

## Killerton - February 2024

Unlike my normal emails, this one has several updates from other ex-Killertonions

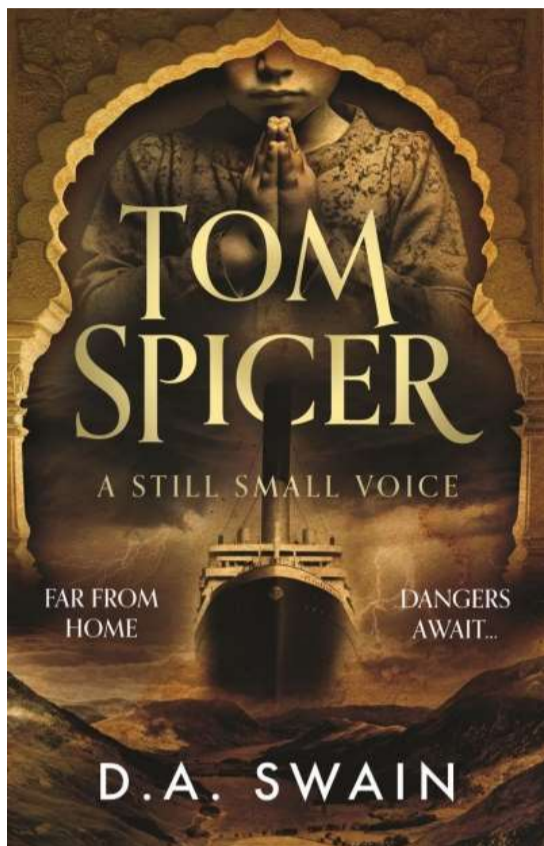
Shortly after posting my January missive, I received a note from Jermy Snow. He'd met up with Vijay in London and whilst there Vijay announced that he had completed his latest novel and it is due to be published in the 28<sup>th</sup> April.

### A Still Small Voice

Jeremy was fortunate in being able to read the original manuscript and has provided glowing review:

"Set in the 1920s, the story moves between the English Lake District and colonial India. I found it gripping - a real page-turner! It's full of intrigue, and Vijay is a master of description. Of course, his knowledge of Indian culture gives the whole atmosphere particular 'spice'!

I warmly recommend the book to old Killertonians who remember Vijay. He writes under the pen name **D.A.Swain.**"



I received a note from Rob Meakins at Killerton who found an article from the West Morning News dated the 27<sup>th</sup> November 1990 relating to the passing of Sir Richard.

I have extracted the text from the article – you can read it [HERE](#)



John Brand messaged me to say that he too had discovered some treasures whilst tidying up recently.



"I found this ticket for June 1973 (note the 3-figure phone number!)"



"A St Luke's Summer Ball ticket with Mungo Jerry head-lining in June 197? - anyone know the year?"



The St. Luke's College rugby team which beat Taunton last week 19-7. From left to right: Back—Robin Whitcomb, Allan Mort, Mike Slemen, Brian Fowler, Alex Reid, Ray Needham, Simon Massie, Dick Pierce, Alan Jones, Neil Bennett. Front—Pete Ford, Barry Borrow, Alan Friell (captain), Tony Kloska, Ben Goss.

John also found this photo of photo of the Luke's 1<sup>st</sup> XV, with some famous faces (e.g. the late Mike Slemen, England no.10 and Neil Bennett, et al"



Gareth & Barry - playing for Cardiff 19

John relates: "in 1972 Mike Morrey and I were watching Barry John, Willie John McBride, and Don Rutherford, on the 1<sup>st</sup> XV pitch, making a rugby coaching film for Midland Bank. The director had Lukies charging at Barry John while he jinked and then landed drop goals with either foot! Apparently Mike's wife Judith was a real fan of "The King" (as labelled by several New Zealand journalists after the famous Lions victory in the test series v. the All Blacks in 1971) - I convinced Mike to ask for his autograph for Judith. The icon said "No problem" then added "I'm doing you a favour aren't I!". Nice."

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I heard from Tony Clarke, currently residing in the wilds of Derbyshire (and looking after "Famous Trains" ) with some updates to the images I posted last week.

Tony recalls Alan Darkings (1966) from Surrey who was a mature student who moved into College as soon as he was able. Apparently he played full back for the college first team. Tony also thinks that Alan had connections to Rosslyn Park?

Tony appreciated Dick Henley's account of Dickie linked on the front page of the website, and remarked that Dickie had done a similar presentation for the 1966 entry.

Tony has confessed to being able to counterfeit Sir Richard's signature on weekend passes (Steve Hatton adds: Weekend passes and the late book were no longer in use when we started in 1970) .

Tony also recalls that Dickie would regularly challenge any student for a game of squash. For someone in his sixties he was spectacularly good. Only in our final weeks there did he let on that the squash court was about a foot shorter than it should have been, hence his regular winning!!

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I received a note from Jim Brock (1966) who reports "I left Luke's and taught in special education (EBD) for 22years. I also became a Christian and led several churches for 30 + years. I am now a Chaplain in HMP Parc near Bridgend. I have two married sons and four grandchildren, one a doctor, one a nurse and two at university."

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Finally a note from Dick Henly: "I'm enjoying my time back out here on the Canadian Pacific coast. Evidently some people get bored in retirement which is a concept I simply don't understand. What with the maintenance of two large back yards, looking after our new archery range next door, and keeping up with all my friends hereabouts, I'm never short of something that needs attention. Fact is; the days aren't long enough. Vectisvan Publishing is on the back burner until spring. We have a design program using AI and the plan is to use it to produce all kinds of merch for the music industry. We'll see !"

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Thanks Jeremy, Rob, John, Tony, Jim and Dick  
Contributions are always welcome - and a  
refreshing break from my normal diatribe.

Back to normal business, and a reminder about  
the annual get together and the cricket match at  
Killerton against Broadclyst CC.

**2:00pm Sunday 30th June.**

I'm sure John and John will be chasing up  
potential players shortly.

Some of us have already booked rooms at the  
Fishermans Cot so hopefully catch up with a few  
people before the event.

[www.killerton-memories.co.uk](http://www.killerton-memories.co.uk)

Steve Hatton  
52 Foxley Drive  
Portsmouth  
PO3 5TG  
07972 841933  
steve@killerton-memories.co.uk

