performance on and this coupled with several injuries at the end of the season meant that the squad often underachieved which was disappointing for all concerned. On a positive note victories v Newent (36-0), Castle (15-5) and Wycliffe (31-8) showed what could be achieved at the level of performance the squad should be aiming for. (IJG)

2nd XV - P8, W1, L7, F-115, A-179

After two scrappy games against Chosen Hill and Beaufort, the 2nd XV produced two excellent performances against Churchdown and Bournside followed by a good match against Dean Close where they were beaten only by the pace of the wingers. Although failing to win in their opening five fixtures, four of the defeats were by a single score and could easily have gone the other way given a little bit of luck. With three opponents unable to raise teams in the closing weeks of the season, the 2nd XV had a quiet run-in to Christmas, beating Wycliffe 2nd XV 31-14 but losing to Rendcomb 1st XV 33-12.

3rd XV - P1, W1, F-12, A-8

The 3rd XV played their first fixture for many years beating Rendcomb 2nd XV 12-8.

JUNIOR RUGBY

U15 XV - P13, W6, L7, F-278, A-324

The U15's had a mixed season of highs and lows. There is an abundance of talent in the squad, with good competition for places. The team worked hard in training and developed an attractive, attacking brand of rugby. However it was frustrating that we struggled in terms of consistency; at times outstanding,

others mediocre. Too often games were lost by a narrow margin, when we should have been home and dry. This should not detract from the excellent effort shown by all squad members. Particular thanks go to Captain Lee Warren for the exemplary way he led the side. Senior rugby awaits. (RS)

U14 XV - P12, W4, D2, L6, F-231, A-296

This has been a season of mixed performance. At times the team has performed really well, such as against St Katherine's. Unfortunately in other matches the team has failed to do itself justice, leading to some disappointing results. However a number of players have been stalwarts in the side, performing well in training and matches. Many thanks to those core players who have displayed lots of commitment towards the School and the Team. (PDL)

U13 XXX

'A' Team: P9, W9, L0, F-257, A-46

'B' Team: P4, W3, L1, F-99, A-19



U13 'A' Team - Undefeated

At half term the U13 Rugby "A" & "B" teams remained the only Rich's teams to be undefeated. A hint that this year group has something special about it!

The U13 'A' XV continued their excellent form during the second half of term to finish the season undefeated. The basis of their success was the way all fifteen players worked well together as a team. The squad had strength in depth and displayed tremendous team spirit and determination to always play to the best of their ability. The highlights of the second half of the season were the hard fought games away against Crypt (5-17) and at home versus a powerful Bishop of Hereford Bluecoat XV (14-12). The Hereford result was particularly pleasing as the side was without five regular squad members.

Unfortunately the U13 'B' XV played only four games. They brushed aside 'B' Teams from Monmouth (45-0) and Bournside before narrowly losing to Crypt (12-5) in an

evenly balanced and exciting game which was settled in the dying minutes when Crypt scored a break-away try from deep within their own half. The side bounced back however to beat a well-organised Bishop of Hereford Bluecoat XV by 15-0, scoring three tries in the process.

Our picture shows six of the successful U13 Team having just received Merit Awards from Clive Stuart-Smith at the Autumn Term Final Assembly.

Both the 'A' and 'B' squads should be congratulated not only on their season performances but also on their attitude in training which has been first class. Chief coach Mr C D A Carter tips the side as “.. *one to watch out for in the future.*”

U12 XV - P7, W4, D1, L2, F-70, A-35

In a season disrupted by the weather in which continuity of performance proved difficult, the U12s emerged with great credit. They worked hard in practice and developed into a competitive and entertaining team. They can be pleased with their progress as individuals and as a team they have shown great spirit in defence and speed and skill in attack. They have much to work on but they have a great deal of promise. (JUG)

BADMINTON

Seniors

On 11th January the school entered a team into the U16 Carlton Top Schools Badminton tournament, playing in the regional finals at Archway sports centre Stroud. The school competed against very strong opposition from schools all over the southwest, enduring nearly six hours of highly competitive badminton. The highlight of the day's play was a closely fought contest against the Cotswold School, which saw all players winning their singles and doubles contests.

Juniors

Well done to the U14 Badminton Team who competed in the Junior Section of the Carlton Top Schools Badminton Tournament, held in Stroud on 8th March 2003. All played with impressive individual competitiveness and team spirit, despite facing older and more experienced opponents. In particular their determination was rewarded with a victory in their final game of the tournament beating Marling 3-2 to finish in the top ten of the teams entered. (DS)

CROSS COUNTRY

An encouraging start to the season with both the Junior Teams (Years 7 & 8) and the Inters (Years 9 & 10) qualifying for the Midland Counties round of the English Schools Cross Country Championships. In the initial round Richard Farrow (7B) and Kevin Ellis (10R) led our teams home, finishing fourth and sixth respectively in their races over a tough Prince Henry's course in Evesham.

In the first round of the West Mercia League our Senior team finished fifth out of six teams with Tim Dalton (11B) fifth in an excellent run out of the 49 runners. Better team placings in subsequent rounds yielded an overall third place in the league behind RGS



and the winners Marling. Of note were Philip Hanson (11R - pictured right) and Alistair Stanley (L6H) who were both impressive over a series of tough courses.



At the City Cross Country District trials Rich's were well represented with the bulk of our runners qualifying for the County Championships, at which Rich's had a number of students who qualified to represent the county. These included Richard Farrow, who came an impressive third overall in the Minors, while Philip Hanson qualified by finishing in ninth position in the Inters race. Tim Dalton qualified for the reserve squad by finishing 11th overall. (PDL)

SOCCER

1st XI

The 1st XI enjoyed an outstanding season winning 9 of their 10 fixtures against strong opposition with 24 goals for and only 6 against. They just failed to put the final icing on the cake when they met a resilient Sir William Romney in the U19 County Cup Final.



Coach Mr Tony Barton puts the STRS side through its paces in the pre-match warm-up for the U19 County Cup Final

The game was played immediately after the Easter break at The Lawn, home ground of Forest Green Rovers and incidentally of several of the opposition! Wet and windy weather did not provide the best conditions for exciting football and perhaps the occasion got the better of one or two of the STRS side. Sir William Romney adapted themselves better on the night to both the occasion and the conditions and won deservedly by 3 goals to 1, leaving the STRS boys to rue what might have been had they performed to their usual high standards for the whole ninety minutes.

The squad should be very pleased with their achievements over the season and the fact that this is the first occasion that the school, at this senior level, has ever reached the County Cup Final.

1st XI colours have been re-awarded to R Herrick, M Mohamed. Full colours were awarded to J Boyd, N Day, D Edwards, M McBride, J Riemer; half-colours to M Anderson, J Boyle, C Brignall, S Broughton, P Knight, R Knight, C Mooney, S Walker.

We look forward to next season and continued success. (AJB)

2nd XI

The 2nd XI enjoyed a successful season with a record of won 4, drawn 1, lost 1. Twenty goals were scored in the six matches and only three conceded. This team was a nice mixture of youth and experience, always looking to play open, attacking football in the right spirit.

2nd XI colours were awarded to O Ajadi, D Bradley, T Burdett, J Kenny, L Materacki, G Mohamed, A Payne, D Rice; half-colours to D Dales, J Latimer, J Martin, B Marquis, D Weir. (MAS)

U15 - P7, W1, D2, L4

Although the boys had hoped to fare much better, all games were closely contested and many were played with key players missing. The boys should be proud of the way they played this year showing class, maturity and sportsmanship both on and off the field. They have been a credit to the school. (JRN)

U14 - P7, W5, L2

It was a pleasing and generally successful season for the U14s with the only disappointment coming at the end of term where the defeats against Churchdown and Oxstalls meant a failure to qualify for the semi-finals of the District Cup. Prior to these setbacks the team had been undefeated showing excellent commitment and displaying a high level of skill especially in their attacking play. In these matches only Brockworth failed to provide stern opposition so the victories against Pates, Marling and RGS Worcester were particularly satisfying for being hard-fought. The team should be congratulated on their attitude and approach as well as for its ability to produce attractive football. (RJL)

U13 - P7, W4, L2, D1

The Under 13 team has displayed lots of promise this season. The attitude, commitment and style of play has been excellent. Only brief lapses of concentration have cost the team goals. Overall, the team has been a credit to the school. They capped a good season by winning the City Schools Soccer Cup - see following report.

U13 CITY CUP FINAL

RICH'S 2 -v- 0 CRYPT

Congratulations to the Year 8 Soccer squad, who this season reached the final of the Gloucester City Cup. After beating the favourites and last year's winners, Severn Vale, in the semi-final, Rich's prospects in the final appeared strong. However, Crypt decided that as under-dogs, they were not going to be turned over easily and subsequently re-wrote the script.

The final was played at Plock Court, as the powers at Gloucester City FC decided that they would not support local school's football and subsequently would not grant permission for Meadow Park to be used for the finals. This I feel undermines 'grass roots' youth football and fails to nurture strong community links with the key footballing powers in the city.

Anyway, back to the final, which was a tense, anxious and close affair for the Rich's lads. Crypt right from the kick-off pressurised Rich's, with strong physical tackling and sharper reactions. However, Rich's stood firm and refused to buckle, with Rob Payne outstanding in the mid-field. In defence, Sam Pritchard was as solid as a rock and



Hard-working Joe Gyte takes his man on the outside

subsequently, these two players transmitted their tenacity to the rest of the team.

In the first half, Rich's were frequently on the back foot and only created a few chances, often via counter attacks. Consequently, against the run of play to be fair, a goal mouth scramble allowed Richard De-Camps a shot which rebounded off a Crypt defender and over the goalie into the back of the net. This relieved some of the pressure on Rich's and the team retained its 1-0 lead at the half-time stage.



The Victorious U13 City Cup Winning Side

A half-time 'pep' talk from Rich's very own 'Sven', rallied the Rich's troops and with the strong wind against them, Rich's had to raise their game in the second half. Naturally, Crypt came out strongly, but Rich's with determined grit and a little luck, refused to concede anything. All of the Rich's team battled hard, working well for each other and despite Crypt being a physically larger size, our lads were not intimidated or "phased" by the experience.

Eventually, the match was sealed, when another counter-attack from Rich's after a period of intense pressure, resulted in another goal mouth scramble. An error from the Crypt keeper allowed the swift Joe Noel to tap in for an easy goal and put Rich's 2-0 up with ten minutes to go.

To their credit, Crypt did not give up, but continued desperately to try and carve something out of the match, but Rich's held firm right to the whistle, despite intense pressure, to win the City Cup.

This was a well-deserved win for Rich's. The team is a credit to the school. The players not only make a solid footballing side, but their whole approach, manner and attitude are excellent. What has impressed me about them is how well they work for each other and the fact that the team has no players who think they are better than the rest. This committed, dogged and positive attitude has served the team well this season and I hope that it will continue! Many thanks to the team, for making the season a pleasant and enjoyable experience, which is not always the case with some sporting teams one has to take!

U12 CITY CUP FINAL

BROCKWORTH 0 -v- 1 RICH'S

After the U13s winning their City Cup Final, it was the turn of the U12s the following day. After a solid win in the semi-final against Beaufort, Rich's had to wait until after the Easter break to find out who their opponents in the final would be. Eventually, news came through that it would be Brockworth and as with the U12s arrangements had to be made to find a venue for the final. With time moving on, it was decided to play at Brockworth, as earlier in the season both teams had already played each other in a 1-1 draw at Rich's.

On a large pitch, with perfect weather conditions the contest began. What developed in the first five minutes of the game, set the pattern all through the match. Both sides were equal to each other in all departments, particularly the two defences, who were both solid, quick and were able to cut out any scoring opportunities.

Rich's defence was magnificent, with Aaron Beard and Andrew Clegg absolutely brilliant. They were supported well by James Broady and Jack Eckworth. In midfield, one has to mention the tenacious Captain of the team, Niall Drury, who was tremendous with his work rate and an inspiration to his team mates. In attack, Ben Fabbro ran his heart out on a large pitch ensuring Rich's always had a chance to snatch a victory.

At half-time the score was 0-0, with both sides not able to create any clear scoring opportunities. The second half resulted in a similar pattern, but it must be said that Rich's goal-keeper, Simon Guilor, made a fantastic save from a long range shot mid-way through the half.

With just over ten minutes remaining, it was evident that the match would only be decided by a defensive mistake or a set piece. Inevitably, Rich's won a corner. Both Aaron Beard and Andrew Clegg went up for the set piece. An excellent corner kick to



The Victorious U12 City Cup Winning Side

the near post allowed a fearless Aaron Beard to run in, connect and score a screaming header into the roof of the net. This was the goal that not only broke the dead-lock between both teams, but would win the cup for Rich's. Brockworth tried to secure the equaliser, but Rich's held firm right to the whistle to win an exciting final.

Well done and thanks to the U12s, who like the U13s are a pleasure to be with in terms of their enthusiasm, commitment and attitude. In Year 7, the school takes the view that Rugby is the priority and we just organise a soccer team to generate a little interest and provide another opportunity for the boys. Thus, taking this into account, the U12s must be praised for their ability to gel together so quickly into a formidable unit. They not only look the part, they play excellent football. Consequently, I see a lot of potential in this team and maybe we can see a County Under 19's winning side in approximately six years time. Is this tempting fate?!

Mr P Lloyd

HOCKEY

Full hockey colours were awarded to Simon Trevenna; half-colours to Kirsty Bevan, Emma Cox, Tom Dixon, Kevin Lenton, Samantha Lyons, Nick Shipley and Adam Woodcock. (JMG)

CRICKET

U15

Played 10, Won 7, Drew 1, Lost 2

This has been a successful season for a highly talented squad, which culminated in the retention of the City Cup.

Generally the team was far too powerful for its opponents with tight bowling and fielding

the key to success. Peter Blencowe, Laurie Roberts and Lewis Barnard were the main seam bowlers who all bowled accurately and with penetration. Laurie sealed victory in the cup semi-final by performing the hat-trick against the first three Crypt batsmen. Ciaran Conway was our best bowler, the most accomplished 'leggie' of his age that I have seen. He captained the side with authority and intelligence.

The batting was more fragile suffering a disastrous reverse in the county cup which not even the bowlers could redeem. However, this experience did result in a more disciplined approach and Kevin Ellis, Peter Blencowe, Ciaran Conway and Lewis Barnard all batted well. Andy Erskine made huge progress. Kevin Ellis kept wicket well all year.

Above all, I enjoyed working with this group of committed, fun-loving students enormously. There was much good-natured humour and banter but above all, excellent application and progress. *(NDP)*

U15 City Schools Cup Final

In a repeat of last year's U14 final, Rich's faced a Beaufort side eager to avenge their defeat of a year ago.

Put into bat Rich's lost opener Ellis first ball and made slow progress, finding the Beaufort bowling difficult to get away. Although Blencowe put away the rare loose ball, momentum didn't pick up until Barnard joined Roberts and started to find the gaps in the field and dot balls became singles and twos. Rich's eventually posted 110 which did not really seem enough given the very fast outfield and true batting wicket. Nerves perhaps on both sides produced a topsy-turvy first few overs of the Beaufort reply - wickets and wides left them ahead of the ask-rate but vital wickets down: 25-4 off 4 overs. Rich's fielded well and with their bowlers maintaining better control of line they made Beaufort fight for every run. In spite of a late flourish which threatened to turn the game against them, Rich's kept control of matters to keep Beaufort down to 97-9 at the close. Well done to Ciaran Conway and his team!

U13 - P6, W1, D2, L3

An inconsistent and frustrating season. I witnessed play of a high standard, such as from William Alder (8R), but often this was undermined by loose fielding. For some reason all the good habits learned from last season's coaching with Mr Brown were totally forgotten!! The group was always very positive in approach but really needed to be more clinical during matches and work harder in coaching sessions to eliminate individual weaknesses. *(PDL)*

U12 Cricket Season 2003

2003 was a very rewarding season - played 10, won 10; winners of the Rotary City Challenge Trophy and the Calypso Cup County Competition. Yet it is not only in the results that success has been measured.

Especially rewarding was the way many individuals progressed in their own skill areas, responding well whenever the team's needs required it of them. The squad showed incredible resilience and team spirit, choosing to battle through set-backs rather than succumb to pressure, and this was the key to their success. Prime example of this was in the semi-final of the Calypso Cup against Bournside - chasing 'only' 69 the side suddenly found itself several key wickets down and the game slipping away from them as the Bournside bowlers took a stranglehold on the game. A gritty innings from Sam Horder reversed the tide and he and Ben Ruxton secured what had become an uncertain victory.

The dual successes in the City Challenge Trophy & Calypso Cup have been the icing on the cake - full reports of both finals can be read on the school website at: www.strs.org.uk under 'STRS in the News'.

Merit awards go to -

Chris Surman (right) for not only his batting performances which included a century at Kings and 88 against Severn Vale, but the way he has progressed as captain;

Niall Drury for his consistent bowling, excellent fielding and improving batting;

Ben Ruxton for his all round performances, especially his forceful batting (he didn't believe himself to be a batsman at the start of the season!);

Oliver Ellis for his well-flighted bowling and the way he has frequently lent excellent support at the crease to the main stroke players. (PB)



Athletics

There were four main athletics events during the summer term: the City Trial Championships for Juniors and Intermediates and again for Minors; the School Sports Evening and a Three-School Match hosted by Crypt School. In all events there was some very good competition at all age groups and the boys performed very creditably producing too many good performances to list. However I am pleased to highlight the following outstanding performances where school records have been broken:

Peter Moore - Year 8 Shot - 11.05m

Chris Surman - Year 7 Javelin - 28.54m

Richard Farrow - Year 7 1500m - 4min 51.1sec

Ben Ruxton, Chris Surman, Andy Clegg, Richard Farrow - 4 x 100m Year 7 Relay - 56.22sec

Richard Farrow also won the Minors 800m title in a time of 2min 27sec (unofficial) which equalled the school record.

The School Year 7-10 team beat Crypt and Churchdown with excellent performances from the following who won their events:

| | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>S Horder (Year 7)</i> | <i>400m</i> | <i>R Payne (Year 8)</i> | <i>400m & Long Jump</i> |
| <i>R Farrow (Year 7)</i> | <i>1500m & Long Jump</i> | <i>P Moore (Year 8)</i> | <i>Shot</i> |
| <i>C Stevens (Year 7)</i> | <i>Shot & Discus</i> | <i>M Lodge (Year 8)</i> | <i>Discus</i> |
| <i>C. Surman (Year 7)</i> | <i>Javelin</i> | <i>M Patching (Year 9)</i> | <i>Shot</i> |
| <i>B. Ruxton (Year 7)</i> | <i>Triple Jump</i> | <i>J Denley (Year 9)</i> | <i>Discus</i> |
| <i>O Gilbert (Year 8)</i> | <i>1500m</i> | <i>J Stafford (Year 10)</i> | <i>800m</i> |

A final footnote from Mr Gallagher

"Throughout the year there has been a tremendous amount of commitment shown from staff, students and parents. It is pleasing to have this support and it can only help to strengthen future performances. As Head of PE and co-ordinator of the programme I would like to thank everyone who has helped to make this a challenging and successful year. I hope that we can move forward next year in all areas and reach new levels of performance."



Year 8 Salters Festival of Chemistry

On May 21st four year 8 pupils travelled to Aston University with Mr Kellie to take part in the 2003 Salters Festival of Chemistry.





The Victorious U15 Cricketers!



Chris Surman with his team and the U12 City Challenge Trophy!



PGL Adventure Course - Year 8





Geography Field Trips - Year 7



ATHLETICS



11th June 2003



EVENING





Uganda Photo Diary

Above - Canteen; Top Right - Itanda Falls; Centre Right - Cross Country; Bottom Right - Mukene Stall in Market ; Below Right - Computer Room; Below Left - Art Class; Middle Left - PMM Staff; Middle Right - Typical Classroom.





African Artefacts
- Inspiration for
Arts Week



The Locker

I am The Locker

Discover my hidden secrets

I can hold anything within my body

From books and PE kits and things that shouldn't be revealed;

When people stick their key in and turn and churn

I feel like a piece of clothing in a washing machine.

People use me day in day out

And as I get slammed shut after a hard day I feel fatigued and shattered;

But I get my slumber

When I'm not in use, but in darkness.

I can store money or rugby kits -

I am a waste bin for pungent and dirty kits;

My cobwebs grow ever more

As I am not sanitary.

My wordless voice echoes but to no avail:

I am forgotten

I am never prominent or praised

But left in repose for eternity, until another school day.

I am The Locker

Discover my hidden secrets.

Niall Drury 7S

The new academic year brought a clutch of fresh staff members to Rich's - and here they are

Mr Nigel Pitel - History. As you can see his allegiances are to QPR FC (we well remember those heady days of UEFA cup success in the seventies - Stanley Bowles, Don Givens, Phil Parkes et al) and Sussex CCC who made history themselves this summer by winning the county championship for the first time ever. Mr Pitel's own cricket prowess yielded an invitation to join the Primary Club on his first appearance for the Staff XI - oops! Howzat!



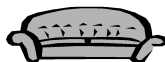
Mr David Riley - Business Studies & Economics. Will his staff initials get the boys asking "What's up Doc?" - we'll wait and see!



Mrs Birgit Testoni-Ranken who takes over from David Slinger as Head of German.



Mrs Megan Lewis, wife of David Lewis, who will teach A level Psychology (so that's why E3 had a couch in it!)



Mrs Rebecca Zurick who is the new Head of Biology.



Sean Conlon who joined us in September as Residential Caretaker but was later called up in his TA capacity to serve in Iraq and decided to join the army full time, so his stay with us was a brief one. We wish him well in his new career.

Ian Birchall joined us from Severn Vale where he was Deputy Site Manager to become IT technician. He was instrumental in setting up the Veale Centre computerised language facilities.



Michelle Lucas joined the Geography Department directly from Coventry University. She will also assist with Senior Games.



STRSTRSTR

Fond Farewells!

STRSTRSTR

We say "Adieu!" and "Bon Chance!" to the following members of staff

Mr Dan Stone who joined us as a Chemistry teacher in September 2000 and proved his fitness and commitment to extra-curricular activities by getting involved with badminton and basketball clubs as well as running the gruelling Cotswold Marathon with a team from the school's Venture Scout Unit.

He has made an excellent and invaluable contribution to the school as well as to the Chemistry Department. He has accompanied Year 8 on PGL IT weekends, been with year 7 to Paris and has been instrumental in getting several Chemistry trips off the ground.

All in all he has become a very competent and popular teacher. Do take a look at the Chemistry website designed by him at www.strs.org.uk/academic/chemistry/mainset.html

Mr Stone is going to a teaching position in Bangkok, Thailand.



Mrs Julia Grocott who began her career at Rich's in 1990 as a part-time teacher of Economics and History. In her time with us she has also taught Business Studies, introduced Classical Civilisation at A level, initiated Sixth Form trips to Greece and Italy and contributed to the Games Department where she introduced hockey at senior level. Her high standard of coaching has led to success with the team gaining victories over schools with a strong hockey tradition.

Following the retirement of Don Moss, Julia ran lunchtime Latin clubs for interested pupils, thereby maintaining the true grammar school tradition. Indeed, it is a testament to her many-sided contribution that we have had to appoint three members of staff to replace her!

Julia is returning to South Wales for family reasons. Our best wishes for good health and happiness go with her. We thank her for her commitment to the school.



Mr Jason Nehra who joined the physics department four years ago. After graduating from University of British Columbia, Canada, he spent the next 18 months travelling the world. He settled in Stroud and after brief spell of teaching at Marling School he moved here to Rich's.

It is to Jason's credit that, even though his degree was not in physics nor was he a qualified teacher, during his first year he grasped many new concepts and ideas, began to understand the British Educational System and successfully completed his graduate teaching programme to achieve qualified teacher status.

His fine sense of humour has brought light relief to those dull moments and his skills on the football pitch have made him a star player in the staff team. His contributions to school football teams and the school basketball team have not gone unnoticed.

We are very grateful for all the hard work Jason has done during his time at Rich's. He has worked tirelessly and with minimal complaint! He is a true gentleman!

He continues his world tour of teaching by taking up a post in the Cayman Islands! This he does with his new wife Sam - we wish them both all the best in their new life together.



We also lose the services of our Site Manager **Mr W McCormick** - affectionately known as "Jock" for reasons that become obvious when one converses with him!

Jock joined us as caretaker in July 1995 later becoming Site Manager. It was due to his ingenuity and improvisation that the school has been so well maintained - his worth to the school will only become apparent now that he's not there and all those little jobs, that he took in his stride and used his many talents to fix, mount up.

STRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTR

Owed to a spell checker

Eye halve a spelling chequer
 It came with my pea sea.
 It plainly marcs four my revue
 Miss stakes eye kin knot sea.
 Eye strikes a key and type a word
 And weight four it two say
 Weather eye is wrong oar write
 It shows me strait a weigh.
 As soon as a mist ache is maid
 It nose bee fore two long
 And eye can put the error write
 Its rare lea ever wrong.
 Eye has run this poem threw it
 I am shore your pleased two no
 Its letter perfect awl the weigh
 My checker tolled me sew.

Yes - what we write isn't always what we mean to say. Reporting on his Stratford visit a Year 7 boy penned:

"We went to the tennis courts and loaded up the mini-bushes. When all the bags were packed into the trailer we got into the bushes and set off."

A gem of a quotation from a recent Year 9 paper:

"And finally, I chose business studies as walking around in an expensive suit looking important doing something important at a computer in an office seems to be a big part of almost every job nowadays."

Perhaps the young man in question wasn't so far off the mark??



Final positions -

| | | |
|-----------|------|-----------|
| Eastgate | 64.5 | house pts |
| Westgate | 60.5 | house pts |
| Northgate | 58.5 | house pts |
| Southgate | 55.5 | house pts |

So once again it's the yellow ribbon of Eastgate adorning the Cock House Trophy - sound's like a cue for a song : "Tie a yellow ribbon around the old Cock House Cup"! - and Mrs Stanley, as Head of House for Eastgate, can justifiably wear that benign expression of confident superiority amongst her peers when contemplating House Matters next term!

An exciting and new house competition was the Junior Indoor Cricket competition for Years 7 to 9. Organised on a round-robin basis, each house played three six-a-side games indoors in the gym. Innings lasted six overs with pairs batting together for two overs. Each team member had to bowl one over. Runs were deducted for losing wickets. Batsmen could be caught off a wall but otherwise normal rules applied.

A series of fast, furious and noisy games resulted, which were packed with incident. The winning teams learnt to run well between the wickets, field athletically, throw accurately and not to question umpiring decisions. All of these are important skills, which can be applied to more conventional games. Another benefit was that non-team players were given the opportunity to shine.

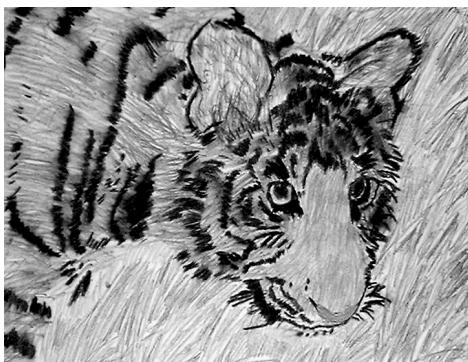
9T (Southgate), 8R (Eastgate) and 7T (Southgate) were the respective winners of the year group competitions by winning all three of their matches. Southgate were the overall competition winners.

House Art - sample right - opened the Cock House competition and was keenly contested with 300 entries. Westgate threw down their challenge by winning with some excellent pieces.

Congratulations to **Eastgate** who were Cock House for the academic year 2002-2003.

In a close fought contest it was not until the end of term when Eastgate eventually eased out as Cock House 2003 by performing better in the final few competitions than their closest challengers - Westgate. Southgate put in a strong finish winning House Athletics & both cricket competitions, so that only a spread of 9 points separated all four houses.

After several years propping up the other houses Westgate must be well chuffed that they challenged Eastgate so closely - a pity the Westgate cricketers didn't put up a stronger showing!





Dave Edwards receives for Northgate the Senior House Rugby Cup from Clive Stuart-Smith

Junior House Rugby was a very close affair. Games are played 12-a-side, 10 minutes each way. Eastgate and Southgate tying as joint Year 8 winners, Westgate won in Year 9 and Northgate in Year 10 - overall Westgate and Northgate were equal winners with Southgate and Eastgate also tying. Northgate won Senior House Rugby.

The House Rugby Cups were presented in the final assembly of Michaelmas Term by Clive Stuart Smith and Kevin Howie, both "Old Boys" who are professional members of Gloucester Rugby Club. Clive is on the playing staff and Kevin their Community Development Manager.

On the intellectual front Senior and Junior House General Knowledge Quizzes proved very popular. Northgate won the Senior while Westgate the Junior.

House Music comprised junior solo, junior ensemble, senior solo, senior ensemble and open events; all were keenly contested with performances ranging from a Vivaldi cello concerto to 'Purple Haze' by Jimi Hendrix. The adjudicator was Mr Whittle, one of our peripatetic instrumental teachers, who placed Westgate first.

In House Swimming Westgate won the Junior and Eastgate the Senior Gala.



Northgate's Junior Quiz Team ponders over the picture section

Senior Soccer was won by Eastgate and Junior Soccer won by Northgate. Cross Country Cups went to Northgate (Junior) and jointly to Northgate and Eastgate (Senior).

House Chess ran throughout the Spring Term and it was Eastgate who moved into first position here, as they did in the Public Speaking competition, in which teams of three argued and debated vigorously for and against several motions.

House Drama set very high dramatic standards yet again and all participants are to be congratulated. All four Houses produced excellent performances. One or two had left details such as costume and lighting to the last minute but all the actors knew their lines and performed confidently. The winning entry was Eastgate with "the Tiger's Bones" by Ted Hughes, produced by Amah Shah and Peter Hards. Best individual performance was by Alastair Stanley for his last minute understudying of a major role.

Mr Stone organised an exciting House Tennis event - the budding Henmans and Rusedskis displayed plenty of skill, determination and good sportsmanship. Northgate just pipped Southgate to first place. House Cricket was played limited overs format between sides drawn from Years 10, 9 and 8. Southgate were convincing winners and it was pleasing to see several of Mr Brown's U12 team making valuable contributions.

In House Athletics Southgate retained their trophy, with Robert Tucker being awarded the Walter Rangeley Cup for best sprinter. He won the Year 9 100m and 200m races.

The measure of a happy and successful school is reflected in the number of its students and staff who willingly dedicate their own time and effort into involvement in activities outside the classroom and beyond the reach of formal lessons.

Extra curricular activities are the very life blood of the school - they give Sir Thomas Rich's its own unique character and in so doing define the individual characters of its students.

There is at the school a wealth of clubs and societies, many always popular, some merely responding to fashion and trends; some are extensions of the time-tabled academic subjects and physical recreation, others derive solely from the unique interests of staff and pupils. Most are guided by staff members, some are run purely by the students themselves.

Whatever the activity, club or society, there is always something going on, something to get involved with, something for the committed, something for the casual interest.

We include just a few reports here - the perennial Railway Society Report and a couple of new societies on the block

Railway Society

We have travelled over 2200 miles this year, through three different countries (OK, including Wales and Scotland!). Four preserved railway lines, two museums, a castle and two signal boxes have been visited. Trips have included overnight stays in Scotland and Wales. Plenty to see and do in this Society! A wide variety of locomotives were seen during our travels, from preserved steam engines and Sixties diesels to modern trams and narrow gauge railways, even brand new Voyagers, we've travelled on them all!



The first trip this year was for just a few very lucky Year Nines. It was in August and I was one of the lucky pupils invited by our friends at Railtrack to look round the traditional signal box at Stockport and the modern one in Manchester. A fascinating morning was spent at Stockport where we learnt about the old methods of signalling with bells and levers, some of which took a lot of energy to move! However, for me the best part of the trip was the tour around the Manchester box, which signals by buttons and switches and is totally electronic. We saw the large display board where the trains were represented by LEDs and how the track was split into different sections; each area being controlled by a different person from his own panel. All he had to do was to push a button

to change a signal or set of points. A lot simpler than at Stockport!

September saw our first residential trip of the year. It was to Mid Wales. On the first day we travelled from Gloucester to Aberystwyth by train. In the afternoon we went on the superb Vale of Rheidol Railway. This railway took us up into the mountains with fantastic views as the result. The scenery was simply stunning as you looked down into the valley. Our train was hauled by a steam engine, the highlight of the trip for me. At the end of the line, after a very short walk, we came to Devils Bridge. This is a bridge built over an impressive waterfall, and is said to have been partially built by the devil! That night, we stayed in a pleasant youth hostel at Borth, on the coast of Ceredigion. Next morning we travelled to Tywyn and onto the very special Talylyn Railway, special because it was the first railway line to be preserved.

This famous narrow-gauge railway took us into Snowdonia and through the beautiful countryside up to Nant Gwernol. Again, this train was hauled by an historic steam engine, which we were able to look inside. Some of the Year 8s thought it would be fun to fly their kite out of the window, which didn't go down too well with some people! We returned to Gloucester that evening after a fascinating trip.

In December, to celebrate the launch of the new Virgin Voyager, we went on a day trip to York and the National Railway Museum. Here we saw loads of old and new railway items including steam engines, diesels, a Voyager carriage, the *Mallard*, and lots, lots more. The trip home, however, was even more eventful. It was our first trip on a new Voyager but straight away there was a problem. The high-tech toilets broke down; we had to change onto a different Voyager at Birmingham New Street. This never left Birmingham as, on the line ahead of us, a cow had been hit and there was a lot of clearing up to be done. A bus picked us up, with a driver who didn't know how to get to Gloucester! Eventually we got home, all a bit disillusioned!

Our final trip of the year was a residential tour to Scotland in July. After a morning of travelling north we visited the Glasgow Science Mall. This was excellent as it was interactive and there was loads to do. We travelled on to Crianlarich where we stayed the night at the Youth Hostel set up in the mountains. Next day, we went on to Fort William, where we caught the Jacobite steam train up to Mallaig. The weather wasn't brilliant but the mountains were breathtaking. After a short stay at Mallaig we returned to Fort William and Crianlarich for another night. Day 3 was the highlight of the trip for me. We travelled to Edinburgh where we visited Edinburgh Castle, saw (and heard!) the one o'clock gun, and viewed the Scottish Crown Jewels. The whole castle was spectacular. After a night at York Youth Hostel, the last day saw us travelling to Bury and onto the East Lancashire Railway. The train here was hauled by a beautiful Jubilee Class steam engine. Wonderful! A really pleasant journey, which made a nice end to an exhausting trip, and to an exhausting, yet extremely enjoyable year.

Chris Pigott 9R



Junior Drama Club

On 27th & 28th March the Junior Drama Club presented "The Pardoner's Tale" and we were privileged to share the evening with members of the Sixth Form who performed "The Nunn's Priest's Tale". Mrs Briscoe, producer & director, writes:

"I never cease to be amazed by the talent of the boys and girls at Tommy's, their performances were polished and confident and it is hard to believe that our Year 7 pupils performed some of the main parts after such a short time in the school. It is a real privilege to work with such talented young people".



Cast of "The Pardoner's Tale"

Esperanto Club

A recent addition to the Languages Portfolio thanks to Mrs Stanley and her enthusiasm for this "universal" language. She writes: *"As well as playing cards and watching videos we have engaged in correspondence with various groups abroad and we hope to organise a trip to an international camp in the near future. As a result of our participation in the International Mother Language Day we have received e-mails and postcards from all over the world. Our correspondents wrote in their mother tongue and then translated the messages into Esperanto so that we could understand them. We had messages in French, Flemish, Danish, Swahili, Swedish, Polish, Farsi, and English (from groups in Canada and America). We would have had messages in Russian too but my e-mail account failed to cope with the Cyrillic alphabet!"*

Global Action

Under the guidance of Mrs Arnold the "green" issue of waste disposal and recycling has been brought sharply into focus during the year. Special information days and visits were organised and teams of volunteer pupils undertook the often mucky task of carrying out waste audits. As a result the school is trying to recycle as much of its waste as possible. Special waste paper bins are now located in each room - they are sorted and emptied by pupils and the waste paper is regularly collected for recycling. We also take in and recycle printer toner cartridges, mobile phones, postage stamps and Christmas greetings cards.

The audits showed an approximate reduction in waste in the school's waste output - due mainly to the recycling of paper but it was noted that there was an increase in organic waste and waste due to crisp packets, plastic bottles and other lunch packaging. If we could find a way to reduce the packaging brought into school this would further cut the amount of waste sent to landfill sites.

All landfill sites in Gloucestershire will be full up in the next seven years. Incineration of rubbish would cost every household £1000 per year. Thank you for supporting the recycling scheme which reduces this problem just a tiny bit. We all have better things to do with £1000.

Remember **REDUCE, RE-USE & RECYCLE!**



Conservation Area

During the summer term, several of Mrs Arnold's Year 7 form could be found helping to tidy up the conservation area and carrying out ecological surveys of the flora and fauna to be found in our own little wilderness. After an act of vandalism leading to pollution of the pond we feared for the wildlife but luckily nature has triumphed. The pond looked splendid during the summer with water lilies and marginal plants flowering well. Pupils went pond dipping - many organisms easily visible including dragonfly nymphs, water scorpions, water boatmen and plenty of young newts and frogs.

The surrounding areas attracted plenty of butterflies including speckled woods, common blue, orange tips, peacocks and many others which didn't stay still long enough to be identified! We found at least three types of dragonfly and several types of damselfly. We didn't see the kingfisher this year but we live in hope of its return next year!

Farewell Ventures Hello Explorers!!

Yes - it's finally happened. On the 31st January 2003 the 44th Gloucester (STRS) ceased to be a Venture Scout Unit and as from the 1st February 2003 became the 44th Gloucester (STRS) Explorer Scout Unit.

Friday 11th April 2003 saw the unit meet for its Annual General Meeting - the first as an Explorer Unit. All the usual AGM-y things were covered. Main points of note were the successful programmes and major activities the unit had enjoyed over the year, including the Norway trip of summer 2002, successes in the Cotswold Marathon, district Swimming Gala and Dragon Boat regatta, the Survival Challenge Event; also that we had recently topped the £1000-mark for money raised during the year for charity by the unit.

The turnout was good - over 90% of current members plus an 'old boy' or two (thanks Matt!). The ESL emphasised the need for ongoing fundraising pointing out that all of the annual subs paid by each member goes directly to the scout movement as capitation fees so the 44th is totally reliant on its own fund raising for activities and equipment.

The elections for executive positions were keenly contested, each candidate being put on the spot and asked to deliver a brief "speech" supporting their decision to stand for office! It was decided that the position of Treasurer was no longer required as the ESL and the school accounts office do most of the 'financial stuff' - so the Secretary would take on any occasional money collection duties as needed. The Executive committee for the coming year is:

Chairman - Gavin Hardy; *Secretary* - Sam Coe; *Quartermaster/Hut Manager* - Sam Johnson; plus the unit leaders.

The usual thanks to the retiring Exec - especially Chairman Jon, who kept a steady reign on everything and introduced us to some interesting and exciting events (viz "King of Sports", "Scavenge Hunt" & "Let's Lose Joyce").

Cotswold Marathon - 15 February 2003

Once again the 44th brought home winner trophies from the annual Cotswold Marathon.

The fastest team around the 36 mile course in 7hrs 54mins brought home the Lowry Trophy - Peter Lloyd, Dan Stone, Phil Hanson & Adam Griffiths.

The 44th also won the Lowry Junior Male Team trophy - Andrew Hitchcock, Gavin Hardy and Tim Dalton completing the course in just over 11 hours.

The unit entered several other teams in both the 36 and 18 mile events and everyone completed their respective courses in good times.

**Dan Stone, Adam Griffiths, Pete Lloyd
Tim Dalton, Gavin Hardy, Phil Hanson,
Andy Hitchcock**



Survival Weekend - 18-20 January 2003

A gruelling Survival Challenge Weekend was organised by unit "old boy" Dan 'Mad-Dog' Wright, who brought his experiences and expertise to bear in creating survival challenges for two teams from the unit.

Assisted by the miserable wet and windy weather conditions, the teams underwent a true examination of their hardiness, initiative, leadership and character as they moved from one challenge situation to another over the 3-day period.

They had to build their own shelters, light fires, prepare and cook their own meals "backwoods" style, test their mettle on various ropes courses, rock climbs and a cave crawl, beat the clock over a variety of navigation exercises, execute a 'military style' operation on a paintball range, all the while keeping a level head and sense of humour!



The Survivors!

Dartmoor February 2003

The unit enjoyed (?) icy nights and cold windy days (with thankfully little rain) on it's annual training visit to the moors around Princetown with Instructors Lee Rounce and Jason Stone, much respected 44th-ers of yore!



Sam Coe, Alasdair Burchill & Robin Griffiths display their medal haul which secured the 44th's position as outright winners of the U18 section of the District Swimming Gala held on Burn's Night at GL1





Music at STRS : 2002-2003

It seems that the annual cycle of school musical events passes more quickly every year, which means that, either I am getting old and staid in my ways or, more likely, that the annual cycle brings with it a fresh challenge. With the prospect of a new 'line-up' of voices and instrumentalists, each event is planned, rehearsed and performed with anticipation and renewed enthusiasm - (if it were the same every year, I am sure I would have given up teaching music a long time ago!)



As it is, the new academic year begins with..... a possible harvest song or anthem, sketchy plans for Christmas carols and songs and, of course, the production – oh, and don't forget planning music for wind band, orchestra, string group, jazz group and any other group which 'materialises'! Does class teaching come in here somewhere?!

So it was last September – the production had already been decided upon for the first week in December, as usual, and this year, it was to be an adaptation of children's laureate, Anne Fine's 'Book of the Banshee' with added material by Elizabeth Stanley and myself. (Thanks also to Alasdair Burchill, who wrote one of the song melodies). A play with specially written songs was a first and, after three performances which held, entertained and thought-provoked three audiences, will probably not be the last in this genre.

A selection of old and new - a well tried and tested formula for 'Christmas by Candlelight' and the two carol services was once again made and, once again, were greatly enjoyed by the respective audience and congregations alike. It was sad this year not to have the imposing figure of Canon Peter Nunn leading the Holy Trinity carol service - as he has now retired - but the Reverend Peter Bradley confidently took his place. Who said 'Torches'?!

House Music was the next item on the musical calendar and, as usual brought forth a multitude of prospective rock stars, eager soloists and others who just wanted to take part in something or other. The finalists, having been auditioned and ready to go, duly performed on a March Wednesday afternoon to an enthusiastic Year 9 (and any other 6th former who managed to get off games) audience. I was very impressed with the degree of musical skill and confidence shown, particularly by first-timers or normally very shy people for whom music is one of their best means of communication. A closely run 'competition' (I still like to think of it as a concert!) saw Westgate win by only a few points.

The choir, who quietly maintain the tradition of assembly singing each week with hymns, anthems and occasionally something different like the theme from 'The Vicar of Dibley', 'Adiemus' (British Airways advert) and more recently, 'The Rhythm of Life' (Cy Coleman), also traditionally perform a larger work in the first half of the Summer term. Rehearsals for this take place all through the Spring and first quarter of the Summer terms. This year, we gave new life to Britten's 'St Nicolas' with an excellent performance held at Holy Trinity Church, Longlevens. We were joined by superb professional tenor soloist, Stephen Davis, (Nicolas) and a mixed female choir of 6th form girls, choir members,

parents and staff, who sang as the Gallery choir. One of the favourite moments is undoubtedly the miracle of Nicolas bringing back to life three boys who had been pickled and about to be served at a meal! The story is good but the music is even better! Well done to Joe Hackett, Hilary Wise and Daniel Hawksworth who were the soloists.

The two instrumental concerts held as usual at the end of the Spring and Summer terms respectively presented a few of the House musicians performing encores but these were joined by a number of others who had volunteered to play a favourite or recently learned piece. Members of the audiences invariably comment on the range and contrast of the styles and moods of the music performed and indeed, this is always uppermost in my mind when planning the concerts. To have 'Ye banks and Braes' and 'Live and Let Die' as well as Handel's 'Water Music', nursery themes, The Beatles, Blues and Beethoven in the same concert can only be – well, fantastic!

JWT

STRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTR

February 15th 2003 - The March

I glanced apprehensively down at my watch as I made my way out of Waterloo station, London. It was surprisingly chilly for eleven o' clock. The bitterly cold arctic wind swept past my face, freezing my lungs, penetrating my bones. My four layers of clothing proved no match for its violent assault. Only one hour to go.

There were eight of us altogether. Me, my sister and my mum had travelled from our hometown of Gloucester, whilst another family who we have known for as long as I can remember made the difficult journey from Dorset. On this strange day, the bonds between us were stronger still - we were united in our purpose. Together, we were preparing to take part in the biggest march ever planned: a march against Bush and Blair's hurried and irresponsible decision to go to war with Iraq. This was a march for peace.

We made our way slowly but surely across Waterloo bridge. The road had been closed to vehicles and so we were able to walk side by side down its length. We needed to reach the embankment on the other side of the Thames, ready for the start of the march. Every fifty yards or so, on the pavement of the bridge, there would be enormous piles of banners, ready and waiting to be lofted into the air by the countless number of fellow marchers making their way to the opposite side of the Thames. Together, our group managed to accumulate at least six of these. Their rudimentary design made them difficult and uncomfortable to grasp, but this didn't dishearten us. There was something about the whole situation, driving us onwards towards the starting point on the embankment.

We passed numerous riot vans, crammed full of well-prepared police before we eventually made it to the embankment. The atmosphere was electric. People from all walks of life, all religions and all races were packed into the small area beside the river, eagerly awaiting the start of the march. Being a keen photographer, I was in a state of delight. There were so many opportunities to capture so many different emotions. I just *had* to make those potential photographs mine. I knew that it was only a matter of minutes before the march

started, so I decided to make my way to a nearby monument which was raised off the ground by a few feet. I burrowed gingerly through the masses of people towards the monument, my friend close behind. Every now and again we looked back, trying to catch a glimpse of our families. We reached the monument and climbed up some of the stone steps, eagerly awaiting the view. It didn't disappoint. We looked out over an endless sea of heads, with banners bobbing like ships on the surface. The crying voices, horns and whistles seemed to swell and diminish in great waves. With a sudden realisation that the crowds were beginning to move, I took some pictures and we dived frantically back into the swell.

Having finally returned to the safety of the rest of my group, we swept onwards, submerged within the great torrents of people. For half a mile we continued, until the mass halted. At this point, our group was situated directly underneath Hungerford Bridge. The darkness seemed to stir up the atmosphere, thickening it until it almost choked you. Then came an ominous growl from the heavens, starting as a low rumble and escalating to a deafening roar. At the time, it was difficult to picture what could be creating this clamour, but this didn't matter. The crashing and moaning from the roof of the bridge somehow unleashed the noise that had, until now, been caged inside each individual. People in all directions, in all different manners were making as much noise as they possibly could. The vibration of horns, the ear-piercing shriek of a thousand whistles, the desperate shouts of young children and the continuous rumbling moan, caused by train wheels rolling steadily over the track on the bridge above us. By this time my heart was pounding frantically in my chest, my head swirled in the whirlpool of noise as I tried to grasp the situation. After what seemed a lifetime, the crowd lurched into motion once more and we were released from the darkness.

The one thing that struck me the most about the march was the surreal way in which the ordinary met the outrageous. I found this most noticeable as the group staggered towards Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament. Here were these everyday structures, being presented to me in such phenomenal circumstances. We slowly rounded the corner into Whitehall and, once more, ground to a halt as the roads narrowed and marchers had to be compressed into a dense mixture of flesh and cardboard banners. My camera hung impatiently at my chest. What I really wanted was a view from above, looking outwards over the heads of the millions. Without much warning, I fought my way towards a nearby traffic light, which had a high, thin railing alongside it. Trying desperately not to crush my camera I levered myself up onto the rail, clinging tightly to the nearby traffic light with my left hand. A few satisfying shutter clicks later and I was confronted with the difficulty of the descent. As my group was gradually swept further and further away from the rail I had no time to think. I picked out a spot where the tarmac of the road was visible and leapt heavily to the ground.

For me, that was the highlight of the day. It was one of those moments where the rush of adrenaline floods every cell in your body, where icicles race down your back. Counting the swell of noise under Hungerford Bridge as the first, the traffic light incident was the second of such moments. However, there was yet another to come. A group of eight riot police and numerous vans guarded the entrance to Downing Street. Some of these

police men and women were mounted upon magnificent horses, which shorted out great plumes of condensed breath into the atmosphere like Tolkien's dragons, guarding mountains of glistening gold. At first, the crowd around me lay strangely quiet. Then, out of nowhere, a tremendous crescendo of noise swept down the length of the seemingly endless channel of marchers. It was as though I could hear a steam train, rapidly approaching me from behind. Closer and closer it came, thundering and hissing until it finally came to rest somewhere above our heads. It didn't matter that Tony Blair was hundreds of miles from his Downing Street home. These people knew that this was potentially their last chance to have their say and make a stand; every opportunity to expel pure emotion was taken. Deep down I was thinking: If Mr Blair can turn a blind eye to the fact that young children are perched in the cold streets of the capital, yelling and begging for peace, what hope is there for a tranquil world?

After hours of slow but progressive trudging, we eventually arrived at the rally destination. Hyde Park, of course, is usually a serene oasis of green amidst the depressing grey acres of London's tarmac flooring. Today, however, it served a different purpose. I felt the satisfying crunch of a fresh daffodil as I trampled rather too recklessly across the grass to a small tree. It provided a good spot for us to eat our lunch, so we laid down our banners to act as mats. Once again, I couldn't believe how surreal the whole situation was. Grown men climbed like animals into the delicately tended trees. A group of young men and women sat around a small fire, continually being fed with broken banners. Over the far side of the park, approximately one million people crowded around a small stage. Now and again, drowned out by the monotonous drone of four circling helicopters, I could catch the passionate voices of the speakers, often followed by uniform cheering from the throng of onlookers. Although the bitter cold of the air made it difficult to sit still for long, I leaned against the tree and took a moment to try to grasp the spectacle. This was something that neither camera, nor any other item of technological wizardry could capture. I breathed in the fresh air, dense with emotion. With a tired yet satisfied sigh I rolled my finger over the off button of my camera - it was no use, you just had to be there.

Tom Roberts (L6S)

[illegible]

EVACUEE

All aboard on the train

will I ever see home again?

Chug Chug Chug on the track

will I ever be coming back?

Pitter patter the weather's bad

will I again see Mum and Dad?

We now depart off the train

cold and shivering in the rain.

Christopher Stanley

Some visits we have covered already, many more will have to remain unreported here; suffice to say Rich's boys and girls enjoyed some very splendid and worthwhile excursions this year! Space only permits a brief item or two

Spanish Trip

On 27th March 4 members of staff accompanied 39 pupils in Years 9, 10 & 11 to Guardamar del Segura, a small coastal town just south of Alicante, to spend six days experiencing first hand something of the culture and language of Spain.

Activities included a visit to a Turrón factory in Jijona, a football match, a town trail in Elche and a visit to Alicante, as well as games on the beach and a day at the Terra Mítica theme park to make the most of the favourable Mediterranean climate!



All pupils benefited from this taste of life in Spain and enjoyed the opportunity of trying out their Spanish - we returned home tired, suntanned and enlightened!!

Göttingen Exchange Visit

It was 4.30am and all the party had arrived punctually for our journey to Göttingen. This was a promising start and augured well for a successful trip. As we neared our destination, however, nervousness began to set in, giving way to panic as we saw a large group of parents and pupils assembled outside the Otto-Hahn Gymnasium holding a banner welcoming us to Göttingen. (The grammar school is named after the famous German physical chemist, Otto Hahn, who discovered nuclear fission and was awarded the Nobel prize for Chemistry in 1944).

The exchange with Göttingen has been in place for 20 years and a deep friendship exists between the two schools. Nobody could fail to be impressed by Göttingen, a very beautiful German university town, boasting many half-timbered houses and elegant buildings. A landmark and popular meeting place in Göttingen is the Gänseliesl. After receiving their doctorate students, mount the statue to kiss the Gänseliesl, who now has the reputation of being Germany's most kissed woman.

After a weekend with the family pupils experienced the early morning start of German schools - 8.00am. A typical school day consists of six lessons each comprising 45 minutes and ends at approximately 1.00pm. German pupils thus enjoy more free time than we experience in England but it was not universally popular amongst the pupils who looked progressively more tired as the week progressed. As it was the last week of school "A" level pupils were in fancy dress, choosing a different theme for each day. On the final day they remembered their first day of school when they were presented with a large cone of sweets.

During our stay we were given a very warm welcome by the Mayor of Göttingen who kindly answered questions about Göttingen and his ambitions for the town. Thank you speeches were given by Georgina Hayes on behalf of Denmark Road and Christopher Cooper on behalf of Sir Thomas Rich's School.

Alongside a trip to the zoo in Hannover, we were fortunate to be able to visit Berlin. The high-speed ICE train was a shining example of public transport, being clean, extremely comfortable and punctual. The highlight of the day was the visit to the Reichstag (the German Parliament) and the Brandenburger Tor. It was interesting to observe the rebuilding of East Berlin and to see the many beautiful and historic buildings of Germany's capital city.

The exchange has given our pupils a unique opportunity - the opportunity to develop their language skills, the opportunity to experience at first hand life in another country within the context of the family, the opportunity to look behind the façade of their own original impressions and to be a part of a worldwide movement to foster better understanding between countries.



Inside the Reichstag

One World Week at Field Court Infants School

Pupils from Sir Thomas Rich's assisted Field Court Infants School in celebrating One World Week, 17th - 21st February. James Darrall, Andrew Sagar and Matthew Locke from 9T together with our French assistant, Aurélie Hubert, worked with "Purple class" teaching them the numbers and colours and playing language games. They were amazed by the ease with which the five year olds picked up the language.

A second contribution was made by Jolene Groeneveld and Sacha Kerkhof, Lower Sixth. Sacha and Jolene had lived in their earlier years in Holland and enjoyed answering questions from "Orange class" about Holland. Both, however, were caught out by one question. What was the Dutch for "sails of a windmill"?



The pupils responded with enthusiasm to the language games and once again impressed with their ability to remember and repeat the Dutch words. A feat which neither Mrs Hewett nor their class teacher achieved as successfully!



GEOLOGY FIELD TRIPS 2002-3

Western Pyrenees - Oct/Nov 2002

All the Upper Sixth Geologists braved the 36 hours of ferry from Portsmouth to Bilbao and were rewarded with fine, warm weather (apart from some rain on the first and last day) and superb geology - collapsed salt domes, fold and thrust mountain belts, modern alluvial fans, underwater volcanoes and much more. The main advantage is being able to see geological features which are much younger and therefore much fresher and less deeply eroded than we have in Britain. Plus the cultural experience of Spain (and France), both from a rural and urban perspective!



West Wales - November 2002

All the Lower Sixth Geologists came on this their first trip. A rather wet afternoon was spent mapping a hilly area near Llandeilo but the rest of the weekend was fine for looking at lavas, ashes, folds, fossils, faults and turbidites, as well as collecting sand for experiments.

Cader Idris - March 2003

Both Lower and Upper Sixth attended this trip which was part led by local



“celebrity” geologist, Graham Hall, who knows the area intimately. We saw excellent examples of ancient volcanic ash falls, lava flows, deep sea turbidity current deposits and the Tan y Grisiau granite. We also saw a copper mine that the Ministry discovered was still supplying copper to Germany in 1915! We also were shown the amazing way in which slate was quarried underground.



Antrim and Donegal - April 2003

Again, most geology students took part in this ten-day trip, together with some adult students and a 15 year old trumpet player, who stole the show at a performance by a local jazz/show band group. Weather was absolutely superb for that part of Ireland at that time of year. We visited famous conglomerate caves, the Giants Causeway, Errigal “the Shivering Mountain” and

many other places, looking mainly at igneous geology - Donegal is famous for granites and metamorphic rocks - part of the old Caledonian Mountain belt, but we found lots of fossils at Dundoran. Excellent accommodation and lots of great Irish hospitality!!

A Level History Excursion

Medieval pre-reformation stained glass windows are not the first thing that comes to mind when considering interesting days out. However this was a visit I am glad I didn't miss!

We left STRS in the morning and headed for Saint Mary the Virgin church in Fairford. We were met by Geoff Hawkes, who took us around the church, giving us a tour of the different windows and explaining the symbolism behind the various scenes. The windows depicted Old Testament stories, such as Eve in the Garden of Eden and the Queen of Sheba, New Testament depictions of the crucifixion and the ascension; the saints of the Catholic Church lined the north and south windows. The most impressive was the great west window which conveyed the final judgement with St Michael and his scales and the golden stairway to heaven, also a vivid picture of hell and the demons fighting to drag peoples' souls to hell. The history of the church was fascinating and several signs of the dissolution of the catholic style church were apparent. It really helped to gain an understanding of the medieval mindset and their approach to religion.

A quick look around the churchyard and the local market and we were off to Newark Park for a picnic.

The mini-bus drew up upon the drive and the students tingled with anticipation at the thought of the prospective trip around the Hunting Lodge of a Tudor courtier. Well no, that would be lying they were really just dying for lunch! The church tour had been exciting but this tour wasn't anticipated with so much joy.

Lunch had been prepared by the pupils in a feat of organisation equal to that of D-day. The banter flowed throughout the meal, even Mr Pitel and Mrs Grocott were partaking in the jovial fun. Until the point where a 13 stone, 6' 3", first team football player, ran scared stiff across the picnic area from a peacock! After successfully evading the so-called killer birds the group got ready to start their tour of the house.

Upon entry of the house we were met by the present tenant of the house, Michael Claydon. He showed us a model of the original house and then added on the newer extensions to the house. The model did have an air of "here's one I made earlier" but was easy to follow and helped in opening up the design and use of the house throughout the ages.

We then split up individually to look around the house and make our own impressions of what Sixteenth Century every day life was like for those with money. The house was wide and very spacious. The rooms were impressive with fantastic panoramic views from the rear ones. The furniture was quality and even we, a bunch of tired and extremely hot teenagers, could realise that everything was stunningly made and arranged. The house's grounds were really nice, neat not extravagant but just right. However the wandering peacocks did bring a bit of class to the establishment.

After a good 50 mins spent wandering around the house we all met up in the private garden. On the whole the tour had been worth it, not a trip to Alton Towers but good enough to stimulate our imaginations and keep up the good moods of the morning. It had helped us to connect with the Tudor period. The girls had however found something far more interesting to look at than the Tudor architecture, furniture or portraits. They'd found four pea-chicks in the garden and were stood around looking at the chicks with the dreaded phrase emitting from their mouths: "Ahh! Bless".

Will Savory L6C and Chris Mooney L6B

Year 7 Paris Trip

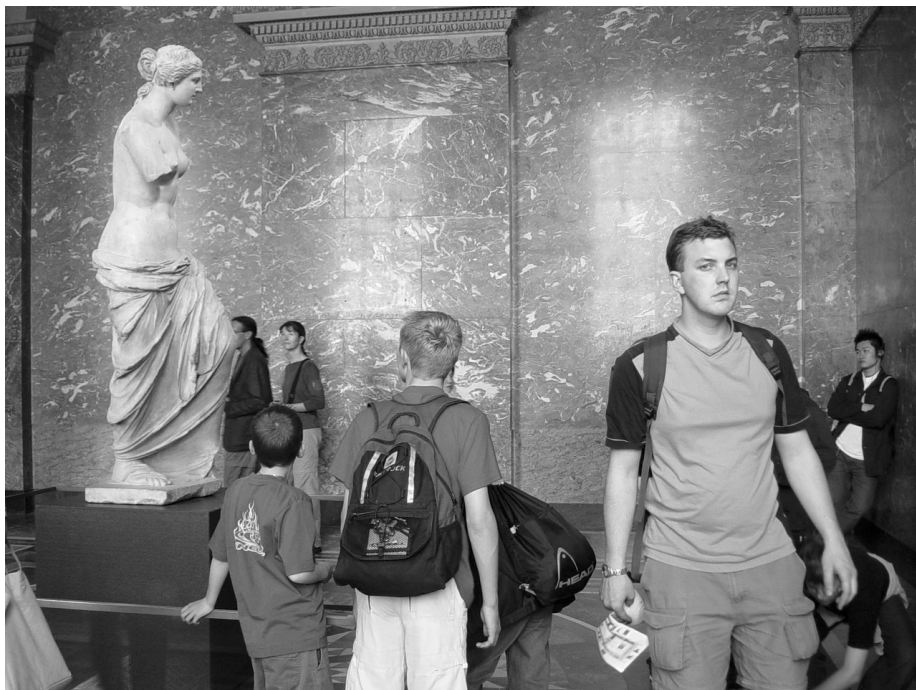
Following the success of previous years, a group of forty Year 7 pupils visited the sights of Paris accompanied by Mr Gowler, Mr Stone, Miss Adamson and Miss Brake. A fantastic week of sunshine was enjoyed in which to view the attractions of Paris. These included the Arc de Triomphe, Eiffel Tower and Notre Dame. A Seine river cruise, Science museum, a bus tour of Paris and a visit to the Louvre where we admired the Mona Lisa amongst other slightly less famous paintings.



The final day of the trip was spent at Disneyland where pupils were entertained by the delights of the "Indiana Jones" and "Space Mountain" roller coasters. Even the staff took the opportunity to impress pupils with their bravery on these rides! A much enjoyed trip by pupils and staff.

**Head of Year 7
Mr Gowler enjoying
the Paris sunshine
with three of his
charges**





“OK - Which one of you lot has taken her arms?”

Year 7 Stratford Trip

Starting senior school alone in a year group of some 120 other unfamiliar faces can be quite a daunting situation in which to find yourself. You soon start to break the ice and make a few friends in your class but the ‘settling in’ process at Rich’s could prove really stressful. That’s where Mr Gowler comes in. Mr Gowler is Head of Year 7 (the only year group at Tommies to have a Teacher to look exclusively after them!) and it’s his job - along with the form tutors - to help Year 7 pupils quickly settle in, organise their work and play, and make sure they become integral members of the Richian community.

To aid this process, Mr Gowler is responsible for arranging several trips and activities just for Year 7 pupils. Highlight is the Stratford Trip - 3 days away discovering the delights and mysteries of Stratford-Upon-Avon! Here are a couple of quotes from Year 7 boys about this year’s trip

“Stratford was an adventure and a laugh, a rest and a rush, and I will always remember the time when I changed home to a youth hostel! When I look back it seems strange that even though we were good, we had fun. That never seems to happen in the hi-tech world of today.” - *Josh Powell 7R*

“After breakfast we were sent to tidy our rooms - we were made to make them look as though they had just been unwrapped from cellophane before Mr Swann allowed any of us to go.” - *Sam Horder 7T*

I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to Stratford and came home completely exhausted but happy with the knowledge that I had made some new friends and to know the friends I already had a little better.” - *Gareth Evans 7T*

Old Richians Association

President's Report 2003

It is with pleasure but with some regret that I present my second and final report as President of the Association. The Association continues to prosper in its own right and also reflecting the progress of the School as it is recognised as one of the very best state schools in the country.

The Association is making excellent use of the opportunities offered by the internet for the dissemination of news about the school and its alumni. As a result an American section of the association has been formed through the efforts of David Hanson-Jerrard, a membership list has been established (thanks to Martin Bulled) and attendance at the successful Annual Reunion was increased thanks to amongst others Nick Priest (1972-1979) who persuaded a group of his far-flung contemporaries to return to Gloucester for the occasion. One of the group (who didn't have far to travel!) was Alan Passey, one of the guest speakers.

The revived Summer Event was very successful marred only slightly by disappointing attendance numbers. The highlight was a brilliant firework display organised by Toby Stewart and Alasdair Burchill of the Upper Sixth and Fireworks & FX Advanced Pyrotechnics.

The Association continues to owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the 'few' who serve as officers and Committee and without whom the association would cease to exist. This group includes the School Captains, this year Katy Winter and Tom Moseling, who ensure that liaison with the school is maintained, and encourage those leaving school to join the association.

I have very much enjoyed my period in office and am delighted to be handing over to my friend and contemporary Alan (Robby) Robinson.

Garde ta Foy!

John Lewis - President



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

BAILEY George A (1932-1937) Still alive and “taking the pills”. He and wife still enjoying life and is an active member of PROBUS. *“Old Richians seem to be going from strength to strength and we wish you all the very best”!* E-mail: georgebailey@onetel.net.uk

BARROW David (1995-2002) spent his gap year working at the Yamikani Orphanage in Blantyre, Malawi with primary school children up to the age of about 7. In the mornings he taught *“basic ideas like colours, shapes and numbers”* to classes of approximately 25 children who spoke very little English - their main language being Chich-ewah which he tried to learn. Conditions were not luxurious and in March he wrote *“We’ve had quite a few power cuts and complete blackouts in the surrounding area and I’ve been kept awake a few times at night from rain hammering on the metal roof which also leaks. We’ve had no hot water for a couple of months but I’m now used to cold showers in the mornings”*. Christmas Day was spent on Likoma Island off the coast of Mozambique - cooking fresh catfish over a fire on the beach. If this sounds idyllic, there were crocodiles nearby and there was the “joy” of Mphutsi – flies which lay their eggs on wet clothing prior to the larvae burying into your skin and forming a maggot infected boil! All a little different from life in Gloucester.

BENNETT Simon W (1973-1979) has moved north of the border to Duns in Berwickshire and in July this year became a father for the second time with the birth of a daughter Katherine Elizabeth, a brother for James. E-mail: simon.bennett@caldside.com

BRAZINGTON Stuart (1978 - 1985) Stuart writes: *“Now living in North Curry, Taunton, Somerset and married to Amanda. I am a Partner at Clarke Willmott solicitors and I specialise in catastrophic brain injury cases. I recently acted for a local boy who recovered £3.75 million as a result of a car accident and the awful injuries he sustained. I have also set up and chair the South West branch of the Child Brain Injury Trust which aims to educate, support and guide professionals and parents of brain injured children. I am pleased to be able to say we have three healthy children, aged 6 and 4. The latter are twins and all attend the local village primary school. We are now getting used to the idea of not having to change nappies!*

I have now hung up my rugby boots for good to avoid troubling the local orthopaedic surgeons further but remain involved with Taunton RFC and of course follow the excellent fortunes of Gloucester RFC. I have returned to playing cricket for the local village team this year to keep the appetite whetted.

In my spare time [what time?] I also act as a School Governor to the local village primary school.” E-mail: SBrazington@clarkewillmott.com

BULLED Martin J (1978-1983) Our Social Secretary became a father for the second time in June when wife Heidi gave birth to Olivia Rebecca Ruth. Aged three weeks Olivia attended the Old Richians Summer Event at the School which we suspect must make her the youngest person to ever attend an Association event - unless you know differently!

CARR Amy (1998-2000) has graduated from The University of Liverpool with a First Class Honours in Economics.

COOK Andrew (1992-2000) Left Rich's for Southampton and a BA in Geography which he obtained this year together with a place for the next three years to do a PhD in Geography. A keen footballer, Andy captained a football XI during his second year and lists “supporting Gloucester City FC” and “drinking heavily” as hobbies - not entirely unrelated acts one might suggest! E-mail: acg100@soton.ac.uk

CORBETT Peter (1940's) Contacted the Association towards the end of 2002 having met up by accident with former Head of Physics at Rich's Mr John Jefferies. Peter went to Exeter University then emigrated to Canada and the USA where he stayed until taking early retirement in 1980 returning to the UK. Part of his time in the United States was with the team packaging the Apollo on board computer – *“.... its fixed memory was around 24K made using a loom and the RAM (or erasable memory in those days) was 1024! And that got them to the moon and back. Now I'm just about to trade in my PC because it only has 150mb hard disk and 48K RAM. Incidentally, the RAM equivalent was 7x1x1½ inches. The programmers must have been geniuses!”* Peter remembered playing hooker in the first rugby match at Rich's against the George Dixon School from Birmingham which had been evacuated to Gloucester and shared the Barton Street premises. A hero of Pete's was the only other person to have played rugby before - Bill Hook. *“On the few occasions when I managed to hook the ball back, Bill scored a try. As I remember it each time he kicked ahead, collected it and touched down! We won much to the Brum Boys' chagrin!”* Peter was keen to re-establish contact with school friend John 'Corky' Manning with whom he had lost contact. E-mail: peter@petercorbett.freemove.co.uk

DANCE Edwin C (1931-1936) A widower and stalwart of the Community in Upton St Leonards on the outskirts of Gloucester Eddie passed away earlier this year after a period of poor health. On leaving Rich's Eddie started a long career in Electrical Engineering by becoming a student apprentice. Like many of his generation his plans were rudely interrupted by the outbreak of war and between 1940 and 1946 he served in the Royal Navy on North Atlantic convoy escort minesweeping, motor torpedo and gunboats. On being demobbed Eddie reverted to his chosen career and joined London County Council's Chief Engineer's Department (Electrical Division) before moving back to Gloucester in 1952 to work for the Midlands Electricity Board where he was District Commercial Engineer retiring in 1982. A long time resident of Upton St Leonards Eddie gave dedicated service to the local parish church where he served for

over 40 years on the Parochial Church Council, 20 years as the Rector's Church Warden and for many years was one of the bell ringers. The arrival of Bill Hook in the village in the early 1990s led to Eddie rejoining the Old Richians' Association and renewing his contacts with the School.

DEAN Nigel (1961-1966) Nigel is one of the editors for ITV sports rugby world cup coverage 2003. He will be hoping to see Gloucester players starring for a successful England team. Sadly this will not be at close quarters as he will be at the London end of the operation and not in Australia. Nigel also worked on ITV's coverage of the IRB Sevens over the last season, including the tournaments in Dubai and Georgetown, South Africa.

DEGAN Akash (1993-2000) is studying in Marseilles for a year "*living the life of a pop star on the Mediterranean.*" Akash contacted the Association via the web site in May when he was shortly to switch to a job in his year out as part of his BSc in International Business and French at Aston University. E-mail: asdegan@orange.net

FLETCHER Les (1932-1938) The Association was notified in August of the death of Les Fletcher at the age of 81. Les obtained his School Certificate in 1936, his Higher School Certificate in 1938 and between 1940 and 1946 served with the 7th Armoured Division (Desert Rats). During the war Les saw action in the Western Desert, Tunisia, Italy including the landings at Salerno, Normandy, Belgium, Holland and Germany, being one of the first British soldiers into Berlin.

After leaving the army Les joined the Inland Revenue's Valuation Branch (The District Valuer's Office). A member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors at the end of his career he had reached the rank of Principal. Upon retirement in 1980 Les took up the hobby of writing for television and radio. On radio his work appeared regularly on programmes such as "Week Ending" and "The News Huddlines" on BBC Radio 4. Television work which appeared in ten European countries included the "Little and Large Show" and "The Russ Abbot Show" as well as children's programmes and a number of pieces for German television.

A widower since October 1997 Les lived in Rottingdean near Brighton and had in recent years renewed his connections with the school by joining the Association and returning to Gloucester for an Annual Dinner when he had the opportunity of meeting a couple of contemporaries. Les suffered a stroke in May 1998 but had largely recovered and was back driving though had to give up comedy writing because he could no longer type.

GEORGE Dr Glyn (1971-1977) is one of our Canadian members living since 1988 in St Johns Newfoundland. During a recent sabbatical leave Glyn spent four months at Dalhousie University in Halifax Nova Scotia. In September 2003 he resumed teaching mathematics to engineering degree students at the Memorial University of Newfoundland where he is an associate professor. E-mail: ggeorge@enr.mun.ca Web Site: www.enr.mun.ca/~ggeorge/

GODWIN William (1995-2002) Former School Captain and member of the

Association Committee was made a Queen's Scout at Easter this year. Currently at university in Aberystwyth Will was unable to attend the Annual Dinner this year due to competing in the London Marathon the next day !

GREEN David R M (1992-1999) It was with sadness that the Association has learnt of the tragic death on Monday 2nd June 2003 of David Green. David who had the previous year graduated with a 2:1 in Management from Nottingham University was travelling in Thailand when he was killed, we understand from a road traffic accident. The funeral was held at St Catherine's C of E Church, Wotton Pitch, Gloucester on the 13th June and was attended by a number of Rich's staff and School friends.

GRIFFITHS Adam (1993-2000) E-mailed the Chairman in April to apologise for not joining his contemporaries at the annual dinner due to having emigrated to New Zealand - Manurewa near Auckland to be precise. Fortunately, the move coincided with an industrial placement year and in August he was back at Plymouth University to finish his electronics degree. E-mail: aic69g@hotmail.com

HAINES Nicholas (1985-1992) Nick has been very happily married to Samantha for over two years now and they have their first child Holly. They still live in Hucclecote. Nick is Corporate Tax Manager at Hazlewoods Accountants in Cheltenham. Feel free to contact him if you need any tax advice - *"... for a fee of course although discounts for Old Richians can be negotiated!"*

HALL Roland (circa 1881) The Association was contacted by Karen Latter (nee Hall) from Rochester Australia. According to the 1881 census, her ancestor Roland Hall, aged ten, was listed as a scholar at the Blue Coat Hospital in Eastgate Street, St Michael, Gloucester. Roland went on to training college at Westminster and was later a headmaster at East Markham. Sadly Mr Hall died young (about 37) leaving a wife with 5 children who emigrated to Australia not long afterwards. Mrs Latter has no contact with any family in the UK and was delighted to have confirmed that Sir Thomas Rich's was the Blue Coat Hospital and from our web site gallery, see the school, including staff and pupils at a time when her relative could have been present.

HARDING Dr Steven (1967-1974) lives in Moseley Birmingham and is Corporate Development Manager of the University of Central England Business School. Steve went to Warwick University on leaving Rich's and recently qualified as a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Nottingham. The son of an Old Richian, his father Brian (1934-1939) lives at Longford and was 80 in April this year. E-mail: Steve.Harding@uce.ac.uk

HARRIS Terence R (Reverend) (1946-1952) Our former President wrote to us in August: *"Sorry I didn't send in my homework last year! Latest news. We are grandparents for the second time. Our daughter Rachel produced another girl Maya, born on 1st May 2003. Our son James is still a Freelance Photographer in London (www.lightinspaces.co.uk). Julia is taking great care of me. In August I was the preacher at the Sidmouth 49th International Folk Festival. (The sermon may be reproduced in*

the Methodist Recorder). I knew what I wanted to say, but wasn't sure what to wear. I wore a blue clerical shirt with a fawn coat with blue stripes and red trousers! Queuing for lunch afterwards a man came up to me and said 'You were the preacher in the Connaught Gardens - I recognised you by your red trousers.' Fame at last! Easter Service 2004 I have been invited as a preacher at St Luke's Methodist Church Centenary Service. They wanted an old Gloucester boy and a former Minister. I assured them I wasn't there at the opening. Next year will be our Ruby Wedding. Incidentally Julia's Wedding Dress is on exhibition at Killerton House (Nat Trust) Devon and pictured in their book 'Marriage à la Mode' (following the Queen's picture!). I am pictured too but not in a wedding dress - just cutting the cake!"

HOOK Gordon (1957-1965) Having sold the Shaldon village shop after 8 years hard labour and retired for at least the second time (he claims retirement should carry a government health warning) he returned to teaching for one year at King Edward VI College Totnes (A-Level Government and Politics). In May he retained his seat on Teignbridge District Council topping the poll for the Liberal Democrats and soundly defeating the sitting council chairman in the process. He is now the council's portfolio holder for the Environment. E-mail: Gordon@guhooke.freemove.co.uk

HOOK William Gordon "Bill" (1931-1939) This year Bill, former Gloucester and England fullback added another sporting first to his list of achievements by giving an interview to 'Shedhead' the highly regarded (and totally impartial!) unofficial supporters magazine for Gloucester RFC. Such publications weren't around 50 years ago when he was a regular at Kingsholm but thankfully he managed to avoid the need for libel lawyers! Although not quite as nimble on his feet now as then at a recent family gathering in Somerset he still managed to see off considerably younger competition with the accuracy of his place kicking.

JARVIS Guy (1991-1994) Graduated this summer from University of Bristol, BSc Computer Science after the move from Electronic Engineering at UCF. Currently job hunting in the UK and Italy.

JARVIS Tony (Headmaster 1990-1994) Gloucester RFC's successful season provided further opportunities to meet up with Richians at Twickenham such as David Hook and Bob Hanney. Tony is still Headmaster at St Olave's (which now has the son of an Old Richian as Deputy Head and a Richian Head of German) and he is involved in additional work with the Avary Scholarship Board, OFSTED and the Woodard Corporation of Church Schools. Always enjoys hearing of Rich's success and Richian achievements.

KAVANAGH David M (1984-1991) It was with sadness that the Association learnt of the tragic death on Monday 13th January 2003 of David Kavanagh, a former Vice School Captain and Association member. At Rich's David was involved with a number of aspects of school life including the Debating Society and helping to edit the Richian magazine and went on after school to Oxford Polytechnic to study as a teacher. David returned to Gloucester but suffered in recent years from depression and died following a fall from the Bruton Way multi-storey car park in Gloucester.

LEWIS Roy E (1936-1941) After RAF Service in Far East 1944-1947 married Iris, qualified as accountant in Cheltenham. Retained position as Chief Accountant at West Midland Farmers, Gloucester becoming Chief Executive for ten years before retirement in 1989. Has two sons, both with successful businesses. Still reasonably active, large garden, bowls, swimming and table tennis. Member of Gloucester Rotary Club. Recently in touch with “Johnnie” Washbourne - now Dr (PhD). Invitation open to any Old Richian to “call in”.

MADDOX C H (1935-1939) Leaving in 1939 with no qualifications he became an apprentice at Rotol Ltd (then 250 strong) as a design draughtsman. Papers signed by Rolls Royce Ltd. Served in “Dad’s Army” during war. Spent many years working for agencies, consultants etc and acquired T Eng ARAS. Worked in USA and Saudi Arabia on the New Town of Yanbu as a mechanical handling engineer. Sports wise - hated football and cricket but became interested in Judo and taught same for many years. Never been unemployed. Drawn everything from chicken coops to guided missiles. Keeps hand in with building drawings. Now a widower, three children, seven grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

NAYLOR William (1992-1997) Having done A levels at Welbeck Army 6th form college and a BEng Software Engineering at Royal Military College of Science Shrivenham, attended Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in September 2002. Just commissioned into the REME and is posted to Munster in Germany as Second Lieutenant. Second in command of a light aid detachment to 1st Scots Guards. He is now a keen sky-diver, mountaineer and rugby player and loves classic cars. Looks forward to a rewarding and lifelong career as an Army Officer.

PAGE-JONES Nigel (1981-1988) became a father for the fourth time in August when wife Tanya gave birth to their second son Nathan, weighing in at 8lbs 12 ounces. This year has also seen a change of house within Liverpool as well as a change of job so all in all a fairly stressful year.

PAGE-JONES Rich (1983-1988) Married to Claire, they have a daughter Ellie. Operations director for a local company called “Angel Solutions” who help to look after the Old Richians Web Site. Lived in Liverpool for eight years.

PAYNE Lucy (1997-1999) successfully completed an undergraduate degree in Biology at St Andrew’s University this summer.

PHILLIPS Jonathan (1993-2000) Graduating with a first class Bachelor of Music Honours degree from Hull University this Summer. Hoping to move to Eastbourne with fiancée later this year to find work in music or similar to entertain the south coast! Continuing piano playing and all forms of sport and hoping to travel the world in the not too distant future.

POOLE Ian R (1982-1987) A second addition to the Poole family, Amy Louise, was born on 12 March 2002 weighing in at 8lb 15oz. Due to lack of sleep, there are no plans to expand the empire further.

PROUSE Andrew (1985-1992) On return from University in London, took up a

teaching post at a school in Churchdown for five years until October 2001. Then decided to hang up whistle and take a career change - something a little safer! Now a police officer based in Tewkesbury and enjoying it enormously. Married to Natasha and living happily in Gloucester.

RITCHIE Sarah (1998-2000) Now finished what was an enjoyable physiotherapy degree at University of Brighton. Has been successful in applying for physiotherapy post working in the Brighton Hospitals Trust and is looking forward to moving from Eastbourne to Brighton where she can really enjoy all the shopping and socialising. Comes back to Gloucester in the holidays to meet up with Old Rich's lot!

SARGENT Justin A (1982-1989) and **Sally née CALVERT** (1987-1989)

Highland Fling

“Shortly after we got married my wife, Sally, and I sat down to decide what we could do next. Babies? Career? Pension? Go travelling? Bing! Unfortunately I've always been a bit cynical of so-called travellers passing through here and there, ticking their list merrily along the way. (Ok, a bit too cynical maybe, but you know what I mean.) How about getting to know one place really, really well? So we looked at development work as an alternative.

So that's how we ended up in Lesotho. If you're in any doubt where this tiny country is - as I was when I first heard about the job - it's a tiny land-locked country surrounded by South Africa. It's about the size of Belgium but that's where the similarity ends. For one thing (as Sally tells me) the chocolate is lousy here. Three-quarters of country is covered in high mountains - in fact, it's the only country in the World that is entirely above 1000m. The scenery is epic. When New Zealand becomes too expensive for Hollywood, they'll be coming here next.

It also has one of the highest literacy rates in Africa, English is commonly spoken, and it has a fairly stable democracy. There are no tribal conflicts and it has a growing export industry. It's main exports are water (from two huge dams in the mountains to South Africa), textiles and, er, soil.

Lesotho has one of the highest rates of soil erosion in Africa, with the lowlands scarred by large gullies. Only 9% on the country is capable of growing crops and that figure is declining as the heavy rains sweep more and more soil into South Africa each year. Lesotho is also one of the poorest countries in the world. Unemployment amongst adults is running at about 40%, and at least 31% of adults have HIV/AIDS (can you imagine that?). Over half of the population is living below the poverty line, and in 2001/02 a state of famine was declared.

Where do we fit in? Well, I'm working as an 'environmental advisor' for two years with an organisation that co-ordinates Non-Governmental Organisations' (NGOs) activities in Lesotho. Our members operate in a range of spheres from lobbying government, protecting human rights and working with communities to improve agricultural production.

At the moment I am developing a range of programmes to support our members. We

are entirely dependent on securing funds from outside sources - usually international donor agencies, including our own Department for International Development. So, at the moment we're looking for funding to run a couple of projects that will help the most vulnerable households improve their food security, nutrition and generate a modest income.

The organisation I'm working for also has a role to represent civil society on issues of national importance, and to help facilitate a dialogue between the citizens and their government. I'm beginning to work with one NGO that wants to develop an 'environmental justice' programme. We've already looked at textile industries in the capital city, Maseru. The textile industry has become notorious for the way workers are treated. The textile industry also uses vast amounts of water and generates a tremendous amount of pollution. International firms have been attracted to Lesotho through favourable trade arrangements with the USA. They have been able to take advantage of the cheap labour and weak environmental legislation. What may interest you is that international consumer pressure is forcing the companies to clean up their act and start cleaning their water; we'd like to see more of that pressure coming from within the country.

As you might imagine living and working here is very different to home. For example, meetings usually start an hour or two late, while other people just drop into your office and are offended if you can't drop everything for them. I've seen 'professional' people put appointments with me in their diary three weeks before we're due to meet, only to find they're not there when I arrive, whilst 400 people from 6 remote villages (with no telephones) can turn up to a public gathering at a day's notice!

What's very clear is how everyone knows everyone here, especially in Maseru. Familiarity breeds contempt, and that is no more clearly visible than in the so-called public services. Corruption is not as serious as other parts of the world, but it is widespread. Church based NGOs are not exempt. Social life (as you might recognise it) is absent too. We usually go into the mountains or over to South Africa at the weekends, whilst most of our colleagues end up going to funerals.

So, any regrets? No, I don't think so. I can honestly say that I think I'll have a positive impact while I'm here - the trick is to see whether I can do it in a way that means the work continues after I've left. I'm certainly learning a lot about myself and re-evaluating my principles and values. In short, it's been a good deal for me too. Many development workers get the bug and stay on indefinitely, but I know that I'll be leaving it behind returning to the UK after my 2 years. I wonder does that make me a tourist after all?"

E-mail: crustyandflo@yahoo.co.uk

SERGEANT Peter (1964-1971) is still at Loughborough Grammar School where he has been since 1975 and where he is now the Under Master, a member of the Senior Management Team. For the past seven years he has been the school's examinations officer and he has just been seconded to the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority

Examinations and Testing section for twelve months to help with a national project to develop more user-friendly administration practices for Examinations Officers. He has also just completed 21 years in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve (Training) and is now a Squadron Leader.

STOCKS J Anthony (Headmaster 1961- 1973) Tony celebrated his Eightieth birthday this year as well as being presented with a certificate to mark 60 years as an accredited Methodist Local Preacher. A number of Old Richians still have the pleasure of being addressed by their former Headmaster on a Sunday morning in various churches in the Gloucester Methodist Circuit. Our Chairman can report the delight expressed by the three teenage daughters of one former pupil that their father admitted to still being in awe of the man in the pulpit - *his* Headmaster, who from memory had also introduced their dad to the cane on one occasion!

TAYLOR-JONES Nigel (1976-1983) who works for the Gloucester City Council as a Museum Assistant at the main Brunswick Road City Museum and Art Gallery listed in his entry in the 2000 Richian hobbies including *“supporting Gloucester Rugby Football Club and practising to start a large family”*. Well 2003 wasn't just a successful season for the Cherry and Whites as Nigel (formerly Nigel Jones) became a father in March when wife Claire gave birth to a 7lb 2oz baby girl who has been named Daisy Robin.

THOMAS Michael (1994-2001) Former School Captain having already represented England at Junior levels was selected in 2003 for the full England men's water polo team. He was a member of the team which won the North Sea Cup in Belgium by beating Denmark, Sweden, Ireland & Scotland.

TRINDER Keith (1976-1981) Working for British Waterways (BW) until recently as Senior Project Manager Business Development, now working in a joint venture team between BW and Morrison Construction on delivery of backlog engineering assets. Keith has HND in Civil Engineering from Plymouth Polytechnic and a MSc (Dip) Civil Engineering from Nottingham Trent University. Married to Sarah in 2001 they are currently renovating their Edwardian home at Kings Heath, Birmingham. If this was not enough, Keith still enjoys cycling, though not at the same level as he did as a school boy, but nevertheless, was half of the two man team that won the BW Mountain Bike Competition in 2002. E mail: kstrinder@hotmail.com

TWEEN James (1992-1999) successfully completed an undergraduate degree in Mathematics & Philosophy at St Andrew's University this summer.

TYLER (nee HARDING) Kirsten (1990-1992) Went on to Liverpool University after leaving school where she obtained a BA (Hons) in English and Music. After qualifying in 1995 Kirsten travelled in the Southern Hemisphere visiting Australia and New Zealand before returning to the UK and in 1998 marrying Stuart Tyler. Kirsten states with regard to career that she is now "working in law" and back living in Gloucester. In 1999 she and Stuart had their first child Cameron who was joined by Ferne in January of 2003.



Guest Speaker Alan Passey reunited with others from his year group

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Alan who was also attending as part of a very successful year group assembled by Nick Priest, said they had joined the school 30 years ago. Having left in 1979 Alan later returned as a member of the teaching staff and is now Head of Physics. He explained that one of the duties associated with this post involves responsibility for the stage lighting and being key holder for the under stage area. He recalled humorous anecdotes connected with this secluded part of the school premises. Next Alan referred to three members of staff in particular who had greatly influenced him during his years as a pupil at Rich's. They were firstly Tony Stocks, Headmaster who now shares with Alan's father John a sense of despair concerning the railway systems of the country. Alan paid tribute to Mr Stocks' inspirational leadership and commented that by coincidence, he was at that very moment dining in Switzerland with Alan's parents.

Secondly, Graham Middleton with his teaching of physics and enthusiasm for rowing as a sport which he developed at the school and thirdly, Michael Rangley who achieved high standards in all aspects of the music department.

Then adding a new dimension to his speech Alan projected an excerpt from a school film made during his time as a pupil before concluding with a toast to the Old Richians Association.



Teacher Mike Swann joins in celebrations with several 2002 leavers

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The President then invited the Headmaster Mr Ian Kellie to respond to the earlier toast to the school.

Ian opened his remarks by confirming another successful year in all aspects of life in the school with a particular highlight being the formal opening of the new Language Centre by Lord Stockton MEP. This development is named after a former Headmaster Mr W J (Peter) Veale whose widow Gweneth was present at the ceremony.

Mentioning other improvements - among them a new Art Studios, Ian said that the many excellent facilities as well as the wide range of clubs and other activities such as Venture Scouts, now available for pupils were as good as those at any state school. Confirming that academic standards remain consistently high throughout the school Ian was pleased to report that 8 pupils had been offered placed at Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

Before concluding with the school motto “Garde ta foy” Ian praised the ethos of cooperation between Governors, staff, pupils and parents which made it a pleasure to work at the school.

The President then asked the Rev Terry Harris to say Grace before everyone enjoyed a very pleasant meal and more convivial conversation to round off the evening.

David Mayo

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Saturday 3rd April 2004

Next year’s Annual Reunion Dinner - be there!!

Oxbridge Reunion Dinner 2003

It had been a tradition for many years for Richians at Oxford and Cambridge Universities to meet up for a dinner. Sadly, for various reasons, the dinner had not taken place for some time. However, after a six year hiatus, the Old Richians Oxbridge reunion dinner returned to grace the world once more. Thanks to Danny Bhagawati for being the prime mover.

A sizeable group of people met in style, decked out in black tie within the hallowed halls of Christ Church, Oxford, which was founded by Cardinal Wolsey and is almost universally considered the most majestic college in Oxford (though this may simply reflect a certain bias on the part of the writer!).

We assembled in the grand “McKenna Banqueting Room” and sat down to a sumptuous 5 course meal consisting of some of the best food that Christ Church had to offer. An enjoyable evening ensued with much discussion about the school and how various Richians were coping with the trials and tribulations that university had thrown their way.




Those present were: James Allison (St Peter's), Paul Baker (University College), Danny Bhagawati, (Christ Church), Chris Carter (Senior Master), Simon Clarke (St Peters), David Hook (Old Richians Chairman), Afzal Junglee (Keble), Ian Kellie (Headmaster), Matthew Key (St Catherine's), Dave Leung (Kings), Simon Poole (Churchill), Mike Seales (Deputy Headmaster), Steven Smith (Churchill), Rosemary Stanley (Balliol), Jonathan Taylor (St Edmund Hall).

Hopefully, after such an enjoyable evening, the dinner will become an annual event once more, as plans are already being implemented for the dinner to be held in Kings, Cambridge next year, though maybe some more alcohol may be needed to ensure some looser tongues, and more gossip!

Old Richians' Association (USA)

The Section will offer the ability to pay the annual subscription in dollars into an American bank account. We know that only a fraction of the Richians living in the US are actually members and we hope that a number who no longer have bank accounts in the United Kingdom will take advantage of this facility. Forms will be available to download from the website in due course as well as from our American Secretary David Hanson-Jerrard (1977-83) who lives in California and has kindly agreed to coordinate the Section.

 To join if you live in the USA you should send your details to both the American Secretary (details above) and the Association Treasurer Andrew Bishop at:
Island Cottage, The Leigh, Gloucester, GL19 4AG, England.
E-mail: oldrichians@hotmail.com.

The Annual Subscription is \$20 (US) and you should instruct your bank to pay this sum immediately or on the 1st July next and on the 1st July each year into our American Account. The Account to be credited is "David R C Hanson-Jerrard" with the Washington Mutual Bank, the Routing number is 322271627 and the Account Number is 067-304699-4. Newsletters and the Richian Magazine will be dispatched from the UK as at present.



Old Richians Association Membership Statistics

As of 30th June 2003 the Old Richians Association had a total membership of 411 full members.

There are five categories of full members as follows:

| <i>Category</i> | <i>30th June 2002</i> | <i>30th June 2003</i> |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| £10 Bankers Order | 280 | 275 |
| £5 Student Bankers Order | 76 | 95 |
| £10 Annual Subscription | 7 | 8 |
| Permanent | 16 | 14 |
| Honorary Staff | 14 | 19 |
| TOTALS | 393 | 411 |

For the fourth consecutive year since we started recording membership figures in the Richian, the Association’s total membership has increased and now stands at 411, almost a hundred more than in 2000. Thanks to record support from the 2002 leavers student numbers have jumped to an all time high of 95.

The other figures appear to have altered little but there have been considerable fluctuations. Twenty members who were paying £10 by Bankers Order did not renew this year. There are various reasons for this including sadly the death of the individual concerned as well as bank error which we hope will be rectified next year and student members lapsing at the end of their four years at £5. The figure of twenty was originally nearly twice as high but all members were written to at the address we have for them and many responded positively. Thanks to fifteen new members starting to pay £10 for the first time the overall drop was only five members in that category but we cannot afford to lose any members and hope that next year we will see the £10 Bankers Orders increase rather than decrease.

Committee Members 2002-2003

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| PRESIDENT | John Lewis |
| SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT | Michael Sykes |
| CHAIRMAN | David Q Hook |
| HON TREASURER | Andrew K Bishop |
| HON SECRETARY | David G Billingham |
| HON SOCIAL SECRETARY | Martin Bulled |
| HON AUDITOR | Dennis Collins |
| HEADMASTER | Ian Kellie |
| SCHOOL CAPTAINS | Katy Winter & Tom Moseling |
| COMMITTEE | Will Godwin, David Leung, Ian Poole, Matt Key |

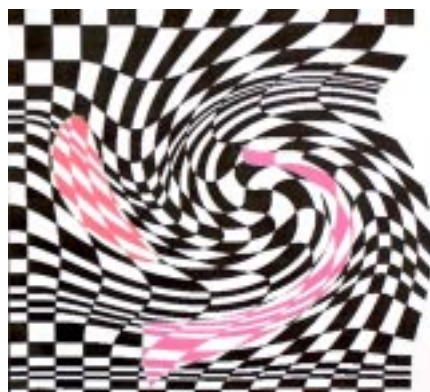
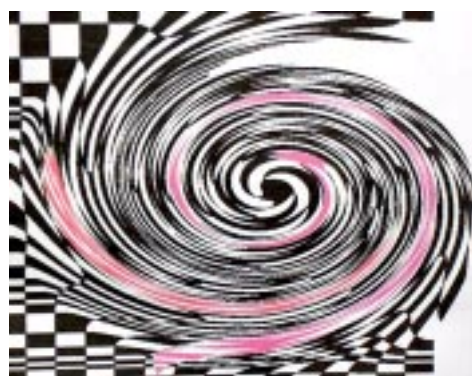
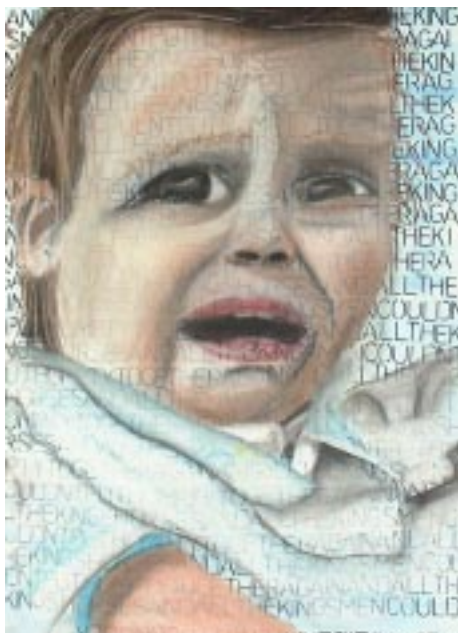


The Choir
Christmas 2002





**Katy & Tom hand over their gowns after good service to the school.
We wish Samantha Lyons & James Martin a rewarding and successful
year as the new School Captains for the 2003-2004.**







Personal Study by Tom Roberts 11T
GCSE Art Module Final Piece



Sir Thomas Rich's School
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