

THE PEACOCK



1966

THE PEACOCK

No. 5

SUMMER 1966

Head of the School

W. R. S. Webb

School Prefects

T. S. May

P. F. Bulmer

Heads of Houses

Harcourt House W. R. S. Webb

Queen Anne House P. F. Bulmer

Swift House T. S. May

Sub-Prefects

L. Bowen-Jones, R. A. Colebrook, W. H. Goehring,
S. D. Henderson

School Officers

<i>Captain of Rugby Football</i>	P. F. Bulmer
<i>Secretary of Rugby Football</i>	S. D. Henderson
<i>Captain of Boats</i>	J. A. Key
<i>Secretary of Boats</i>	W. R. S. Webb
<i>Captain of Cricket</i>	P. F. Bulmer
<i>Secretary of Cricket</i>	N. Sewell
<i>Captain of Cross Country</i>	J. D. Bally
<i>Secretary of Cross Country</i>	R. S. Troup
<i>Captain of Athletics</i>	R. A. Colebrook
<i>Secretary of Athletics</i>	A. Lumby
<i>Captain of Shooting</i>	W. H. Goehring
<i>Secretary of Shooting</i>	L. Lang
<i>Captain of Basketball</i>	S. D. Henderson
<i>Captain of Tennis</i>	C. Keen
<i>Captain of Golf</i>	R. D. M. Stevens

THE 'PEACOCK' returns in its fifth annual edition—not bigger, and perhaps no better, than before. But within its limits, this magazine presents a fair picture of some facets of the School in 1966—a narrative of activities and events with a representative taste of creative work.

Our readership is domestic; we print such things as may interest boys, Old Boys, parents; strangers are beyond our scope. For the stranger, a medium is needed more up-to-date than the school magazine; a library of tape recordings, for instance, would be just the thing.

'Heard in the changing-room . . .'

'Heard in the masters' common-room during break . . .'

'Heard in the headmaster's study . . .'

What a thrilling prospect when (thanks to the machine) the real unvarnished truth about the School is made available to all! Fancy the headmaster playing a selection of these tapes to a prospective parent!

But the readers we aim at know the truth about the School already. Boys know everything, as a matter of course; Old Boys can remember; parents are enlightened by the revelations of their sons. These readers can supply the unrecorded facets, and fill in the gaps; to them, until the day of talking magazines, we dedicate these pages.

YOUR LIFE IN THEIR HANDS

[The writer here is giving his impressions, after witnessing, for the first time, a surgical operation.]

ONE GREEN DOOR STANDS OPEN, inviting, yet repelling. The light outside is harsh, painful, glaring to the eyes; inside a dull somnolent green, so restful, a pale quiet green—yet a vaguely disturbing green, the green of another world, where time stands still. Time and life are suspended, measured in drips, and heart beats, in half breaths, by life itself. A faint smell—ether, sweet yet acrid. Pungent sleep. Afternoon sunlight, pale December light, trickles in, tickling the green linoleum. A wan, tired, tattered beam vying with the little sun that is the centre of that universe; an intense omnipotent, omnipresent eye, unblinking—harsh yet gentle, strong yet soft. It glints on clinical silver and

glass, reflects and mirrors a kalaidoscopic image of green and white figures, muted, masked. Shallow-breathing gasps and rasps, a reminder of the principal character in the drama; a mummy swathed in red rubber and a shroud of surgical linen. Movement about it is desultory, yet seemingly rehearsed. Silence beats upon the ear—almost claustrophobic in intensity; a squeak of rubber, a hiss, a mutter, shatter the plate-glass silence. The pieces tinkle onto the floor. A gurgle (or could it be a death rattle?) escapes from the throat of the anaesthetic machine; needles swing. The black rubber bag hanging under the machine expands, . . . contracts . . . expands; something, imprisoned within, pulsates, with a soul struggling to escape, inflates and deflates with the obscene parody of the heart, or a lung from which it draws its life, its inspiration. A knife twinkles as it moves. Now is to come the real physical assault of cold steel on warm, quivering flesh; for the surgeon, this violation of the inviolate is common-place, but to a lay observer, the surgeon's movement is a thing of deft menace; his eyes are drawn to the light which suddenly becomes an object of unusual interest. The light merges—brighter, larger—becomes in the mind a ball of myriad-coloured fire which explodes in the brain with orange, yellow, blue, red—the observer's gaze returns—there is no blood! Neat and tidy—clean, impersonal, remote, the sheets still preserve their virgin hue. The red rubber is dry, except for a patch, a sticky wet blob; cotton wool is chameleon-like when placed over it.

Silver and chrome servants clustered round the table's head seem to confer in a conspiratorial tone, as if in mechanical mockery of their fallible human masters. They flash, wink slyly, knowingly. One, in its metal guts records; its eyes blink and indicate. It bubbles with glee—with gas—with ether. Another squat chromium monster on rubber feet, makes a note of the mummy's struggle, and stretches out black rubber 'limbs' to the mummy, where they are swallowed in the bands of linen and rubber—life lines from man to machine. But these 'limbs' are not normal 'limbs'. No living blood flows through them; no bone or tissue surrounds them. They contain only inert gases to keep the mummy alive but unaware of what is being done to him, to record his pulse rate and blood pressure and to measure his heart beat. . . .

But now to the observer comes a new sensation. The queasy palpitations of his heart have ceased. His stomach has stopped contracting; his legs no longer tremble. He is curious, and now follows the surgeon's every move. The knife no longer represents the unspeakable, but an instrument of skill used in the expression of the surgeon's art, very much in the same way as the paint brush is the method of expressing the painter's art. He watches in fascination the delicate wound now being closed by gossamer threads.

Tea? What about tea? There is a cup waiting. For the first time he realises that he is hungry.

Outside the light is fading. The sun is setting behind the city; its beams like fingers dipped in blood, are drawn across the sky, a gaping red wound.

J. C. A. BLANDFORD

THE MARKET OF POTS

Keeping cool under incongruous awnings,
The yellow ochre dulled by red plastic coats,
Women talk and crates are loaded. Bright the mornings.

The deep darkness of . . .

The small roundness of . . .

The close shadows of . . .

Pots.

So much for the eye to hate,
The old and the new slurred in quiescent void,
Shining bronze and horseplate glass, so late.

And life sleeps . . .

And wood rots . . .

And vessels break . . .

Pots?

(Neon lights, high-pitched laughs)

Potters create from clay a rounded mould of silence.

(A press of bodies swept along by a sense of life's graphs.)

And coal burns . . .

Life falls in knots . . .

Buildings crumble . . .

Likewise pots.

R. HARTFORD

MY SIX MONTHS IN ENGLAND

BEFORE I PROCEED, I must stress that there is and has always been a general belief that it is better to go abroad than to study in Hong Kong. Is this absolutely the truth? To everybody's knowledge, sixteen Hong Kong dollars are equivalent to one pound only. It is pretty expensive for a boy in Hong Kong to study abroad. Can he learn more? Is it worth studying abroad?

The public school system in England is better than the educational system in Hong Kong. In England both mental and physical education are treated as important factors, whereas, in Hong Kong, a boy will satisfy the teacher if he gets passes in the subjects he is taking. Undoubtedly, people realize more and more the importance of physical education.

I was a little bit surprised when I found that prefects in England have great authority. In Hong Kong, a prefect is nothing. Though a bright and helpful boy can be appointed a prefect by the teacher or headmaster, he is no better than a 'servant' for his class. Here, as we all realize, prefects are held in great esteem. They are like managers in firms. They can do everything, apart from forbidden things, of course. Their words cannot be wrong though the truth may not necessarily be the case. The prefect system is not bad. It helps boys to control other boys. They hold responsibilities, in fact, great responsibilities, sometimes. This will test each individual's ability, gradually.

Now I am far away from home. Though I have got some close friends here, I am far away from my parents, eight thousand miles away. 'Friends are precious' is a very true saying, especially when we are far from home, so we have to try our best to make friends. It is still difficult for me to mix with English boys. I must stress at this point that their way of thinking is quite different from mine. I must confess that occasionally I tell them a joke, but they do not take it as a joke. Conversely, sometimes, I do not laugh when English jokes are told. Such are the circumstances I am faced with. I have to find a solution. I have to mix. This will help me to learn how to be a man.

In spite of the fact that I have not been here for a long time, I have learned many things about the life of the English. Their ways of life are quite different from Chinese ways. One example which immediately occurs to me is the way the English cook

their food. We Chinese have all sorts of spices and flavourings with our food. Unfortunately, there are, it seems, no English names for those delicacies. These, undoubtedly, make the food tasty. If a Chinese is given a fish, he can cook it in many different ways, whereas an Englishman will usually just put the fish in the frying pan and have it fried, thoroughly. In addition, he may put some vinegar or pepper or salt on it, but that is all. The fact that Chinese taste is very different from that of the English explains the difference. One thing which makes me laugh wholeheartedly is the fact that an English boy will not attempt to eat a thing if he thinks its appearance is unattractive. I admit that its smell can tell us what it is like, but certainly we cannot judge by its appearance.

Generally speaking, the English do not work very hard. Since China has been, in past years, a very weak country, the Chinese have realized the value of work and they try to improve all the time. Most of them work very hard. At the week-end one will find no one, apart from the guard, of course, in a factory in England, but one will find normal work is going on in a factory in Hong Kong all the time. I do not know whose attitude is right, however.

I really have learned and noticed a lot of things since I have been here, besides things from books. I have had my examination successes, but, is it true that it is good for a boy to study abroad? The reader of these lines may be able to give me the answer.

M. WONG

THE MAIL MUST GO THROUGH

MANY PEOPLE HAVE THE MISGUIDED impression, I am afraid, that part-time work in the Post Office is a dull and badly-paid job. However, from experience, I have found it to be neither of these two things; tiring and frustrating perhaps, but never uninteresting and unprofitable. After working for the same post office twice before Christmas and once during the summer holidays I now hold the position of what could be called 'first reserve' for, whenever one of the regulars goes sick or wants a holiday, I take his place, if I am available. After all the hours I have worked first for Mr. Bevin and now for Mr. Wedgwood Benn I have been rewarded with both an experience and an

insight into a side of life which I might never have seen had I not worked for the Post Office.

Our post office covers a large area and is served by two postmen, the post mistress and the young sub-postmistress—the balance of the sexes being one of the added attractions of the job. I worked first in the summer holiday although the pay at this time is not as rewarding as at Christmas. However I rode enthusiastically up to work on the first day only to discover that the postmen had gone on strike in support of a pay claim. Delighted at the prospect of a free day I enquired how much my strike pay would be, but to my disgust I was told that strike pay would not be issued to temporary workers. It was during this session that I managed to break up three post-office bicycles; two with irreparable punctures and one with paralysed steering. (Much credit must go here, I feel, to the post-office engineers who worked overtime to supply me with fresh machines, aware that the 'Mail must go through'.)

It was also during the summer that I was reported to the head-office by an old lady who saw what she apparently thought was a suspicious character tampering with the letter-box. She then drove seven miles to the nearest town to post her letter and to report what she had seen. The authorities realized who it was, and the matter was treated as a joke, much to the annoyance of the old dear. The outcome of this incident was that from then on I had to wear an official red arm-band.

I was much luckier the following Christmas in that I was driven around in an Austin van by the young and attractive sub-postmistress. This stroke of luck was due to the fact that the sub-postmistress's boy friend had had his licence suspended for the two weeks over Christmas. Thus we were allowed to use it for the Christmas rush. The villagers derived much amusement from this ancient, blue vehicle plastered with a large 'Royal Mail' sign.

Last Christmas I overcame my laziness only when I was informed by Mrs. Butcher, our head post-mistress (commonly known as 'Bodger') that the job was reserved for me. This time I was to work in a brand new office, as the post-office had moved to new premises on the other side of the road. This made life much easier though one of the more conservative postmen refused to use the new pigeon-holes allotted to him for sorting,

saying that he preferred the muddle of the flat table. We again managed to use the van. I cannot remember why we could have it this time but, with the weather at its worst and the mail at its heaviest, it was invaluable.

I recall one amusing incident on a miserably wet morning when the telegraph boy arrived at the post office drenched to the skin and begging for a cigarette and a light, although well he knew that smoking is forbidden on duty. Little did he know that the area inspector was behind in the sorting office sampling a few glasses of Harvey's Bristol Cream. One can imagine the surprise and shock on the boy's face when he realized that the hand which had just given him a cigarette belonged to the man who was virtually his employer. However the Christmas spirit prevailed and there were no recriminations.

It is the custom of some people, instead of giving the postmen a Christmas-box, to buy them a round of drinks at the local inn opposite the post office. Thus on Christmas Eve we had the annual postmen's (and of course postwomen's) party at the 'King's Head'. We managed to do the last round in the afternoon in high spirits and at an amazing speed until we discovered that some of the letters were going into the wrong boxes.

Having done all that the Post Office asked of me for another year I struggled back home, weak from exhaustion, feeling that I never wanted to work again. However I enjoyed it, really, partly because of the satisfaction of knowing I should have a full wallet to see me through the rest of the holidays, and partly because of the wealth of experience I derived from meeting and mixing with all types of people.

S. HENDERSON

THE SCHOOL DANCE

SUCCESS, SUCCESS, SUCCESS. How else can one describe Cokethorpe's first dance? It was a success, from the first rustle of petticoats, to the last forlorn faces of the boys, as their partners disappeared in their coach along the drive, and into darkness.

But what was it, that made the whole affair go with such a carefree swing? Many preparations had to be made, including a

magnificent buffet by candle-light, a claret cup, with, however, less claret than cup, and the hiring of a local 'pop' group, called the 'Stray Cat Creepers', who made the dancers twist and jive into a near frenzy.

As we waited for the big entrance of the girls, I glanced about me, to find combs and nail files in action, and shoes being rubbed against the backs of trouser legs, and, of course, the nervous twiddling of the knot of the tie. The ice was about to be broken.

Miraculously, and without a hitch, the girls entered the front-hall, and within three minutes thirty girls had had thrust before them a glass of sherry. The girlish giggles subsided and battle commenced.

Never before had the Corinthian Room beheld such gaiety. The boys were so keen to make a good first impression, that more energy was put into the first three-quarters of an hour than had ever been witnessed on our rugger fields.

Of course the girls, who had expected to fumble their way through limitless waltzes, foxtrots and perhaps a cha-cha or two, found that their long evening dresses hindered their wild kicks, and in a way, it was a good thing that all of the masters had been given instructions to avoid the front half of the school.

After about an hour and a half, some of the girls went away to their powder-room to freshen-up, and in their absence, the quick conversation between their partners seemed quite promising with, 'Mine's not bad', or 'Yours would look better without glasses', or 'I didn't want to dance with her; she asked me first', or even just a long, low sigh, which could have meant almost anything.

By the time the dance was resumed, the lighting had been dimmed somewhat. Some boys took this in their stride, moving a little closer to their now more romantic partners, who should have had at least one glass of sherry, the claret cup, and also some fruit cup laced with cyder. But other boys frantically sought for a pleasant topic of conversation, until they, too, overcome by the heat more than anything else submitted to the arrow of Cupid.

This, however, all added to the fun, but as has often been said, 'All good things must come to an end', and unfortunately the end was drawing nigh. The strains of the 'Stray Cat Creepers' subsided, and as a consolation, Cokethorpe's own group, the 'Fourth Dimension', nervously at first, began to set the pace.

I am glad to say that they were received warmly by the considerate dancers, and thus gave the evening a final touch of merriment, with Bomford vigorously and effectively beating on his drums, and Nicholson I and Brooker gaily strumming to the sound of Lambert's singing.

Thus the dance was sadly brought to a close with many a strained grin on both partners' faces, as each remembered his or her History essay, which had to be written out at nine o'clock the next morning.

Eleven-thirty on the evening of Thursday the eighteenth of November, nineteen sixty-five was not the happiest of times, for the girls left. But each boy had to smile when on returning to the Front Hall after having said his fond farewells, he was confronted with the sad, tearful face of a girl who had, by some strange disaster, been left behind.

Our bespectacled damsel in distress was taken care of by the resident duty-master, who bravely faced the elements, and in his car overtook their coach and safely delivered her into the hands of her headmistress, who evidently had not till then even missed the poor girl.

Each boy, tired but happy, climbed into his bed that night, feeling completely transformed, hoping that if and when we do have a 'return match', the result will again be as successful.

N. LAMBERT

C.O.P. (Cokethorpe Opinion Poll)

or

THE GENTLE ART OF PSEPHOLOGY—MADE EASY

THIS LAST SPRING TERM your Cokethorpe team of psephologists (Blandford, Ingerslev, Tainsh and Biggar) have been conducting a strict scientifically-designed, impartial, sociological survey of the life and activities of the average, very average, boy. We thought it was time parents knew the truth. It was to have been conducted on the lines of a Gallup Poll, but we did not have time, so we only made it a Walking Survey; each boy answered a printed questionnaire. Here, for the first time in (almost) unmodified form, is the result.

Working on a percentage basis and taking Vorbeck-Glucksburg's six point, uninhibited psychological method as a basis, we evolved the following.

The mean average boy would not attend church if it was optional and yet, perhaps not really surprisingly, he supports the Church and Establishment party, the Tories. His parents are true-Blues, and this leads to the conclusion that most come from what we sociologists are wont to call 'the Jag. and Vodka belt'. Perhaps a less naive investigator might decide that there is a link between the two. He believes passionately that the Right Honourable George Brown's political figure needs cutting down to size. He, of course, approves of Mr. Heath's teeth. In spite of a certain nameless party, which is in power, his faith in Pax Britannia is unshaken.

He fills his leisure hours by reading the works of the late Ian Fleming—the chronicler of 007, for any reader unaware of what the genius of Fleming has bequeathed to the world. This is balanced by his reading the 'Daily Telegraph' for his information, and 'Playboy—entertainment for men' for his edification. He would also welcome the school being leavened with members of the female sex, perhaps as a result of his reading.

He does not wear glasses, is not musical, nor poetical and writes with his right hand. No doubt the great Dr. Freud would have made something of that. Regrettably he prefers the sciences to the Arts, but, let it hastily be added, by a margin of only one percent. This, of course, may be a mathematical error in the computation. He is modest and does not wish to pursue his education to university level. His only (apparent) vice, is partaking of My Lady Nicotine in the vacation. Happily he is not a television addict and consequently does not suffer from nightmares. He uses an electric razor. Mr. and Mrs. Average-percentage, this is your son.

Some of the actual percentages are of considerable psychological value, though exactly what that value is our analysts and statistical experts are still trying to discover. No doubt the results will be available sometime in the new year.

For instance there are in the School 4% misguided enough to foster socialist sympathies. 38% are not in favour of female pupils and 13% cannot, apparently, tell the difference between the arts and the sciences. The School, of course is a conservative

stronghold with 67% of the boys being Tory minded, (77% of parents support them, too). 14% of the boys like Mr. Brown, and strangely enough, 14% of the boys support the R.S.P.C.A.!! 15% used striped toothpaste.

These figures conclude our impartial and, we hope, entertaining, survey. Thanks are due to scientists for their calculations, and any gross errors are entirely their fault.

But, gentle reader, lest this survey causes offence, alarm or despondency, find consolation in the words of Mark Twain; 'There are lies, dam' lies—and statistics'.

J. C. A. BLANDFORD

P. J. INGERSLEV

J. T. TAINSH

A. F. BIGGAR

CAMPANOLOGY

DURING THE PAST YEAR some of us have taken up Campanology, or the art of bell-ringing. The Rector asked last summer if any members of the Sixth Form were interested, and during the latter part of the term, five of us attended classes held in Ducklington church tower on Thursday evenings. These lessons were most lucidly given by David Floyd and Mr. Patching who is the diocesan area branch secretary of the Oxfordshire Guild. Bell-ringing is of national interest and there is the Central Council of Church Bell-ringers which publishes the 'Ringing World'.

During our first weeks we visited other churches to get ourselves accustomed to ringing bells of different weights, in different towers. To ring a bell one must take hold of the sally which is the thick fluffy piece of rope six feet from the end, and pull it downwards. As it sinks to the floor one can feel the big bell at the other end of the rope swing its great weight down. Then the sally is pulled up through the hole in the ceiling. One's hands are pulled upwards as the bell's momentum swings it up again. With the tail end in one's hands one takes the strain of the bell and pulls it down again and the brightly coloured sally passes one's nose. That is when one must catch it, and ease the bell once more onto its rest. To one who has never done this before, the experience is quite terrifying. At one moment ropes are

flying about and coiling on the floor, and the next moment the sally is bobbing quickly up and down. A bell, like a car, can be a dangerous instrument if not handled with respect. Once one unfortunate member of our group broke two bell stays, two weeks running, in two different towers. A bell stay is, to beginners, a particularly vulnerable part of the bell. It is the piece of wood which stops the bell from swinging right over. It is also used for resting the bell against while the ringers stop between peals. This is called 'setting the bell'.

We have progressed well since our first nervous weeks and are now doing 'Rounds', 'Queens', 'call changing' and a clumsy 'Plain Hunt'. Moreover we have started ringing for the Sunday services. We do this with some local people, some of whom are way above us in standard. Next year we hope to form a visiting group to visit other towers in the country doing change-ringing regularly, by then, with 'Bob Minors' and 'Grandsire Doubles'. However that is for the future. Our first efforts were doubtless discordant, but we are improving and we always stop ringing by nine o'clock so as to leave the church neighbours with some sleep. We can promise them that the noise should become more pleasant to listen to in the future.

P. J. INGERSLEV

I THOUGHT, I REALIZED, I STRUGGLED

There are many thoughts that hamper men,
Thinking of hope,
Thinking of freedom,
Thinking . . .

Thoughts deepen into the pallor of reality,
Realizing despair,
Realizing chaos,
Realizing . . .

Life is short and eternally struggling,
Struggling for survival,
Struggling for peace,
Struggling . . .

P. JANSEN-SMITH

'A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH'

Creeping into our souls,
Darkening our minds,
Lingering in our bodies,
Tormenting our brains,
This is
Life.

Soothing our pains,
Freeing our sorrows,
Curing our wounds,
Delivering our lives,
This is
Death.

P. JANSEN-SMITH

GOD

Life is like a fire
For we live just once.
Some people say there is a God
And in Him they believe

But different people have different Gods
Like those of Fire and of the Sea
They kneel and pray before them
But what's the use of this?

For fire and water do not make a man
But God alone makes fire and water, too.

MUHTARI WADA

RUGBY FOOTBALL 1965-1966

INTER HOUSE RUGBY CHAMPIONS (SENIOR)

Swift

INTER HOUSE 'SEVENS' CHAMPIONS (SENIOR)

Harcourt

INTER HOUSE 'SEVENS' CHAMPIONS (JUNIOR)

Swift

WINNERS OF THE KICKING COMPETITION

Harcourt

FIRST XV

UNDER-15 RUGBY XV

EIGHT MATCHES WERE PLAYED, of which four were victories and four were defeats. It was a relatively successful season as the teams played were from much larger schools. It is commendable that our team improved as the season progressed despite suffering two heavy setbacks at the very start.

The team played hard for its victories, and some pleasing performances were given by individual players. In all, twenty-one boys represented the Under-15 XV. Wise, the blindside wing-forward was the top try scorer, while Davis III was the top scorer as his reliable kicking boot gained 17 points. However the efforts of the other team-members must not be forgotten. The ultimate success of the team was due to the fact that they played as a team, which enabled them to beat sides of superior size. Much was owed to the understanding that developed among the seven ever-present members of the 'pack', namely Wada, Donnelly, Forbes, Davis III, Wise, May II, and Whatley, the pack-leader. A number have already appeared in the 1st XV, and it is hoped that the potential of others will be realized in the near future.

1st XV REPORT

THE FIRST FIFTEEN has enjoyed its most successful season in the history of the School. Of the 16 matches played only 4 defeats were suffered. Two of these were by the narrowest of margins; the remaining two matches were conceded to our great rivals, Lord Williams's Grammar School, Thame.

Once again the great strength of the team lay in the mobility and tenacity of the forwards in the loose. The pack was admirably led by L. Bowen-Jones who, by example, set a very high standard of play throughout the season.

P. Bulmer, the captain, deserves special congratulation for gaining representative honours at County level. He played for Oxfordshire in all their matches during the Christmas vacation. He captained the 1st XV enthusiastically and during the latter

part of the season his presence at centre-threequarter was a great steadying influence.

In many ways it is difficult to find fault with the team's performances. The majority of the 1st XV were playing together for the second successive season and this to a certain extent explains the 'understanding' between the players. Team spirit was high, discipline on the field was good, and the determination to win matches through playing attractive rugby was a feature of Cokethorpe's play.

Players like T. May, L. Bowen-Jones, R. Colebrook, J. Bomford, J. Key, C. Davis and S. Henderson are going to be difficult to replace next season, but we are fortunate in that several Juniors of promise have already played in selected matches at 1st XV level. This augurs well for the future. This year's 1st XV has set a high standard of rugby in the School, and it is to be hoped that this will be maintained next season.

PORTRAITS OF 1st XV

P. Bulmer (centre). *Captain*. County cap. Thinks deeply about the game—always willing to experiment with new moves. Strong defensive kicker.

L. Bowen-Jones (wing forward). *Vice-Captain*. Excellent all-round forward. A destructive tackler who delights in being in the thick of it. He is equally at home in attack.

S. Henderson (centre). *Secretary*. Strong and determined. He improved greatly as the season went on. Very courageous in defence.

D. Buchan (wing threequarter). Scored a record number of 19 tries before leaving school at Christmas. Speedy and elusive.

C. Keen (scrum half). He sacrificed his wing forward position to fill in at scrum half and played very effectively throughout the season. Strong in defence.

N. Sewell (fly half). He played enthusiastically in his first season of senior rugger. He will develop into a fine player if he can find that extra speed. Sound kicker.

M. Currie (wing threequarter). A much improved player. He played some first-class games and has tightened up his defence. A very effective punter.

C. Bouvy (wing threequarter). Big, powerful runner. In his first season of rugger, he began to develop a sound understanding of the game before leaving school at Christmas.

D. Keates (wing threequarter). His enforced lay-off resulted in rustiness but he began to regain his form in the latter matches and to play some effective games.

C. Davis (full back). Very hard tackler. His positional play began to improve, but he must guard against being 'caught in two minds'.

C. Gourley (prop). Played some strong games—he excelled in the tight play.

A. Lumby (hooker). A terrier for work. His lack of size did not prevent him from playing some robust games. He was outstanding in the House Seven-a-side tournament.

L. Lang (prop). Possibly the most improved forward in the side. Very fit and fast. An able deputy hooker.

T. May (second row). As always a consistent and intelligent forward. He revelled in open play but was equally effective in the tight.

J. Bomford (second row). A powerful, mobile member of the pack. His goal kicking was inconsistent, but he always put the utmost effort into his play.

A. Addison (No. 8). He played in all sixteen games. A fast rugged player whose defensive play was of a high standard.

J. Key (wing forward). A mobile player who always attempted to turn defence into attack. His play was marked by unflagging effort.

R. Colebrook (second row). He played some outstanding games before being injured early in the season. His experience and skill were sorely missed.

FIRST XV

<i>Opponents</i>	<i>Ground</i>	<i>Result</i>
Bicester G.S.	Away	Drawn 8—8
Lord Williams's, Thame	Home	Lost 0—17
Oratory 3rd XV	Home	Won 50—0
Littlemore G.S.	Away	Won 9—6
Rendcomb College	Away	Drawn 3—3
Old Boys	Home	Lost 9—11
Merton College, Oxford 2nd XV	Away	Won 24—3
Abingdon 3rd XV	Away	Lost 11—12
Witney G.S.	Home	Won 22—0
Burford G.S.	Home	Won 6—3
Redrice School	Home	Won 6—3
Magdalen College School 3rd XV	Home	Won 40—0
Lord Williams's, Thame	Away	Lost 0—11
Littlemore G.S.	Home	Won 16—0
West Oxon Tech. College	Home	Won 9—5
Burford G.S.	Away	Won 5—3

1st XV:—Played 16, won 10, lost 4, drawn 2. Points for 215; points against 85.

Scorers:—Buchan 57 pts. (19 tries), Bomford 44 pts. (19 cons., 1 try, 1 pen.), Bowen-Jones 14 pts. (4 tries, 1 con.), Henderson 12 pts. (4 tries), Keen 12 pts. (4 tries), Addison 9 pts. (3 tries), Currie 9 pts. (3 tries), Bouvy 9 pts. (3 tries), Ward 6 pts. (2 tries), May 6 pts. (2 tries), Sewell 6 pts. (2 tries), Keates 6 pts. (2 tries), Bulmer 5 pts. (1 try, 1 con.), Lumby 3 pts. (1 try), Gourley 3 pts. (1 try), Colebrook 3 pts. (1 try).

100% appearance for 1st XV:—Henderson, Addison.

1st XV Colours

Full Colours reawarded to: P. Bulmer, L. Bowen-Jones, D. Buchan.

Full Colours awarded to: S. Henderson, T. S. May, J. Bomford, C. Keen, A. Addison, J. Key.

Half Colours awarded to: M. Currie, A. Lumby, C. Davis, N. Sewell, C. Gourley, G. Bouvy.

SECOND XV

Opponents	Ground	Result
Abingdon U/16 XV	Home	Lost 3—6
Burford G.S. 2nd XV	Home	Won 10—8
Points for 13; points against 14.		

UNDER 15 XV

Bicester G.S.	Away	Lost 9—31
Lord Williams's, Thame	Home	Lost 0—15
Witney G.S.	Away	Won 10—3
Rendcomb College	Away	Won 16—14
Abingdon U/14	Home	9—5
Redrice School	Home	Won 3—0
Magdalen College School	Away	Lost 0—33
Lord Williams's, Thame	Away	Lost 6—21

Played 8: won 4, lost 4.

Points for 53; points against 122.

Top scorers U/15: Davis III 17 pts. (4 cons., 3 pens.), Wise 15 pts. (4 tries, 1 pen.).



COKETHORPE CRICKET CLUB REPORT 1965

Captain: P. Bulmer *Vice-Captain* R. Lovegrove

Secretary: D. Keates

KEITH MILLER, probably the greatest all-rounder in the post-war period, remarked to a couple of fellow Australian tourists

in 1956, 'You can tell this is England lads—it's cold and raining'.

Similarly 1965 must have been one of the wettest and most depressing seasons, from the cricketing point of view, for some time. Grey, weeping skies greeted the opening of the season at Cokethorpe, and for most of the next three months the clouds rolled up the Thames Valley seemingly without pause. In such circumstances we were perhaps lucky to be able to play as much cricket as we did, even if a very fair proportion of it was played, of necessity, on damp wickets and in poor light.

For the XI however, the season was not an unremarkable one. Of the eleven matches, five were won and four were lost. These results, taken by themselves, were satisfactory if nothing else; the manner in which they were achieved was far more pleasing. Several players showed qualities of concentration that enabled them to overcome their previous deficiencies in technique. In particular Bulmer and Mackenzie bore the main burden of the batting with considerable application, and while they were at the crease a respectable score was not an impossibility. Apart from these two the rest of the batting was decidedly thin although Lovegrove tried hard and Wyatt used the long handle to play a variety of shots that might have been stolen from Freddie Trueman in cheerful mood. Bomford played one good innings, in the final match, which served to show us what we had been missing and what we can only hope is still to come.

In their out-cricket the XI generally bowled and fielded as well as, if not better than, the sides that opposed them. As the season developed the length of the faster bowlers improved and Wyatt, well supported by Willsdon and May, became a very useful spearhead for the attack. Too much praise however cannot be given to the slower bowlers. To bowl slow spinners successfully on a ground as small as Cokethorpe's requires control and accuracy of the highest order, and in Lovegrove the XI had a player with that ability. To assess his worth to the team as a match-winner it is only necessary to look at some of his bowling figures: 7 for 23 against Shiplake; 6 for 30 against Magdalen College; 5 for 6 against Rendcomb; 5 for 22 against the Old Boys, etc. He will be a hard player to replace but it is to be hoped that Keates will rise to the challenge before him.

In the field Mackenzie, Willsdon, Lovegrove and Sewell all proved themselves to be good close catchers, and Keates

scampered about the covers with the ebullience of a young puppy, saving as many runs as he scored in each match and always giving of his best. As a wicket-keeper Bulmer improved by leaps and bounds during the season and although never becoming a stylist he proved himself to be more than adequate behind the stumps. As captain he still has much to learn but he showed good qualities of leadership both on and off the field and set a fine example to his side at all times.

The XXII should have played two matches, against Shiplake and Redrice, but, sad to say, both games had to be cancelled owing to the weather. The side would have been led by V. J. Williams, who brought character and effervescence to Senior Game cricket, and the selected XXII players were: J. D. Bally, A. F. Biggar, R. A. Colebrook, A. I. C. Forbes, G. J. A. Gold, C. M. D. Goodwin, S. D. Henderson, M. M. Hutton, B. D. McClinton, P. G. K. Mobsby, P. P. Jansen-Smith and A. S. Timothy.

The Colt's side was also badly hit by the weather. Eight matches were arranged, four of them were cancelled because of rain, one was won and three were lost. On the face of it this does not seem encouraging, but as our Under-15 side were very nearly all under 14 anyway; better things are hoped for, and indeed expected, this season. The outstanding players were C. Goodwin, who captained the side, A. I. C. Forbes, P. M. Davis and A. S. Timothy supported by R. Donnelly, R. Figgis, A. J. White and G. N. Wise.

Once again the thanks of all cricketers must go to George Balmer, who produced good wickets in a difficult summer and much as his departure from Cokethorpe is regretted we wish him well in his new job.

A report on the Old Boys' match, the season's results and averages are included below.

THE XI VERSUS THE OLD BOYS

THE OLD BOYS' MATCH was played on Sunday, July 4th starting at 11.30 a.m.

Bulmer won the toss for the school, and Lovegrove and Clarke opened for the XI. Runs came at a reasonable pace until Lovegrove was well caught by I. W. Mackenzie off Burr. A. C.

Mackenzie was tempted into a wild stroke by his brother, but Clarke and Bulmer settled down to a productive and attractive partnership. Clarke and Bomford then fell to Rainey, one of the two 'guest' players for the Old Boys, and the score was 92 for 4 at lunch. An entertaining morning's cricket with the XI on top. After lunch wickets fell at an alarming rate. Four wickets went down before another run was added to the score, and when Bulmer left at 98 the end seemed to be in sight. At this point Henderson joined P. M. Davis and 27 vital runs were added very briskly before Grey trapped Henderson leg before for 14.

The Old Boys innings began badly. Five wickets fell for 25 and the match seemed to be as good as over. At this point the two 'guest' Old Boys came together and 46 runs were added before Lovegrove decided the match in favour of the XI by taking the last 5 wickets for 22 runs. I. W. Mackenzie was left without partners and the school had won by 13 runs.

On the whole this was a good game of cricket but it is to be hoped that as the years go by it will be possible to raise an Old Boys' side by invitation direct from the School and so avoid the necessity of inviting outside players into what should be purely a domestic and cliff-hanging affair, and one would hope, the high spot of the Cokethorpe season. Full scores follow.

Scorecard.

XI			
Lovegrove	ct. Mackenzie (I.)	b. Burr (S.)	10
Clarke	ct. Mackenzie (I.)	b. Rainey	33
A. C. Mackenzie	ct. Peters	b. Mackenzie (I.)	3
Bulmer	ct. Burr (G.)	b. Rainey	33
J. Bomford	l.b.w.	b. Rainey	0
Keates		b. Rainey	0
Sewell	ct. Burr (G.)	b. Rainey	0
Willsdon	ct. Croxford	b. Rainey	0
Wyatt		b. Burr (S.)	0
P. M. Davis		not out	11
Henderson	l.b.w.	b. Grey	14
		Extras	21
		Total	125 all out

Fall of wickets 1-22; 2-46; 3-82; 4-86; 5-92; 6-92; 7-92; 8-92; 9-98.

Bowling:—Burr 2-12, Croxford 0-21, Rainey 6-30, I. Mackenzie 1-8, Peters 0-19, Edwards 0-14, Grey 1-0.

OLD BOYS

MacGeagh	l.b.w.	b. Willsdon	1
Peters		b. Wyatt	5
S. Burr	ct. Lovegrove	b. Willsdon	4
Grey		b. Willsdon	12
Edwards	Run out		2
G. Burr		b. Lovegrove	18
Rainey		b. Lovegrove	37
Croxford		b. Lovegrove	0
I. W. Mackenzie	Not out		18
R. Bomford	ct. and b. Lovegrove		14
Baker		b. Lovegrove	0
		Extras	1
		Total	112 all out

Fall of Wickets 1-1; 2-10; 3-18; 4-25; 5-25; 6-71; 7-71; 8-82; 9-112
Bowling:—Wyatt 1-45, Willsdon 3-16, Mackenzie 0-28, Lovegrove 5-22.
Result:—XI won by 13 runs.

GENERAL SUMMARY OF MATCHES PLAYED

XI. Played 11 Won 5 Drawn 2 Lost 4

P. J. GREEN'S XI (home). XI. 105. P. J. G.'s XI 63. (May 3-8, Lovegrove 3-21).
Redrice 1st XI (home). XI. 124 (Bulmer 49). Redrice 92-4 (Wyatt 3-28).
Oratory (home). Oratory 67 (Wyatt 5-23, Willsdon 3-14). XI. 69-4 (Mackenzie 40).

Shiplake College (away). Shiplake 84 (Lovegrove 7-23). XI. 59.

Thame (home). Thame 113-7 dec. XI 97 (Bulmer 38, Wyatt 21).

Magdalen College School (home). XI. 172-6 dec. (Bulmer 53, Lovegrove 44, Mackenzie 24). M.C.S. 77-8 (Lovegrove 6-30).

St. Edwards (home). XI. 62. St. Edwards 63-5 (Wyatt 3-25).

Bradfield 3rd XI (away). XI 130-9 dec. (Mackenzie 48*, Wyatt 27*). Bradfield 106 (Wyatt 5-38).

Old Boys (home). XI. 125. Old Boys 112.

Rendcomb 1st XI (away). Rendcomb 53 (Lovegrove 5-6). XI. 54-2 (Bulmer 21*).

Abingdon (home). XI. 83 (Bomford 30). Abingdon 87-6 (Wyatt 4-49).

Matches versus Kingham Hill, Carmel and R. Goddard's XI had to be cancelled because of rain.

AVERAGES

Batting (4 completed innings to qualify)

	Inns.	N.O.	H.S.	Runs	Av.
Bulmer	11	2	53	242	26.89
Mackenzie	11	2	48*	193	21.44
Clarke	4	0	33	52	13.00
Wyatt	8	1	27*	74	10.57
Lovegrove	11	0	44	101	9.18
Bomford	8	2	30	49	8.17

Also batted: Henderson 3-2-14-22.00.

Bowling (5 wickets to qualify)

	Overs	Maidens	Wkts.	Runs	Av.
Lovegrove	98.1	23	34	236	6.94
Wyatt	109.2	28	26	301	11.58
May	28	8	5	77	15.40
Willsdon	70	16	13	205	15.77

Also bowled: Keates 7-5-3-3-1.00.

COLOURS

XI	XXII
P. F. Bulmer	T. S. May
R. B. Lovegrove	D. J. W. Keates
A. C. Mackenzie	C. C. Davis
N. J. Wyatt	N. E. H. Sewell
C. T. Willsdon	J. J. Clarke
	J. M. Bomford

The following also represented the XI:—A. F. Biggar, P. M. Davis, S. D. Henderson, B. D. McClinton, V. J. Williams.

CUPS

All Rounders Cup	R. B. Lovegrove
Fielding Cup	A. C. Mackenzie
Inter-House Cup	Harcourt

HOUSEMATCHES AND SCORES

This season a new system was tried and on the whole it proved to be very successful. By adopting a modified version of the Gillette K.O. cup system timeless housematches were abolished and a maximum innings of 50 overs for any House was imposed.

1st Match. Harcourt beat Swift by 148 runs.

Harcourt 187-8 (innings closed) (Mackenzie 110, P. Davis 27, Wyatt 20, Keates 4 for 49, Biggar 3 for 63).

Swift 39 (Bond 21, Lovegrove 5 for 16, Wyatt 3 for 20).

2nd Match. Swift beat Queen Anne by 61 runs.

Swift 145 (Bally 32, T. May 29, Bond 20, Buchan 20, Willsdon 8 for 63).

Queen Anne 84 (Bulmer 31, Williams 20, May 6 for 32).

3rd Match. Harcourt beat Queen Anne by 67 runs.

Harcourt 162 (Wyatt 40, Clarke 39, Mackenzie 35, P. Davis 22, Bomford 7 for 58, Williams 3 for 36).

Queen Anne 95 (Bulmer 55, Wyatt 6 for 37).

Harcourt 1st, Swift 2nd, Queen Anne 3rd.

BOAT CLUB 1965

Captain of Boats: A. N. Rollin *Secretary:* J. A. Key

AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SEASON the club acquired a coaching launch and an Oxford coach, Mr. Harry Round. Unfortunately, because of illness, Mr. Round had to retire from

the rowing scene after only four weeks, and the Headmaster took over the first crew with Mr. Cook, who also coached the second crew. Mr. Lyle took charge of the Colts.

After only three and a half weeks of term we entered two crews for Wallingford Regatta. This was perhaps a mistake, as the standard here has steadily risen in the last few years and it comes very early in the season. The First Crew, (C. C. Laughton (bow), A. N. Rollin, M. J. Currie, J. A. Key (stroke), R. A. Lynch-Staunton (cox)), in the Novice Fours, tried to regain the Coronation Cup, won by the School in 1963. They lost by half a length to Berkhamsted School after a hard and very exciting race. The Colts, (T. G. Bowler (bow), M. J. Davis, A. D. Addison, R. J. Troup (stroke), S. M. Dower (cox)), had no better luck. Entered in the Schoolboy Fours they lost to Magdalen College School. We still hold the course record, however, set up in 1962.

The next regatta was at Reading a week later with three crews. The First Crew, in the Schoolboy Fours, were soon out of the running. The Second Crew, (S. B. Lucas (bow), N. S. Coy, C. Keen, A. B. Lucas (stroke), I. J. Currie (cox)), also entered in the Schoolboy Fours, lost to Wellington School but beat Magdalen College School on this three-abreast course. The Colts completed the hat-trick by losing in their class to the eventual winners, Reading Blue Coat School.

We took two crews to Oxford City. The First Crew, entered for the Youth and School Fours, beat Magdalen College School easily in the first round but lost to King Edward VI School, Stratford, who had in fact reached Junior status before this regatta. The Second Crew, who had a bye into the second round, lost to Windsor Grammar School after what was a very exciting race indeed.

At the end of the season came Reading Working Man's Regatta, in miserable weather with a strong wind down the course which upset (sometimes literally) the less experienced oarsmen. The First Crew was entered in the School Fours and lost to Shiplake Court but they beat St. Clement's Dane's. The Second Crew had much better luck; they succeeded in getting into the finals where they, too, lost to the invincible Shiplake.

The Third Crew—known as the Old Gentlemen—(R. J. Coombs (bow), J. N. H. Ward, L. Bowen-Jones, A. H. Wans (stroke), Mr. Cook (cox)), entered its first regatta in the Novice

Fours. To their manifest astonishment, they beat the Junior Tradesman Regt., but in the semi-final lost to Reading School.

Thus ended a somewhat luckless regatta season, and we turned our attention to domestic affairs. First of all there was the Inter-House Tub Regatta. This, as always, provided an enjoyable afternoon for the whole school, with some very close races in pairs and fours. When the points were totted up, Swift had won convincingly, with Harcourt second and Queen Anne third.

The Inter-House Fours saw some of the most expert performances of the season. There were some very good races after difficult starts down by the lock in strong crosswinds. The final result was that Swift again won, with Harcourt second and Queen Anne last.

This year we have bought two more clinker fours, second hand. This will mean that more crews can be trained in clinker boats instead of in the tubs which we have previously had to hire.

It is hoped that the club will have more success in 1966 and we look forward to seeing some parents at our various regattas.

ATHLETICS

AT INTER-SCHOOL FIXTURES Cokethorpe unfortunately lost to Abingdon School, Bicester G.S., and Burford G.S. However the competitors gave of their best and there were many good personal performances, and the senior relay squad recorded a record time of 46.5 secs. for the 4×110 relay at Bicester.

The School did well at the Mid-Oxon Area Sports, and among the many good performances Bomford, King, and Wise won their events and went forward to the County Sports. These boys did well again although not winning their competitions. The Mid-Oxon Athletics Association presented certificates to Bomford (U/17 shot), Wise (U/15 long jump), and King (U/15 100 yds., and 220 yds.). King also took the cup for the best competitor at the area sports. He is to be congratulated upon this achievement. It is to be hoped that the school can produce athletes to obtain a greater number of certificates, and if possible to retain possession of the cup for a further season.

Harcourt won the Inter-House match held at the end of the summer term, but there were many fine individual efforts by competitors of the other two houses, Swift, and Queen Anne. There were new records created in the Junior 220 yards by King,

and the Junior Long Jump by Wise, as well as the relay record already mentioned.

Colours were reawarded to Williams, awarded to Buchan; and half colours to Ward, Bouvy, Colebrook, Watts, Bomford, Marsden, Troup, Bulmer, and Keates.

Under 15 colours were awarded to Wise, King, Davis II, and Addison.

CROSS-COUNTRY CLUB (1965-66)

A STRONG FOLLOWING HAS BUILT UP for the club this season. The members have worked hard at an extensive training programme under the coaching of Mr. Keith Davies.

The only fixture of the Autumn Term was the successful match against Witney Grammar School on our own course. Marsden left at the end of the term and his departure was a great loss to the club. However, Bally, made a good replacement as captain, and set a fine example by his consistent good running. He has enjoyed an outstanding season, and he was placed within the first three positions in most matches. The other regular team members who have all acquitted themselves well, were Troup, Lang, Ward, Lilburn, Sargeantson, and Lynch-Staunton.

The first fixture of the Spring Term was a Road Relay held at Shiplake Court, Henley, where we finished third, beaten by St. Edward's, Oxford, and the host team. We were decisively beaten in the cross-country match with Magdalen College School, over their exceptionally hilly course. A return fixture was held at Witney Grammar School where we were again victorious. We are indebted to the rugby players, namely Henderson, Currie I, Davis II, and Whatley who appeared as substitutes for the regular runners who were off-games.

The final fixture was a five-sided match on the Kingham Hill School course. The team ran well although only finishing in fourth place. The junior team also competed here, namely Hilder I, Hilder II, Newman, Siu, Timothy, and Wada. Their promising performance augurs well for the future of the club.

Full colours were awarded to Bally, Troup, Lang, and Ward, and half-colours were awarded to Lilburn and Sargeantson.

The Inter-House Road Relay, held on March 10th 1966, was won by Swift House, closely pursued by Harcourt in second place, with Queen Anne some way behind in third position.

The win owes much to the early lead established by Swift on the first lap owing to the strong running of Bally, Hilder I, and Hilder II. However, all the members of the three teams must be congratulated upon wholehearted endeavour.

The School Cross-Country, held on March 23rd 1966, was also won by Swift House. The cup is taken from Harcourt for the first time in six years. Once again Harcourt and Queen Anne were placed second and third respectively. Swift House also provided the first man home as the race was won by Bally who gave a fine personal performance to win in 26 minutes 54.7 seconds. All competitors must be commended upon their efforts to win the match for their house in an atmosphere of 'friendly' rivalry.

BASKETBALL

THIS SEASON LEFT US WITHOUT the services of two of the founder members of the club—V. Williams and C. Willsdon, both of whom were our best and most experienced players. R. Coombs was another loss. S. Henderson succeeded him as president, M. Currie is our vice-president and W. Howbert our secretary.

In spite of its losses the club has continued to flourish and enthusiasm has run high.

The club colours had to be changed at the beginning of the season from the original gold and black to blue and black. Obviously the 'Hornets' was now inappropriate and much time was spent deliberating over the choice of a new name. 'Bluebirds' and 'Bluebells' were only two of the names to be suggested and rejected. At the moment, we are merely 'The Cokethorpe Basketball Team'.

Three matches were played—and lost. These results were a disappointment but we had an excellent game against Littlemore Grammar School and were unlucky to lose 22-24. We lost to Burford Grammar School and Kingham Hill School by wider margins, however. As individuals many players reached a high standard but they failed to co-ordinate as a team.

Many boys will have left by next year and so some juniors will be called upon. However with Howbert, Sewell and Addison remaining we can hope to form a fairly strong team next season.

COKETHORPE RIFLE CLUB

THE GENERAL STANDARD OF SHOOTING is as good as ever. There have been plenty of new recruits but it is a pity that a number of members are too old to enter the Junior competitions. However high praise must be given to these boys of 18 plus who have done much good work for the club in the past.

We are in the happy position of being able to enter teams for the various inter-schools competitions, and feel that we can hold our own against other shooting schools such as All Hallows, Ardingly and Blundells.

The handsome gift of a silver trophy by Mr. Davis was much appreciated. The trophy was competed for on a handicap basis thus giving all members a chance to prove their ability. Browne and Lang both had possibles on the basis of a 6 handicap, but in the shoot-off for the cup Browne proved to be the better shot.

The club has now acquired a long-needed prismatic telescope and a new Martini rifle which will help both the shooters and those who are coaching them.

Once again the House shooting competition proved interesting. Swift and Queen Anne both provided good average scores of 93, on the International British targets and it was decided to award the cup jointly to the two Houses.

In conclusion we should like to mention a very happy visit to Bisley last year where members were able to shoot with full-bore rifles, and also to have some practice with pistol shooting.

The following boys have shot for the 1st VIII during the year:

W. H. Goehring (*Captain*)

P. M. Browne

L. Lang (*Hon. Sec.*)

C. J. Notley

C. L. Gibbons

G. J. A. Gold

J. N. H. Ward

J. D. Bally

M. S. Currie

A. M. Wild

N. E. Sewell

THE HOUSE PLAYS

THE END-OF-TERM WAS MARKED by the production of three House plays. For days, we had been aware of a good deal of bustle and excitement. People had been detected carrying strange and inexplicable 'props' into the duty-room, Mr. Cook had held classes in the art of stage make-up, and furious hammerings had been heard as Webb and Browne (and their minions) saw to the assembling of the stage.

At last March 28th arrived, and the 'theatre' was filled with an expectant, if critical, audience.

Queen Anne was the first house to perform. Before they even started the cast seemed rather pessimistic about it, as the 'quip' at the foot of their programme suggested—'the author and all persons associated with the production feel that this play is so appalling that if they are going to have any choice of a future career they must remain anonymous'. In fact the production of 'A Husband for Breakfast' by R. E. Mitchell, ran very smoothly. The play was a Welsh comedy about a certain Isaiah Jones who had sold his wife to Moses Roberts for 2/6 while drunk the previous night. This, of course, had disastrous results. Eventually a compromise was reached and all ended happily.

The acting in this play was really very convincing. The audience was very amused at the sight of Lynch-Staunton as Isaiah when he plodded sleepily onto the stage clad only in shirt, underpants and socks. It was hardly surprising that he found it hard to prevent himself from laughing when he spoke.

The Welsh accent was maintained well, particularly in the gossip between Blodwen Jones and Miss Pugh, both of whom seemed typical villagers.

Diamond showed himself to be a promising actor for he ably threw himself into the part of Moses Roberts.

'Moggy the Cat-Burglar' by Eric Copland, was produced by Swift House and it had a clearer story behind it than the other plays. Briefly it was about a cat-burglar who broke into the house of an eccentric old woman who, for some mysterious reason, took him to be the God of Cats. (She was mad about cats; in fact she was mad!) The last we saw of them was Sister Agatha, the old woman, killing Moggy with chloroform to put him out of his misery.

Hartford, now a veteran of School and House plays, stood out as one of the leading actors of the evening's entertainment. He smoked a cigarette, it seemed to many in the audience, as if 'to the manner born'. He kept up his excellent cockney accent even while prompting other slightly hesitant members of the cast.

Janson-Smith, who had one of the hardest parts, acted well.

Trouble was obviously taken in acquiring the costumes for this play, especially the authentic uniforms for the two 'policemen', Troup and Nicholson, for these were borrowed from the Oxfordshire Constabulary.

Various sound effects also played an important part. Sounds of caterwauling were introduced several times, and while Moggy was in a delirious state, tape recordings could be heard of what were supposed to be episodes of his past drunken life.

IT WAS A LITTLE DIFFICULT to follow what was happening in Harcourt's production 'The Man in the Bowler Hat' by A. A. Milne

A peaceful domestic scene was shattered by the sudden appearance of a Hero who was being pursued by a Villain who wished to know the whereabouts of a ruby which the Hero had hidden. At once this peaceful scene was transformed into a mad-house. Guns were fired wildly about the stage. After several attempts to extract information about the ruby from the Hero, the Villain gave up in despair.

This was certainly an 'action-packed' play, and there was never a moment when the noise subsided.

Davis II playing the part of the Hero, and White, as the wife, Mary, both acted particularly well, as did Blandford although perhaps he rather overdid his stamping and yelling, but undoubtedly he presented a very striking appearance in his jack-boots, deer-stalker hat, and goggles.

The plays struck a hilarious note upon which to end the term. Not only the actors, but the people behind the scenes achieved most praiseworthy results, for very little time (and almost none of it school time) was available for casting, rehearsing and all the other necessary preparations which had to be made before the curtain could go up.

Each House is to be congratulated on a most spirited effort.

N. J. SARGEANTSON

Queen Anne

'A HUSBAND FOR BREAKFAST'

by R. E. Mitchell

Blodwen Jones

M. L. BEAN

Moses Roberts

R. DIAMOND

Miss Pugh

C. R. BLAGDEN

Isaiah Jones

R. A. C. LYNCH-STAUTON

Mrs. Morris (*the Bakery*)

A. I. C. FORBES

Hugh Parry (*the Post*)

C. NOTLEY

Captain Hughes (*owner of 'The Sitting Hen'*)

N. J. WILLSDON

Produced by

P. BULMER

Assistant Producer

W. GOEHRING

Stage Manager

M. J. CURRIE

Stage Assistants

I. CURRIE and S. SOROTOS

Make-up

W. HOWBERT and A. MILVAIN

Costumes

INGENUITY

Lighting

IMPROVIZATION

Musicians and Choir

THE HOUSE

'THE MAN IN THE BOWLER HAT'

by A. A. Milne

John

P. J. INGERSLEV

Mary

A. J. SINCLAIR-WHITE

Hero

M. J. DAVIS

Heroine

K. R. HORSEFIELD

Chief Villain

J. C. A. BLANDFORD

Bad Man

S. M. DOBBS

Man in the bowler hat

A. M. WILD

Supporting actor

J. C. SAYER

Directed by

P. J. INGERSLEV

Advised by

J. C. A. BLANDFORD

MR. LEEDS HARRISON

Make-up by

MR. STEAD

DAVIS I

WARD

Costumes by

MRS. LEEDS HARRISON

Stage Managers:

P. M. BROWNE, G. F. NICKLESON

'MOGGY THE CAT-BURGLAR'

by Eric Coplans

Moggy	R. W. B. HARTFORD
Constable	G. F. NICHOLSON
Jennings	J. D. ARMSON
Sister Agatha	P. P. JANSON-SMITH
Mrs. Brown	C. W. B. NICHOLSON
Sergeant Timms	R. J. TROUP
Apparition	J. D. BALLY
Voice of Justice	G. J. A. GOLD
'Daisy' Song	MEMBERS OF SWIFT HOUSE

<i>Scene I</i>	A bench in Hyde Park
<i>Scene II</i>	Sister Agatha's house— a few days later

<i>Directed by</i>	P. P. JANSON-SMITH & R. W. B. HARTFORD
<i>Stage Manager</i>	P. M. BROWNE
<i>Stage Assistants</i>	A. WALLACE; G. NICHOLSON; D. KEATES
<i>Props Manager</i>	ST. J. A. F. GREENHOUGH
<i>Make-up</i>	D. A. P. ADDISON A. WALLACE
<i>Music in Delirium</i>	'THE CAT' BY JIMMY SMITH

THE HARCOURT SOCIETY

ALTHOUGH THE EXCURSIONS of the Harcourt Society have been limited, several sixth formers spent a very interesting day at Warwick Castle in the autumn term. This was, undoubtedly, a success and proved to be far more interesting than our previous visit to Chedworth (Roman) Village a year ago.

J. A. Blandford also gave an extremely interesting general lecture on the first world war in which he briefly discussed the military, naval and aeronautical aspects of the fighting, the weapons that were employed, the use of propaganda and the everyday life of the troops. The lecture was made even more

interesting by several exhibits among which were bayonets, a German helmet, medals, recruiting posters, identification and ration cards, and propaganda material.

It may have been realized already that J. A. Blandford is well-versed in many aspects of the Great War and this was emphasized by a film-show given by him in the Spring term in which he showed nine short 8-mm. films on tanks, the German army, fighter aircraft, anti-aircraft gunners, dog-fights and a 1917 aerodrome. Although these somewhat aged films were rather jerky and blurred, because of the imperfections of early photography, they were of great historical interest and were thoroughly appreciated by all. The Harcourt Society hopes to make several more excursions before the end of the Summer term.

GEOGRAPHY SOCIETY

THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL VISITS to places of interest during last few terms. Last summer a group visited B.M.C. Cowley for the second time. The car industry is always popular and there is plenty of choice in the Oxford area.

In the autumn Reading power-station and Swindon gas-works were visited. In both works old, conventional coal-burning methods were in operation side by side with new oil-burning techniques. The contrast between the dirt and inconvenience of the old plant and the calm, clean efficiency of the new plant was very striking.

Next term a small group of Sixth Form Geographers is visiting a colliery near Coventry and there is to be a general outing to the Port of Bristol.

SCIENCE NOTES

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO MR. STEAD for organizing much of the out-of-school activity. He ordered three science films including a very interesting one on X-rays. The trip to A.E.R.E Wantage was fascinating.

The year has seen sporadic frantic activity on projects. Peter Browne has produced an enormous Van de Graaf high voltage generator which is impressive when it wants to be. The biggest problem with Robert Webb's ripple tank/carbon dioxide puck

table is that the suppliers have taken six months to supply the pucks, so we have yet to see it work.

Many boys have helped from time to time, perhaps the most persistent being our pet palaeontologist who cleans litter from under the benches—looking for dinosaur eggs, no doubt.

MUSIC

IT WAS TEMPTING PROVIDENCE, I suppose, to boast about our 100% G.C.E. pass record: it was the cue for one candidate to miss narrowly the required standard and he has been fleeing the wrath ever since!

Several juniors have now graduated from recorders to orchestral instruments and join in the simpler parts of the repertoire as they become proficient. A picked 'group' of musicians entertained the multitude on Speech Day with a selection of Dixieland-style numbers, and the orchestra again featured in the Carol Service and Confirmation Service. I am grateful to the tutors who get such good results from boys of varying ability, and to Mrs. White who contends with more and more pianists. (We could now do with a dozen more pianos!)

The standard of piano playing was markedly higher in the Music Competition, won this year by Swift again (Queen Anne second and Harcourt last), and a dozen boys have taken it in turn to play the hymns at morning assembly.

Outside activities included a repeat of the Boosey and Hawkes factory visit and a talk on instruments by Mr. McGavin. The appearance of a Music Society in Witney promoting concerts by professional artists has enabled several groups of boys to hear some outstanding performances. John Williams' guitar recital was probably the most popular, though the Linden Singers' programme contained some attractive and amusing items. The pianists who attended Nina Milkina's recital with violinist Perry Hart were suitably impressed and awed.

More recently there was a visit by the elite to Mozart's 'Marriage of Figaro' by the Sadler's Wells company in Oxford; we combined with the Sixth Form Theatre Club for this as the Beaumarchais play is a 'set book' for the 'A' level French set.

We hope to extend these extra-mural activities next year and make music of a high standard readily available to all boys.





SIXTH FORM THEATRE CLUB

THIS CLUB, LAST YEAR exceedingly popular, has lost a great deal of its following numerically. This is not so much due, I believe, to the lack of good plays as to the increasing influence of Saturday evening television on the Science Sixth!

'The Marriage of Figaro', Mozart's opera performed by the Sadler's Wells company, was an enjoyable, if not very profound, production, and musically of a high standard. 'Swan Lake', perhaps Tchaikovsky's finest ballet, was performed by the Festival Ballet in a new complete version, as nearly the original as the director could establish, with all of the score, which included much music that is unfamiliar. This was a superlative production on a stage not entirely suited to this art.

Michael Flanders and Donald Swann, in another sort of musical entertainment, attracted the largest audience of the year in 'At the Drop of Another Hat'.

The other two visits were to 'straight' plays: in 'Ivanov', by Chekhov, John Geilgud played the title role with great zest and evoked the audience's unreserved sympathy. The glittering cast included Claire Bloom as Sasha, Edward Atienza as the Uncle, and Yvonne Mitchell, Roland Culver, Angela Baddeley and Richard Pasco. This was an evening not to be forgotten.

'Dear Wormword', based on the Screwtape Letters of C. S. Lewis, was also an amusing production and served as a light contrast to 'Ivanov'. Sir Donald Wolfitt roared, writhed and bellowed from Hell, and Hywell Bennet and Yolande Donlan were the demons let loose on earth.

We are fortunate in the very high standard of performance and production which is the rule rather than the exception at the two Oxford theatres, and it is hoped that more boys will take advantage of the opportunities thus afforded.

CHAPLAIN'S NOTES

THE TERM HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANT in that it has marked the coming into use of a very simple and dignified Catholic Chapel which came into being under the guidance of Mrs. Allen and as a result of generous gifts from the parents of Catholic boys. We are glad that the Catholic members of the School now

have such a beautiful place in which to worship: a place which has already acquired a deep sense of the numinous. Mass has been said each Sunday by Father Paul Connors S.J., who has also been coming to give religious instruction during the week.

Considerable Anglican keenness and enthusiasm has been shewn by the fact that the Church in the Park has been cleaned and tidied by a group of boys led by Sister and Matron. 15 boys were confirmed by the Bishop of Dorchester on March 5th and we are most grateful to the Bishop for holding a special confirmation at the School. On the day before, the candidates were taken to a Quiet Day at St. Francis House, Hemingford Grey near Huntingdon, which was conducted by Father Hadrian Whyte of the Community of the Resurrection, Mirfield.

On Ash Wednesday there was a celebration of Holy Communion in the Corinthian Room. On March 20th Christopher Cook was baptized in Church after the School service.

We are most grateful to the Reverend H. P. Hudson for opportunities for Communion, and to the Reverend T. G. O. Jenkins for help with the School services. Thanks go to Sister and Mrs. Cook for so kindly arranging flowers, and to Blandford, Ingerlsev, Whatley and Selman for sacristy and vergers duties. Finally it would be nice to pay a word of appreciation to the School Orchestra, directed by Mr. Cook, for their accompaniment of the singing.

LIBRARY NOTES

OVER TWO HUNDRED BOOKS have been added to the Library this year. Space is getting short so a beginning has been made in pruning some of the 'dead wood'. Moreover the appearance of the shelves will slowly improve as more and more of the new books are fitted with transparent protective jackets.

Even more books than usual have been presented to the Library this year, and we are especially grateful, in this respect, to G. Dennis Esq., D. Cook Esq., J. Cartland Esq., and J. C. A. Blandford. The Oxfordshire County Library continues to bring us a fresh selection of books each term. The Librarians (Blandford, Dunsterville, Sharpe and Pearson) have done good work, as have a number of other boys whose typing has been invaluable.

THE DEBATING SOCIETY

THE DEBATING SOCIETY has been able to continue its existence but there have been moments when it has had to struggle to survive. The stout support of the few is not enough to compensate for the apathy of the many. We cannot be satisfied that debates on trivial, light-hearted motions should be well-attended while the chairs are empty when more serious subjects are discussed.

In the light of this year's debates it seems that while this House is sure that the moon is a bore and equally sure of its belief in Father Christmas, it is by no means convinced that the pen is mightier than the sword.

All the speakers have not proved inspiring, but there have been some gallant performances. The efforts of Bulmer and Henderson have been particularly pleasing.

ART NOTES

LAST YEAR, APART FROM THE introduction of clay modelling to the Art room, the main additional activity was murals. Two rigorous works by R. Cullen of a political nature and one by A. Wallace of a seemingly theological nature now enhance the Art room semi-permanently.

Still under the instruction of Mrs. Jones, the senior boys in the evening class continue to pursue their own individual projects, generally with metaphysical undercurrents, while the 'O' level boys grapple with the problems of 'form in space' or more simply, how to make a still-life look like one. The third form has its share of potential talent which will no doubt be more apparent when they have tired of boats, battles and blood, or the strong tendency towards prehistoric monsters.

Wallace's cover design was chosen last year for the School magazine. It is hoped that it will be possible to include plates of outstanding work in future publications.

THE COKETHORPE SOCIETY

A STEADY FLOW OF NEW MEMBERS seems to be balanced by those in arrears with subscriptions so that our strength remains at about a hundred. During the course of a year we must see over half at one or other of our functions, and perhaps with the higher standard of play at the sporting events more will be attracted.

The cricket match on the 4th July saw the strongest Society XI yet, (though only IX were members!), under the able captaincy of Stephen Burr. A detailed analysis will be found in the cricket 'supplement' on p. 20, but, briefly, the School won the toss and went in first, to make 125. The Society's wickets fell rapidly until the two guests came together and put on nearly 50 between them. Nevertheless, the bowling of Lovegrove (5 for 22 in four overs!) meant that the Society could reach only 112.

The rugger was a different story. Vivian Williams captained a very experienced XV. There were no guests or 'subs', and this must have made all the difference. It was an exciting, hard-fought game and the Society scored within the first few minutes. From then on it was even scoring and the result was a first-ever win for the Old Boys, 11-9.

The Dinner this year was held in February at the Eastgate Hotel in Oxford. About thirty-five members and staff enjoyed an excellent meal. Robert Webb, this year's Head of School, conducted an auction of old boats and then got around to proposing the toast of the Society. Peter Lynn, who was in very good form, proposed the toast of the School, and the Headmaster, presiding, then reviewed the School year.

From letters, questionnaires and conversations the following snippets are culled: Michael Lee, who was involved in a nasty car smash last year which necessitated several operations, was married in September to a Danish girl, Gitte Houmann. The wedding took place on the island of Bornholm, but they are living in England and Michael is still an industrial photographer with J.C.B. Martin Lockwood is engaged, and we offer our congratulations, but everybody else is avoiding this fateful step, and a surprising number are still fit enough to indulge in sports of one kind or another.

Jeremy Clarke, at Sandhurst, has been playing for the Academy 2nd XV, and is working harder than ever in his life before. He

feels it must be doing him good. David Buchan is a member of the Saracens R.F.C. and Martin Edwards plays for the Wilmslow 1st XV, while Richard Furnival-Jones referees soccer for the Highgate Old Boys in between passing Wines and Spirits Association exams. and his driving test! Trevor Key won the Novice Sculls at Burton and the Junior Sculls at Shrewsbury and has had his own boat built for this season. Andy Trotman, who is features editor of Hull University newspaper and co-editor of another magazine, was a member of a winning IV at Hull. David Taylor, who is giving up theatre design work after seasons at Coventry's Belgrade Theatre and the Salisbury Arts Theatre, still finds time for cricket with his home club at Romsey. There are several sailing enthusiasts, notably Dudley Baker-Beall who is secretary of the Wineglass Class Dinghy Association, John Locke who hopes to enter the Olympic sailing trials next year and Vivian Williams, who has a new International 505 being built. More exotic sports are followed by Jimmy Millar, who glides, and a pair of racing motorists. Michael Green does a lot of rallying and racing, and Graham Golby went to the 'Ring' in Germany last year three times, scoring a 1st, 3rd and 5th in his class. As he has now graduated to international class he is retiring gracefully.

News filters through from Bruce Lovegrove in the Merchant Navy. He is enjoying life aboard the good ship 'Yewbank', and sailing round the Far East—the list of ports and countries reads like a Geography lesson. Nearer home, David Ealand, who has passed three more of his Law Society exams., joined up with Nick Selmes for a holiday working on a Danish farm. Apart from smashing a tractor, they had a successful time. Another team event was a journey with the 'little ships' to Dunkirk last year by Dale LeVack, in his capacity as a reporter, and Andrew Webb who went along as official photographer. It would have helped if he had had a film in his camera! Vivian Williams, working in his father's coach company, took a busman's holiday round Europe as a courier.

Anthony Vernon-Smith hopes to go to Europe soon to boost the export trade in excavators, which he at present demonstrates all over this country. Andrew Webb is also in the plant hire business, in Southampton. David Slack is with a big firm of timber importers, and he finds the work most interesting.

Bill Mackenzie, who became a Cadet Sergeant at Mons Officer Cadet School, passed out in April and was commissioned into the 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles. He is now in Brunei, Pilot Officers Clive Willsdon and Jethro Tull both passed out in May from the Training School at R.A.F. South Cerney, and Clive is one of two chosen from his entry to go into jets. He will be stationed initially in Northumberland. Jeremy Harrison is at Sandhurst with the other Jeremy (Clarke).

Robert Hall-Jones is reading Agriculture at Newcastle University, while Henry Bucknell is at Shuttleworth Agricultural College and Charles Tabor is at Cirencester, where he is secretary of the Young Conservatives and also college organist. Christopher Gower is studying computing and data processing at the University of Sussex, and, further along the South coast, David Gardner is at Bishop Otter College. Derek MacDonald is reading Geology at Durban University and enjoying it very much.

Speech Day this year is on 11th June, and the cricket match is fixed for Sunday July 10th. We hope to see a large number at both these functions, and we are, of course, always pleased to hear from Old Boys.

D. F. COOK, Hon. Secretary

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