

# *The Richian*

2  
0  
0  
6





**The Fruit of Earth**  
**Soul of Fire**



*Cover Designs by James Hyett-Hudman*



# **The Richian 2006**

**Official Magazine  
of  
Sir Thomas Rich's  
Grammar School**



# HEADMASTER'S REPORT

## ACADEMIC YEAR

### 2005 - 2006

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), Paris (Year 7); Germany - Göttingen (exchange), Aachen (work experience), Rhineland (Years 8/9); Spain - Pyrenees (geology), Oviedo (exchange) and Ribadesella (Years 8/9). There were also trips to Xiamen in China. We formed a link with two European schools aimed at broadening awareness; pupils and staff visited these schools in Bulgaria and Italy. Other visits within the UK are too numerous to mention but each ensured 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 includes the main school drama production, *Pantosea Island*, there were separate Senior and Junior Drama Club performances, Year 8 Arts Experience, instrumental concerts and the choir sang Haydn's *Creation*. Over twenty inter-House events were held through the year, resulting in convincing victory for Southgate.

We had a very successful year for school teams in sport. Notably the Intermediate Boys' medley and freestyle relay teams reached the finals of the National Schools' Swimming Championships at Macclesfield; the Colts rugby team progressed to the national rounds of the Daily Mail trophy, winning in Watford but losing narrowly in Buckingham; the Under 15 cricket team were county champions and the U13, U14 and U15 teams each 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 we welcomed PMM's Senior Mistress Caroline Nambi and our Miss Preen visited PMM School.

2005/6 was rounded off with another set of excellent examination results. Our students achieved record results at A-level, with a pass rate of 99% with 69% at grades A and B. At GCSE all Year 11 gained at least five passes at grade C and above, 60% of results were at grades A and A\*. Rich's was placed 23<sup>rd</sup> of all state schools in The Guardian and in The Independent league tables.

It is therefore not surprising that Sir Thomas Rich's remains popular. The total number of students on roll is 820. This remains at a high level because of our flourishing 6<sup>th</sup> Form, which stands at 254, and benefits from a total of 72 girls.

Further developments and improvements to the buildings ensure we have good facilities and work in a pleasant environment. So we look back on a roundly successful 2005/6 and embark in high spirits on our journey through another busy yet rewarding year.

## ***Top Teacher Mr I R Bowie Retires***

Ian Bowie joined Rich's in 1981 as Head of Biology having previously taught in Bristol, Essex and at another boys' grammar school in Gloucester. He supported our rugby and established Biology as one of the strongest Departments at Rich's. Indeed generations of Richians have been inspired by Mr Bowie's teaching. It is now routine for Richians to progress to reading biology and related subjects at university, including large numbers who have read medicine, dentistry, physiotherapy and veterinary science - hence even larger numbers of the wider animal and human public have Mr Bowie to thank for their good health!

In 1996 Mr Bowie became the Head of our Science Faculty, overseeing all science departments. At that time about half our boys took Double Award Science. Mr Bowie led moves towards three separate sciences at GCSE. Within two years over 80% of boys took separate biology, chemistry and physics GCSEs and in two of the last three years the whole of Year 11 took separate sciences. He thus raised expectations and aspirations whereby all boys have the opportunity to gain three science qualifications.

Mr Bowie is a natural teacher, enthusiastic and conveying effortlessly his love of biology. During our two Ofsted visits inspectors were duly impressed, giving his lessons the highest 'outstanding' grade. He was nominated for a Teaching Award (a so-called *Plato*) by an ex-student who said that, "He was the teacher who actually made me feel special and made me think I could achieve. He always had time to talk and was genuinely interested".

Committee members spent a day observing him teach and spoke to students and colleagues - I had the pleasure of accompanying Ian to the awards ceremony in Bristol to see him collect his Secondary School Science Teacher Award. He is a modest man and embarrassed by this acclaim, but it reflects the affection felt by large numbers of those who have enjoyed and benefited from his teaching.

We are always pleased to see ex-students return to school, they invariably ask to see Mr Bowie and thank him for his part in encouraging and preparing them for their subsequent studies and careers.

In 2001 we introduced a new position of 'Co-ordinator of Teaching and Learning' to provide support to teachers, encourage the spread of good practice and mentor new teachers. It almost goes without saying that Ian Bowie was appointed, there is no better rôle model and no-one more respected by colleagues.

It is always sad when outstanding teachers decide that they are going to retire. However we must be grateful for the tremendous service Mr Bowie has given to Rich's - and also thankful that Ian is not leaving us entirely, he continues to teach on a part-time basis.

*Mr Bowie at Speech Day sharing a moment with three of his recent students.*





## ***An Old Boy Adventure***

In our nation's somewhat dysfunctional society, it is surprisingly hard to *really* stay in touch with old school friends. Post-university pressure on graduates to get a 'successful job', at the expense of location and time, is immense. And various forms of communication via the Internet never seem to really cut the mustard. So, it was an extremely welcome prospect to be offered a month long 'adventure of a lifetime' with an old friend, one Mr Richard Holland!

Our friendship had been borne in the Venture Unit; so adventuring was the natural course for us to take for summer '06. A mutual interest in Islamic culture and faith, the necessity of mountains, together with financial considerations, made The High Atlas, Morocco the clear victor of several destinations. Now all we had to do was blag some funding .....

Richard soon found our money making man: Joseph Thomson, High Atlas Mountain explorer extraordinaire of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Died 1895. Perfect. A plan was quickly hatched: we would apply to Durham University for £3000 of funds to conduct 'research' into Colonel Thomson's epic adventures. Of course, naturally, the research would require *going* to the High Atlas ... surely they wouldn't fall for that?

*July 21<sup>st</sup> 2006.* Yikes, Marrakesh airport is hot! We (Rich, Jake, Chris and I) hurried to the chaotic medieval town centre to find cheap and cool accommodation. From this base we masterminded the final details of our expedition. Our month long hike



would take place in three parts, following three attempts of Joseph Thomson to penetrate right through the axis of the then unknown Atlas. Space sadly only allows for description of the last few days of one trek.

*August 14<sup>th</sup>.* Three weeks in Morocco had taken its toll. A few limped, a few needed the toilet on a frequent basis, and all stank significantly. Yet, now, our greatest challenge lay before us: 3900m vertical ascent of challenge. Mount Igdat. Still, we had the old faithful JT to inspire us. He positively ran up the



mountain, whilst evading the wayward bullets of his two knackered guards, both of whom were fearfully adamant that Thomson's inevitable death on the heights of this most terrible of mountains would indeed lead to their own deaths for failed duty. [Why they shot at him to warn of his impending death can only be grasped once you have been to Morocco and met the people!]

We were dumped by taxi in the village at the foot of the mountain (our mule having rolled impressively off a mountain the other day, complete with luggage, forcing us to use a more modern form of transport) at 5.30am. We waited for sunrise.

A few feet away a cockerel crowed, slightly optimistically. But it was light enough to get



going. And soon the heat of the sun blazed, as we broke through the valley's cloud to blue skies above. With no paths, and an incredible useless map, our job was made simple: go up. So we did, making detailed notes of the terrain [very steep] and our experience [pain - lack of breath - pain] as we went, in order to make a later comparison with Thomson's historic journey.

Five hours on, and our logic succeeded - we were at the top! All around the Atlas fell below us, north towards the coast, south towards the Sahara. Breathlessness disappeared, briefly, to be replaced by an overwhelming satisfaction. Thomson would have been proud, we assured ourselves.

We are less certain, it must be admitted, of the opinion Thomson would have held about our descent. Our route up had, admittedly, been pretty bad. So we chose another one down, which sadly can only be described as horrific. A random gentle slope soon turned into a nightmarish scree slope. Setting off boulders the size of coconuts on top of each other's heads, we were forced to remain at least 50m apart at all times; it took 2hrs to descend 500m. At the bottom our hopes resurged; we were in a small gorge, and would simply follow this pleasant looking stream here down towards the main valley ...

Resurgence, we slowly realised, is exactly what the stream - not us - experienced every winter, as we were forced to clamber down a series of increasingly improbable large waterfalls. We succeeded with three, before we came across the mammoth waterfall to end all waterfalls. No chance.

It getting late, us already shattered, we about turned and headed out of the gorge at the nearest exit. Up a familiarly nightmarish scree slope; hugging on to an improbably delicate path round a bulky spur; getting despondent with the number of fake ridges that promised a route off this most terrible of mountains; light diminishing - then suddenly - all around, sheep! And where there's sheep, there's shepherds. Sure enough, there he was, bombing it down the mountain in sandals (the spirit of Thomson still alive?), shouting as he went "Yallah, yallah!" We didn't interrupt, but, like the sheep, towed in line, directly off the mountain. Simple, when you know how.

Our one month's hike was a fantastic opportunity to see a genuinely remote part of the world that still retains a very distinct culture, all set within an awesome landscape. In one word, eye-opening. The trip also served to reinforce old lessons learnt in Ventures on the importance of teamwork and decision making. So, go on, get out there - team up with old mates and new, make use of all the resources you've got and explore! You won't regret having made the effort.

**Matthew Key**



*Post Script - with apologies for the photo, Matt!*

Matt recently updated us on his current whereabouts -

*"Having graduated from a thoroughly enjoyable 3 years reading geography at St Catz, Oxford, for the past year I have been an intern at St Aldate's Church, Oxford. Although interning is best described as slave labour (cleaning, cooking, moving, fixing) with kids work thrown in for fun, this year taught me far more about "life, the universe and everything" than three at Uni ever could! Having decided that kids work, rather than geography, is for me, I'm now heading out to the Northern Caucasus to work in a Christian run trauma counselling centre for those caught up by the violence in Chechnya."*





## ***A Bit on Badminton - by Michael Clapton 11T***

It's been a busy eighteen months for badminton at Tommies. It doesn't seem that long ago that the club tournament finished to reveal the players who would be fighting for a place in the school team. After much training and coaching, the final team of Matt Brooks, Tom Burlinson,

Mike Clapton, Mike Skidmore and Ben Griffiths was selected to play in the Carlton Top Schools U16 Tournament. This was held in late February at the Stroud Leisure Centre. We were amongst teams of varying ability: international and county players to chavs who had obviously misread their football fixture location.

Despite facing almost invincible opposition, we managed to put up a reasonable fight and scored a few points! However, we whitewashed Brockworth, our city rivals, adding them to the list of other scalps from our region from the year before, namely Pates and Marling.

Badminton club started again at the beginning of the autumn term, where we were inundated with year sevens. A sea of tiny people flooded the sports hall, all keen to show off their lack of ability. Thankfully, most have now realised that hitting air is not cool or fun and have left. However, some still remain, and seem to be showing a smidgeon of talent, which will hopefully develop to replace the golden generation, which will soon end.

The next major event on the calendar was House Badminton. This was held in September and October in the sports hall at lunch times. After its lengthy absence from the house competitions, it was welcomed back fantastically with large crowds each day providing a great atmosphere. This competition was eagerly awaited, as it pitted the best players in the school against each other in competition for the first time, as well as including some less well-known names.

In the senior competition, Northgate were the outright favourites to win and were expected to easily beat everyone. However, the 'Dream Team' consisting of three team players, failed to deliver and only came second! Ha! Ha! (Sorry Kun, I just had to rub it in!) In fact it was Eastgate who came first, beating all other houses to become triumphant. They showed that it wasn't individual brilliance, but depth and quality of team that was needed to win the competition, which other houses lacked. Southgate came third and Westgate lost against all three houses and came last.

In the junior competition, the results were almost reversed. Westgate came top beating all of the other houses and winning by a country mile. The battle for second was a real scrap, with all of the other houses only winning one game each. It came down to points difference, with Southgate coming out on top, to finish second, with Eastgate in third and Northgate in last position. Surprisingly, the teams with younger players turned out to be the stronger sides.

As yet another new school year starts its whirlwind cycle, Badminton continues to thrive at STRS - at time of going to print, another House Badminton competition draws to its exciting conclusion and thanks to ex-Tommies student Samantha Kloos, Active Gloucestershire's Badminton Development Officer, we are about to embark on a series of fixtures in the Gloucester Area Division 1 of a new Schools County League for Year 10 & 11 players. The 21-up rally point scoring system has proved easier to adapt to, despite a certain member of staff's early mis-givings (... *yet another sport selling out to commercial considerations under pressure from the media companies* ...) and the future of Badminton at STRS seems secure and bright.



## ***Local Derby Games Pull in the Crowds at Oakleaze!!***

A cold but sunny Saturday morning drew the supporters in their hundreds (or so it seemed!) onto the Oakleaze fields for this local derby clash! Parents and old boys joined in vociferous and partisan support as the Rich's boys in royal blue clashed with their old grammar school rivals in maroon from Crypt.



Across the three matches staged it ended honours even - the U15s put on a display of fast open rugby with clinical handling and watertight defence to overwhelm their opposite numbers by 35 points to nil.

The U13 'A' team fixture yielded a 17-5 victory to Crypt, whose bigger physical presence gave them the edge.

But the biggest roars floated up from the U13 'B' team match in which both sides more than compensated for any deficiency in skills and tactics with a performance of great spirit and terrific heart in a game which flowed from one end to the other and whose final 10 nail-biting minutes provided one old boy to breathlessly comment that it was one of the most exciting and passionately contested games he'd ever seen!

The final result? 10-10.



# Rugby Round Up Season 2005



At our final assembly of the Autumn Term, we were privileged to have Guest of Honour Peter Glanville who took time off from his Gloucester RFC training duties to present rugby cups, colours and awards to over 40 boys. Southgate collected both the House Rugby cups, proving much stronger than the other Houses in both competitions. Pictured above with Peter are winners of U13 Merit Certificates for outstanding contributions.

### **1st XV - P11, W6, D1, L4**

A mostly successful and hugely enjoyable season from the seniors. The team played a very positive 15-man style of rugby, underpinned by well-organised and determined defence. As ever, it was necessary to establish control up front. Scrummaging proved to be an area of strength and the lineout improved on a weekly basis. The back row worked tirelessly in defence and was creative in attack. Effective leadership came from the experienced halfbacks and the centres provided a solid foundation for the back three to show their paces.

As the season progressed the squad gelled and began to perform for each other. The upper sixth students were inspirational and key in creating this team ethic. Particular mention must go to the Captain, prop Lee Warren. He provided a sterling example on and off the pitch and must also be congratulated for being selected for the County XV. Well done! (*Mr R Sims*)



Ollie Priest - recipient of the  
Mervyn Moody Trophy

### **2nd XV - P10, W6, L4**

The 2nd XV had a great start to their season beating Beaufort 13-7, Cheltenham College 31-0 and Bournside 13-5 before succumbing to Churchdown 14-15 and Dean Close 5-17. In a successful second half of the season they added victories over Marling, Kings and Crypt before taking defeats against Rendcomb College's 1st XV and a very strong Hartpury College side. All games were keenly contested; the side clearly enjoyed their rugby and are to be congratulated on the high standards of play achieved. (*Mr M R Swann*)

### **Colts U15 XV - P17, W15, L2, F-302, A-131**

The U15s made a tremendous start to the year winning all of their first six games. This run of victories included wins over Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School, Chosen Hill and Beaufort, the latter in the first round of the Daily Mail Cup. Their only defeat of the first half of the season came in their seventh game against a very strong St Peters side in the second round of the Daily Mail Cup.

Their excellent season continued after the half term break with wins over Marling, Churchdown, Kings, Crypt and Dean Close. They also beat Farmors and Rednock schools in the Daily Mail Vase to progress through to the third round and a testing away fixture against Watford Grammar School. This they won 18-0 with a sterling performance and sound defensive play. In the fifth round however they yielded to a strong Royal Latin School side 8-13.

Congratulations to Andrew Clegg and Chris Surman who were both selected for Gloucestershire Schools U15 side and also to Ben Fabbro and Will Latter who were selected for the Gloucester District Squad. (*Mr R G Williams*)

### **U14 XV - P10, W3, D1, L6**

This was a very difficult and frustrating season for the U14s. A number of key long-term injuries resulted in an unsettled team but this did allow opportunities for new players to



be drafted into the side. However, despite these problems the U14s always displayed a positive and committed attitude towards their matches and training. A number of defeats were narrow and were often a result of inconsistency or lapses in concentration. All the players need to focus on the basics of tackling, fitness and support play. They have the potential to be a solid outfit next season but they must address these weaknesses if progress is to be made. *(Mr P D Lloyd)*

***U13 'A' Team: P8, W5, L3, F-158, A-81***

The U13 'A' XV had a good season and can be proud of the progress they made over the course of the term. They performed very well and played an expansive brand of rugby against sides of a comparable size, including some outstanding performances against Bournside [42-0] and a useful Churchdown side [43-0]. On the other hand, against sides with significantly larger packs the team struggled, particularly during the second half, to secure enough possession to give our creative backs the opportunity to attack.

This problem was clearly illustrated in the final match away against St Peters. In the first half we played some of our best rugby of the season and were unlucky to be losing 14-10 at halftime, having scored 2 well-worked tries. However, in the second half the more physical St Peters forwards took control and we lost our composure and competitive edge leading to a disappointing 38-10 defeat.

At an individual level Oliver Fitt deserves a special mention for being the team's top points scorer with 73, including an impressive 11 tries. Oliver together with the captain, Ben Conway, Jack Hollocks, Andy Daughtrey and Paul Anderson received Merit Awards for their excellent contributions this season.

***U13 'B' Team: P3, W1, D2, F-60, A-45***

The 'B's played with skill and a great attitude in all 3 games and enjoyed an undefeated season. They performed particularly well away in the drawn game against a powerful Bishop of Hereford Bluecoat side, scoring 2 excellent converted tries. It is pleasing to report that a number of the squad showed very encouraging progress this season, making useful contributions to the 'A' XV. These boys included Jack Griffiths, Saul Hathaway, James Brown, Charles Hiram and Lloyd Moore.

Finally, many thanks to all of the Parents who have supported the sides this season; it has been very much appreciated. *(Mr C D A Carter)*

***Winners of Rugby Colours and Merit Awards***







W. J. C. Knowlman	A. W. Erskine	L. T. Ashley	A. J. Mellon	M. J. Patching
R. E. Tucker	M. W. Lodge	R. Payne	M. C. J. Day	L. M. Harris
O. W. Priest	D. R. Wells	L. B. Warren	J. P. Enderby	K. M. B. Ellis
				H. T. Windsor
				L. Barnes



### Colts U15 XV

2005-6 Season -- 5th Round Daily Mail Vase

L. S. O'Neill R. M. Farrow N. B. Spencer J. M. Payne A. J. Clegg W. H. Latter S. D. Horder F. M. Ruck D. F. Stockwell J. C. Walter  
B. C. Ruxton N. R. Drury I. M. Ahmed B. Fabbro G. S. Angell J. W. Peelt (Captain) C. M. Surman J. R. Williams J. W. Bell A. M. Beard



## ***Year 9 Spanish Trip to Ribadesella 2006***

At 8:45 in the morning a large number of excited students had gathered in front of the school. It would have been obvious to anyone walking past that we were going on a long trip. With everyone in casual clothing and accompanied by a large suitcase, the atmosphere was talkative and jolly. This was the official start of our "Vacaciones Españolas"!

We landed in Santander international airport on Monday afternoon and boarded the coach.

Following a very comfortable drive, we arrived at the Hotel Marina. We settled in quite nicely and were able to have a short wander around the town after a Spanish dinner. This was the first of many times where we encountered the notorious Spanish bread. It would seem that in times of war, Spain developed bread so hard and lethal that it could be fired out of cannons in times of ammunition shortages. We were also given our new Spanish diaries, which would prove challenging to write over the week in which we were there.

On Tuesday we departed from the hotel early to visit the mountains. I would recommend the trip to only the most athletic or tenacious of tourists, as the climb is a very rewarding, albeit difficult one. After travelling over the mountains for a couple of hours, being pursued by mountain goats and having vultures circle overhead, we stopped at a nearby village for lunch. Following this, we took some time out to visit "Las Cuevas de las Cabras" (cheese caves). Who knew that cheese could be matured in caves? Not many. If you should ever visit there, I highly recommend trying some. It is ... interesting.



On Wednesday we spent the day in Ribadesella, passing the morning at the beach in order to compete in a sand sculpture competition. This proved entertaining, as after a while of digging, the constructors' heads began to vanish from view in what would be the winning sculpture. In the afternoon the time was our own, though many chose to remain on the beach. Those who would prove to be the sensible ones chose a spot in the shade and covered up with sun cream.

On the Thursday we visited Oviedo, the capital city of Asturias, the region we were staying in. In the morning we did a town trail, expertly organised by Mr Hearn, who split us up into groups and sent us around the town. After the trail was completed, we headed off to find out more information about the city and, of course, to find food. Many people found sanctuary in MacDonald's, where it is easier to order food as the chicken mcnugget is virtually the same in every language.

During Friday we were canoeing down the River Sella, the same river which passes next to our beloved hotel. Those who took any spare clothing with them found that their originals smelt strongly of fish when we completed the course. It was here that many of us experienced the full, relentless power of UV light from the sun. I do hope that

anyone who goes on these trips in the future does not make the same mistake I made by wearing a sleeveless shirt with shorts. Sun cream will not protect you, and the cool is not worth the pain endured.

On the Saturday we took some time out in the morning to visit the Tito Bustillo caves where we were able to see historically preserved paintings up to 15,000 years old. Modern architecture never seems to last in comparison to the good old cave paintings. The rest of the day was spent in Ribadesella, where some people were out on the beach playing football, others were attempting to chat up some of the Spanish girls and others still were inside recovering from sunburn (me included). That evening prizes were awarded for the best rooms, best diaries, town trail, sand sculptures and best attempts at communicating with the locals.

On Sunday we departed early from the Hotel Marina for the last time. We travelled to the picturesque town of Santillana del Mar, where we saw a lovely museum decorated with a large collection of instruments of torture. Many were eager to try out the deadly spiked chair but personally I preferred the fearsome "cat of nine tails". After four hours spent looking around the town and buying last minute gifts and souvenirs, we headed off for Santander airport.

We arrived back in England at about 8:30 in the evening and finally returned to Gloucester just after 11:00 pm, with everyone glad to be home. Our thanks go to Mr Hearn and his fellow hard working members of staff for organising the trip, and to those who run the hotel for accepting us. Everyone had a great time, learnt a lot of Spanish and will remember particular moments, whether it was enjoying themselves and having the time of their lives with their friends or writhing around in agony due to sunburn.

Adios amigos!

### **David Pewton 9S**

Overall the trip was immense, the weather was great and the people were very friendly. We would love to go again!

With a big "Gracias!" to Señor Hearn, Señorita Brake, Mr Crumblehulme and Mr Williams.

### **Diten Vahder 9T**





Pantosea Island - Director's Cuts





## ***The top story tonight .....***

*- A Nation Bewildered - as tragedy strikes at the Heart of Britain's Pantomime industry.*

*Hope is fading that there will be any survivors from today's airliner disaster. A plane carrying all of the UK's Panto characters from their mythical, unlikely and improbable home of "Pantoland" - crashed en route to Gloucester International Airport.*

*It was lost from magical radar screens at 10am today. As yet no trace has been found despite a massive search by Frank Bruno, Christopher Biggins and that tarty woman who used to play Dorian in 'Birds of a Feather'.*

*This is a tragedy that has touched us the whole country. The Queen has sent a message of sympathy to the Pantoland Ambassador, Ali Bongo. She is also reported to have said "One is behind You" to Prince Philip as a mark of respect. The Prime Minister is thought to have "Custard Pied" Cherie Blair but that could just have been to obscure her face.*

*Without the Panto characters, it looks as though Christmas will have to be cancelled and theatres forced to replace this year's festivities with musicals by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Ben Elton; tragedy indeed.*

So opened the musical pantomime extravaganza feasted upon the unsuspecting public in the tinsel-tattered run up to Christmas 2005. Panto season had struck with a vengeance and topping the favourites was our very own home-grown spectacle "*Pantosea Island*", penned by David A Lewis with Songs, Music and Additional Material by Tony P Hearn.

Reviews were great, heralding a fresh triumph for STRS Productions Ltd and welcoming a brand new title into the annals of pantomime history! Here's what our local theatre critic Simon Pickard wrote ....

### ***Pantosea Island***

It would have been worth it just for the Crocodiles (Jon Maxted, Theresa Turner, Kit Turner, Jess Tunstall, Andrew Woolthead) - but they were only one highlight of a thoroughly entertaining school production this year. The five well-disguised students who nearly stole the show were only slightly upstaged by the evil Captain Hook (John Roskilly) as they 'swam' after the 'boat' containing the rest of the pantomime crew at the end of the show. You'd have to have seen it to fully appreciate it all - and if you weren't there you missed a treat.

In David Lewis' irreverent 'take' on the traditional pantomime, a whole host of panto characters appeared in the same production, not to mention a pantomime cow that had unfortunately split in two (Jessie Pywell and Nafisa Sayani). The potential for humorous exchanges was realised to the full. The show had its risqué side, too, but so do most pantomimes, and anyone too delicate for innuendo should never be part of the audience for Shakespeare.

Tony Hearn had also fed in some script ideas, but his main role was to provide a lively musical score, with songs by each of the major characters. The success of the music is best judged by the way one kept hearing pupils humming snatches of it as they went about the school. Mr Thompson and the band must of course take the credit for realising the score so well.

Did I find myself 'watching the clock'? Quite to the contrary, I found that the time passed very quickly. Given the inventive script and an engaging score these two teachers had

managed that difficult trick of bringing off a 'home-grown' production that was genuinely entertaining. Of course, it brought tears to the eyes - but they were tears of laughter!

There were some very strong performances by the principals. John Roskilly managed to convey just that degree of 'evil' appropriate to a pantomime, in which villainy has to be potentially redeemable. What's more, a trombone played with a hook is a sight and sound worth the entry-fee in itself. His comic timing had flair, as did some of his ad-libs. Scott Yearsley managed just the right degree of camp-ness as the Dame, without going so far over-the-top that the illusion is subverted. Rachel Marlowe proved to have a perfect 'principal boy' style, not to mention a clear, true voice. Adam McNally gave an unnervingly accurate portrayal of the teacher 'losing it', as well as caricaturing a certain Prince's more amusing mannerisms.

Lauren Gamlin and Reema Bhatt bickered bitchily, as they were supposed to, and otherwise looked and sounded utterly convincing in their Snow White and Cinderella personas. Marcus Mayo managed to turn speaking drivel into a kind of Geordie art-form, and Nick Davies and Adam Molloy seemed to have worked out just how to express two different forms of male vanity/stupidity. Richard Duxbury showed that not the least of his talents is an ability to walk on high platforms - and his flute-playing was remarkable in a giant. Jon Worrall gave us a suitably melancholic pirate-slave to the evil Hook, while Paul Edwards and Ben Harwood were nicely spaced-out as the rather worrying hippy duo who are really Ofsted inspectors and slave-traders at the same time (well, could you honestly tell the difference in reality?!).

All members of the cast proved to be proficient, and made a positive contribution to the ensemble. It only remains to pay tribute to that large number of 'backstage' workers without whose efforts the limelight would never be cast on these performers. My impression was that, whatever the inevitable trials and tribulations on the way, this had been a happy cast and an enjoyable experience for all those involved. I'm hoping that the Lewis/Hearn partnership will spring into action again some time, and amuse us all once more.

### **Mr S Pickard**

And here's a round up of the three performances from a technical point of view - ie: the two Toms (Tom-Tom) on the sound and lighting desks ....

*Wednesday's performance was our first complete run through of the script. Predictably, it could have gone better - there were a few suspect squeaks from the speakers and I didn't have a clue as to what was going on because I had an outdated script.*

*An hour before Thursday's performance I found a new button, which allowed me to record complicated light sequences, and hit the 'go' button to set them off. This gave me time to watch the performance, which went much better - partially due to the radio mics not picking up any interference - which gave the cast more confidence, possibly due to the cast's rather grand performance, but mainly due to the 'go' button.*

*Friday night brought with it a very large audience - unfortunately; at least one mobile phone was turned on so the radio mics didn't work particularly well. There were a few other hiccups - the orchestra exploded a wall socket and lost all their power (Mr Passey saved the day with his long extension), Mr Passey was later found too busy eating biscuits to begin the second act and Tom exploited the curious sound FX fart. You can imagine.*

### **Tom Hards**

## ***The Visitor***

The sound of a train's whistle brought David back to his senses. He ran a hand through his short strawberry-blond hair, before looking around the room.

He was in a small room, which was poorly lit. He was in charge of the lost-and-found office of a small countryside railway station. He checked the time on his watch, and sighed.

Nine thirty seven, PM.

His shift ended at eleven, when he could return home and see his wife. He had only been married for five weeks but already their life seemed set to a timetable.

The sound of a door opening aroused him from his thoughts, and he saw a man walk into the office.

"Good evening sir, I believe I may have misplaced my briefcase." The man said, even though he looked almost fifty, and David himself was only twenty-four.

The visitor was clad in a simple-but-smart suit, and had a bowler hat on his head. David would have laughed if the man hadn't been so polite to him. The stranger seemed a generation or two out of place.

David nodded and handed the man a form to fill in from a small pile on his desk. "Please fill that in, I'll just go and see if we have any."

The man took a pen from his jacket pocket and leant on the table to write. David slipped through another door to where the lost items were kept. He looked through a few of the boxes; two MP3 players, a wallet, three cuddly toys, no briefcases. He moved on, and eventually found two briefcases, complete with forms saying where and when they had been found. One said the date of the third of March the previous year, and the other, in faded writing, said...

David looked again. No, it must be a joke. Probably Brian, from the shift before David's.

David took both briefcases to the man, who had filled out the form.

"Ah, that looks like the one, thank you very much." The visitor said, and took the second briefcase.

"No problem, but I'll have to keep the form attached to it." David said, indicating the faded paper.

"Of course." The man replied, removing it and handing it to David. "I've been looking for this for a *long* time..."

The man turned and left the office.

David looked quickly at both forms, and a shudder ran through him. The stranger had filled in his date of birth as... as the eleventh of August. Eighteen sixty-one.

David looked back at the form from the briefcase.

Lost: Twenty-sixth of December. Nineteen oh-one.

David dropped both forms and ran from the office onto the dark platform. He looked around, and ran to the car park.

But it was in vain.

The man was gone.

***Chris Howard 11S***



## ***MUSIC - The Rhythm of Life!***

Another year, another generation of singers and instrumentalists. It is this which makes teaching music so fascinating. Delivering a syllabus year after year could appear somewhat tedious for a teacher but it isn't so much what is being taught as how the information is received, assimilated and reacted upon, which, in my subject, makes it so interesting.

This obviously applies to class lessons particularly, but in extra-curricular music also, the same process occurs to a large extent. I try not to introduce the same music too regularly even though I am sometimes begged to do so - 'Torches' comes to mind! - but, when I do, no two performances are ever the same since the performers are always different: either there are new singers or instrumentalists or else the same people have changed their singing voice or have matured instrumentally.

This came to mind when I decided last year to do Haydn's 'Creation' again. However, I hadn't realised that time had flown and it was, in fact, twelve years since we last performed it – before some of the current year seven pupils had even been born! It was just as I have said – a familiar piece of music (indeed, many memories were refreshed) performed almost entirely differently.

The same applies to the 'round' of concerts and musical events which are put on each year; whilst the Spring and Summer concerts largely follow the same format of solo, chamber, large ensemble, classical, rock and jazz, the challenge and, ultimately, fun of organising and performing these events is always a new experience.

The pantomime, 'Pantosea Island', expertly written and produced by Mr Hearn and Mr Lewis, by contrast, was immediately a refreshing change of musical and dramatic medium for last year's Christmas production and proved to be a great hit with performers and audience alike. Similar to the Spring and Summer concerts, I was pleased and amazed at some of the musical talent showing in all parts of the school; my only concern is that there is still a number of pupils who are missing out on school music whose participation would both enhance their musical experience and enjoyment as well as support the cultural life of the school.

Can I take this opportunity to invite, indeed, urge, those singers and instrumentalists who may either be shy or hiding their light under a bushel or just hadn't considered joining a school group because they already play in another outside school to join in - to give of their talent and enthusiasm to the school where, after all, they are receiving their education. The more the merrier, it is said!

***Mr J W Thompson***



## ***Bully Off! - Hockey at Sir Thomas Rich's – A Report by Jamie MacLaren***

Thanks to a collection of keen (mad?) senior students, hockey has now become a recognised and actively pursued sport at Sir Thomas Rich's.

Our first match was away to a strong Newent Boys team. Early exchanges between both teams were scrappy until a well-executed short corner set piece flew in from vice captain Alex Winter. Quick ball from the defence up to striker Matt Brooks resulted in another penalty corner, which was dispatched in almost identical fashion by Winter. At half time the team was shuffled up a bit to allow everyone a piece of the action. Newent capitalised on sustained pressure and scored. Newent managed a late score to level the game - a fair result considering the hard work put in by both teams.

For our second match against the Denmark Road Girls we put out a mixed team. The skills of Matt Brooks and pace of Jamie MacLaren proved too much for the Denmark defence early on, both players scoring one apiece and both unlucky not to have scored more. After half time further goals from Nikki Hooper and a completed hat trick for birthday boy Brooks gave a generous score line of 5-0 at full time; an unfair reflection on the effort put in by the opposition.

The local derby between Kings and Tommies was never going to be easy for STRS. Dynamic play in the first few minutes seemed to tell a different tale, though, and once captain Stuart Rushworth struck from close range for 1-0, the odds seemed to have evened up. However, a combination of continuous pressure and less than resolute defending brought two swift goals for the home team. After half time there seemed to be a mutual respect between the teams, and forays into the 'D' from Gladwell and Downes seemed to tilt the momentum in Tommies' favour. Sadly more dire defending lead to a clinical third goal for the King's School. Even so, the school fought hard and could have scored many more goals than they did - a match not won rather than lost.

After their poor defensive performance against Kings, Tommies aimed to bounce back against a strong Pates side. Some excellent attacking play brought three or four good scoring opportunities, but none were taken. Tommies were left to rue these misses, as defensive lapses led to three well orchestrated goals from the experienced Pates team. After half time the School played a more open game. However the superior Pates attack carved open the Tommies defence once more and piled on the misery for a 4-0 score line. By the time Ben Troughton expertly planted the ball backstick into the bottom corner for 4-1, the game was lost.

Going into the last game of the season against Chosen Hill, Tommies attempted to put out a mixed team, however many of the girls were playing in a Netball match – fortunately they won! As a consequence Tommies fielded a physically stronger side against a capable Chosen Hill team. Lapses in defence were few and far between, and displays of powerful running by Brooks and Downes brought disarray to the Chosen defence – Downes luckily scoring from a keeper blunder. After half time the Chosen team came out with a new fire, and the School were on the defence for much of the third quarter. Even so another rapid break by Brooks set Downes up to crash in his second, which sealed a good all-round performance to wrap up a promising season for hockey at Sir Thomas Rich's.

Congratulations to captain Stuart Rushworth and fullback James Hyett-Hudman for picking up senior hockey colours for consistently good performances throughout their time at Tommies.



## Who Said ESU?

Who said ESU?

Ah - I see you must be new.

Well, sorry to have to do this

TAXI!

Yeh - that's for you!

Don't mention Explorers anymore  
or more ridiculing you'll get for sure!

Venturing - ah ... now your talking  
but less of the talking,  
let's get walking.

It's November half-term  
so off you go  
on your first D of E walk -  
you'll get lost and walk slow.

But Sam and I will be there  
because for some reason  
we do care.

Around comes February  
and Marathon time again.  
Why do I choose to do it?  
It just leaves me in pain!

Straight after that is Dartmoor  
and a Plume & Feathers brunch  
with hiking all morning long  
I am dying for that  
tinned mackerel lunch.

Now Easter's on our own terms

where do we want to go?

My guess would be "The Forest"

but why I don't really know.

May half-term is often chilled  
exams leaving  
our time filled.

But don't fret, you just have to  
wait  
because the Summer Expedition  
will be great!

Ah, Summer has come round again  
recruiting new members fast  
Expedition's nearly here!  
Only 3 school weeks to last.

But I wonder where we'll go?  
Scotland, Ireland or Norsk  
or perhaps a visit to Germany  
to nibble on a wurst?!

Now the Summer Expos gone  
and the tents hung up to dry  
that's our Scout year finished  
until next time,

bye bye!

by  
Sam Coe

Recently returned to the UK  
from a gap year in Guyana  
teaching & writing poetry!



## ***NJB -- An Appreciation***

Many Richians were saddened last year to hear of the death of John Burrow after a long illness. John retired from the School in 1984 after thirty years teaching here.

In a staff room rather dominated by such characters as Alan Sinkinson, Arthur Hancox, Idris Williams and Ralph Fox, John chose a quiet role often content to be a benevolent observer and listener, before introducing the occasional apt comment. He sat at the other end of the common room to those rejoicing in the latest Welsh triumph at the Cardiff Arms Park! His Cornish background gave him an independence equally unimpressed by the brashness of young upstarts, or the pomposity of the elders.

He was a good judge of character. When writing a UCAS reference, or one for a Richian applying for new employment, one invariably checked the record cards to see if he had been in 1A, John's form. The black spiky writing so often expressed an accurate prognosis.

Room 5, now the right side of the General Science Lab, was his form room, always tidy and litter free, and with the painting of a favourite railway locomotive now preserved in Lab 6. Here he taught French and Latin with patience and good humour, awakening an appreciation of the finer points of language, and here he inducted new boys into the ethos of the School. It was not by chance that many future School Captains and Observators passed through his hands in 1A.

John always seemed at ease, even when serving quickly and efficiently the long queue of boys at the tuck shop, ensuring that they had time to consume their purchases before the bell signalled the end of break, or unlocking the cupboard marked Mme Nicotine to satisfy the desperate cravings of a member of staff.

In later years he became Senior Master, adept at making new staff feel at home and at this time he began to teach woodwork to a few classes.

One senses, however, that he was most content in his own workshop. From this came a stream of beautifully crafted items. The wall cabinet holding the School's Grant of Arms, the small case with the photographs and silver medallions of Blue Coat boys in the foyer and the harpsichord in M2 are examples of his carpentry skills. Appropriately the framed portrait of Sir Thomas Rich, which used to stand on the stage in the Hall, was supported by an easel he made. Then there were those amazing working gadgets designed for school plays. And to his workshop he returned on retirement from the School.

But it is for that special combination of stability, wisdom and kindness that Richians treasure the memory of John Burrow.

***Alan Pilbeam***



***Jock (Walter) McCormick***

For many years 'Jock' worked hard for the School as caretaker and site manager. He always put himself out to be around to see that things were in order and done properly - there to lock up at night after the school had been open for an event. No task was too difficult for Jock to tackle - he was a man of many talents and skills. For those who took time to go beyond the gruff Scottish persona they found a true and valuable friend for whom nothing was too much trouble. Jock had battled with cancer for several years before finally succumbing on 2nd April 2006 shortly after his 60th birthday.

### ***U13s Wreak Revenge Over Crypt***

On a lovely warm July evening, the Rich's U13 cricketers took revenge for last year's finals defeat with a thoroughly convincing and clinical win over Crypt, and in so doing laid to rest the spectre of Crypt as their bogey-team.

Put into bat Rich's suddenly found themselves at 12 for 2 in the fourth over with the ball starting to swing dramatically. Andy Daughtrey announced his arrival at the crease with a magnificently pulled six over square leg and with an initially cautious Robert Miller set about the task of building the foundations for a commanding total.

The Crypt bowlers could not establish a tight line and with Miller growing in confidence, runs started to accumulate at a steady rate of 6 an over. With Daughtrey's retirement upon passing 25 runs, Amit Patel joined Miller and soon both batsmen had joined Daughtrey in passing 25 runs. Jack Griffiths ensured that the runs didn't slow in the closing overs with some daring, supportive running. The Crypt bowlers didn't help their cause either conceding 22 bowling extras, as Rich's closed their innings on 120 for 4.

Crypt started well enough with 23 runs off 4 overs but at the cost of two key wickets to Daughtrey. Then in his first over Robert Miller weighed in with two wickets in two balls and with Patel at the other end weaving his flighted magic, the Crypt batsmen had little effective reply. His two wickets (to fine catches by Tremlett and Hathaway) and a run out from an excellent piece of out-fielding all but sealed Crypt's fate. It was left to Hiram and Hathaway with a wicket a-piece and another superb run out with a direct hit by Tremlett to close the Crypt innings at 72 all out. Victory well deserved by 48 runs.

The side thoroughly deserved their victory, especially the way they set about defending what was an eminently gettable total on the plumb Archdeacon pitch and fast running outfield. Astute field placings by captain Daughtrey for each of his bowlers, who were given committed and totally focused fielding performances from each player, saw to it that the Crypt batsmen were frustrated and pushed into errors of judgement as they struggled in vain to impose themselves and score freely.

Well Done to AD & all his U13s!!



## **Students Abroad in Aachen .... And All That Jazz!**

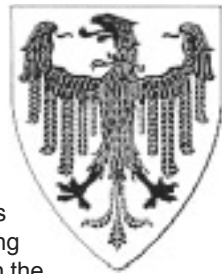
**25. März bis zum 3. April 2006**

*Wir sind nach Aachen in Deutschland gefahren, um unser Deutsch zu verbessern. Wir haben bei Gastfamilien gewohnt und haben ein Arbeitspraktikum absolviert.*

*Es war interessant, bei einer deutschen Familien zu wohnen und ein anderes Leben kennen zu lernen.*

Ten sixth form students spent a week in Aachen using their German language skills to the full. Living with their exchange partners' families, they each spent the working day at various places of employment around the city. Dealing with youngsters at various Kindergartens and Grundschule (Junior schools) figured highly in the options taken, although a Fitness Centre and Tierpark (animal park/zoo) also provided fulfilling employment for the whole week. Adam and Gareth, having enjoyed last year's working exchange visit, returned this year and found themselves teaching classes of pupils across the age range at the organising school, Pius Gymnasium, a grammar school.

The work experience exchange visit by our students coincided yet again with a European Project, organised by Herr Norbert Weitz, a senior teacher, philosopher and proponent of the grand European Ideal. This year's project had the theme "Frieden" = "Peace" and the Pius Gymnasium found itself host to groups of 16/17 year old students from Leipzig, Liberec in the Czech Republic, and Versailles. The majority of these students occupied themselves with their partners in a series of workshops arranged by Herr Weitz and the other teachers at Pius involving Art, Theatre, Literature, Music & Dance - all means through which the topic of Peace was explored.



Pressekonferenz in Pius Aula





The week culminated in several celebrations and parties - official and unofficial!! - as the Pius Gymnasium school celebrated the 50th Anniversary of its founding. A school open day with Fashion Shows, Dance Exhibitions, International Sports Competitions, Big Band and lots of good food (!) put an excellent seal on the week.



Highlight for Mr Brown, the Rich's staff member accompanying the English group, was Friday night's Big Band Concert, in which the Pius Big Band, its Junior Swing Band and Veterans Jazz Band all put on excellent and professional sets of music ranging across various styles from Latin, to Rock, to Swing and Big Band Jazz.





Apart from Chris Palmer, who maintained his record of mislaying his passport on school trips abroad, everything went swimmingly well and our students not only had themselves a great time but gained invaluable experience and real life practice in the their use of the German language. After a week of speaking virtually only Deutsch, Mr Brown's only comment on the trip was: "Extra Toll! Ausgezeichnet!!" That just about sums it up really!



## ***Rhineland Trip***

*Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October* - 7am. It was an early morning start. Despite the darkness the weather seemed promising. All pupils arrived on time. The bus driver was friendly. There was even time for the "official" photographer, Iain Murphy, to record our departure. Could this presage the perfect trip? As we sat on deck admiring in the sunshine the white cliffs of Dover, we looked forward with eager anticipation to our arrival in Germany.

Entertaining DVDs and regular stops helped to make the 14-hour journey bearable and as we crossed the border into Germany a loud cheer was raised.

At 10.00pm we arrived at the Youth Hostel and staff looked forward to a well-deserved night's sleep. More fool us! The boys were too excited to sleep and on the following morning staff appeared for breakfast looking very bleary-eyed.

*Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October* - A rainy start to the day! Nevertheless full of optimism we set off into Cologne to view the magnificent Gothic cathedral. The amazing structure, which took over 500 years to complete, soars above the town and cannot fail to impress. After a strenuous climb to the top of the South Tower we were rewarded with an excellent view over Cologne. It is a modern German city now, having been almost totally destroyed in 262 air raids during World War Two.



The attraction of shopping beckoned. There was now a chance for pupils to try out their German. The drizzle of the early morning descended into a heavy downpour. We congregated in front of the Cathedral

bearing a greater resemblance to drowned rats than respectable pupils and teachers of Sir Thomas Rich. It was here that we realised that our advice to pupils to bring waterproof clothing had not always been taken seriously. But on board a KD cruiser we were able to dry off and enjoy refreshments as we cruised up and down the river.

A visit to the Sport and Olympia museum and a fun evening bowling in Cologne completed the first day.

The excitement having abated, all enjoyed a good night's sleep.

*Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October* - A visit to a German City is all very well but the beautiful scenery of the Rhineland valley is a treasure not to be missed, particularly in its autumn glory. We travelled in the coach alongside the Rhine south of Cologne, passing the former capital city of Bonn.



Just outside Koblenz overlooking the Rhine proudly stands the castle of Stolzenfels. Mr Riley, a dedicated historian, conducted a most interesting tour of the castle, convincing other tourists that he was in fact the official guide. On then to Boppard where we enjoyed

a chairlift ride up the hillside. At the top we were greeted with splendid views over the Rhine. After a short stay in the pretty town of Boppard we returned to Cologne and in the evening pupils were able to burn off lots of energy in Aqualand – a swimming complex on the outskirts of Cologne.

*Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October* - Our last day! The dry weather we had enjoyed on our trip to Boppard gave way to heavy rain. But this did not prevent us from looking around the excellent zoo in Cologne. Fortunately it brightened up to enable us to spend a fun afternoon and evening at the theme park “Phantasialand”.

The perfect trip - perhaps not. However, the pupils’ good humour and behaviour, their enjoyment and appreciation of the activities and the hard work and support I received from Mr Riley, Mr Peffers and The Headmaster ensured that it has been the most successful and enjoyable Rhineland trip to date!



### ***New Staff joining STRS in September 2005***



**Mrs Fiona Banks**  
Business Studies



**Mr James Davies**  
Psychology



**Mrs Sarah James**  
Design & Technology



**Mr Matthew Haynes**  
Chemistry



**Mr Rhys Williams**  
PE/Games



**Miss Marian Preen**  
Geography



**Mrs Joy Mee**  
Biology



**Mrs Tara Horton**  
English

# Power To The Pupils!

## Year 8 Arts Experience : July 2006

Year 8 went power crazy from 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> July - all in the cause of creativity. Mr Lewis' group excelled themselves demonstrating the power of film and the power of power (electrical that is) and of buttons. How do you get fifteen boys into a small wooden chest? Edit. A very slick and clever film in all, very well edited.

The musicians advised us to close our eyes and we were led into meditations on power while the choir gave joyful songs of the power of solidarity.

This year one group made their own puppets - very lively looking characters that stood up to the ravages of rehearsal and performance very well and their masters gave three entertaining vignettes on the power of humour.

Another change came with the introduction of choral poetry cutting powerful characters like Darius of Persia down to size. Mrs Briscoe's drama looked at the responsibilities of power as well as the temptations and Mrs Spilsbury's dancers provided the grand finale with their usual aplomb - well done Ollie Fitt; pity the Hollywood talent scouts weren't about!







The artists explored natural and machine power and the patterns of power in the waves and currents of wind, electricity, etc using collage, print, tie-and-dye and paint to produce a very professional display.

However it's the process and the opportunities it provides that matter as much for the staff as the pupils. We learn just how much initiative, responsibility and leadership, as well as creativity, is in our pupils and it is exhilarating!





## **Book Reviews**

### ***“Viewing Gloucestershire” by Alan Pilbeam***

Alan is rightly regarded as an expert on the Gloucestershire landscape but for this book he hit upon the idea of viewing the county through the eyes of others. He has gathered together the observations of 15 authors some of whom, for example Ivor Gurney, were locals whilst others, such as Norman Jewson, were merely visitors. Each colourful snapshot begins with a brief biography of the author whose views Alan has chosen to tell us about. We learn, perhaps, where the writer was educated and the reason why he visited the area; we may well be informed of the state of the roads at the time of the visit (possibly a century or two ago) and what wildlife was seen in abundance (curlew on Crickley Hill, perhaps, or bitterns in the Forest).

I must confess that previously I had only been familiar with a few of the writers - mainly the war poets and Laurie Lee - and therefore this was a real eye opener. The book is a must for anyone who wishes to acquire quickly a summary of the geography, the social history and even the natural history of the county. As someone who has lived most of his life close to the Severn and who had grandparents from both the Forest and the Cotswolds, I found it a particularly enjoyable read. It brought back memories of stories I'd heard from older relatives and of places with which they had been familiar. But I discovered much more that was completely new to me.

Written in Alan's easy style the book is full of little gems of information, like the facts that in late Victorian times no fewer than 35 of the 115 retail premises in Cinderford sold beer and, surprisingly, that whilst there are 60 Norman churches on the Cotswolds within the Forest itself there are none. Every chapter is illustrated with several photographs (taken by Alan) and there is a new theme in almost every paragraph.

I was especially fascinated by the stories about Tewkesbury as seen through the eyes of John Moore; certainly I'd never imagined that there were so many alleyways (over 100) and I'd never realised that a jettied house (there are several in the town) was more, not less, stable because of its jetty. I really appreciated too the Cotswold snippets as related by Francis Witts. We are told, for example, about the stagecoach journey (c1830) from Stow to London's Oxford Street taking only 10 hours.

But Alan does not just rely upon the works of others as he intersperses their views with comments and contributions based upon his own knowledge. For example, after describing a village or a road of the past, he updates us with the position as it is today. We are made to feel that he is our link between then and now.

“Viewing Gloucestershire”, published by Nonsuch, is a thoroughly enjoyable and informative read written in much the same style as that in which Alan has delivered his many Geography lessons at Rich's.

**Mr B McBurnie**

### ***“The Landscape of Gloucestershire” by Alan Pilbeam***

**Tempus Publishing, 2006**

No lowland county of England boasts a more varied landscape than Gloucestershire. Not only is the three-fold division into the Cotswolds, Severn Vale and Forest of Dean readily apparent, but the county also contains a wide range of built environments, from the prosperous farmsteads of the Great Oolite limestones in the east to the more marginal semi-industrial hamlets of the coalfield to the west. In this new book, Rich's author Alan Pilbeam provides answers for anyone whose curiosity is aroused by the



sheer variety of our county's landscapes; his concern is to explain why our countryside looks the way it does.

Landscape studies are not new, but after a gap of too many years this genre is currently experiencing something of a revival. Alan Pilbeam's approach is, however, subtly different from that of most authors. Much of the previous literature was the work of historians. As we would expect, this new book is distinctively the work of a geographer.

Thus we find the physical and human influences on the landscape are interwoven to a much greater degree than is usually seen in works of this kind. The volume begins with an over-view of the scenic contribution of our varied local geology, continuing with the impact of the climatic fluctuations which our area experienced during the Ice Age. Here the reader will find reference to much recent research, which is presented in a readily understood format. Subsequent chapters trace the human impact on the landscape, from farming to transport, and from village location to building styles. The extent of the author's local knowledge is impressive, his themes being illustrated with a wealth of examples.

All too often, previous writers have regarded the present day landscape as ripe only for spoliation. Alan Pilbeam, however, views our surroundings as continually evolving, as each generation moulds the environment to meet its own changing social and economic priorities. He finds as much interest in present day developments as in tracing the impact of times past, and is well-informed on the underlying causes of these changes. Topics as diverse as changing tastes in sport and recreation and the impact of agricultural policy find a mention. This volume is therefore pleasantly free from nostalgia, whilst encouraging the reader to appreciate the beauty and interest of relics from the past.

Yet for the author, landscape is not merely to be viewed and interpreted, but also to be experienced and enjoyed. This book will surely encourage the reader to venture into the Gloucestershire countryside more frequently as well as more perceptively. The wide range of illustrations, taken by the author himself and informatively captioned, will inspire many to visit, appreciate, and perhaps respond to many of the places depicted. The photographs have reproduced well, though sharp-eyed readers may query the cover photograph's caption. General readers might benefit from a glossary of some of the physical terms used, whilst those less familiar with the county might appreciate the provision of a few location maps and a summary of relevant places to visit.

These are trifling criticisms to make of a volume which deserves to be read by anyone interested in our local landscape and countryside. Despite the wealth of information contained, the style is lucid and readable throughout. Those who already know Gloucestershire will find that this volume deepens their enjoyment of walking, cycling or motoring through its countryside. Students of geography will find much of direct relevance to their studies in a book which is, above all, enjoyable to read. They will be reminded that our local surroundings can inspire as much interest as the more obviously dramatic landscapes found further afield.

Most accomplished geographers refer freely to their home localities; our hope is that this volume will encourage future generations of Richians to do likewise.

### **Mr S W Pack**

*Alan is still very much involved at the school - he teaches part time, his Founder's Trail leads Year 7 boys around the City of Gloucester on a journey of discovery about our Blue Coat Heritage and he is often the quiet advisor to staff both new and old!*

## Bleak Eyes and Muffled Voices

The room looks cheery, despite the bleak looks on the occupants' faces. The large windows let in the early evening sun, and the long, railway track-like lights on the ceiling would keep the room lit once the sun had gone. The walls were a light blue, and covered by anti-smoking posters. The soft chairs did very little to improve the atmosphere created by those waiting there.

The occupants are quiet, as if in a library, or at a funeral. One's eyes are bleak and sad, the dark shadows underneath evading the bright lights. Another sits reading through the daily newspaper, while a young child plays with a small bright green lorry, driving it around the metropolis that is the table. Spread upon the table are vividly coloured pamphlets and magazines, and more plain leaflets about the surgery's opening hours.

The occupants all look to the black box as the silence is broken by a shrill ringing. A muffled voice beckons a Mr Jones to Dr Mills in room three. An old, dark skinned man with receding white hair slowly stands and limps out of the room, not to return.

The silence returns for only a few precious moments, before a young mother and two children enter. The children are both bawling as loud as they can, but stop as soon as the mother hands them packets of crisps. She sits beside a middle-aged woman, who comments on the children cheerfully and offers small tips.

The cycle continues as people young and old arrive, sit in the dreary atmosphere, and then leave to be replaced by others. The cycle seems as pointless as filling a leaking bucket with water.

And then, at a certain time, the water supply stops, and the bucket slowly but surely drains empty, until, at least, the time when the supplies are renewed.

Chris Howard, 11S  
March 2006



## ***Year 7 Visit to Stratford-upon-Avon***

The first thing that struck me about Stratford-upon-Avon is the beauty of the place. From the Tudor half-timbered houses to the picturesque Georgian manors on tree-lined avenues, Stratford hosts a wide range of old English architecture, excellent on the property ladder. This also makes Stratford popular with the wealthy, as you can tell by the sports cars parked outside and the impressive river views.

Its only downside is the tourism. Even during the week the high street is so packed I can't imagine what it must be like at the weekend. Even the houses in the countryside, like Mary Arden's, are busy. You simply can't escape the tourists. Still, what do you expect from Shakespeare's home town!

The Youth Hostel provides a basic, simple residence, with comfy beds, sinks and showers. Not the Ritz, but good enough. There are cooked meals, good hygiene and tidy rooms.



The long, two mile walk into town was fun the first time, but became boring on the second, and tiresome the third! Firstly on Wednesday we went to play games in the park, a new, spotless play area with swings, slides, a zip-wire, and a spinning cage. If you ran fast enough and jumped, you could hover in the air for a long time, but it gave you rope burn.

As soon as I stepped into the butterfly farm I was hit by an explosion of colour. Being the largest in Europe, there are not only butterflies, but moths, lizards, fish, insects, birds, snakes, scorpions and spiders. All of the animals are kept in maintained, natural habitats, and seem well looked after. There are butterflies and moths of every shape and size imaginable, and each has its own individual pattern. My favourite was the largest, and it looked about thirty centimetres long. Unfortunately, it has no mouth, so it only lives for two or three days. But it is still incredibly stunning. There are ponds and





waterfalls, tropical trees and flowers, even a parrot.

The swimming pool was not so great. There were no diving boards or anything, it was just a grotty rectangle.

Mary Arden's house, (she was Shakespeare's mother) was amazing. We arrived in the open top bus, which had a headset tour, and were shown around by a kind man. There was everything imaginable from that period of time.

The Falconry was one of the highlights of the trip. We saw many interesting birds of prey, like falcons and owls. I got to hold a huge one. Unfortunately, it came with a piece of dead chick!

The motor museum was another major highlight. I saw most of the English brands I could imagine, like Land Rover, Rover, Aston Martin, Morgan, Austin, Jaguar, Standard, MG, Ascari, and many more. I also saw an F1 car and a two million pound Rover jet car. Then there was the exhilarating 4x4 Experience, being thrown around the interior of a Land Rover - all shook up!

Overall, I think it was an enjoyable trip I would recommend and go on again, even though the provided lunches are disgusting!

**George Webb 7T**



# In Memoriam

## David Quentin Hook

**4<sup>th</sup> February 1961 – 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2006**

We are very sad to have to report the death of David Hook - School Governor & Chairman of the Old Richians Association. Since his days as a boy at the school David has always been a strong believer and proponent of the ideals and ethos of Sir Thomas Rich's School, as well as being extremely proud of the education he received there. David has always worked hard to perpetuate a secure link between the school and its old boys. At 45 his sudden death from heart failure comes as a totally unexpected shock to all who knew him.

David attended Rich's from 1972 - 1980 and on leaving school went up to Leicester Polytechnic (as it was then, now Leicester De Montfort University) to read Estate Management. On his return to Gloucester and completion of his professional training,

David worked at the Shire Hall for the County Council before joining Gloucester City Council as a surveyor and valuer.

Immediately on leaving School David joined the Old Richians' Association and upon his return to Gloucester he displayed his dedication to the Association by becoming a committee member and by instigating the junior section, a very innovative and forward thinking step from which the Association has benefited considerably. As well as working to strengthen the link between the main Association and school leavers through this junior section, David also established the Richian Trust with the aim of being able to provide financial benefit to both the School and individual Richians. Assisted by his band of helpers, David ran numerous fund raising events to raise funds for the Richian Trust and although in recent times the Trust's funds have been swelled by additional gifts left to the Association, the Richian Trust's existence is due solely to David's efforts.

As the years passed David graduated from being Chairman of the Junior Section of the Association to taking on a greater role in the running of the main Association, initially as Membership Secretary and eventually, from 1996 to 1998, as President of the Association (at the time when the President's office also included the post of Chairman). Subsequently, when the roles of President and Chairman were split, David took on the post of Chairman which he filled until his untimely death. David worked tirelessly for the Association in the post of Chairman, often taking on tasks which others were reluctant to undertake and in this respect almost became a workaholic in its cause.

He still found time for many other interests, in particular his association with Lonsdale Church, as well as finding time for a varied social life and to embark on his much loved travels throughout Europe. Recently he studied and visited many First World War



battlefields and their associated cemeteries and memorials, and indeed had expressed a wish that the Association might be able to run a trip to the battlefield sites and have a plaque hung at the Church in Ypres to mark the ultimate sacrifice made by Richians in their Country's cause.

David's affection and support for Sir Thomas Rich's School was unsurpassed and he was extremely proud to have been able to follow in the footsteps of his father Bill and brothers Gordon and John as pupils at the School. From the time that he was Deputy Head Boy until the last occasion when the future of the School as a grammar school came under threat, only a couple of years ago, and on the numerous occasions between, he was always at the fore in instigating and supporting the campaigns in support of the School and preserving its status as a Grammar School.

He was a long standing Governor of the School and a staunch supporter of its traditions; indeed he often despaired at those of us who perhaps did not display such passion, enthusiasm and dedication in preserving these!

Whilst pursuing all his other interests, David developed his career with the Council with a commitment to improving the facilities and general well being of his beloved home city. His dedication to his profession resulted in rapid promotion and he became a senior surveyor and valuer in the City Council, very well liked and respected by his colleagues.

David had a great sense of humour and often made light of difficult situations. He had the marvellous ability to be able to associate and bond with both young and old and of being able to establish and continue friendships throughout the whole world, as well as with those within the City and involved with Rich's.

David will be sorely missed by all his work colleagues, friends and acquaintances as well of course by members of the Association. Our deepest sympathies go out to his parents Bill and Joan, his brothers Gordon and John and to all other members of his family.

I used to think, loving life so greatly,  
That to die would be like leaving a party  
Before the end.

Now I know that the party  
Is really happening somewhere else.

That the light and the music  
Escaping in snatches  
To make the pulse beat  
And the tempo quicken  
Come from a long way away.

And I know too  
That when I get there  
The music will never end.

During each of their years 7, 8 & 9 the boys at Rich's have a 12 week module of Food Technology as part of the D&T syllabus. As can be expected they really enjoy the practical sessions in the kitchen, many of them experiencing and learning for the first time important culinary skills as well as finding out about vital nutritional considerations for a healthy life style.



Here Tom Grime (7S) has recorded how he rustled up a shepherds pie for his family!

### **Making Shepherds Pie**



#### **The Ingredients**

400g Lean Minced Lamb  
3 Large Potatoes  
1 Small Onion  
50g Butter (for mash)  
100g Grated Cheese  
Oil (for browning meat)  
Seasoning



**Cutting the Spuds**  
Sharp knife - no slips!!



**Grating the Cheese**  
Keep finger-tips clear!!



**Meat into Pie Dish**  
Mmmmm - smells good!!



**Mashing the Spuds**  
Needs a strong arm!!



**Sprinkle on Cheese**  
Bake 'til crispy golden!!



## 2006 Visit By Miss Preen To PMM Girl's School, Jinja, Uganda



At the end of the summer term Geography Teacher Miss Preen visited our Link School in Uganda. The following photo log gives us all a clear insight into school life at PMM as well as what the surrounding community and countryside, in which the school is situated, is like.

Approaching PMM Girl's School on the first morning, the main block can be seen across the playing field from the drive. This building houses 3 floors of classrooms which at the time of my visit were also being used for exams.

Headmistress Mrs Lujwala's office is located in the PMM Girl's School administration block, fronted by very well kept and landscaped gardens supported by the school wildlife club.





The school wildlife club also helps to maintain the wildlife garden within the school grounds. Environmental studies are an important part of the school curriculum in Uganda.



In addition to the wildlife garden within the school grounds, PMM also owns a school forest located outside of Jinja. Here children are taught the value of maintaining the land, crop rotation and the importance of trees in preventing soil erosion. Mr Mutalya not only teaches this but is very involved in wider environmental awareness nationally.

I was able to observe several lessons in my time at PMM. Teachers may address up to 90 students at a time with few resources, however the enthusiasm of students to learn minimises the problems this could pose.

Students from 9R at Sir Thomas Rich's produced posters about their lives in the UK which decorated the walls of one of the geography classrooms at PMM Girl's School.



I was able to meet with the geography department to discuss issues such as teaching methods, resources and future hopes for the link between the schools.

One of these would be the possibility of establishing weather stations to compare data from Gloucester and Jinja.





I met the PMM girls sponsored by Sir Thomas Rich's. A chance to learn about their lives, families and hopes for the future. An original 30 minutes turned into an hour chat about life in the UK and Uganda as their confidence grew.



I had the opportunity to play netball with some of the PMM students.

The standard was very high and I think a match between the two schools would be very close.

Volleyball is also very popular in Uganda and at PMM.

Below is the cast of students who performed in the school concert, some of whom are the local schools champions with their environmental dance.







The concert was held in the open on the school field and began with poetry, followed by a song, a recorder recital, more songs and finally a performance of the winning dance from the area schools competition.

The excellent recorder recital was given by one of the few boys at PMM.

Boys only enter the school at senior level, similar to girls at STRS.

Discussing geography with Mr Arubu on the shore of Lake Victoria, a popular location for local schools studying the environment.



The freshest fish in Uganda! Lake Victoria provides fish for export across the world, with a large proportion coming to the UK.

Fishermen, goods and travellers coming ashore at Lake Victoria make this an important location in the area.

I also visited Walukuba East Primary School, Jinja.

Primary education has recently become free to all in Uganda which is a fantastic development but this means an extended period of transition while resources catch up to meet the increased demand.

This stretches a small school to its limits, with class sizes commonly over 100 children. However the enthusiasm for learning





gives the impression that over time this will benefit Uganda immensely.

Mrs Bakaalikwira, Headteacher at Walukuba East Primary School on the outskirts of Jinja.



Primary students looked very smart in their pink and beige uniforms, and performed an excellent rendition of 'The Owl And The Pussycat'.

Saturday was my final full day in Jinja with a packed schedule of sight-seeing and interesting geography planned!

We met at PMM at 10am to board the school bus for a trip to Bujagali and Itanda waterfalls and then on to the source of the river Nile which is just outside of Jinja.



There was a great atmosphere on the bus with approximately 20 teachers and their families joining us on the trip. Here we all are pictured at Itanda Falls - the first stop on our trip to see the Nile.



The River Nile widens before narrowing and cutting through the rock at Itanda Falls, the scale of the river and the noise from the falls can't be captured in a picture. White water rafting on this part of the Nile is very popular.

Bujagali Falls is more accessible than Itanda and hence has more visitors. The water level is low in this picture due to a period of drought, normally it would flow over the rocks at the top left of the picture and make the falls even more powerful.





Locals who know the rapids at Bujagali Falls are able to ride them with a small float as support. Here the man can just be seen in the middle of the falls before he disappeared, only to emerge another 50 metres down the falls.

Sundown at the source of the River Nile. The actual start of the Nile can no longer be seen as it is a waterfall flowing out of Lake Victoria and this is now covered by water due to a hydroelectric dam visible just past the bridge in the distance.















Visitors will have noticed the mural which now adorns a wall in the entrance archway to the school. This mosaic design, compiled by Jack Vickery (11B), won an arts competition held in the school. The mural brightens what was a featureless and dull area of the school.







Southgate  
Cock House 2006  
House Captain Richard Duxbury





# House Athletics



Photos by  
RJL









### **Jersey Tour 2006**

The gales blew, ferries were cancelled, rain fell - yet the U13 & U14 teams remained undaunted and in between it all completed with honours even their schedule of six matches against Jersey Island's strongest representative & school sides.

Special thanks must go to Mr Lloyd & Mr Sims.







### ***Cricket Success for Surman and his Team***

Pictured are our U15 cricket team posing with the City cup which they won by beating Beaufort by 9 wickets. Beaufort 106 for 4, STRS 110 for 1. They also won the County cup beating Tewkesbury by 8 wickets, Tewkesbury 107 for 9 in 30 overs, Rich's 109 for 2 in the 21st over.

This has been a wonderfully successful term for the team who have won all twelve games that they have played. The key to the team's success has been very powerful batting with five players excelling - Chris Surman 362 runs (average 181), Niall Drury 222 (110), Will Latter 330 (37), Oliver Ellis 189 (38) and Ben Fabbro 152 (22.4). All five batted with correct technique, striking the ball very hard when attacking. They were particularly successful when batting second, pacing the chase with great maturity.



Two bowlers have shone, Anis Patel (right) with 13 wickets and off-spinner James Payne (left) with 22 wickets.

Chris Surman led the side with growing intelligence and in the finals showed an excellent appreciation of how to blend attack with defence.





### ***Duke of Edinburgh's Award***

There were 37 participants starting the Bronze Award this year and 11 starting the Silver Award. Congratulations to the following boys who during the year have received their certificates and badges -

**Silver:** Simon St John Green, James Wilson, Mark Page, Stuart Mason, Jon Morley.

**Bronze:** James Hewlett, Richard Young, Thomas Towers, Adam Ford, Ellis Thompson, Hilary Wise, Michael Brook, Matthew Broadhead.



### ***Aachen Students Enjoy Work Experience in Gloucester***

As part of their 'Berufspraktikum' exchange students from Pius Gymnasium in Aachen spend a week working in local firms and schools around Gloucester. Pictured here is Sascha talking to David Pealing, Sales Director of SevernPrint, whose company incidentally make such a good job of printing 'The Richian' for us!



By way of an ice-breaking exercise the Aacheners spend the first day with their partners at an Anglo-German Enterprise Day in school.

We thank all those who help with work placements.

# Chernobyl - Nuclear Zone

Fall Out, Fall In  
You're due to be counted  
Because some Russian  
At Chernobyl miscounted.

Harsh clicking crescendo  
The Geiger counts:  
Becquerel upon Becquerel,  
The death level mounts.

Science unfettered  
Beyond control  
Runs wild riot of death  
Untamed, untameable.

Fall in, Fall-out,  
The smoke clouds rise  
Spewing deadly dust  
High into the skies

To fall back invisible  
In sick rains of death  
Spreading their vile evil  
All over the earth.

Nuclear holocaust strikes:  
Unstoppable melt down of reactor  
core  
Keeps ablaze the fiery inferno  
Of the unquenchable Ukrainian  
torch.

Burn on funeral pyre,  
Herald of death,  
In everlasting fire,  
Burn on!

Unleashing Mother Nature's  
Terrible life-binding forces  
To rend asunder  
The very fabric of life -  
Reeking death and destruction  
The whole world over.

Spores of death float away  
On the fall-out's pall,  
Isotope half-life, half-death;  
The innocent land  
Silent, suffering victim.

Victim of -  
Scientist's knowledge,  
Technologist's blunder,  
Politician's demands,  
Man's uncaring greed.

Twenty years ago on 25th April 1986 over-heating of the reactor at a nuclear power station in the central Ukrainian town of Chernobyl resulted in a massive leak. The resulting clouds of radioactive isotopes were traced as far away as northern Scandinavia. Over 400 people died in the immediate aftermath and thousands of square miles remain contaminated.

©1986 PJB





## Founder's Trail







The Founder's Trail is a journey around Gloucester visiting all the places and points of interest relating to our school's history, development and its founder Sir Thomas Rich. Put together by Mr A S Pilbeam, this trail is followed each year by all Year 7 pupils so that they may appreciate some of the history and traditions of the school - and thereby the greater community of Richians - to which they now belong.

The trail starts at "S" and follows the red arrows on the map, which is a copy from an engraving of a map of the City of Gloucester in 1712. At each point snippets of information are given and observational questions posed.

A full version of the Founder's Trail can be viewed on the school website at: [www.strs.org.uk/school\\_life/founders\\_trail.html](http://www.strs.org.uk/school_life/founders_trail.html)





### ***Year 10 Citizenship/Careers Day***

On the 12th of October our Year 10 students had the opportunity to develop their personal skills and general knowledge through a number of workshop activities. These included the RAF Motivational Team, InfoBuzz Drugs Counselling, The Educational Business Partnership Enterprise Activities and Connexions University Guide. Feedback from the students was positive and the targets at enhancing the Year 10's skill base were accomplished.

This was just one of many events that are staged during the year for the benefit of our older boys in Years 10 & 11. Vital lessons in life skills are proffered and awareness raised of career related opportunities and the world beyond school in general. These activities complement the careers and citizenship lessons the boys receive in school alongside visits to the local careers fairs. A full programme of careers interviews and instruction in completing application forms and curriculum vitae help set our young boys off on the right path towards meaningful and worthwhile university, career and job opportunities.

Support of local specialist agencies is important in this vital work but none of it would happen as well as it does without the in-depth knowledge, expertise and understanding of Mr Peter Lloyd, who somehow manages to perform the onerous role of Careers Advisor with his other full time duties of PE teacher & Games instructor.

Chasing up Trident forms and coordinating careers interviews is a thankless task, often not drawing the gratitude it should from the recipients who ultimately may have a great deal for which to be thankful – decisions, ideas, opportunities at this stage of their young lives can lead to great benefits and rewards later on.

## **Toplink Festival**

Under the Gloucester City School Sports Partnership Sir Thomas Rich's is a "hub" school with links to local primary schools. Our School Sports Co-ordinator is Richard Cooper; his rôle is to encourage and develop sports participation in all the schools in our group. With Richard, nine of our Year 10 boys, who are working towards Junior Sports Leadership Awards, organised on the school field a mini-football world cup for children from Elmbridge and Dinglewell Infant and Junior Schools. The event was a great success, the boys showed excellent organisational skills as well as refereeing all the matches. Here is a short report from Richard:

*Following the work which nine Year 10 students put into their Level One Leadership Award in Sport course, they were given the opportunity to put their skills into practice. During the first visit to Elmbridge Junior School the students were given the chance to observe a Year 6 lesson being taught. After this the students led a warm-up for the Year 6 pupils. The students demonstrated good communication skills as they explained the tasks to the pupils with enthusiasm.*

*The experience of working with the pupils from Elmbridge Juniors helped to prepare the students for the Toplink Festival which was held on Wednesday 21st June. All of the schools in the Sir Thomas Rich's family of schools were invited to take part in a mini football World Cup, with each team of 6 pupils given a country from this year's World Cup finals to represent. There were two separate competitions running alongside each other. In the Year 6 competition 60 pupils from Elmbridge Juniors took part in a knock out competition throughout the afternoon. In the Year 2 competition 30 pupils from Dinglewell Infants and 30 pupils from Elmbridge Infants competed in a friendly competition. The afternoon proved to be a great success that was enjoyed by all who took part in a super afternoon of football.*

*The students refereed these small sided games, demonstrating maturity and the ability to make decisions under pressure. The final of the Year 6 game went to extra time and this still didn't separate the two teams so we went into a 'golden goal' which again proved unsuccessful. As a result the game ended with a nail-biting penalty shoot-out which finished 2-1.*

*Congratulations to all of those students who took part in the Toplink festival, it has been a pleasure to work with you this year and to see your leadership qualities develop. Well done!*

**Richard Cooper – School Sports Coordinator**



## **Southgate Cock House 2006**

At the end of the twenty-two inter-house events Southgate proved run-away winners for the academic year 2005-2006, with last year's winners Eastgate, suffering an ignominious reversal in fortunes!

Final positions were -

<b>1st</b>	<b>Southgate</b>	<b>81 points</b>
<b>2nd</b>	<b>Northgate</b>	<b>66 points</b>
<b>3rd</b>	<b>Westgate</b>	<b>57½ points</b>
<b>4th</b>	<b>Eastgate</b>	<b>55½ points</b>





## **Nightshriek -- A Musical by Trisha Ward**

This rock musical adaptation of Shakespeare's "Macbeth" retains many cornerstones of the master's original plot and many of the characters' traits that are synonymous with darkness, fear, intrigue and murder.

Macbeth, the Thane of Glamis, wins an important battle for King Duncan. In acknowledgement of his loyalty and valour, King Duncan presents Macbeth with the title of the Thane of Cawdor. It is at this point that Lady Macbeth realises her husband could go much further - her latent evil surfaces and possesses her every thought until she eventually persuades Macbeth to murder King Duncan whilst visiting their castle. He murders the king and lays the blame on the king's bodyguards, whom he also murders.

Unfortunately for Macbeth, suspicions are aroused. Duncan's sons Malcolm and Donalbain are not satisfied with Macbeth's explanations of their father's death and flee Scotland in order to raise armies in England and Ireland. Banquo too is suspicious of Macbeth, the newly crowned king. Macduff also begins to realise the truth about Macbeth and his conscience forces him to leave behind his wife Lady Macduff and his child so that he can join Malcolm's army in England. Macduff has possibly miscalculated the depth of evil that lies heavily on Scotland; it is a tyranny and Macbeth's henchmen carry out his murders with increasing frequency to sustain the evil monarch.

Disguised as a forest, the army moves towards Macbeth under command of Malcolm and Macduff. Meanwhile Lady Macbeth starts to slip into insanity. The final battle sees the prediction of the witches' apparitions come true - "No man born of woman shall harm Macbeth." Who then can possibly kill him?

On 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> March this question was answered when the Senior Drama department took to the stage with the musical Nightshriek. For just over two months, the cast of over 30 students had worked extremely hard to put together this complicated show, which is a rock musical version of Shakespeare's Macbeth.

The musical acts as a rock/gothic vehicle for the story of betrayal, murder, the paranormal, villains and heroes. Scott Yearsley starred as the troubled Macbeth, with Theresa Turner as the dark, manipulative character of Lady Macbeth. Joining them in other leading roles were Joe Patel as the valiant Macduff and Nafisa Sayani as Lady Macduff, Macduff's loyal wife. They were supported by a strong cast of witches, soldiers and a chorus of attendants and messengers. All acted, sang and danced superbly and provided excellent entertainment to over 160 people across the two nights. Many other students and staff supported the production in terms of stage crew, lighting and sound, set design and costumes, but performance directors Mr Crumblehulme and Mrs Briscoe were most grateful to Jon Roskilly, who, by himself, directed an incredibly talented rock band with a complicated score, bringing them to a polished and professional unit in just only three weeks!





## The Room

In the room there is no light,  
No sound,  
No time.

Only one occupies the room,  
Who dared to enter,  
But no one knows how.

It has no doors, no doorway,  
Only four walls, the floor,  
And, the roof.

The roof of the room is addictive to look at,  
It is 'the beautiful blackness',  
Always watched by the occupant, who seems afraid.

The occupant is always hungry,  
Forever thirsty,  
Forever alone.

The loneliness will slowly kill,  
The hunger will leave him shrivelled,  
And yet, he still watches the blackness.

He slowly becomes more alert, walking around,  
Bumping into walls, treading on things he didn't want to,  
And yet, he still looks wearily up into the darkness.

Before the man's eyes,  
A pinpoint of light shone from the roof,  
Leaving the man blinded and afraid.

He tried to touch the light and failed,  
Maybe it was his only hope?  
Maybe the darkness was tricking him.

The light moved closer and hurt the man,  
His thoughts and life seemed to be flowing out of him, into the light,  
He became lifeless, and the light shone brighter.

Matthew Wood 8B



## As Quick As You Can

It is a race. It starts off casually, as fellow commuters pull out into the dark gorge that is the road. The only thing fighting against the sound of powerful explosions at the front is the noise made by the unseen face of the radio. Pretty soon the runway of traffic will become dense with people going in all directions. All the cars wind in between one another in one grand dance, finally finding their own place to rest.

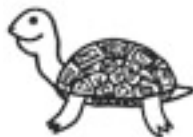
And once at rest, these graceful machines silence themselves as the operators climb down and congregate around a central pair of cold, iron gates. Suddenly, the road becomes all quiet. The once dangerous and frantic racetrack almost becomes a bare stage set for the imagination of the children. The lonesome cars huddle together, allowing one more to join their ranks.

A stampede can be heard. It is coming this way. Everyone is alert; they can smell the trouble that is ready to be set free. Each parent is silent, listening for the singular sound that signifies their chance to leave. A sudden flash and then they all appear. A thousand children run to their parents, shouting the sound of freedom as they are rounded up by their individual shepherds.

A small, blonde girl walks out of the doors to the school. She does not run, she does not push like the others, to get out first. She ambles past the ball of people all tumbling around one another. She recites the story of "The Tortoise and The Hare" in her head, as she scans the horizon for her mother. She spots her, just waiting outside the almighty gates, and trots over to her.

Her mum greets her and takes her to the car. The silence that had filled it is immediately ushered out, as they both climb in. The familiar smell meets the girl's nose with a gentlemanly bow and a kiss of the hand, and then sits itself down comfortably next to her. The explosions start up again, this time drowned by the voice of conversation held between the travellers.

The car smoothly glides away from its dock, and flutters away down the path. The girl looks back, and sees the other children still running about, falling over themselves to get home. She smiles to herself, and thinks, "It looks like the slow and steady tortoise wins again."



## ***Immersed in China***

Last July 6 members of the Lower Sixth accompanied by Ian Birchall and myself travelled to Xiamen in Fujian Province in Southern China for a British Council Immersion Course. This included lessons in Mandarin Chinese as well as lectures on Chinese tea culture, cuisine and calligraphy along with trips around Xiamen city and its tourist attractions.

Each of the students had a Chinese host with whom a lot of time was passed completing the City Hunt - a project which involved getting to know as much as possible about Xiamen and the Chinese way of life – as well as spending a day with them at their homes.

After 2 weeks in Xiamen (and 2 typhoons to boot!) we stopped in Beijing for 2 days of sightseeing before flying home. During both very busy

days, we saw the Temple of Heaven, Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace, the Ming Tombs, the Great Wall, a Chinese Acrobatics show and a little of Beijing by night!

Many thanks from all of us must go to Mrs Hewett for doing all the organisation, to Mr Brookin for giving us some of the basics of the language before we went, and from Mr Birchall and myself to Will Franklin, Will Defraigne, Stacie Morgan, Rosie Todman, Stefan Farahani and Matt McGrigor for making it such an enjoyable experience.

For a longer description of the trip and a vast number of photos have a look at the school website [www.strs.org.uk](http://www.strs.org.uk) and follow the links.

***M Adamson***





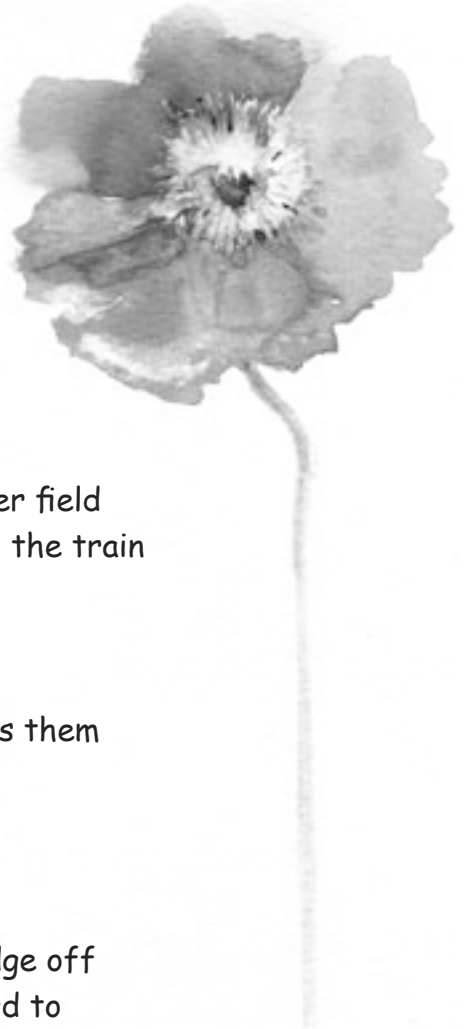
## Through Glass

You're looking at them through the glass  
Don't know how much time has past  
God it feels like forever  
But no one ever told you  
That forever feels like home  
Sitting all alone inside your head

A heron lifts off the icy waters  
Leaving ripples in the pond  
Landing by his nest  
His family, where he is at home  
But them, they were leaving that  
Their Home, Family And Friends

Tunnel after tunnel and field after field  
The smell of fear wafting around the train  
Shivers and grimaces  
No smiles  
Nothing to smile about  
The thought of death overwhelms them

Smoke poured out the chimney  
Almost engulfing the scenery  
As the brakes screech to a stop  
The doors slide open and we trudge off  
Pain and suffering to look forward to  
Off to war we go ....



By Ben Major 7B



## Going To War

Ruby red cows  
Scatter,  
Scarcely do the animals  
Follow.

A lonely heron  
Joined us,  
Little did he linger  
After trees appeared.

Chugging along in the train  
I think,  
Will I see home again  
Or die and sink  
Into the mud?

These are things  
I wonder,  
As we go into the world  
Of thunder.

A dark tunnel  
Appears,  
Like the way  
To heaven.  
It feels like a lifetime ..  
But I know it's just  
A while.

By Luke Walter 7B

## Off to War

Off we go to the war,  
Step in, and shut the door.  
Here we go, hopefully not again,  
Saying goodbye is such pain.

We both looked out,  
We saw a heron lift off and fly;  
Some cows scattered,  
As the train chattered;  
Tails high as they ran.

We were in a tunnel,  
A long, dark, smoky tunnel.  
It was like we'd been here a year.  
All Charlie and me could do was  
Keep clear.

We were going off to war.  
A place we had never gone  
Before.

It seemed ages,  
a lifetime.

By Will Hayden 7B

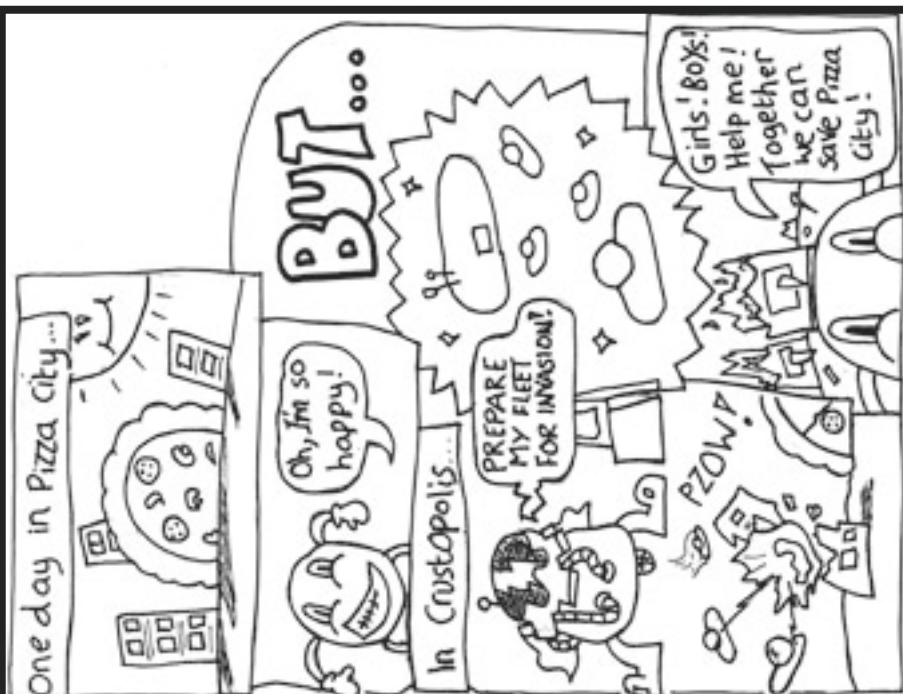


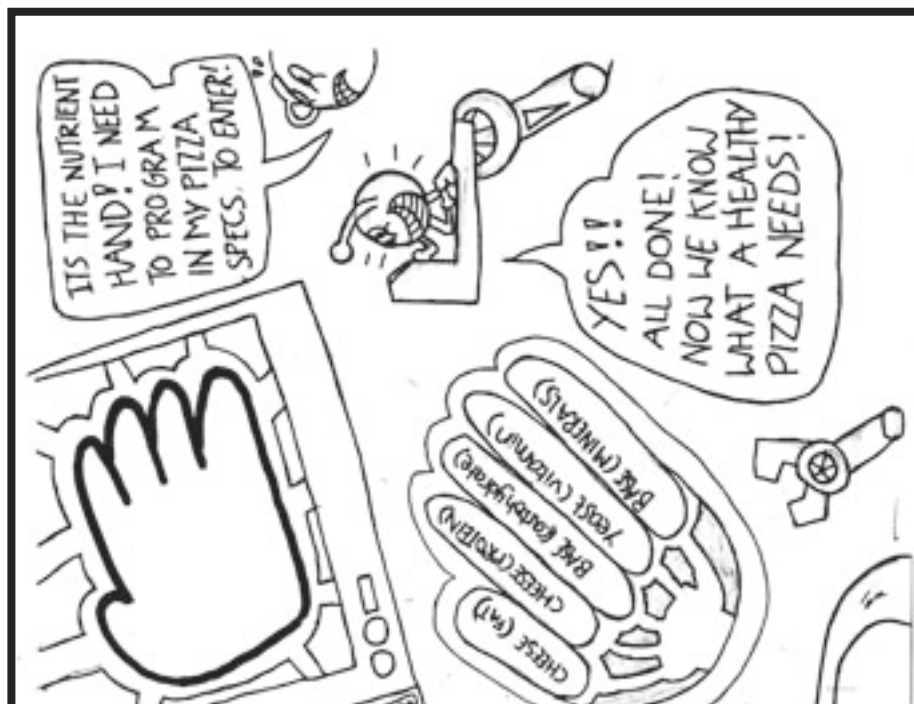
# PIZZA BOY in ATTACK OF THE KILLER OTIVES

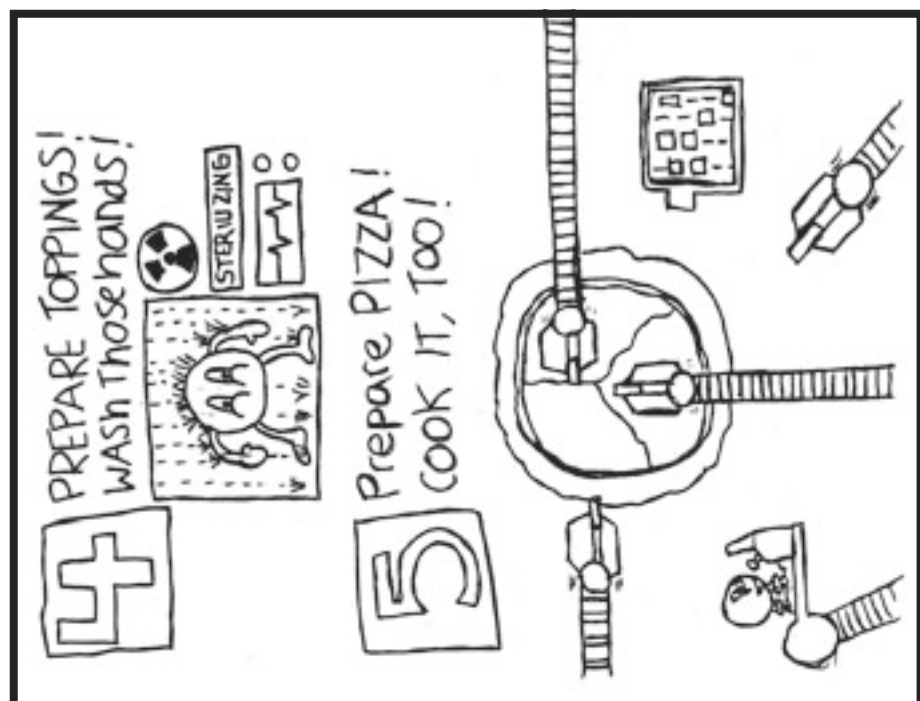
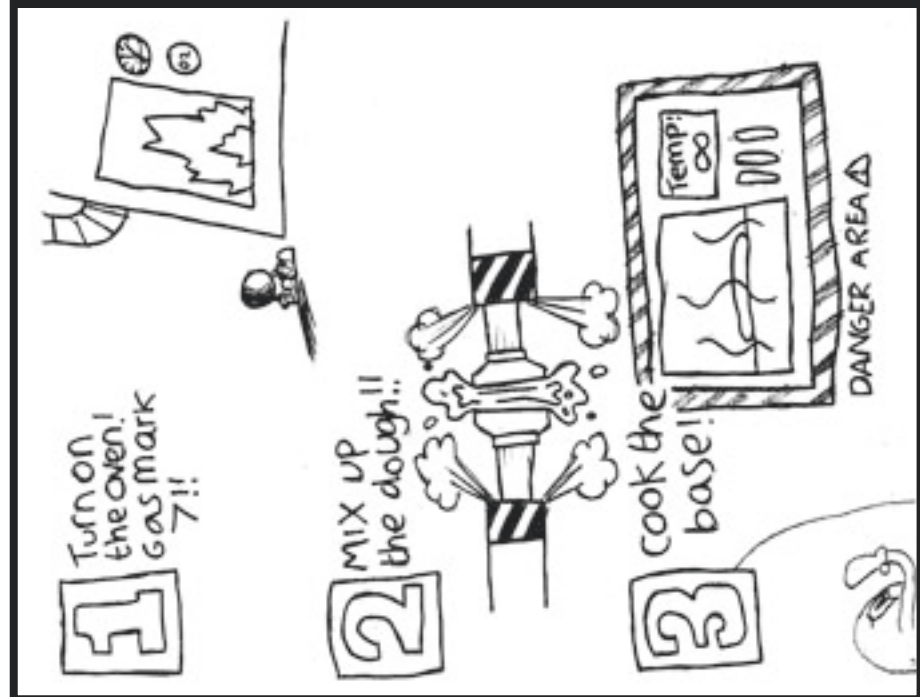


OR: "THE PIZZA  
BOOKLET"

BY: Oscar Byrne & T











## **MP3 Players In School??? Never!! -- An Opinion from Iain Murphy 9R**

A newly appointed school rule says that eleven to fifteen year olds are not permitted to bring any MP3 players, CD Walkman, or cassette players inside the school grounds. As of yet, I do not know of anyone that has broken this new rule, but I suspect that is due more to the alertness of the students rather than their honesty.

As you would expect, there is some hostility towards the new rule, but despite this, there are well-supported reasons for it to be held as it is. One main reason is the responsibility; the school cannot trust pupils from years seven to eleven not to lose the small, lightweight gadgets. Also the more expensive things that are brought into school, the more likely things are to be lost or even stolen.

As counter to this, many students would argue that they could be kept in lockers or looked after by form tutors, but this would cause more responsibility for the teachers and they do not deserve to have to look after their charges' possessions. Phones have caused the same kind of problems, yet because they are built to be used as a means of contact, or so was the case at some point, they are only confiscated if caught on. With the new rule, MP3 players can be taken away even if you are just taking it from your coat to your bag. They are not allowed in the school grounds.

A lot of students would, obviously, argue the fairness of this rule, but many would have no base point, they would simply argue for the sake of it. There are, however, people who would argue sensibly about this. A lot would say that the players are very useful as they help them to concentrate, this may seem like a bit of a cliché but even at the time of writing this speech I had some music playing. I don't think anything really heavy, Pink Floyd - Fearless I think it was, but some light music in the background can help people to concentrate on the task. This works because you're never really listening to all the words of the song, which is what usually drags people in, but it just makes people feel comfortable to have it playing. It also gives students something to do at Lunch and Break times, and before and after school walking home, and if we're honest, if you're listening to music you're less likely to be kicking in letterboxes. But some people would argue against this too as it makes walking a lot more dangerous, as the children they are not fully concentrating on the road, and this could go for cycling as well.

To end I will say that I agree that MP3 players can be a distraction and a danger on the roads to an extent, but they haven't yet become a major problem in school life. Another worry was that teachers would be ignored but this is completely untrue. The pupils still have the same amount of respect for the teachers as they did before the rule and even before MP3 players existed.

I see no need for a ban as there have been no problems yet.

### ***Extracts from a Stratford Diary***

*"We eventually arrived back at Tummies by 2.45pm"*

*"... set off on a trip to the picturesque village of Stratford Upon Avon for a 3 day walking holiday."*

*"It was cold and windy on the Wednesday that we left for Stratford Upon Avon – the class were shaking like rattle snake tails."*

*"We went to the Butterfly Farm and saw lots of different butterflies and lots of cocoons and pumas."*

*"... due to poor healthcare and sanctities ..."*

## **44th ESU Summer Expedition**

### **Portland Weymouth**

Having successfully established the first Gloucester District Explorer Scouts climbing contingent, primarily attended by members of the 44th ESU, it was decided to run a specific rock-climbing trip. Thus ending the year on a high note and enabling the introduction of 'real rock' to the more novice Explorer Scouts who had only experienced the Gloucester Indoor Climbing Centre.

The base for our expedition was the Sea Barn Farm Camp site, located west of Weymouth on the coast. While at the campsite the Explorer Scouts made friends with other fellow campers and introduced them to sports including cricket, football and frisbee.

The abseiling and rock climbing took place on Portland Bill, an isle south of Weymouth connected by a causeway. The chief geology of the isle is Portland stone and Purbeck limestone; the steep cliffs down to the sea provide over 750 sport climbing routes of varying grades satisfying all climbers from novice to professional.

The school bell sounds, the minibus packed with ropes, karabiners, stoves and food, awaits the Explorer Scouts with their kit. The mayhem and fun for the weekend commences. It is not long before we are on our way, clocking up the miles on the M5 descending through the south west, fast approaching Dorset.

The camp is quickly made; some pointers and tricks for erecting tents are taken on board. Next on the agenda is food, so it's back on the bus and Weymouth here we come. It isn't long before we cross paths with a local Fish & Chip shop. Dialogue is exchanged, a discount for bulk agreed, bottoms perched on benches and hungry mouths eagerly awaiting their feed.

We awoke to a gloomy Saturday morning, it wasn't looking good but we weren't put off. Breakfast is on the go - bacon, sausage, coffee and tea, starting the day as we mean to go on. Managing to beat the weather for the first couple of hours, climbs in the 'Cuttings' area were pursued and completed by all. Lunchtime arrived and with it came the rain. This did not stop us; we had a plan - swimming back at the campsite.

With Sunday came the good weather and a change of climbing venue on Portland, we were heading for 'Blacknor'. The approach to the area has one of the best abseils on the isle, a fantastic opportunity for the Explorer Scouts to experience. At least a dozen different climbs were completed. The consensus at the end of the day was that the climbs were so good, we decided to return again for the final morning.



Waking on the final day of the trip we were again greeted with glorious sunshine. Rucksacks were packed following breakfast and stored in the tents ready for our departure after lunch. We returned to 'Blacknor' where the Explorer Scouts demonstrated what they had learned over the last couple of days with only minimal guidance from the Leaders. The highlight of the trip was introducing the Explorer Scouts to 'Lead Climbing'; which was a great success.

Many thanks to all those who took part and to the Leaders who gave up their time; ensuring the trip was a success.

**Adam Griffiths**



### **Dragon Boat Races**

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2006

Once more the 44<sup>th</sup> took part in this now successful County Youth Event.

Early on a beautiful Sunday morning, gentle mists still swirling like wisps of gauze over the quiet South Cerney waters, six of the unit arrived to take their places on the District Explorer Dragon Boat.

But what's this? Where are the other paddlers from the other Explorer Units? The long sleek dragon boats need at least 12 crew members to enter the race, 16 to sustain an effective powerhouse over the whole course, 20 if there is to be any pretensions of winning.

Ever the optimists and showing the initiative their leaders expect from their charges, the six intrepid paddlers drew on the "family" ties with their fellow Scouts and press-ganged several reserve paddlers from the County Scout boat (against who they were drawn to compete!) to fill the empty seats.

Net result - several young Scouts got to race all the races with their bigger Explorer "cousins", the Explorer Boat was able to take to the waters in all heats with a full complement - and the County Scout Boat was beaten into fourth place by our District Explorer Boat!! So we paddled out in third place overall and took home quite a nice little trophy to mark our efforts!

So with many thanks to those young Scouts who joined us, yet another enjoyable Sunday Dragon Boat Racing was notched up in the annals of the Venturing 44<sup>th</sup> !!

### **Charity Fundraising Tops £2000!**

The unit has been as committed as ever to supporting charities, especially local ones such as Meningitis Trust, Chariot for Jack and The Crack Cancer Cobalt Appeal. Sponsorship of unit members walking/running/climbing has contributed to this great total. In addition the unit has run Year 7/8 Discos and organised the ever popular Quiz Night.







## ***“1 Single To Moruca”***

### ***- A Year In The Life Of Samuel Coe Aged 19 Years 3 Months***

Just a note on the title, if you want to find out more about Guyana I recommend reading ‘3 Singles to Adventure’ by Gerald Durrell. It’s frankly hilarious. This is the story of my gap year, which started on 19th August 2005, which by the way was the morning after the A-level results had been released. Needless to say after having arrived home at 3am the last thing on my mind was getting into a car being driven to Manchester airport and embarking on an 8-hour flight to Guyana!

Once we’d arrived at the airport and met all the other volunteers it was time to say goodbye to my family. Our flight was not actually direct. It included an overnight hop in Barbados where we were to my surprise put up in a 4-star hotel. It was at this said hotel that I tried a dolphin steak. If you asked me how it tasted I would say that if we define a dolphin as a mammal that lives in the ocean, that’s pretty much what it tasted like: fishy, salty, chicken.



The following day we arrived in Mabaruma, Guyana.

As soon as we stepped out the plane the first thing that hit me was the humidity, which stays at a pretty constant 90-95% all year, and of course the temperature never falls below 25 degrees. This had its own problems for instance if you lie down for a nap you wake up needing a fresh set of clothes as your previous ones would be soaked through, along with whatever you were lying on. So on arrival, having had only about 2 hours sleep, hot, tired, hungry and overwhelmed, our host Kala gave us an hour to get changed into some smart clothes before we were due at a party hosted by the Minister of Education in honour of our arrival.

At this point I should add that I was expecting (as were we all) that our salaries would be waiting for us upon arrival at our projects, so bear in mind that I had the grand total of G\$4000 which is about £14. Now this wouldn’t have been a problem IF we had travelled to Moruca that same day. This didn’t happen. Instead the Regional Education Officer informed us the boat due to take Joe and myself to Moruca had left 30 minutes ago with the American volunteers, even though he knew we were coming that same day! So Joe and I were put up in a Guest House along with two other Americans, who were waiting to move into their Mabaruma home.

We also met the Minister of Education again that week, with whom we pleaded to send us to Moruca - but to no avail, I would just like to note that he woke us up at 06:00 just so we could “have the pleasure of meeting him”. Joe and I got all smart only to find he was lounging in his PJs, legs slung over a deep leather chair!

Just as we were about to resign ourselves to the fact that we were going to stay in Mabaruma forever, our prayers were answered and materialised in the form of a Missionary from the “World Harvest” called Sister Mary-Ann who after we explained our predicament agreed to take us to Moruca for free as her boat needed to go back to Charity (the closest port to Moruca) but not before she took us on a trip showing us the work she does.

The trip to Moruca took 8 hours all of which were in the sun and we arrived at the bridge in the centre of Santa Rosa looking as far removed from white as possible, more a nice

shade of lobster pink! The boat trip did however show us some amazing sites - great rivers and small villages. Up till now you may have been wondering how far out Moruca was to the Capital; well I'll break it down for you. First of all it's a 70min minibus drive to a port called Parika. Then it's another 45 minutes speedboat journey to a port called Supernann followed by a 60 minute taxi drive, ending it all with a 2 and a half hour speedboat drive! All in all a bit of a mission.

So after wrestling with our giant bags with hammocks strapped on, and mosquito nets all over the place we wondered what the hell to do next, seeing as nobody had come to meet us! So we picked up our stuff and began walking. Thankfully we got about 50m before someone came up to us and introduced himself as Flight. We were then informed that the American girls (Rach and Jess) had our house keys so Flight took us to the area where our houses were and knocked on the girls' door. No answer. He runs off somewhere (a few months later I find out he only went to Wanita our neighbour to ask if she had seen the girls) and returned to inform us that the girls had gone for a walk. Joe was looking pretty faint from the day's travelling so I left him with our bags and Flight and I went for a run to find the girls. At everyone he passed he would shout something in the vain of "You seen any white girls come this way?" About 15 minutes ago the first person said. Next person said 10, then 5 until we came full circle and found them back at the house! The bad news however was that they didn't have our keys either. Feely pretty tired, sweaty and now confused by this latest revelation, my desire to go running round the village looking for the keys had evaporated. Thankfully for us a teacher by the name of Carvil managed to get a key from the master bunch at the school, albeit a back door key only.

We went into our new home and it was in a state! Boxes half full, papers everywhere, the stove covered in grease, beds unmade with mattresses looking bed-bug ridden; I could have cried. But Joe and I worked for a good few hours tidying up – even discovering a tarantula (not for the last time) under the lid of our stove. Furthermore having nothing to cook or cook with the girls very kindly let us share their pumpkin bora soup thingy.

Monday morning then and teaching began! We were tasked to teach maths. Now is a good time to explain the structure of the school. Santa Rosa Secondary School is the only secondary school in the Moruca Sub-Region. When I started it had around 200 pupils with a staff of around 20 of which most were women. When I left it had around 350 pupils due to a merge with the local remedial secondary.

Joe and I stayed teaching our maths classes for about a month. During that time we began to settle in a bit. It still hadn't rained since we'd arrived in the country and the grass and people were beginning to wilt. Our social circle extended beyond just the American girls to include a few of the teachers, our closest neighbour Wanita who has a family of seven, and a washing machine!

I also became good friends with a lady who everyone calls Auntie Minerva, she bakes the nicest bread in the whole village and on Saturdays at the Market would also stop us for a chat and then insist that we have one of her rolls with fish and a cup of sugared tea. Minerva is the only reason I drink tea, the order of the day with Minerva was two TABLESPOONS of sugar for every cup! This is not only very sweet but also incredibly addictive. This would often be accompanied with a coconut cake.

With the first month of teaching under our belts we were beginning to relax in our new home. Our timetables were shuffled around and all the teachers and pupils were put







into houses to begin the competition for the House Trophy. There are four houses at Santa Rosa: Kiskidee, Toucan, Hummingbird and Blue Sakie - my house. They are all birds that live in the area. With the houses sorted we began preparing for the House Athletics competition. I was the only male member of staff in my house, so I was tasked with organising the entire Blue Sakie team for training sessions. We had little over a week to pick and train our teams, design a uniform, and practise marching onto the sports field with a banner (yet to be made). This led to about 3 weeks of not teaching! The big day came however and magically was free from problems. I was both shocked and relieved that it went so smoothly, even if Blue Sakie could only manage second place. I also came second in the staff Under 21 long jump, 100 and 200 metres. The less said about the 400 and 1000 metres the better!

After the sports of course everyone had been drinking water, and there was no water left in anyone's tanks and it was a worry that we may have to dig a pond to supplement our dwindling supply. But again as if a prayer was answered, after the last race ended the heavens opened and it didn't stop raining for 2 days! God does indeed smile down upon the people of Santa Rosa.

OK, by now I think I've reached the end of the first term. A Christmas party was planned, the food made, the DJ hired, the Teachers in their party clothes, all that was left now was for the pupils to come ..... The pupils didn't make an appearance for almost 2 hours after they were meant to. Most blamed the rain, but if the teachers can make it through the rain surely they can as well! The pupils certainly let their hair down for the 5 hours we had the DJ. If you have ever seen Caribbean people dance (watch a Sean Paul video if you're unsure) then you will know it's quite graphic! – a polite way to sum it up! Now it's one thing to watch it on a Friday night at the local Rum Shop but to watch your pupils embark on the same activities was enough to turn the stomach. So after a few hours of looking very uncomfortable I was quite glad when they left.

This of course left the staff, who now brought out the Rum and Vodka they had been hiding from the students and proceeded to get very drunk or "high" as they call it there. I stayed sober as I don't drink, which allowed me to (a) remember the entire night and (b) take some hilarious pictures of the activities including a limbo competition involving the high jump bar, and musical chairs which took the school's plastic chair total from 15 to 12. It was one of the funniest night outs I have ever been to and the perfect way to end the first term.

So with the prospect of one month free from school, Joe and I headed back to GT to catch a plane to St Lucia to spend the first part of our holiday lazing on the beach and playing tourist on that most beautiful of Caribbean Islands. St Lucia was everything it promised, golden sands, deep blue sea and gorgeous mountains or Pitons as the St Lucians call them. After a week of that it does get very tiring however, so we moved onto Tobago, Trinidad's little sister to spend our Christmas day. Somehow the volunteers managed to get their act together and we all ended up staying at the same guesthouse for Christmas Day. This was fantastic - not only did we have a Secret Santa (where Santa was John dressed in Amy's dress with a cigar) but also a mammoth Christmas dinner which took over 4 hours to make and about only 40 seconds to finish off! Overwhelmed by our own gluttony we crashed in the lounge area of this guest house and watched a pirate copy of "Harry Potter and The Goblet of Fire" whilst parents phoned the only phone in the place one at a time. I also had a superb, yet unconventional Boxing Day spent snorkelling on a coral reef.

I am going to jump to the Easter Holidays, which I spent sight-seeing around Guyana. Visiting water falls, rainforest and rodeos. The first week of my Easter break took me to Lethem in the south of Guyana on the Brazilian border, where Guyana hosts its annual Rodeo. The rodeo was brought to Guyana by a Scottish beef farmer in the early part of the 20th Century; since then it has become an annual event and attracts crowds from all over Guyana, Brazil and just about every white person in the entire country to one place for the weekend. I would recommend going, but don't expect it to be as spectacular as an American one. It was very British in its own way, reserved yet good clean fun at the same time. There was the traditional bull-riding, horse racing and a greasy pig wrestling competition, which Ali (a volunteer with Project Trust like myself) won. The best thing about the rodeo was definitely the meat available. For G\$100 you get a piece of meat on a stick with farine, which is cassava made into cakes then crushed. You dip your sauce soaked meat into the farine and eat. It's gorgeous, and when it's so cheap I lost count how many "meat on a sticks" I had!

During term there were also lots of holidays, during one of which the other volunteers and I organised a trip to Shell Beach. Shell Beach is an internationally protected site for rare giant turtles to breed. We stayed on the beach in hammocks, and at night we went patrolling the beaches looking for female turtles. I managed to see a giant leather back turtle and a green turtle. It certainly was something special to watch a giant turtle swim up shore, lay her eggs, bury them, and then crawl back into the sea. This took well over an hour but more than worth the money, time and effort.

Shell Beach pretty much exhausted my travel of Guyana and I think I saw everything that both natives and tourist alike aspire to visit, it truly is a beautiful country. I hold it close to my heart and could tell stories all day about the people, sights, sounds, but once the school year ended I broadened my horizons towards the rest of South America.

My goal was to make my way to Venezuela to climb Mt Romrima a 3000 metre tabletop mountain on which Sir Arthur Conan Doyle based his famous book "The Lost World." My travelling partner (girlfriend Steph) wanted to go to Angel Falls, the tallest waterfall in the world. We did do both, even if it was pretty hard what with having no Spanish between us, limited funds and people trying to rip you off all the time, but we made it round both and returned to Guyana, weather worn and glad to be where the people speak English, even if it was Guyanese Creole! That pretty much drew to a close my Gap year and I returned to the UK after a week in Barbados feeling as though I had never left!

### **Sam Coe**

*Sam is now studying Chemistry at Warwick University ... and still writing 'poetry'!!*



## Comenius Art Competition

This was the first joint activity of the Comenius project. Simultaneously in each of the partner schools in England, Bulgaria and Italy, an art competition on the theme: "Mia Malproksima Amiko" or "My Distant Friend" was held. The proposal was to produce ideas that might link pupils and their interests in the three participating schools. Pupils were encouraged to design a poster that contained images from each of the three countries as well as symbols for friendship.

Over 100 entries were received and the standard was impressively high, with a lot of time and effort devoted to each piece of work, both in the planning and execution. Eventually a decision was reached, with the winner's prize going to Joshua Hope of 8B. The two runners-up awards went to Ross Morgan of 8B and Fraser Wills of 8R.









### ***The Spanish Exchange 2006***

After a very early gathering on Monday morning at Denmark Road, we departed for our "Away Leg" of the 2006 Spanish Exchange. We had just enjoyed a week of getting to know our partners here in England and the Spanish enjoying our lovely weather and sightseeing in London. We landed at Asturias Airport in bright, cloudless sunshine. Within the hour we arrived at 'La Eria' the host school in time to say 'Hola' and ¿Qué tal? before enjoying dinner with our host families for the week.

Oviedo is similar in size to Gloucester but has a greater population because of its metropolis style - rows and rows of flats and apartment buildings. Tuesday morning meant our visit to some local monuments on the 'Monte Naranco', a mountain on the outskirts of the town. We had a tour of the local auditorium (from where the mayor runs the city), which is a major events venue as well as being the residence of the Oviedo Philharmonic Orchestra. Tuesday evening we went bowling at the 'Parque Principado', a large American style leisure area some 20 minutes by bus from the centre of Oviedo.

On Wednesday we visited an art gallery and the 'Santa Ingleesia Catedral Basílica Metropolitana' or Cathedral of Oviedo. Returning for lunch we tried the local delicacy of the region - 'Fabada'. This consists of white beans called fabes, which are especially mild and exquisite, and different pork products: cured and salted ham bones, bacon and morcilla, a type of black pudding.

A local holiday meant that the pupils had Thursday and Friday at home, so we managed to find our own way to school in order to get the coach to the 'Parque de la Naturaleza de Carbárceno' wildlife park in Cantabria, the region next to Asturias. During the return journey we made a short stop at Santilla del Mar with its famous Museum of Torture and

a cafe where it was possible to buy tie-shaped pastries.

On Friday we took the train to Gijón, a town that has recently become larger than Oviedo and is on the North Coast of Spain. We visited the 'Acuario de Gijón' or (for the non-Spanish speakers) the aquarium of Gijón, which was my personal favourite because of the otters and the sea turtles. After a short walk along the edge of the beach (not on the beach - it's considered hazardous by the LEA) we returned to Oviedo to find that Ms Brake and Mr Groom would desert us for the whole weekend.

The weekend was taken up by traditional Spanish antics - partying late into Sunday morning! Or, for the more traditionally minded, a visit to the 'Picos de Europa' with the whole family. Sunday was spent by most for recuperation and relaxation before a farewell party in the evening - no it wasn't a late party Ms Brake, honest!

Unfortunately Monday arrived too soon as none of us wanted to leave. We spent the morning 'enjoying' the day's lessons and finally the time came to say 'Adios' although as someone rightly pointed out, it was not 'Adios' but 'Hasta luego' meaning 'see you later'. After a very tearful 30-minute long goodbye we got on the coach outside the school and set out on the return journey back to Denmark Road arriving there at about 9.45.

The highlights of the Exchange have been meeting and creating friendships with not only the Spanish but also the girls from Denmark Road, as well as using our Spanish and increasing our understanding of the language (I have to say that - after all, it was an Educational Visit!!). Lastly I would like to say on behalf of everyone on the exchange, from The High School for Girls, Sir Thomas Rich's and from Spain a huge thank you to Ms Brake and Mr Groom for making the Exchange such a great time! Thank you very much or 'Muchas gracias por una semana muy excelente. Estoy seguro que todo el mundo nos acordaremos siempre'.

**Hilary Wise 11B**



## ***U12 Cricket – Season 2006***

### ***P-10; W-7; L-3***

A season noted for its teamwork, enthusiasm and enjoyment. Plus a couple of very close and exciting games! The players showed great commitment at all times - theirs was a 'never-say-die' attitude which was specially evident in the City Challenge final, when chasing an increasingly remote victory target against some very tidy bowling and excellent fielding, the players nudged, nurdled, smote and drove their way back into contention, falling eventually by only 17 runs and in the process creating an exciting and enjoyable to watch game. Chris Green's late-order 29 not out was one of the best 'pressure' innings I've seen in any form of cricket.

Even more exciting was their passage in the County Cup. Having comfortably disposed of Severn Vale by 29 runs, they travelled to play Chipping Campden – the game went right to the last ball and Rich's held their form to win by two runs. Excitement!! Tension!! But nothing to compare with the semi-final against Marling. Again defending a modest total, Rich's took Marling to the last delivery of the match but unfortunately this time they were on the wrong side of victory.

As they grow and improve the experiences they will acquire along the way should make this useful little team a very good one indeed in the seasons to come. It's been a joy to work with them this season and I wish all the squad great enjoyment from their cricket – for that has been and will continue to be the key to their successes - their total enjoyment of the game.

***P J Brown***







**Double Awards for ex-Rich's Student Rachael Brown (2000-2002)**

This summer Rachael gained two major achievements -

First Class Honours Degree in Forensics & Biomolecular Sciences from  
Liverpool John Moores University and the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award

Congratulations to all Old Richians who have graduated this year!

*In July we welcomed Caroline Nambi from our Ugandan link school as part of our teacher exchange visit programme. Here is her message to all at Tommies ....*

### **Greetings from PMM Girls' School, Jinja, Uganda!**

My visit to STRS is one of the many teacher exchange visits that have taken place over the last four years. This link was conceived in 2002 when Miss Mpabulungi was headmistress; Miss Lujwala saw its birth in 2003. Since then, the ties are getting stronger and more productive each passing year. PMM Girls' School has benefited greatly from this relationship. Among these benefits are the payments of fees for twenty less-privileged students, the provision of scholastic materials and the exchange of ideas on educational programmes by sharing experiences through visits. It has almost become tradition that there is a visiting teacher to both schools each year.

As for my time at STRS I had an action-packed week. There was much to do, both in and out of the school. My ten-day visit has given me a chance to attend various lessons in STRS and I have observed a marked difference in approach. The curriculum is wider and the lessons are more practical. In all, it is a more student centred approach.

The English Department has lent me their teaching syllabus and I hope to incorporate ideas into our lessons in Uganda. I was very impressed with the use of interactive whiteboards for explanations and illustrations. The classes seem more manageable because they are far smaller in comparison to PMM Girls' School. On average there are between 20-30 boys in a class at STRS and 30-70 girls at PMM.

I had a lesson with Mr Seales and his Economics class. Being a teacher of English Language and Literature, it was interesting conducting an Economics lesson for a change. Many back at home will not believe I did it, but it was great! I was able to see the Year 8 Arts performance and the boys were at ease with a strong show of talent. I liked the way they had a varied interpretation of the theme 'Power'. It was a mixture of poetry, drama, film, music, dance, puppetry and very creative design.

I visited a girl's school - Ribston Hall High School. They were on their activities week so I was able to see them learning a range of circus tricks. Most impressive was the creative writer club. The girls looked so young but had imaginative ideas and a beautiful style of composition.

I have also been lucky to see Stratford-upon-Avon, Chedworth Roman Villa, The Corinium Museum, Gloucester Cathedral and Goodrich Castle. I will live to remember the wonderful drive through the Forest of Dean and canoeing down the River Wye. I think it is commendable of the British Government to preserve the past by protecting and taking care of these sites. It was also wonderful seeing great views of Gloucestershire from Crickley Hill.



**Caroline Nambi**

All this was possible because of the good weather and the co-operation of both staff and students. I will take this opportunity to thank everybody who made my visit to STRS very comfortable. It has been nice to stay with different members of staff: Mr Seales, Mrs Arnold and Miss Preen. It has been a very exciting experience, given the chance I would definitely want to come again!

Long live the STRS/PMM link!

## UK Youth Parliament

During January the level of political interest was raised to fever pitch as 3 boys from Rich's stood in the Youth Parliament elections. They found themselves standing against many other candidates from local schools contesting a "seat" in the UK Youth Parliament representing the constituency of Gloucester & Forest of Dean. Our three candidates were Jon Springer, David Anderton and Kingston Myles. The election campaigns were hard-fought but when the results of voting across all the participating schools were eventually announced on 1st February 2006 it was Kingston Myles who was elected as Member of the Youth Parliament for the constituency of Gloucester & the Forest of Dean. Deserved congratulations to Kingston! With a possible eye on a future seat in Westminster, here is how Kingston sums up his time so far as an MYP ...



*"Elected in January I became the MYP with a dream, a dream of allowing young people in Gloucester to stand on a level footing with the adults of the city. So far my dream is coming true. I have attended various meetings including meetings with the Gloucester Rotary Club and David Cameron MP. I very much enjoy being the MYP and although it is a lot of hard work it pays off to see success at the end of the year. For anyone thinking of standing I would say go for it but beware that you have to be very committed to be a good MYP - something which I myself have found hard at times. If anything I would say that UKYP has been one of the best things ever and I'm going to miss it if I don't get re-elected for another term!"*

## Rich's Rugby Squad to Tour Down Under!

In July 2007 a party of senior rugby players will be making a 17 day tour of Australia, taking in Brisbane, Coffs Harbour, the Hunter Valley and Sydney. Thirty-eight boys and four lucky members of staff will be enjoying this opportunity of a lifetime!

We are still looking for additional sponsors for the tour - if you think that you or your company might be able to help in any way please get in touch with the Tour Manager, Mr Chris Carter at the school.



## New Staff joining STRS in September 2006 -- Welcome!



Mr Robin Parker  
English

Mr Ian Robson  
Maths

Miss Hake  
Biology

Mr M Lynch  
Business Studies

Mr D Woolf  
Biology

## School Captain's Message

Being School Captain was an honour and a privilege, a challenge and a joy. To be head of such a fine school, with such tradition, such an ethos and such community was a humbling experience.

Time flies when you're having fun, and this would offer some explanation as to why my final year at Rich's seems to have gone so quickly. Indeed, the whole of my time at Tommies has flown past.

So, as I hand over the gown of office to my very able successor, Jon Lowe, my message to those of you reading this, staff and pupils alike, who still have time left at Rich's is a simple one:

Enjoy being part of this great community and all that it entails, and make sure that you always **Garde Ta Foy!**

**Ciarán Conway (School Captain 2005 - 2006)**



**Bluecoat Boy Iain Murphy with Ciarán  
and his successors for 2006-2007 :**



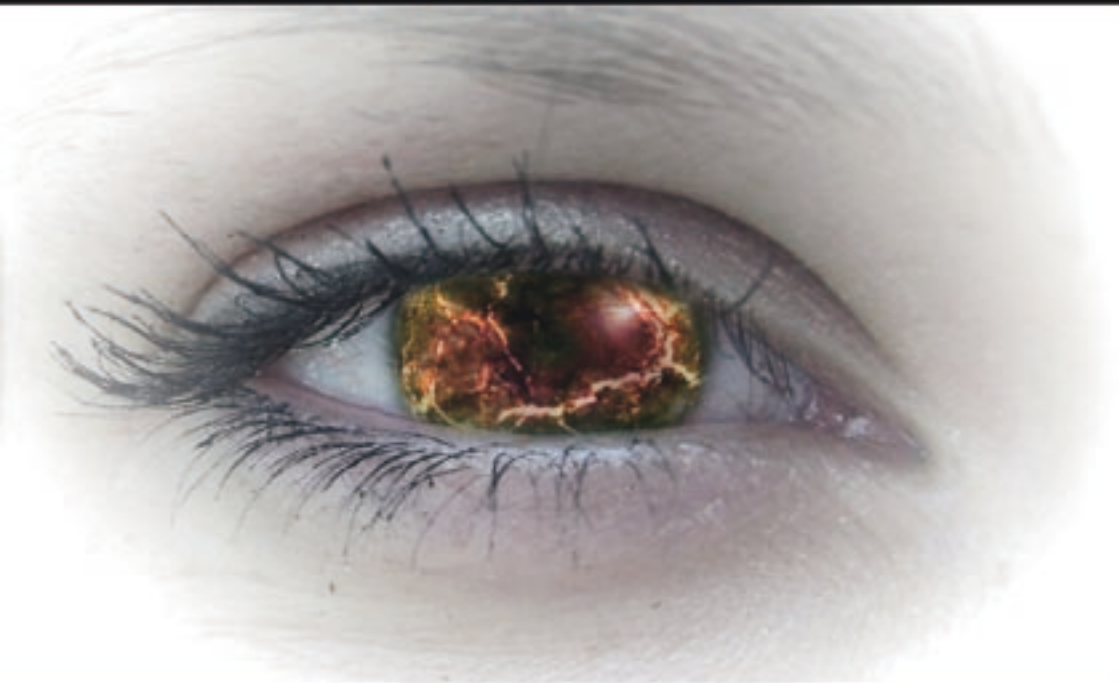
**Jonathon Lowe Captain (Red)  
Will Middleton Vice Captain (Blue)**







Breaking Tears  
Burning Remains





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