

'I went to Tavistock Secondary Modern in Croydon and was of the same generation being born in 1947. I remember one of the boys on that fateful flight was nicknamed "Bear" and I had to face his fast bowling during inter-schools cricket matches; he was being looked at by Surrey Colts. ('Bear' was John Wells.) My best friend was Robert Vincent (Rob) who went to Lanfranc. We were in the 44th West Croydon Scout Group together which met at the West Croydon Methodist church in London Road. He chose to go on the Scout camp in Scotland rather than the Stavanger trip. I remember our Scoutmaster breaking the news of the accident in a very sensitive and concerned way and then talking to all of us individually to ensure we had come to terms with what had happened. I felt confused because we were camping by a clear, gurgling stream that teemed with trout, the sun was streaming through the gaps in the trees creating contrasts of dark and light, dozens of birds were singing their hearts out at the joy of living but we were discussing the untimely death of lots of young people we knew and who we would never see again. Rob took it very hard and felt guilty because he wasn't on the plane; it took him some months to shake off this mood.' Norman Sutton.