

Killerton is a large country house some 6½ miles north east of St. Luke's College and of Exeter city. It stands in a superb park and garden, with agricultural country in front and an attractive hill of wild woodland at the back.

Sir Richard Acland, who was for a number of years an Education Lecturer at St. Luke's, gave the property to the National Trust in 1944, and subsequently made the house into a Hall of Residence for St. Luke's, becoming its first warden. I took over the wardenship from him in 1971.

Students who live at Killerton travel to and from the College by bus, which leaves at 8.15 a.m. and College at 6.15 p.m. It is clearly an advantage if a student has his own transport; in fact, Killerton students are the only College students allowed to keep vehicles on College property. But the journey is something of a snag. Except by spending some time and money on transport, there is difficulty in keeping in contact with evening activities such as orchestral and dramatic rehearsals and entertainments, and evening training with members of College teams. The difficulties are not insuperable, however, and increasing numbers of students have cars. Lifts can usually be arranged with friends and I often have spare seats.

On the credit side there is a good deal to be said. We have far more spacious common rooms than any other hall of residence. There is an extensive library where you can work if other men want to talk in your study-bedroom. This is run by students, but financed by the main college library. We have our own bar, which is run by a student committee. There is a squash court, and probably in no other place in England can you learn the game, or improve your skill at it so conveniently or at so small a cost. We have two tennis courts, and a cricket field in a fine setting. The cellars go back to Tudor times (the main house is 18th century) and there we have a weight training room, a dark room, and rooms for Folk Music evenings. (If you play any musical instrument, be sure to bring it.)

A quarter of a mile away in the park there is a chapel where regular Sunday services are held. In the neighbourhood, keen students can usually negotiate opportunities for helping in Youth work, or teaching at a local E.S.N. school, or participating in other ways in the life of the community. We have good friends in the National Trust staff and among the local farmers.

It must be mentioned that Killerton is a community which thrives on good competitive sport. We have excellent records in football, rugby and cricket, comparing favourably with the higher College teams. Fixtures are frequent, with trips to London and Bristol. As in the past, the Killerton Social Committee will be running dances and other fund raising functions during the coming year, and these require all members of the house to participate in order to maintain our sporting and social activities.

From the foregoing, I hope you will not get the impression that Killerton is more of a holiday camp than part of an academic institution. There is work to be done! But the fact remains that there is a quality about its life not easy to describe. It does not arise from Killerton students being any different from others - they are, after all, a random selection. But perhaps the fact of being somewhat "out on a limb" compels us to be a fairly active community. Good mixers can make friends anywhere; although some find it more difficult, and in the hostels around the campus the process can be slow. But any Killerton student can confidently expect to have 56 friends by the end of the first week.

I look forward to seeing you on Monday, 25th September, and wish you a happy and successful time here. You may arrive at any time after lunch, and you must arrive by 7.00 p.m. To get here by car, take the A38 from Exeter towards Taunton. In five miles pass through Broadclyst and in a mile fork left at an AA box and follow the National Trust signposts to Killerton. By bus, take the Cullompton (No. 27) bus from the Exeter Bus Station - roughly once an hour. If you leave some of your luggage in Exeter we will arrange to collect it. Failing either of these, be at St. Luke's itself at 6.00 p.m. and transport will be laid on.

J.L. Goodall
Warden