



The Richian 2005

House Art Competition Entries



Michael Langford - Southgate



The Richian

2005

Official Magazine
of
Sir Thomas Rich's Grammar
School



EASTGATE COCK HOUSE 2005



Joe Taunton receives the Cock House Trophy from Grant Hodnett,
our Guest of Honour at the Final Awards Assembly in July





'School Captains All'

Ciarán Conway & Hannah Healy with Sophie Keates & Chris Gallant





Sacre Bleu! C'est les Tommies de l'an sept!!





Kev Ellis receives his Player of the Season Award from Terry Fanolua
The Ladies Staff enjoy a refreshments break in their match versus the Sixth Form Girls





Johnny Chef offers his new pasta dish for tasting - Mmmmm!!!

Scenery Painting for Year 8 Arts Experience





U14 Cricket Tour to Jersey

Charlie puts forward his idea to the production team - Tom is not convinced
(Year 8 Arts Experience)





School Captains Chris Gallant & Sophie Keates join their newly appointed successors Ciarán Conway & Hannah Healy and the Observer Team for 2005-6



The Electric Summer

For all those friends, we've loved and lost,
For emotions drained to pay the cost,
For second chances that we don't deserve,
For faith we live, for faith we serve,

For lessons learnt and fortunes spent,
For sins admitted, we do repent,
For helping souls who hear our cries,
For ignoring the past, for ignoring the lies,

For the unconditional love of our fellow man,
For proving once and for all that we actually can,
For daring to dream that one time more,
For exposing our passion, for exposing our core,

For finally fulfilling our deepest desire,
For the heart's beating sound that must retire,
For giving us help up the downward slope,
For the gift of love, for the gift of hope,

For bringing happiness to the darkest of days,
For generosity and virtues that always pay,
For cherished soul mates out of nowhere sent,
For being alive, for being content ...

... I thank you.

Stuart Mason (L6G)





HEADMASTER'S REPORT

ACADEMIC YEAR

2004 - 2005

It almost goes without saying that the school enjoyed another extremely busy year. Education at Rich's continues to mean much more than classroom lessons. Educational visits took pupils far and wide, to all corners of Britain as well as France - Brittany (work experience), Annecy (exchange), Risoul (skiing), Paris (Year 7); Germany - Göttingen (exchange), Aachen (work experience); Spain - western Pyrenees (geology), Oviedo (exchange) and Ribadesella (Years 8/9). There were also trips to Kunming in China and the Explorer Scouts visited Eire.

Other visits within the UK are too numerous to mention but each ensured our pupils' education was memorably brought to life.

Life at Rich's extends far beyond the confines of the National Curriculum. A diverse extra-curricular programme continues to play an important part in school provision. A small selection included the main school drama production, *A Christmas Carol*, there was a drama club performance, Year 8 Arts Experience, instrumental concerts and the choir sang the Mozart *Requiem* in Holy Trinity Church. Inter-House events were held through the year, resulting in overall victory for Eastgate.

The County Council's review of secondary schooling in Gloucester City continued to be an unwelcome diversion; it has ground on for over two years without coming to a conclusion. At least it would now seem that Sir Thomas Rich's future is secure.

We are becoming used to receiving accolades. In recognition of our success as a Language College, the Department for Education and Skills invited Rich's to submit plans for a second specialism. In December we were informed that our application to become a Science College had been approved. We therefore became one of the first schools in the country to be awarded specialist status in two subject areas. We have already begun to improve our science facilities and to extend our community links, supporting science teaching in local schools.

We had a very successful year for school teams in sport. Notably the Intermediate Boys' medley relay team finished third in the National Schools' Swimming Championships at Middlesbrough, the Under 12 cricket team were county champions and the Under 13 and Under 14 teams both won their City Cups.

Our link with PMM School in Uganda enhances both schools. As well as our pupils raising funds to pay the school fees of 20 girls, the link was kept alive when in July we welcomed PMM's Deputy Headteacher, Mathias Isabirye, and then during our summer break Miss Brake visited PMM School.

The year began with recognition of our students' achievements when we welcomed Bridget Kendall, the BBC's Diplomatic Correspondent, as Guest of Honour to our Speech Day. 2004/5 was rounded off with another set of excellent examination results. At A-level the pass rate was 99.3% with a record 69% of passes at grades A and B. At



GCSE all Year 11 gained at least six passes at grade C and above, 54% of results were at grades A and A*.

It is therefore not surprising that Sir Thomas Rich's is popular. We welcomed a record entry into our Sixth Form - 139 students including 36 girls. With 245 students in the Sixth Form, we had 806 pupils on roll. We are keeping a careful eye on total numbers to ensure that we do not lose the good relationships that underpin the success which makes the school so popular.

Garde Ta Foy! **L Kellie BSC MED**
Headmaster




Science

Science College

We were delighted to be told in December 2004 that we have been awarded Science College status by the Government, to go alongside our Language College specialism which we acquired four years ago.

How can schools have two specialisms? In the summer of 2004 the Government asked its major Departments to produce Five Year Plans - the Department for Education and Skills issued their aims which showed that they intend to develop 'what works' - thus, for example, popular schools will be allowed to expand. Specialist Schools are very much seen as a success story, typically they are popular and high achieving. So the DfES said that it wants every secondary school to become specialist and that schools which have completed their first four-year phase of specialist status will be encouraged to apply for a second specialism.

Why take on a second specialism? Money is one of the incentives. As a Language College we attract an additional £129 per pupil each year, a second specialism qualifies for a further £60 per pupil per annum.

Why Science College status? Our science laboratories were, of course, built when the school moved here in 1964. They are showing their age. We refurbished L5, one of the chemistry laboratories, in the summer of 2004 and this was a great improvement - but expensive. The additional funds will allow us to continue this programme of refurbishment. Science College status also recognises our strengths in science and mathematics, and complements our Language College and Sportmark Gold awards. The aim is eventually to gain recognition of our excellence in all fields of study.

What are our plans? As a Language College we have built strong links with local primary schools (for example, we provide their teaching in modern languages) and secondary schools. We shall build upon these to develop support in science and mathematics.



When the Government introduced the idea of Beacon Schools, Sir Thomas Rich's was one of the first. We then became the first Language College in the county. When the Government introduced the idea of School Achievement Awards, we were one of the first recipients. We are honoured now to be one of the first schools in the country to be awarded two specialisms.



**language
colleges**



Annual Awards & Speech Day

Friday 23 September 2005

Coming at the start of a fresh academic year, this prestigious ceremony in the school's calendar provides a moment of public reflection over the year just passed, celebrating especially the achievements and successes of the young Richians themselves. It also serves to set the expectations and standards for the year just started.

Dr James Methven, Dean of Oriel College Oxford, was Guest of Honour at our Annual Awards and Speech Day 2005. Standing before a packed and warm audience in the school hall, he joked about the terrifying prospect of having to make a speech at his old school. He drew everyone's attention to the special spirit that makes Sir Thomas Rich's School "Tommy's" - the balance between the formal and the informal that has always been a hallmark of the school. The school can be outwardly formal in so many ways - such as the honouring of its academic successes at Speech Day - yet at the same time it is welcoming in an informal way that offers a spirit of friendliness.



Dan Whisson receives his prize from Dr Methven



Mr Pack approves of Nick Davies' Prize while Mrs Spilsbury catches up with the news
David Hook tries to persuade Dr Methven to speak at the next Old Boys Dinner
School Captain Ciarán Conway poses with proud parents



An Old Richian himself, Dr Methven commented on the special relationship between staff and pupils that creates a fertile environment for education to thrive. As well as handing out prizes and awards in the evening, Dr Methven had spent the day at the school teaching and taking part in lessons, which led him to remark on the care and attention for the individual so evident within the school community. Again to highlight the formal yet informal nature of the school he quoted the way he observed Mr Kellie successfully balancing the formal dignity and duties of his headmastership with an approachable and caring manner towards his charges. He compared the academic gown of formality for Speech Day and morning assemblies with the shirt-sleeved, coffee-mug-in-hand informality of the lunchtime stroll around the field and tennis courts.

Amidst all the prizes and prize winners were three boys who deserved special commendation: Daniel Whisson who passed 6 A-levels all at grade 'A', Sam Brewer and Chris Parry both of whom gained 11 GCSEs all at grade A*.

Five students gained Oxbridge places - Samuel Johnson (Engineering at Jesus College Oxford), Jack Keevill (Modern Foreign Languages at St Peter's College Oxford), Jacob Loftus (Mathematics at Corpus Christi College Cambridge), Thomas M Roberts (Geography at St Catherine's College Oxford) and Daniel Whisson (Mathematics at University College Oxford) - while 78 of their peers from the Upper Sixth secured university and college places, nearly all of them their first choice.

Examination Results 2005

All our Year 11 passed at least 6 **GCSEs** at grade C and above, over half of all results were at grades A and A*. The average points score (based on A*=58, A=52, B=46, etc) was 498, which is equivalent to almost ten grade As, or over eight grade A*s, per pupil. Ten boys each passed all their eleven GCSEs at grades A and A* and well done to Sam Brewer and Chris Parry who each managed eleven passes all at A*. Congratulations also to Tom Williams and James Darrall who were both in the top five marks in the country for their GCSE French (out of over 138,500 candidates).



Sam Brewer & Chris Parry

Our Lower Sixth students had a 99% pass rate in their **AS** exams, two thirds were at grades A and B. Eighty-four students each gained at least one grade A pass, 33 students each gained three or more grade A passes.

And at **A-level** we had record results. The pass rate was 99.3%, almost 70% of grades were A and B. The average number of 'A' levels gained per candidate was 3.9, the average UCAS points score per candidate was 419.8 (based on grade A=120 pts, B=100, C=80, etc). 57 of our U6 students each gained at least one grade A pass, 36 students each gained two or more grade A passes including thirteen who each gained four A grades and well done to Daniel Whisson who gained six grade As. Most importantly, almost all of last year's Upper Sixth got into their first choice universities.

In the newspapers Rich's was ranked 35th in The Guardian, 37th in The Independent out of all 3,000 secondary schools in the country.





The curtain was brought down on a pleasing 2004 Rugby Season when Gloucester RFC's Western Samoan international Terry Fanolua arrived at Oakleaze to present the cups, awards and colours at our final assembly just before the Christmas holidays. A definite buzz of excitement went around the recipients as they savoured the prospect of shaking their hero's hand and asking for his much-to-be-treasured autograph. Even Senior Coach Mr Joe Gallagher stepped forward for a rare photograph with our Guest of Honour!

SENIOR RUGBY

1st XV - P10, W7, L3, F-181, A-156

The 1st XV under the captaincy of Simon Moody had an encouraging season. After losing a tough opening fixture against Chosen Hill, Rich's began to show a resilience and team spirit, which enabled them to compete at a much higher level. The pack began to dominate the opposition and this allowed the backs more freedom to move the ball and play in a style suited to the strengths of the team. Victories against Cleeve, Marling and Crypt typified this determined approach as they had to battle to the end whilst having the focus to play an expansive game. In what was an entertaining season our squad can be pleased with the progress made both on a team and individual basis. Their attitude to training was good and the willingness to expand their game reflects their desire to learn and to move forward.



This was supported by a superb attitude and team spirit which was evident both on and off the pitch.

2nd XV - P11*, W6, D1, L3, F-187, A-170

*(*One game stopped early following a neck injury - player concerned is fine)*

"A very successful season for the seconds, based on forward dominance and a solid defence." This was coach Mr Mike Swann's summary of the season. Rich's managed victories against Churchdown and Rendcomb and narrowly lost to a much older Brockworth 1st XV. The season finished with a heavy defeat to Hartpury 2nd XV but in many ways this was the team's best effort with 100% commitment to the very last tackle. It has been pleasing to be able to choose from a large squad and indeed a 3rd XV played Rendcomb 2nd XV winning 36-5.



1st XXX Colours were awarded to: R Ellison, M Patching, J Lowe, W Knowlman, G Mohamed, A Erskine.

JUNIOR RUGBY

U15 - P12, W9, L3, F-345, A-84

Apart from a disappointing fourth round defeat to local rivals Chosen Hill in the Daily Mail Cup, this was an excellent season for the U15s. The team displayed a superb balance of power and skill to play fast, attractive rugby. Both forwards and backs made a full contribution and both were well represented in terms of District and County honours.

Attendance at training was exceptionally good with over 40 players representing the Colts throughout the season. All impressed with their attitude and attainment. Particular thanks go to Captain Callum Broady for his leadership and organisational skills.

"I am sure the squad players will continue to distinguish themselves in Senior Rugby next year" commented team coach Mr Rob Sims.

U14 XV - P13, W12, L1, F-347, A-177

This was a relatively pleasing season with a good set of results. The team played well at times but to improve they must address specific areas. These are their tackling, fitness and ability to ruck effectively. During various matches some excellent rugby was played, particularly from the backs, but for future development the team needs to be more clinical and not allow teams the opportunity to come back. One very positive note was the introduction and development of new first team players, which should be the ultimate aim of any good rugby team. *(Mr P D Lloyd)*



U13 XXX

'A' Team: P10, W7, L3, F-254, A-106

'B' Team: P3, W1, D2, L0, F-49, A-22

The 'A' Team made a mixed start to the season winning 3 and losing 3 of their opening fixtures. On the one hand they played some very effective, expansive rugby as in the game against a useful Chosen Hill side which they won 62-12, but on the other hand they under-performed as in the game against Bournside when they went down 10-7.

After the half term break and some extra training sessions(!), they came back strongly and finished their season in fine style with an impressive performance against St Peter's, winning 26-0. Spencer Pugh, the Captain, scored one of the 4 tries making a total of 10 for the season, an impressive achievement for a prop forward. In addition, Oliver Johnson scored 2 more tries to take his tally to 8 and Tom Pigott's 3 conversions made him the team's top points scorer with 57. Other notable victories since half term were gained against King's (51-0) and Crypt (19-17).

The 'B' team completed an undefeated season with another hard fought draw (10-10) against Crypt. The team played with great spirit, determination and enthusiasm and a number of the squad including Sam Rees, Chris Mace and Ben Murray performed well for the 'A' Team when given the opportunity. *(Mr C D A Carter)*

U12 XV - P9, W5, L4, F-182, A-100

This was a challenging season for the 'A' team with the majority of matches being close and fully competitive. The team displayed a willingness to learn and to try to play a 15-man game. To their credit they very much achieved this and all players contributed to the performances and to the term's progress. Even in defeat they competed well and showed the necessary determination to make life difficult for the opposition. They can be pleased with their season and if they continue to work hard they will be a challenge to all opposition in the future.

Churchdown 10 a-side Competition

On Friday November 26th the U12s entered the Churchdown Tournament. This was their first competitive outing and the squad of 15 players was eager to get started. The school played well in the group stages and showed a good fluency in attack and a determination in defence. In their 5 pool matches they were undefeated scoring 9 tries while only conceding one.

In the semi-final they were drawn against Beaufort who were showing signs of improvement with every game. In a close match the school won 14-7.

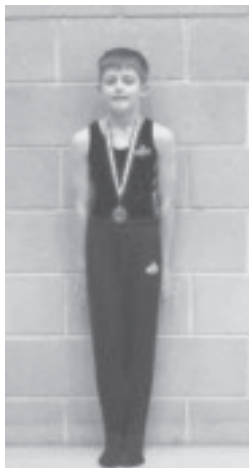
The final was to be played against Crypt who were also unbeaten. Crypt started well and scored an early try putting us under pressure. The team responded well and worked hard to get back in the game. However, the Crypt defence held firm and the score stayed at 7-0 to Crypt. *(IJG)*



Expectant Year Eights look on as Mark Creese gets his Merit Certificate autographed



Kristof Willerton (7T) belongs to the Checkers Acro Gymnastics Club ... and he's rather good! In November 2004 at the British Open Tournament he won a silver medal in his class - TDP 1 Men's Pairs. For this he and his partner (club member Adam Wixey) had to do 2 routines, both about 2^o minutes long, with 4 to 6 balances and 4 individual elements. The first was a tempo routine with flight and lots of somersaults, the other consisted of still-hold balances in different shapes. You can see some of the moves and holds here. Later successes followed - golds for tumbling and trampolining at the regional and a pairs gold at the British championships.



Welcome to Rich's!

Or we could justifiably say "Welcome to Riches!" For that is what becoming a Richian affords the new member of the school community - a wealth of rich opportunities and rewards. For the young, slightly nervous year 7 boy, becoming a very small and seemingly insignificant part of the blue-blazered throng is a daunting prospect. The role of Year 7 Form Tutor is very important - just ask Mrs J M Arnold who each year takes under her wing a fresh 7S tutor group! In addition Year 7 also have a specific Head of Year (unlike the other year groups) - Mr D A Gowler. Between them they organise and lead a programme of activities designed to help their new charges settle in to the busy daily routines of life at Rich's, foster camaraderie and trust and make new friends within their form and year group.



Head of Year 7 Mr David Gowler

Many will know about the (now famous!) Stratford trips but there are many other events and activities that take place. We finally managed to tie Mr Gowler down long enough to get his report on the Year 7 Activities during the academic year 2004-2005

Year 7 Induction Programme

Year 7 pupils took part in many activities throughout the year. The aim of these is to build on current friendships and develop new ones, establish a positive ethos for the year in fitting with that of the school as a whole and of course to have fun! The boys represented themselves and the school well on these trips and were complimented many times by our various hosts.

Form Induction Residential Trips to Stratford-Upon-Avon



Once again the Year 7 forms each took part in a three-day residential visit staying at Stratford-upon-Avon Youth Hostel. These took place in September and October and as usual were an excellent opportunity for the boys to get to know one another and their form tutor.

An exciting wealth of activities for the boys ensured an experience I'm sure they will remember fondly for many years. Activities included a visit to an amazing butterfly farm and reptile house, an historical tour of Mary Arden's House and nearby falconry centre where many boys had the opportunity to handle birds of prey, brass rubbing, an open top bus tour of Stratford with a wild ride through the countryside, swimming, football, and a visit to Gaydon motor heritage centre where the boys found to their delight some amazing cars. The finale of the trip was a 4x4 off road experience!





Explore@Bristol

A new destination this year was the exciting interactive science museum, "Explore@Bristol".

This trip took place on the 22nd December as a fun end of term activity, with 37 boys giving up the first day of their holiday for a day that was not only fun but also educational!

The day included time spent by the boys playing and learning with the exhibits that ranged in theme from human biology, physics, chemistry, engineering and information technology. Plenty of opportunity for interactive discovery of which the boys avidly took advantage.

This was followed by the "Wildwalk@Bristol", an adjoining centre dedicated to wildlife and the environment.

And to conclude the day a film in the "Imax" cinema!

Thanks especially to all the staff who gave up their own time to supervise this trip including Mrs Arnold and her daughter Kate, School Secretary Mrs Brown and Mr Kellie.





Climbing

During March two groups of year 7 boys visited the 'The Warehouse' climbing centre in Gloucester City centre. Pupils spent time on the climbing walls under expert tuition before being let loose in the bouldering room. An enjoyable time was had by pupils, many commenting on their wish to go climbing again in the future.

Founder's Day Visit to Gloucester

On Wednesday the 18th May all pupils from Year 7 visited Gloucester City centre. The aim of this annual visit is for new pupils of the school to learn a little about the school's history. We visited

St John's church, where Sir Thomas Rich was baptised, Gloucester cathedral to see the gold alms dish and communion cups donated by Sir Thomas Rich, and the two former sites of the school on Barton Street and Eastgate Street near the Cross. Thanks must go to Mr Pilbeam and Mr Kellie for organising this visit.



Paris - Summer Half Term

Half term saw the return of our annual trip to Paris with 42 boys from year 7 heading off to the attractions of Paris accompanied by Mr Gowler, Miss Brake, Mr Birchall, Mr Crumblehulme and Miss Lucas. During the week we visited many of the sites of Paris including: The Louvre, Notre Dame, the River Seine, Eiffel Tower and of course, Disneyland! The teachers on this trip were pleased with the excellent behaviour of pupils. An excellent week was had by pupils and staff.



Sailing and Kayaking

During the summer half term break an additional activity was organised for pupils who were unable to go on the Paris trip. The boys had a pleasant day on the water learning new skills of sailing and kayaking. Thank you to Mr Kellie and Miss Adamson for taking the pupils on this trip.





RAF Motivational Team

On a grey December day, towards the end of the Autumn term, the whole of Year 11 experienced practical problem solving activities organised by the RAF Motivational Team, from the careers centre, which is based in Gloucester docks. The morning's activities were a big hit with Year 11, who could see the



underlying principles behind the tasks set. The focus was to develop team skills, problem solving and group communication. Our boys rose to the challenges set them and it was interesting to see the different approaches adopted and implemented by the various groups.

As a teacher I encounter many intelligent people but intelligence is relative to the context that you find yourself dealing with. Also someone can be highly intelligent on paper or in their specialist field but it is the ability to apply and adapt your intelligence to a whole multitude of situations that reveals the true quality of an individual. Subsequently it was highly interesting and at times amusing to see many of our students tackling some of the practical tasks set them. Often, skills or attributes that one possibly takes for granted, such as common sense, initiative and practicality, appeared to evade many of our students, at times resulting in some very puzzled faces!



The tasks set the students were varied, with a military scenario theme often linked to the task. For instance, on one exercise the teams had to navigate themselves through a minefield, through electrically sensitive wire, then decode a puzzle and finally transport the secret components, ie a tyre, back to base, without incurring any penalties. It sounds simple but it required good teamwork, a logical strategic plan, good organisation and clear communication. Upon watching the various teams, it was interesting to see the varying group dynamics

at work, with clear leaders emerging, students who were happy to go with the flow, others who applied a bit of lateral thinking to the tasks and those who brought in some previous experience. Another interesting lesson of which the students became aware was the reality of having to work within constraints, under pressure, as well as having to be interdependent on each other.

Another challenge set the students was the mission to transport radioactive samples, ie golf balls, as a team, back to base, with only the aid of a piece of plastic guttering and without dropping the samples. Again this sounds simple, but time pressures, competition, enemy flak and the nature of the mission, ensured teamwork were essential for success. The outcome amongst the teams was variable to say the least! Many compromised safety for speed, while others undertook a more systematic approach to the problem, which paid dividends in the long run!



After a swift change over of venue, the various groups undertook further brain teasing activities, which again required careful thought, diverse approaches and resulted in further frustration for many. This included the boys getting thoroughly tangled up with ropes and failing the Houdini ropes test. However, with a little "net-working" and a particular student's previous knowledge, many eventually cracked the problem. Once again, this highlighted the importance of tapping into other peoples' knowledge, experience and also the importance of communication within an organisation.



The students also undertook a simple civil engineering exercise; using newspaper and a small strip of sticky tape, with the objective of producing the largest self-supporting tower. Again, the net results from each of the groups were very varied and diverse to say the least, with some groups consigning their finished product to the bin after much frustration! Other activities included the use of more ropes and interestingly, bicycle tyres and the need for the students to become contortionists. I will let you read into that what you wish! Above all, the morning was a great success, with plans for a revisit next year and everybody provided positive feedback to the two RAF instructors. (PDL)

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International Soccer Experience for Niall

Congratulations to Niall Drury (9S) who represented Birmingham City Football Club in two tournaments at U14 age group. The first was held at Warwick University, the second in Venice, Italy. Both tournaments gave Niall very good experience and the opportunity to play against European clubs.



Speaking of Success



Congratulations to Matthew Hopton of 9B who in May 2005 took part in the Cheltenham Competitive Festival and won the Challenge Cup in the 14 year age group verse speaking class with an "outstanding" mark of 90. By winning this class Matthew qualified for the Lyric Championship Class, in which the first four in each of the age groups 13 to 17 years compete for the Lyric Challenge Cup. Matthew was further awarded a Silver Medal in this challenging class.

Double Victory for German Entry

Musician Adam Broadhead scored a double victory with his song "Freiheit", winning both the regional and national competitions for creative writing. Performances in Bath and London as well as a financial reward followed.



Swimmers Take Bronze at Bazuka Finals

Having won through from their regional heats at Millfield School, STRS swimmers Rob Payne, Kit Turner, Jack Mullins, Tom White & Will Middleton went on to greater things at the Bazuka National Schools Gala held at Middlesbrough. In the Intermediate Freestyle 4x50m Relay, the STRS team finished 4th in their heat and 9th overall. In the Medley Relay, the team pulled out all the stops, coming second in their heat and then they swam to a terrific third place in the Final. Tom White recorded the fastest leg with 24.59secs, which is within the senior national qualifying standard - a fantastic result. Well done and congratulations to the team!



We are pleased to report that subsequently Tom White has gained a place on the Welsh National Squad.

Member of Staff Represents England in "The Other Ashes"

20 July 2005

On the eve of the opening TEST Match between England and Australia at Lords, another cricket match between sides representing both countries took place at Beckenham CC in Kent. The Primary Club (England) led by former England Test bowler Derek Underwood played against their counterparts from 'Down Under' The Primary Club of Australia. The object (apart from beating the 'Old Enemy'!) was to raise lots of money for the Primary Club Charity which supports sport for blind and partially sighted people.

Member of staff Phil Brown (pictured here with Derek Underwood) was selected to play in this prestigious curtain raiser to the main Ashes Series; it was a great occasion with excellent cricket played in glorious sunshine. Lots of funds were raised, good banter exchanged and the Aussies all but humiliated as they just about managed to hang on for a face-saving draw.



Eastgate Cock House 2005

Eastgate House gave their staff Head of House Mrs E Stanley a winning send-off by taking the Cock House Trophy for the academic year 2004-5.

Final positions were -

1st	Eastgate	68 ½ points
2nd	Southgate	63 points
3rd	Westgate	58 points
4th	Northgate	47 points



Music at STRS : 2004-2005

An extract from the Spring Term Newsletter reporting the Spring concert held on 17th March reveals much about music at Sir Thomas Rich's:

Spring Concert

The annual Spring Concert last Thursday presented yet another display of the pupils' musical talents in a variety of solos, ensembles, styles and moods. The main groups - orchestra, wind band, fiddle band, senior string group and jazz group all performed, interspersed by soloists from all parts of the school - Nicholas Thompson (violin) from Year 7, Jordan Wynn (piano) and James Ruffle (violin) from Year 8, Ellis Thompson (bass guitar) from Year 9, Sam Grant (bass guitar) from Year 10, Tom Towers (clarinet) and Michael Duxbury (piano) from Year 11, Jessi Pywell (soprano and double bass), Jon Roskilly (tenor and trombone) and Scott Yearsley (tenor) from the Lower Sixth and Richard Phillips (bass and cello), Alisdair Bond (piano), Tom Grant (piano and drums), Tim Dalton (drums), Luke Leighfield (piano), Peter Blencowe (piano), Kun Hu (violin) and Jack Keevill (guitar) from the Upper Sixth.

Although the number of pupils taking part is not quantified exactly, the wide age range displays the depth of interest and talent within the school. I have always subscribed to the view that people should be given the chance to perform musically as early as possible, or at least when they feel comfortable enough to do so. For a number of pupils this is relatively 'painless' since it means just playing in a group such as orchestra or wind band, with the relative 'cushion' of protection against spotlight exposure. However, for many, that short two or three minute period of performing solo for the first time in front of a large audience is a memorable experience. There is always that feeling of nervousness about not getting the notes right or perhaps whether the reed will squeak or the peg will slip or even whether the music might fall off the stand! Yet at the end of it all, no matter how well the piece went and to the comforting sound of applause from a supportive audience, there is a warm glow of satisfaction from having actually done it and of course the sometimes unnoticed consequent boost in self-confidence from having overcome one of the 'hurdles' of making music.

The same can be said about the choral concerts and performances. Yes, it does take a fair degree of 'guts' to stand up in assembly in the choir and sing the hymn or anthem but having done it once, it soon becomes a lot easier and after a time the experience can even be quite enjoyable! There is certainly the knowledge and hopefully the feeling

that in the choir, you are serving a useful purpose in upholding one of the school's long-standing traditions apart from any pleasure that comes from singing in a group. Maybe the assembly singing isn't quite as challenging and satisfying as the carol services or the May concert but it is important and for many starts the school day off in a positive and familiar way, one of the ways which contribute to the strong ethos of Sir Thomas Rich's School.



Music, as I have often said in previous reviews, crosses boundaries of academic ability, age and gender and can be the lifeblood of a thriving school. It offers something to everyone – particularly to more introvert pupils in other spheres, giving them a chance to excel or at least to express themselves. The concerts, carol services, assembly music, House competitions and productions are of course there, and have to be there, but don't forget the hours of practice, encouragement and organisation which precede and surround music-making of any sort – just like any event at school, it is the hard work and especially the motivation and commitment which keep things moving and thriving. It is a wonderful feature of this school - but please, please do not take it for granted!!

JWT

Mozart's Requiem



One of the highlights of the musical year came on 12th May, when a stunning performance of Mozart's Requiem was given by the school choir along with soloists Susan Black, Jeremy Kenyon, Gareth Groves and James Birchall, and an orchestra of pupils, teachers and friends. This is Mozart's last work and contains some of his finest music. It is particularly poignant because he died (at the age of just 35) before he could finish it, the task being completed by his devoted pupil, Franz Xaver Süssmayr. However, this was no ordinary performance, as it included all the various plainsong (chant) items which make up a complete Mass for the Dead. All choral settings of the Mass comprise just those parts sung by the choir which never altered depending on the circumstances. Everything else was left to be sung in plainsong, which is seldom heard nowadays. So this was an extremely rare opportunity to hear Mozart's setting in its intended musical context.

Having originally suggested including the plainsong, and then prepared the edition of it all, I must admit to having been a little concerned that it simply might not work: plainsong is incredibly difficult to sing well. I need not have worried! The tenors and basses coped exceptionally well with this demanding music.

Unusually, in Mozart's setting, the soloists sing mostly as a quartet, rather than individually. Although this can cause difficulties, our soloists were quite excellent, and blended together beautifully. The relatively small orchestra also sounded really good, balancing with the choir superbly.

However, the bulk of the work falls on the choir, which was quite outstanding. It is a huge achievement for a school choir to perform such a difficult piece. The subtlety and breadth of expression in the music is incredibly demanding but everyone rose to the challenge magnificently. Everything gelled into a truly memorable experience for performers and audience alike. A rare treat was missed by everyone who did not attend!

To end on a personal note, this was a particularly emotional occasion for me, because Mozart's Requiem was the last major work I sang before one of my vocal cords was damaged in a serious car accident in 1987. This has severely curtailed my capacity to sing, so it was marvellous to be heavily involved in a performance of it again - even if I can no longer sing tenor! My especial heartfelt thanks go to everyone involved in making it such an exceptionally moving experience, which I, for one, will always remember and cherish.

Paul Fugler



New Staff

In September 2004 we welcomed three new teachers to the STRS Staff ...



Mrs B O'Leary
Business Studies



Mr P M Daniells
History



Mr S J Crumblehulme
Psychology

Normally new staff prove a little reticent about providing their previous history for publishing but we did manage to discover that Mr Daniells is quite a competent cricketer in the local leagues and that Mr Crumblehulme has a background in performing arts, recently having played the demanding part of EmCee in Karder & Ebb's 'Cabaret'.

We wish all three of them rewarding and happy times at Tommy's!

Charity Indoor Football

Filled with youthful enthusiasm the lower sixth set about organising an event to raise money for our link school in Uganda and to raise enough money to purchase some sofas for the common room.

The Lower Sixth Girls were to take on a female Staff team in a five a-side indoor football match. Much speculation surrounded the impending fixture but the two captains, Elizabeth Reynolds and Miss Princep, weren't giving anything away about tactics or formations!

And so it was, on the nineteenth of November an epic battle took place in the school sports hall. This sporting highlight of the year was supported by both pupils and staff who filled the sports hall balcony to bursting.

Any nerves that the girls may have had about looking silly were quashed when they saw the team of cheer leaders who were assembled by Mrs E Stanley. The "Squad" of cheer leaders was made up of 1st and 2nd team rugby players (and Andy Day) who entertained the crowd during the pre-match warm up and half time interval.



A packed balcony lends ample vocal support to the girls team





The Lower Sixth Girls



Cheer Leaders

The match was a hard fought affair with both sides battling tooth and nail for possession. The Lower Sixth Girls team went ahead after eight minutes thanks to a goal from Lauren Gamlin (L6T). The teachers fought back hard, with notable performances from Mrs Spilsbury and Miss Brake. But despite their best efforts the scores remained 1-0 at half time.

The half time drinks break gave the teachers time to regroup and this showed, as their second half performance was a vast improvement, threatening the year twelve goal at regular intervals. But a penalty at the other end allowed captain Lizzy "Rascal" Reynolds (L6G) to double the score.

Play was even and very 'end to end', to borrow a well-used footballing cliché. The crowd was getting a lot for their fifty pence entrance fee!! However, the match came to a premature close when one of the teachers got injured just prior to the full time whistle, so referee, Sophie Keates called time early.

This left a very jubilant Lower Sixth team as 2-0 victors.

The event raised enough money to make a £100 donation to the school's Ugandan fund and enough to purchase two sofas for the lower sixth common room. A huge thank you must go to everyone who helped in making this event such a success.

Ciarán Conway (L6T) and John White (L6B)

Public Speaking

'Public speaking' and 'enjoyment' are two phrases rarely mentioned in the same breath. To many, the idea of standing at the front of a room full of people, struggling to construct anything more than some incoherent mumble of a sentence is more of a nightmare than a pleasurable thought. Unfortunately public speaking is one of those annoying things in life that has just got to be done, no matter how much it hurts. Thankfully, public speaking in school does not have to be done.

Yet, I actually volunteer to public speak. That's right. I volunteer myself on a regular basis to stand alone at the front of a room, and talk about anything, from the plight of Africa to the monarchy. Why? - Because I enjoy it. I appreciate that the concept of 'enjoying' public speaking sounds rather perverse to most people, so let me explain.

In some ways, public speaking is rather like an extreme sport. The fear of having a mental block, mid sentence, in front of a full audience creates a great rush of adrenaline; the satisfaction of speaking the final sentence and the subsequent applause is immensely satisfying; and the task of preparing for your next speech is a daunting challenge. But



it's more than just an extreme sport. It's also an art form. The spoken word has an unprecedented ability to be emotive, influential and enlightening.

Of course, this is just my opinion, and I appreciate that it won't make the majority of you feel any more interested in public speaking than you already aren't. Thankfully, however, others do share my interest, even if not quite in the same way.

For the past few years, I, along with others from Rich's, have competed against other schools in Public Speaking Competitions. This year was no exception. The first competition was organised by the Cheltenham Rotarians and saw the Rich's team, comprising of Richard Duxbury and myself, competing against 5 other schools from the Gloucestershire area. Our chosen topic was 'Has Britain lost its Identity?'. The judges, as they always seem to say, said that this year's competition was the strongest ever. Yet despite the quality of the other competitors, we felt we stood up to the challenge well, even though we were left slightly disappointed with the somewhat controversial result. Of course, we offered our congratulations to the winning team on their speech, entitled 'Should teachers be paid more?' which seemed to strike a certain chord with the judges, all of whom were ex-teachers. Say no more.



The second competition of the year was the Cheltenham competitive festival. I was joined this time by Tom Chapel and Adam McNally of year 10. We competed against two other teams and were ably judged by another ex-teacher. Despite nearly changing our subject to 'Why teaching is the finest profession', we decided to keep to the original subject of 'Can we ever help Africa?' The decision paid off and the positive and constructive advice from the judge was followed by an equally positive outcome of 1st place for the Rich's team - with special praise awarded to Adam for his outstanding Vote of Thanks.

Everyone involved with public speaking looks forward to continuing to uphold this year's high standard, as well as welcoming any new public speakers looking to be involved in future competitions.

Particular thanks should be given to Mr S Pickard for his continual good advice and organisation.

Peter Butler L6R

Soapbox Speech on School Uniform in Today's Society

Hi. I am here to talk about the negative effect uniform has in a school environment. Uniform is an age-old tradition of schools and now is questioned today. But should it be banned? I say "Yes - it should".

Who here believes in zombies? Well is not this "tradition" of School Uniform turning us all into them? Not literally of course. Schools aren't trying to create the world of the dead! But they are putting a lid on individuality. Some people could argue it stops bullying, by making us all the same. But isn't this suggesting that everyone should look the same, and have the same interests. We are unique, and using uniform to hide this is absurd. We are not sheep, and should be allowed to express ourselves in our own way. To quote Judge Patrick J Duncan: "Students benefit when school provides an environment where they can openly express their diverging viewpoints and when they learn to tolerate the opinions of others."



Also, it is not even cheaper. How is making a child's wardrobe pointless for school, forcing the parent to buy a new set of clothes, for the same price, helping "economic related clothing issues?"

It is not. Not at all. So where are the pros of school uniform?

Perhaps it helps schools show their students are well behaved and helpful. Well, when was school about sideline politics? Yes, it may encourage students to be better people. But this can be achieved by making them enjoy school, helping them learn and master a skill; to participate in sporting and non-curricular events. And non-uniform does make you happier at school. For me, a day without school uniform leaves me in a much better mood than one with such uniform. Instead of wearing what we like we instead wear our ties short, our shirts untucked. Does this really make the school look better, when students are pushed to showing an open contempt of schools rules? No, it does not!

Perhaps if school uniform became less uncomfortable, it would not be such a problem. But it is uncomfortable. 100% of the students I asked dislike school uniform and find it too cold in winter yet far too warm in summer. We are not even allowed hats to cause winter months to be more bearable. But no! They do not even give us that!

Therefore I urge you to show your dislike of school uniform to school officials. If you do nothing it will continue. Thank you for listening.

A Non (Year 9)

Drama & The Arts at STRS



Theatre Trips

Romeo & Juliet at the Globe

There's nothing quite like the Globe Theatre, although if you saw 'Shakespeare In Love' you might have got some idea of what it was like. We all owe a huge debt of gratitude to Sam Wannamaker for his vision and courage in creating this superb replica of the original. Just seeing the theatre is educational in itself but of course seeing a play there is even better. I have never seen a poor production at the Globe - they've all been excellent, and 'Romeo and Juliet' did not disappoint. A small group of Year 11 GCSE Drama students attended the matinee in September 2004 and a thoroughly good time was had by all. The company brought out the humour of the early scenes and the sword fighting gains an extra dimension when the blades are whirling a few feet from the audience's faces. As we arrived with time to spare, we split into small groups and visited a few of the nearby sights: one group went to the Tower of London, one to the Tate Modern and one to the church of St Bartholomew the Great (as in St Bartholomew's hospital). It was a capital day out! (ERS)

Starlight Express

In February Mrs Spilsbury led her group of upper school theatre goers to Bristol Hippodrome's production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's 'Starlight Express', following the success of the previous year's 'Miss Saigon' trip. The musical, adapted for stage from the West End, told the story of a showdown between a diesel, electric and steam train, with an ongoing romance developing between two of the trains' cars. The energetic dance numbers, performed entirely on roller skates were intermitted by futuristic train races created in 3-D video with the use of 3-D "safety" glasses. The show was thoroughly



entertaining with rousing numbers such as “U-N-C-O-U-P-L-E-D” and “Light at the End of the Tunnel” which gave way to a large audience participation, particularly amongst the self-titled “STRS girlsies!” The fast paced action scenes drove the plot forward and there were some particularly impressive break-dancing moves and 360° flips off the edge of the scenery. The entertainment didn’t stop at the Hippodrome though, with the singing continuing long into the journey home, even if we sixth formers couldn’t quite match the singing talents of the Starlight Express performers! The trip was enjoyed by all who attended so a big thank you has to go to Mrs Spilsbury who organised the event and to all the staff and students who supported it. (*S Mason L6*)

An Inspector Calls

I was lucky enough to join a group of year ten GCSE English students on their recent visit to Cheltenham’s Everyman Theatre to watch the award winning ‘An Inspector Calls’. Produced by the touring National Theatre Company, the morality play followed the story of an aristocratic family being visited by a police inspector, investigating the suicide of a young girl. Through developing plot twists, the inspector teaches the family the errors of their ways and about the vulnerability of society on the eve of the First World War. The unpredictable ending provided the audience with the biggest twist of all and left them with much pause for thought.

An outstanding set which included a fully collapsible house and street scene complete with authentic rain, created a realistic feel to the play, which was aided by the excellent performance of the ensemble cast.

Thanks to the English department, the visit was great help to the year ten students studying the play as part of their GCSE work - and they all appeared to enjoy it immensely! (*S Mason L6*)

A Christmas Carol

The school production during December 2004 was one of the most successful ever. We had wonderful audiences who were very responsive and inspired our cast to give of their best. Stuart Mason, Scott Yearsley and Jon Roskilly gave fine performances as Fred, Scrooge and the Ghost of Christmas Present, but really there was no “weakest link” - all the cast performed well and are to be



congratulated on providing a superb evening’s entertainment. Our orchestra is so good it’s easy not to notice how good it is, there’s a natural tendency to focus on the actors and singers. Nonetheless the orchestra contributed significantly to the success of the performance.

A special word of thanks goes to all the many parents and grandparents who helped with the costumes and also to Mrs Clune for her knitting skills. (*ERS*)

House Drama - An Adjudicator’s Notes

Eastgate were winners of this year’s House Drama with their excerpt from ‘Baron Bolligrew’ just pipping Westgate’s ‘Blackadder’ for top show. We managed to steal Mrs Earl’s adjudication notes to give you a flavour of the four competing productions - as well as the rather curious scoring system.



Southgate - 'Father Ted' - Total points: 65009 - Final position: 3rd

A very effective opening; funny! Using a TV script proved at times difficult as it always prompts comparison to original TV performance; was it suited to a big hall audience? Also was script suitable for pre-9pm slot? I wonder?? Costumes were good, but not remarkable. A big cast involved which gave an excellent performance. Lots of props; lots of movement of props - both a good and bad thing. Sound effect used! Funland good; singing for 'Songs of Praise' good; Ed Williams sound on piano.

Noteworthy individual performances - Ryan Moore worryingly good as Father Jack; Ciarán Conway natural as Father Ted; Mrs Doyle & Random Person No.4

Northgate- 'As Good As New' - Total points: 60200 - Final position: 4th

Good start to the show. Very different style of play - modern - but a very successful interpretation. Funny and subtle; sustained audience attention. Good set. Low-key script and sometimes wit was lost on audience because of subtlety of script. Particular attention to detail of set; costumes good - especially June's shoes! Mr Pimble's moustache outrageously believable! Not sure FHM magazine was appropriate. Smaller cast; could have been compensated for by more support involvement. Very strong individual performances, with good interpretation of characters. Could have won if performances of this smaller cast had been more polished.

Noteworthy individual performances - Mrs Pimble, Mrs Flower, Grandma.

Eastgate - 'Baron Bolligrew' - Total points: 78003 - Final position: 1st

A bold beginning. Entertaining. Lines clearly delivered and audible - excellent diction. Audience enthusiastic; humour successful. Script a good choice, successfully conveyed. The Peasants were very together - impressive! Costumes were simple but effective and contributed to the success of the language. A large but disciplined cast with involvement of all year groups. A good pace was maintained with smooth execution of stage manoeuvres. Held audience attention very well. Effective choreography. Lighting by member of House. Good performances from young actors. Cereal boxes!

Noteworthy individual performances - Sir Oblong Fitz Oblong, Baron Bolligrew, Obidiah and Head Peasant.



Eastgate's Winning Cast of Baron Bolligrew



Westgate - 'Blackadder' - Total points: 65187 - Final position: 2nd

This was excellent entertainment and audience reaction certainly helped players make most of the comedy - an additional contribution to the scoring. The TV script did however pose the usual problems - how to match the TV standard of professionalism and how to re-interpret roles already well known - the actor's role becomes one of mimicry and being an impersonator which possibly places such performances outside the remit of the House Drama competition? However the lines were well learnt and delivered with clarity and good timing. Audience loved it - perhaps because it was RUDE! Costumes could have been more interesting - except for Baldrick's socks, the chance was missed for more comedy here. Big cast drawn from all year groups. They sustained humour well; good strength of acting across the cast. Lighting by Alasdair was good - also helped other Houses out on desk. Good effects in final scene - burning and smoke.



Director Gavin Hardy with House Drama Cup

Noteworthy individual performances - Peter Blencowe (piano), Harry, Percy, Jane Fairkettle, John Grumbleduke.

Westgate also provided the winner of House Drama - Best Individual Performance: Marcus Mayo for his portrayal of the Witch-Finder Pursuivant.

Year 8 Arts Experience

It seems to me that Arts Experience gets better each year. Mr Lockey manages to co-ordinate the varied skills and huge amounts of energy into a seamless performance that runs as smoothly as any with months to prepare, instead of just three days.

This year the theme was "Journeys" which was liberally interpreted by groups to produce a diverse mixture of ideas.

The musicians gave us music from around the world starting with some impressive African percussion and inspired improvisation followed by a medley of popular tunes from England, America and Europe which gave opportunities for solo instrumentalists to star. The choir took us to Wales among other places and produced some accomplished harmony to challenging scores.

The drama groups gave us a whimsical and entertaining picture of a day in the life of an airport with all its eccentric characters and Mrs Stanley's group gave a lively performance culminating with what has now become a tradition – the throwing of sweets much to the delight of the audience.

Movement excelled as ever with a fine display of skate-boarding and roller-skating and beach scenes backed by Cliff Richard's "We're all going on a Summer Holiday" to prepare us for the weeks to come.

Last but not least the artists thought big and prepared fourteen twelve-by-four-foot panels arranged into a tunnel to capture the nightmare journey of a knight from Robert Browning's "Childe Roland to the Dark Tower Came", so the audience had to walk through blighted landscapes, by threatening birds, skeletal horses, instruments of torture, crippled trees, rivers with faces and massive monsters before emerging into the relative safety of the hall.

All part of the infinite variety of Arts Experience – what will we all be getting up to next year? I wonder!

Mrs C Roberts



A Journey Through the Arts

A Report on Year 8 Arts Week by Seb Partlett with Photographs by James Hyett-Hudman

During the last week of term, Year 8 had their annual Arts Experience. Over three days, the boys are split into groups, each doing something different to show to their proud parents. This year there were six groups. One group taken by Mr Lockey and Mrs Cormack-Hicks for the artwork and props, two taken by Mrs Stanley and Mrs Briscoe for the drama performances, one for digital video taken by Mr Lewis, another taken by Mr Thompson and Mr Pickard for music and the final group taken by Mrs Spilsbury for movement. This year the overall theme for the groups was that of 'Journeys'.



The boys worked extremely hard over the three days to get everything ready, whether it be doing artwork and props, or practising their performances. On the third day everything came together smoothly. With the art placed out to create a labyrinth for visitors to walk through, providing an excellent way of showing off the art group's hard work, the guests began to take their seats. Once the flow of visitors calmed down, the afternoon started with the music group performing "The Pilgrim's Song." After this, the white screen was rolled down ready for the projection of the digital video film. Called "Pirates of the Caribbean Ring, Curse of the Black Pearl Hula Hoop," the short film created a spin off of both Pirates of the Caribbean and Lord of the Rings. In short, The Fellowship of the Ring set off to destroy Evil from the Earth. However, it was eventually a small hobbit called Gollum that destroyed the ring, because he was hungry and ate it. The film was filmed and edited by the year 8 boys, with the help of Mr Lewis. During production, Mr Lewis came up with the ingenious idea of using his interactive whiteboard to create a "blue-screen" to allow the background to be edited.

After the film there was more music. Following the 'Journey' theme, these were based on foreign culture music. First was some drumming creating a very African feel. Following this was a more oriental based piece. Both were played excellently by the





instrumentalists. Next up was Mrs Briscoe's drama group, acting out a scene in an airport. Concentrating on character development, you see many different types of people including, but not limited to, drug smuggling transvestites, drunkards, sniffer-dogs and tramps. The character development was carried out by "mind mapping" each character, to really bring them to life. This allowed the actors to really become their characters and provided an excellent piece of drama.



Between the drama groups, Mr Thompson led a choir in singing "Kum-ba-ya." This was followed by Mrs Stanley's group performing "The Pilgrim's Regress," aka "Big Brother meets Chicken-Licken." This is quite easily the most surreal drama piece I've ever had the fortune of watching. The basics of it are as follows: one of the year 8 boys dies during the Arts Experience week, but when he gets to the gates of heaven, he doesn't know his admission number, but is saved by his fairy godfather before he is sent to hell. The fairy godfather whisks them away to fairyland, where they end up in the gingerbread house in the middle of an episode of "Ugly Sister." Here, you find all the fairy tale characters you'd expect, as well as some others. One person is trying to find the number 94 bus to Cheltenham, helped by Little Red Riding Hood with Big Bad Wolf showing them a shortcut. Meanwhile, Chicken-Licken meets up with Donkey (who's all alone after Shrek is called



to the diary room) and a student to try and find the caretaker to tell him the sky is falling. They are stopped by the new prefect, Big Bad Wolf, as they don't have a pass card, but he is soon scared off by the choir (who are apparently better than those that normally sing in the hall). Two leprechauns then find the admission number list thinking it was gold. This allows everyone to go to the pearly gates, but they all decide to go to Cheltenham instead because the shops are better. Did you get all that? This provided great amusement, especially to the year 7 members of the audience when sweets were thrown out at the end.

Mrs Spilsbury's movement group were up next. They started with a piece based on commuting on a train. This included turning at high speeds and emergency stops. Their next piece was "Boards and Blades." This involved either skating or boarding around the hall and stage, including some fancy footwork and stunts. All this was carried out with, amazingly, no injuries to those involved. The group finished off with "Summer Holidays" where they go to the beach on the Starlight Express and have a lovely time playing on the beach. For the finale, the music group did a march around the stage to a beat, singing out the names of areas in the Cotswolds as they went.

Overall the afternoon was very entertaining and amusing. The crowd definitely seemed to enjoy the various performances. I would like to thank all those teachers involved for all their hard work, as well as the year 8 boys themselves. It was obvious that a lot of hard work went in this year, as always, so well done to all those that were involved. Also, thank you to Mr Kellie for his continued support of the event over the years.





The Landslide



A light sea breeze rolled over the estuary and down the valley.

The dark clouds broke momentarily, spotlighting the mountaintops in the eerie orange light of the setting sun. A figure sat, silhouetted against the surrounding harbour. He was a large man, with broad shoulders. He had felt the humidity rising and had watched the waves, beating the eastern bank of the river mouth harder and harder as the evening grew on. This was the calm before a storm. There was no doubt in his mind. Many years in his trade told him so.

It would be a long, hard shift tonight. He shifted his weight onto the handcrafted walking stick in his hand and heaved himself up, slowly but surely, to his feet.

That very moment, a low rumble marked his thoughts. He smiled to himself as thick, heavy raindrops fell, pounding the river and churning up the shallows to his left to a deep brown colour. He turned, slowly. He downed the remains from his bottle of whisky before setting off for his boat.

The rain didn't worry him. He was a fisherman. He liked water and would brave all weather at sea.

"Christian!" A voice called from the haze of falling water.

"Christian. You're not going out are you? Tell me you're not, it's horrible weather."

Christian recognised the voice.

Shane O'Kiddiny stumbled through the moving wall of water. He frowned at the very sight he didn't really want to see. Christian was nodding his head, slowly. There would be no talking him out of it, so Shane followed. He felt as though he needed to. Due to a deformity in his legs' growth, Christian had needed a walking stick since he was a toddler. He couldn't walk without it and didn't stand a hope of being able to swim. Shane didn't know if he could swim carrying Christian in stormy seas, but he felt it his responsibility to be there, just in case.

That evening, they went out and came back as usual. The rain didn't stop. It rained and rained for days on end.



Tim Tinterham watched the rain with interest. It was a sort of Godly rain. He liked that idea. He would wait and see if anything happened as a consequence of it and then predict it before anyone else found out. Simple. He liked being the town's druid, all the respect and money for almost nothing in return! He smiled to himself.

A low rumble shook the village. This time, it wasn't thunder. It was deeper, more threatening. Shane looked up. The looming grey hills were alive. He ran through the town, urging people to leave their homes for the higher ground to the other side of the valley.

He sat, a few minutes later, with a mere handful of people, surveying the scenes of





utter destruction. The landslide had only missed the dock and castle. The rest of the village was lost in a pile of mud and trees. The rain stopped, revealing the full extent of the damage to the villagers. Below them, they could hear the druid telling the souls of the dead that they had displeased the gods.



The villagers stood in silent disbelief for almost an hour. Christian was the first to move. He hobbled uneasily down the hillside. Shane wandered whether to follow him or stay back. He didn't like decisions so he chose the latter but he watched him with great curiosity.

Christian wasn't heading for the wreck of the town but, instead, the dock. He waddled down to the waterline, which had risen considerably with the extra mud in it. He waded into the water. The waterlogged grass felt spongy under his feet. Once he was up to his waist, he threw his stick to the bank. The water supported his weight and it was becoming a burden. His legs hurt and, although the sun had now come out, he was in the shade of the castle. He continued to wade in.

When he finally reached the edge of the dock, he stooped down, leaving only his head above the waterline. He fumbled around for a while before emerging with a rope in his hand. He pulled the rope and, to Shane's surprise, the bow of a boat appeared. Christian wasn't pleased though. It hadn't fared well and, with the hills still looking lively, he wouldn't have time to mend it. He'd need to search for another. He tossed the boat aside.

The fourth boat he pulled out was, although full of water, structurally untouched by the rise in water level. So much so, he had to remove all the water by hand, once he'd got it clear of the water. By then, the idea of salvaging had spread throughout the remaining villagers and a small pile of various objects grew and grew as the day drew on and the sun began to sink down behind the estuary. He turned some old sheets into makeshift sails, and forced the big pile to be rationed to a small selection of the bare minimum of need. Everything was loaded and they were ready to go.

"You're not going without me and my holy relics," Druid Tinterham shouted from the bank, *"The Gods will sink you!"*

Christian eyed the objects in his hands.

"Your 'holy relics' are more likely to sink the boat."

His voice was cool and defiant, *"Did you or did you not predict this mess?"*

"Why of course I did!" The old man screamed, *"The Gods forewarned me and it missed my own home!"*

"Then you are responsible for all of this," and with that, Christian pushed the boat out and the river's flow carried it out to sea.

Another low rumble then shook the remains of the village. The mountains moved once more to cover a screaming Druid Tinterham.



"The Landslide" was written by Matthew Peffers (8R) and taken from a 'Book of Celtic Stories' compiled by Year 8 pupils as part of their English coursework.

Copies are available upon request to the school.



Language College News

School Trips & Visits Abroad ... Widening Our Horizons



Language College
Co-ordinator
Mrs Jackie Hewett

Since our award of Language College status in 2000 Sir Thomas Rich's has become a centre of excellence for studying modern foreign languages.

Mrs Jackie Hewett, appointed the Language College Co-ordinator in September 2000, has been instrumental in raising the profile of languages teaching not just at Tommy's but also into the local community of local primary and junior schools. Students at Rich's regularly visit nearby junior schools to take part in language classes and presentations in French, German and Spanish and the school frequently organises and hosts important "language events" for its junior and secondary neighbours.

The number and extent of trips abroad for our pupils has dramatically increased, many going far beyond the accepted remit of "Exchange Visit". The visit reports and trip diary extracts that follow give us an insight into the wide variety of opportunities and involvement of which our pupils can avail themselves.



Language Promotional Day

In January we ran a Languages Promotional Day for Year 9. Introduced by Penny Krucker, The International Education Officer for Gloucestershire, the day aimed at highlighting the importance of languages in our ever-increasing global society and international working environment. Pupils were able to put questions to a panel of business representatives and to sample taster language lessons in Italian, Swahili, Indonesian and Chinese.

Links with the Milestone School

As part of their celebration of Global Awareness Week in June, pupils from the Milestone School visited the language department and enjoyed some Spanish and German lessons. Later in the week the Milestone school set up German and Spanish café scenes where pupils were able to enjoy the fruits of their labour - Black Forest gâteau with cream proved particularly popular! The pupils were expertly waited on by year 10 linguists from Sir Thomas Rich's. We hope to repeat the event this year and also introduce a day of Chinese language and culture for Key Stage 4 pupils.

Barnwood Primary School

Our work in local Primary Schools continues to expand well ahead of the government's programme. In many of our feeder Primary Schools language teaching now takes place throughout Key Stage 2. We are very pleased this year to have also established links with Barnwood Primary School where we now deliver French to years 5 and 6.



Theatre Groups

We continue to enjoy performances from visiting theatre groups. This year we have welcomed to the School The Onatti Theatre Company who have performed plays in French, German and Spanish.

Language Clubs

Alongside Esperanto, Indonesian and Latin we are now running an after-school beginner's Japanese course. Adults have also been seduced into brushing up their language skills. The Spanish Family Learning class, which we ran in the Spring and Summer terms, was very successful.

Comenius Project

The School has been successful in its application to the British Council to participate in a three-year Comenius School Project. Together with our Comenius partner school Tsanko Tserkovski Secondary School in Bulgaria and Scuola Media Statale "Cavour" in Italy we shall be seeking to develop international links and understanding through increased communication and co-operation within a web-site based project. It is hoped that many departments will become involved in the exchange of information. The project was set up by former English teacher Mrs Stanley who is a keen Esperantist. Members of the Esperanto Club Tom Shorney, Thomas Bosworth, Adam McNally and Jack Vickery accompanied by Mrs Hewett and Mr Crewe all travelled to Bulgaria in November for the first project meeting. The language of communication for the project is Esperanto.



International Earthquake Challenge

Two 6th formers - Blake Kendrick and Peter Cheng - travelled to Taiwan to compete and represent their country in an international earthquake challenge. The two seventeen-year-old pupils made up a 6th form team along with two pupils from Stroud High School and competed in conjunction with a team made up of four second-year undergraduates from Bristol University. The two teams took part in the international IDEERS Earthquake Engineering Challenge on 24th and 25th September. The event was organised by the British Council and the Taiwanese National Centre for Research on Earthquake Engineering (NCREE).



For the challenge, the team had to design an earthquake-resistant building, of which they had to construct a model on the first day using only wood, string, paper and glue. On the second day, their model was among a total of 80 which were tested on the large earthquake simulator in the NCREE laboratory in the Taiwanese capital Taipei.

They were joined in the challenge by teams of university and high school students from all over Taiwan, the USA, Hong Kong, Japan and Malaysia.

The IDEERS Challenge - developed by Dr Wendy Danieli and Adam Crewe from the University of Bristol's Earthquake Engineering Research Centre - was introduced to Taiwan through the British Council in 2001. It has been an annual event in Taiwan since then, attracting up to 300 participants each year. The challenge is always held on the anniversary of the devastating 1999 Chi-Chi earthquake, which caused over



2,400 deaths and left 100,000 people homeless.

Here is an account of the competition by Blake Kendrick (U6R)

Upon arriving at Bristol airport we knew that an epic 25 hours journey lay ahead of us. After experiencing the wonders of economy class on a long haul flight and 3 plane changes later, the four intrepid students finally arrived at Taipei (capital of Taiwan). Accompanying me on this trip was Peter Cheng (U6R), Mr Middleton, two sixth form students from Stroud High and a teacher accompanying them. My first impressions of this fascinating country were ones of familiarity but with subtle differences. The transfer to the hotel for instance seemed ordinary but the extremely humid heat outside (it was 30°C plus every day) and the extremely lush foliage seemed very foreign.

During the days before the competition we made the most of the sightseeing opportunities. The local train metro system was superb, on time and in spotless condition. The lack of litter and politeness of the locals was very pronounced; a fine of £500 was enforced if any food or drink was consumed whilst on the Metro! One thing you must expect if travelling to Taiwan is the amount of stares you receive. You will most likely see only one other European per day so the locals will be fascinated with you and even subtly try to take your picture (this happened to me more than once!)

The architecture is amazing and totally different to our western style. After visiting temples and monuments you really appreciate the intricacy and charm of this unique style. This is none more apparent than in Taipei 101, the world's tallest building. This successfully marries the modern technology of earthquake and wind resistant design with traditional style. We went to the very top and outside onto the viewing platform. The view was breathtaking, although the lift ride to get up was exciting enough as it is the fastest lift in the world and your ears pop three times whilst in it!



The actual competition took a full two days. We finalised the design of our model in the summer after lots of research. We had six hours to construct an earthquake resistant building that was to be tested the following day. The materials we had were a finite selection of MDF strips (6mm by 4mm), string and hot-melt glue. The conditions were terrible being extremely humid and well over 38°C and no air conditioning in the hangar we were located in. However, we finished on time and presented our model. It won the best design as it was unique using sliding floors as a frictional floor isolation system. On the shaking table it performed well being disqualified at 1.2g (it goes up to 1.5g) for having more than half its columns broken. This was debatable however and it should have probably stayed in a few more rounds as their definition of columns on our model were actually bracing. It was the sixth model left standing and came 11th overall as it was run on a weight ratio and our model was quite heavy.



Overall I found this to be a fascinating experience, to witness and visit a completely different culture as well as compete and get on well with teams of foreign student was something I will never forget. Plus the food there was truly excellent - I recommend a visit for that reason alone!



Spanish Trip to Ribadesella 2005

With an early start, it was an unusual experience, arriving at school just after six in the morning. Eager and excited, not a school tie in sight; this was the starting point for our "Vacaciones españolas". We landed at Santander Airport on Thursday afternoon, being welcomed by a clear blue sky, and bright weather. We arrived and settled into our hotel, then had dinner, and afterwards managed to fit in a friendly game of football against some local boys, which was played in good sportsmanship with a close victory for Tommy's!

The first morning, we visited the Tito Bustillo caves where we saw remarkably well preserved cave paintings, although not everyone was impressed! Most of us spent the afternoon on the beach and were delighted to see the yellow flag raised, to allow some closely supervised swimming. Saturday we visited Oviedo, capital city of Asturias. Most of the morning was spent in groups of six, undertaking a town-trail exercise, which enabled us to practise our Spanish speaking on some of the inhabitants of the town, which was a strange experience for most! For lunch, as in the years before, many headed for McDonalds, (where there seemed to be a number of young Spanish girls), but a reluctant few chose the healthy option; they went to a restaurant nearby to try the local cuisine. On the way back to the hotel, we visited a new dinosaur museum, "El Museo del Jurasico de Asturias" which was built to display the abundant supply of fossils discovered in Asturias.



Discussing escape plans

Canoeing was the main activity on Sunday, where over 5 hours (not including breaks) were spent gently streaming along the River Sella, which proved extremely tiring, especially if some were working harder than others! We were given watertight containers to prevent our spare clothes and lunch from getting wet and guess what? Yep. They weren't all watertight, which proved a bit of a problem!! Also, the river left a nasty pong in our clothing, and if you were foolish enough to take it, (like me) a fishy stench would be left in your bag. Later, we travelled back to Ribadesella, where we were free to do as we wished; some wandered down to the beach, while others played on their playstations!

On Monday, we visited the "Picos de Europa" National Park, where a long trek ensued, which left many exhausted. Halfway, it was double jeopardy; either turn back, or carry on. Some teachers couldn't face the gentle slopes and so missed the spectacular views, which Mr Hearn and Mr Lockey can confirm. However, before the two groups parted, there was time for a Mexican Wave on the edge of a cliff; which we would not advise others to try! Later, we visited a Cheese cave, in which Cabrales cheese is made, a strong-smelling blue cheese which dominated even the strongest of after-shaves! Everyone tried a sample (an acquired taste!), and a fair few purchased some for their families.



As Tuesday was our last full day, it was spent mainly on the beach. In the morning, a



sandcastle-building competition took place, with very innovative designs, including the sand-mobile, a sand-kingdom, and a Taj Mahal! We were also given the opportunity to mingle with the Spanish teenagers, giving them the chance to improve their English, and (whoops) our Spanish! We played football and volleyball but cricket was most interesting, as the Spanish had a different approach to the game. As it was the last day, most people's curfews were extended, from 22:30 to 23:00hrs.

Prizes were awarded at the end: for "Tidiest Room" (obviously not won by me), to the winners of the Oviedo town trail on Saturday, for the best 3 sandcastles, the best diary, and the person who communicated most with the Spanish kids.

The trip was brilliant, the weather was great, and everything was extremely well organised by Señor Hearn & Co and everyone's Spanish improved greatly, of course!

¡Viva España!

Jack Bell 9S

Aachen Exchange - April 2005

Wir sind nach Aachen Deutschland gefahren, um unseres Deutsch zu verbessern. Wir haben mit Gastfamilien geblieben und haben ein Arbeitspraktikum gemacht. Es war interessant, um andere Leben zu sehen und mit einer deutschen Familie zu wohnen.



Does anyone recognise this bloke?

He's been following us around all week!



Lower Sixth German Students with their 'Austausch' Partners



In April 2005 a few German students embarked on a journey, with Mr Brown in tow, to Aachen in Germany for a week's work experience. We each had exchange partners and stayed with our partner's families. My partner's name was Carolina Jeruselem and I found her family extremely friendly and accommodating. I did my work experience in the 'Katholiker Grundschule', the local catholic primary school. I really enjoyed this experience despite the fact that school started at 8 o'clock in the morning! The school day seemed to be very short compared to that in England with school finishing before one o'clock on most days. This meant I had plenty of time in the afternoons to go shopping and wander round the beautiful town of Aachen. In the evenings there was plenty to do including a local fayre, the Lindt chocolate factory and trips to the cinema. I really enjoyed my week in Germany, I learned lots of new vocabulary and it was a unique opportunity to sample the culture of Germany first hand. My work placement gave me the chance to experience what teaching in a foreign language would be like and I really enjoyed working with the children. I would recommend doing a work placement in a foreign country and would definitely return if I had the chance.

Theresa Turner

Früh Sonntag Morgen versammelten wir uns bei der Schule. Bald danach reisten wir von Heathrow mit dem Bus ab. Nach einem kurzen Flug zum Köln Flughafen stiegen wir in den Zug ein. Es war nur fünfzig Minuten nach Aachen. Bei dem Aachener Bahnhof sahen wir die Austausch-Familien, die sich versammelt hatten. Mein Austausch-Partner, Alex, nahm noch an einem Segeln-Ausflug teil, also bis acht Uhr war es nur ich und die Familie! Ich blieb in einem Dorf ausserhalb von Aachen (Walheim). Wir haben einen "Dorf-Bummel" gemacht, und ich sah Kneipen und Eiscafes. Bisher war ich ganz glücklich! Sonntag Abend, als Alex zurück kam, fuhren wir nach Aachen, wo wir die andere Austausch Leute trafen. Am Morgen fing das Arbeits-Praktikum an. Ich fuhr mit Alex's Mutter zur Mercedes Niederlassung in Aachen. Das Gebäude ist riesig, aber ich fuhr mit dem Aufzug zum dritten Stock, wo ich "Herr Klinkhammer" traf (kein Witz!). Er zeigte mir das Mercedes Service-Zentrum und ich arbeitete darin für fünf Tage. Ich hatte viel Spass, und die Mercedes-Arbeiter erzählten mir viel auf Deutsch, solange wie ich ihnen die englische Entsprechung erzählte! Abends gingen wir in Aachen in die Kneipen, Bars, Clubs, Kinos usw! Aachen ist eine Universitätstadt, also das Stadt-Zentrum ist sehr lebhaft, und es ist nicht so schwer, andere Leute zu treffen. Ich mochte am meisten die Freiheit, das ganze Aachen zu entdecken. Ich habe auch viele komische Erinnerungen, wie jemand, der ein Austausch gemacht hat, hat!



Early one Sunday morning we gathered ourselves at school. Shortly after we left by bus for Heathrow, and after a short flight to Cologne airport we boarded the train. It was only 50 minutes to Aachen. At Aachen train station we saw the exchange families, who had gathered to meet us. My exchange partner, Alex, was still on a sailing trip, so until 8 that evening it was just me and the family! I was staying in a village just outside of Aachen (Walheim). The family took me on a village tour, I noted there were a few pubs and ice cream cafes. At this point I was quite liking the idea of staying there for a week! Sunday evening, when Alex returned, we took the bus into Aachen to meet the other exchange people. In the morning the work experience started. Alex's mother drove me to the Mercedes dealership in Aachen (Alex had already been in school for an hour!) The building was huge, but I took the lift to the third floor, where I met "Mr Klinkhammer" (No joke!). He showed me the Mercedes Service centre where I worked for 5 days. I had a lot of fun and the Mercedes staff told me lots of German, as long as



I told them the English equivalent! In the evenings we went into Aachen, to the many pubs, bars, clubs and the cinema. Aachen is a university city, as a result the city centre is very lively, and it's not hard at all to meet new people (we met Czech students, French students and an American!). Above all I liked the freedom we had to explore the whole of Aachen. I also have many funny memories, as I'm sure most people who have taken part in an exchange will have!

Gareth Hopkins

I really enjoyed my time in Aachen. The host family were very welcoming, and I got on with them well. Working in a nursery was a lot of fun; although my first day was a bit awkward because the kids were a bit wary of me, the rest of the week went very well. In our free time we did things as a group which was good because it allowed us to get to know each others' partners, and not just our own. I particularly enjoyed going to Maastricht on the penultimate day, and going to the fair was also really cool. I learnt a lot more German than I thought I would, especially vocabulary, it's surprising how much you pick up when you speak another language for a week. I think that my listening skills improved as well, having to listen very carefully to the kids speaking. Overall, it was a very enjoyable trip, and I would recommend it highly.

Stuart Rushworth

Aachen. Stadt des Kulturs, der Studenten, und eine Brücke zum Europa. Jung, dynamisch und bunt. Sauber und sicher. Gross aber einfach zu kennen lernen. Aachen ist ein fantastischer Treffpunkt für Austauschstudenten. Ich hab' mich sehr gut amüsiert und habe ich viele tolle Erfahrungen.

Ich arbeitete beim Rechtsanwalt und Buchhaltung in Aachen. Ich machte viele Kontos und sah viel. Am Dienstag fuhren der Rechtsanwalt und ich zum Gerichtshof. Er hat eine Porsche – deshalb haben wir sehr sehr schnell gefahren (über 150mph!) - es gibt keine Geschwindigkeitsbeschränkungen für deutsche Autobahnen.

Aachen. City of culture, students and bridge to Europe. Young, vibrant, colourful. Clean and well-designed. Large yet easy to get to know. Aachen is a fantastic venue for exchange students. I thoroughly enjoyed my time there and have some great memories.

I worked at a law/accountancy firm in Aachen. I did some accounts, and saw a lot of the work there. On Tuesday the lawyer and I drove to the courts to watch. He had a Porsche so we drove very fast! (Over 150mph). There are no speed limits on German motorways.

Adam Broadhead



Martin, Jon, Joe & Harry provide the musical entertainment at the end of project party





Theresa enjoying her role as teaching assistant at the Katholische Grundschule
Aachen Work Experience Exchange
Martin Coe using a CAD workstation at an Ingenieurbüro (Architect's office)





Uganda Visit PMM School Jinga







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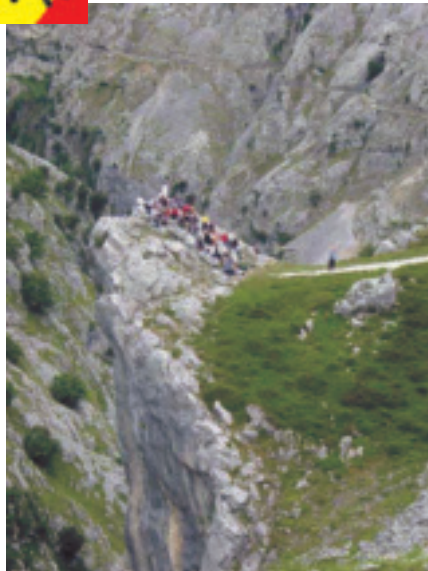
2005







Ribadesella 2005





Temple Visit
Huzaifa and Michael practising their Chinese



Visit to Kunming China - July 2005

At the end of July I took 5 pupils from Sir Thomas Rich's to Kunming in China on a two week Chinese Immersion Course. It was a memorable trip for all, giving us an insight into Chinese language and culture and a rich fund of lasting memories. *J.Hewett*



Participants Jenny Bucknell, David Anderton, Huzaifa Pandor, Michael Curtis and Martin Coe with Mrs Hewett and some of their Chinese hosts

Extracts from my diary by Jenny Bucknell

22nd July

I was a little nervous before the Chinese level test today as I thought that I'd be the worst one there and wouldn't know anything. I also thought we'd have to get up and talk in front of everyone which luckily we didn't. Anyway, it all turned out to be fine as I knew more than I thought I did and 'Joy' the teacher said I was a very good beginner, I think she was just being nice!

The opening ceremony was amazing. There was such a broad spectrum of entertainment from the various nationalities and a variety of speeches from various dignitaries. We had the opportunity to get to know our Chinese buddies and students from other schools. The buffet meal was amazing. The food looked like a piece of art so you didn't want to touch it and spoil it.

24th July

This afternoon, after our three hours of Chinese lessons, we set out to Western Hills. Viewed from a distance, the skyline of the Western Hills' forest reserve resembles a beautiful maiden reclining leisurely alongside of Dianchi Lake with her long hair drifting casually in the mirror-like water. It is for this reason that the local people gave the Western Hills the nickname, Sleeping Beauty Hills.

26th July

Following lunch, we embarked on our afternoon activities of Tai Chi and Chinese



Calligraphy. The man that taught us Tai Chi knew very few words of English, which made it hard for us to understand what he wanted us to do. It was interesting learning Tai Chi but it was much harder than it looks since we had to repeat most of the moves again and again. Calligraphy was also fun but I'm awful at art so my work didn't look particularly good or Chinese in nature.

27th July

This evening we visited the Kunming Number 1 Middle School. This was the first school we'd visited and we were overwhelmed by the number of students who greeted us. When we arrived for the gala night, their school band serenaded us with a medley of classic tunes. We were then entertained for the evening by a variety of performances by both British and Chinese students. However, the Chinese students certainly showed us up with their outstanding musical talent and wide variety of folk performances and dances.

29th July

This afternoon's activities comprised some free time with our Chinese partners. We thought they were coming at 5pm but they turned up at 1:30pm to take us to the Yunnan Nationalities Village for the fire festival. In the village compound, 25 different independent villages have been planned, but at present only about 20 have been constructed. In addition to these "ethnic villages", there are activities that take place such as a welcoming ceremony with performing White Elephants, the Dinosaur Island theme park area, a concert area for ethnic singing and dancing performances, as well as an Asian Elephant show in the Plaza of Ethnic Unity.

30th July

After a long journey, we finally arrived at the Jiuxiang Karst caves. We then had a guided tour of the caves, which were truly one of nature's beauties. Altogether, there are over 100 caves in the area, and Jiuxiang is praised as the "Home of Karst caves". The local saying goes, "There are so many caves in Jiuxiang that people can hardly finish counting them in their lifetime."

31st July

Following this morning's Chinese lesson, we had the opportunity to visit our Chinese partners' homes. When we arrived at Chen Qiuyi's house I was shocked by the outside appearance and was expecting it to be quite dated and not particularly nice inside. How wrong could I be? Her house was so modern, more so than my home in England! We were treated to a traditional Chinese meal of Jiozi, which we had to prepare ourselves. Trust me it's a lot harder than it looks! Following the meal we had the opportunity to get to know her family better and try out some of the Chinese we'd learnt, however, we seemed to fail miserably with Qiuyi's mum, possibly due to our western accents and poor Mandarin. We later went to play one of the most famous Chinese sports, table tennis. This is one game I truly am rubbish at and I think the Chinese students were going easy on us! Our afternoon was very entertaining and helped us get to know more about the Chinese culture and learn some new words.

5th August

We also visited a school in the Stone Forest County. Here we were able to take part in a variety of activities ranging from handicrafts, like sewing, to playing musical instruments like the gourd pipe. Chinese folk art is an important part of the country's extremely rich cultural and art heritage. Later, some schools planted vegetables in the



school's vegetable garden as the school aims to be self-sufficient. We were also taught some traditional folk dances, which looked easy, but were in fact quite hard since the music went on for about 15 minutes! The folk dance we learnt was then put into practice at the closing ceremony later that evening, unfortunately someone requested an encore! The closing ceremony was a truly memorable event as it was like nothing I'd ever been to before and I wasn't embarrassed to dance!

7th August

When we eventually arrived in Shanghai, we had limited time and made a run to catch the last MagLev train to the city centre. The MagLev train reaches a top speed of 431kph, which is pretty amazing, and our journey took a mere 8 minutes. We had about an hour in the city, which gave us a chance to indulge in our final meal in China before the long journey home. We eventually got our plane at about 10pm, after travelling back from the city centre by taxi. We embarked on our 13-hour flight back to Munich, which soon passed, as everyone was exhausted so slept pretty much the whole way.

8th August

We eventually arrived back at London Heathrow at about 10am by which time everyone just wanted to get home and see all their families. It was good to eventually be home, but I will never forget my time in China and the memories I have from our trip.

Shopping in China by David Anderton

One of the hardest things to get used to is barter. It is an acceptable way of trading; in fact if you don't barter you may end up paying fifteen times as much for something.

A tip for anyone buying things in china Lie. Honesty is never the best policy; you have to beat the traders at their own game. They know you're a tourist, and understand you haven't yet realised the relative value of the currency in your hands. When they see anyone who looks western they will try and rip you off, and most of the time they succeed even with the most vicious bargaining.

I'll just conclude with a short tale of one of the evenings I spent with some friends from Denmark Rd at one of the top exclusive restaurants in Kunming - it looked fantastic, the service was exceptional, and the cuisine was spectacular. Unfortunately our eyes were much bigger than our stomachs so a lot was left over, but the 3-course meal with several drinks and a phenomenal array of different dishes only came to £3 each. We tried to leave a tip of about £10 each to express our gratitude, but it was harder than expected ...

First of all I handed it to them, and with puzzled amusement they looked at us, we tried to walk away, but were stopped at the door and handed it back. We tried leaving it on the counter but they managed again to give it back to us. We looked at each other and placed the money on the floor, and ran. They chased us down the street for a while but then gave up.

Later, passing by the restaurant on the way to a jazz club, we were greeted by a row of smiling faces, waves and lots of attempted English trying to express their thanks.

At the time we didn't think much of what we had given but after contemplating for a brief moment, we realised in real terms we'd given a tip equivalent to around £300 and that their objections were probably because they thought we were stupid. But to me at least it seemed criminal to not give a tip that was reflective of the service we received which was at the least exceptional.



Visit to PMM Girls School Uganda by Miss D Brake

My visit to Uganda last July was a real privilege. Not only was I introduced to a fascinating new country and culture but I was also able to see first hand how we are supporting the pupils at our link school, PMM Girls School in Jinja.

Every year during Founder's Week we raise money to fund the education of twenty girls in a country where even a basic education has to be paid for. Families work very hard to ensure that their children can attend school but at times the burden can become too much and their child has to go without. I found it very difficult to watch pupils being turned away at the school gate because their fees had not been paid but without this money PMM would not survive.

By far one of the most enjoyable and memorable parts of my visit was the afternoon I spent under a tree on the school field with the twenty girls we sponsor. At PMM, they are affectionately known as the 'Scholars' or 'Sir Thomas Rich's Daughters'. The pupils had made posters to welcome me and they performed songs including the PMM school song and recited poems. The girls also taught me how to count and greet people in Luganda and in return I gave them a Spanish lesson.



The girls were quite shy at first but they soon began to relax and tell me more about themselves, they proved to be very well-mannered, typical teenage girls who are a credit to their school. They have all sorts of interests from bible reading and listening to Hip Hop to singing and playing cricket. Some of the Scholars live with their parents or guardians while others live in the school hostel. The money we raise also provides bed and board for these girls. I was impressed by how much pride the pupils have in their appearance, their school uniform was immaculate right down to their shiny shoes.



PMM is a very busy school with a dedicated staff who manage to educate their pupils with very few resources. Class sizes are very large by our standards; a conservative estimate would be around fifty or sixty pupils in a room sitting three to a desk.

Like STRS, the pupils belong to one of



four houses, Frangipani, Hibiscus, Jacaranda and Bougainvillea and the inter-house competitions form an important part of school life.

The school library is always full of pupils and staff as it doubles as the ICT room with computers donated mostly by STRS.



The pupils clearly enjoy music and during my visit, I was treated to a lively performance of traditional song and dance. I also went to visit a local primary school where even the headmaster joined in with the children's performance.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time in Uganda and it is heart-warming to see how pupils and staff from both STRS and PMM are benefiting from the friendship between our schools. I would like to thank the Head teacher, Petronella Lujwala and the staff of PMM for their generous hospitality, especially Christine Musubika, Caroline Nambi and Richard Chole who worked very hard to ensure I had a successful visit.



Mi Bone Fartas Dankon!

Esperanto Club had another great year, with highlights such as the visit to the school by a Nigerian Esperantist, Emanuel Oladipu, whose visit gave many of us our first chance to speak the language with someone from overseas.

In early November a link was also made with St. James' C of E Junior School in Gloucester, where Esperanto was taught to around fifteen year 6 pupils on a weekly basis until the end of the school year. The aim of this was to give the pupils an introduction to language learning, which should help them when learning more traditional languages at their respective secondary schools. This link is hoped to be continued throughout the next academic year.

The Comenius Project is still in its early stages; the inaugural meeting in Bulgaria with our partner schools being arranged for sometime in November. This project involves a link with two other schools in Bulgaria and Italy, with the aim to learn more about each other's history and cultural heritage through the use of Esperanto as a common language. A website will eventually be set up where information about our school will



be posted in Esperanto, along with links to similar pages belonging to the other two schools.

Mrs Stanley started the Esperanto Club in 2002 and it is still going strong with many core members. Since the beginning of the club we have played games and watched videos in Esperanto, as well as practising the language through planned exercises. The Esperanto Club will continue, despite Mrs Stanley's absence, and we wish her the best of luck at her new school. Bondezirojn!

T Shorney U6R

Göttingen Exchange Diary

The first 'half' of the Göttingen exchange took place during March 2005. Here are a few extracts from the boys' diaries

"After the zoo we headed back for the tram into Hannover city centre. It was very built up and a clean modern city. It was quieter than most big English cities and you had space to move around the streets freely without the risk of getting run over as there was no traffic in the centre of the city. Even though it was one of the largest cities in Germany it didn't look that big because it was so open. The types of shops varied from the German version of Poundland to very expensive department stores. We ate German delicacies like Hotdogs, Meatballs and Mcflurries(!), to stop hunger striking until we got back to Göttingen. After two hours it was time to catch the train for the journey back to Göttingen."



"Today we made a visit to Berlin by train. It was very fast and comfortable. In Berlin we caught a local train to the city centre. We had a tour of the city. Berlin is a great city. It is extremely big and modern but also has a lot of landmarks including the Reichstag (German parliament), the Brandenburg gate, the victory column and many more. We visited the Reichstag and had to go through tight security. Next, we walked round the city and saw the university, the French cathedral and the German cathedral. We had three hours of shopping time - Berlin has hundreds

of shops and is a paradise for shoppers. It has every kind of shop that you could think of. There are various fast food outlets and restaurants, over one hundred and fifty theatres, over one hundred and seventy museums and over two hundred private galleries. We found the shops were very expensive, though. The day was very tiring but very good and I would recommend you visit Berlin as it is a great, enjoyable and educational city. Well worth it!"

"The best day in Germany was on Tim's birthday. Tim got lots of presents from his family friends and exchange partner. The day at school was just a normal day but after school Tim had a party and lots of people and their exchange partners went. The party started in the afternoon and went



on until quite late. We played frisbie and lost it. We played football and lost that too and had lots of delicious food like pizza bread and lots of soft drinks. The highlight of the party was when Tim came downstairs in his red dress which he was given as a birthday present by someone who will not be named. The dress got Tim a lot of attention from the German girls! Sadly the party had to end but everyone had a good time!"



In May the German students made a return visit to stay with their partners here in Gloucester. Mrs Testoni-Ranken writes ...

"Following the successful visit of our Year 10 students to Göttingen in March this year, it was now our turn to play host to our German exchange students and their teachers from the Otto-Hahn grammar school in Göttingen. The German students spent two mornings with their partners in school, attending lessons with them, and were very impressed. They had never seen so many exam tables set up in a hall before! They also enjoyed being welcomed by the Mayor of Gloucester and their visits to Gloucester Cathedral, London and Bristol. For Friday we organised a joint trip for our students and their German partners to the Wydean Canoe and Adventure Centre, where they had the opportunity to practise their team building skills, including abseiling, raft-building, canoeing and kayaking. The day ended with a great party for all students and their families at STRS. We have had some excellent exchanges over the years and this one was no exception and will undoubtedly strengthen yet further the long lasting friendship between the Otto-Hahn-Gymnasium and Sir Thomas Rich's, stretching back for some 26 years. It makes us look forward to the coming year, when our Year 10 pupils will again not only be able to enjoy visiting the University City of Göttingen but also take part in exciting day trips to Berlin, the beautiful Harz mountains and the award winning Hannover Zoo."



Beauty

The Beauty of God's earth surrounds me.

It's everywhere I look,
In old oaks, in country fields,
And in the winding brook.

It's in the snow-capped mountains,
In deserts far and wide,
In oceans deep and forests dense,
And in the countryside

But in this world of anger,
Of hate and of mistrust,
This beauty all gets tarnished,
By the same old painting brush.

Instead we see the ugly:
The flats, the motorways,
The graffitied playgrounds, heroin dens,
And dirty railways.

But what we must remember,
To forget would be a sin,
Is that beauty's on the inside too,
It comes from deep within.

An inquisitive mind,
Or an articulate tongue,
A book well written,
Or a hymn well sung,
A gleeful child,
A caring mother,
The love exchanged,
From brother to brother.

Beauty's around us everywhere,
We don't have far to go,
If you want to find it, indeed you will,
By searching high and low.

The beauty of God's earth surrounds us,
And it's easy enough to find,
If it's not apparent at first glance,
Then take a look inside.

By CJP Conway (L6T)



Kelly

The classic “you don’t know what you’ve got until it’s gone” story; I never thought it at the time, but Kelly was often my very best friend.

I remember when it had snowed heavily one year; she kept trying to eat the ice-cold powder, which smothered the ground. When I threw her a snowball she would go wild with excitement, scattering the snowball as she scrunched it up. Then I got the sledge out, however this was something she never could master! Kelly’s feet often covered over with snow and looked like “Jack Frost’s boots”, when we got home she stamped her feet to rid the snow she had acquired during the morning.

Another memorable moment was when Kelly learnt to swim. She hated getting wet, but being a family of water lovers we were not going to let her get away with that. So my Dad threw her favourite toys into a stream with a rope tied to each of them in the hope that she would jump in and fetch them. We tried everything: “Squeaky snowman”, “Porky pigs”, as you may have guessed it did not work, Kelly would stand shivering on the bank of the stream. In the end I think Dad just threw her in. Unorthodox? Well it worked, didn’t it? After that whenever there was water Kelly was in it: swimming, playing and generally having lots of fun.

“Kamikaze” was a regular adjective used to describe Kelly; on one occasion she apparently jumped off my parents’ boat while going down in a lock on the Llangollen canal. This would not have been bad if she had not been tangled in the mooring rope. As it was an emergency rescue commenced, which involved my Mum (who was eight months pregnant at the time) leaping out of the boat to undo the entwined ropes. Kelly was subdued for a mere five minutes! The boat proved to be an extremely hazardous place for Kelly; while going over an aqueduct on the aforementioned canal, she jumped out to run along side but she jumped onto the wrong side. Then found herself standing on a centimetre thick piece of wood with a hundred-foot drop to one side. My Dad saved the day by pulling her back in miraculously, only for Kelly to leap joyfully out the other side.

Kelly often made the beach more exciting by being too adventurous and would career headfirst into some gigantic holes. This is how we usually lost her, then hours of searching commenced. Kelly thought the waves were her personal playground and she would rampage in and out of the colossal walls of water in spectacular fashion. No-one was allowed to sit on the sand daydreaming, Kelly believed in living life for today; she would round us all up and race with us down the length of the beach.

Whenever I was bored or it was raining Kelly would always cheer me up by simply running around or bouncing on the sofa. She would always watch our favourite TV programmes with us and never demanded that we should change channel.

“Man’s best friend?” Yes, Kelly was of course our dog. We had her from seven weeks old, a small bouncing ball of golden fur. She shared our lives for fifteen fantabulous years, giving us much laughter, happiness and fun. Even at Christmas Kelly had her own presents to open around the tree. These she usually found by sniffing out the dog chews hidden among the other presents. She may not be with us now, but the memories will last for eternity.

Liam Newborough 9R



My Ideal Pet

When most people consider pets, they tend to stick to the more mundane perspective, which includes pets such as cats and dogs, or – for the more adventurous owner – a goldfish. These pets are boring. They are unoriginal and run-of-the-mill. The daily humdrums of life that will stultify you. But I am more original, more innovative, more exciting; which is why I propose that my ideal pet is a rock. Now many readers may be tempted to give up on this piece at this point, but I plead that you should not. For I am neither mad, nor crazy, deranged or demented, psychopathic or neurotic: I am perfectly well. So allow me to present the case for the rock in the race for the title 'the best pet of all time'.



Firstly we must consider living costs: the average pooch munches its way through several cans of expensive food, plus a large volume of biscuits in just one week. All traditional pets share this drawback because they all must consume nourishment to stay alive. However, the rock need not eat, so an immediate advantage of the rock is that it's cheap to care for. Of course, because the rock doesn't eat, it need not excrete: how many times have you returned home to discover Fido has left a slimy present exuding a nauseating stench on the formerly, squeaky clean kitchen floor?

With a rock the situation will never arise, providing us with our second advantage; rocks do not produce faeces.

Progressing to a third advantage, which I believe to be an extremely desirable one, we must consider death: think of all the times small children have had to bid farewell to their goldfish, as it is flushed away into oblivion in a cascade of colour and with a glister of gold. Hereafter will come the depression and despondency as the child suffers and realises their loss. With a rock – which cannot die – the child can avoid the grief. There will also be the additional advantage that one can defy the well-known 'a dog is for life not just for Christmas' saying, because one may replace one's rock whenever one has the urge. There are no laws, written or unwritten, stating that we must keep our rock forever, so there will be no guilt when we replace our old rock with a new one, as is bound to happen with the constantly changing passions of young people.

Herein we have two further advantages; rocks are invincible, and a new one can be picked up 'off the street' without expenditure, whenever.

So far I have put forward four feasible reasons which display the rock's suitability as an ideal pet, but still I am certain there will be some doubters out there. Some people will refuse to admit that a heartless rock is an improvement on good ol' Fido. My guess is that those people desire a pet that is soft, warm, and fluffy. So if you want to 'pet' your 'pet' (similarly to Lennie from 'Of Mice and Men') my advice to you is to go out into the big, wide world and search for a rock with some moss on it!

Joe Taunton

STRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTRSTR

A child's mind is not an empty vessel to be filled but a fire to be kindled - Plutarch

You see things; and you say 'Why?', but I dream things that never were:
and I say 'Why not?' - George Bernard Shaw



U14 Cricketers Gain Valuable Experience in Channel Island Tour

23-27 May 2005

A valuable learning experience. Judged merely on the results (2 losses and one draw) not a 'successful' tour. However, considering that both lost games were played against U15 opposition and how the Rich's boys measured up to their older adversaries, took them on and given the rub of the green might have easily reversed the final outcome of both matches, all bears testament to their strength of character and team spirit. When pitched against the Island U14 side Surman and his team looked head and shoulders above their opposite numbers but learned that not all sides will roll over and capitulate to some quick and at times hostile bowling but perhaps need to be coaxed into surrendering their wickets via gentler and more subtle means.



A Rustic
George Angell

An invaluable piece to fit into the jigsaw of cricketing experiences was the weather. The first game against Victoria College was played on a damp pitch in overcast conditions in which the ball swung prodigiously and often late. Runs were hard to come by but openers Latter (19) and Ellis did their job well and pieced together a 28 run opening stand in 10 overs. The rest of the top order looked to be coping with the vagaries of the moving and swinging ball as the Victoria College bowlers generally held a very good line and length but the batsmen, having got themselves in, were either removed by an unplayable delivery or slight over-confidence in their stroke play. Simon Guilor batted well for 17no and with a cameo knock from James Payne saw the total through to 86 and just a slight glimpse of hope.

An early breakthrough was needed and Ruxton provided this with Ellis taking a sharp catch at gully. Victoria's Chipperfield (40) then came to the crease and his innings and partnerships with McCabe and then De La Haye proved decisive. Surviving 2 very sharp half-chances he dashed any hopes Rich's had of further immediate breakthroughs. When Surman did eventually hold onto a sharp return catch, Victoria College were within 12 runs of victory. Another quick wicket and some nervous play by the new batsmen suggested that if Rich's had posted 120 runs the outcome might have been a lot different.



Opening Tour Match versus Victoria College



The second game against the Island U14 side was played in warm sunshine on a firm Les Quennevais pitch. Batting first Rich's notched up a commanding total of 142 for 7 (Ellis 48, Latter 21, Ruxton 28no). In reply, and with Ruxton and Surman both bowling with great speed, the Island side lost early wickets and only a gritty knock of 34no by Osman took their total to a respectable 117 for 7 at close. Although 7 bowlers were tried to winkle out the tail, Osman was allowed to keep most of the strike in the latter overs and one felt that a little more guile and less bluster might have won the day.

The final game of the tour was against De La Salle College on a very hot and sunny afternoon. Rich's again batted well and realised an opening stand of 80 runs before Latter fell for 30. Olly Ellis went on to reach his 50 before falling to the leg spin of Young, who bowled an inviting length and was rewarded with figures of 5 for 20 as the Rich's middle order tried to up the score rate. Niall Drury (22no) and Ben Griffiths (16no) reasserted control and boosted the total to 163 for 6 at the close.

Being a year older and hitting the ball that bit harder gave the De La Salle top order batsmen the edge and the quicker the Rich's bowlers tried to bowl the sooner the ball went to the boundary. With 48 off the first 6 overs the initiative had clearly swung De La Salle's way. The bowlers stuck to their guns though and Angell and Surman both took 2 wickets, thereby putting the brakes on the scoring. However, it only needed careful run accumulation now for De La Salle to secure victory which they did with 3 overs to spare.

Off the field the side were good ambassadors and thoroughly enjoyed the Jersey hospitality and scenery. Special thanks should be given to our hosts at Victoria College and De La Salle College and especially to Mr Doug Ferguson who arranged all our fixtures and made the tour a thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding one for both players and coaching staff alike. We also would like to thank the Jersey YHA and their staff who looked after us so well and provided excellent facilities and accommodation. We should also mention the Pizza Express in St Helier who fitted us in for a meal at very short notice with excellent food and service.



Touring Party

Players - Chris Surman, Oliver Ellis, Niall Drury, James Payne, Huw Arnold, Simon Guilor, Ben Fabbro, Sam Horder, Farhaan Shaikh, Ben Ruxton, Will Latter, George Angell, Ben Griffiths

Coaching Staff - Mr R Sims & Mr P Brown

Both U14 & U13 sides will be touring Jersey in May 2006



1st XI Cricket -- Captain's Report

The season was ultimately a very encouraging one. With a young, but talented squad, we built on last year's progress and produced some good cricket in parts. As ever, the weather beat us on several occasions this season, with three games called off due to rain. However, we did manage to play three very entertaining games ...

Our opening match was against a very strong King's side, away at Archdeacon Meadow. We battled hard in the field and our bowlers stuck to their task, with particularly fine performances from Max Gibbons and Peter Blencowe, who bowled tirelessly throughout the innings. Our batting was found to be wanting, but despite an initial collapse the school recovered and for sometime it appeared that victory was imminent. However, our inexperience let us down at the final hurdle as we lost by one run. The result was encouraging none the less, and boded well for the games to come.

Our next game was away at the immaculately prepared pitches of Rencomb College, Cirencester. Once again we put the opposition in to bat, on a green wicket with overcast conditions. With a predominantly swing attack this seemed the logical decision and it worked well with Alex Winter and Lewis Barnard bowling excellently. They were well supported by Gibbons, Blencowe and Celyn Richards, who made his first team debut. This fearsome swing attack caused the Rencomb line up to slump, before some rearguard action saw them post an acceptable score. A positive opening from Downes and Barnard was undone by some smart bowling and sharp fielding, but some good batting from the Rich's middle order allowed Harry Windsor to hit the winning runs with two overs to spare.

Our final game of the season saw us play Marling away. With an alternative 1st XI on display, due to upper sixth and year eleven exams, the line up comprised totally of lower sixth players. But in no way did this affect the quality of the team. Put in to bat on a hard wicket we batted steadily and sensibly with a resilient batting display from opener Timothy Meadows. However, the opposition's good bowling was rewarded with some quick wickets and Rich's looked to be struggling. But a slight come back was made as Laurie Roberts played an excellent, defiant knock, and allowed Tommies to post a score which was defendable. The Rich's bowling attack, strengthened by the addition of Husaifa Pandor, made early inroads but despite good bowling from Nick Davies and Stuart Rushworth, the task of bowling out the opposition was too tough.

The funniest moment of the season came in the Marling match when Anthony Banks was brought on to bowl. His first ball was released at an almost vertical trajectory and preceded to bounce once, in the middle of the pitch, and again about four feet from the batsman, at which point the batsman, fighting back the tears of laughter, rocked back and pulled the ball over square leg for six. (It must be duly noted for the record that the rest of Bank's over was bowled superbly and no further runs were scored)

Mention must be made to the three Upper Sixth who played their final matches for Rich's this year: Tom Roberts, Simon Moody and Max Gibbons, who should all be thanked for their service to the school cricket team for many years.

All in all the season was very encouraging and much can be taken from it. It bodes well for next year, where an older and more experienced squad should be able to reap the rewards of the lessons learned this year. So, in the year when England won the Ashes, and cricket nationwide is thriving, the same can be said of cricket here at Sir Thomas Rich's.

Ciarán Conway (L6T)



STRS Junior Cricket Scorecard

With an unforgettable Ashes series just beginning to unfold, the Rich's junior sides yet again defined their relative supremacy in local schools cricket. Here are some of the end of season roundups and match reports ...

U15 XI - P7, W2, D1, L4

This was a strong batting team that rarely failed in the middle, but one that lacked the bowling to dismiss or even contain good opposition. Will Alder and Alistair Cupper scored heavily and consistently, ably supported by Callum Broady. Will averaged over 50 with 112 against Wycliffe the highlight of the season, leaving Will as the proud recipient of the School's Century Cup. Alistair scored nearly 300 runs, playing impressively straight and running his singles, clearly benefiting from the experience of adult weekend cricket. Callum scored 150 runs, playing correctly and powerfully but often perishing in the cause of acceleration.

Joseph Conway was the pick of the bowlers, fast, hostile and accurate but he didn't capture many wickets, sometimes on account of appalling missed catches. Callum Broady bowled intelligent and accurate off-spin, but the remaining bowlers lacked control so that sides scored too many against us.

Will Alder captained the side with intelligence and he commanded the respect of his team. It is not easy to set a field to poor bowling when a batsman is dominating, but at times, he was too passive in his field setting, allowing the opposition to dictate.

Above all, this was an enjoyable group to coach and enjoyment of any game is paramount. *(N D Pitel)*

Unbeaten Season for U13s

P8, W7, D1, L0

The highlight to a fantastic season has been the team winning the Gloucester City Rotary Cup against Churchdown. In the final they notched up an impressive 176 for the loss of only four wickets, with four batsmen retiring under the 25 run rule! Churchdown could not get anywhere near this total as the Rich's bowlers and fielders exercised a tight control and discipline.

The team was undefeated throughout the season, winning seven of their matches and drawing one. They have displayed excellent commitment, team spirit and strength in depth. The squad has expanded and can boast seventeen players, all enthusiastically contesting for places. This is excellent news for the future and it has been noticeable in matches that the team does not just rely on a few individuals. It has been a total, collective team effort, with all players contributing at critical times and leaving team coach Mr Lloyd with a pleasing dilemma of who to select or who to bowl. In fact the team's successes can be well attributed to Mr Lloyd's encouraging and committed approach, making sure that players remained focused in matches and continued to develop their own cricketing skills.



Will Alder receives the Centurion Cup from Gloucestershire CCC's Grant Hodnett





U13 Side with Guest of Honour Grant Hodnett & Rotary City Challenge Trophy

U14 Cricketers Make It 3 Years in Succession!

P13, W8, D2, L3

For the third year in a row Chris Surman (pictured above receiving the U14 Cup from Rotarian and Umpire Colin Dunford) and his talented team lifted the Rotary City Challenge Cup. On a splendid hot summer's evening at the King's School Archdeacon Meadow ground some excellent cricket was on show as Rich's battled with Beaufort. Batting first Rich's scored 99 for 3, contained by some very positive and tidy bowling and excellent fielding by Beaufort. Chris Surman and Olly Ellis both reached the retirement score of 25no with Ben Griffiths finishing on 22no. J Averis (2 for 18) was Beaufort's most successful bowler.



Rich's opening bowlers of Simon Guilor (2 for 11) and Ben Ruxton (4 for 12) then all but blasted away the Beaufort reply - their 8 over stint leaving Beaufort reeling on 23 for 7. T Stannard had different ideas and played a very commanding knock of 31 while marshalling the remaining tail-enders to threaten the Rich's total. James Payne's well flighted off-spin however provided the coup de grace, taking the last 3 wickets for 14 runs, leaving Rich's a 24 run winning margin. This means they have been winners of this competition at U12, U13 & U14 levels – a worthy feat and indicative of the mature



attitude this squad takes with them every time they step onto the field. Well done to Chris and his team!

They also managed to win through to the County Final of the Lord's Taverners competition and a showdown with Cheltenham College. The first attempt to complete the final ended in a damp July downpour; the subsequent rescheduled match in early September found much more favourable conditions. Lack of regular cricket during the summer holidays was evident in both sides' play though and in the end it was Cheltenham who were less affected.

It was one of those games decided in a key moment - in this case the wicket of Surman followed immediately by the needless run-out of Ruxton. Having shown character to contain the Cheltenham batsmen when they looked like cutting loose, we made a slow but steady start whittling down the 180 total. Just as we were asserting our control over the bowling, bringing the run-rate down to below the 6-an-over asking rate, the Cheltenham boys (and staff!) beginning to panic, the pendulum was swung right round by a double blow when an extremely comfortable looking Chris Surman was caught hitting hard through gully (one of those that just sticks or takes your fingers off as it whistles to the boundary rope for four!) followed immediately by Ruxton's needless run out. A couple of tight overs against the new batsmen and suddenly Rich's found themselves rapidly losing touch. Drury and Ellis (50) managed to find the fielders, now all spread around the boundary, and the lower order batsmen adopted a slightly naïve slog-at-all-costs approach which could only result in one outcome - victory for Cheltenham.

In the end, disappointing and disappointed - we had the game in our hands only to give it up in the space of a couple of deliveries.

All in all this talented side produced yet another successful season. Their tour to Jersey was a very good experience and although it included the team's other two defeats they were in games against two of the island's college U15 sides.

To highlight any one individual's performances is unfair to the rest of the team but I would like to point out the continuing progress of everybody in developing their own game skills and note for the encouragement of others that this year saw the inclusion of new players in the squad who have brought greater depth and fresh dimensions.

U12 XI - P11, W9, D1, L1

A very successful season, which highlighted the strength of this promising young side. The only weakness is fragility in their batting line-up, which unfortunately was exposed badly in the City Challenge Cup final, when they lost their only game of the season against Crypt.

They quickly bounced back however to beat a tidy Rednock side in the County Competition and secure a place next year in the Regional Knockout stages of the David English/Bunbury Cup National U12/13 Cricket Competition.

Batting first skipper Daughtrey and Ben Conway negotiated the new ball and posted what turned out to be a match winning opening stand of 43. For, as the new ball quickly lost its hardness and shine, its bounce became ever lower, making run scoring ever more difficult as the match went



Amit Patel

Weaver of the magic art of well flighted spin



on. At the close of their innings, Rich's had moved their score onto 88 for 7, thanks mainly to Miller (11) and Tremlett (8) who held the middle order together as the Rednock bowlers, particularly S Dakin with 3 for 11, started to gain control.

A tight opening spell by Tremlett and Daughtrey, who nipped out the key batsmen Fraser and Malpas, set the stage for Amit Patel. His well-flighted and sharp-turning 'Chinamen' bamboozled the Rednock batsmen and suddenly the score was on 20 for 5 with 12 overs gone. Patel 4 overs, 3 maidens, 3 wickets for 3 runs.

The tail tried to wag but Hiram, Miller and Conway - backed up by some very good ground fielding - kept the scoring within check and Rich's ran out comfortable winners by 38 runs.

Special thanks to Frocester CC for allowing us to stage the final on their 'Seconds' ground, which provided a splendid setting for a thoroughly enjoyable and entertaining match.

Key performer throughout the season was skipper Andy Daughtrey, who marshalled his players well and lead from the front with some impressive bowling and batting. Of special note his 6 wickets for 4 runs against Pates. He was ably supported by Ben Conway's batting and Amit Patel's 'Chinaman' bowling – "sheer poetry" according to team coach Mr P Brown.

All augers well for the future – this side has the potential to do really well, assuming they maintain their totally committed attitude and the middle order batsmen work hard to improve their technique.



U12 County Winners

C Hiram, L Moore, E Watson, B Conway, D Cave, W McKemey, O Chapple
T Tremlett, A Daughtrey (Captain), A Patel, G Jackson
R Miller, J Brown



Staff Leaving -- July 2005

We bade fond farewells to 3 valued and valuable members of staff at the end of the summer term ...



Mrs Elizabeth R Stanley

After 10 years here at Tommy's, Mrs Stanley's total commitment to school life as well as her teaching in English and Drama will only truly be missed once she has left. Mrs Stanley says, "I'm sure I'll have lots of positive experiences at Thomas Keble, the school I'm moving to. Ten years at Sir Thomas Rich's has given me a great many wonderful experiences and many happy memories."



Miss Michelle Lucas

Miss Lucas has taught Geography with us for 3 years and now plans to take some time out doing some extended field research. Her plans are to travel for 9 months around the world, specifically SE Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and the United States. She then intends to move permanently 'down-under' to carry on her teaching in Sydney. We wish her well ... and expect a few postcards from exotic places next year!!



Mr Alan Peffers

Mr Peffers leaves us after 7 years in the Design & Technology Department. He brought to his teaching his wide experiences of the engineering world as well as a cheery smile and laconic sense of humour. He moves on to a Head of Department role at Pates, where I'm sure his expressive choice of neck tie will be equally appreciated!



Adiós - Auf Wiedersehen - Au Revoir!!

We also said farewell to our three hard-working Language Assistants Finney Torrecillas, Rene Averdick and Maria Rodríguez. Although only with us for a year, they have become a major part of our sixth form language provision, helping our students to develop particularly their speaking and listening skills, as well as giving a broader perspective on their respective countries and current affairs therein.

We wish them well in their future studies and the careers they subsequently choose to pursue.

Buena Suerta! -- Viel Glück! -- Bon Chance! -- Good Luck!



Ten things I like about you (in no particular order) ...

I've loved doing the school productions and I've loved the support I've had in doing them.

I've loved being Head of Eastgate. Remember, everyone - "Winning isn't everything, but losing isn't anything".

I've loved running Esperanto Club and making new friends all over the world.

I've loved running House Drama and seeing the wonderful creativity of the students involved.

I've loved throwing poetry parties with my sixth-formers. I will miss teaching sixth form.

I've loved the RE roundabout which has enabled me to get to know whole year groups (and the Drama roundabout has done this sometimes, too.)

I've loved being a form tutor. Remember that the secret of success in life is a well-stocked pencil-case.

I've loved working with a diverse and hugely talented group of people.

I've loved learning how to use a computer. Many thanks to all my mentors/rescuers.

I've loved hearing lots of compliments about our pupils.

I'm sure I'll have lots of positive experiences at Thomas Keble, the school I'm moving to. Ten years at Sir Thomas Rich's has given me a great many wonderful experiences and many happy memories. I'm not moving to the ends of the Earth (Thomas Keble is in Eastcombe, near Stroud), so I expect I'll still see some of you around.

Elizabeth R Stanley

Photograph Competition

The rules are simple - your photos must have a connection with STRS.

Digital, transparency, print - any format.

Get snapping!!

Categories - People & Places, Sports & Activities, Vistas & Views.

Send your offerings to-

The Richian Photo Competition

c/o Sir Thomas Rich's School

Closing Date - 30th May 2006

Best entries and Prize Winners will be published on the school website :

www.strs.org.uk



The Second Chance

I stand alone in that room; it is empty now.

I look at the ocean of plastic chairs before me,
And think of all the thousands who have sat there;
Of my friends who sat as boys,
Nervous on their first tenuous days in the front row.

They are men now - as I have only ever known them.
The laughs, the fears, the emotions drained into that wooden floor
While I sat some 18 miles away gathering dust
On the floor of another such room.
They didn't know me and I didn't know them
But now it seems as if we never knew any different.

Behind me is a board.

Of names I never knew and spaces for people I will never meet;
For what I am to this room is just a fleeting second.
Just like that board, my name never worn outside that other room
Where my other friends' names ordain but I am absent.

As if I never were.

In this room, the stress mounted as a hundred tables
Bore the weight of a year's worth of work.
Desperate for marks we fought with our pens,
Just like I did in that other room.

As anyone would.

In a year from now I might never see this room again.
Never again perform to audiences on last nights.
As I do here and did there.

But will this room remember me?

I walk out and brush shoulders with a friend, exchanging greetings.
I never did that in that other room.

And I turn the corner to a group of people
Who in less than a year have come to mean the world to me.

Maybe that room won't remember me but those people will
- not like those others.

That's what made my day and made my year.

Never have I been as happy as I am now,
Long may it live eternal - so I smile
And pass another friend beaming my joy back at them.

I don't deserve them.

But thank God, they've given me a second chance.



Annual Report of 44th Gloucester (STRS) Explorer Scout Unit September 2004 to August 2005 -- A Golden Year!

44th

Highlight of this memorable year must surely be the progression of four of our members to Queen's Scout, on the way picking up the much-coveted Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.

Now that the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme forms the core of the Scout Training Programme, the opportunity to be 'doubly rewarded' is in fact made more straightforward for Explorer Scouts. (This is yet another instance where the Scout Movement has caught up with the 44th - we've been doing this for years!)

So a very big "Well Done!" to Sam Coe, Chris Gallant, Samuel Johnson and Adam Lewis. At a special assembly the County Scout Commissioner for Gloucestershire Mrs Joan



Goldsmith presented the lads with their award lapel badges. They will in due course receive their Gold Award certificates at the Duke of Edinburgh national presentation ceremony at either St James Palace or Buckingham Palace.

Looking back over the year what is evident is the commitment these four, together with their peers, have for the 44th. And although having such a large proportion of the unit from a single year group frequently presents problems of recruiting and retaining members from the years immediately below, this issue was clearly recognised and has been addressed wholeheartedly by the current U6 members. They have encouraged several new members from year 9 (who will now form the core of the unit) and left their successors on the Executive a large band of interested prospective members in year 8.

So what did we get up to this year?

The first of the 'new-look' six terms sped by in a flurry of activities. The unit welcomed several new members to its ranks - they appear to be enjoying our own unique brand of scouting - they're still with us and active!



Samuel, Sam, Chris & Adam with Keith the Gold Expedition Assessor

Much of the programme this year was organised by our senior members to 'gently break in' the newcomers to our ways and introduce them to the traditions and expectations of the unit. We welcomed back Jason Stone for a night of navigation and mapping skills (Rich Young had a barrel of laughs when he eventually retrieved his mobile - hope it dried out OK Rich!). We focused on expedition and hiking planning issues and enjoyed a dark cold evening finding out how different - and difficult! - it is to navigate unfamiliar routes in the dark recesses of a wooded Welsh valley. All this



as preparation for an overnight expedition in the Forest of Dean during October half term.

Having motivated and then walked with the group, Sam Coe and Samuel Johnson then took off to the Peak District with Chris Gallant and Adam Lewis to complete their Gold Expedition hike.

Yet again the 44th showed its support for the National Meningitis Trust by tackling the Five Valleys Walk, with several members setting out early Sunday morning to traverse the valleys that radiate out from Stroud. The weather was fair - a grey cool morning giving to a pleasant but not too warm sunny afternoon. The fine scenery and views were enjoyed and much happy banter was exchanged with fellow walkers



along the way. The now traditional home-made cake and coffee stop at Honey Hill was especially welcome and the only setback of the day was IJG's altercation with a doggy gate which painfully tried to guillotine his middle finger.

We raised around £220 for the National Meningitis Trust.

Dragon Boat Races at South Cerney are for us now an annual event. Making up the major part (12 crewmen from 20) of the Gloucester District Boat, we had a close fought contest with a Marling School crew, eventually conceding 1st place to them by a mere couple of seconds. Yet again it was an enjoyable day out on the lakes, blessed by warm autumnal sun and good camaraderie.

The Cotswold Marathon was for us a low key affair this year - ie we didn't sweep the medals ceremony! Pete Lloyd took his team around the 38 miles in around 7 hours again to retain the Lowery Trophy and although several of us posted times ahead of the rest of the field, we didn't qualify for any of the category trophies. Still, it's not the winning that's important, it's the taking part! A bit hard to swallow for our juniors though who came in 90 minutes ahead of the following team but were left wondering why they weren't called up to collect the cup from Joan Goldsmith. Later inquiry revealed that because one of the team's birthday was on the wrong side of the marathon date, that precluded them from winning the trophy; a point certainly not clarified on the entry forms, which seemed to imply the usual interpretation of age as relating to the school year group.

Our sponsorship and fund raising efforts, with two well-run Quiz Nights (thanks especially to Chris Gallant), enabled us to send off cheques totalling in excess of £900 to charities. These were - Meningitis Trust, Crack Cancer Campaign, PMM School Uganda, Chariot for Jack, The Project Trust. This is an extremely laudable effort on the part of the boys in the unit - something that is not always recognised by the school.



We need to ensure that the transition to a new team of organisers for the Quiz Night keeps the event a successful one and a regular feature in the school's calendar.

As usual the summer term suddenly became fraught with exams but although so many of the unit were tied up with A levels, Friday night meetings were still well attended, although activities were a little less 'structured' or 'directed'.

During half term six of the unit's year 9 members planned and successfully completed a hike for their bronze award expedition. Stephen, Gareth, Andrew, Will, Josh & Kit, with their assessors Sam & Samuel in tow, set off from Tibberton along the



Gloucestershire Way, finishing up the following day on schedule at Speech House in the Forest of Dean. Their overnight stop was at Abenhall, where Dan Wright and Gavin Jones introduced them to some of the joys of bushcraft and survival - the focus of their trip.

Along the way Josh managed to fracture his ankle(!) but this didn't stop him from completing the hike. They built their own shelter, were taught how to make and build a fire which they used to cook some of the edible plants and seeds they collected, and were treated to some glorious sunset views. It proved a good experience for them all.



And finally, our summer expedition was to southwest Eire - Beara & Kerry. A good time enjoying the craich - we also welcomed Rachael Brown back as head cook and bottle washer; she was managing the catering to qualify for her Residential section of her Gold Award.

One thing that I am especially grateful for this year was the insistence of Mr Tim Young (our secretary Rich's dad) to give our hut a new ceiling. He spent a week in July ripping out the old and sadly

dilapidated suspended ceiling to replace it with a splendid chipboard version, with insulation, and in the process rewiring and installing new light units. The hut now has a cosier ambience and should remain warm and snug during the cold winter evenings. Our heartfelt thanks Tim! It just remains now to fix up that water supply

One of the strengths of the 44th at present is its leadership team. I always marvelled at how Frank Henderson used to dedicate almost single-handedly his time, efforts, money and van(!) to the life of the unit. I thank Pete Lloyd for his hard-working support and valued friendship and now that Adam Griffiths has settled in Gloucestershire and the District have finally endorsed his warrant, the 44th has 3 Explorer Scout Leaders as well as 3 specialist Instructors and a Helper.

A very healthy state of affairs indeed!

Being financially sound, with a good leadership team and what promises to be a full influx of new members the future prospects for the 44th Gloucester (STRS) Explorer Scout Unit appear bright. If we live up to the achievements of the outgoing Exec and their peers then we can be justly proud of ourselves.

Phil Brown (ESL)



Old Richians' Association

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2005

It has been a great privilege to be the President of the Old Richians over the last two years. It has brought my school life full circle, from an uncertain ten-year-old schoolboy in 1942 to an ancient 73-year-old ex-schoolboy in 2005. In 1942 even though the school was poor in terms of the buildings and facilities it was rich in spirit and tradition. Now the school is splendidly equipped but the spirit is identical.

The main problem during my tenure has been the attack on grammar schools by certain envious persons in the Council. As a result of a commendable effort on the part of parents, staff and ex-pupils the attack was thwarted or at least delayed until the ruling party changed colour. This does not mean the end of the danger. We must be alert to any further efforts to destroy our great schools.

This year's annual dinner was, as usual, most enjoyable. It was a pity that more Old Richians could not attend but I think that this sort of thing is cyclical and is common in other organisations that I am involved with. Perhaps that is the clue - it's my malign influence! As time passes however, people become more nostalgic for their past youth and I am sure that the membership will once again burgeon. Meanwhile the committee should stay calm and maintain the high standard of stewardship that it has shown in the past. My thanks to all of you.

I was most pleased to see that Tommy's did so well in this year's national examinations. We improve year on year and I congratulate the staff and students on their efforts.

I have enjoyed my Presidency and I hand over to my successor with the knowledge that he too will be able to say the same thing two years hence.

Garde ta Foy!

Robby Robinson - President

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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 - so please don't shoot the messenger if the message contains any errors!!

[illegible]

ETHERIDGE Michael S (1986-1993) Is married and lives in Haverhill Suffolk where until recently he has been an RE teacher in a local comprehensive school. In 2005 Michael successfully candidate for the Methodist ministry and in October started his Foundation training at Wesley House Cambridge. As part of his studies he has served a placement in September 2005 at what is regarded as the mother church of world Methodism, Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission on the City Road London. The senior minister is the well-known former President of the Methodist Conference, broadcaster and Life Peer Dr Leslie Griffiths. The church was opened in 1778 but is far from being a dead museum having over 300 registered members from approximately 25 different ethnic and national backgrounds.



GARDINER Robert (Bob) (1958-1963) was elected Sheriff and Deputy Mayor of Gloucester in May 2005. Bob spent all his working life in local government first at the Gloucestershire County and then with Gloucester City Council where until his retirement in 1999 he was the Electoral Registration Officer. In May 2002 Bob returned to North Warehouse when he was elected to represent the Abbey Ward as a Conservative Councillor. He currently serves on the Scrutiny Committee Number 2, Regeneration Scrutiny, Planning Committee, Licensing and Enforcement, Electoral Working Party and Council Tax and Housing Benefit Review Board. He is particularly interested in the areas of Highways & Transport and the Environment.

Married to Helen, Bob has two grown up children and for many years played both football and cricket in local leagues but now restricts his sporting activity to playing skittles in the Gloucester City League.

E-mail: robert.gardiner@gloucester.gov.uk

GODWIN William D (1995-2002) Former School Captain Will has passed out from The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. Almost his last act was to take part in the famous Sovereign's Parade held this year on the 12th August 2005 with the salute being taken by HM the King of Malaysia, himself a Sandhurst graduate. Will is now commissioned as a Second Lieutenant with the Gurkhas with whom he has been training in Brecon prior to deployment overseas before Christmas.

HOOK Gordon N (1957-1965) In the May 2005 Devon County Council elections which saw the Liberal Democrats take control of the Council, Gordon was elected as a Lib-Dem with over 52% of the vote to represent Newton Abbot South.

E-mail: Gordon@captainhook.freemove.co.uk

HOSKIN Revd David (1961-1968) David is still Rural Dean of Beverley and Vicar of St Mary's, Beverley. He is now also a Canon of York - *"an honorary appointment generally given for long service and tolerably good conduct. Friends will already know that I am married to Jan, and that we have two grown up children. Stephanie is a primary school teacher living in Cambridge, and Christopher is a Chartered Engineer with the railway industry in Glasgow."*

E-mail: david@hoskin.uk.net

HUGHES Brian H (Bill) (1944-1951) Brian was due to be elected the Association's new President in September 2005 and so we asked him for a bit of biography for the Richian

Born at Westbury-on-Severn he attended Churcham School and then entered STRS in September 1944 as one of the last fee-payers before the 1944 Education Act came into force. Left school in the summer of 1951 to do National Service in the RAF for two years, most of which was spent at RAF Innsworth and Records Office in Eastern Avenue. In 1953 went to St Luke's College Exeter to train for teaching after which he took posts in non-selective, selective and comprehensive schools in Plymouth. It was here that he played his most serious cricket at the Plymouth CC. In 1968 appointed deputy head in a High School in Kenilworth Warwickshire and graduated at Leicester



University in 1975. After reorganisation of the three schools in Kenilworth into one school, became head of one of the three sites and deputy head of what became Kenilworth School. After further internal reorganisation took early retirement in 1991. After a short spell living in the Lake District moved to King's Lynn in Norfolk where he joined Probus and became secretary of the Cricket Lovers Society being entertained regularly by many former County and Test cricketers. Married to Mary they have one daughter and two sons. Other interests include serious gardening, golf and long-distance walking (Coast to Coast, West Highland Way, Southern Uplands Way) which he took up after retirement from cricket. Travels have included Australia and New Zealand where he has met up with Old Richian John Budding (1945-1950) and with whom he is in regular e-mail contact. Another Old Richian he has met up with is Michael Pomeroy (1945-1952) a retired pharmacist living in Winchester.

E-mail: mrbh.hughes@virgin.net

HYETT Grahame F J (1944-1950) Grahame wrote to the Association from Spain to update us on what he has been doing. He had previously lived in Cornwall but moved with his wife Elsie to Norfolk in 2000 to be near to her daughter and new grandson. Sadly Elsie died of cancer and Grahame moved to Alicante where he has lived since October 2002 with his partner Nancy. He writes *"It is quite pleasant there mainly because we can afford it on our state pensions!"* They return to the UK twice a year to keep in touch with friends and relatives and to be in their mobile home in Cornwall. Nancy has a son in Lydney and their visit coincided with the Old Richians AGM which he attended as his friend Bill Hughes was being elected as President. *"He remembered me by my backside, from playing in the back row of the scrum when I was in the second row! The future of the Association is important to me despite living out of the Country."* He writes *"I remember being in Ted Veale's study on the Committee with my father as President, it was then very much part of school life"* he goes on to express the hope that this can again be the case *"Something must be done!"*

KEY Matthew (1995-2002) Former School Captain wrote to us that he had *"recently finished reading geography at Oxford, having had a fantastic three years. During university I particularly got involved in the Exploration Club - which encouraged me to go to Iceland twice and play on the glaciers - and the Christian Union, which has given me some amazing friends. I'm staying in Oxford for at least another year, working for my church there (St Aldates C of E). They run a programme for about ten students every year to help out with the activities of the church - I will mainly be involved in children's work. We get a house to live in and some money for food so it looks set to be a great year!"*

E-mail: matthewjkey@gmail.com

LANGLEY Adam (1995-2002) graduated from Imperial College London this summer with a First in Maths & Computing. He is now working in the States for an undisclosed remuneration with the internet giant Google.

LOW James (1998-2000) After a memorable time at STRS James spent a *"fantastic"* three years at Durham University obtaining a BA 2.1 Honours in Politics & Economics.



He was accepted into the Metropolitan Police during his second year at university. After graduation but before starting training at Hendon he took a break and went to Mexico and Guatemala for a couple months. James got engaged to his fiancée Katy after leaving university in 2003. They both moved to Islington in London where he worked at Holborn Police Station and Katy worked in the city as an investment analyst. In June 2005 they bought their first house in Hertfordshire and plan to be married in August 2006. James continues to work in Central London as a member of the emergency response team and front line medic. At the time of writing James had recently completed his probationer exams earning a distinction and has applied to do a Masters in Criminology at Cambridge University to develop a career in the police service.

E-mail: jameslow15@ntlworld.com

MARSHALL Walter (1930s) The Association was very sorry to hear of the death of Walter in May of this year at the age of 85. He was remembered by his contemporary Bill Hook as *"being a big lad who came in to school from Ashleworth."* Walter appeared in a photograph of Rich's Observers from the 1930s which was published in the Citizen in April this year. The photograph also appears on the Association web site. Walter left Rich's for the Metropolitan Police where he served in the West Ham Division, also becoming a keen West Ham football supporter. The Association was contacted by Walter's son-in-law who wrote *"Walter died leaving his widow Vera to whom he was happily married for 63 years, they had three lovely daughters and 7 grandchildren. Walter was a policeman for much of his working life and rose to the rank of Inspector; after he retired from the police force he had a successful career as a mathematics teacher. He never forgot his country upbringing and he always enjoyed gardening and carpentry. He was a lovely man and a wonderful father and indeed father-in-law, he will be sorely missed by us all."* Walter regularly attended the Annual Dinner and his family wanted the Association to be notified of his death because of the importance to him of his old school. His son-in-law wrote that *"he was very proud of his time at school and always remembered his time there fondly."*

MOODY John B (1949-1954) John left Rich's and joined the Gloucestershire Constabulary as a Police Cadet, having the distinction of being the last Cadet to be called up for National Service. He served thirty years as a Police Officer in the Gloucestershire then Avon & Somerset forces. On retiring John became an Enforcement Officer with Avon County Council and then the Environment Agency dealing with the control of pollution. John lives in Yate near Bristol and has been married for just over forty-four years and has two children, a daughter and son, who is a Customs Officer. He and his wife have two grandchildren one who is fifteen the other eighteen months. John retired in September 2003 but still finds plenty of things to do wondering at times how he used to find time to go to work! He is a Civilian Instructor with the local Squadron of the Air Training Corps having been persuaded by his son to attend for *"only for one evening"* some twenty three years ago! In addition John was recently elected a Church Warden at Yate Parish Church. Whilst at Tommy's John was friendly with John Dee, Paddy Sharpe, Barry Du Murchn (believed to live in South Africa) and Geoff Stonier who became a Baptist minister and with whom he lost touch in 1960.



PHILLIPS Alexandra (2000-2002) graduated this July from Durham university with a First Class Honours in English.

PROUSE Andy (1985-1992) Andy and Natasha are pleased to announce the arrival of their first child, Samuel Joseph, on 29th June 2005. All are very well and Samuel is already in training for the Rich's entrance exam!

E-mail: andyprouse@supanet.com

RAWCLIFFE Rt Revd Derek (1929-1939) Contacted the Association earlier in the year commending the recently received Richian Magazine *"..which is excellent. The photos and the artwork in themselves are really great. In my time at school we never had the chance to do artwork like that which appears in every issue of the magazine."* He continued *"As I write this I have before me two copies of the school magazine from 1937 and 1938. I kept them because there was something of mine in both of them; there are also photos (black and white, of course) of the cricket teams, with Bill Hook as the vice-captain of the first eleven - the captain was Dennis Condict, who was killed during the war. But those old magazines don't bear to be compared with the present day ones. Though I expect you could say the same of a lot of periodicals too. News of myself? Still retired, still doing lots of things. My new book of poems, called 'The White Blackbird' has at last recently come out. I am still in pretty good health. Last October-December 2004 I went back for a visit to the South Pacific, where I spent 32 years of my ministry in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu (formerly the New Hebrides). I was asked to write a book about the visit. When that will come out I don't know but the manuscript has gone to the Melanesian Mission, who asked me to write it."*

E-mail: derek@derekrawcliffe.me.uk

ROBERTS Elizabeth (1995-1997) The Association received news in October from Elizabeth updating us on what she has been doing since College. She writes that *"After graduating from Birmingham University I took up a traineeship on the Basingstoke Gazette newspaper in Hampshire, where I held a number of positions including Environment Reporter, Crime Reporter and Chief Reporter. I left in Sept 2005 to work as a reporter on the Royal Gazette, the national newspaper of Bermuda. I am currently living in Hamilton, and enjoying the sunshine and the laid-back lifestyle. It would be lovely to hear from any fellow Old Richians living in this part of the world."*

E-mail: robertse41@yahoo.co.uk

ROBINSON J A (Robby) (1942-1950) After 50 years of flying our President now claims to be living the life of an impoverished author. *"Having written some six books I, at last, have one being published 'Avro One' which covers my ten years at BAe Woodford, the last six as chief test pilot. The launch is in the first week of October. I have two more to follow, one covering my time at Tommy's."* Robby ended his note *"I have enjoyed my two years as President of the Old Richians' Association and hand over to my successor Brian Hughes with my best wishes."*



E-mail: crustyandflo@yahoo.co.uk

STANLEY Rose (1999-2001) Finished her degree in modern languages at Oxford obtaining a 2.1 Honours. Now living in London and doing a PGCE (Primary with French specialism) at Goldsmith's College.

SULLIVAN Peter H (1974-1981) Peter is married and lives in Churchdown where he is a gardener. In April of 2005 he was featured in an article in the Citizen following the publication of his first book entitled 'A Gloucester Martyr' on the life of Gloucester's second bishop, John Hooper, who was burnt at the stake in 1555. Peter was inspired to write the book after completing a diploma in theology at the Open Theology College in Cheltenham. As the current Bishop of Gloucester Michael Perham says in his introduction to the book, *"We owe Pete Sullivan a debt of gratitude for retelling John Hooper's story at the time of the 450th anniversary of his death"*. 'A Gloucester Martyr - John Hooper and the English Reformation' by Pete Sullivan, 2004, pp.128, illustrated, ISBN 1-872597-01-7, County Books, £6.99

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only about an hour away from the mountains so have been doing a fair bit of climbing as well. I haven't much planned for when I return apart from I think I have a job as senior sales at the outdoor shop Kathmandu in London ... hopefully anyway! I am in



the process of arranging a trip to climb Aconcagua in Argentina in February 2006, so hopefully that will work out well. I have just checked out the website and it's really good, brought back loads of good old memories (glad the hut looks the same as ever!!!) Say 'Hi' to everyone I know there and hopefully catch up soon. I have attached a few photos of my area in NZ ... the wild man in the shot above is brother Andy!

Apparently Andy has discovered a previously unknown volcano (extinct) hiding under the ice sheet he has been studying in Antarctica. He'll be back in the UK during the autumn combining work and pleasure - giving talks on his findings to the scientific community in between touring around the UK with his fiancée - a Kiwi lass. Andy will be returning to New Zealand around Christmas before heading out to Antarctica again in the New Year for more detailed surveys - his own project this time.



And for those of you who use these pages to follow the escapades of that Man of Action, Daniel Wright, here is this year's update

Christmas 2004 saw the successful completion of his camel trek across northern India and into Nepal. Always seeking a new challenge, and having got over missing his camels, Dan has been busy down in the Forest of Dean setting up a survival school - *ABC Survival*. Some of his first "guinea-pigs" were from the school's Explorer Scout Unit, a group of year 9 members who stopped over on their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition. They were shown how rig up a simple but effective overnight shelter, build and light a fire, collect and cook some basic foodstuffs from the immediate woodland. We wish Dan and his co-director Gavin Jones every success in their new venture.

For further information log onto: www.abc-survival.co.uk



Having filled several pages with his writings in last year's Richian, Sam Coe was not to be denied an entry in this year's edition, even though this meant bombarding the editor with many sheets of closely written air mail pages from deepest Guyana (South America - MAS please note!!). Sam continues his Project Trust gap year as a maths teacher at the Santa Rosa secondary school at Kumaka in the Moruca region of Guyana. Now on the receiving end of 'variable' pupil behaviour he truly appreciates his time at Rich's and is especially grateful and appreciative of the Rich's staff. He says *"Now my role has been reversed, I see the problems that teachers face and to be honest they are little different here than at home. For example, highly qualified staff being paid less than the school*



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This year being the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War the Association sought to mark the occasion by having speakers and a small exhibition which reflected Rich's and the war years. Timed to coincide with the VE Day commemorations on Saturday 7th May, the evening had a slightly more poignant edge to it not only for those members who had experienced the dark years of the second world war but also those who had seen active service since in other theatres of conflict.

John Bell attended Rich's between 1940 and 1943. In 1945 he was called up and served with the Glosters and the RASC being posted to Egypt and India. De-mobbed in 1948 John worked for the County Education Department before teaching Economics and Public Administration firstly at the North Gloucestershire Technical College and then in its new form Gloscat. A Methodist local



Roy Lewis attended Rich's between 1936 and 1941. Roy served in the Royal Air Force between 1944 and 1947 with postings in the Far East including Hong Kong. In civilian life Roy was Chief Accountant with West Midlands Farmers prior to becoming their Chief Executive, a post he held for ten years until his retirement in 1989. Roy is married to Iris, they live in Whiteshill near Stroud and have two sons.

[illegible]

HON PRESIDENT	Alan (Robby) Robinson (1942-1950)
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT	Michael J Sykes (1954-1959)
HON CHAIRMAN	David Q Hook (1972-1980)
HON TREASURER	Andrew K Bishop (1965-1972)
HON SECRETARY	David G Billingham (1958-1963)
HON SOCIAL SECRETARY	Martin Bulled (1978-1983)
HON AUDITOR	Dennis Collins (1941-1946)
HEADMASTER	Ian L Kellie
SCHOOL CAPTAIN	Chris Gallant
COMMITTEE	Paul Ounsworth (1952-1958), Andy Prouse (1985-1992), Mike Webber (1993-2000)
STUDENT REPS	Will Godwin (1993-2000), Matthew Key (1995-2002), David Leung (1995-2002), Katy Winter (2001-2003), Sam Lyons (2002-2004), James Martin (1997-2004)

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Old Richians' Association Membership Statistics

After reaching a peak two years ago the total number of members has unfortunately declined for a second year running, albeit by 5% rather than 10%.

Category	30 th June 2004	30 th June 2005
£10 Bankers Order	280	288
£5 Student Bankers Order	49	25
£10 Annual Subscription	7	4
Permanent	14	14
Honorary Staff	20	20
Totals	370	351

The decline is mainly caused by our failure to attract significant numbers of Upper Sixth leavers to join. We have attracted some recent leavers but our last large influx of student members was back in 2003. It is pleasing to see that the number of members who pay the full £10 by Bankers Order continues to increase fuelled in part by student members transferring at the end of their four year discounted rate.

How to join the Association

Membership of the Old Richians' Association is open to all former pupils and staff.

Membership costs £10 a year although there is a special rate of £5 for school leavers which lasts for 4 years after they leave school.

The membership fee can be paid by cheque made payable to "The Old Richians' Association" or by standing order, copies of which can be downloaded from the Association website: www.olderichians.org

All members of the Old Richians' Association have a copy of the Richian magazine sent to them each year.

Completed forms or cheques together with your name, address and years at school should be sent to the Honourary Treasurer:

Mr Andrew K Bishop, Island Cottage, The Leigh, Gloucester GL19 4AG



Your Association needs
YOU!

Sign Up Today!!





Oxbridge
Dinner



Oriel College
Oxford



The Grandfather Clock

Tick, tock, tick, tock,
The sound is emitted from the grandfather clock.

Left, right, left, right,
Went the pendulum in the night.

Squeak, squerk, squeak, squerk,
The internal gears still just work.

Ding, dong, ding, dong,
Every hour it played this song.

Crish, crash, crish, crash,
The cymbals liked the rhythm and joined in the bash.

Tootly toot, tootly toot,
The duo made a trio when joined by the flute.

Trip, trap, trip, trap,
The chair joined the band and started to clap.

Ghosts from old photos liked the sound of the noise,
And drifted out from pictures: both girls and boys.

Up in the attic the party was in full swing,
But those ignorant humans would not hear a thing.

Henry House & Jim Neate 7B



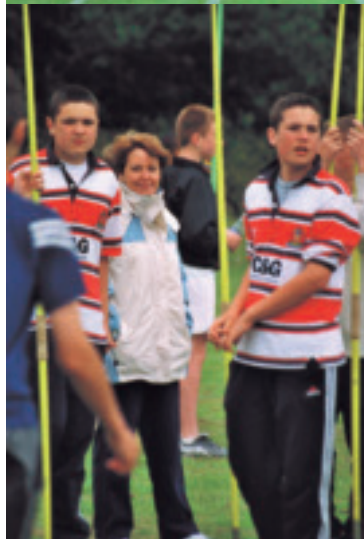


Ben & Jordan enjoying the open top bus tour
7R Stratford Upon Avon Snap Shots - October 2005
Laurie & Tom make a new friend at Mary Arden's House





Sports Evening 2005





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Quiz Night April 2005

Said The Pieman "First let's have your pennies!"

Year 8 selling their Mince Pies & Homemade Rolls to raise money for our Uganda Link





Year 8 Geography Field Work in Bridgnorth





Blist Hill Victorian Experience
St Ives Art Trip





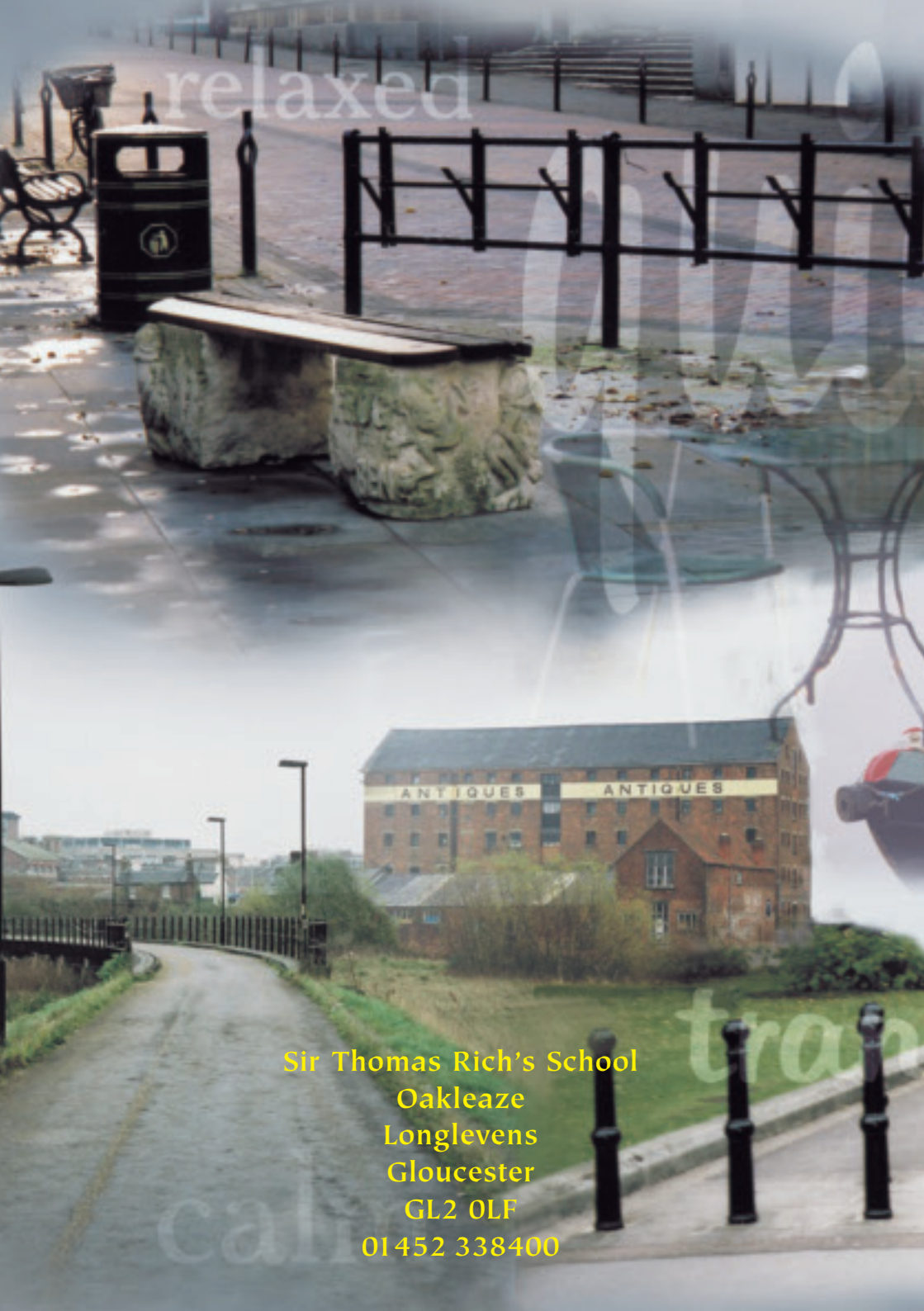
Where does the Young Richian fit into this increasingly shrinking and evermore dangerous World? Will he or she ever get to have their say?

House Art Competition Entries



Michael Clapton - Southgate

relaxed



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

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cali