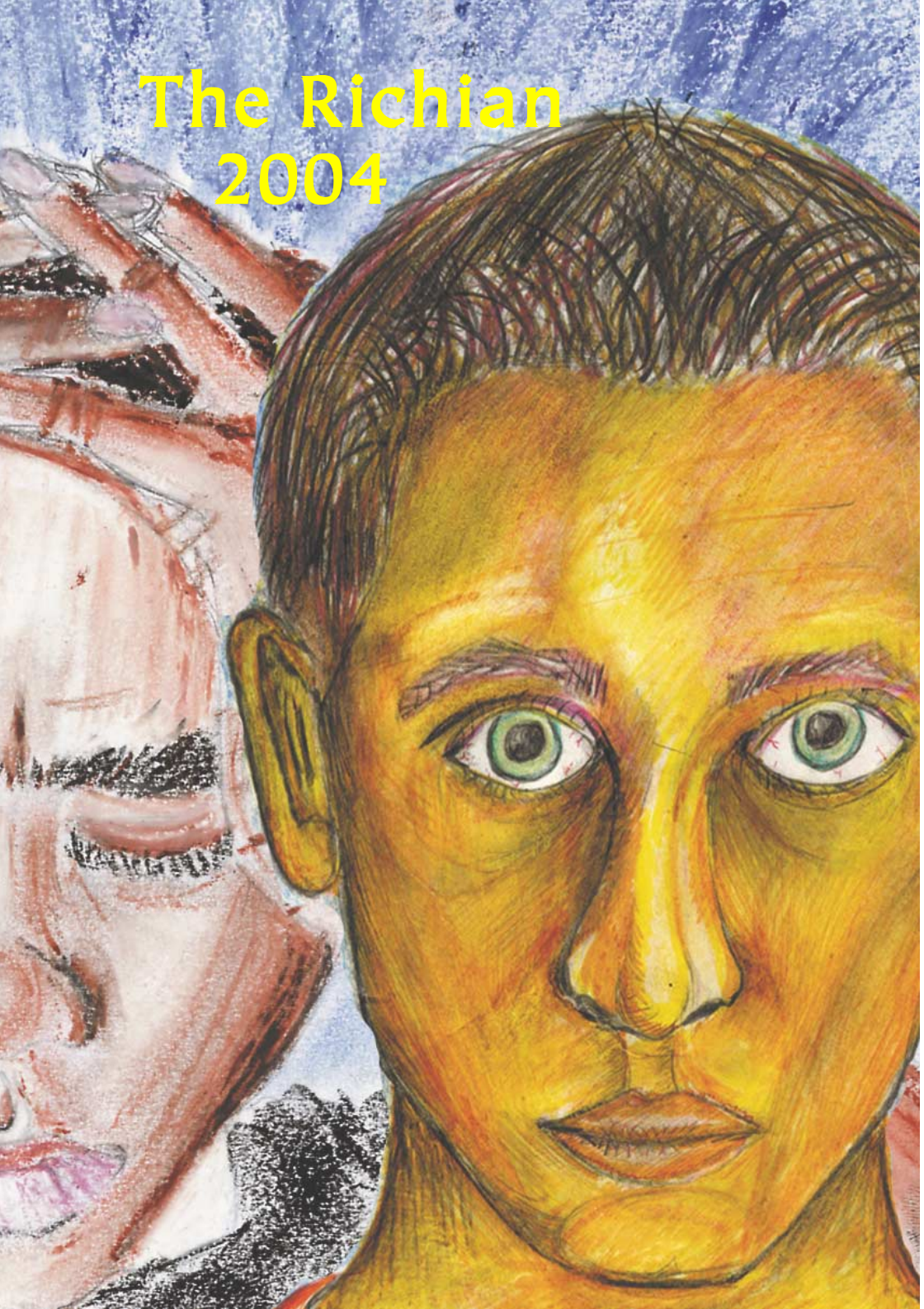


# The Richian 2004

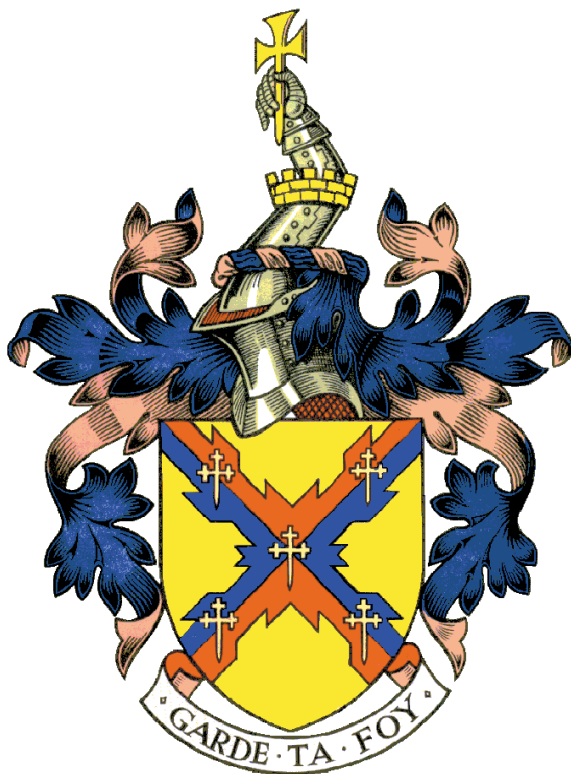




Sixth Form Art







# **The Richian**

**2004**

Official Magazine  
of  
Sir Thomas Rich's Grammar  
School





School Captains 2003 & 2004

James Martin, Sophie Keates, Chris Gallant, Samantha Lyons



Dan Knowles with  
House Tennis Trophy

**Southgate  
Cock House  
2003-4**

Dexter Bradley  
receives Cock House  
Trophy from Will  
Rudge of Glos CCC





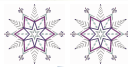
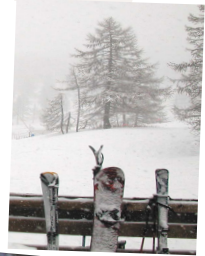
Andrew Downes  
Centurion Cup Winner

Chris Fortey of  
Gloucester RFC takes  
time out from  
Kingsholm to present  
Rugby Trophies &  
Senior Colours





# Ski Trip 2004 Risoul









U14 Badminton Team - 3rd in Carlton Top School Regional Round  
Rail Soc - Going Underground!







U13 Cricket Tour to Suffolk - Opening fixture versus Woodbridge  
 Dave Green & his intrepid geologists exploring the misty Picos de Europa









And the Walls Came Tumbling Down .....

7S find out about the Brass Section of an Orchestra

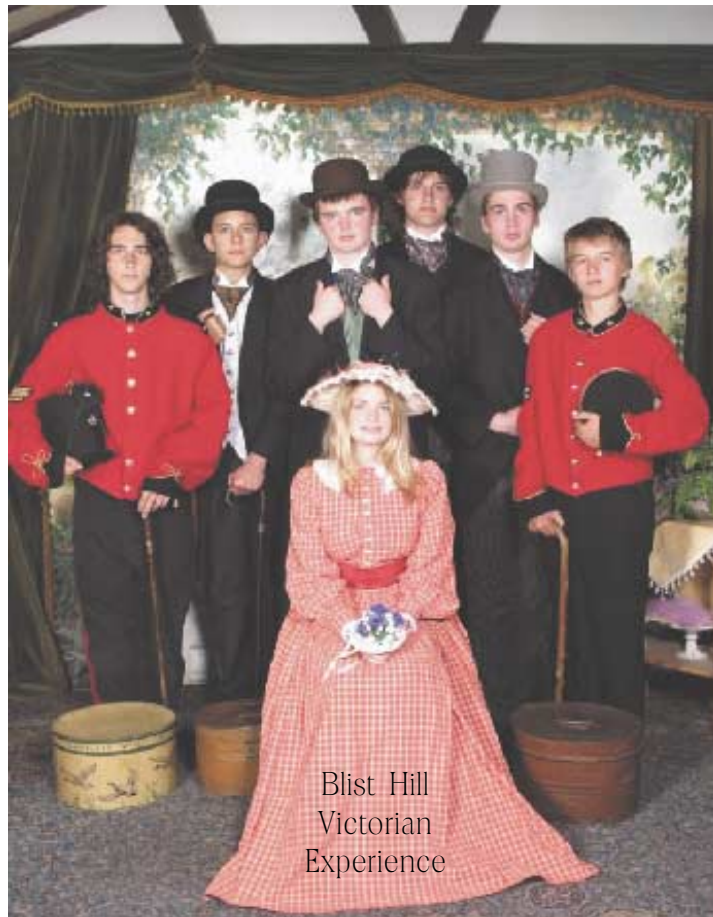
"Hands On" Music Lessons during the Spring Term

With Special Thanks to the Gloucestershire Music Service





Stone Faces



Blist Hill  
Victorian  
Experience







Richard Young (9T) who was in charge of preparing 16 computers with operating systems and Office software for PMM our Ugandan Link School

**STRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTSTRSTRSTR**

Richian Photographer & Reporters Ruth Hill & Reema Bhatt





## Editorial Foreword

Well the passing year at Rich's has been played out before several dramatic and terrifying events on the world stage. Terrorist attacks promise death and mayhem; no part of this ever-shrinking world can be considered totally "safe".

The power base of the 21<sup>st</sup> century however belongs to those who control the information highways, regulate access to their stockpiles of data, accumulate and take ownership of an increasing wealth of information. Information is power.

In some ways Sir Thomas Rich's is mirroring the outside world. Barricades surrounding the school have gone up, metaphorically and physically. We have, fortunately for the time being, fought off the terrorists at Shire Hall who would see Grammar School education and Tommy's in particular blown away. Electronic systems are becoming intrinsic to virtually every aspect of life at Sir Thomas Rich's. 'IT' - Invasive Technology? We appear to be making a business out of our education provision, traditions and resources. Sir Thomas Rich's plc? The genuine feelings of community and kindness seem to be dissolving rapidly into the increasingly frantic swirl of daily life. There is seldom time to stop and celebrate life itself, the joy of living, the beauty and magnificence of creation.

For a moment last December the school halted - shocked by the devastatingly sad news of Emma Hole's untimely death. Emma - a Sixth Form student - had her life before her only to have it snatched away in a car accident. For a brief while people reflected, sought to draw meaning from such a meaningless and cruel occurrence. They looked more closely at life and their involvement in it. Religious people might call this prayer; transcendentalists meditation; spiritualists contemplation. Whatever, individuals need much more of it in their daily lives. Especially in this increasingly superficial and materialistic world in which we choose to live.

So to this edition of The Richian! I have changed its emphasis somewhat - much of the 'who did what, where, when and how' reports now appear elsewhere. So I've tried to get behind the scenes a bit more, explore different angles to what Richians have achieved and do. I have been ably helped this year by Reema Bhatt (L6) and Ruth Hill (U6) who have put in valuable time and effort to report and photograph from the alternative angles and viewpoints. My special thanks to them both. Thanks also to those who contributed items and my apologies to those several persons for whose articles I could not this time round find any space.

A special vote of thanks to my wife Celia who has put up with me burning the midnight oil on several occasions as the printing deadline approached and who also "volunteered" to proof read and correct the copy.

We hope you enjoy the read!

**PB**



Mr Ian L Kellie BSC MEd

Headmaster

## Headmaster's Report Academic Year 2003-2004

Looming over school life this year has been the County Council's review of secondary schooling in Gloucester City and the threat to grammar schools. Tremendous support for all schools was obvious throughout the public consultation, particularly the grammars. As a result the Council abandoned its first set of options but then set up a Project Board which has come up with a new set of proposals. The whole process has been an unwelcome diversion but I am grateful to the school community for their marvellous support.

Despite the uncertainties caused by the review the school has enjoyed another extremely busy year. This can be only an eclectic selection to illustrate the range of activities undertaken. There were more visits abroad than ever before: five to France - Brittany (work experience), Strasbourg (European parliament), Annecy (exchange), Paris (Year 7), Risoul (skiing); three to Germany - the Rhineland (Year 8), Göttingen (exchange), Aachen (work experience); two to Spain - Oviedo (exchange) and Ribadasella (Years 8/9), one to South Africa (summer expedition), one to China (6<sup>th</sup> Form). Other educational visits within the UK are too numerous to mention but each ensured pupils' education was memorably brought to life.

An area of significant development was the school's use of ICT. The G4 computer suite was refurbished, four interactive whiteboards were installed, a new school website was set up and all pupils' reports were produced by computer.

Extra-curricular provision continues to play an important part in school life. In this way our pupils gain a broader education. The main school drama production was *Pirates of Penzance*, drama clubs also staged public performances in December and March. There were instrumental concerts and in April the choir combined with Ribston Hall to perform *Carmina Burana*. Inter-House events were held through the year, resulting in overall victory for Southgate.

Our commitment to sport was recognised in December when the school received a prestigious *Sportmark Gold* award from Sport England. School teams performed to a high standard: in soccer the 1<sup>st</sup> XI got to the final of the Regional Cup and progressed to the final of the County Cup with high expectations of victory only for the match to be called off. In cricket the U12, U13 and U14 teams each won their respective City Challenge Cups.

I am delighted that our link with PMM School in Uganda, established only last year, has strengthened. Bursaries for 20 girls have been set up and we received reports on their progress. Mrs Arnold visited PMM School at Easter and she reported back on how



The year was rounded off with another set of excellent examination results. At A-level the pass rate was 99.7% with two-thirds of passes at grades A and B. At GCSE we had record results, everyone in Year 11 gained at least eight passes at grade C and above, 63% of all results were at grades A and A\*.

## Gloucester Secondary Schools' Review

There followed through November and December a series of well-attended and very heated public meetings, held in each of the thirteen secondary schools and in five other venues. At each meeting strong support for the schools was voiced by parents and pupils, none more so than on 20<sup>th</sup> November when the Council representatives came to Rich's to face a packed and hostile Hall. The point was made repeatedly that if the purpose of the Review was to raise standards then it made no sense to affect in any way the most successful school in the city.

On 5<sup>th</sup> March the Council's Cabinet (a group of ten County Councillors) met to determine what steps to take next. It decided not to adopt any of the options but instead to set up a Project Board to reconsider the process. This Board (of three Labour and three Liberal Democrat Councillors and three Officers) met in secret, they invited 'key education stakeholders to give evidence' and then produced their report. Their key recommendations were that Central Technology College and Barnwood Park School should both be closed and replaced by a new, mixed comprehensive school and that entry to the four grammar schools should be reduced by 120 places (4 forms). The Cabinet met in July and accepted this report, subject to a further period of public consultation.

As the school year comes to an end we must hope that this sorry saga is also drawing to a close. Since 1988, when all maintained schools were provided with the opportunity of opting out of LEA control, we have enjoyed years without interference and we have flourished. This LEA review, no doubt instigated with the best of intentions, has staggered along causing uncertainty and anger. The sooner it is over the better and we can get back to concentrating our efforts upon our work at Rich's.

[illegible]

History isn't always what happened, it's often what someone else wants  
us to believe happened

## **Staff Changes**

In September 2003 we welcomed 4 new members of staff to Rich's ....



John Reid  
*History*



Gillian Chang  
*Physics*



Kate Prinsep  
*Chemistry*



Roger Brookin  
*Classical Civilisation*

Following Jock's reign as School Site Manager, we found ourselves having to cope with no official caretaking staff for the duration of the summer holidays and the whole of September - a kind of caretaking inter regnum. One of the school's unsung heroes, Ken, traded in his part-time gardening tools to perform a sterling job as substitute site caretaker (while still carrying out his Sports Centre cleaning duties) until the new Site Manager and Caretaker took up their duties in October 2003.



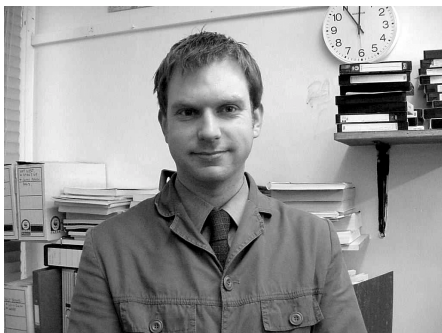
Ken Sands  
*Grounds Keeper*



Steve Riddler  
*Site Manager*



Jeff Watts  
*Caretaker*



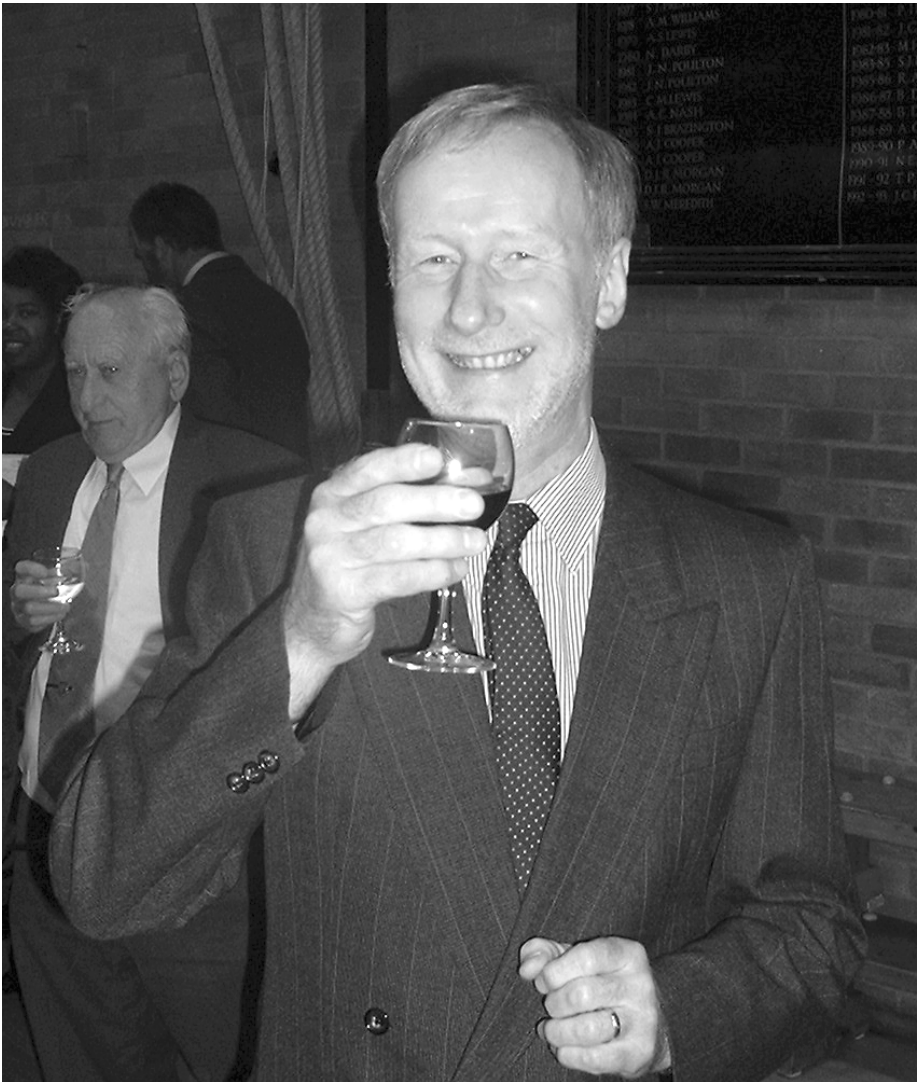
### **Matthew Buttler**

Mr Buttler was one of our recruits from the Royal Grammar School, Worcester, making the move in September 1999. Two years later he was appointed Head of our Business Studies and Economics Department. His contributions to the school have been considerable, within his teaching and beyond. He has helped to lead many school trips, both curricular (annual visits to Jaguar in Coventry and to Institute of Directors' meetings) and extra-curricular (for example

this year's skiing trip to France). Mr Buttler has also assisted with Games, football being his interest, despite supporting West Bromwich Albion!

It is always disappointing when the rigours of teaching deter a committed professional from continuing in the career, but we wish Matthew and his family well in his new post.





### ***Geoff Barrington***

Mr Barrington joined Rich's as History Master from Trinity Grammar School, Northampton in September 1974 and progressed to become our Head of History. 30 years later he decided it was time to retire. Such a period of unbroken service to one school is an outstanding record and we remain greatly indebted to Mr Barrington for his commitment and contribution to generations of Richians.

Mr Barrington will be remembered as a softly spoken, calm, considerate man with a passion for History, who took comments about his native Welshmen's sporting frailties in good humour. He was an excellent Form Tutor, typically taking care of a Year 10 or Year 11 Form. In this rôle he always conscientiously ensured that his tutees achieved

their maximum potential.

However it was within his History Department that Mr Barrington devoted particular energies and enthusiasm. He faced the Richian tradition whereby it is all but assumed that everyone will study Geography to GCSE and thence to A-level. Any other subject within the Humanities is therefore up against the weight of years of expectation. But thanks to Mr Barrington's diligent efforts the numbers of students opting to study History steadily rose. Indeed, in an unprecedented expansion, we now have two Lower Sixth History sets.

Not only have numbers increased, under Mr Barrington's teaching and leadership, examination results in History have been outstanding. For example, at GCSE in recent years there has been a 100% pass rate at grade C and above; indeed in 2002 two-thirds of passes were at grades A and A\* and in 2003 a remarkable 72% were at these top grades. At A-level these standards have been repeated, everyone passing and in the last two years around 70% gained grades A or B.

So Geoff Barrington leaves History at Rich's in a very strong position, a fitting tribute to his hard work. We wish him and Carole well in his retirement.

### ***Three 'Special Deliveries' for Rich's Staff***



This year brought happy events for three of our female members of staff as they were visited by the stork of motherhood. We send all three our congratulations and best wishes.



Birgit Testoni-Ranken with Oliver Henrik

Rebecca Zurick with Hazel

Melanie & Ian Cormack-Hicks with Oliver Thomas

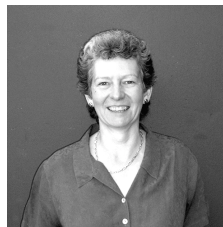
Whilst away on their respective periods of maternity leave, we welcomed their replacements, one of which is very well known to us! Ja! Hier kommt Herr Slinger!!



Mrs Douglass-Lee  
*Biology*



Dave Slinger  
*German*



Mrs Lloyd  
*Art*



## ***School Buildings***

I have heard horror stories of the Barton Street school's facilities, although always combined with comments about the tremendous spirit and loyalty amongst pupils and staff. Nevertheless the move to Elmbridge on 14<sup>th</sup> May 1964 was clearly overdue and most welcome. The swimming pool was then added thanks to tercentenary fund-raising and the bowls green was constructed but, in terms of teaching accommodation, little changed for the next 30 years.

Then we experienced a surge of development – rebuilt swimming pool, new quadrangle of classrooms, Music Centre, Sports Hall, Fitness Suite, Language Centre, Technology Projects Room – not to mention internal changes eg the Library and G4/G5 built in what was a 'wind tunnel', conversion of classrooms to laboratories (L7 & L8), Art Room (G9) and Art Studio. Why 30 years of stability then a decade of new building?

There are two reasons, both consequent upon the 1988 Education Act. This allowed schools to 'opt out' of Local Authority control. After years of the County Council proposing reorganisations, each of which threatened the future of Rich's, we could simply opt out if we wished. The result was an end to threats of reorganisation and a period of stability. Parents could choose Sir Thomas Rich's for their child without worrying about whether we would become a Sixth Form College or whatever the Council was planning. The Act also abolished 'catchment areas' and gave parents a choice of school for their child. Suddenly Gloucester's grammar schools were no longer available only to children from Gloucester City. Previously we had been restricted to 2 forms of entry but in 1990 we expanded to 3 forms then, in 1992, to 4 forms of entry; total pupils numbers rose from just over 400 to 750+. The County Council invested £1.2 million in building a new quadrangle of classrooms (Q1 to Q10) to accommodate the extra pupils.

The Act effectively freed schools from Local Authority control of, amongst other constraints, finances. If we could obtain additional funding we now had the autonomy to spend it as we wished. Hence Beacon School funding paid for the Music Centre, a £600,000 Sport England lottery grant enabled us to construct the Sports Hall and Language College status provided funding for the Language Centre.

It has been rewarding to see Rich's facilities develop to provide the best possible learning environment. However, for all the millions invested in bricks and mortar, far more important has been the continuation of that indefinable Richian ethos, the pride in belonging to a unique school.



## ***40 Years On .....***

On 14th May 2004 we celebrated the 40 year anniversary of the school's move to its present Oakleaze site. We were joined at morning assembly by Mr J A Stocks, who was then Headmaster. 'Jasper' - as Rich's boys affectionately called him - recounted some of his memories of the old school, its move to the brand new Oakleaze premises and comparisons twixt old and new, present and past.

***ILK***

## Love Poem no. 2\*

Stasis of emptiness. Sterile. Sterile.  
The nurses flit across this cold white abyss  
Like so many moths. What is that? A smile?  
Or the subtle crook that hangs from your lips  
To pull me in? I can never decide.  
Do you really think you'll just wash me free  
Of my loving persuasions - with some slight  
Of hand, some stitches, forever *absolve* me?  
Well I never asked for a priest. Or for  
This snickering, Kit-Kat crunching crowd to  
Come and paint me the lurid spectrum of a  
Victory parade. I just wanted to  
Stain the precious ivory with crimson,  
Daze, and in my silence be forgiven.

*Paul Horn*

### **Paul Horn**

**6th November 2004**

*This poem was submitted into the 'Significant Events' national Schools Poetry Competition.*

*Love Poem no.2\* impressed the judges sufficiently to earn Paul a runners-up prize.*

*Our picture shows him receiving his runners-up certificate and £30 book vouchers from the Poet Laureate Professor Andrew Motion at UCE Birmingham on 18th March 2004.*





## The Locker

A lifeless portal  
Cavernous and cold  
School work  
Objects of leisure

All these just compact into a block  
And shoved into my cave-like mouth



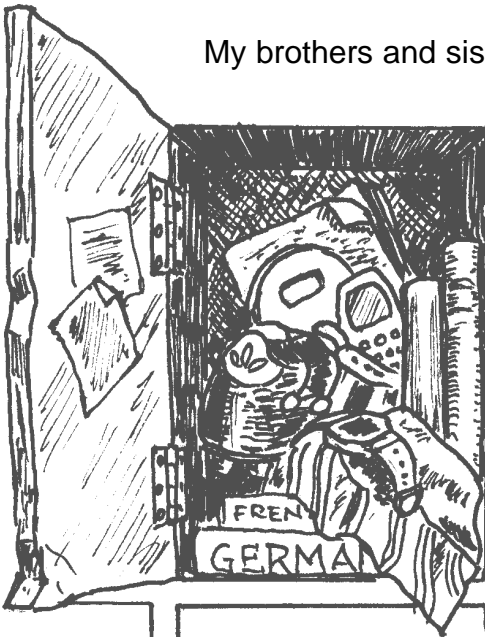
I'm slammed  
Battered  
Bashed  
And all because I refuse to open once in a while  
It's as though I only exist in the form of a punch bag

When I open creaking and groaning  
I take a deep breath before I dive back into the darkness  
Sad  
Lonely  
I stand in a corner encased in myself

My brothers and sisters all carry a variety of things  
Each one special  
Secret

But only I know  
Only I know what I hold  
I hold my favourite things  
A walkman  
A phone  
And a watch

*Daniel Morgan*



## ***Alice in Wonderland***

The Library has a new assistant – her name is Alice – you will never get to meet her, but she has, in the short time that she has been with us, revolutionised the library!

I am talking, of course, about the new automated library system now fully in use. It took nearly 2 years to enter all the bibliographic details of every book in the library onto a computer database, but in March 2003 I finally started to loan books using the new system. Gone are the readers' tickets, the pieces of card in the front of each book, the duplicate card index system and the manual accessions register. Every book now has a barcode and there is an enquiry computer alongside the issue desk dedicated to the Library Catalogue. Borrowing, reserving, renewing and returning items is a very straightforward procedure, using the pupil database imported from the admin system and an electronic scanner.

Finding books has never been easier – Alice can search the database by Title, Author, Keyword, Subject, Series, Topic, Publisher, ISBN, Classification Number, Barcode Number, the list is seemingly endless. The screen displays all the information necessary to find the book on the shelf, including whether it is on loan and when it is due back.

"Please Miss, I brought back a book last week and I need it again – I can't remember what it was called or who wrote it!" Before 'Alice' an impossible task – now a simple click on 'Loan History' of the pupil concerned brings up a record of every book borrowed since they joined the school and the dates they were returned.

"Can you tell me which books I have on loan and when they're due back?" Another difficult question, which meant searching through the file of readers' tickets – a click on another icon and the information is displayed on screen.

Gone are the days when I would spend one day a month writing out overdue slips – 'Alice' prints them for me at the touch of a key and keeps a total of how many times a





pupil has been 'reminded' about an overdue book. Alice can produce reports, statistics, notices and other listings in a fraction of the time it took me to do them manually!

How did we ever manage before 'Alice'? The library is certainly now more 'user-friendly', it is much easier for younger pupils to find a non-fiction book. Cataloguing the books takes a little longer but is more comprehensive as all the bibliographic details are contained on each book's record.

Forget the white rabbit – all Alice needs is a mouse!

So, we now have a 20<sup>th</sup> century library but what about the 21<sup>st</sup> century? Well, cataloguing of web sites, clustering with other schools and public libraries, fingerprint recognition are all on the horizon. The number of computers available for pupil use in the library grows annually – but, it has to be said, you can't beat a good book.

As I write this I'm waiting for a support call because the system is 'down' and I'm recording loans in a book! - just goes to show that no-one is perfect, not even Alice!!

### **Mrs L Ryder, School Librarian**

*Incidentally, Mrs Ryder recently sat her exams in German and achieved an A\* - Wir gratulieren Ihnen zu Ihrem Erfolg!!*

**STRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTR**

### **Tragedy Sours Christmas Cheer**

**6<sup>th</sup> December 2003**

The whole school was left in a state of utter shock by the sudden death of Upper Sixth student Emma Hole.

Just six weeks short of her 18th birthday Emma was killed in a car accident as she drove home from work on that fateful Saturday afternoon.

Emma was extremely popular and well liked by staff and fellow students alike. Her death deeply saddened the whole school community, especially her friends in the sixth form and her teachers.

One cannot begin to understand why such a young and vital life should be so snuffed out; we can only honour her memory and be glad in those brief times shared.



**STRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTR**



On 3rd November 2003 Sport England announced that it had given Sir Thomas Rich's School its most prestigious award - Sportsmark Gold.

We were given Sport England's "Sportsmark" award earlier in 2003. However we are delighted that this has now been upgraded to their highest award, Sportsmark Gold. This is a formal recognition by the country's sport development agency of this school's commitment to sport, for all our pupils, both within timetabled lessons and in our extensive extra-curricular provision.

## ***The Trials & Tribulations of a Music Teacher***

Another year, another set of eager Year 7 faces. The music calendar with its yearly round of events sometimes appears rather repetitive yet always presents new challenges with new 'teams' of instrumentalists and choristers coming together, new music to be learnt and always the excitement of the next concert or performance. There are, of course, a large number of pupils - mostly Year 7 but also new Year 12 and some from other years wanting to start instrumental lessons and, indeed, continue existing lessons.



To this end, one of the first tasks I have at the beginning of the year is the working out of the instrumental lesson rotas. To some the rota is something which magically appears on the Music Suite noticeboard at the start of a new term; to others it is something which should be looked at and referred to for weekly lesson times but which, somehow, always manages to be overlooked! These are the pupils who have to be 'fetched' from their academic lesson - often much to the annoyance of their teacher! The instrumental lesson rota system works perfectly well if all understand *how* it works and abide by it. The system is not rigidly inflexible - if, for example, a pupil seems to be getting behind in a particular subject through missing lessons for instrumental tuition, then the rota can be 'forced' so that that particular lesson is avoided more often. It is very rare that a pupil has to withdraw from instrumental tuition for academic work reasons.

Another question I am often asked is "Why does my lesson have to be on same afternoon/morning?". The simple answer is that the instrumental teacher - often a county 'peripatetic' ie one who travels from school to school teaching his or her specialist instrument(s) - can only come in at that time, to fit in with his or her weekly timetable.

However problematic the setting up of these rotas, it is always encouraging to see pupils taking up the challenge of learning a new skill which can bring great rewards, both physical and social, if pursued. Making music is one of those activities which crosses boundaries of gender, academic ability and age and which can offer a lifelong interest. The provision of school lessons is, however, still a rather thorny issue with more and more counties denying pupils the chance even to *try* an instrument because they have 'devolved' the running and charging for lessons to schools themselves, which inevitably means engaging private teachers at higher costs with the result that it becomes elitist. At least Gloucestershire have a system, which can hire out reasonably good quality instruments to pupils at an affordable price. Attractive free taster lessons or, better still, free lessons for a term would certainly help the dwindling number of pupils taking up brass and also the larger bass instruments.

It is hoped that pupils will continue to learn instruments at school so that, at least, they will have had the chance to sample the potentially rewarding benefits of so doing through group lesson interaction, band or orchestra participation with socially valuable rehearsals and, of course, public concerts. At Rich's, I am proud that we are able to run an Orchestra, Wind Band, Junior and Senior String groups, Jazz group and Classical Guitar group. With all the other extra-curricular attractions at school, which, at times, inevitably clash with music groups, attendance can be worryingly thin but I know that, when it comes to a concert, I will have a committed group of pupils who always give of their best and invariably enjoy the experience of performing.

The same can be said of singing in the choir - ask any choir member (especially staff members!) if rehearsals are just about singing. I expect the answer to be no; it is a time of social interaction in which a group of about 50 people of differing ages come together to learn their part of an anthem, song, carol or chorus from a larger choral work and to put it all together in a sometimes magically rewarding way. I can hear unsuppressed sniggers from certain quarters - ok, sometimes it does sound pretty awful when we are first learning some music - but that's the fun of it; to raise a difficult piece of music in 4, 5 or sometimes 8 parts from uncertain sight-reading to a polished, musical performance with plenty of hard work and laughs along the way.

If you don't understand what I mean, listen to the choir at one of the two carol services at the end of the Autumn term or the Chamber Choir at 'Christmas by Candlelight' or, indeed, at the major choral concert in May. Last May's performance of 'Carmina Burana' with Ribston Hall was tremendous - I don't think I have ever heard such spirited singing from the choir as on that night! Such commitment is, after all, what music-making is all about.

**JWT**

## **The Pirates of Penzance**



A few weeks ago I wasn't sure how this play would shape up in comparison to the school's previous performances but there I was at the back of the hall for the third and final night of what had been a lot of hard work and effort for all

those involved. Each night the curtains had opened to reveal a cast full of confidence and a play full of talent and impressive individual performances.

'Pirates of Penzance' is an opera, and is by no means an easy piece to work. The orchestral performance was superb as a result of much practice, and combined well with the scenery - courtesy of Mr R Lockey - to create an atmosphere suitably salty and swashbuckling for the piece. Of course mention should also be given to the backstage production crew without whom the production wouldn't have pulled together.

Overall it was an excellent performance by all involved, I have been to all the productions in my years at this school, and can say that this is yet another credit to the school, teachers and above all its pupils.



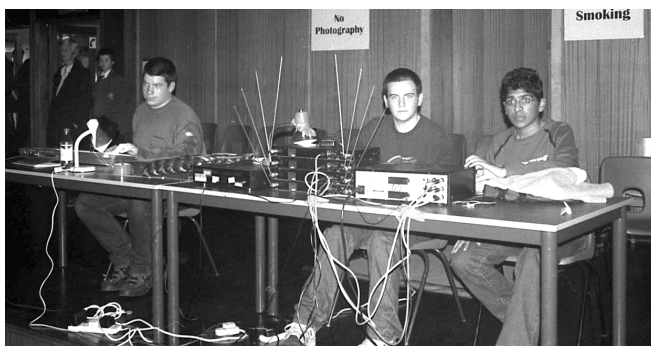
### **Alisdair T Bond**

*Designer & Operator  
Lighting Systems*

Backstage Crew  
Upholding Naval  
Traditions

-+--+

Lighting & Sound  
Decks






## ***What it feels like for a girl .....***

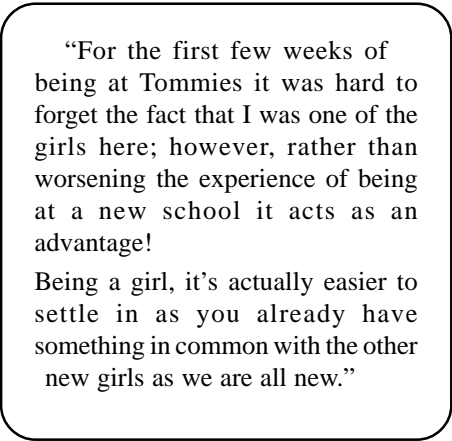
Coming to a new school, wherever it is, will always be a daunting experience for anyone. However, being one of few girls in a predominantly male school is a totally new experience altogether. The apprehension of finding good friends and 'fitting in' can be worrying and adds on to the stress of getting to know subject teachers, tutors and starting AS levels. However, judging by the comments made by some of the girls in the sixth form, these initial worries were soon forgotten and replaced by good times and a comfortable sixth form life. And thank you Mr Bosworth for making us see that the boys do think we are actually alright too, which is always a good thing!

XXXXXXXXXX



"At first I was quite worried about going to a new school but it is really easy to make friends here and the social life is good!"

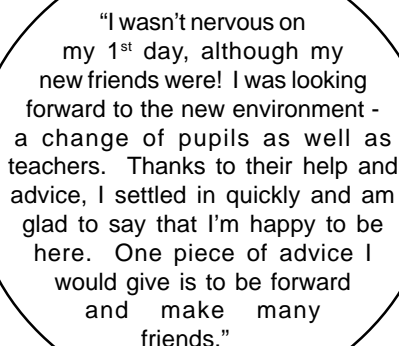
"I found coming into Tommy Rich's Sixth Form very easy. It was good because all of the girls were new and everyone made me feel welcome"



"For the first few weeks of being at Tommies it was hard to forget the fact that I was one of the girls here; however, rather than worsening the experience of being at a new school it acts as an advantage!

Being a girl, it's actually easier to settle in as you already have something in common with the other new girls as we are all new."

"Being one of only twenty girls in a year of one hundred and twenty pupils was a scary prospect but the atmosphere was welcoming and there was a definite sense of unity between the girls to help us integrate and settle in with everyone. By the end of the first term the scary beginning was practically forgotten."



"I wasn't nervous on my 1<sup>st</sup> day, although my new friends were! I was looking forward to the new environment - a change of pupils as well as teachers. Thanks to their help and advice, I settled in quickly and am glad to say that I'm happy to be here. One piece of advice I would give is to be forward and make many friends."

"It can be quite a daunting prospect, starting a new school where the majority are intelligent, bright males who already know each other and have strong friendships. However, despite this initial worry, joining Tommies for sixth form has been one of the best decisions I have made yet. The lads were friendly, talkative and helpful, genuinely wanting to help us settle in and the girls seemed to bond quickly. Due to the friendly attitude here, the lower sixth has many close and supportive relationships that make being here fun and rewarding."

“As a girl at STRS I was quite nervous. I had come from an all-girl's school so I knew that the experience would be very different. We were all made to feel very welcome, both by the teachers and by fellow students who made it really easy to settle in. I'm really glad I came to STRS and I'm looking forward to the coming year.”

*“I felt that coming to a school where friendships between the pupils had already been established would not be easy; however it was really easy to talk to everyone and soon enough, the girls had integrated well with the boys, and had formed friendships of their own. At first the boys were really gentlemanly, opening doors for us etc, - funny how that's changed in a year, boys!”*

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

### ***And the boys' point of view .....***

“Why did the girls have to come here?! They come and they take the lads away from their groups, Nick and Kimber have already left me. Just joking, they're a great laugh. They accept our 'laddish' behaviour and have fitted well into the various groups in the year. They take our 'abuse' and give it back just as good. I've made many new friends this year, and in just one year, I've built friendships that should last for years to come.”



The girls get their hands on the boys' favourite common room game

## Trip to Severn Sound

On June 30<sup>th</sup> we found out that Poonam is a fanatical Severn Sound fan! She knows all the shows and presenters, and the intricate workings of the whole set-up. We also found out that Matt Skulskyj knows more about computers and music “bit-rates” than the pros at Severn Sound! Anyway back to the trip. We left at lunchtime with Mr Lloyd as our driver and arrived around 2.00pm, when we were greeted by Amy



Barnes - the first thing we discovered was that the place is full of Old Richians and Mrs Spiisbury spent some time catching up with them all.

We were then shown the ‘Action Desk’, which is run by volunteers including Phil Norris, a former pupil. Then we were introduced to the telephone girls, who answer the phones for the shows. We got their number! Next we met the weatherman and Pete confused him with graphical information (Pete this is radio!). We travelled over the bridge to see the state of the art editing suite, which was empty. There our tour guide Amy explained to us how the editing is done. We then moved next door and spoke to Joe Leemer who presents the “Drive Time Show”. He let Naymond play with his decks, and Matt queried music “file-formats” to which Joe (and everyone else) laughed nervously and backed away slowly .....

After Matt had finished intimidating poor Joe he moved to question Craig (another Old Richian) with the same puzzling conundrum but he was able to give a more sensible response to which Matt looked “satisfied”. We then made our way out, getting one

goody bag between all of us, to which Pete replied, “I wanna a goody bag too”.

However, we made our exit quietly and swiftly so that we could all go back to school.

All in all a good insight into the working of a radio station. Amy Barnes gets a special thanks from all of us for her interesting tour of the station.

**Sam Coe**

L6R







Parmjit Dhanda MP poses between negotiations with Matt Buttler & his team of hard-nosed economists from STRS

### ***Economics Visit to London***

An early start and a hectic schedule did nothing to subdue the enthusiasm of this resolute bunch!

The Upper Sixth economists set forth to London at an unearthly 7:45am for a morning visit to the Palace of Westminster and a meeting with local MP Parmjit Dhanda. In the afternoon we were scheduled to meet Ida Reeve, an economist at the Bank of England.

Following an enlightening tour of the Lords and the Commons, we climbed up into the upper reaches of the Palace where we enjoyed an audience with our MP in a particularly plush Committee room.

During the next forty-five minutes The Right Honourable Member for Gloucester was grilled on issues as diverse as the future of secondary education in the city, young people and voting and the Government's position on the Euro.

Without doubt this was a very memorable occasion, one that would stay with all of us for many years to come.

After grabbing lunch on the hoof, we headed east to the "Old Lady of Threadneedle Street". The Bank of England is housed in an imposing building and the sense of importance and history is awe-inspiring. Undaunted, the boys enjoyed the opportunity to discuss interest rates, consumer spending and the single European currency with Mrs Reeve.

Despite the long drive, the battle with the tube and the limited opportunities for lunch we all agreed it had been an excellent day.

### ***Matthew Buttler***

A man cannot learn much by hearing himself talk





## Archery

Archery is similar to a lot of other shooting sports in that consistency and grouping are very important. To do this you have to fully understand what you are doing; from your stance to where you are holding the bow in your hand and what forces you are putting on it.

There are several different bow types, so you can choose a bow to suit you:-

You can shoot the traditional long bow, the more advanced recurve or a compound bow which has a pulley system to increase the power. There are other types of bow but these are the main bows you see at competitions.

I shoot a recurve bow. They have a metal or wood handle with top and bottom fibreglass composite limbs. The limbs are the parts of the bow which bend during the shot.

After you have been shooting for a while people will often start going to tournaments. The tournaments take up most of a day and outdoors you can expect to shoot about 144 arrows (collecting after every six). It all starts with a blast of the whistle from one of the judges and you walk up and join the shooting line which will stretch for about 150m. You start off shooting at the longest distance, this can be up to 100 yards (approx 90m) depending on your age and gender.

The arrows take a large arc to reach the target. Tournaments are usually on a Sunday because at one time by law men had to practise archery after church.

The tournaments will only stop if the conditions become dangerous. You can end up shooting in strong winds, heavy rain or even sleet. This is why a lot of people will bring tents to tournaments. So you end up with a strange colony of small green tents in a row five meters behind the shooting line.

In Gloucestershire we are lucky to have several archery clubs. I shoot with Deer Park Archers based at Deer Park Guide Centre. Glevum Archers are based on the school grounds. If you are interested there will be information about most archery clubs on the Grand National Archery Society website: [www.gnas.org](http://www.gnas.org)

**Samuel Johnson (L6R)**



## ***Discuss, Reason, Encourage, Argue, Debate***

The preliminary heats of this year's English Speaking Union Public Speaking Competition were held during November 2003 and the Rich's team won through to a place in the Gloucestershire area round of the contest.

Our team of Year 11 students comprised of **Lawrence Bennett** (Chairman), **Peter Butler** (Speaker), and **Andrew Erskine** (Questioner). Peter spoke on the topic "*Big Brother is watching you - how controlled are we?*" advancing the thought that if we weren't engaged in criminal activities, we had little to fear from surveillance in public places so long as that surveillance was legal and subject to the proper controls of a democratic society.



Andrew and Lawrence were assigned to the speaker from Rendcomb School. Lawrence chaired with such assurance that he was awarded the commendation for 'Best Chairman'. Andrew asked a series of challenging questions which showed that he has not lost his ability in this respect, although this year the 'Best Questioner' award (which Andrew won last year) went to a member of another team who showed a terrier-like skill in pursuing questions.

The Gloucestershire area round of the competition took place in the Cheltenham Council chamber in the presence of the Mayor of Cheltenham. Sadly for our team, we were not quite consistent enough to overcome the very strong team from Stroud High School, who were the winners at this stage and go forward for the Regional finals.

Peter Butler gave a very well structured and well-researched presentation on "*Big Brother is watching you: how controlled are we?*" Unlike many of the presentations, which were re-runs of the previous round, Peter had completely revised his material, to the extent of taking the opposing 'side' this time. He also managed to introduce some humour, without undermining the overall seriousness of the topic - and this gave added impetus to his talk, which was very well-received by a number of the audience who were kind enough to comment. Lawrence Bennett chaired ably; the surroundings, and greater sense of formality, made for a more intimidating experience than the first round. Andrew Erskine had a very difficult task of trying to question a confident speaker (she won the Mayor's prize) on a very challenging topic. He approached his task boldly.

The chair of judges admitted that only ten marks discriminated between the six teams, once the marks for speaker, chair and questioner had been added together. It was a very close run competition, and although our team will feel an understandable disappointment that we did not go through to the next stage, the judges were unanimous in praising the efforts of all participants, and said, quite justifiably, that many adults would find it difficult to achieve the standard of competence in public speaking which these young people were able to display.



***S Pickard***



## Cross-Country 2004



Once again Rich's displayed some excellent signs of natural running talent in the school, but lack of consistency and commitment from certain quarters ensured that cross-country within the school is not thriving as it should. Of course, to be fair, many boys are already committed to soccer and rugby. However, if they used the cross-country as part of their fitness training, they would not only help the school, but may even realise that they are most likely better runners than soccer or rugby players!



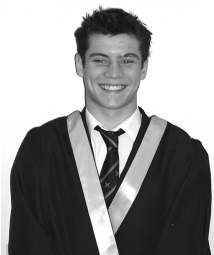
Richard Farrow

In the West Mercia League, Rich's finished runners up, behind a Marling team made up of full time cross-country runners. My thanks to Alistair Stanley for acting as team captain and rallying the troops when required, which was easier said than done at times! Phil Hanson was the star of the show, despite having to juggle between running and rugby. He powered around many of the courses, closely followed by Mr Lloyd and displayed a lot of grit and determination. One feels that he could be a class act if he concentrated on his running but Phil must follow his heart.



Mark Creese

Other performers in the team, who displayed lots of talent and potential, were the likes of Tim Dalton and Andrew De-Camps. They ran really well in some of the races and just need to believe in their potential. Without doubt, in the coming year, the school could do really well, if we could only generate a little more strength in depth. I would also like to praise Chris Stanley of Year 10, who on a number of occasions stepped into the team, to ensure that we had a full quota and scored the points.



Phil Hanson

The frustration of knowing that we have some class runners arises every year when we undertake House cross-country. Over our tough courses, many of our students excelled. Phil Hanson won the senior race, followed by Mark McBride, a student who had the potential to be a top runner, but whom we lost to soccer full time.

A determined Luke Barnes won the Year 10 race, while Alex Guilford won the Year 9 race. All those students who participated in the Elite races should be praised, as the Chosen Hill course is not easy and requires a good level of fitness.

In the Year 8 race, rising star Richard Farrow, dominated the race from start to finish, showing his class over the tough Chosen Hill course. The Year 7 race was won by all round sportsman Mark Creese, who displayed a tough, determined and competitive performance up to the farm.



Tim Dalton

When all the results were accumulated, the overall senior house winners were Northgate and Southgate won junior cup. Finally, many thanks to all those who participated in the cross-country this year and hopefully we can get more representing the school in the future.

**P D Lloyd**

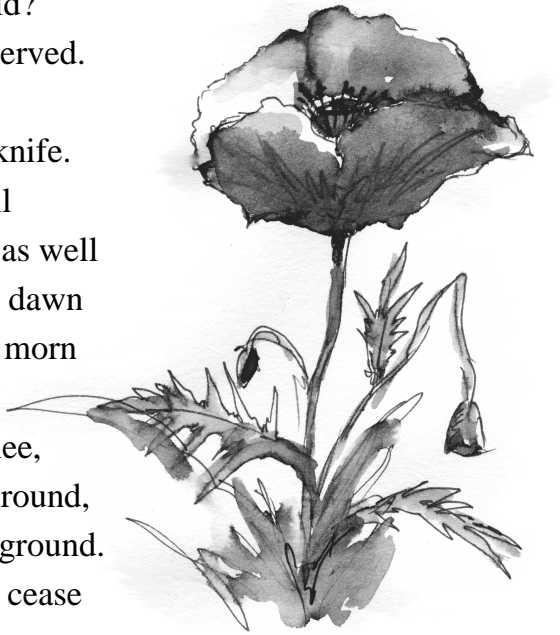


# The Right to Live

Jon Roskilly

*For those women who fought oppression through self-starvation*

The cold dark prison cell awakes,  
Another dream the darkness takes.  
A hunger, unceasing, takes those here  
In the name of freedom, ringing clear.  
Abused, destroyed, no solace left,  
Yet continuing far, though pain and death  
Seem likely ends to what is now  
The only hope for mankind. How  
Beautiful the pain of those  
Whose blood runs like a scarlet rose  
For half the people in the world?  
What pain, what beauty undeserved.  
Another day, another life,  
A struggle against the deadly knife.  
The surgeons of this living hell  
Seem not to know their wives as well  
Will fight to see that days will dawn  
When women rise and see the morn  
Where they will then be free?  
The women rise up, on one knee,  
And spy the wardens walking round,  
Their hollow footsteps on the ground.  
The tubes once more, to try to cease  
A hunger, once again. For peace.



## ***The Start of My Gap Year***

Firstly may I say that I think a gap year is an amazing opportunity and should be considered by everyone. I am taking a Gap Year with Project Trust although there are other companies around; if you are interested in teaching as a career then Project offers a wide range of opportunities all across the globe.

My year started with a selection week. This took place on a small Scottish island called Coll. Coll with its neighbour Tiree forms part of the Inner Hebrides off the western coast of Scotland serviced by the CalMac ferries out of the port of Oban, which is famous for its whisky, amongst other things.

So I found myself in Oban for the second time in as many weeks as just 8 days before I had passed through it on the Scouts' return trip from Orkney. As soon as I stepped off the coach it started raining. Great I thought, the bad weather had seemed to be following me all summer! So a 20min very wet walk to the youth hostel in a pair of sandals and I was ready to crash, but I entered my dorm only to find six Germans playing cards loudly. This trip wasn't starting out very well at all.

After the 6am get up call for the 7:20am ferry, I met up with several more people going to Coll on the selection week. So we all walked to the port together and guess what, it was raining! We embarked and meeting up the rest of the hopefuls, we all sat around a large table and played "Cheat" with five decks of cards. This was hilarious with many a time you would hear "20 twos" - very funny!

Two hours later and we've arrived on Coll (and it's still raining). We met with some of Project's staff. And although there were thirty of us the two minibuses they had could only take twenty or so, which left the remainder in the rain! Great, so we get to Ballayho Projects base of operation all soaked through. We were herded into the lounge area and found out where we were going to be staying. The majority of us were staying with host families on the island. My hosts were Nick and Olven. They were great; they had sold up their Cambridge home and moved to Coll for the simple life. Nick is a bar maid at the island's hotel and Olven is the island handy man.



*Hosts Olven & Nick*

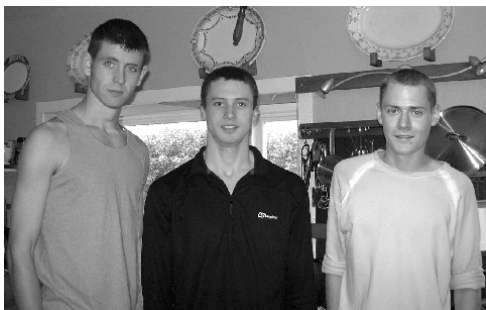
There were three of us staying with Nick and Olven. Myself, Aaron and Jim.

We had a great time at their house. We spent most evenings there talking and watching TV. We also went exploring some of the island, and every night we were treated to

Olven's marvellous cooking. He is an excellent chef and always cooked more than you could ask for! In return all he asked was that we did the washing up. Small price to pay!

That just about wraps up our free time! There was little rest in between constant assessment, interview, lectures and manual labour.

The first day we were there we were thrown into groups of six, given a member of Projects staff to mentor us,



*Sam's new friends Aaron & Jim*



then we spoke to each other for two minutes then had to tell the rest of our group what we had learned. That icebreaker over we then had twenty minutes to plan a ten-minute lesson that we would teach to each other. I decided to teach my group about solids, liquids and gases. And I soon had them running around the room pretending to be gases, or standing tight together pretending to be solids. Some of those year 8 chemistry lessons were worthwhile after all! All the time this was going on there was another member of the project team writing notes on your performance, very disconcerting! This done, we went back into the lecture room rejoining the rest of the volunteers and had a lecture on what we would be doing the next day. Lazy beds anyone?

Day 3 and an early start. When we got to Ballayho we had 3 hours of talks on all the different projects Project has to offer. After finding out that I was unsuitable for most of them due to lack of linguistic skills and the fact that I am male, I was left with about 5 projects that appealed. After a brief lunch we were taken outside and yep, you guessed it, rain! So after donning the waterproofs we climbed to Coll's highest peak, all 21 metres of it! This was also the only place on the island that you could get mobile reception, so there were 30 hands in the air frantically waving around trying to find the illusive signal! We then went to look at a standing stone, which legend has it was put there by a giant. The staff then asked for volunteers to crawl under it. Never one to miss out on an opportunity I jumped at the chance, and after nearly putting a hole in my head I came out the other side. By this time we were all soaking wet, again. But we carried on none-the-less back down the other side of the "hill" and into a field of potato or Lazy Beds. We were then told that for the rest of the day we would be turning the soil over for the islanders to use later in the year. After a few hours in the still pouring rain I was called for my first interview. That over and done with and the tools replaced we were driven back to our host families. Now the big problem with Coll is that it is very humid therefore making it impossible to dry clothes! But never mind we left our clothes to "dry" for the rest of the week.

Day 3 and we started the morning with a talk about fundraising. Although the Project is a charity they still need us the volunteers to fundraise £3950 to cover the cost of our air ticket, insurance etc. and as I will be away for an entire year it isn't that much really. The talk done we went back to our 6 man groups and had to design a leaflet and poster to promote our gap year. This was very good and gave us all loads of ideas and tips about getting money out of people. Think 'Smarties' tubes and 20p's!

After lunch we took part in the "Trading Game" still in our 6 man teams. This was an exercise in quick thinking and diplomacy. You're given sheets of paper and had to make certain shapes, which were worth a certain value. The basic Idea was to make as much money as possible, by any means necessary ie beg, borrow, stealing from other groups! My group made the most in the end with a total of £12450. This done we starting practising for our Ceilidh (Scottish dance) which we were due to have the following night. With names such as the "Dashing White Sergeant" and "Canadian Barn Dance" we could see ourselves making fools out of ourselves before we even began. But an hour later and we all managed to crack most of them, and we left for home feeling confident of not making complete embarrassments of ourselves.

Day 4 and we spent the morning and early afternoon doing community tasks. I was tasked to fencing, which involved fixing fences for farmers and almost losing my finger to the hammer. (Reminiscent of forest work in Norway 2002 with the Venture Scouts!) Two squashed fingers later and about 200m of fence repaired plus 50 litres of paint

shifted myself and Fran (partner for this task) returned to Ballayho to find that others had been “weeding” ie drinking tea in an old lady’s kitchen because the weather was too bad to send the ‘poor darling volunteers’ outside! Oh well such is life.

For the rest of the afternoon we had to make our decisions on which projects we wished to be considered for. It also gave us a chance to speak to the person in charge of each project so that we could get inside knowledge into the sort of things we would be up to if chosen. My final choices were 1<sup>st</sup> - Hong Kong, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Guyana and 3<sup>rd</sup> - Malaysia. Now all I could do is wait; firstly to see if I had been selected and second to see if I had got my first choice. This done we went home to get ready for our dance.

So returning at around 9pm for our dance we spent the rest of the night and early morning showing our new found Scottish dancing skills. It’s always funny after a few hours suddenly everyone is having too good a time to care how good/silly they look! Our dance finished we went back to our houses for our last night.

Day 5 and lucky us - we were given a lie-in to sleep off our dancing! We packed up our things said good-bye to Nick and Olven and left for the ferry port - in blistering sunshine! When we got there we got together with everyone else for a group photo.

So we all got back on the ferry in complete contrast to outward journey, there was no nervous laughter or false nice-ness but a friendly atmosphere and we spent the 2 hour trip back on the sun deck chatting and getting sunburnt!



Our ferry trip over we got off said our final farewell hugs and kisses. Frantic mobile swapping also began as the all important signal returned! This done we all went our separate ways.

And for my Gap Year? Well I’ve been chosen to go to Guyana to teach in a secondary school Science and Maths up to GCSE standards! Now all that remains for me to do is raise my money, which I’ve started to do by writing to trusts! I’m also hosting a couple of Craft Fayres at Tommies - so keep an eye out for the dates and make sure you come along!

Finally if you would like to help send me on my way, whether that be by helping me fold letters, or you know someone who would print my leaflets for free, or even could spare a donation (any amount gratefully received!), I can be found in my form room (L6) during form periods or sitting amongst you wearing a gold striped gown in assemblies. Thanks for reading!

**Sam Coe U6R**

## ***Sixth Form English Trip To Blist Hill's Victorian Village***

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June was an eventful day (to say the least!) for all visiting Blist Hill's Victorian village. The idea was for all of the English students to be transported back into Victorian England so we could experience how people of that time lived, thought and dressed! This would enable us to put into context the novels 'Hard Times' by Charles Dickens and 'North and South' by Elizabeth Gaskell and then make effective comparisons between the texts. Hopefully the theory of kinaesthetic learning will work for us; we seemed to take part rather actively with all the dressing up but more about that later!

One cannot help thinking that this trip was just an excuse for Mrs Briscoe to get into scary Victorian teacher mode and she loved it! She tricked us into riding on the carousel (much to Mrs Spilsbury's enjoyment!) only to demand the reason why we were on the 'carousel before school' - well, no one knew what was going on, or what had got into Mrs Briscoe so we just did what she said and lined up, boys on one side, girls on the other and proceeded to enter a Victorian style classroom.

At this point we just about understood the idea behind Mrs Briscoe's dramatic personality change and we too got into our roles of Victorian school children and teachers as Matthew Bick (Mr Bounderby), Chris Gallant (Mr Gradgrind), Tom Roberts (Bitzer) and I (Sissy) took the roles of characters in 'Hard Times' and performed the school scene.

We met the obnoxious Mr Bartholomew Baines, a mill owner of the period who appeared unimpressed at Gavin Hardy's question of whether he expected a world war in the coming years! We also visited the local shops of that period and just **had** to sample some of Uncle Joe's mint balls said Mrs Briscoe! But the highlight of the day was dressing up in traditional costumes and having our photos taken, which are now embarrassingly situated, in Mrs Briscoe's room! Everyone looked the part and despite Michael Joyce's hair, could have all passed for middle class Victorians!

In spite of the rain, this day achieved what it had set out to do, to make us understand how the characters of 'Hard Times' would have lived. Mrs Spilsbury's enthusiasm of the carousel and Mrs Briscoe's passionate delivery of Victorian school life quickly got us into role and helped us to appreciate some of the different aspects of the novels we have been studying.

***Reema Bhatt***

***L6T***







### ***Row, Row, Row Your Boat .....***

Rowing is now a high profile national sport; we not only celebrate regular hauls of Olympic medals, but almost come to expect them. Pinsent, Redgrave and Cracknell reap their media rewards.

Modern Richians will be surprised to know that during the fifteen years or so around the 1970s rowing was high on the sporting agenda at the school. Masters David Terry and Robert Nind had resurrected the sport around 1963, prior to which small groups of senior boys had intermittently participated as a games option.

In 1965 this contributor unwittingly accepted rowing responsibility to accompany a more sought after Physics post. Head teachers have ways of unloading less attractive tasks!

I have hereafter promised myself that I shall mention no names of Boat Club members; it is inevitable that many loyal Richians will slip through the memory net. The rowing pyramid was large, and the successes gained by senior crews were earned by total club participation. Loyalty was our password.

We began on the Severn at Sandhurst, then Gloucester Regatta's tidal water. I well remember the tea break while the Severn Bore tore past, carrying tree trunks in its churning path. The sole school four celebrated success before a new generation took over.

A new season, new blood and success at Edgbaston Reservoir in Birmingham in our first event. We had a queue waiting to join! Silverware did not come cheaply! Two lunchtime circuits, a whole Monday evening wherein the cross country distance was covered simply as a warm-up. Saturday mornings became technique sessions on the canal. Life was as near as dammit public school!

Regional representation. The Betts and Prosser Cups at Hereford languished permanently in Doris Townsend's cupboard. I remember well the Saturday at Penarth when we hired a car (no school buses in those days) as we returned with 15 pint tankards, two silver trophies, a gigantic shield and England had won The World Soccer Cup. Tony Stocks became seriously worried about insurance. The rest of the school appreciated the successes. After all, who could complain of an activity that knocked half of first period off each Monday for presentation ceremonies!

Marathon rowing made its bow. The world's longest rowing race, The Lincoln to Boston Marathon over 31 miles was mooted. For two seasons we scratched at it. Then, an excited crew member presented me with a dietary schedule adopted by world class marathon runners, the glycogen shunt. Why not! No health and safety in those days! Crews gave up the final weeks of summer holidays to train for the September event. Even staff joined in the nightly 10 mile sculling sessions.



The event assault was an anticlimax. The school eight churned out a predetermined interval rate, timed every 5 miles, to win the event in a record time of 3 hours and 16 minutes. The timing organisers did not believe their clocks for two hours before cross referencing with other overtaken crews to give us the record which stood for over ten years.

Third and fourth form games options had been offered in boats. Masters Nigel Bates and Bill Spear, later to lead the club, provided loyal back up. Local rivalry with The Crypt, Kings and Saintbridge, all rowing schools, sometimes went far beyond gentle rivalry. Headmasters frequently discussed the situation as a priority!



We looked further. What's this? A Loch Ness rowing record! 22miles. Off we go! We started from Fort William at 6.00 am in darkness, knowing that the prevailing wind would sink us before eight. Indeed it did, but due to astute bailing, steering forgotten, as we passed Urquart Castle, we only went under as we scrunched on the gravel at

Lochend. We stayed in the Guinness Book of records for years before the race was taken out of print, considered too dangerous.

Parents should be mentioned. The logistical cavalcades that left Gloucester each weekend provided back-up without which the equipment-heavy sport could not function.

The Ball Cup, the national event for smaller schools, was won by first and second crews for seven successive years.

The first four sank in a squall with every other boat off Appledore. The lifeboat and helicopters did not know which crew to rescue first. Our stroke assured us that he did not get out of his rowing shoes until he was three feet under. Oh, yes, he added that he was convinced that he was about to die! All in a day's school sport; we consigned the broken boat to the deep, bought a round of chips and went home.

With Frank Henderson, whose kindred unconventional attitude made us brothers with the Venture Scouts, we were stopped by police returning from The Exeter University Head. "Bit of an unusual load, sirs. Can you tell me what that silverware is in the back? We've had a lot of local burglaries of late." Frank and Bill politely tried to explain matters while I gagged a heaving busload, all vying to present the world's most obscene and impossible explanations!

And so it was for many years. For all concerned Sir Thomas Rich's Rowing Club was an institution. Genuine athletic performances to a very high standard, a touch of the bizarre, comradeship that we would have difficulty in appreciating these days. Memories to last a lifetime.

**Graham Middleton**

**STRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTR**

### ***The Cotswold Marathon 2004***

Once again, the school's Explorer Scout Unit was well represented in this year's event. As usual, prior to the event, the unit underwent some hard training and route checking to ensure that on the night all would go well, resulting in some good final times.

The Cotswold Marathon for those readers who possibly have never heard of it, is an overnight winter hike taking walkers/runners out of Gloucester into the depths of the Cotswolds and back to Murray Hall, Gloucester. It is open to members of the Scout movement and entries this year were once again high. There are three categories, with a 12 mile Bronze route, an 18 mile Silver route and the ultimate challenge, the 36 mile Gold route. The key to the event is to race to each checkpoint and get back to Murray Hall as fast as possible. It is a team event and so it is imperative that each member is up to scratch and all members can endure whatever the terrain or weather throws at them!



Rich Young, Dave Anderton & Paul Edwards receive their Silver Winners & Individual Boot trophies from District Commissiонер Roger Tovey



The event was brilliantly organised and the 44<sup>th</sup> once again flew the Rich's flag high. We had no entrants for the mere 12 mile Bronze route, but in the Silver 18 mile route, a fantastic team effort ensured that Paul Edwards, David Anderton and Richard Young won the event in a time of 5 hours 05 minutes. This was a tremendous achievement on the lads' first outing in difficult, wet and windy conditions. Richard Ellison must be mentioned, as he was the overall individual winner of the Silver Class event.



In the ultimate Gold challenge of 36 miles, the 44<sup>th</sup> achieved further success, with Sam Coe, Gavin Hardy and Chris Gallant winning the Junior trophy in a time of 10 hours 21 minutes. The individual Gold winner was Dan "Mad Dog" Wright, who came in with the boys, notching up the same time. This again, was a tremendous achievement, in very wet wintry conditions and unless you have attempted the event, you do not realise how difficult it can be!

The unit was lucky enough to have some old boys return for the event, with Will Godwin, Rich Holland and Jonathan Thompson coming in just after our Junior winners in a time of 10 hours 29 minutes. One must also mention Sam Johnson who successfully completed the full gold course in a time of 11 hours and 32 minutes.

However, the ultimate winners of the Gold event and the Lowery Trophy were Peter Lloyd, Adam Griffiths and from the 51<sup>st</sup> Lonsdale outfit, Colin Vickery, in a time of 6 hours 31 minutes. Before the event, we were hoping to take Phil Hanson, but he had to represent the county in the South-West Cross-country championships and so subsequently had to drop out. Other complications included Adam spending time out in New Zealand and preparing for his final year at university, resulting in a limited time to train for the event. However, credit must be given to Adam, as he stuck to his task and dragged himself around the course. At the end, he did a Steve Redgrave and vowed never to do the event again, but I am sure he can be persuaded to do so! Also, credit must be given to Colin Vickery, a spring chicken in his mid forties, who rose to the challenge and was not sure what to expect or whether he would last the pace. He had no such worries and despite the weather, ensured a fast time and ultimate victory.

Many people would possibly think that you are mad if you want to take on the Cotswold Marathon, but I would recommend it to anyone, who has any sort of outdoor competitive spirit. You are not just trying to accomplish a fast time, but you have the navigation skills, the weather and the terrain to battle against – a real test of mind and body! So if you fancy your chances, have a go, but bear in mind we are aiming to break the five-hour barrier next year!

**44<sup>th</sup>**  
esu

**P D Lloyd**

Visit: [www.strs.org.uk/44vsu/Venturesindex.html](http://www.strs.org.uk/44vsu/Venturesindex.html)



## Uganda Link 2004

*Reema Bhatt reviews the progress of our Link with the Parvatiben Muljibhai Madhvani Girls' School, Jinja and talks to Mrs Joan Arnold who was the latest member of the STRS Staff to visit the PMM School in Uganda.*



Each student at Rich's is incredibly fortunate (although they may not believe so!) in being part of a society that regards education as being so important that it is compulsory up to GCSE level. We are lucky to be attending schools in which books are new, facilities are available and electricity is always on. Every one of us has the opportunity to proceed onto higher education and eventually, a place in employment. The PMM school in Jinja, Uganda hope that their girls will go on also to achieve great things but unlike us, only very few may succeed as all too often basic financial issues prevent them from continuing their education.

This is why STRS intend to sponsor twenty girls for as long as possible in order to enable them to have the chance to succeed in education. It is up to PMM to decide who receives the money but some of the twenty are top of the year and the rest are chosen because without this money, it would be impossible for them to attend school. Rich's has also recently sent out twelve large boxes of equipment including fifteen computers. Last year Mr Seales and Mr Crewe went to Uganda to set up the link; and in the summer the Headmistress and the ICT teacher came to STRS. This year it is hoped that some of Rich's gap students will visit. It is beneficial for both schools if a teacher from STRS visits their school and vice-versa. Some money from the link is given from the British Council but in order to maintain this link, money must be raised for this as well as for sponsorships. According to Mrs Arnold who recently visited the school, the girls have asked when students of STRS were going over or when they would be able to visit here. Mrs Arnold explained, however, that the priority was to ensure that year after year sponsorship could be maintained. If more money is raised or help from local firms is given, more could be done.



Music is much enjoyed and a key part of the curriculum

PMM School is in Jinja, Uganda. Jinja is the second largest town in the country with a population of about 87,000. The school is situated in a busy residential area of the town. Cars are few but bikes are plentiful and it is possible to get out into rural areas in around 30 minutes where one will then find very poor communities. In order for the girls to attend PMM, money must be paid every day towards the fees. Parents come in every day with small amounts of money and the girls are not allowed through the gates unless they have a signed paper saying that they have paid something towards their



Traditional Dance

A typical day at PMM School is much like ours, commencing at 8.30am and ending at 4.00 or 4.30pm. Lessons are slightly longer than ours and are changed by a bell. Subjects and their content are very like ours as they have our education system. As well as having the same core subjects as us, Environmental Education, Agriculture and Home Management are also built into the curriculum. The girls do GCSE at 16 and A level at 18, however if they fail a year or cannot afford to go to school for a year then they must stay down. The girls also have a break and lunch hour. The school cooks its own meals (posho - a maize porridge and beans) on outdoor fires. They also have a canteen, which sells drinks and snacks. Homework is often done in school in a prep period or in the morning before school, as it is difficult sometimes to work at home. Some girls live too far away from Jinja to go home so there is a hostel for them to live in during the week.



Typical classroom lesson

When asking Mrs Arnold about her trip, I was keen to know more about the teachers and how they differed from the teachers here. Mrs Arnold said that they were like teachers everywhere. Some are strict, some are friendly. All are graduates, many with further degrees and all with teacher training.

While Mrs Arnold was at the school, she spent time with the Biology, Art, Home Management and Environmental departments. As well as spending time at the school, Mrs Arnold also had time to observe what the town was like socially and economically - she found that it was very similar to here. Nearly all speak English, the education system is similar, the laws are similar, they drive on the left, they have rich and poor people. However, the poor are very poor. They are friendly and smart, women do not wear trousers, their clothes are smart and clean even when the washing facilities are



difficult. They look after their families well and if one has a job, they seem to pay for and look after nieces and nephews. It is obvious that the AIDS crisis and the warfare in the North are causing deaths in many families leaving the grandparents generation to bring up their grandchildren.

The School in general looked to be shabby and drab with no posters on the walls, the taps did not always work, the toilets were pit latrines, the power was often off, they had very few textbooks and art materials were minimal. Mrs Arnold likened PMM to school 30 to 40 years ago. All lessons were conducted with chalk and blackboards, dictation and questioning but despite all this, the standard is very high with many gaining excellent results and university places.

Mrs Arnold also added that she didn't think she'd be putting in for a transfer just yet!



**STRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTR**

### ***Aachen Work Experience - Europäische Berufspraktika in Aachen***

Over an eight day period in March, accompanied by Phil Brown and his wife Celia, eight Sixth Form students undertook a working trip to Aachen Germany. During their stay they integrated into family and working life, stretching their command of German to its limit and beyond, gaining valuable experience and understanding in the process. This is what they have to say about their visit:



#### ***David Quinlan ...***

*Dieses Jahr fuhren ein paar Studenten mit mir nach Aachen. Aachen ist eine große Universitätstadt in der Nähe von Köln. Es gibt etwa 300,000 Leute die in Aachen leben. In der Mitte der Stadt gibt es einen großen, alten Dom und das gotische Rathaus. Ich bliebe mit einer Gastfamilie, die in dem Preuswald am Stadtrand wohnt. Während der Woche musste ich bei einer Zeitung arbeiten, die die Aachener Nachrichten heißt. Ich habe einen kleinen Artikel geschrieben, der veröffentlicht wurde. Es war sehr interessant und ich machte viel Spaß in Deutschland.*



Dom Turm

We travelled to Germany from London by Eurostar and then took another train to Aachen through Belgium. We arrived at the train station in Aachen at about 10pm. The journey had been a total of 11 hours. We then met our host families and were taken from the train station to their houses. My host family was called Donay and they lived in a small flat in an area of Aachen called Preuswald. The next morning I started my work placement at the offices of the city's

newspaper, die Aachener Nachrichten. While I was there during the week I helped to write articles for the paper and I tailed some of the journalists around the town and watched them interview different people. I went to a car showroom, a school and a zoo.

We also had a lot of free time to spend in the town itself and so we got to know central Aachen quite well. We went to see the old cathedral, the gothic town hall and generally just wandered round the town. Aachen is a very clean city and it is run extremely well. The buses were always on time and the public facilities were excellent. The architecture, not only the old but the modern also impressed me as well.

I enjoyed my time in Aachen immensely and would definitely like to go back one day. I would very much recommend it as a city to visit.

### **Jack Keevil ...**

*Ich machte meine Arbeitspraktikum bei Musikhaus Jerusalem, das in der Stadtmitte liegt. Leider gab es nicht so viel zu tun and während eines Tages habe ich über fünfzig Gitarren gestimmt.*

My work experience placement was in a music shop in Aachen. The work itself wasn't particularly fascinating but you do get to speak an awful lot of German and you come out of it with a lot of fairly obscure vocabulary (eg clarinet reeds, screwdriver, all the different parts of a guitar, etc.) Oh, and if you opt for a work placement like this and are asked to deliver orchestral scores to the theatre, it helps to remember that there are two theatres in Aachen, one of which doesn't have an orchestra. We all make mistakes!



### **An Evening Out - zum goldenen Schwann**

My 'Gastfamilie' lived in the Aachen equivalent of the Forest of Dean; ie: a long way from Aachen with buses that don't come very often. They were extremely friendly and welcoming. I didn't see my actual partner as much as the others saw theirs as he had swimming training camps or competition quite often but his two younger brothers were great fun and always eager to try and teach me more German. The exchange experience was a very valuable one and I finished feeling proud that I had managed to get through daily life speaking German. In fact when I was at 'home' I only spoke German.



### **Dan Dales ...**

Hiya! My name is Dan Dales and I went on the work experience exchange trip to Aachen, Germany. I spent the week with a pleasant family and worked with a lawyer's firm. On the whole it was a good experience as I went to the courts and prison and also they let me finish early every day so I could sample the city life!

The trip was very well organised with many events arranged for us including a musical orchestra ..... not my scene so we left and went clubbin'. Ideal!

Aachen was a really nice city and had a relaxing aura about it. Given the chance I would probably go back there, for various reasons, and I would recommend anybody stupid enough to take German A Level to go on the trip as it is amazing how much my spoken German has improved!

### **Gavin Hardy ...**

*Meine Austausch war ziemlich gut. Ich arbeitete in einem Umweltamt der Stadt Aachen. Ich habe viel über Wasser gelernt, es war interessant. Aachen hat ein gutes Fussballmannschaft in der zweiten Bundesliga. Aachen ist eine fabelhafte Stadt.*

I enjoyed Germany - it is a very clean country and the people are very friendly. One downside is that you have to get used to eating cheese and meat on bread for all your meals! It did give me a chance to try some German Wurst and some speciality goats cheese. I like the Conditerei because there are many different kinds of cakes to try. I think the food was probably my favourite part but I missed simple things like bacon.



### **Mehul Chavda ...**

*Ich hatte meine Arbeitspraktikum ins Ingenieurbüro verbracht. Obwohl ich jetzt kein Ingenieur werden will, habe ich viel über das felden der Karten gelernt. Ich empfehle diese Ausflug für alle Leute, die ihre Deutsch verbessern wollen.*

After a long strenuous journey, we were all tired and the nervousness had nearly been completely driven out of us. We arrived in Aachen at about eleven in the evening, after about eleven hours of travelling; after making a few 'friends' on the long but fun train journey we met our partners at the platform in the Aachener Bahnhof. At first I was very worried and full of fear that maybe my host family wouldn't be very hospitable and

I was preparing for the worst. Thankfully they were very nice and very welcoming and after a short introduction we all went to bed as we were all tired.

The four days working in the 'Ingenieurburo' (architect's office) were interesting to say the least. I explored all the different mediums in which the designers and architects worked, including three dimensional models using CAD, large maps, models and many more. I enjoyed my time with the group and learnt





many different skills, which have given me a detailed insight into engineering and especially the specifics of planning, designing and building motorways and similar things.

The highlights of the trip included meeting the Burgermeister of Aachen and visiting the famous cathedral of Aachen.

### **Sophie Longley ...**

*Wir fahren nach Aachen um ein Arbeitspraktikum/Austausch zu machen. Ich habe mein Arbeitspraktikum bei 'Kindertagesstätte des Studentwerks der Katholischen Hochschulgemeinde' gemacht und ich habe viele gute Eindrücken bekommen.*

After nearly missing the EuroStar, then another long train journey from Brussels, we finally arrived in Aachen. It wasn't just a normal exchange though, we were all going to be doing a week's work experience in the place of our choice. I chose to work in a Kindergarten and thoroughly enjoyed it, learning a great deal. I was amazed at how independent all the children were - I arrived on my first day to find 3-6 year olds helping to make pancakes!

Everyone there was so friendly and made me feel so welcome; I'd definitely do it again!



Gavin, Jack, David, Sacha, Megan, Sophie, Mehul & Dan  
On the steps of the Rathaus

# ROLLERBLADING

A sport is defined as -

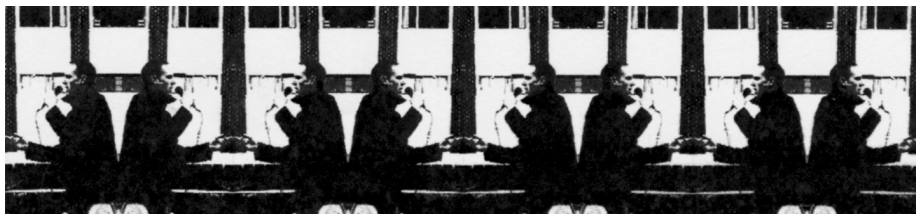
*'Physical activity that is governed by a set of rules or customs and often engaged in competitively.'*

By this definition, rollerblading is not a sport, and I believe that to be correct. It is beyond a sport, it is a culture. It is a culture of which I feel privileged to be a part. I don't compete against anyone, I am not part of a club and rollerblade with anyone and everyone, I don't go training and I have no coach, besides myself.

Aggressive inline rollerblading is something many may not have seen. It is conducted (surprisingly) on rollerblades and involves grinds, cess slides, gaps and spins ... to name a few. It is relatively hard to explain, so I hope the pictures will demonstrate as much as possible.

Aggressive inline rollerblading, a relatively new sport, is yet to suffer the commercialisation of its often closely linked (but very distant) cousin, skateboarding. This, in my eyes is a benefit. It is a possible belief that rollerblading needs the media and economic attention to become bigger and a more noticed force, perhaps larger than skateboarding. I, on the other hand, disagree monumentally. To start with, money is not what I as a participant am interested in. I do it because of the love I have





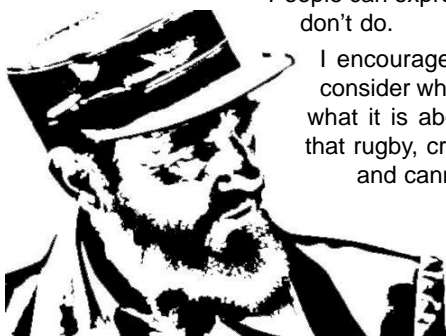
for it. Rollerblading is getting along brilliantly on its own at the moment so I see no need for a cash injection not to mention the addition of hate, greed and ignorance of grass roots that the money may or will bring. When the present mass media coverage involves children on rollerblades stealing items and then making a speedy getaway, I think this is something the rollerblading society can do without.

Lack of facilities that are really possible to use, together with a genuine wish to 'keep it real', drives kids to practise on local street corners, public and privately owned handrails, and ledges carved of the finest material. This is a source for a bad image due to perceived 'vandalism' we are carrying out. Were better facilities to be produced (those that did not invite drug users and the homeless) the number of children on the streets, just trying to find somewhere good to rollerblade, would decrease. But, unless you visit cities where there is a bylaw proclaiming no rollerblading in centres, there will always be kids somewhere because it is where it all began and so it is where it will always be.



Rollerblading provides one of the most acceptable environments I have ever seen. There is an almost complete lack of prejudice. I say almost because there are always those who find something unacceptable. But there is no discrimination between size, shape, ability or race. It is free to anyone. And the lack of rules makes it a haven for many. People can express the way they feel by the tricks they do or don't do.

I encourage you, next time you see a rollerblader, to consider what he or she is taking part in and understand what it is about and why it has that certain something that rugby, cricket, football and any other sport does not and cannot ever have.



*John Stafford*



## ***Carnival - Let the Children Play!***

Arts Week, now concentrated into three days, is like a ride on a helter-skelter; the mat you sit on is the theme, this year it was carnival. You and your group have no sooner got together and launched yourselves off than you're hurtling down, seeing things you didn't expect and praying that the landing will be soft and you won't be in total disarray in front of the people waiting at the end!

The magic moments however are never seen by the audience: the boy who designed a float, researched flags of the world and led a team in flag making, all on his own initiative, following that by producing the programme largely uninterrupted by staff; another who independently researched Chinese figures for peace or happiness and made paintings of them, working unprompted for hours.

In drama Mrs. Stanley's delight in the ideas pouring from her group about modern day ogres: greed, selfishness, pollution, prejudice - they chose the latter - and the weapons to combat it - kindness, empathy, understanding. Musicians who made music with unusual instruments working together to capture the spirit of carnival. Then there are those who mastered the unicycle, juggling and stilt walking!

The Arts Week experience is intense, frantic, sometimes chaotic ("We hadn't even untied them, Miss," - looking to the ceiling where half a dozen balloons dangled, their strings tantalisingly just above our heads!) but it is what it should be - **creative**.

***Mrs Claire Roberts***

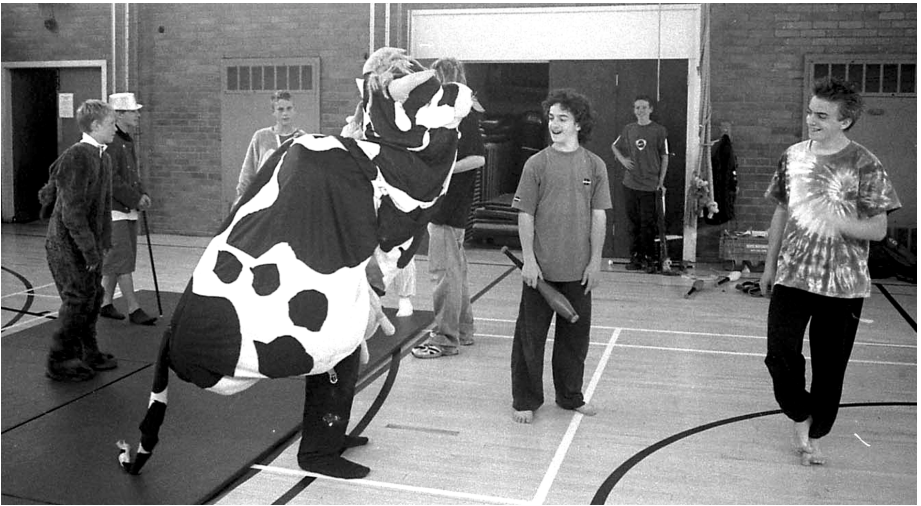
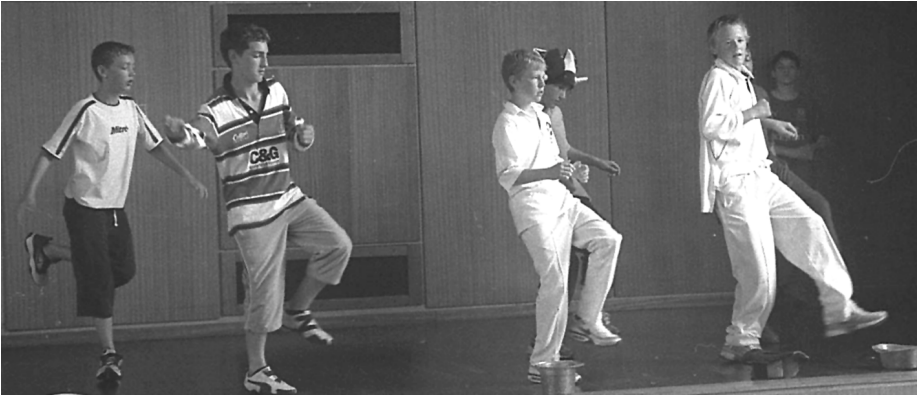


The Carnival dancers are put through their paces

If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music he hears, however measured or far away. - *Henry David Thoreau*

Anything can happen if it happens fast enough - *A C Passey*





## **Arts Week Review by Ruth Hill (U6B)**

This year the theme for year 8 Arts Week was carnival, which proved to be a wide source of inspiration.

Once again the art groups, headed by Mr Lockey and Mrs Roberts created decorations which adorned the hall for the final performance on Friday afternoon.

The first group produced work on the basis of China creating lanterns and dice. These were then added to a real Chinese Dragon, on loan from the Chinese Community in Eastgate Street. This proved to be a colourful and interesting float. The other group created a float based on football complete with flags of the Euro 2004 Nations.

Mrs Spilsbury's group created a dance. This involved circus skills which were taught by a group of visitors and a dance instructor. Due to the theme of carnivals, the first part of the dance involved circus skills where the dancers were dressed in costumes such as clowns, bears and dragons.

The choosing of the costumes proved to be a stressful part for the group, as not everyone wants to be a bear, dragon or the back end of a cow! The circus skills also brought a chance for the dancers to shine with their knowledge or lack of knowledge of unicycle, juggling and stilts.

The second part of the dance included familiar dance routines such as the 'Macarena'. These dances had the audience clapping as well as swaying in time with the music.





There were two drama groups, led by Mrs Stanley and Mrs Briscoe. Mrs Stanley took the familiar story of 'St George and the Dragon' and updated it to the modern day. In the new version the dragon was prejudice and people had to fight it with empathy. From watching the group at the start, it looked like mime as the actors were showing their emotions such as anger and love.

Mrs Briscoe's group told a story of a child's dream where the community had to create their own entertainment in the form of a toddler taming act, or 'Mrs Grim and the Grimets'. This play allowed the actors to have lots of pretend fights, as well as them being able to show off their skills doing cartwheels.

Once again Mr Lewis produced a movie with his group. The idea was taken from the 'Mexican Day of the Dead'. The end production was full of music such as 'I'm a Fire Starter' and 'Children of the Revolution'. The film showed how to kill zombies with celery(!).

This part of arts week seemed the most stressful for all of those involved. Due to modern technology and new computer packages, parts of the film were lost, and music did not coincide with the correct part of the film. Oops! An indication that specialist techniques and dedicated software need a lot of time to master properly, requiring specialist technical support and understanding that is the realm of the professional in such fields. And a salutary reminder that 'All does not always go well on the Night!'







Mr Thompson's and Mr Pickard's groups joined forces to produce a number of musical interludes, including a choral piece and several percussion pieces, all with a strong Latin feel to them.

Watching the arts week progress, blooming from initial ideas on the Wednesday morning, flowering into the final production on the Friday afternoon, it was abundantly clear that the members of staff and visiting instructors shed an immense amount of 'blood, sweat and tears' in addition to all the hard work invested by the students themselves.

This was an enjoyable week for all those involved and the final performance to peers and parents a colourful and exciting spectacle.





## ***Gymnastics Coaching***

My name is Sam Coe and I am in the U6. I've been doing gymnastics for about twelve years now but during the past two years or so I have been coaching.

I started coaching as a service for my Duke of Edinburgh Award, for this I coached for an hour a week. However after suffering a wrist injury that left me unable to train, instead of doing nothing I began coaching during my training sessions and at one point I was coaching almost seven hours a week.

Coaching is scary; there are all these children looking to you for help or advice. Sometimes you have the answers sometimes you don't. And when you're not much older than they are it's hard to gain their trust and respect. Once this is earned however the coaching world is your oyster.

During my first year I never had groups of more than two or three by myself, and I was more of an assistant learning my trade. My learning over, I was gradually given more responsibility as older coaches left for university or jobs. I was often left by myself to coach four or five gymnasts for twenty minutes or more, and my confidence and teaching ability improved dramatically.

About a year ago I was one of seven volunteer coaches from my club who set out to become qualified coaches. This was a long process with numerous workshops and practical days. The course ended with a practical exam which as it happens was the day after the Cotswold Marathon! So after completing the gruelling 36 mile course (and coming second!) I turned up at the gym after about 3 hours sleep to do my exam. I had to coach a small group for ten-minute lessons that I had planned on various pieces of apparatus. I passed well and left the gym a qualified coach. I was well chuffed!

My new qualification led to my position within the club being elevated and I have now been given two groups to teach which I see on Tuesdays and Fridays. I am solely responsible for the gymnasts in my groups and I also help my head coach to set goals to which my gymnasts should strive. Seeing my gymnasts achieve things that I've taught them is very rewarding. I now have a good rapport with my gymnasts and I look forward to seeing them each week to see what they can further achieve.

I began coaching as a way to achieve my DofE but now two years on coaching has made me reconsider my future career plans. I am now contemplating teaching as a career. Coaching has also improved my confidence, communication skills and diplomacy (ban parents from sports clubs!). It is a great opportunity and I would encourage anyone already involved in sport to see if you can start coaching at your club or even if you are not currently involved in sport, to try and get involved in it! Because coaching is a fulfilling and rewarding activity that improves many key skills that future employers are currently dying for.

Thanks for reading this; I hope it's inspired you to get involved in something!

***Sam Coe U6R***





### **U13 Cricket Season 2004**

*Played - 12, Won - 9, Drew - 1, Lost - 2*

*U13 City Challenge Trophy Winners*

In a nutshell the U13 cricketers had a rather successful and enjoyable season. Both of the lost games highlighted a possible weakness against good leg-spin bowling - a pity they both occurred in important and prestigious fixtures!

Their opening fixture unfortunately fell into this category - having secured a place in the National Rounds of the David English/Bunbury Cup by winning the county section last season, the team came up against a strong King Edward's XI from Bath. Lacking any match practice due to inclement weather during early May, they did not play up to their potential and were subdued in a comfortable win for the visitors. On another day, firing on all cylinders, the outcome would have been far different, I'm convinced. Our special thanks to Gloucester City CC for allowing us to stage the fixture on their fine Spa Ground.

Just before the Spring Bank Holiday half term the team enjoyed a three match tour of Suffolk, gaining the better part of a draw against Woodbridge, convincingly beating St Joseph's College Ipswich and coming unstuck to one of those leg-spin bowlers against Brandeston Hall, Framlingham. The glorious Suffolk sunshine made the tour an extra special time - my personal thanks to Peter Lloyd who shouldered nearly all the driving duties.

Fixtures against local schools all too often proved a little one-sided and raised the hoary question of winning against giving the 'non-stars' a go. Fortunately cricket is one of those games where the captain and stronger players can take a lesser role within the game - on several occasions they did and the result was still the same as others in the team seized their opportunities to impress. That's the great thing about

Post Match Presentations  
Brandeston Hall & St Joseph's  
Below - Tour Bus Scenes



this team - they play so much for each other and there is considerable depth to their talent. I have been especially impressed by the way each one in the squad has worked so hard to improve all areas of his game.

Some notable performances which must be mentioned ....

**Chris Surman** - 38 v King Edward's; 4 for 14 v St Peters; 4 for 3 v Rendcomb; 35 v Woodbridge; 71 v St Joseph's College; 41 v Pates; 4 for 12 v Kings; 61 v Crypt;

**Ben Ruxton** - 43 v Rendcomb; 3 for 17 v Woodbridge;

**Olly Ellis** - 61 v Woodbridge; 89 v Kings; 57 v Crypt;

**Simon Guilor** - 4 overs, 4 maidens, 2 for 0 v Rendcomb; 8 overs, 1 maiden, 5 for 20 v Pates;

**Will Latter** - 63no v Newent; 53no v Churchdown;

**Niall Drury** - 50 v St Joseph's College; 42 v Churchdown;

**James Payne** (right) - 6 for 12 v St Joseph's College.

The game against Pates deserves special mention for its exciting finish which reflects the positive attitude of the whole team. With the home side only 3 wickets down but putting up shop to play out what appeared to be a comfortable draw, the Rich's team had other ideas. A run out, a Ruxton caught-and-bowled and an inspired spell of quick swing bowling from Simon Guilor who returned to the bowling crease for his closing 4 over spell to take 5 wickets for 5 runs, 2 of the wickets in the very last over, the last one coming on the final ball of the day! It left Pates reeling and the spectators applauding a superlative finish to a good day's cricket.

### ***Centurion & Hat-Trick Heroes***



***Harry Young***



***Callum Broady***



***Andrew Downes***

This season yielded some very fine individual performances, such as Will Alder (U14), whose consistent batting averaged 50 runs, and Irshad Badat (U14), whose uncanny knack of taking a wicket in the first few deliveries of his bowling spells earned him the name of the 'Break Through Man'.

The elusive milestones of 100 runs and a hat-trick (3 wickets in 3 successive balls) were achieved though by Andrew Downes (U15), who received the Centurion Cup for his powerful 112 against Rendcomb, Callum Broady (U14) and Harry Young (U12), who both took hat-tricks in the City Cup Finals of their respective age groups.



## **Spanish Trip to Ribadesella**

Our last trip to Ribadesella in April 2002 was notable for the awful wet weather we experienced every day but one. This year it looked promising when we touched down at Bilbao but sure enough, it was just starting to rain when we arrived at our hotel. The next morning the wet weather forced us to abandon our planned walk along the coast but the afternoon turned out dry so Mr Sims organised some games on the beach.

On Tuesday morning we awoke again to grim, wet weather and I for one was looking heavenward asking what we had done to deserve this. Our excursion to the spectacular Cares Gorge was not looking very promising but as we headed south on the coach the weather brightened and we enjoyed a challenging but rewarding walk through stunning scenery. After a late lunch we headed to the small town of Arenas de Cabrales where the famous local speciality, Cabrales cheese, is made. This cheese is matured in caves and we visited a cheese museum located inside one of these caves to see how it is produced. This is an extremely strong blue cheese, not to everyone's taste, but several boys (and staff) brought some home for their unsuspecting families!

Wednesday was market day in Ribadesella, and the boys spent the morning in the busy streets working on the tasks they had been set. In the afternoon some went by bus but others walked the 4 miles to a beautiful but rather windy beach.



On Thursday we went to Oviedo, the nearest big city. The morning was spent in groups completing a challenging town-trail exercise. For lunch I regret to say that most of the boys headed for McDonalds but a few intrepid souls followed the staff into a restaurant and enjoyed the wonderful local food and hospitality. The afternoon was free for shopping and then on the way home we visited a spectacular new dinosaur museum that has been established to show the abundant fossils discovered in the area.

On Friday morning we visited the Tito Bustillo caves and saw remarkably well preserved 12,000 to 15,000 year-old cave paintings. Most of us spent the last afternoon on the beach and were pleased to see the red flag give way to yellow to allow some closely supervised bathing.

Our hotel was comfortable and the food was good, except for the bread rolls, which were more like something you might expect to encounter in a Resistant Materials lesson! The boys kept a diary, which had to be written mostly in Spanish, and also completed a number of tasks, which included interviewing local people. I was delighted with the positive manner in which they approached this serious side of the trip. It was also very









### ***Bazuka Boys do well at Nationals!***

At STRS we are very fortunate to have our own swimming pool. Boys make full use of the pool for regular swimming sessions during their PE lessons. Anyone who arrives at Rich's a non-swimmer will soon be encouraged to learn through additional "Beginner" sessions held at lunch times.

Apart from the annual House Swimming Gala, there are only a very few opportunities for our boys to represent the school in swimming competitions. The Bazuka Relays is one such event and this year we succeeded in reaching the National Finals at both the Junior and Intermediate levels.

We were able to do this because the boys chosen swim for local clubs and with them have had their own individual and team successes at County and National level. It was quite an advantage therefore that the Junior team of Rob Payne, Tom Burlinson, Kit Turner and James Broady all swim for Gloucester City Swimming Club. The Intermediate team of Tom White, Jack Mullins, Will Middleton and John Gaylard did especially well to reach the last 12 given they were swimming against boys a year older.

James Broady - pictured right - is the youngest of the Junior four and has perhaps the best potential of them all to attain representational honours in a couple of years time if he continues to maintain his current progress. His competition stroke is the breaststroke.

Basically it works like this. Everything is based on qualifying times; clubs enter their swimmers for the County Galas; in Gloucestershire's case, those competitors meeting the qualifying times then represent Gloucestershire at the Western Counties Gala(s), which gives them the opportunity to qualify for the National Galas. During July James took part in the Nationals at Ponds Forge Sheffield where he swam well, to come 6<sup>th</sup> in the 100m breaststroke and 12<sup>th</sup> in the 200m breaststroke.

To maintain such high standards of competition a rigorous schedule of training is

We should also mention here that talk around the poolside is that Tom White, who swims with Brockworth Swimming Club, is a real prospect for the Welsh National Squad for the Commonwealth Games in 2006. Watch this space!

[illegible]

*"The mind is like a star, so powerful, unique and bursting with energy, playing an intricate part in the working of the universe. Psychology is the astronomy of the mind, it makes a fantastical attempt to explain why we do, act and live the way we do. This is why I have become increasingly excited and compelled just at the prospect of further study into the subject. Life experience and knowledge has enticed me to ask questions and find reasoning behind human actions."*

*Why do so many people find a release in hurting themselves? What exactly is normal and how can we tell when and why people deviate from these norms? My foundations of knowledge from A level psychology have helped me to understand some of the issues associated with the above. Yet I yearn to explore further as psychology is entwined in every aspect of everybody's lives, from birth to death, from day care to eyewitness testimony, psychology lends explanations and theories."*

This extract from an anonymous personal statement just serves to show the intriguing nature of this subject. Introduced in September 2002, Psychology is fast becoming a popular choice of study amongst our Sixth Form students.

The park had six main areas: the water and sand area, the swings area, the castle area, the empty swimming pool area, the spin-around-so-fast-that-it-makes-you-want-to-be-sick area, and the aerial wire area. I played on the aerial wire for a while and then ate my lunch in a castle lan and I 'stormed'. After my lunch was devoured, I helped some people build a water system and stayed well clear of the spinning section, for fear of seeing my lunch again.

We were all milling around like a gaggle of eager 4-year-olds waiting for their turn with the glue. The bell rang, we all charged in as if we were a herd of angry bulls.

Another day, another migraine - did you know it's very hard to sleep with Tyler talking around the clock.

Back at the hostel we had to make up our beds - blimey, I'd rather wrestle a troll!!!

## The Boy

His smile is Jolly,  
His determination great.  
He won't stop at anything,  
Whatever the feat.

His hair is messy,  
His teeth are pure white,  
He couldn't be naughty,  
He'd die of fright.

Animals he loves,  
Quail, moose, kangaroo,  
For animal welfare,  
Anything he'll do.

His family are happy,  
His dad never there,  
His mum will do anything,  
For a good chat or chair.

His brother's annoying,  
His sister's a pain,  
Her crying all night  
Would equal a crane.

He is a great guy,  
My best friend over all,  
He'll never lose,  
He'll never fall.

Alexander Latter  
7B

## The Pen

I can be a teacher's best friend and  
At the same time  
A pupil's worst enemy.

I can be a beautifully crafted  
Fountain pen  
Or a cheap plastic  
Biro.

Pupils expect me to write essays  
In exchange for my fuel,  
Ink.

I have evolved through the ages  
From a quill  
To the latest Parker.

I have signed many documents  
From news of the next French trip  
To the Magna Carta.

However, I am sometimes broken  
And abused,  
Pupils don't always treat me with the  
respect that I deserve.

I mustn't be underestimated;  
Remember -  
I am mightier than the sword.

Daniel Hawkesworth  
10T





**Annual Awards & Speech Day**  
**26 September 2004**



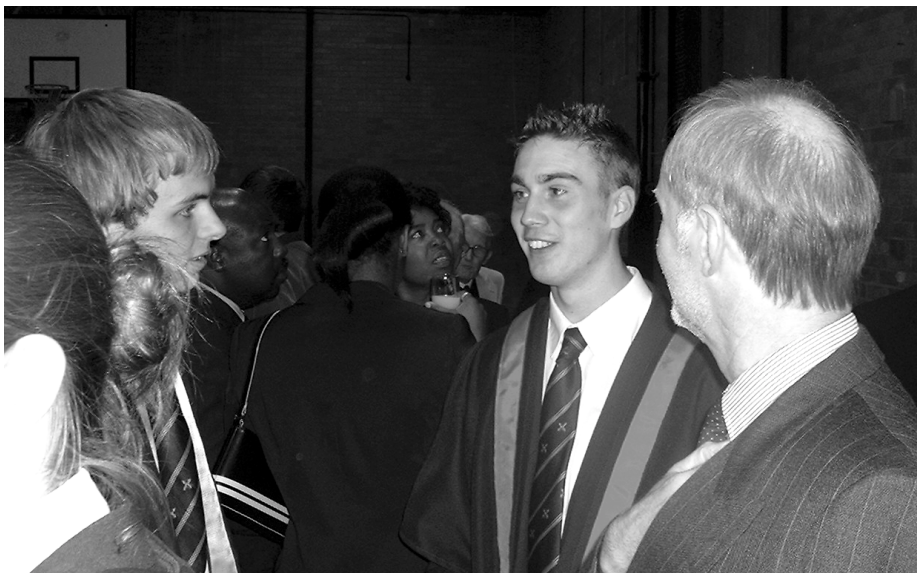
Guest of Honour this year was Bridget Kendall MBE, Diplomatic Correspondent for the BBC, who gave us a personal insight into her career development and how her father's advice while she was still at school enabled her to follow an exciting and interesting career. He told her to follow her interest in her studies - Russian - rather than settle for the 'safe' options. Choosing something unusual and exciting, albeit risky (in terms of job related opportunities), would get you noticed and bring rewards provided you tried

your very best to succeed in it. This she felt had been her story and had made her own 'luck' at getting the breaks and opportunities that opened up new and exciting avenues and adventures.

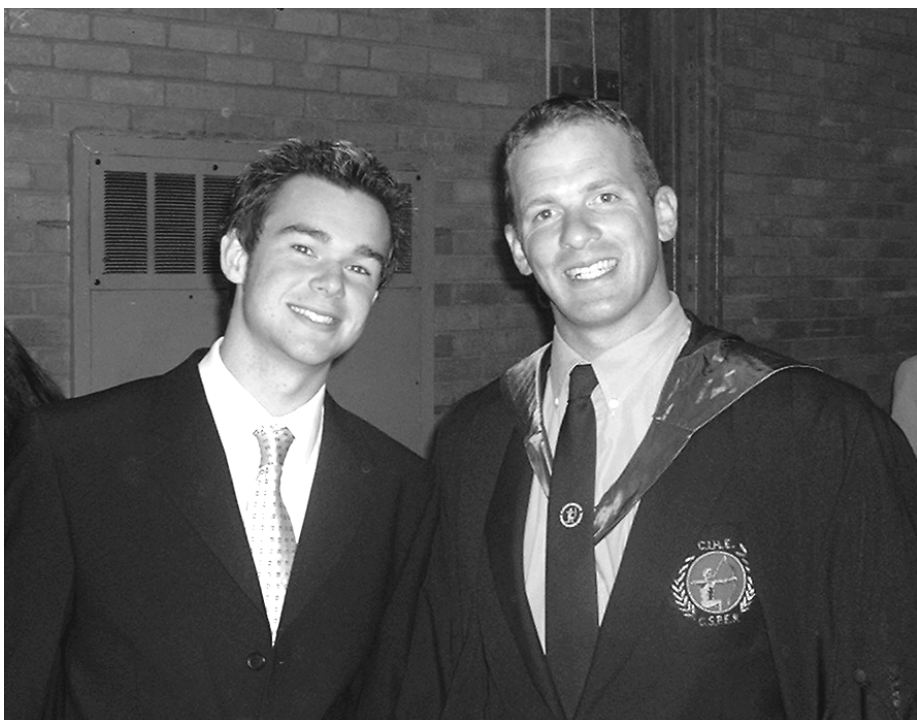
Pictured above with Ms Kendall are the Sheriff & Deputy Mayor of Gloucester Councillor Harjit Gill and Mrs Jasminder Gill, flanked by our Chair of Governors Jan Wilton and Headmaster Ian Kellie.

Pictured left is Joseph Taunton, who astoundingly passed all his 11 GCSE subjects with an A\* grade!

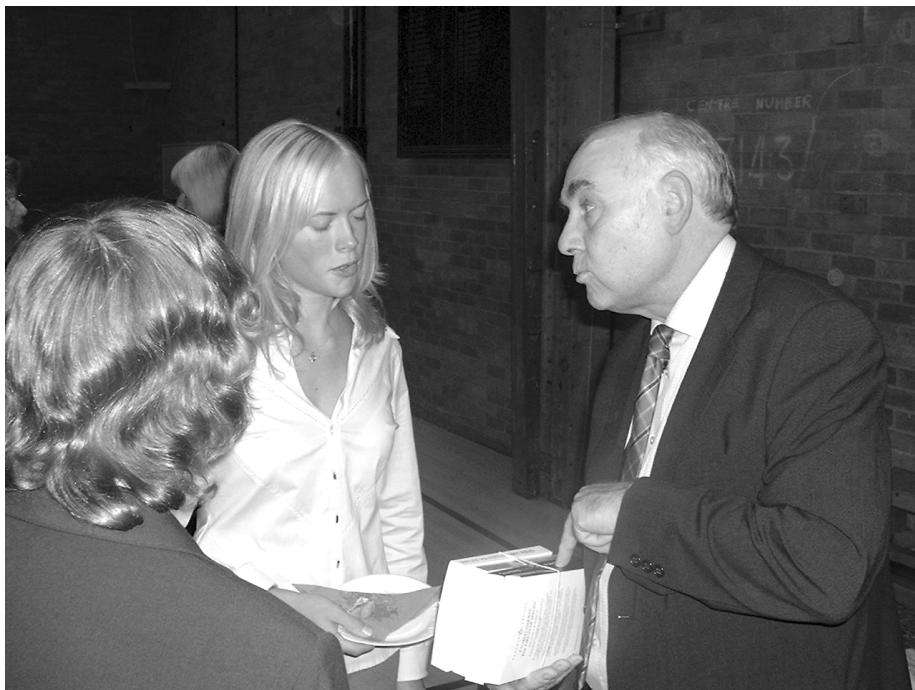




Newly appointed School Captain Chris Gallant mingles with the guests



Recently “retired” School Captain James Martin with Mr Rob Sims



Mr Ian Bowie puts Prize Winner Katrina Woolcock on the spot

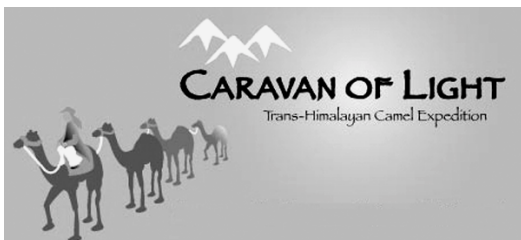


Mr & Mrs Pilbeam enjoy an amusing anecdote with Bill Hook



As anyone who reads through the Old Richians News section will quickly realise, students who have spent their formative teenage years at Rich's often progress greatly in their chosen careers, frequently finding themselves in far-flung places doing unique, exciting and challenging things.

No exception to that rule is Dan Wright - whose years in the Venture Scout Unit under that enigmatic leader Frank Henderson whetted his appetite for outdoor life and real adventure.



Dan is currently somewhere in Northern India with his friend Jim Wiltens and 4 camels. Having arrived in India at the end of August, they set about purchasing camels and the necessary equipment for their Caravan of Light expedition.

The plan is to ride the camels from Bikaner, India, through Kathmandu, Nepal, and over the Himalayas to Lhasa Tibet. During the course of this 1400 mile expedition they have prepared for many things, including camel blessings, monsoons, malarial mosquitoes, cobras, tigers, yetis, Maoist rebels, and sub-zero mountain passes.

It is not to be just a trek for 2 adventurers but more - it is a humanitarian journey. Just as caravans of old distributed goods and ideas, so will theirs. If you are accustomed to light at the flick of a switch, there is often a failure to appreciate the relationship between light and literacy. In remote villages, children often work alongside their parents in the fields during daylight hours. This leaves only the evening for study. Families, who desire a better education, can be found studying by the flames of kerosene lamps. A child and mother reading by the light of a kerosene lamp breathe in fumes equivalent to smoking two packs of cigarettes a day. Dan & Jim's goal is to promote literacy and health by installing high tech solar-powered lighting systems, provided by the 'Light Up the World' Foundation, in a number of the villages along the route.

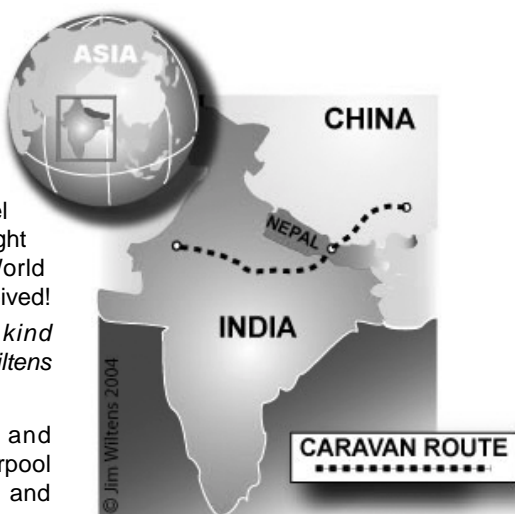
Dan and Jim invite you to follow their Caravan of Light expedition via the internet. Their web site is [www.thecaravanoflight.com](http://www.thecaravanoflight.com). They will be posting regular news reports from the trail in their journal so you can follow their progress.

And of course, any donations you feel moved to make to the Caravan of Light expedition and the Light Up the World Foundation will be most gratefully received!

*Images & text reproduced by kind permission from Dan Wright & Jim Wiltens*

#### **Dan Wright (expedition co-leader)**

Dan holds a degree in Outdoor and Environmental Education from Liverpool John Moores University in England and





among several outdoor certifications he is a qualified rock climbing instructor. He has been on expeditions in Asia including the 1998 Anglo-American Kanchenjunga expedition where he helped out and acted as a translator (English-Nepali). He organised and led a TA Reserves expedition for survival and adventure training to the Island of Martinique in the Caribbean and has climbed and trekked in Kashmir, Tibet, Norway, the United States, and the French Alps. After A-Levels, Dan spent a year teaching and climbing in Nepal. He then returned there in 2001 after university work as an adventure guide for Adventure Centre Asia. In 2002 and 2003, Dan worked at Deer Crossing Camp in the High Sierra of California, where he met Jim, the owner. He started as a wilderness guide, in charge of the climbing program and advanced to assistant director. Being in the US gave Dan an opportunity to map out new routes in Desolation Wilderness as well as spend time climbing big walls in Yosemite. Dan speaks passable Nepali and Hindi and is learning Mandarin for the expedition. He freelances as a high ropes course instructor for Motiva and as a learning support worker for FE College (Gloscat). He lives in Gloucester and climbs, caves, or hikes every weekend.



### **Jim Wiltens (expedition co-leader)**

Jim Wiltens owns and directs Deer Crossing Camp, a wilderness camp in California's High Sierra ([www.deercrossingcamp.com](http://www.deercrossingcamp.com)). Jim has been a research and commercial diver, university coach of championship teams, industrial chemist, search and rescue sheriff, and award-winning columnist. He has authored five books and hundreds of magazine articles. Jim lectures extensively in the areas of



motivational psychology, memory enhancement, and creativity development ([www.jimwiltens.com](http://www.jimwiltens.com)). He is also on the teaching staff at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. He works extensively with Gifted And Talented Education (GATE) students in California. People who have attended his lectures often call him "the adventure guy." His adventures include underwater cave exploration in the Yucatan jungle, big game tracking in Africa, white water kayaking on the headwaters of the Amazon, paragliding in Mexico, and mountaineering ascents of such peaks as Aconcagua in Argentina. Jim lives with his wife and son in Redwood City, California.



# Oxbridge Dinner

1st May 2004



Headmaster Ian Kellie with  
David Leung & Steven Smith

For successive years now this prestigious event has proved popular amongst those Richians recently taking up fields of undergraduate study at the venerable seats of learning of Oxford & Cambridge.

This year it was Cambridge's turn to act as hosts to the Richian Oxbridge Dinner. King's College duly and sumptuously obliged.

Matthew Key, Akshay Nair  
& Michael Preece



Simon Poole chats with Asst Heads  
Chris Carter & Mike Seales



*Did you know ...*

Sir Thomas Rich  
was himself an  
Oxbridge  
student  
attending  
Wadham  
College,  
Oxford.





## 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*

**STRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTR**

**BAXTER George** (1924-1933) was awarded an MBE for services to the community in 2004. Born in Kent, George was educated in Gloucestershire and then returned to the south east where he still lives today. George undertook his teacher training at Charterhouse before getting his first job at a school in Mill Hill, north London. Between 1953 and 1970 he was Headmaster of Farnham Grammar School and was a governor of five Farnham schools at one time or another as well as being a governor of Treloars special School in Alton. He is a former chair of Farnham Council of Churches, chaired the Farnham Society for ten years and called the public meeting which established the Farnham branch of the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies. George lives not far from his old school, now called Farnham College, where at the age of 90 he is still an active member of his local Rotary Club, as he has been for the past 50 years. It is clear to see that he is a worthy recipient of this honour and the Association would like to add their congratulations to the many already received.

**BROWN Michael** (1991-1998) Graduated from Cardiff Law School in the Summer of 2003 with a 2.1 in Law and German having spent his third year in Switzerland. In September 2003 Michael, a former School Captain, began work as a Commercial Graduate Trainee with Rolls-Royce at Derby. Michael works for the Marine Business and at the time of writing was with the Submarines Business Unit as a Commercial Officer. He says *"I'm not sure how best to explain what I do but it is based around contract and project management and forming business proposals for Ministry of Defence Contracts."* After a year within the Derby-based businesses which he has thoroughly enjoyed he will head to Bristol for up to a year before finding a permanent placement (probably in Derby). Occasionally in Gloucester to see family/friends/watch rugby but often spends weekends in the Peak District *".. the blisters on my feet can prove it! ... I will endeavour to keep in touch with the Association on a more frequent basis in the future!"*

E-mail: [mkgbrown@hotmail.com](mailto:mkgbrown@hotmail.com)

**BROWN Rachael SE** (2000-2002) On a four-year sandwich course at John Moore's University in Liverpool doing Forensic and Biomolecular Studies. Now in her third year which is a 12 month placement with Merseyside Police working in their Forensic Laboratories. Spends her days taking fingerprints from cadavers, attending scenes of crime as an observer and developing fingerprints taken from drugs and guns.

**BULLOCK Geoffrey J** (1945-1949) Spent 50 years and more in the insurance industry starting in 1949 in Gloucester, spent two years National Service in the Intelligence Corps, captained Old Richians RFC in its formative years 1953-56 then emigrated to Canada in 1957. Geoffrey now lives in Scarborough Ontario which is just outside Toronto.

E-mail: joybullock@rogers.com

**BULLOCK Nicola** (1995-1997) Graduated from Loughborough University with a MSc in Exercise Physiology. Worked as an Occupational Physiologist before taking up her current position as an exercise physiologist at the world famous Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra, Australia.

**CLIFFORD Andrew** (1990-1997) Some welcome news arrived at the break of the new year from Andy Clifford on the McMurdo Ice Shelf, Antarctica. He writes ... *"It's been a long time since I've been in touch but a day of blowing snow camped out on the ice shelf is the perfect time to catch up! I'm still based out in Dunedin, New Zealand doing a Geology Masters and although motivation is limited at times(!) I'm loving the experience. I'm researching the history and future of one of Antarctica's ice shelves which has given me 3 seasons of fieldwork on the great white continent. It's a spell-binding place - I'll have to do a slide show when I'm next back in Gloucester - probably not for another year."*

**COOK Andrew C G** (1992-2000) Having completed his A-levels in the Summer of 2000, he joined the Geography Department at the University of Southampton. At Southampton he writes: *"I completely immersed myself in the University experience and revelled in the freedom of study, and lifestyle, that came with it. During my second year at Southampton I founded, managed and captained the Departmental football team, 'The GeogSoc Jaguars'. The side was intended to be a mirror image of the noble Gloucester City side of the time, and our early fortunes demonstrated this, conceding 32 goals in our first two games. This of course had nothing to do with the fact that I was playing in goal! Success came in part, and we finished a respectable 7<sup>th</sup>, before winning the League title last season."* Andrew graduated from Southampton in the summer of 2004 with a 2:1 and has just started a MPhil/Phd at Queen Mary, University of London. This step is seen as a continuation of his long standing interest in Urban and Social geography which was fostered at Rich's during A-Levels. Andrew says *"the workload is high, but the satisfaction that I am enjoying from doing totally original and 'cutting edge' research makes this more than worthwhile. I am currently in the process of applying for funding to spend a Semester in Prague next year to complete my fieldwork. I thoroughly hope that once my Doctorate is complete I will continue my seemingly inexorable path into academia and teaching."* Andrew says Rich's is often in his thoughts, *"... not just because of nostalgia, but because it was always such a warm and friendly environment in which to learn and develop within. If it hadn't been for certain members of the teaching staff, notably Mr David Proudlove, I don't believe that I would be doing what I am doing now, and enjoying myself as much as I am. If I had been told four years ago that I would be reading for a Doctorate*



*I would have said that it was not possible. But that is the benefit of having a good school and University education; doors open and pathways form that one could never envisage. I thank everyone at Rich's for providing and fostering the environment in which I was nurtured and developed during my formative years."*

**CROFT Giles** (1984-1991) Spent six years becoming a 'Dr' and qualified from Leeds Medical School in 1998. Stuck around in West Yorkshire for house jobs and subsequently spent the following three years on a surgical rotation working towards becoming a 'Mr' once again. After slogging through membership with the Royal College of Surgeons in 2001 he took a well earned rest from study and work, hopped on his touring bike and went for a ride which eventually took him 4500 miles across the Alps and through the Eastern Block from Leeds to Turkey. After a good 10 days' rest in Istanbul he cycled back again via various Mediterranean islands and several mountain ranges. In all, he crossed a total of 12 countries, 40 mountain passes and raised £2300 for the UK based charity 'The Mines Advisory Group' (visit [www.mag.org.uk](http://www.mag.org.uk) for more information). The figurative (although not literal) high point of the journey entailed following in the footsteps of all those cycling heroes by getting to the top of Le Mont Ventoux without getting off the bike, or indeed expiring a couple of kilometres from the top! Returning to Leeds considerably leaner and with something of a limp, he commenced specialist training in Orthopaedic surgery, empathising with all the outpatients who came complaining of knee pain. But after a year he realised there was more to life than mere carpentry in the operating theatre, becoming quite disturbingly interested in underlying health system processes and the management of health information. Giles has recently defected to 'the other side' and been appointed to work for the Royal College of Physicians in the Health Informatics Unit, managing their latest project - the RCP Information Laboratory (<http://hiu.rcplondon.ac.uk/iLab>) which is based at the University of Wales Swansea. The work involves doing what erstwhile colleagues struggle to get to grips with since it involves neither patients, chisels nor drills. In case of its inevitable shortcomings, he will strongly deny any involvement whatsoever in the development of the forthcoming Electronic Patient Record! He's an active member of the Swansea Wheelers Cycling Club and has started road racing this year, in at 4th Category - watch this space! Unsurprisingly he's still single, although between all the work and all the cycling there just never seems to be enough time ..... For anyone vaguely interested in reading more about the cycling trip, a published article with photos can be found in PDF format at <http://www.surgeonsnews.info/docs/issue2-2/pdfs/kneepain.pdf> which was still live at the time of writing.

E-mail: [G.P.Croft@Swansea.ac.uk](mailto:G.P.Croft@Swansea.ac.uk)

**DALTON Robert** (1972-1979) Left Rich's for Nottingham University and a BA in Medieval and Modern History. Trained as a journalist in Newcastle, then spells on local papers in Teesside and Oxford before moving in 1990 to London and 'The Sun'. There then followed a couple of years as acting editor at 'The Journal' in Newcastle which is owned by the rival Mirror Group Newspapers Ltd. In 1997 it was back to

News Corporation's "The Sun" and since May 2003 Rob has been editor of "The Sun" in Scotland based in Glasgow. Rob lives in Newcastle with his wife Louise (a teacher), who he married in 1985, and their five children, two girls and three boys aged 5 to 16. "To think" he writes *"the journalism all started with editing 'Venture 44' for the Tommies Venture Unit , a 'Rag Mag' for School Funds and of course 'The Richian' with Tim Sargeant!"* He continues that he has *"very fond memories of STRS – particularly the unique education provided by Frank Henderson, wonderful anecdotes from 'Bomber' Jeffries and Ian Cutting and the many forms of school music. Warm regards to all contemporary pupils and staff and best wishes for the continued success of Tommies – Garde Ta Foy!"*

E-mail: daltonseven@tiscali.co.uk

**DEAN Nigel** (1961-1966) After four and a half years in a second spell with ITV sport, Nigel is returning to Sky Sports where he will be responsible for the network's coverage of Spanish football. In the past twelve months Nigel has been part of the ITV team producing the Rugby World Cup in Australia, the IRB Sevens and Euro 2004 football from Portugal.

E-mail: ndean23@aol.com

**DORN Alex** (1993-2000) graduated in Mechanical Engineering with a 2.1 Honours degree from Nottingham University.

**FINCH Alexander J** (1932-1936) Moved to Elmore in 1931 and started Rich's a year later when Rogers-Tillstone was Headmaster. He left school in October 1936 and the next day became a "Boy Seaman" in the Royal Navy. Over the following twelve years he served on numerous ships ranging from a frigate to an aircraft carrier. In 1948 he qualified as a Gunnery Officer and the same year was married in Portsmouth. He had one command, HMS Rapid, and later appointments included Naval Provost Marshal in Malta (1961-1964) and an Intelligence job in Singapore from 1967. Alex retired as a Commander in 1970 and the following year went to work for a company called Cleveland Bridge and Engineering for whom he undertook the marine work associated with the rebuilding of the Britannia Bridge over the Menai Straits in North Wales. From 1972 until 1980 Alex worked in the Middle East, living mostly in Dubai but also with a spell in Cyprus, visiting many of the Arab countries including Yemen, Iraq, and Lebanon. In 1980 Alex and his wife returned to England and until 1985 Alex administered the Sea Cadet Corps whose Head Office was in Wimbledon. Now retired he is still the President of the local Sea Cadet Association near his home in Finchampstead, as well as a supporter of the National Trust. Sadly following the death of his wife in 2001 Alex is now a widower and he says somewhat hampered from doing anything very energetic by asthma – a reasonable excuse at 84! He has a son and daughter and two grandsons, one at Swansea University and one considering going into the Royal Navy.

E-mail: alxfinc@aol.com

**FRYER James MA** (1991-1996) Currently doing a post graduate course in public and media relations at Cardiff University.

**GETTINGS A J** (1984-1991) Having graduated from Nottingham University with a 1st Class Honours degree in Mechanical Engineering, he became a Chartered Engineer and is now working for British Energy, the company he joined upon graduation. He still lives in Gloucester with his wife Mel. He has recently been promoted to the position of Lead Engineer for the Hartlepool/Heysham Power Station Group. Andy would like to wish all his school friends well and wishes the school every success in the future as a top performing Grammar School.

**GODWIN William D** (1995-2002) Started as an Officer Cadet at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September 2004, having graduated from Aberystwyth University.

**GOUGH Eric Dudley** (1930s) Eric who at 90 would probably have been one of the oldest Old Richians, died peacefully in his sleep on March 6th 2004, after a long illness. His daughter Anne White asked that members of the Association be notified of his death. Eric moved to Cornwall nearly eight years ago and lived next door to his daughter and close to three grandchildren and three great grandchildren. He also has one grandson, one great grandson and one great great granddaughter still living in Gloucester. His father was an Old Richian as was his son-in-law Doug White and two nephews Bob Leach and John Leach. After a crematorium service at Truro on March 12th, his Ashes were interred at Maisemore Church on March 26th in a service conducted by another Old Richian, the Revd Canon John Evans. The Association offers its condolences to all of Eric's family and thanks to Doug White for forwarding on the information.

Doug White's E-mail: [deeceewhite@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:deeceewhite@tiscali.co.uk)

**GRIFFITHS Adam** (1993-2000) Following the successful conclusion (2.1 Hons) of his degree course in Electronic Engineering at Plymouth, Adam has just gained employment as an Electronic Systems Design Engineer with Sula Systems Ltd. He spent an agreeable and exciting time climbing in the Pyrenees during the summer before joining the 44<sup>th</sup> Gloucester on their Orkney trip. His climbing activities however hit a serious setback with the theft of most of his kit from a locker at The Warehouse. He is now a qualified MLTB Mountain Leader and Climber and is an Instructor with the school's Explorer Scout Unit. He hopes to become a warranted leader there shortly.

**HANSFORD Ben** (1988-1995) Obtained a BSc Hons in Environmental Science from Birmingham University in 1998 then stayed on as a researcher in the Geography Department until 2000. Between 2000 and 2003 Ben worked as a Marketing Recruitment Consultant before promotion to National Marketing Manager, the post he still holds. A keen cricketer at school (Captain of the school 1st XI) Ben continued to play semi-professional cricket in the Birmingham league up until 2000 and still plays socially.

E-mail: [benhansford411@hotmail.com](mailto:benhansford411@hotmail.com)

**HARRIS Terence R** (1946-1952) This year has been special. St Luke's Methodist Church Gloucester invited Terry to start their Centenary Celebrations on Easter Sunday. (*"I assured them that I was not there for the opening!"*) He helped produce a philatelic cover for the occasion and wrote a short history of the church. In May, Terry had the privilege of baptising his second granddaughter, Maya, at Slough Methodist Church. It has been forty years since his Ordination at the Sheffield Methodist Conference and he is still preaching once a month. He writes *"Julia and I have just celebrated our Ruby Wedding. We attended Honiton Parish Church and local Methodist Church, had a Barn Dance with fifty neighbours and friends and then twenty-eight of our family had a lunch together. (No - not all on the same day!)"* During his school days Terry was once Secretary of STRS Stamp Club and his picture appeared in 'The Citizen' in 1948 with other boy stamp collectors. This year, at the annual meeting of the Methodist Philatelic Society in Wesley's Chapel, City Road, London, he was presented with the Cup for his display: 'A Tale of Gloucester Methodists'. Our former President closed his news update *"... hope to see some of you at the Annual Dinner!"*

E-mail: [trharris@tinyworld.co.uk](mailto:trharris@tinyworld.co.uk)

**HOOK William Gordon "Bill"** (1931-1939) In August of 2004 Bill celebrated the Sixtieth (Diamond) Anniversary of his marriage to his wife Joan. They met when he was at Rich's and she was a pupil at the High School, Denmark Road, not an unique event then or now but sixty years is a major achievement and it was duly marked by both the Citizen and the Gloucester RFC Programme for first home game after the event.

**HOOK David Q** (1972-1980) served as a Deputy Returning Officer during the May 2004 City Council and European Parliament Elections. The count took place on two separate nights and whilst the ward he was responsible for was one of the most straight forward the second ward he went to assist with was a close result leading to several recounts and a late night/early morning at Gloucester Leisure Centre.

E-mail: [davidqhook@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:davidqhook@blueyonder.co.uk)

**HOOK Gordon N** (1957-1965) has recently moved to Newton Abbot and is within walking distance of the Teignbridge District Council Offices where he is Portfolio Holder for the Environment and Environmental Affairs – for which he has a regular column in the local paper. In addition to mentoring Sixth Form students at King Edward VI College Totnes and various other part time jobs Gordon has worked for a business consultancy which takes him to the Channel Islands from time to time and he is also the "mystery shopper" for a well known national company. In May 2005 Gordon has been selected to stand for the Liberal Democrats in the Devon County Council elections.

E-mail: [gordon@captainhook.freemove.co.uk](mailto:gordon@captainhook.freemove.co.uk)

**HOWELLS Gareth** (1994-2001) has graduated from Nottingham University with a 2:1 in History. Gareth plans to embark upon a PGCE course at Nottingham and hopes to become a History Teacher.



**JOHNS Robert** (1993-2000) Graduated this year with a 2.2 Hons in Electrical Engineering from Plymouth University.

**JONES Nick** (1995-2002) Currently in the 3rd year of his Law and French degree, which is being spent in Toulouse where he is studying for a Diploma in European Union Studies at the Université des Sciences Sociales, before returning to Cardiff University for his 4th and final year.

E-mail: greek\_number\_7@hotmail.com

**KELLIE Peter E** (1995-2002) who is reading Chemistry at Nottingham University, won his first national title at Senior level in January 2004 when he became the first Welshman home in the Welsh 4K cross country championship. Peter had broken his ankle at the end of the previous summer and this was evidence that his form was returning. Also in January Peter represented Wales U23s in the Celtic International Challenge at Ayr in Scotland.

**KEY Matthew** (1995-2002) Matt's Icelandic Sagas continued again this summer with some further field work amongst the glaciers and volcanos of Iceland. A post card from Jökulsárlón read ... *"Back in Iceland again! Sorry I didn't get to see you all before I left. Weather has been good but non-stop rain today. Our camp is just off to the right, 4km away - no toilets or water! Dissertation going well but measuring pebbles gets tedious after a while! (Didn't I do that for GCSE???) Views make up for it. Two weeks left."* Matt is still studying at Oxford - Geography, what else! - and still hopes for communication from Nord Kapp.

**KING Revd Michael C** (1946-1953) Former School Captain, Michael left Rich's to read Theology at Worcester College, Oxford, known in the Middle Ages as Gloucester College. Michael wrote praising the Association's web site and use of e-mail but mischievously continued .. *"this curious creature, who has led a double life (parish priest and editor in the publishing world (SCM Press and The Bible Reading Fellowship) gently wonders whether the School still has a library and uses any books!"* To put Michael's mind at rest there is a well stocked "Blue Coat Library" at Oakleaze and during the last year the Association used a bequest from our late former President Jack Dean (1926-1931) and his wife Peggy to purchase 51 new books for it in their memory. Michael has now retired and is living in Loughborough where he continues to read and play bowls. He asks if it is a record to continue paying the Association a 10 shilling or 50p subscription for some 50 years without being traced. The answer is sadly no since a number of lapsed members continue to pay at previous subscription rates ranging from five pounds to twenty five pence (the old five shilling fee). Every year one or two of these former members contact us to convert to the new level of subscription (£10 ordinary, £5 student) and there is we can assure you "much rejoicing" over the one lapsed member who was lost, but now is found!

**MOOLLA Sulaiman** (1993-2000) is currently studying for a masters degree in Banking and Finance having obtained a BSc in Physics from the University of Nottingham. E-mail: sulaiman@fastmail.fm

**PRICE John** (1968-1975) Former School Captain and older brother of Richard, has for the past ten years been under-master (public school jargon for deputy head) at the prestigious Winchester College in addition to having taught principally Russian and other languages. For some three years during this period, John took up an invitation to be the headmaster of a new school that was being set up in Malaysia on the same lines as Winchester. Having got a taste for the far east in September 2004 John took up the post of Headmaster of the Jerudong International School in the Sultanate of Brunei, possibly with thoughts perhaps of becoming a permanent ex-pat this time round? Brunei may give John the opportunity to learn eastern languages in addition to his fluency in French, Latin, German, Arabic, Russian, etc. John recently bought a former miner's cottage in Abertillery which was badly in need of repair and has patiently refurbished the property so that he can use it as a base for his love of walking the Brecon Beacons. In March 2004 John got remarried to Sarah who had been the manager of the bookshop below his apartment in Winchester. Apparently the town in Brunei where the school is situated has no bookshop – yet!

**PRICE Richard** (1970-1976) On the 20<sup>th</sup> of September 2002 Richard became the proud father of two identical twin boys, Dafydd and Iwan, brothers for older son Morgan. He apologises for taking so long to update his CV for the Richian blaming the trauma of attending to the needs of two kids at once for the past few years. Richard's advice to any expectant fathers who are anticipating a multiple birth is to ensure that they get their full entitlement to paternity leave and more - much more! Looking after twins is harder than anything he has ever encountered and believes the parents of triplets or quads deserve medals! Following a bad car accident Richard was fortunate enough to be able to retire in 1996 from a profitable property development/architectural practice to concentrate on his family and pursue interests in music. On completing a part time music degree in Cardiff, Richard took up the appointment in 1997 of choirmaster and organist at St Mary's Church in Magor, South Wales, not far from his home in Penhow Newport. This is despite never studying the subject at Rich's with the then music teacher Michael W Rangeley - or "MoWeR" as he was also known. Richard recalls that he received the lowest mark in the school from Mr Rangeley for a school house music competition for piano rendition, and yet he now chooses a vocation in music! His thanks however to Mr Rangeley for his introduction to music via the Choir and Choral Society. Richard continues in his aspirations to be a composer ... kids permitting.

**SHAW Andrew** (1994-2001) gained a 2.1 BSc Hons in Science in Health Exercise & Sport at the University of Wales Institute Cardiff.

**SHEEHY Patrick T** (1994-2001) who is living in Southampton and studying Hospitality Management at Bournemouth University, ran in the 2004 London Marathon in April raising funds for the Gloucester children's support charity Winston's Wish.

**SHEPHARD Jonathan** (1960-1967) Left Rich's for Oxford where he read English and then Law, winning the Chancellor's English Essay prize and the Matthew Arnold Memorial Prize. After being called to the bar he joined the Consumers' Association, where he became Research Manager of the financial research group and editor of the

annual Tax Saving Guide, and of the travel and health titles, before taking charge of market research, business analysis and property. In March 1994 Jonathan became Marketing Director and then Managing Director of the Newhall Group, publishers of the large circulation magazine 'Candis' and in October 1997 he became Managing Director of Southern Magazines, where he turned Insurance Times into the leading weekly insurance title and launched Strategic Risk as a leading risk and corporate governance title at Board level. In March 2004 Jonathan was appointed General Secretary of the Independent Schools Council based at their offices in Grosvenor Gardens London. The ISC exists to promote and advocate high quality independent school education in the United Kingdom, its worth to individuals and its value to society. Two of its most important functions are to inspect all member schools every six years and to provide information to parents, government, the press and the general public on Independent Schools, a role carried out for many years by ISIS which became part of the ISC in 1986. Jonathan has three children all aged twelve, he has sung with the Tallis Scholars and with Schola Cantorum of Oxford and recently completed his first novel, set in the Napoleonic Wars.

**SMITH Matthew R** (1991-1998) Having attained in 2000 his BMed Sci with 1st class Honours in Physiology, Matthew graduated this year from Birmingham Medical School being awarded MBChB with Honours in Medicine. Started work at Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham in August.

**SPEAR Perran** (1993-2000) graduated this summer with a 2.2 Hons in Geology from Imperial College London. He is now working with the local geological survey company 'Stegosaurus' and has been recently getting hands-on experience with their field survey equipment (drilling big holes!)

**STEVENS Terry** (1955-1962) The Association heard from Terry in July with the news that he had just retired from teaching after 25 years at Oaklands Catholic School in Waterlooville, Hampshire. At Oaklands he had a range of responsibilities ranging from Head of Chemistry to Head of Science and Assistant Headteacher. Terry retired in the same week as his 40th wedding anniversary, so it has been a very momentous time for him and his wife, Mary. Future plans include spending more time with Mary and their 6 grandchildren and attending Havant Rugby Club's every home game this coming season - link with Peter Price. He writes *"I would appreciate a message from anybody who attended at the same time as myself - I may not remember you but then you probably won't remember me! Looking forward to receiving lots of news."*

E-mail: [terry.stevens@another.com](mailto:terry.stevens@another.com)

**STEVENSON Graham** (1996-2001) Qualified from the University of Birmingham with a BA Hons in Geography. Recent voluntary work included stints at the World Indoor Athletic Championships 2003 and the DFS Classic International Tennis 2004. Graham is now a graduate consultant for the consultant engineering company Faber-Maunsell in Birmingham, working within their transportation division.

E-mail: [grahamstevenson@gmail.com](mailto:grahamstevenson@gmail.com)

**STOKES Trevor** (1935-1941) Lives in Newton Abbot and still participates in the roster for Station Masters at the South Devon Steam Railway's station at Totnes during the summer. Winter activity involves occasional working in the carriage and wagon restoration workshop at the Buckfastleigh headquarters. Other voluntary work includes helping with administrative duties at a Newton Abbot hospital clinic every Friday.

**STUART-SMITH Clive** (1994-2001) joined newly promoted Premiership side Worcester in April 2004. Scrum half Clive, formerly with Gloucester, had briefly gone north to Leeds Tykes in 2003 but has now come south to Worcester which has something of a reputation for the number of former Gloucester players in its ranks. Scrum half Clive has played for England U16, U18, U19 and captained England's U21 Grand Slam team in 2003/04, two of whose matches were played at Kingsholm.

**TAYLOR Chris** (1993-2000) gained a First Class Honours degree in Mechanical Engineering from Cardiff University.

**THOMAS Mike** (1980-1986) After leaving school, Mike had always wanted a career on the wireless, so he worked for a few BBC local stations as well as 'Radio 5 Live' and then decided to give commercial radio a go. There followed spells at 'Severn Sound' in Gloucester, Oxford's 'Fox FM' and 'Talksport' before moving to Tamworth in 1998 to launch a brand new station 'Centre FM' as its News & Sports Editor. Left there in August 2001 to join the launch team at the new West Midlands regional station 'Saga FM' and is still there working as a news/sport correspondent ... *"I've been reliably informed by my mum, you can hear 'Saga' on 105.7FM in Gloucester - so please tune in!"* Mike lives in Burton-on-Trent with his wife Joy who he married in 2001.

E-mail: [mthomas@saga1057fm.co.uk](mailto:mthomas@saga1057fm.co.uk)

**WALTERS Philip** (1992-1999) Left Rich's for Churchill College Cambridge where he studied Manufacturing Engineering, becoming involved with both the college rugby and rowing scenes. This year he qualified with a MEng BA Hons and has started work on the Operations graduate scheme with Rolls Royce plc in Derby.

E-mail: [philwalters@cantab.net](mailto:philwalters@cantab.net)

**WASHBOURNE Dr John Fryer** (1936-1941) Now retired and living in Patrington near Hull, John was involved with the Air Defence Cadet Corps at School which became the Air Training Corps. This interest in aircraft led to him joining the Royal Observer Corps into which he was eventually commissioned and served for 44 years. John's business life was spent mainly in the Animal Feed Industry designing and testing plant and equipment for use at home and abroad. It was extremely interesting work especially when getting caught up in Cuba during the Missiles Crisis, the Malayan Emergency and flying out of Cambodia over Vietnam to Hong Kong when things were hotting up down below. In addition to the 'ordinary' work John was also an examiner on behalf of the Engineering Council for the registration of suitably qualified candidates to Chartered Engineers and an Honorary Engineering Consultant for 25 years to a Children's Charity specialising in the design and development of equipment for use in



the Third World. In 1976 he was awarded a Churchill Fellowship to study in the USA and Canada the mechanical extraction of protein from plant life. After retiring he was awarded a scholarship to go back to Thailand to study protein recovery from waste green crops and especially water hyacinth found clogging so many waterways. Working in the slums of Bangkok where he hoped to install equipment proved unrealistic and eventually an Agricultural College took on the project. In his letter John mentioned that he was awarded 'School Colours' for PT and Rifle Shooting and asked if they were still awarded. They are for the likes of Cricket, Rugby etc but Rifle Shooting has not been an option for many decades!

**WASLEY David J** (1974-1979) who like his identical twin Andrew is a detective with the Gloucestershire Constabulary received a Rotary Service Award at the end of 2003 for his work in helping to train Estonian Police Officers to run child protection units in Parnu and the capital Tallinn.

**WEBBER Michael L** (1993-2000) graduated this summer with a First Class Honours Degree from Bath University in Modern Languages and European Studies (French and Russian). In his notes for the magazine he says "*... during my third year I spent 10 months in Paris and 3 months in St Petersburg – it's a tough life being a student!*" At the time of writing Michael had been offered a job at GCHQ (subject to vetting) so was planning to be back in the area. He may be bumped into on the playing fields of Gloucestershire since he is a qualified football referee and will be out in the local parks when the season starts.

E-mail: [thereferesawebber@hotmail.com](mailto:thereferesawebber@hotmail.com)

**WRIGHT Nigel** (1961-1969) After 22 years teaching at Chepstow School and a total of 31 years teaching, Nigel is moving to a part time teaching post at Marling Grammar School in Stroud.

E-mail: [nigcherwright10@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:nigcherwright10@tiscali.co.uk)

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## **OLD RICHANS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DINNER 2005**

The Association is holding its Annual Dinner next year on Saturday the 7th of May, the eve of VE Day. As always the Dinner is open to all former pupils and staff of the school together with their partners and not just Association members. In recent years we have been very pleased to see large numbers of younger members attending. While hoping that they will be with us once again we are also hoping to welcome back former pupils who were at school either before or after the last world war. Please book the date now! Further information on the Dinner can be obtained from The Chairman David Hook (1972–1980) at 1 Kingsholm Square, Gloucester. Tel: (01452) 504384

At the Dinner we are hoping to have an exhibition of memorabilia connected with the war years. We are hoping to have items such as school photographs, caps, workbooks as well as general items such as gas masks, ration books, government leaflets, old Citizens, etc. If you can help provide anything please contact Mr Denis Collins, who is co-ordinating the exhibition, at 21 High View, Hempstead. Tel: (01452) 303175.

# Old Richians' Association

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2004

This is my first report as President, taking over from my friend of many years John Lewis. The Association is in good order, thanks to the members of the committee, but new members are needed, both as ordinary members and as members of the committee. We hold many excellent social occasions and we are not just a bunch of old fogies talking about happenings in the dim distant past. We welcome new blood and especially new leavers. Come and join us!

The recent examination results are marvellous and reflect the marvellous efforts made by students and staff. At Speech Day I was particularly struck by how much better things are now compared with my day. The opportunities are so much greater and many more people take advantage of them. It is thus so very important that this is maintained and the Shire Hall's efforts to dumb us down resisted.

The dinner in April was a great success and all credit to those who organised it. Numbers were down somewhat but we all much enjoyed the address by Peter Sergeant and the level of noise from each year's table indicated the level of jollity, (and perhaps inebriation?!). Next year's dinner is to be on the 7th May to coincide with the 60th anniversary of VE day. I look forward to seeing you all then.

## Garde ta Foy!

Robby Robinson - President

[illegible]

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2003 - 2004

PRESIDENT	Alan (Robby) Robinson
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT	Michael Sykes
HON CHAIRMAN	David Q Hook
HON TREASURER	Andrew K Bishop
HON SECRETARY	David G Billingham
HON SOCIAL SECRETARY	Dennis Collins
HEADMASTER	Ian L Kellie
SCHOOL CAPTAINS	Sam Lyons & James Martin
COMMITTEE	Will Godwin, Matthew Key, David Leung, Tom Moseling, Paul Ounsworth, Andy Prouse, Katy Winter.

## Membership Statistics

As of the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2004 the Old Richians' Association had a total of 370 full members.

There are five categories of full member as follows:

Category	30 <sup>th</sup> June 2003	30 <sup>th</sup> June 2004
£10 Bankers Order	275	280
£5 Student Bankers Order	95	49
£10 Annual Subscription	8	7
Permanent	14	14
Honorary Staff	19	20
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>370</b>

After four years of continuous increases 2003/04 saw a significant dip in membership numbers. School leavers tend to join the Association in waves with good years and not so good years following each other. Unfortunately after a number of good years we have had two disappointing years running. In addition to fewer leavers joining a number of Student memberships lapsed, possibly as a result of end of term financial pressures and in some cases a change of bank.

In the coming year the Association will endeavour to get the membership numbers back over the 400 mark.

## REUNION DINNER - SATURDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> APRIL 2004

The President, 'Robby' Robinson opened proceedings by welcoming the Headmaster, guest speaker Peter Sergeant, members of the upper Sixth and Former pupils of the School, with their guests, to the School and then summarised the activities of the Association over the previous twelve months. He particularly made mention of the Summer Event, the formation of the American section of the Association and the part played by members of the Association, and particularly the Head, in fighting against the LEA proposals for destroying the School. Membership was in excess of four hundred but new members and new blood on the committee were always welcome. He concluded by thanking those who had organised the dinner and proposing the loyal toast.

The guest speaker, Peter Sergeant, then regaled those present with his memories of his time at Rich's and the fact that he had been one of five brothers who had attended the School over a



period of some twenty three years. The then penchant for nicknames for the staff, did not always exhibit huge creativity but which, by his ability to reel off these names some thirty-five years later, had evidently stood the test of time – ‘Bunny’ Burrows, ‘Pop’ Sheard, ‘Pobble’ Fox, ‘Cabby’ Broome, ‘Bomber’ Jefferies, ‘Jonny’ Walker, ‘Sinky’ Sinkinson, ‘Eggy’ Smith, ‘Bill’ Bradford, ‘Shiner’ Middleton, ‘Holy Joe’ Potter, ‘JYC’, ‘Tav’, Frank Henderson, Tom Sweeting, to name a few – all remembered with affection. Memories included the old swimming pool, the first ‘Bus Fayre’, the Tercentenary Appeal and Cathedral service, the School’s march through Gloucester city centre following the Bluecoat Boy, Nick Stilwell, whom with a number of his contemporaries Peter was pleased to see present that evening.

His introduction to drama at Rich’s had lead to a lasting interest in the subject and this had not been the only legacy he had taken away from the School. For when, having trained as a teacher and he had been looking at schools at which to follow his career, it was a school with the same ethos as Rich’s which had attracted him, Loughborough Grammar, and at which he was still teaching almost thirty years later. The influence of Rich’s had even lead to his introducing the presentation of colours and the sale of School mugs at Loughborough!

In proposing the toast ‘Sir Thomas Rich’s School and all that it implies’, Peter reminded everyone present that whilst one could take the Richian out of Rich’s, it was not possible to take Rich’s out of the Richian.

The Headmaster Ian Kellie then replied to the toast on behalf of the School, giving a resume of its extraordinary successes over the year, both academic and extra-curricular, the part played by a superb staff in this, epitomised by the numerous foreign sorties by pupils lead by the staff, following the tradition established by Mr Veale’s first international school trip to Paris so many years previously. These were traditions which were now under threat from the Schools re-organisation proposals, for the fight against which he was grateful for the Association’s support.

In short, despite the current threat, which was not the first it had had to face over the years, the Head was pleased to report that the School was in very good health.

After conclusion of the speeches, those present were able to enjoy a buffet supper and time to reminisce and renew old and not so old friendships with those present.

*Good company and many fond memories to share. Clockwise around the table:*

Joan & Bill Hook, Mike Smart, Eric Morse, Graham Baxter, Robby Robinson, Bernadette Cubells, John & Joy Lewis.





## School War Memorial

The Old Richians' Association is planning to mark the 60th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War next year.

As part of the commemoration the Association is researching into the history of the boys named on the School War Memorial. There are 35 from the Second World War and 77 from the First World War. We would very much like to hear from anyone who knows anything about any of these pupils - about their families, where they lived, their hobbies interests, etc as well as about their military service. Information is being collected by Mr John Bell (1940-1943) of 61 Oldbury Orchard, Churchdown, GL3 2PU. Tel: (01452) 714167.

Further information including a complete list of the 35 Old Richians killed in the Second World War can also be found on the Association's web site: [www.oldrichians.org](http://www.oldrichians.org)

**STRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTR**

## Schools Reorganisation

The Old Richians' Association has taken a significant role in helping to organise opposition to the County Council's plans to reorganise education in Gloucester. A number of Old Richians have played key roles in the "Save Our Schools" action group which also received funding from the Association. The Association as an organisation wrote to the County Council objecting to their reorganisation proposals and wrote to its members encouraging them to also register their opposition as individuals.

The Association seeks to help, encourage and support the school in maintaining its fine traditions and ethos. We believe that the Council's proposals seriously threatened to undermine most of what makes Rich's special and alter it in ways unacceptable to all those who care about the school. This is not the first time that opponents of the Grammar Schools have sought to attack Rich's and while the details of their plans alter, the end goal remains the same.

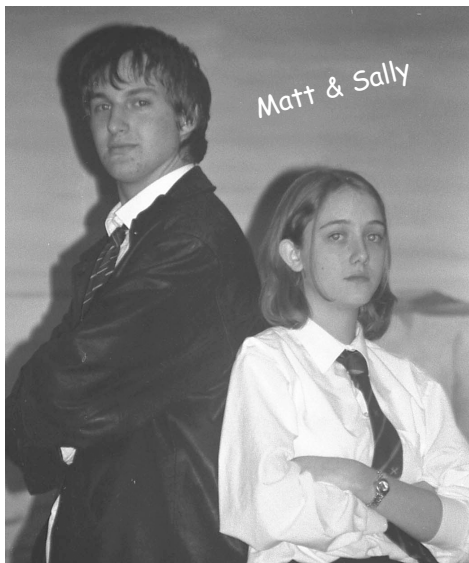
Thank you to all former pupils who took the trouble to write to the Council or the Citizen Newspaper. Although the Council's first plan received a severe mauling from the public, the Council's second set of proposals still aim for the same reduction in grammar school places, though by a different means. This new proposal runs contrary to the views of the overwhelming majority of people who saw no need for the sort of major changes the County want.

The Association will continue to vigorously oppose any moves to end or undermine Rich's selective grammar school status now or in the future!

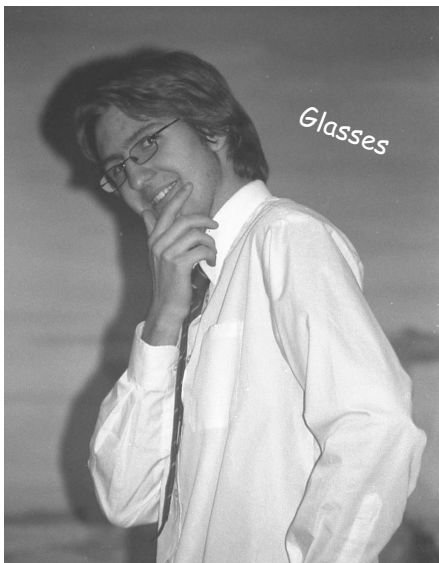
So Council members, you have been warned - threaten Rich's at your peril!!!!

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History is gossip that has grown old gracefully



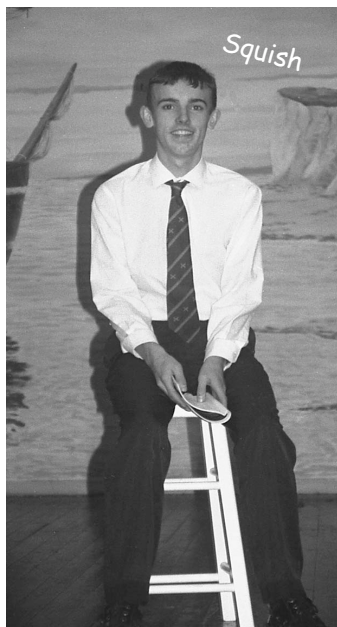
Matt & Sally



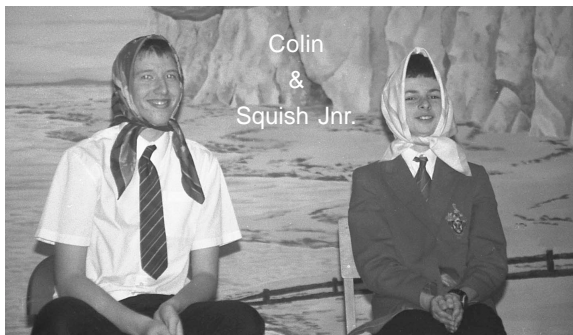
Glasses



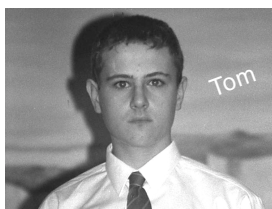
Junior Group



Squish



Colin & Squish Jr.



Tom

# Drama Groups



Inspired & Directed by Mrs Anne Briscoe



Rachel



Speech Day 2004 - Bridget Kendall & Amanda Farnsworth with Ian Kellie  
7S Off-Roading Crew - Gaydon Manor Visit September 2003







Future Mad Scientists? ("Welcome to our laboratory ...")

A Long Way to Go for A Chinese!

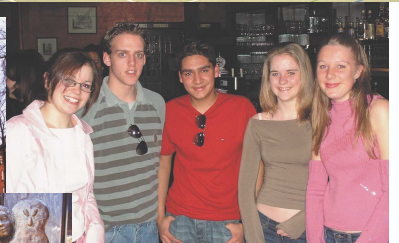
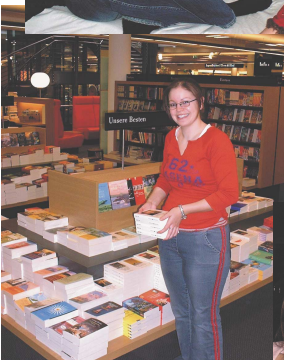
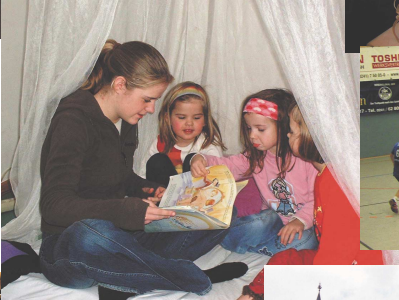
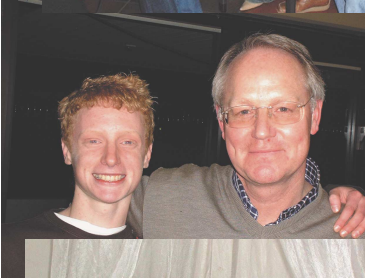




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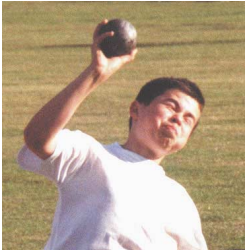




# Sports Evening













Tari & the Bengal Eagle Owl  
Year 7 Stratford Visit October 2004  
Ms Lucas tries on a “boa” for size!





U13 Rugby Versus King's School - 8th November 2003







Cricket Successes in the Rotary City Challenge Cups  
The U14 & U12 Teams who with the U13s made it a Hat-Trick of Wins



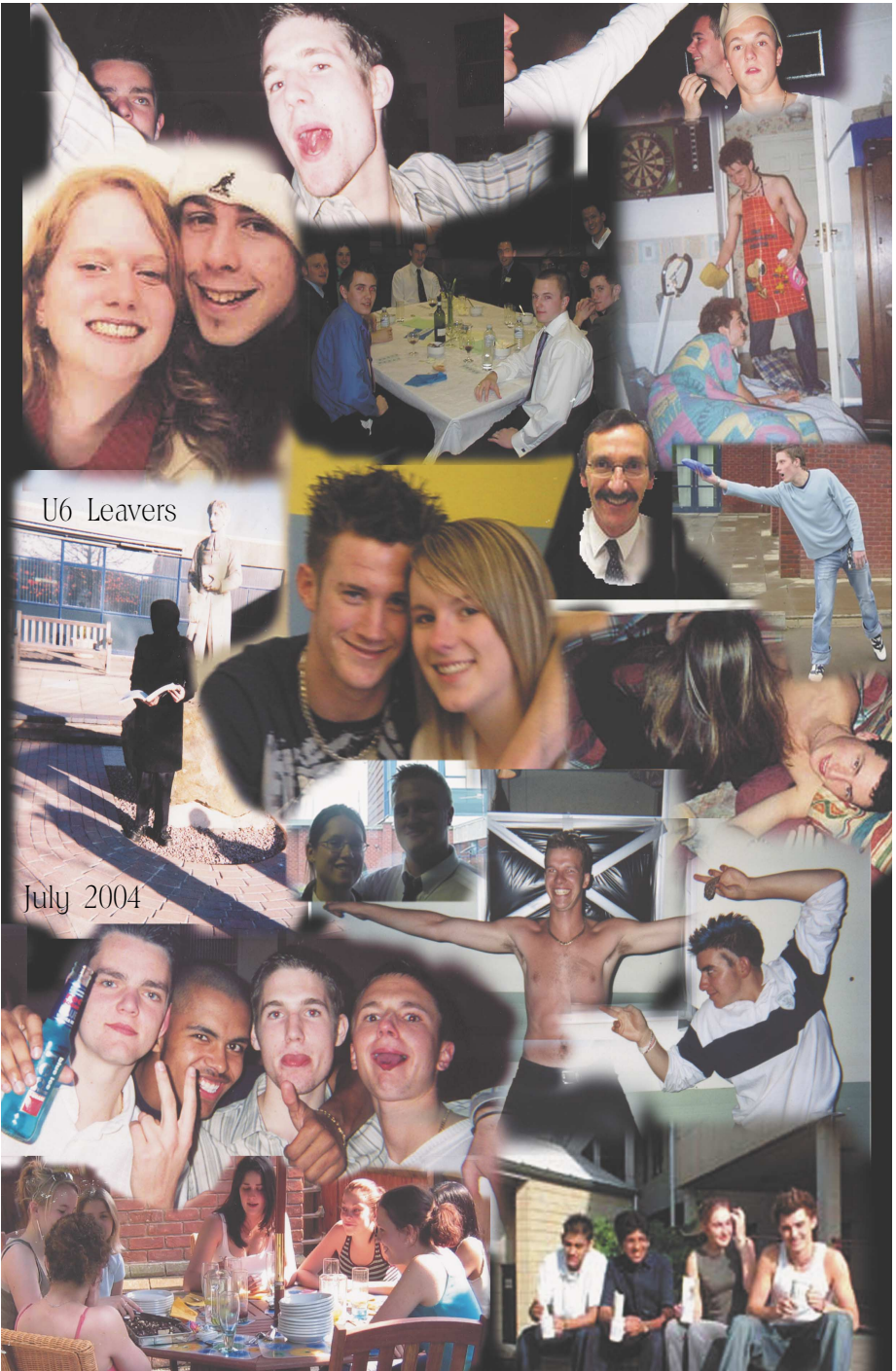


AP & JWT - Enjoying a quiet moment together on the Choir Outing

Luke Heyden tries out as DJ helped by Severn Sound's Amy Barnes

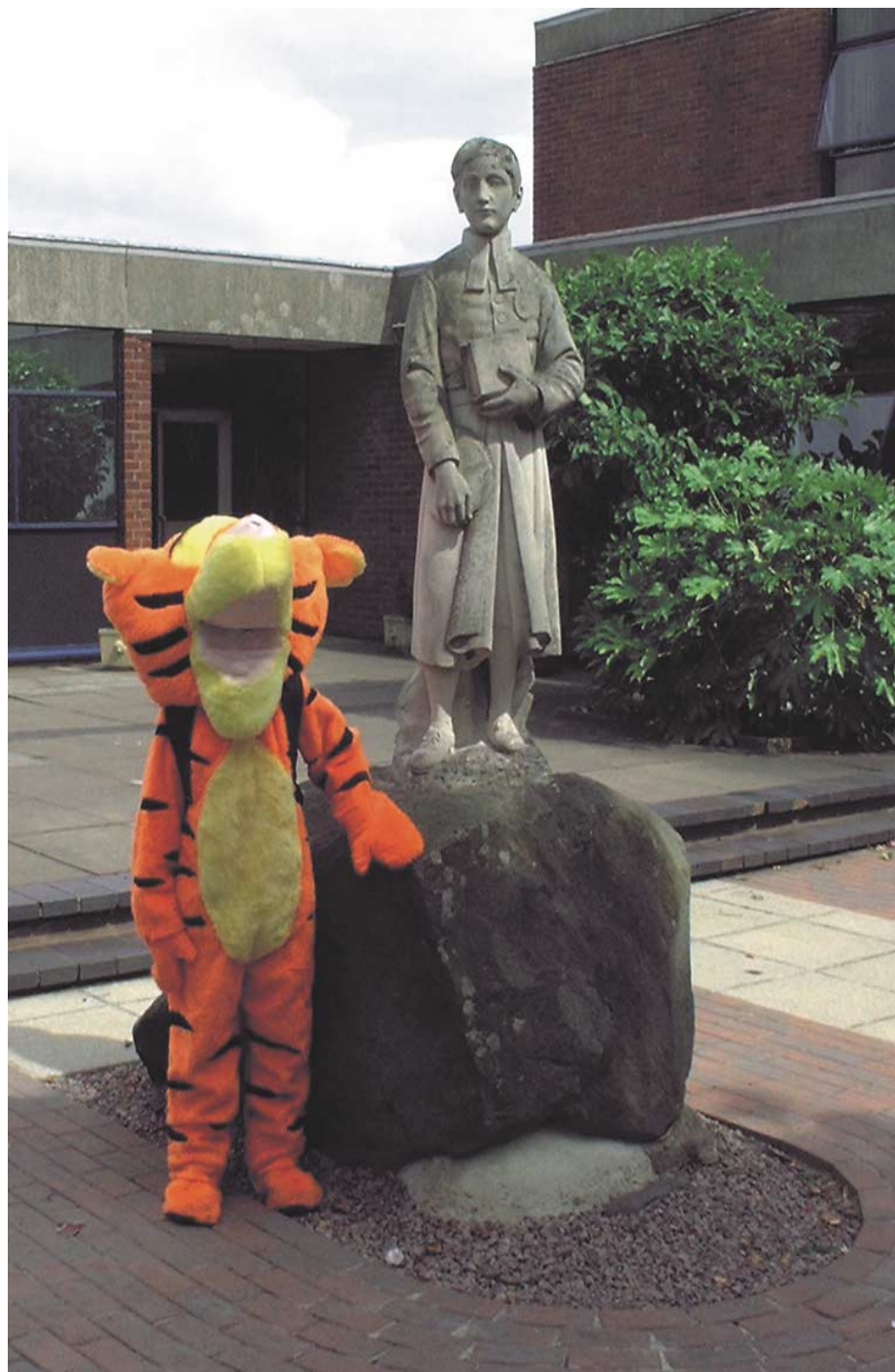






U6 Leavers

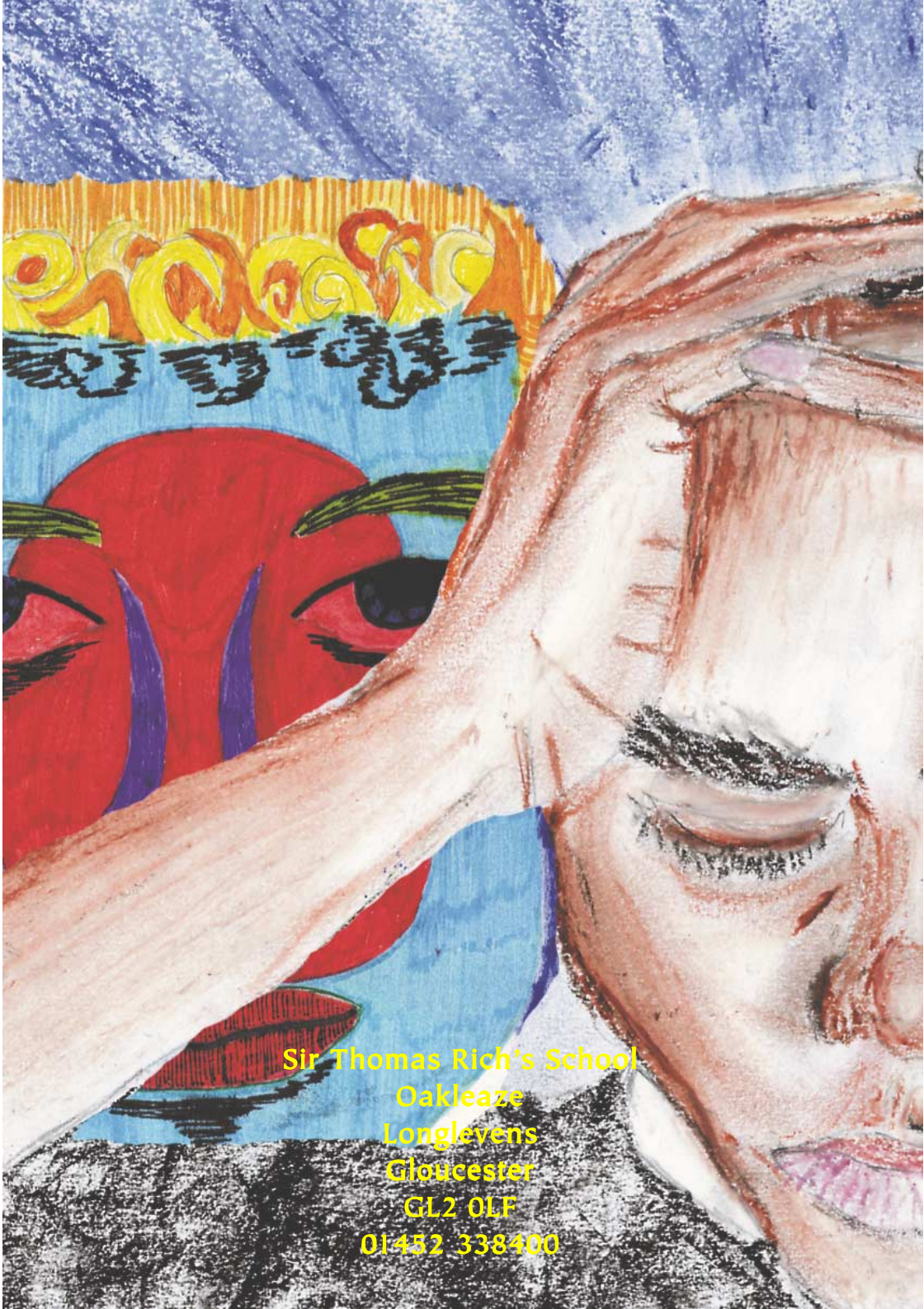
July 2004











Sir Thomas Rich's School  
Oakleaze  
Longlevens  
Gloucester  
GL2 0LF  
01452 338400