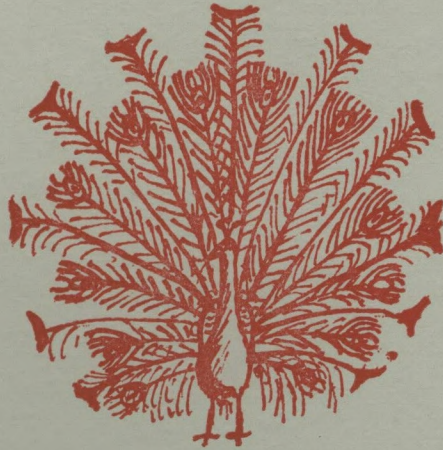


THE PEACOCK



1968

THE PEACOCK

No. 7

SUMMER 1968

Head of the School

R. J. C. Cullen

School Prefects

N. E. H. Sewell

M. J. Davis

N. J. Sargeantson

Heads of Houses

<i>Harcourt House</i>	R. J. C. Cullen
<i>Queen Anne House</i>	N. J. Willsdon
<i>Swift House</i>	D. A. P. Addison

Sub-Prefects

D. A. P. Addison S. M. Dobbs N. J. Willsdon C. G. Farah

School Officers

<i>Captain of Rugby Football</i>	D. A. P. Addison
<i>Secretary of Rugby Football</i>	S. M. Dobbs
<i>Captain of Boats</i>	M. J. Davis
<i>Secretary of Boats</i>	S. M. Dobbs
<i>Captain of Cricket</i>	N. E. H. Sewell
<i>Secretary of Cricket</i>	A. I. C. Forbes
<i>Captain of Cross-Country</i>	N. J. Sargeantson
<i>Captain of Athletics</i>	C. M. K. Kyaruzi
<i>Captain of Golf</i>	R. J. C. Cullen
<i>Captain of Shooting</i>	D. A. P. Addison
<i>Captain of Tennis</i>	N. E. H. Sewell
<i>Captain of Basketball</i>	N. J. Willsdon
<i>Captain of Badminton</i>	R. J. C. Cullen
<i>Captain of Judo</i>	D. A. P. Addison
<i>Captain of Archery</i>	M. S. Kelsey
<i>Head Librarian</i>	C. G. Farah

Cover Design by A. Pearson

SINCE THE LAST EDITION of the Magazine the most important official event has been the placing of the School on the list of Schools 'recognised as efficient by the Department of Education and Science'.

This took place in August 1967 after a visit from the H.M.I.s in the summer term—an occasion which proved to be a happy one for us all, though no doubt at the time the experience was more to the taste of the boys than of the masters.

The Inspectors made a number of very useful comments and suggestions, for which we were very grateful.

Mr. T. H. Stead and Mr. P. E. Mathias-Williams are leaving at the end of this term. Saying goodbye to familiar figures, whose personalities are part of the fabric of the school, is always sad. Mr. Stead has been identified with Harcourt House, first as Tutor and then as Housemaster, for the past 8 years, and we shall miss him very greatly. Mr. Mathias-Williams has exercised immense influence on the development of Rugby in the School. Masters and boys will have their own grateful memories of each, and we wish them both Goodbye and Good Luck.

Another whom we are very sorry indeed to see leave the district is Mrs. Hugill, whose kindly and most skilful mathematical coaching has been such a help to many.

I am glad that the Cokethorpe Society is now officered by Old Boys. The turn-over from the Staff became complete when Mr. Ellis was succeeded as Treasurer earlier this year by Tony Baker: Vivian Williams having already become Secretary when Mr. Cook retired last summer. The Society celebrated what may be called its coming of age by presenting a tape-recorder to the School—an act of filial piety which was much appreciated by the parent-body.

It is a pleasure to record that Lord Longford has rejoined the Governing Body.

P.M.S.A.



APPLYING TO A UNIVERSITY

WHEN I FIRST CONSIDERED applying to a University I had little idea of how time-consuming it would prove to be. My first action was to send for fifteen or sixteen prospectuses of universities for which I knew I had the appropriate qualifications. My first desire had been to read for an Economics degree but I had sadly underestimated the amount of Maths needed and so I moved on, not unwillingly, to considering courses in the Politics-Sociology field.

After filling in my UCCA form, which goes to headquarters where it is duplicated and distributed to the universities of one's choice, I waited. After about eight weeks—very fast by UCCA standards—I received an invitation to attend an interview at Grey College, Durham, my first choice. This was followed later by invitations to interviews at Sussex and Nottingham Universities, and finally an offer of a place from Lancaster without an interview.

I travelled up to Durham in mid-term and at Grey College's kind invitation spent the night in Hall. I was previously unacquainted with the North and I was not impressed. After Oxford, the only University town I know, I found Durham small, very provincial and not a little dull. I had ample leisure to explore and my opinion didn't change. The students were friendly and seemed to be very hardworking, though Grey College itself was a most unattractive brick building. The interview was tough; the hardest of all the three I attended. First was the College interview, the soft sell to check on character and personality. The second was in the Department of Sociology with two inquisitors probing to find out how much I knew, and, just as important, how and why I knew it. It was fast and I kept talking; I emerged stimulated but shaken.

At Nottingham, where the vast new Berkely L.A.-style campus was still uncompleted, the atmosphere was more pleasant, the treatment more relaxed. In the concrete and Scandinavian wood of the Department of Politics I felt more confident. We jumped from topic to topic, like chamoix over Alpine peaks, comparing the French Revolution to the Russian (If Trotsky equals Danton, who equals Robespierre?) and examining the sociological implications of the fact that Othello was black, on an Elizabethan audience. I felt at the end of nearly forty minutes that this was a good deal more hopeful.

Sussex was most certainly the most fascinating, for with all the interest, criticism and ballyhoo that has been written and said about it, I was naturally keen to see it for myself.

I arrived on one of the last days of the Christmas vacation, snow was on the ground and there were few people about. 'The most intellectual brothel in Europe', as its Students' Union Head had described it, was probably at its most uninspiring. Yet it was hard not to admire the vastness of the imaginative complex of buildings, piazzas, streams and plate glass. I was interviewed by Professor Z. Barbu, and I spent a genuinely enjoyable half-hour talking to him about democracy in Turkey and student politics in Europe and America. His shrewd and often very funny comments were probably the most valuable experience I gained from the whole business of application.

The outcome of all this was three conditional offers of a place, out of a total of five possible.

It is impossible to draw any eternal truths, or even any sound conclusions from my experiences of application. It may all have been chance. I suspect though, despite the frenetic application rat-race and the bureaucratic UCCA which has been set up to ensure democratic fair play, there are, beneath this façade, very human dons and professors who want not only to select the best brains, but above all, to find students who will profit, mentally as well as purely materially, from their teaching.

R. J. C. CULLEN

NR. WITNEY, OXFORDSHIRE

A PLEASANT SPRING EVENING heralded our arrival at Cokethorpe School way back in 1963. Wending my way up the drive, I watched two enormous boys strolling in the park, presumably discussing the past holiday. It seemed as though these two boys had not a care in the world, and were able to strut around the school grounds while I had to wait for years before I could do the same.

'Come in, boy, and make yourself comfortable.' The first words of the Headmaster seemed rather harsh and impersonal, but I was soon to learn that 'boy' was purely a mannerism, usually adopted when the boy's Christian name was temporarily forgotten! In fact, one of the characteristics of Cokethorpe, which even a new boy should quickly recognise, is its homely atmosphere by comparison with other establishments.

The first few days here were indeed unpleasant, but I am sure this is a feeling common to anyone entering a reasonably large and strange school. Those first few weeks were among the worst

I have lived through. Apart from the strangeness of the surroundings, several other factors seemed to make life rather unpleasant. Certain boys appeared to delight in baiting new boys. One of their tactics was for two of them to walk abreast down a corridor; if a junior appeared in the opposite direction it was apparently an enormous joke for them to barge him or push him aside.

A very much more enjoyable memory is that of Maths lessons with Mr. Leeds-Harrison, otherwise known as Leeds-Harry. I was surprised, when I first met this master, to notice how exactly he fitted my mental picture of a public school master. He had, and no doubt in retirement still has, an extraordinary propensity for telling stories. Unfailingly, he provided a few minutes of light entertainment to relieve the boredom (to me anyway) of Mathematics. Though perhaps he did not realise it himself, the larger part of the laughter which he stimulated was due to the amazing changes which these stories underwent with each retelling.

Although it seems hard on those who suffer from chilblains, one soon learnt that to put one's hand in a pocket was to place oneself in front of a loud-mouthed prefect. Basically, of course, this rule is important as a means of preventing a slouching, round-shouldered turnout, but naturally its enforcement presents problems. One one occasion I found myself directly in line with the prefects' common room window before I realised that both hands were deep in my pockets. The realisation only dawned when the window swung open: 'What the devil are you doing with your hands in your pockets? Come up here.' The next thing I knew was that I had been set an essay on 'A Tea-spoon'!

Peace and privacy were, to me anyway, the things most lacking in the early days at Cokethorpe. I remember only too well how I often longed to get out of the community, if only for an hour or two. I hated, above all else, the constant hubbub of noise which filled every spare moment of the day. Whenever an occasion presented itself a radio, tape-recorder, or record-player was turned on at full volume. Naturally I like 'pop' music myself, but in smaller doses than the average teenager seems to crave.

The beginning of term, even now, is always accompanied by thoughts and philosophical reflections that do not normally make themselves felt. I am sure that most people have in common a feeling of disbelief for the first twenty-four hours of term. In the winter terms especially the horrifying change from warm home comfort to large cold dormitories, is a stunning shock. The change is so radical that one almost examines a hand to see whether the scar one had in the holidays is still there! One can scarcely believe

that life at home is still the same, and that while one is playing rugby in the perishing cold, people at home are sitting by a warm fire.

With this goes a different kind of disbelief. When returning to school, especially after a long summer holiday, one finds it hard to believe that the new surroundings have been just the same all through that long holiday. Can it be that, while we were swimming in the Mediterranean, or chatting up a fabulous girl, Cokethorpe was still sitting in its park, the same piece of grass was growing out of the same balustrade above the headmaster's bathroom window, and the same smell lingered in the same library?

The first two years at Cokethorpe seemed to pass more slowly than the 'examination years,' but once I was in the fifth form, time passed frighteningly fast. 'Work' was the order of the day. Unlike some people I do not enjoy working in the least. I do it purely for results. If I get the results I want I am delighted and encouraged to work harder, but if I don't, I just feel despondent and lazy. When I returned to school after the summer holiday following my 'O' levels, a master came up to me and said 'Congratulations. Did you expect them?' When confronted with this exclamation I experienced mixed feelings of annoyance and pleasure. He said it with surprise, almost as if I had passed the exams purely by accident. When one knows that there will always be a few people who are capable of a surprised 'Did you expect it?', the pleasure of proving them wrong provides half the satisfaction of success.

Connected with the gradual change from the impersonal to the personal as one moves up the school is one's adjustment of focus. At first, the place and people seem enormous. The picture is not 'misted' but is rather distorted. Later, with the growth, not only of oneself but of familiarity, the people and the place itself become much smaller.

From the awestruck little boy arriving for his first term I have changed radically. I am well aware that within a few months, when I have left here, I shall again be a 'new boy' and so on all through life, but surely I shall never see so great a change in myself as the one I have experienced in the last five years. My life at Cokethorpe is rapidly drawing to a close and it may be asked: 'What has the school done for you apart from getting you through exams?' A full answer would be a very complex one, but basically the school has strengthened my character and personality. It has (I think and hope) taught me responsibility, how to be an individual, and greatest of all—how and when to work.

N. J. SARGEANTSON

DIRGE—ON THE DEATH OF ONE OF THE SPINSTERS

In silence the sisters kept
The village-life decorum;
Together in retirement,
They flickered through
The century's declining days,
Enacting the prelude to eternity
With a ritual of tea and loneliness:
Hope was the smile of yesterday.

The steady wind bending dry reeds.

As blown leaves in early spring,
As the even pace of clouds in Lent,
As wind in broken chimney-pots,
Death
Whistled through the leaded window-panes.
Domine, refugium nostrum . . .
A stranger with thee: hold not they peace at her tears.

The steady wind bending dry reeds.

The cackle of slow-eyed mornings; the supercilious smile of dusty evenings; the birth of summer flesh; the smell of wet leaves; the sweated bushels of autumn; the winter's sleep and waking in darkness; the freezing of sap; and the death of twilight—All end here,
As a tale that is told.

The steady wind bending dry reeds.

The ring dove song:
Benediction of snow-drops.
Now, aves from crocus-choirs.

W. I. HOWBERT

CHURCH INTERIORS

Man sneezing in Angers Cathedral
Sound shot from centre
donned stained light,
and cleansed centuries
from each crevice.

Young couple in Bath Abbey taking refuge from rain and faces (Their love is better than wine).

Dare they,
As types of the eternal bliss
Within this solemn edifice
Squeeze out the world into a kiss?

Old ladies gossiping in the Mayor's Chapel, Bristol (The Sabbath is made for man).

Lives, marked out by matins,
Take their weekly motivation
From such whispered conversation
Before it's time to stand.

Organ unexpectedly in Cirencester Parish Church

We, Sunday tourists here,—
Are wrenched into a congregation,
Forced to join our souls
In such a blast.

Cold church in Soelden, Austria

Wide torches of breath,
Gelled by gilt-paint,
Search to find
Frozen holy-water.

Warm church in Boston, U.S.A.

Carpeted aisles,
Swept by vacuum-cleaners,
Pass between centrally-heated pews,
Lately oppressed by electric-organ notes,
As the congregation kneels
In spot-lit prayer.

Chapel in Barcelona Cathedral

The impotent incense of yesterday
Mixes with candle-smoke and dust
Allowing a ladder, a suspicious ray
Of hungry white light
To climb down, descend, touch,
And bless
The heads in prayer.

Daffodils in the corner of St. Mary the Virgin, Oxford

Flowers · fire · upwards burning
Incense · higher · inwards turning

W. I. HOWBERT

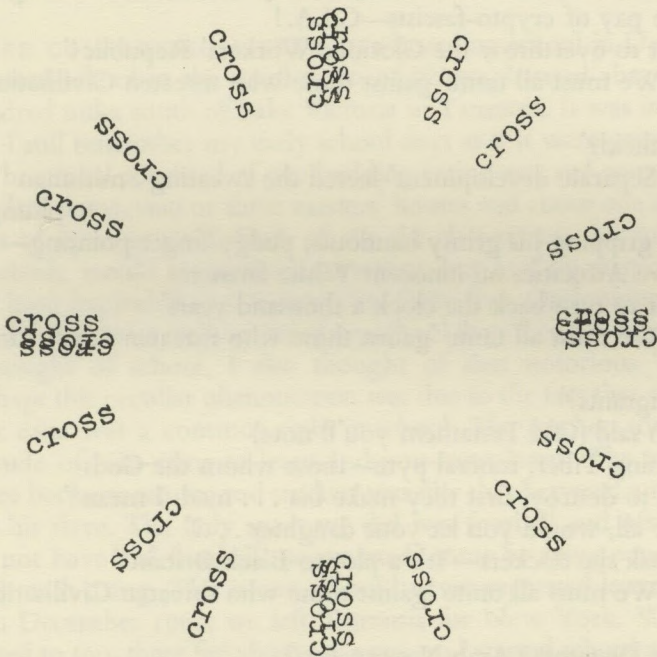
THE PASSING OF A SUMMER;
AND MEXICAN PAPER FLOWERS

Dust won't kill
their crackle-charm
of drier-coloured beauty
where,

 with still
pace above the sweep
of tided time,
they keep
a corner resting place
to calm
her nightly eyes.

W. I. HOWBERT

CONCRETE POEM I



[Concrete poetry is not meant to be *read* so much as *looked at*. The concrete poet concentrates on the visible shape of his words when they are printed, or—sometimes—the shapes of the individual letters of which they are composed. He is therefore exploring an aspect of language (the visual) which has been largely

neglected in the past; classical English poetry is concerned almost entirely with the aural. And concrete poems, although initially strange to our eyes, exploit this unfamiliarity to make their effect freshly and forcefully.]

—WE MUST ALL UNITE—

‘Adolf?’

‘No! A great personal friend . . . and a Patriot!

Nazi revival!?’ Springer (our friend Axel) said

‘Distractions to keep us occupied while

Rudi Dutschke’s gang of leftist louts

Subvert the Sacred Fatherland!’

‘We must all unite ’gainst those who threaten Civilisation’.

‘Students?’

Novotny (God, or rather Marx, alone knows *his* first name)

Said ‘Subversive elements subsidized, by Zionist-American agents,

In the pay of crypto-fascists—C.I.A.!

A plot to overthrow the Glorious Workers’ Republic!’

‘We must all unite ’gainst those who threaten Civilisation’.

‘Apartheid?’

‘No! Separate development’ leered the sweating Smithman

plumply,

Gaily gripping his grimy handouts, pudgy finger pointing—

‘Native Atrocities on innocent White farmers

A plot to turn back the clock a thousand years’

‘We must all unite ’gainst those who threaten Civilisation’.

‘Immigrants?’

Enoch said (Old Testament you’ll note)

‘Foaming Tiber, funeral pyre—those whom the Gods

Wish to destroy, first they make bla . . . mad, I mean!’

‘After all, would you let your daughter . . .?’

You ask the dockers—‘It’s a plot to Black Britain!’

‘We must all unite ’gainst those who threaten Civilisation’.

Greek Dictators? Arab Nassernalists?

Guevara, Mao, Dayan or who?

Burning Issues, bored telly faces

Another rebellion, riot, assassination

In Memphis, Bonn and Warsaw, too

—Like the man said ‘We must all unite ’gainst those who threaten Civilisation’.

We sit
At home with box or newsprint
Numbed with horrors that would scar Conquistadores
And Junior whines for another Coke.

What shall we all do?
—Pull out flags of personal choice,
Yell and shout, march and lout?

—Or sink (a choice of course for differing tastes)
Into an intellectual haze, or commercialized doze
Anaesthetized hermits in paper-plastic shells
—and wait until the world smashes in on us?

R. J. C. CULLEN

SCHOOLS—PAST AND PRESENT

AFTER COMPLETING A YEAR IN a boarding school in Uganda, I started school in the small town of Nzega, located about two hundred miles south of Lake Victoria in Tanzania. It was in 1959 and I still remember my early school days as if it were yesterday.

The school consisted of one building facing east and containing six classrooms, two or three masters' houses and about one square mile of open ground. Each of the six class-rooms, by modern standards, would accommodate twenty, but, as if by magic, they had been expanded to accommodate forty-five. On looking back I find that I never really enjoyed my school days then for whenever I thought of school, I also thought of that notorious 'cane'. Perhaps this peculiar phenomenon was due to the fact that a four-foot cane was a common sight in school. The teachers took the attitude of you-came-to-learn-and-you-must-learn. The atmosphere between master and student was like that between a master and his slave. The only sport we did was football and often we did not have real footballs, so we made some by tying paper and cloth with string. This is one school I never regretted leaving.

In December 1961, we left Tanzania for New York. We expected to stay there for about six years, so I started school as soon as possible. The students were very friendly and to my surprise the school had about fifty class rooms! The teachers were much more friendly than I ever thought they would be. To my surprise also, teachers walked without canes. For the first day or two, I just could not believe my eyes for how could a teacher teach without

a cane? In this school I learned things and also why I had to learn them. This indeed was a change for in my last school one learned without questions and quite often by parrot-fashion. I found that the children and parents were extremely friendly to me. Neighbouring parents used to pick me from school and bring me home. I found that I could really fit in with the community very easily. I made quite a lot of friends some of whom still write despite the fact that I saw them last five years ago. After staying for three months we had to return to Dar-es-Salaam.

In 1963, we arrived in Lagos, Nigeria after my father had left the government and joined U.N.I.C.E.F. In Lagos I went to two schools before I went to St. Gregory's College which is in the city. The majority of pupils were Nigerians but we foreigners also formed a considerable percentage. It was a day and boarding school. We were about three hundred in the school. Here one could see that the school motto (which is 'For Faith and Knowledge') should have been 'Work Hard and Play Hard'. We had lawn tennis courts, basket-ball pitches and four football fields. Three of them served as an athletics track and hockey field at different seasons. We had quite a lot of school, house, and class competitions. On the academic side, we had to do quite a lot of work. Some boys used to get up at two in the morning and read till five. In the school, there was no room for lazy boys. If one did badly in two exams., expulsion was inevitable with few exceptions. With so much competition, one could not afford to be lazy. Comparing my first and second schools, I found that the relationship between student and teacher here was better than at my first school but not so good as at my last. The food was all right for the Nigerians but myself I found it rather unpalatable. The boys were very friendly once you got to know them. Perhaps the one thing they had in common was noise-making. During classes, it was often difficult to hear the teacher. Despite heavy punishment, the class-rooms remained as noisy as ever. In the end the teachers just gave up. Most of the boys were particularly addicted to 'pop' music and if a current local 'hit' was played on a blaring radio in one of the shops, the boys would start dancing if it was during prep. or jigging about in their seats during the lessons. On the whole I really enjoyed this school and was upset when I left last year.

I left Lagos and went first to Tanzania from whence I came to England. What surprised me most at Cokethorpe was the fact that instead of being forty-five in classes we were often no more than twelve here. The whole atmosphere seemed strange to me.

There were strange houses and above all strange weather! I found the people rather cold until I got to know them. Then they melted. One thing I miss here is the noise. In Lagos, radios blare out music, but here it is often as quiet as a grave. I have played games before, but Rugger is the strangest game of all. In football you use feet. I found it strange using hands as in rugger. I find also that the game is too rough for my liking. If I could I would rather do something else but 'when in Rome do as the Romans do' so I have no choice. Discipline is not all that strict. In fact I find here you can go out of school grounds almost every day. In Lagos we were allowed out once a month. I find the boys rather relaxed in their attitude towards work. But who can blame them considering the fact that schools are plentiful in England and not as scarce as 'two grains of wheat hid in two bushels of chaff' as in some parts of Africa?

C. KYARUZI

MY RIDE IN THE GRAND NATIONAL

AT LAST WE WERE READY for the 1968 Grand National. I was to ride Polaris Missile, my father's nine-year-old chestnut mare. She had been entered for the race at Christmas but I never really thought then that she would actually get to Aintree, still less that I would ride her. I probably would not have been offered the ride if I had not won several 'chases this spring but, as my father said, 'I have got no alternative but to offer him the ride.' We did not finally decide to run her till four days before the National when she had her last big gallop at Warwick. She had had leg trouble all season and it was doubtful if she would stand training for long. However we declared her as a runner and the first step was over.

On the actual day I woke up and had breakfast, but, strangely enough, it felt like any other day. I really did not know what I was in for because I had never seen the fences except in pictures and on television. My father and I left home at about nine o'clock. Polaris Missile and Indamelia had already left in hired transport earlier. I was going to ride Indamelia in the Liverpool Hurdle before the National in order to get myself warmed up. When we arrived at Aintree the first thing to do was to walk the course. What surprised me most was not the height of the fences but the width. I now realised that it was quite possible for forty-five horses to get over the first fence in one line. I was also surprised by the drop on the other side of the fences. Beecher's Brook especially has a

very large drop but I had the cheering thought that Polaris Missile's mother, Air Wedding, had done the largest recorded jump over Beecher's.

After walking the course and making sure I knew exactly where to go, I decided to try to be two-thirds from the inside at the start and to stay two-thirds out all the way round the first circuit and then, if I was still there the second time round, I would try to go onto the inside. It was soon time for Indamelia's race which I had almost forgotten about. We duly ran but I was rather disappointed with her performance. Before the National I was asked to have an interview on television, and this was almost as frightening as the National itself.

At about 2.45 it was time to weigh in and as I was almost last the time seemed to drag. On the scales I weighed exactly ten stone, the correct weight. All the jockeys then went back into the dressing-room where Lord Sefton came in and spoke to us for a few minutes and told us to keep straight as far as Beecher's Brook first time round. As we left the dressing-room for the paddock Tim Durant, the sixty-eight year old American grandfather, insisted I walked with him because we were the oldest and youngest riders. When we got into the paddock the bell was rung and everyone mounted but the race could not start yet because we had to parade in front of the stands. I was wearing my father's racing colours of rifle green and silver stripes with a quartered cap. As I walked round there seemed to be thousands of people packed on every stand and the bookies were shouting out the different odds. I heard once Polaris Missile quoted at a 100 to 1. The starter came and asked if we were all ready but he took rather a long time before he could line us all up. I found a good place two-thirds from the inside and suddenly the tapes were up and we were off.

We all came away safely and there was a tremendous thud of hooves as we moved into the first fence. The going felt perfect and there was a nice cover of grass on the ground. The first fence I dreaded most of all but Polaris stood off well and jumped it superbly. I was about half way down the field. There was plenty of shouting and cursing by many of the jockeys but the horses' hooves drowned much of it. It seemed more like a cavalry charge than a race. I was concentrating too deeply to be aware of individual horses and jockeys but apparently Red Alligator was close to me at that time. The second and third fences are close together and I soon began to feel that Polaris loved jumping these Aintree fences. By the fourth I realized that the drop on the landing side of each fence was getting larger. I remembered being

told before the race to lean back well and I think I almost leant back too far. Over the fifth I could see Beecher's looming ahead. As Polaris took off I gave her an extra kick. I was aware, however, that another horse was just in front of me but a little to the right, and in mid-air I could see it fall. We seemed to take ages to descend and on landing Polaris stumbled over the horse that had fallen and herself came down. I landed on my feet, quickly caught my horse and, with plenty of encouragement from the spectators, remounted and galloped on. By the time I jumped the next fence most of the horses were jumping the one in front of that but I decided to keep on by myself. Polaris jumped the Canal Turn very well but going into Valentine's I could see a few loose horses and jockeys on the floor. I had to shout to several jockeys who moved quickly. We jumped the fence on the inside but she landed crookedly and this was rather alarming. Coming up the far side I was still about a fence behind everybody else, so I pulled in front of the stand at the Chair. I had completed the course once and was quite satisfied with myself. In fact, I had had a ride I shall never forget.

N. P. THORNE

'THE PRIDE OF THE PEACOCK IS THE GLORY OF GOD'

A VISITOR TO COKETHORPE can never be long unaware of the presence of our two peafowl, for they will be seen at any time of the day perching on the roofs, silhouetted against the sky. Actually, they were a gift in 1965 from the parents of one of the boys.

The common peafowl, or *pavo cristatus*, originated in the Far East. From India, where they were, and still are, regarded almost as sacred, and from Burma and Java, they were brought to Europe by the Romans for use as decoration, and also as a table delicacy. Of course, they found their way into Britain, where they are now a prized part of many an aviary, zoo or private park such as Cokethorpe.

There are several types of peafowl, which come under the order Galliformes, which includes also pheasants and guinea-fowl. The blue-necked peacock is the more commonly found, and the best-known. The green peacock comes from Java and Sumatra, and differs little from the blue type apart from its colour and the arrangement of the crest feathers. There are also white peafowl,

which have no eye-spots on the train and whose fan resembles fine white lacework. Another recently discovered species comes from the African jungle.

It is the male, the peacock, only, that possesses the colour, and the peahen is very dull in comparison, but she does have a little coloration at the nape of the neck. When she is young, the peahen is white in colour, but as she grows older she turns brown. Peafowl will live for at least fifteen years or more. They all have the curious crown-shaped crests on the head, which are worth a lot for a set.

Peafowl moult their train-feathers once a year; these feathers are not really the tail, but are enlarged wing coverts. The tail proper is formed by the twelve or so strong quills beneath. These are largely responsible for supporting the fan formation.

Since our peacock at Cokethorpe started dropping feathers everywhere there has been great rivalry between several of us. Last year and again this year, I obtained good specimens.

Once again, the peacock is due to begin moulting, and I will wager that there will be even greater rivalry. However I think that my friend and I have roughly the same number of feathers, give or take about ten.

The male uses his ocellated train feathers for display before the females during the mating season. I often take a trip up to Mr. James's pheasant-station to watch the peacock. The bright green, half-moon-shaped feathers, arranged in pairs, one on either side, and over which there is a big row, form the base of the fan. The ocellated feathers make up almost all of the rest of the display, and the 'V' shaped ones run all round the edge to form a neat semi-circle. It is wonderful how these feathers are arranged for folding and unfolding so that there is no tangling.

The eye-feathers are iridescent, that is, they seem to change colour when seen from different angles. The colouring comes from a metallic sheen which is not the real colour of the feathers, for this is brown. The eye-spot is a very dark blue-black, and it is surrounded by a badly drawn circle of blue-green. The rest is a golden-brown colour with a ring of gold and one of violet surrounding the whole at the edge. These feathers are delicate, and should not be left wet in the sunshine; otherwise they will fade and spoil. I have a couple which got into that state, and they are beyond recovery. It is also wise to attend to any hint of mould on the stem, as it may well spread and so weaken it. One should never brush the eye; this will tend, more often than not, to split it and it is difficult to restore it.

For all its colour and beauty, the peacock has a voice that is harsh and unlovely; it gives the impression of somebody crying for help, but it can be spelt roughly as 'may-awe, may-awe'. The peahen makes a call rather like the male, but it is shorter. Peafowl cry out during April and May mostly, and they are not heard very much at other times of the year.

Peafowl will eat most things, but they seem to prefer grass and seed. In addition to this, our own peafowl seem to have developed a great liking for biscuits which I feed to them out of the classroom window. They used to be very wild and shy, but now they will readily eat out of the hand. Cases have also occurred of the birds actually entering a formroom; the peacock once flew straight through the end window of the crafts room, but then it was scared.

The peahen that lives here managed to raise a chick last year, but during the last summer holidays, Eddie, a rather headstrong dog who lives at the school, attacked and ate it. This was a setback for the chick's parents, but let us hope that, with the help of brooding hens, we may rear more peafowl, and so do full justice to the school's emblem.

For all this, however, there are still people who object to peafowl for one reason or another, but one must remember with Ruskin that 'the most beautiful things in the world are the most useless; peacocks and lilies, for instance'.

A. PEARSON

COKETHORPE'S LEISURE READING: A SURVEY BY THE LOWER SIXTH

THIS SURVEY STARTED from an observation by the Headmaster and a grumble by the Sixth Form, both on the same day. The Headmaster suggested that—to judge from the tattered condition of *Radio Times* long before the end of the week—it must be a popular journal. And the Sixth complained (with a typical, paradoxical blend of passion and ennui) that the school wasted money on subscriptions to *Elizabethan* and *Country Life*; nobody, they declared, read them.

So the Lower Sixth set out to discover the facts. Which magazines were the most popular? which the most disregarded? which, of those not yet taken, most desired? And, to obtain the answers, they devised a questionnaire in four parts. Part I asked for indications, against the titles of the 22 magazines at present sub-

scribed to, as to whether they were read regularly, or occasionally, or never. Part II sought recommendations for new purchases. Part III probed holiday reading. And Part IV tried to discover the magazines (whether taken by the school or not, whether seen in the holidays or term) which were most avidly read.

The table which follows gives some of the results from Part I. It shows, form by form, all magazines described as 'read regularly'; and, to make comparison easy, we have converted the figures into percentages.

MAGAZINES REGULARLY READ :

PERCENTAGES IN EACH FORM

Form	3a	3b	4a	4b	5a	5b	5x	L. VI	U. VI
Number in form	13	7	15	14	14	12	17	6	6
<i>Country Life</i>	23	43	27	43	29	17	29	17	—
<i>Punch</i>	54	86	40	72	50	33	76	83	50
<i>Paris Match</i>	15	—	13	14	29	33	53	50	33
<i>Illustrated</i>									
<i>London News</i>	46	43	60	64	64	50	53	83	—
<i>Radio Times</i>	39	43	40	43	14	25	18	—	—
<i>Elizabethan</i>	15	57	—	72	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Listener</i>	—	—	7	7	—	—	—	—	17
<i>Spectator</i>	—	—	—	22	—	—	—	17	17
<i>New Statesman</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Economist</i>	8	—	13	—	—	—	7	17	33
<i>Scientific</i>	—	14	—	22	7	—	18	33	—
<i>Amer. Sci. Jrn.</i>	—	29	—	14	7	—	18	67	—
<i>Flight</i>	8	29	27	29	29	25	29	33	—
<i>Flight Deck</i>	15	29	13	22	14	17	18	—	—
<i>Autocar</i>	54	—	62	78	50	33	12	—	—
<i>Motor Cycle</i>	8	14	27	22	36	33	12	—	—
<i>Nat. Geo. (U.S.)</i>	46	14	33	64	57	83	88	67	32
<i>Geo. Mag. (Brit.)</i>	8	—	27	50	22	42	66	33	67
<i>History Today</i>	15	14	6	—	—	—	12	—	17
<i>Books & Bookmen</i>	15	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Music & Musicians</i>	8	—	—	—	—	—	7	33	—
<i>Plays & Players</i>	—	—	7	—	—	—	12	17	17

From this table, it is apparent (amongst other things) that the Sixth Form were quite right in thinking that *Elizabethan* had a paltry readership, and substantially right in deriding the public for *Country Life*. We would not understand why, assuming the figures we had unearthed were fairly accurate, *Radio Times* wore so heavily after such undemanding demand. (We later discovered that, by reason of its thickness and page-size, it is highly favoured as a missile. So much for the uses of literacy!)

In Part II, the magazines most often requested were: *Reader's*

Digest, Newsweek, Playfair Cricket Monthly, Rugby World, Animals, Life and *Oxford Times*. Part III failed to discover any pattern in holiday reading—except that there wasn't much. 5b boasted an addiction to *Playboy*, presumably (in part) for the sake of their English master, the Rector of Langford. But Part IV gave us definite discoveries. Over the whole year, in school and out, the most popular magazine is *Punch*. The next most popular are: *Illustrated London News, National Geographic* (U.S.), *Autocar*, and *Paris Match* (for the advertisements and cartoons?).

The pollsters invite readers to draw their own conclusions; but they are tempted to conclude that: (1) Cokethorpe doesn't want magazines to read, but merely to look at. (2) There isn't any journal in existence (except possibly the encyclopaedias-in-weekly-parts?) which generates a keen following. (3) Apart from *Punch*, the picture-magazines' interest is merely diurnal; it is disappointing that so many of these papers serve merely to pass the time, not to inform or start an interest. Or are they valuable as a semi-literate diversion? Or are we forced to agree with Trevelyan, that 'education has produced a vast population able to read but unable to distinguish what is worth reading'?

Cokethorpe Polls Inc.

November/March, 1967/8

PRIZES

(presented by Mr. J. H. R. Lynam, former Headmaster of the Dragon School, Oxford, on June 10th, 1967)

The Headmaster's Prize		Bulmer
A Level	English	Goehring
"	History	Henderson
"	French	Stevens
"	Geography	Colebrook
"	Mathematics	Wong I
"	Physics	Wong I
"	Chemistry	Scase
"	Zoology	Wans
"	Music	Davis I
Sixth Form	English	Howbert
" "	History	Howbert
" "	Geography	Bowen-Jones
" "	Mathematics	Wong II
" "	Science	Lang

O Level	English	Sargeantson I
„	History	Troup
„	French	Dobbs
„	Mathematics	Wong II
„	Science	Wong II
„	Biology	Sargeantson I
Fifth Form	English Language	MacMillan-Scott
„ „	English Literature	Blagden
„ „	History	Forbes
„ „	French	Hitchcock
„ „	Geography	Wada I
„ „	Mathematics	Leung
„ „	Science	Leung
„ „	Biology	MacMillan-Scott
Fourth 4A	Form Prize	Thorne
4B	„ „	Hancocks
3A	„ „	Wada II
3B	„ „	Harris II

RUGBY FOOTBALL REPORT 1967-68

INTER-HOUSE RUGBY CHAMPIONS

Swift

INTER-HOUSE 'SEVENS' CHAMPIONS (SENIOR)

Swift

INTER-HOUSE 'SEVENS' CHAMPIONS (JUNIOR)

Harcourt

WINNERS OF THE KICKING COMPETITION

Harcourt

1st XV REPORT

WHEN THE New Zealand 'All Blacks' Rugby Team left for home last December after an unbeaten tour of this country, they were asked to what they attributed their success. Brian Lochore, the captain, replied immediately, 'Determination to succeed and teamwork.'

These would appear to be two obvious enough qualities but, sadly, they were lacking in the Cokethorpe 1st XV last season.

Unfortunately the team was committed to a heavy away-match programme. In strange surroundings they seemed to lack confidence in their own ability as rugby players. On too many occasions they allowed themselves to be intimidated by the opposition in the early stages of a game.

The team's inexperience can be explained in part by the fact that the majority of the players were very young. Only five colours returned to school in September. Several boys found themselves promoted to the 1st XV straight from junior rugby. Also the team was unfortunate in that it was deprived of the services of the Captain and Vice-Captain in the opening games. Addison was particularly unlucky in that he went down with appendicitis exactly a year after fracturing his arm. Nevertheless this does not altogether explain the inability of the senior members to stamp their personality on the rest and help weld them into a united team.

Generally the team's faults were basic. The forwards failed to hunt as a pack and support the man with the ball. This meant that we were unable to capitalise on the loose ball and start 'second phase' attacks—the essence of modern rugby. The mid-field play was generally lacking in fluency—moves were rarely co-ordinated. The fly-half and centre failed to take the ball on the burst. Too many passes were dropped and the determination to run hard and straight for the line was missing. In the past Cokethorpe's strength has lain in a fast, penetrative three-quarter line. This season Kyaruzi (probably the fastest wing the School has had) managed to get only two tries in fourteen games for the 1st XV, simply because he was rarely given 'good ball'.

Individually several players emerged with credit. Addison, Dobbs, May and Hilderley always put everything into their matches. Amongst the backs Kitchin and Kyaruzi always threatened danger whenever they had the ball. The tragedy was that the XV rarely knitted as a team. On the one occasion when they did work well together, they went down narrowly 9-5 to Lord Williams's, Thame (undoubtedly the best School XV in Oxfordshire), in what was the most entertaining match of the year.

Yet, the season had its brighter moments. The senior VII had its most successful run ever in 'Sevens' rugby. For the first time Cokethorpe reached the Quarter Finals of the Oxfordshire 'Sevens' Tournament. This is a nation-wide tournament attracting teams from ninety schools and the 1st VII did well to emerge as the third most successful Oxfordshire team behind Lord William's and Bloxham. The Senior VII which consisted of May, Willsdon,

Addison (capt.), Dobbs, Kitchin, Kyaruzi and Wise played with great determination. Cowley, St. Helen's, the eventual sectional finalists, defeated the School 11-5. The Junior VII, too, acquitted themselves well, losing only 3-0 to Littlemore G.S. who went on to win the Junior Section. In the Inter-House 'Sevens' Tournament, also, play reached a high standard. The two Senior teams from Harcourt and Swift were engaged in a particularly hard-fought match which went to extra time.

In many ways it is a pity that we had to wait until the final weeks of the season before we saw Cokethorpe rugby at its best. Had the spirit and determination in which the 'Sevens' games were played, prevailed in the earlier 1st XV matches, the record would have looked very different from the one below.

PORTRAITS OF THE 1st XV

A. Addison (No. 8). *Captain*. Unfortunately an appendix operation meant that he missed the first seven matches. Thus for the second successive season the 1st XV were deprived of his services in their early fixtures. When he regained fitness, he became noted for his robust forward play and strong tackling. He reached peak form in the end-of-term 'Sevens' programme.

N. Sewell (fly half). *Vice-captain*. He, too, missed the first three matches. He soon settled into the fly half berth and improved as the season went on, but he has never regained the fluency which characterised his play in the 1965/66 season. He played some courageous 'Sevens' rugby until injury prevented him from taking his place in the Senior VII.

S. Dobbs (wing forward). *Secretary*. He played in every match and emerged as top scorer. His strength lay in his speed and mobility. His determination as a 'Sevens' player was a feature of his play.

M. Kitchin (centre). A strong runner with a natural flair for attack. He was potentially dangerous whenever he had the ball. His weakness was his unpredictability yet ironically this was, at times, his strength. He will be a much better player when he learns to vary his play more. Played excellently in the House matches.

N. Wise (centre). A natural footballer who ran stylishly and kicked fluently. His weakness lay in defence. Also he must guard against temperament. With greater control he could be a fine threequarter.

P. Wynter (wing threequarter). A courageous tackler with a fine turn of speed. He could have done with a little more 'aggression' and determination.

C. Kyaruzi (wing threequarter). In his first season of rugby his game was characterised by his dazzling speed and swift changes of direction. Unfortunately, he was too often allowed to languish in isolation on the wing. He still has a lot of basic practising to do but his willingness to learn and his determination to do well, suggest that he will be quite a force in school rugby next season.

D. Mitchell (scrum half). Though playing out of position, he performed adequately at the base of the scrum. His defensive play was of a high standard. His game will improve when he learns to concentrate for the whole of the playing time. On too many occasions his running with the ball was ponderous.

If he could inject more vitality and urgency into his game, he could become a fine all-round player.

A. Forbes (prop). He played with enthusiasm and ability in the tight. His game improved as the season progressed and he was noticeably more mobile than last season. He has emerged as a fluent ball player with safe hands.

R. Hilderley (hooker). He has developed into a fine front row forward. Though lacking in weight and stature, he compensated for this by putting plenty of energy into his play. His consistent hooking and mobility in the loose made him an indispensable member of the pack.

N. Lauder (prop). He performed adequately in his front row duties but his play generally lacked aggression. Too often he allowed opposing props to assert their superiority early in the game. His loose play improved markedly towards the latter half of the season.

A. May (lock). A much improved player. He emerged as a strong, vigorous lock forward. He reached his peak in the 'Sevens' tournaments when his play was characterised by unflagging effort.

N. Willsdon (lock). After going through a bad patch in mid-season, he tightened up his play and performed robustly in the second row of the scrum. He showed plenty of enthusiasm and spirit in the 'Sevens' tournaments.

N. Hilder (wing forward). His game improved greatly and, after missing the opening games of the season, he deservedly claimed the blind side berth as his own. His perseverance and effort were a feature of his play.

M. Davis (wing threequarter). His game suffered in that he lacked the basics—safe hands and an accurate pass. A stocky runner with a sharp burst, he too often lacked the determination to go hard for the line.

R. Cullen (lock). He played some vigorous games in the 'powerhouse', until his 'premature retirement' from the game at Christmas.

M. Goss (full back). He was not noted for his ball-playing ability but he developed into a brave defender towards the latter part of the season. With greater practice in the basic arts, he could emerge as a useful player.

J. MacMillan-Scott (scrum half). He improved as the season progressed and showed that he was capable of some courageous defensive work. As a scrum half, though, his reactions were slow and his service unpredictable. He would do well to concentrate on the back row of the scrum, in future.

C. Nicholson (utility). Though he lacked consistency, on the few occasions that he played on the wing, he proved to be a penetrative runner with a deceptive turn of speed. His versatility was missed when he left school at Christmas.

FIRST XV

Opponents				Ground	Result	
Witney Grammar School	..	..	..	Away	Lost	16—0
Lord Williams's, Thame	..	..	..	Away	Lost	39—0
Burford Boarding House	..	..	..	Away	Draw	0—0
Bicester School ..	..	..	..	Away	Lost	18—5
Littlemore School	..	..	..	Away	Lost	17—3
Oratory School 3rd XV	..	..	..	Home	Won	8—15
Redrice School	..	..	..	Home	Won	0—3
Rendcomb College	..	..	..	Away	Lost	16—8
Burford Grammar School	..	..	..	Away	Lost	21—6

Old Boys	.. .. .	Home	Lost	11—3
Worcester College, Oxford	.. .. .	Away	Lost	24—3
Abingdon School 3rd XV	.. .. .	Away	Won	6—11
Lord Williams's, Thame	.. .. .	Home	Lost	9—5
Redrice School	.. .. .	Away	Lost	17—3
Burford Grammar School	.. .. .	Home	Lost	11—6

Played 15, won 3, drawn 1, lost 11; Points for 71, points against 213.

100 per cent appearance for 1st XV:—S. Dobbs, D. Mitchell, R. Hilderley, N. Wise.

Local 'Sevens' Tournament at Littlemore.

Lord Williams's, Thame	Lost	10—0
Banbury School	Lost	13—8
Aylesbury Grammar School	Won	3—8

Oxfordshire Schools 'Sevens' Tournament.

1st Round—a bye.

2nd Round—versus Bristol Grammar, Won 8—0.

Quarter Final—versus Cowley (St. Helens), Lost 11—5.

Scorers:—S. Dobbs 22 pts. (4 tries, 2 pens., 2 cons.); M. Kitchin 18 pts. (6 tries); N. Wise 13 pts. (3 tries, 2 cons.); C. Kyaruzi 12 pts. (4 tries); D. Mitchell 9 pts. (3 tries); N. Sewell 8 pts. (4 cons.); N. Hilder 6 pts. (2 tries); A. Addison 3 pts. (1 try); M. Davies 3 pts. (1 try); C. Nicholson 3 pts. (1 try); P. Wynter 3 pts. (1 try).

Colours

Full Colours re-awarded to: A. Addison.

Full Colours awarded to: N. Sewell, S. Dobbs, N. Wise, A. Forbes, A. May, N. Willsdon, M. Kitchin.

Half Colours awarded to: C. Kyaruzi, P. Wynter, R. Hilderley, N. Hilder, M. Goss.

SECOND XV

Opponents	Ground	Result
Burford G.S. Boarding House	Home	Lost 8—6

INTER-HOUSE XV COMPETITION RESULTS

Harcourt	30 pts.	:	Queen Anne	0 pts.
Queen Anne	0 pts.	:	Swift	27 pts.
Swift	13 pts.	:	Harcourt	8 pts.

INTER HOUSE SEVEN-A-SIDE COMPETITION RESULTS

Senior

Queen Anne	3 pts.	:	Harcourt	6 pts.
Swift	14 pts.	:	Queen Anne	5 pts.
Swift	8 pts.	:	Harcourt	5 pts.

(after extra time)



Kyaruzi, Wynter, Forbes, Hilder I, Cullen, May, Hidderley, Mitchell
Willsdon I, Davis, Sewell, Addison, Dobbs, Wise, Kitchen

Goss

Lauder

Junior

Swift	0 pts.	:	Harcourt	8 pts.
Queen Anne	0 pts.	:	Harcourt	19 pts.
Swift	16 pts.	:	Queen Anne	3 pts.
Masters	12 pts.	:	Prefects	0 pts.

COLTS XV

Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	For	Against
9	2	7	0	45	152

Nine games were played, of which only two were won. Heavy defeats were suffered, both at home and away, at the hands of Lord Williams's, Thame and Burford G.S. The other matches were tight tense struggles where the results were decided by a narrow margin of points, one way or another. There were two victories—at home to Redrice, and away to Rendcomb.

It must be remembered that the team is selected from a small number of boys and matches are played against schools where team selection is from a far greater number. In this light the Colts XV must be commended upon their efforts. There must however be no complacent attitude adopted but a greater effort to get on better terms with these stronger, heavier teams.

The team was represented by 29 players in all, and of these there were 5 ever-present members, namely, Parsons, Siu, Ritchie, Harris I, and Harris II. Injuries kept others from achieving this, the most noteworthy absentee being Lewis who suffered a most unfortunate arm injury. The top try-scorers of the team were Siu, Lewis, and Carraher all with 2 tries apiece. Many more tries should have been scored but many attacks broke down in sight of the line because of poor passing, and the fact that players were prone to hang on to the ball too long and therefore it was not worked out to the wing quickly enough. The other main weakness was the uncertainty of tackling, which should have been harder and more determined. There was however much endeavour shown on the field, and it is a pity that their record is not a better reflection of their efforts.



A saying of the term.

Not all of Portia's humour is dry; some of it is juicy.

COKETHORPE CRICKET CLUB REPORT 1967

Captain: N. Sewell *Vice-Captain:* A. Biggar

Secretary: A. Forbes

ON HIS DEATHBED in 1774, King Louis XV of France is said to have expressed his fears for the immediate future of the Bourbon monarchy in his often-quoted words 'Après moi le déluge'. The events of last summer can now, loosely, be described as part of Cokethorpe's history and perhaps 'pendant mai le déluge' would be a fair description of the first half of the cricket season. This is not to say that there were any revolutionary changes in the weather at the start of the summer term. The pattern was very much the same as in previous years—only more so. In fact, I noted in my diary on 22nd May, that 6.8 inches of rain had fallen in three weeks and that May 1967 was therefore already the wettest May ever recorded in this country. In the following week we had thunder, lightning and, needless to say, more rain.

This almost total wash-out was all the more serious because of the lack of established 1st XI players remaining from the 1966 season. Sewell was the only XI Colour playing at the start of the season and the two XXII Colours, Kitchin and Timothy, had both been young enough to play junior cricket in 1966. This being the case it was obviously essential for a new team to be developed in the early part of the season and here the weather stepped in and denied us the opportunity of net practice, which was absolutely vital if this was to be achieved.

The early matches were a continuing sequence of disasters. The game against Redrice was cancelled owing to heavy rain, and after only 33 minutes' play in the game against P. J. Green's XI a rain-storm, lasting from lunchtime until midnight, caused the match to be abandoned. At Shiplake the XI were bowled out for a meagre 27, the last six wickets falling for one run, but with Shiplake's total at 23-5 the match was abandoned because of thunder and lightning, followed once again by an almost tropical rain-storm which covered the wicket in about an inch of water in a matter of minutes. Worse was to follow, however, for the match against Magdalen C.S. XXII proved to be an almost total humiliation. Following some steady bowling by Janson-Smith and Timothy, Magdalen were dismissed for the moderate total of 92. The 1965 or 1966 XI's would have had little trouble in knocking off these runs, but last year's XI managed just 16. Enough said.

With the advent of June, matters improved slightly. Against Thame the XI managed 66, of which Forbes scored an unbeaten 25, but unfortunately he received little support and the match was eventually lost by six wickets. At Bradfield, the XI were beaten by 107 runs after Sewell had taken 6-48 with his own strange brand of medium-pacers. Only Kitchin was seen at his best with the bat against a very quick pair of opening bowlers who were much too fast for our sixteen year olds.

At the beginning of July, with 'A' levels behind him, Bulmer returned to the fold and our fortunes improved. Against the Old Boys the XI scored 143, Bulmer scoring 46 out of 93 in an hour and a half, while he was at the wicket. The Old Boys were then put out for 98 thanks to some good left arm slow bowling from King. At Bicester, on a spiteful wicket, the XI declared at 95-9, thanks to sound batting from Bulmer (15), Forbes (16), Timothy (22), and Harris (11). Bicester were struggling at 41-7 when time ran out. The XI lost at Abingdon trying to beat the home side's total of 152-8 declared, but the intention was honourable, even refreshing.

The highlight of the season was undoubtedly the match against St. Edward's. In reply to the St. Edward's total of 161-5 declared, the XI began the last over of the day at 146-1, needing sixteen to win. The final score of 149-4 in no way detracted from the splendid batting that had gone before. Bulmer and Figgis opened the batting and in 45 minutes scored 51 for the first wicket before Figgis was stumped for 14. Wise joined Bulmer and 95 runs came in the next 65 minutes, both players batting superbly. Bulmer departed for 94, scored in 110 minutes after a masterly innings, with Wise remaining 32 not out at the close.

Throughout the season the main problem was obviously the inability of our young players to lay a firm foundation from which to attack the bowling. However, several players did emerge as prospects for the future. Wise improved as a batsman and wicket-keeper as the season unfolded, and he could do even better this year. The same is true of Forbes and Harris with the bat and Morrison and Ritchie with the ball. Neither Sewell nor Kitchin could have been very happy with their batting performances last year, but Sewell ended the season on top of the bowling averages and Kitchin emerged as an outstanding fielder at cover. We must hope for an all-round improvement in 1968 if the successes of 1965 and 1966 are to be repeated.

Once again our thanks must go to the Bursar for all his hard work on the grounds to further our enjoyment of the game.

GENERAL SUMMARY OF MATCHES PLAYED

XI. Won 1 Drawn 2 Lost 4 Abandoned 4

- Sat. 13th May v Redrice 1st XI (home). Abandoned without a ball being bowled.
- Sun. 14th May v P. J. Green's XI (home). XI. 14-2. Abandoned.
- Thur. 25th May v Shiplake 1st XI (away). XI. 27. Shiplake 23-5 (Janson-Smith 3-8). Abandoned.
- Wed. 31st May v Magdalen C.S. XXII (home). M.C.S. 92 (Janson-Smith 4-24, Timothy 3-17). XI. 16.
- Sat. 3rd June v Lord Williams's G.S. Thame 1st. XI (home). XI. 66 (Forbes 25*) Thame 69-4.
- Sat. 24th June v Oratory Colts (home). Abandoned without a ball being bowled.
- Sat. 1st July v Bradfield 3rd XI (away). Bradfield 142 (Sewell 6-48). XI. 35.
- Sun. 2nd July v Old Boys (home). XI. 143 (Bulmer 46, Sewell 23). Old Boys 98 (King 4-14, Sewell 3-20).
- Wed. 5th July v Bicester G.S. 1st XI (away). XI. 95-9 dec. (Timothy 22). Bicester 41-7 (Timothy 4-18, Sewell 3-10).
- Wed. 12th July v Abingdon Colts (away). Abingdon 152-8 dec. (Janson-Smith 4-39, Timothy 3-40). XI. 101 (Timothy 43, Wise 31).
- Sat. 15th July v St. Edward's 3rd XI (away). St. Edward's 161-5 dec. XI. 149-4 (Bulmer 94, Wise 32*).

XI. AVERAGES

Batting. (Qualification 4 innings)

	Inns.	N.O.	H.S.	Runs	Av.
Bulmer	4	0	94	155	38.75
Wise	6	2	32*	66	16.50
Forbes	8	2	25*	61	10.17
Timothy	8	0	43	73	9.12
Sewell	7	1	23	43	7.17
Kitchin	7	0	16	42	6.14
Figgis	9	0	14	48	5.33

Bowling. (Qualification 5 wickets)

	Overs	Maidens	Wkts.	Runs	Av.
Sewell	28.2	8	13	90	6.92
King	11.5	1	5	38	7.60
Timothy	86	24	18	211	11.72
Janson-Smith	75.3	16	17	203	11.94

COLOURS

XI	XXII
N. E. H. Sewell	R. E. B. Figgis
P. F. Bulmer	R. J. O. Harris
A. I. C. Forbes	J. A. King
P. P. Janson-Smith	R. D. Morrison
M. A. D. Kitchin	
A. S. Timothy	
A. F. Biggar	
G. N. Wise	

CRICKET CUPS

All-rounders Cup	N. Sewell and A. Timothy
Fielding Cup	M. Kitchin
Inter-house Cricket Cup	Harcourt

HOUSE MATCHES

The House Cricket Competition was very closely contested last season and in the end the cup went to Harcourt by the slender margin of 0.6 of a run from Queen Anne who took second place by the even smaller margin of 0.095 of a run from Swift. All three of the matches were close, but none of them produced much good cricket. Harcourt beat Queen Anne by 8 runs in the first match, but were in turn beaten by Swift by 16 runs in the second match. The final game saw a complete reversal of the known form, Queen Anne beating Swift by 21 runs.

SCORES:

- 1st Match:* Harcourt 62 all out (Sewell 30, Timothy 5-9).
Queen Anne 54 all out (Donnelly 27, Sewell 4-19, Davis 3-20).
2nd Match: Swift 74 all out (Mitchell 22, Sewell 5-15, Davis 4-37).
Harcourt 58 all out (White 25, Biggar 4-21, Janson-Smith 3-30).
3rd Match: Queen Anne 54 all out (Biggar 6-18, Janson-Smith 4-35).
Swift 33 all out (Timothy 3-4, Figgis 3-5, Donnelly 3-11).

GENERAL SUMMARY OF UNDER 15 MATCHES

- Wed. 17th May *v* Magdalen U-15 (away). Cancelled.
Wed. 24th May *v* Redrice U-15 (home). Abandoned without a ball being bowled
Thur. 25th May *v* Shiplake U-15 (home). Cancelled
Sat. 3rd June *v* Thame U-15 (home). U-15 68. Thame 69-7.
Sat. 14th June *v* Abingdon U-14 (home). U-15 124-9 dec. (Wade 26*, Lauder 22). Abingdon 88-7 (Morrison 4-24).
Sat. 24th June *v* Burford U-15 (home). Abandoned without a ball being bowled.

The Under 15 team had a most disappointing season after the triumphs of 1966. The chief menace, once again, was the weather which reduced the number of games played from six to two, and seriously handicapped the development of several promising young players. In the two matches played Hancocks captained the side quite well and was supported by some steady bowling from Morrison and Ritchie, while Wada, Lauder and Sayer improved as batsmen. The fielding was steady if not brilliant.



A saying of the term.

The Treaty of Riga gave the English navy the right to use naval stories in the Baltic.

THE BOAT CLUB

UNFORTUNATELY, last season was not a very successful one for the Club. Because of heavy examination commitments we entered for only one regatta. We had been due to row at Hereford, but unfortunately it clashed with an exam. The one regatta at which we did make an appearance was held at Worcester on rather a longer course than we had anticipated, but nevertheless the 'A' crew (Bow: N. J. Sargeantson; 2: S. M. Dobbs; 3: D. A. P. Addison; Stroke: M. I. Davis; Cox: N. Parsons) managed to get through to the final by beating Ellesmere Port G.S. and Belmont Abbey, but unfortunately were beaten in the final by Whitecross by just a quarter of a length. All the same, this was a good effort and the crew were to be congratulated. The colts' crew were more unfortunate as they were beaten in the first round. (Representing the colts were: Bow: J. Lilburn; 2: W. Behn; 3: M. Wada; Stroke: A. Wong; Cox: D. Sawyer.) However, since this was their first regatta it was not too much of a blow; they are still young and no doubt they will develop as time goes on.

There was a slight upset in the Inter-House regatta this year as we were forced to hold a timed course instead of the usual two-a-breast racing. This was due, surprisingly, to the lack of water in the river. The holders of the cup for the past four years, Swift, were beaten this year by a Harcourt crew.

We are very grateful to Mr. Cook for his long service to the Club, and we welcome Mr. Clayton in his place.

The Club is now back to its full strength and we hope that the 1968 season will be much more successful. We have a heavy training schedule ahead, and good use will be made of the 'bank tub' which we had so much difficulty in mooring last year.

ATHLETICS 1967

THE SCHOOL SPORTS DAY, held on the last Monday of term, July 17th, was again a most successful occasion. Harcourt proved to be clear winners with 188 points, but there was a tense struggle for second place which was narrowly gained by Swift with 153½ points to Queen Anne's 151½ points.

Individual events were won by the following:—

<i>Event</i>	<i>Performer</i>	<i>Time/Distance</i>
100 yards Senior	Ward (H)	11.3 secs.
100 yards Junior	Carraher (QA)	11.5 secs.
220 yards Senior	Dobbs (H)	24.9 secs.
220 yards Junior	Carraher (QA)	27.0 secs.
440 yards Senior	Ward (H)	55.5 secs. (E.S.R.)
440 yards Junior	Hidderley (QA)	61.9 secs.
880 yards Senior	Bulmer (QA)	2 mins. 22.9 secs.
880 yards Junior	Siu (H)	2 mins. 24.5 secs.
Mile (Open)	Lilburn (S)	5 mins. 16.8 secs.
Medley Relay	Harcourt House	4 mins. 16.8 secs.
4 × 110 yards Senior Relay	Harcourt House	50.3 secs.
4 × 110 yards Junior Relay	Swift House	53.0 secs.
High Jump Senior	Ward (H)	4' 9"
High Jump Junior	Siu (H)	4' 6"
Long Jump Senior	Dobbs (H)	18' 10½"
Long Jump Junior	Lewis (QA)	15' 5½"
Discus Senior	Lang (S)	90' 8"
Discus Junior	Harris I (QA)	103' 2"
Javelin Senior	Bulmer (QA)	117' 8"
Javelin Junior	Harris I (QA)	105' 6"
Weight Senior	Blandford (H)	33' 8"
Weight Junior	Kitchin (S)	36' 4"

Equals School Record (E.S.R.)

Despite the fact that no new school records were created there were many impressive performances, the most noteworthy being the time of 55.5 secs. by Ward, the School Athletics captain, in the Senior 440 yards, which equalled the school record set up in 1962. There was a very close finish to the Medley Relay where Harcourt only just edged out Queen Anne although both teams were given the same time. Also in the Senior Long Jump only ¼" separated first and second where Dobbs (18' 10½") scraped home from Wise (18' 10¼") after six jumps each. This proved to be a fine personal contest as both are members of Harcourt House.

In the wider sphere of inter-school meetings we were defeated narrowly at Burford G.S., and by a wider margin at Abingdon School. The teams however put up a good display and there were some fine personal efforts. At the Area Sports, held at Horspath Road, Oxford, there were some creditable results although we were hoping to be victorious in a greater number of events. Our best results were:—

Senior 440 yards	Nicholson 3rd	62.1 secs.
Senior Long Jump	Wise 1st	18' 3"
Senior Discus	Harris I 2nd	108' 1"
Senior Weight	Kitchin 3rd	32' 7½"
Junior 100 yards	Carraher 3rd	11.8 secs.
Junior 880 yards	Mitchell 2nd	2 mins. 28.5 secs.
Junior Weight	Lauder 2nd	30' 4½"

As a result of their performances Wise, Harris, Mitchell and Carraher were selected to represent the Area at the County Sports. The standard here was, of course, higher and despite their endeavours they did not achieve success.

It is to be hoped that the present season will see greater endeavour and great success at school and county levels.

The Athletics Standards cup was won for the third successive year by Harcourt House with an average of 11.6 points per boy. This, unlike the Sports Day result, depends upon the combined effort of every member of the house. Swift House were a narrow margin behind at 11.4 points per boy, while Queen Anne recorded 9.2 points per boy. Mitchell (Swift) was the highest individual scorer with 26 points, closely followed by Dobbs (Harcourt), Lewis and Carraher (both Queen Anne) on 25 points, out of a possible 30 points.

INTER-HOUSE ROAD RELAY RACE

HELD ON THE LAST DAY of the Spring term this fixture proved to be very interesting despite the rather slow time compared with previous years. Swift were again victorious, giving them their third successive victory in the Inter-House Road Relay Race. The winning time for the three-lap race was 115 minutes 42 seconds. The winning team for Swift, comprising 5 seniors and 2 juniors, was Hilder, May, McGill, Morley-John, Smith (Seniors), Tonkin and Mitchell (Juniors).

Swift House led for most of the race after a good start by Hilder. Excitement mounted during the last lap when it was learnt that Harcourt (Siu) caught and passed the Swift runner, but after the last change-over Smith regained the lead on the last stage to bring victory to Swift.

All the runners, of the three houses, must be congratulated on their fine efforts. Next year it will be interesting to see whether one of the other houses can break the firm grip that Swift has upon this race.

SCHOOL CROSS-COUNTRY

THIS EVENT WAS HELD ON February 14th 1968. Swift were clear winners by 23 points from Harcourt with Queen Anne a very long way in the rear. Thus Swift House recorded a hat-trick of victories in the School Cross-Country. A trio of Swift runners led for most of the way, and in fact they had 5 of the first 6

finishers. The winner was Smith who won in the time of 30 minutes 38.8 seconds. He was followed home by two other Swift runners, namely, Hilder and McGill. Sargeantson I of Harcourt was fourth, while the first runner home for Queen Anne was Harris II who finished in 15th place.

A number of juniors ran well to finish high up the field; and those who were in the first 20 were Mitchell, Kaye, Harris II, Tonkin, Sargeantson II, Ritchie, and Partlett. The turn-out for the event was very small indeed, as only 66 boys participated. This in no way detracts from the efforts of all who ran, and they must be commended, especially Smith and his co-runners. It is however to be hoped that next year's event will have a greater turn-out.

HARCOURT HOUSE REPORT

(Head of House—R. J. C. Cullen)

THOUGH HARCOURT HAS MISSED Mr. Leeds-Harrison who retired last year, the whole House welcomed Mr. Stead who has proved to be a very popular house-master and has encouraged and aided us all both academically and athletically. Mr. Davies is now House Tutor and his encouragement and support are invaluable, especially on the games and athletics side.

It has been quite a successful year on the sports fields for Harcourt. In the summer Sewell I led us to victory in the House Cricket and House Tennis tournaments, and under the spirited leadership of Bowen-Jones both the House Standards and House Athletics cups were won.

Harcourt's rugby has suffered from the loss of many old stalwarts who departed at the end of the summer. Despite keenness and vigour we lost the House Rugby XIs and VIIs through lack of teamwork and precision. Nevertheless we managed to retrieve the House Kicking Cup and Macmillan-Scott, Kyaruzi, Cullen, Siu and Winter were awarded their House Colours for Rugby. A special mention should be made of Fagg, a promising junior who played well.

Academically the House has done better than ever before, with Blandford, Bowen-Jones, Sewell, Frost and Keen all achieving two 'A' level passes each—Blandford and Bowen-Jones are to be congratulated on getting a grade 'A' each. Everyone is delighted.

Macmillan-Scott and Leung retrieved Harcourt's honour in a disappointing year for 'O' levels by gaining eight 'O' level passes each.

R. J. C. CULLEN

QUEEN ANNE HOUSE REPORT

(Head of House—N. Willson)

QUEEN ANNE HAS NOT HAD a particularly promising year in all fields, but we can certainly feel pleased with certain members of the House because of their fine achievements academically. William Howbert must be congratulated, for he gained splendid 'A' level results, a grade 'A' in English and a 'B' in History. We hope he will be able to gain a place at Cambridge. Peter Bulmer, the former head of School and Queen Anne, is greatly missed, for his honest house spirit, and outstanding prowess at games. He left with an 'A' level pass in English, and is now studying in Grenoble, and we all wish him the best of luck. We have also lost many other useful members of Queen Anne, such as Sorotos, Figgis, Timothy, and Tainsh. John Tainsh we must especially congratulate for he passed his 'A' level Biology with a grade 'B'.

On the games field Queen Anne has not had very many successes, but many individuals have gained special distinctions and generally, the house spirit has been excellent. Willson I, Forbes, and Hidderly received House rugby colours, and cricket House colours were awarded to Willson I, Timothy and Forbes. Four Queen Anne members were included in the teams Cokethorpe entered for the Oxfordshire Seven-a-Sides; they were Willson I, Carraher, Lauder and Hidderly.

Next year we hope to achieve a greater success at games; for at the moment we are short of seniors, but we expect fine results from the younger generation.

Finally we all feel the loss of Mr. Cook whose influence we miss greatly. However we extend our welcome to Mr. Hudson as Queen Anne's house tutor, and at the same time we warmly congratulate him on his marriage to Miss Mary Taylor.

CHRISTOPHER FARAH

DEAN SWIFT HOUSE REPORT

(Head of House—D. A. P. Addison)

IT HAS BEEN a very successful year for us in sporting events. During the Christmas and Easter terms we showed our supremacy in the House Rugby XV's for the fourth year running, and we also managed to break Harcourt's ascendancy in the House VII's by winning the cup for the first time in five years. We also won a number of other sporting events, namely:—the House Cross-Country, the Road Relay, the House Shooting and the House Judo competition.

House colours for rugby were re-awarded to Addison and Nicholson and awarded to May, Goss, Mitchell, Kitchen, Hilder and Lilburn. A special mention should be made of Tonkin, a promising junior who played well and also ran very well in the Cross-Country.

Academically the House has done reasonably well with Janson-Smith, Lang and Wong all achieving 2 'A' levels and eight 'O' levels each. 'O' level results were less pleasing than in other years but May and Nicholson each passed in five subjects.

Our best wishes must go to Mr. Mathias-Williams who is unfortunately leaving at the end of the summer term. He will, I'm sure, be warmly remembered by the House and also the School, particularly for his very keen interest in Rugby and Athletics.

D. A. P. ADDISON

CHAPLAIN'S NOTES

WE HAVE HAD a visit from the Right Reverend the Bishop of Dorchester twice during the year. On Sunday, October 29th he came for a Confirmation when seventeen boys were confirmed, and he most kindly came again on the Sunday after Ascension Day to celebrate Holy Communion.

On the day before the Confirmation the candidates were taken for a Quiet Day at Westcote near Kingham, which was conducted by Fr. Hadrian Whyte, of Mirfield, who also spent a week at the School earlier in the year.

We are again very grateful to Mrs. de la Haye, Mrs. Russell, Mrs. Knipe and Miss Carol Warren for so kindly arranging flowers in church during the year, and to Tonkin and Morley-John, for their constant helpfulness.

The School orchestra was very sorry to lose Mr. Cook, but has found an enthusiastic successor in Captain Davis, and under his enthusiasm and leadership it continues successfully to provide an accompaniment to the services. Thanks are due to the Reverend H. P. Hudson for Communion Services, and to the Reverend T. G. O. Jenkins for occasional help.

The Catholic members of the School have continued to have the help and guidance of the members of The Society of Jesus from Heythrop to whom they are most grateful. Fr. Murphy stayed for nearly a week, and his company was enjoyed by many of us who are not Catholics. The Chapel will be vastly improved by its enlargement. Seven boys were Confirmed at Burford on May 19th by Bishop Emery, Bishop Auxiliary in the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

JOUR DE FETE

or

Our warmest thanks to all those without whose help . . .

COKETHORPE HAD KNOWN NOTHING quite like it before. For a couple of terms committees had met, plans had been laid, draw tickets had been on sale. As attraction after attraction was 'leaked' to the local press the original garden-party picture that had been in some minds changed to a more brash and vulgar realisation. Not quite Cokethorpe, you know, but rather fun.

Nearer the date there was more positive action. Posters and hoardings appeared. The sideshow committee reviewed projects ranging from complicated fantasy to daylight robbery, and emerged with a nice balance of old favourites and novelty. On the day itself every single person was engaged in some essential activity. Nobody had really believed that the public would take much notice of us, but as cars and coaches poured into the grounds a controlled hysteria took possession of the boys and they found that they were super-salesmen and barkers.

The public came in a mood to enjoy itself, and there was certainly plenty to do and to watch. White-clad figures were flung about in the name of judo, miniature racing cars 'burnt up' the square, the old Berks hounds hallooed joyfully over cricket pitch and running track, mad Irishmen free-fell from the skies and nearly went across the road, and at the far side a steam monster towed two trails of delighted children (of all ages) through the rough.

The almost continuous performance of gymkhana and dog show, as well as the display of vintage cars and the flower-decked chapel, provided much of interest to connoisseur and casual on-looker alike. The tombola, raffle and plant and produce stalls in the marquee did a roaring trade; balloons dodged the elms and headed for the continent; there were queues for refreshments, and, amongst it all, the boys persuaded people to 'have a go' at the most unlikely things, and the band played on.

Gradually the excitement died. People drifted away. We did some dilatory tidying-up—there was surprisingly little litter. The treasurer was still counting. We were suddenly tired.

Fête accomplie.

A saying of the term.

Anthracite is a smokeless fuel which is used for oil central-heating.

COKETHORPE PARK RIFLE CLUB

THE END OF LAST YEAR saw the departure of many of the good rifle shots as well as one of the club's founders, Mr. Leeds Harrison, whose loss will always be felt. His place has been taken by Mr. Stead, supported by Mr. Heron. The Club has recently purchased a new B.S.A. Century rifle to replace the Walther which was the property of Mr. Leeds Harrison.

Although many of the better senior shots have left, we have had some promising results from the juniors. In the Inter-Schools Junior winter competition the Under-15 came 8th out of a field of 25 entries, drawn from all schools. This is our best result so far.

Those who have shot for the School include:—

Ackland	Addison	Brooks I
Haines	Harris I	Hucklesby
Hung	Kelsey	Lillburn
MacMillan-Scott	Morrison I	Steel
Tonkin	Walker II	

This year the House competition was won by Swift, with Harcourt taking second place again. The Davis Cup was won by Lillburn with a handicap of 3 and a score of 97.

Unfortunately we were unable to go to Bisley last year as it was after the term had ended, but we hope to do so this year.

JUDO REPORT

JUDO IS GAINING IN REPUTE and popularity in the school, and many people saw something of its appeal, during the display at the Fete last summer. The club now has a following of about thirty boys. This is all due to the very good instruction of Mr. Chambers who comes to the school twice a week to teach us.

During the year we have had a number of friendly matches against Witney Grammar School, all of which we have won, for we by now can select rather more experienced contestants.

Addison, Sewell II, Morley-John, Hazeldene, Steel and Waithman have all fought their way to success and were chosen to represent not only the School but the County area in the inter-schools judo competition at the Crystal Palace in May.

At the end of the Easter term the house match was duly fought. The result, after Swift House had beaten Queen Anne in a fight-off between Morley-John and Wada, was Swift seven points, Queen Anne six points and Harcourt two points.

SOCCKER CLUB

THE CLUB HAS CERTAINLY aroused great interest this year and at last, with the guarded approval of Mr. Green and Mr. Mathias-Williams, our first unofficial match was played and won by eight goals to three. The team was:—Hitchcock, Pudney, May, Wynter, Wise, Dobbs, Kyaruzi, Wong, Partlett, Goss and Mac-Millan-Scott.

OUR TWIN

AFTER WAITING FOR MORE THAN a year, we have at last succeeded in establishing a 'link' with a school in France—the Collège d'Enseignement Général Max Barel at Vénissieux. Vénissieux is a suburb of Lyon and is famous for the Berliet factory where lorries of all types are manufactured. The school is a large 'Comprehensive' for boys, most of whose parents work at Berliet. So far we have enjoyed exchanging tapes, letters, magazines and odds and ends with our opposite numbers but we hope one day to visit each other's schools and homes. A start is being made this summer holidays when a small group of fourth formers is going to stay for a fortnight at a 'Colonic de Vacances' at Le Havre, where we look forward to meeting Monsieur François, one of the English masters at Max Barel.

R.V.L.

★ ★ ★

One morning Mr. Lyle, our French master, walked into our classroom with an extra wide grin on his face. It was obvious that he had something pleasant in store for us, but, of course, he wasn't going to let the cat out of the bag yet. First we had to have a verb test, and then he told us he had a surprise for us.

It seems that in France there is an agency for connecting English to French schools. In fact it works just like a 'pen-pal' agency. It had been able to put us in touch with a school near Lyon, a school of about our age range. We were to be 'twinned' with this school.

Mr. Lyle read us the letter which confirmed this arrangement and we immediately reached a silent agreement that this was excellent 'red herring' material. Indeed straight away we spent the whole of the rest of this lesson discussing the scheme.

Now our schools send parcels to each other containing coins, stamps, magazines, books, key rings and anything else of interest. We have also exchanged tapes, on which we speak English and French. This gives us a chance to hear French spoken properly

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and normally. It also gives us some amusement to hear the accents of French boys as they attempt to speak English. No doubt they are equally entertained by our French!

In our first parcel we sent them a picture of the whole class. They have sent us in return individual photographs. By now most of us have found a personal correspondent to whom we write in both French and English.

D. WADA

RECOLLECTIONS OF EDALE 1967

I FORGET HOW I, as a Cokethorpe wife, came to be included in the party going to Edale last year, but when we set off on the Monday morning I felt quite up to coping with, and enjoying, my few days, as I had experienced both camping and living in somewhat primitive conditions. My first impressions of 'the Barn' were favourable—rows of washbasins, electric cooking stoves and even a couple of fires.

My first task was to assemble and get ready sufficient crockery and cutlery for our use. Being rather cautious, I insisted that these were cleaned and the cutlery scalded. My main task then daily was the cooking and preparing of meals, which usually consisted of a cooked breakfast, packed lunch and tea and large cooked evening meal. In the evening I would then pack up provisions for the campers to take to cook breakfast at their camp site. As the constant cry was one of thirst, the evenings were also spent boiling water in preparation for the next day's drinking.

I have always enjoyed walking but soon found this was very different from what I was used to. The steep hills, never-ending peat bogs, dried up water-falls were truded over and the boys so often voiced my inner feelings when complaining of fatigue, aching limbs and sore feet. To compensate for these minor things, however, we always had the splendid views of a part of the country which was new to me.

We were very fortunate with the weather and had mainly dry days with one terrific cloud burst and thunder storm on our final night there. But drought, too, has its disadvantages as we found when the makeshift water system supplying 'the barn', ceased to function. The task of carrying water up from the stream at the bottom of the field proved to be rather unpopular with the boys, but very essential.

We all, rather noticeably, showed our exhaustion when it came to getting up in the morning. The early-risers of the first

morning stayed later and later as days went by. One group of 'early birds' however put their time to good use. Morley-John and Tonkin, in particular, became expert trout-ticklers, and on several mornings we had freshly 'poached' fish for breakfast.

My feelings when the time finally came to leave were rather mixed. There was the thought of a welcome hot bath and a comfortable chair in which to rest, but there was still so much of the area that we hadn't managed to cover, and the peace that descended on the barn when the last of the boys left, altered the whole atmosphere of the place.

C. M.-W.

THEATRE REPORT

THE SOMBRE WINTER TERM was splendidly brightened, by a highly colourful production of Shakespeare's 'Taming of the Shrew', where Janet Suzman's Katherine, and Roy Kinnear's Touchstone, was particularly memorable. 'Macbeth' followed, but was found by many Cokethorpians to be disappointing. Paul Scofield, as Macbeth, gave, as it seemed to us, a strangely muted performance, for his very restrained approach diminished the full powers of the man, Macbeth. Vivien Merchant, in contrast, gave a powerful and splendid performance, as Lady Macbeth. 'As You Like It' was the next play staged by the Royal Shakespeare Company, and proved to be a truly brilliant production. The acting of Dorothy Tutin as Rosalind, and Janet Suzman as Celia, was the most sparkling of the whole season.

Some boys, who were so fascinated by the production's 'props' (two massive solid, yet mobile forest boughs), wrote to the R.S.C. congratulating them on their fine display.

Finally we saw 'Romeo and Juliet'. The austerity of the setting (Juliet's balcony seemed part of a trans-Atlantic skyscraper) was very different from Zeffereilli's production a few years ago. It caused some dismay; nor did Ian Holm measure up to our expectations of a youthful Latin lover.

Altogether the theatre club has seen four Shakespearian plays this season at Stratford, and each of them in its way made a vivid impression on us.

Five other plays were seen, and four of them we considered praiseworthy productions. The odd-man-out was the O.U.D.S. staging of Shakespeare's 'Hamlet'. David Williams' production, in modern dress, was extremely disconcerting, for the audience

were so startled by the arrival of actors with 'fags' and 'brollies', that their attention was sometimes entirely drawn away from the play's action. Together with the extreme length of the play and the mediocre quality of the acting, the production itself had little merit. We also saw 'No. 10', at the New Theatre, Oxford, which proved to be light and humorous entertainment.

'Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead', which proved to be the most successful of all the plays seen, followed 'Hamlet', which was just as well, for we were able to pick up allusions and parallels which would otherwise have gone undetected.

Strindberg's 'Dance of Death' proved popular also, but many were disappointed because Sir Lawrence Olivier was ill, and had to be replaced by an understudy, who nevertheless proved himself a worthy substitute.

The 'A' level candidates for English have been most fortunate this year, for one of their set plays, J. M. Synge's 'Playboy of the Western World', was staged at the Everyman's Theatre, Cheltenham. Those who were lucky enough to see the play found the production lively and satisfying, in almost every respect.

Next year's theatre visits seem as promising, for we have already obtained bookings at Stratford for 'The Merry Wives of Windsor' and 'Julius Caesar', and we are promised seats for a Gala performance at the Oxford Playhouse of William Shakespeare's 'The Tempest'.

C. FARAH

GEOGRAPHY SOCIETY

TERM BY TERM IT BECOMES increasingly difficult to find new and unused places and factories to visit. Many firms are reluctant to receive visits at the present time because of the general economic situation. The expense of guides is a considerable burden, even for large organisations.

Three outings took place in the Autumn Term. The first was a visit to Portsmouth where the boys and staff were guests of the Navy.

A small group visited the railway museum at Swindon and Mr. Wise's cake factory on the same day. The museum was carefully run by elderly railway men full of tradition and nostalgia for the G.W.R. It was generous of Mr. Wise to allow the school to visit his factory where he gave a personally conducted tour of the departments, and tea afterwards.

The final outing was in December to the Earlywarm blanket factory where traditional and modern methods of manufacture can be seen in the same buildings. Witney blankets are exported all over the world, particularly to North America. Electric blankets and man-made fibres are some of the recent innovations introduced to meet changing patterns of demand.

Various attempts have been made to visit such places as the Furniture Industry in High Wycombe, the Shoe Industry in Northampton and the Wilton Carpet Factory, but without success. Letters have been answered regrettably or have been ignored completely. Perhaps the Society will have better luck in the summer.

SCIENCE NEWS

AT LAST WE HAVE a separate Physics Laboratory. During the Christmas holidays the existing Terrapin building was converted into a well-planned laboratory convenient for both practical and theoretical work. Plans are now being made to develop a self-contained Biology laboratory within the existing Chemistry Department, thus providing all the scientists with ample facilities.

It has been a good year on the experimental side. Hung has developed an electronic tuning device giving accurate readings to 1/1000th sec. This will be a great asset for further research work. During their free time Acland and Hucklesby have ably maintained and tested all the equipment and made great progress with the electrical work. The Junior Electronics Club have been enthusiastically constructing their own television receiver and wireless telegraphy unit and have great plans for a 'ham radio' station within the school grounds.

THE DEBATING SOCIETY

THIS YEAR THE SOCIETY has not had very many debates because of the lack of experienced speakers. The few debates that we had were successful and many a good speech was produced, Cullen perhaps giving the best speeches of all.

The first debate we had, last October, was a 'balloon' debate. Six speakers representing prominent people in different walks of Life (Miss Diana Rigg, George Brown, Sir Lawrence Olivier, Bobby Moore, Sandie Shaw and Francis Chichester) gave reasons why they should stay in the balloon and live. Tonkin, a new

member to the Society, produced such a fine speech for Diana Rigg that it toppled his opponents out of the balloon within the first five minutes of flight. Let us hope that Miss Rigg was duly grateful.

The second debate held in December maintained that '20th Century man can do without God', Cullen and Walker I spoke for the motion and Sargeantson and Tonkin against. The motion was carried by 23 votes to 11. (Maybe this is a peaceful demonstration against our having to fight our way through rain, hail and snow to get to church on Sunday morning.)

The last debate which was held in February asserted that 'Riches are for spending'. Willsdon and Kyaruzi spoke for the motion, Davis and Dobbs against. The motion was defeated by 19 votes to 9. Clearly the Chancellor of the Exchequer would approve.

Next year, it is hoped that more junior speakers will be found to support Tonkin and Kyaruzi and follow the example set by Cullen and the other senior members.

MUSIC

SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE we have experienced a major upheaval in our musical department owing to the departure of Mr. Douglas Cook who will be missed by very many of us. Replacing him here we have Captain W. N. Davis, L.R.A.M., R.M.(Rtd.).

Our main musical activities now are the orchestra and the Choral Society. Whilst the orchestra is still numerically weak, musically it has grown quite strong. Performance of the Church Service has increased in scope and efficiency, and pieces outside Church music are now being tackled. Side by side with this development goes the newly-formed Choral Society. In this we have some fifty singers. Meetings and rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings after supper, when we have the orchestra as well. The aim is to make this Tuesday session something more than a musical chore—it is hoped to make it a variety programme of singing, orchestral performance and solo instrumental recital, on the lines of Sir Henry Wood's 'disciplined informality' as exemplified in the old days at the Queen's Hall Proms!

We feel that no means of promulgating music should be neglected, and to this end, certainly the modern form known as 'Pop' has its uses. At present this rather revolutionary approach is

meeting with certain difficulties—for the instruments and apparatus differ so much from orthodox music requirements—but the idea is by no means dead.

Finally, we have a small but faithful class who are deep in the intricacies of 'O' level theory—Friday afternoons are therefore 'keep quiet' times around the Music Room.

There is plenty of opportunity for the younger boys to take up music, instrumentally or theoretically, here at Cokethorpe. Music gives pleasure to us and to other people.

CAMERA CLUB

WHEN CAPTAIN DAVIS TOOK CHARGE of Music at Cokethorpe somebody discovered that he knew a good deal about photography. That was enough—he very quickly found himself at the head of a newly-formed Camera Club.

This has prospered, and we now have a photographic room equipped with everything for developing and printing in black and white. Our enlarger is not at present equipped for colour work, but we are hoping this may come.

During the winter the accent has been on a good grounding in theory, and classes have been held every week, work being on the lines of the recognised Master Photographer's course. It is hoped to extend our activities to practical work next term with the arrival of (we hope) photographic weather. To this end our members will have to get their cameras out of retirement, because all sorts of excursions and work studies are contemplated.

LIBRARY NOTES

STEADY PROGRESS IN THE IMPROVEMENT of the Library continues, another 400 books having been added during the past twelve months. Many we have bought for ourselves but especially welcome have been the books which have been given to us by a number of well-wishers. We should like, in particular, to thank Miss Katherine Watson, Mrs. R. Powell and D. J. M. Brooks Esq.

Shortage of space is becoming acute. The shelves to the left of the fireplace have been brought into active use to house the Science and Mathematics sections, and more shelves are planned for the remaining window recesses. Nevertheless there is a limit to what we can do to expand; one day the Library will probably

move into the Corinthian Room where it will have room to grow comfortably. For all its cosiness, warmth and convenience the Library's present home cannot be retained much longer, unless we begin drastically to prune our stock.

Farah, as Library Prefect, has served (and typed!) admirably, and has had the reliable assistance of Behn, Maybank, Tonkin, Camilleri and Raynes.

ART NOTES

THIS LAST YEAR HAS BEEN one of change. The biggest and most regretted is the loss of Mrs. Jones, whom many of us will remember with gratitude, not only those of us whom she got through the G.C.E. 'O', but also everyone to whom only the rudiments were taught.

Her replacement, Mr. Audsley, was welcomed at the beginning of the Easter term.

This year, on the whole, has seen a much more colourful art room than usual. Students were each given an exercise to train them in colour values. When these were finished they were displayed on the art department walls. As a subject the perhaps less colourful football match has had its share of popularity, together with the scene of skiers and snow-capped mountains. For composition we have dealt with the arrangement of groups of figures in a specified format. Other work has called for non-figurative design with the emphasis on pattern. The 'O' level group is advancing with flying colours to tackle the most arduous task, namely that of drawing still-life, which I think every 'O' level form dreads, but we still get the very effective lino cuts which help to break the monotony for the artist. The junior forms seem to have given up blood-curdling war scenes, and to have used more conservative, everyday occurrences as a basis for their garish, but sometimes sombre, pictures.

THE COKETHORPE SOCIETY

SINCE THE PUBLICATION OF *The Peacock* last year, the Cokethorpe Society has taken on something of a new look. In the summer I took over the duties of Secretary from Mr. Cook, who has now unfortunately left the school to teach in Suffolk; then later at the Annual General Meeting, Tony Baker was elected as the first Member-Treasurer.

The Annual General Meeting this year lasted much longer than is normally the custom as, for once, we had several things to talk about. After a particularly encouraging Treasurer's Report, which included news of the winning by the Society of two Premium Bond prizes, the Society decided to do something practical to help the school. Mr. Allen suggested that an epidiascope was a much needed piece of equipment at the present time, and so a motion proposed by Clive Willsdon, and seconded by Chris Rashbrook, bestowing one on the school, was carried unanimously. It later turned out that a suitable epidiascope could not be found and a tape-recorder, equally welcome, was instead given by the Society to the School.

A small committee consisting of the Society's officers, plus Simon Henderson and Trevor Key, was then formed to meet at a later date to discuss the annual calendar of the Society, under the terms discussed at the A.G.M. At this later meeting it was decided to have the three main annual events on fixed dates in the year to enable people to make notes for these days a long way in advance, and thus we hope to increase the number of members present at each function. The dates agreed upon are as follows:—The Annual Dinner and A.G.M. (still to be held on alternate years in Oxford and London) is to be on the first Saturday in February. The Cricket match is to be held on the first Sunday in July, and the Rugger match is to be held on the first Saturday in November. It had been suggested that to one of these events Old Boys would like to be able to bring their girls friends, and possibly have some form of entertainment or dinner-dance laid on in the evening. The rugger match seemed to everybody to be the most suitable occasion, but so far we are still finding difficulty in locating a suitable spot at which a dinner-dance can be held in the evening for those who wish to go, and at the same time accommodate the rest of the party who do not wish to eat. Despite this however, any girl friends will be made welcome on the first Saturday in November, and we hope that numbers will be large enough to enable us to arrange something for the evening, before then.

Last year's cricket match was at least blessed with a very pleasant day, even if the Old Boys' team was not blessed with a large degree of luck. They had a handicap before they started, by having me as their captain. After winning the toss, the Society decided to field, and the fast bowlers, although not taking many wickets, kept the rate of scoring low, and it was eventually the slow spin bowlers who finished off the very good school batsmen. Half an hour after beginning to bat, the Society looked like making the

144 runs needed without undue difficulty, but after the fall of our star batsmen, wickets fell alarmingly quickly for the addition of far too few runs. The match ended in a very creditable win for the School, the final score being School 143—Old Boys 98.

The Rugger match again saw the Old Boys, captained by Simon Henderson, exert themselves sufficiently to beat, but only by 11 to 3, a young but extremely vigorous school side. A touch of genius was supplied by Hague who had the forethought to supply fifteen brightly coloured rugger shirts for our team. This made a welcome change from the motley collection we have turned out in in other years. For this we are most grateful, and we shall be equally grateful this year if he can do the same thing again.

I have some information about our Old Boys, which I now pass on. Anthony Biggar is now at the University of Guelph, Ottawa, Canada. David Gardner is teaching science at an independent grammar school at Shepperton. David Ealand, having now taken his last exams. in law and finished his Articles, has been accepted for a position in Marine Insurance, which will involve his travelling all over the world (and getting paid for it!). John Hughes is working on closed-circuit television at Strathclyde University in Glasgow. Anthony Vernon-Smith has been transferred to the Republic of Ireland where he is selling earth-moving equipment, a job which he seems to enjoy very much. David Taylor, who has hitherto been connected with the theatre, has gone to sea, still very much with a theatrical connection, as an Entertainments Officer for Cunard, and in fact he handled the entertainments on the last transatlantic trip of the *Queen Mary*. On one voyage in this ship he met Mr. Tytler, who was returning from Illinois University, a remarkable coincidence. Bruce Lovegrove, still in the Merchant Navy and sporting a fine beard, has recently been to Japan in his ship the M.V. *Leverbank*, which also visits the Far East and African coasts. Rodney Jebb is also in the Merchant Navy, and is working for his Second Mate's ticket. Sherry has gone to Canada to work for the Ford Motor Co. of Canada. He is with the Tractor Division at Kingston, Ontario. Dudley Baker-Beall is now programming computers, working for the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works, and finds that as a civil servant, he now has time to write a few letters and also to do a lot of sailing in a National 12. Peter Bulmer, having finally left Cokethorpe (and I presume that cricket and rugger still continue) is now doing a short language course at Grenoble University. Jeremy Jefferriss is in New Zealand, fruit farming.

Ingerslev has recently been on an expedition to the Pyrenees before entering the Royal Institute of British Architecture at Kingston. Clive Willsdon, having not yet crashed any valuable jets, is still flying for the R.A.F. Jethro Tull, also in the R.A.F. as a navigator, while serving at R.A.F. Thorney Island, near Portsmouth, met, got engaged to, and married an exceptionally nice girl called Mary. They have since moved to an R.A.F. station in Wiltshire. John Locke is still taking his exams in Estate Agency. Edward Edgell is helping his father run their farm on the borders of Hampshire and Sussex.

I have just heard in the last few days that Nigel Samuelson has recovered from his serious operation very well, and will return to the law in only three months' time.

I shall be glad to receive from anybody any information about themselves that would be of interest to their other friends in the Society, and also it would help the Treasurer tremendously (the old cry) if either all members would transfer to Banker's Order, or possibly become Life Members of the Society.

I shall look forward to seeing as many old boys as possible at our Society fixtures in the next few months.

It is with deep regret that I have to inform you all that Malcolm Earp, who was at the school between 1961 and 1964, was killed in a motor accident at Christmas last year.

VIVIAN J. WILLIAMS

THE WEB



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