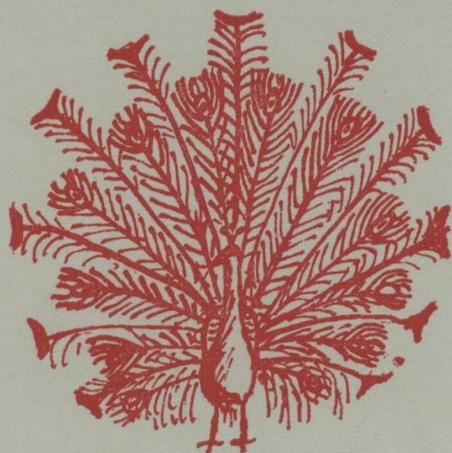


THE PEACOCK



1974

THE PEACOCK

No. 13

SUMMER 1974

Head of the School

R. G. Massey

School Prefects

C. M. P. Davis

P. H. Spencer

C. J. Webb

Heads of Houses

Dean Swift P. H. Spencer

Harcourt R. G. Massey

Queen Anne C. M. P. Davis

School Officers

Captain of Rugby A. I. J. Urquhart

Secretary of Rugby C. E. K. Hollis

Captain of Boats R. G. Massey

Secretary of Boats N. F. Middleton

Captain of Cricket A. I. J. Urquhart

Secretary of Cricket J. A. Tomlinson

Captain of Athletics G. A. Cartwright

Captain of Cross-Country D. L. de Souza

Captain of Judo G. M. Phillips

Head Librarian R. A. Bartholomew

OCCASIONAL CHANGES amongst the Masters are inevitable, but familiar personalities are greatly missed when they go. Last summer we lost Dr. Dyson, a devoted mathematician, whose legendary skill was matched by his patience.

'Ordinary masters,' said a discerning boy, 'get fed-up if you ask them the same question more than two or three times; Dr. Dyson never got cross, even if you asked him nine or ten times.' Dr. Dyson played a large part, with Mr. Hudson, in setting up the Maths Room, and many boys are grateful for his teaching.

This summer, Mr. de Weymarn is leaving us after six years in the School. History, Cricket, Rugby (I almost wrote those words in the opposite order), the House Tutorship of Harcourt—everything to which he has set his hand has prospered because of this conspicuous enthusiasm and drive. The Rugby, in particular, has flourished under his sway, and it is entirely appropriate, as well as almost inevitable, that his last season as Master-in-Charge should have been the most successful and enjoyable of recent years. We wish his wife and himself every happiness at Wrekin.

Since the last edition of *The Peacock*, Christiano Freddi has passed into Oxford, Alan Mellaart into Durham, and Michael Lam into the City University, London. Steven Fleischer returned for a night recently, and gave us an amusing account of his first year at Gonzaga University, U.S.A. The 'O' and 'A' level results continue to give general satisfaction, with natural ups and downs in various subjects. The truth in this matter is the obvious and unexciting one that those who deserve to pass because of their keenness and industry, commonly do, while those who don't deserve to pass because they lack these virtues, commonly don't—although the dedication of the masters can produce some surprising exceptions to this rule. We have more than once been tempted, through sheer curiosity, to approach the Board with a query about a candidate's utterly inexplicable success—but have prudently refrained, lest the Board should admit a mistake and reverse their decision.

So much for academic affairs in this year that is past: for other sorts of activity, turn to the pages that follow, and read on!



SEASONAL VARIATIONS

EVER SINCE the Cokethorpe Development Appeal was launched in 1972, the School has busied itself in a variety of schemes all with the object of raising funds.

The first among our pleasant duties at the beginning of the new School year was to 'Look Back At Summer': this entailed a visit to St. John's, Smith Square, to listen to a sequence of words and music from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, delightfully performed by April Cantelo (the opera singer and a parent) and George Malcolm. Here, in a perfect setting of lofty pillars and rich crimson curtaining, Dr. Eric Abbott, the Dean of Westminster, welcomed us, and we were honoured to have with us Monsignor Bartlett, representing Cardinal Heenan. The skilfully selected programme of songs and harpsichord pieces, embracing such names as Herrick, Scarlatti, Dryden and Purcell, had much to offer us all, including even the potentially most restless third-former.

Other functions, contrasting in season and in form, were the Christmas Fayre following the Carol Service, which was held at the School; some energetic sponsoring of our rowers and of the Nomad cricketers; and also the staging of a skirmish, in colourful period costume, on the battlefield of the South Park by the Sealed Knot Society of Cavaliers and Roundheads. Not all our boys have field-marschals' batons in their brief-cases, nor do they all possess an eye for country, but everything was made clear by the commentary of Peter Chandler, the well-known military historian at Sandhurst.

All these activities have helped to swell our funds, and it has been good to feel that at the same time a proportion of the proceeds of this year's, and of last year's, functions has been given to charities—autistic children (Somerset Court), the Society for Multiple Sclerosis, Age Concern (Oxfordshire), the Prison Officers' Welfare Fund and the Oxford Diocesan Clergy Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

The interest in the plans for the School's renovation and new buildings has been considerable for many months, especially as the appeal progressed, but matters took a more concrete form, in every sense, with the blessing of an inauguration stone on Speech Day. Indeed, it was a twin blessing, for the dais at the service was shared by the Dean of Westminster and the Abbot of Downside. The Dean saw the division between Anglicans and Catholics as the most poignant in Christianity, while the Abbot, realising that complete unity could scarcely be contemplated, nevertheless believed that at Cokethorpe at least, something of real ecumenical value was being done.

CHAPLAIN'S NOTES

AS ONE LOOKS BACK over the past year, one remembers first the Anglican Confirmation when fifteen boys were confirmed by the Right Rev. D. G. Loveday, M.A. The Anglican boys had previously attended a Quiet Day at St. Mary's, Freeland, conducted by the Rev. Bro. Raphael, S.S.F., whose subsequent visits to the School have been very much appreciated. We are also very grateful to the Rev. Fr. Luke Smith, C.R., and to the Rev. Fr. Murphy, S.J., for his help to the Catholics.

Then there was the Speech Day Service on 1st July 1973, conducted by the Rev. D. P. Lane and the Rev. Fr. Joseph Gill, S.J., and later on that same afternoon, the Blessing of the Inauguration stone of the new extensions by the Very Reverend Dr. Eric Abbott, K.C.V.O., Dean of Westminster and the Right Reverend Wilfrid Passmore, O.S.B., Abbot of Downside.

The Catholics are most grateful indeed to Fr. Gill for his help all through the year, and to Mrs. Vaughan-Fowler who has kindly fetched him to and from Oxford Sunday after Sunday. A very enjoyable Carol Service was held in Hardwick Church at the close of the Christmas Term. The Anglicans are very grateful to Mr. W. E. Green for training the singing and arousing such enthusiasm, to the boys who have added an accompaniment with musical instruments, and to Carraher, de Pass and Hanby for kindly and efficiently preparing for the services.

D.P.L.



COKETHORPE 1908

The following is an extract from an unpublished autobiographical sketch written by Mrs. Angela Upton Cheney. It concerns that part of her childhood spent at Cokethorpe.

We moved, at length, to Cokethorpe in the late Spring of 1908.

Solidly constructed of grey stone, well-mellowed by two centuries of English weather, and with a leaded roof surrounded by an ornamental balustrade, it stood in a wooded park, and was approached from two different directions by drives culminating in a gravel-sweep in front of the pillared portico. The roof of this great porch formed a balcony opening off the main (and my Mother's) front bedroom, and was large enough for the three of us to sleep out on it in camp beds in hot weather. (I believe my Father had been born in that room during his parents' residence at Cokethorpe in 1867.)

The carriage-sweep, and that part of the grounds immediately surrounding the house, were separated from the park by a sunken fence or ha-ha, as it is sometimes called, and on a grass plot just inside this, facing the front entrance, grew a beautiful copper-beech, one of the finest I ever saw.

Lord Chancellor Harcourt, for whom the house had been built in 1711, and who had laid out the gardens in the formal style of the period, had planted some magnificent cedars that (we were told) had been specially imported from the Lebanon, and were visible from the dining- and drawing-rooms, making a handsome background to the lawns.

The grounds had been designed on the same palatial scale, money apparently being no object; and what with the ornamental maze of clipped box, and the large orchard at the back, and a charming 'Ladies' Garden' complete with goldfish-pond and dovecote, as well as the outhouses and stables, dominated by a bell-turret with chiming clock, and the curious round building, presumably once a pigeon-house, surrounding a courtyard at the back (not to mention the little private Church in the park, only used by the family and tenants), the whole place appeared so romantic and exciting to Helena and me that we would have been happy never to set foot outside the estate any more.

Its possibilities were endless, its layout generous in the extreme, as befitted the age in which it had come into being. One feature that appealed to me particularly, I remember, was a twenty-foot-high, immensely thick, box-hedge bordering the orchard on one side, and, on the other, a path running alongside a stone wall shutting off mysterious woods, whose tops could be seen above it on the other side, and where for some reason we never strayed, although looking back, I cannot imagine why not. This path ended in a gate leading to fields which didn't seem to hold nearly as much interest as the hedge, so I never explored them.

No-one but ourselves and the gardener (whose name I don't remember) came there, and, being a long way from the house, it struck us as mysterious and excitingly dim (which it was), besides sheltering any number of blackbirds and thrushes and their nests. We liked looking for these but, on strict instructions from Mama, never touched nor otherwise interfered with them, and the young birds being reared. The parents soon learned that we meant them no harm and ended by ignoring us.

I wonder if that lovely old hedge is still there—likewise the sprawling masses of lavender beside the circular pool in the Ladies' Garden, amidst flagged paths and ornate urns and benches. I loved that walled enclosure with its strange old-world atmosphere and haunted quality, steeped in a silence that was far from empty. . . .

It was, above all, a place for quiet thought and contemplation and (like the 'cave' I had fashioned in the midst of the huge quickset hedge over at Barley Park) was admirable as a place of escape in a moment of stress, because no one else used it, and its peace was unbroken except for the birds and insects and the sound of the wind among its neighbours, the trees.

Some of the rooms in the house were enormous, starting with the entrance-hall in which even the central billiards-table seemed dwarfed, and resembled a rather melancholy island, like a reminder of past pleasures.

This hall was loftily impressive and was paved in black and white stone (marble?) and had a set of (what were looked on as) valuable fiddle-backed chairs ranged round it, adorned with the Strickland coat-of-arms. 'Sporting' oil-paintings hung round the walls, one being of a spindly-legged Derby winner (held reluctantly by an austere-looking groom apparently afraid that it might bite him) that had once belonged to some member of the family.

There were, also, some mounted fox-masks which, despite the accumulated dust half-veiling them when we first arrived, looked down at us with infinite disdain and evil grins. Their glass eyes appeared to follow one round the hall and to be noting one's every action. This I found unnerving, particularly at night in the light of oil-lamps or candles, which in those days were our only means of lighting.

A door to one side opened on a corridor leading to the servants' and kitchen quarters and the back staircases; and somewhere just behind the hall was the Justice Room, a green-panelled closet where the master of the house, as Justice of the Peace, had been wont to deal with local grievances and cases of poaching and petty theft, etc. It was, however, so small that it could only have held about four people at a time, which seems peculiar in view of its fairly important function as a kind of residuary courthouse.

On the other side of the hall, to the left as you faced the fireplace, one

door led to the great ceremonial dining-room, undoubtedly the house's show-piece, and famous for its carved and pillared oak panels lining the walls from floor to ceiling. Its handsome central table could seat as many as forty guests at a time; and many a banquet and convivial meal must have taken place there in the past. The half-dozen or so great windows, resembling those in the State Apartments at Hampton Court, each with its oak window-seat, looked directly out across the formal garden to the expanse of lawn, backed by the splendid cedars already mentioned, and spaced so as to frame a delightful view of the park.

Another door, off the back of the hall, opened onto the main staircase of oak, which, by tradition, was never carpeted, being too fine an example of its kind to be concealed.

The upstairs drawing-cum-ballroom lay immediately over the dining-room. Despite its size and stateliness, it was a room of elegance and charm, with a polished floor, and brocaded walls whose built-in mouldings framed an array of family portraits by well-known artists. At one end, a pair of folding doors led to the library, lined with beautifully-bound volumes, in one of which was found (at the time of the sale) a fresh-looking letter written and signed by Charles Dickens, from his London address, inviting the then owner of Cokethorpe (probably Sir Walter Strickland) to have lunch 'with me and my Wife' the following Sunday. It must have lain there forgotten between the pages for years and years!

At the other end of the drawing-room, and taking up the whole of the wall-space, hung one of the four known life-sized paintings of 'The Family of Sir Thomas More', a somewhat curious conglomeration of eleven figures, four of which (at the right of the picture) are of a much later date and dressed in Jacobean costume, and so are about a hundred years later than those of Sir Thomas and his immediate family circle. They are said to be of his descendants. This quaint addition is what makes this particular 'Family' group different from the other three—one of which is in the Basle Museum. It had hung formerly at Burford Priory, and also at Nostell Priory near Leeds, before being transferred to Cokethorpe. It landed up in the National Portrait Gallery in London, where it still is—and where presumably, it can be viewed by all and sundry.

LONDON'S MALAISE

Shining facades, and fast-sounding names;
Loving and hatred are frivolous games.
'Meaningful' people are glamourised gnomes
The vacuum within twelve-carat toms.
Tireless trendies, how lucky you are!
Don't tax your brains and don't look too far.
The ageing trendies at the B.B.C.
Trot out the tiresome clichéd pleas.
From happy Hampstead the cohorts emerge
In mock fur or mohair—'Well, hardly blue serge.'

When Philpott and Fonda, Levin and Foot
Look to themselves, let mankind off the hook,
Then may we find honesty, a place yet for truths,
And lock up the vapid trifles of poofs.

What a worthless pretence! What a shameless charade!
'In the rat race, old man, you've got to be hard.'
In Knightsbridge and Mayfair you'll go down a treat—
From untrendy death there'll be no retreat.
So pseuds also die (Cremated, How neat!)
Decomposition 'so scares' the effete.

J. VAUGHAN-FOWLER (Upper 6th)

FLOCK TOGETHER

DO YOU THINK your garden is unattractive and boring, maybe untidy, not something you would like your friends to see? Even so, a messy patch of groundsel or bramble can attract the most beautifully coloured and singing birds. Your untidy garden could be an asset. Forget your gardening and be a birdwatcher.

Thistles and sunflowers will attract many of Britain's brightest birds, notably the goldfinch. The thick bushes will provide cover for many of the best songsters such as the skulking blackcap or the garden warbler. More conspicuous singers are the blackbird and the two types of thrush, the larger mistle-thrush earning the name of stormcock from its apparent habit of singing in thunderstorms.

Cokethorpe School grounds are by no means short of variety in bird-life, as that eminent ornithologist, Massey, will tell anyone. Blackcaps are not scarce, and if you are lucky, and patient, the scurrying shape of a

treecreeper running up a tree-trunk (it cannot go down trees like the nut-hatch, another bird of Cokethorpe) may be your reward. Woodpeckers, though not often seen, can sometimes be observed, and a horde of long-tailed tits ravaging the woods on an autumn day is a fine sight. On one memorable evening in 1973 the beautiful song of the nightingale was heard.

However, let me go on to tell of birds I have seen elsewhere. Within the immediate vicinity of Cokethorpe are the Stanton Harcourt gravel-pits and Farmoor Reservoir. Here you can usually find a curly-crested hanby and his binoculars. Before I realized the possibilities of Farmoor my favourite haunt was at Stanton Harcourt. The largest of the gravel-pits is the most rewarding in winter when large flocks of duck arrive.

Widgeon with their distinctive 'pee-oo' call, shovellers with their unusual beaks, and the occasional goldeneye all cluster together. Although mainly migratory, one of the several pairs of pochard has bred here, and as well as the hordes of tufted-duck and wintering great crested grebe, these waters have seen some rarer birds. During the spring term, I was delighted to see a pair of red-crested pochard, and my luck had not yet run out for within two weeks, I was there again on a dull snowy day looking at thirty-six Bewick swans.

However, I was soon to find that Farmoor easily outshone even the gravel-pits. In winter, the main attraction is ducks which gather in their thousands, the pintail, long-tailed duck, gadwall, goosander, scoter and smew. In winter a very rare bird, the great grey shrike, was in residence in the hawthorn bushes. In spring, however, Farmoor is no longer an attraction to the ducks, for most are but winter visitors only, yet the migrating waders continue to descend on its still waters. Interesting visitors included the garganey and three Egyptian geese. Waders included both the godwits, the little stint, dunlings, ringed and little plovers, sandpipers and ruff. Also gull and terns are seen, while this spring the rare little gull turned up.

A. HANBY (5A)

LEARNING TO DANCE

I WAS A NEW BOY, in fact, there were about twenty-four new boys, and it was a Saturday afternoon. As usual, it was cold and wet. I leant on the radiator warming my hands and talking to a friend.

'We have got dancing in a few minutes,' he said. I cringed. Did they expect me, 'super' me!, to dance? I had never heard such 'trash'. I thought about it for a moment and replied.

'What time are they supposed to arrive?'

'They're coming up the drive now,' he said.

I glanced in that direction and to my surprise I saw a white Renault

trundling towards us. In it were seven faces peering out of the windows with their noses pressed so hard against the windows that the tips of them had turned white. The car stopped and they promptly fell out. A troop of 'young ladies' led by a slightly older lady with a pile of records and a record player filed into the room.

All the boys then crept into the Corinthian Room and sat trembling. After a few minutes, the lady returned with a list and called out the names. We were then split into two groups, 3a and 3b. 3b was told to return later. My friend sighed and said 'I'm off.'

I watched him disappear with envy and thought to myself 'Your death will come later.'

When 3b had left the lady told us her name. She then announced: 'These girls have come here out of the kindness of their hearts, so be nice to them.'

A strange murmur of 'Ah . . .' was heard. (Of course, not a sound escaped my lips.)

'The first dance we are going to learn is the slow-step,' she said.

'Is that the fox-trot?' I asked.

'Er, well, not quite,' she replied.

'Oh!' I said.

I didn't know much about dancing but I thought I knew that much. Still, I obviously did not.

We were then told to stand in the middle of the room and watch her.

'Put your foot forward,' she said.

We immediately went backwards.

'Now put your foot to the left and then to your right,' she said.

This was too much for us, and we all tripped up. She then shouted a few more commands and we did our best to obey. After we had done this about six times, we sat down and she called for volunteers to dance. There was complete silence!

'Right, you, you, and you. Go and ask the girls to dance.'

The three victims stared at her.

'You expect us to dance?' one of them stammered out.

'Yes,' she said.

The three victims were Cook, Cambray and Cottrell.

After a long pause, Cook rose from his chair reluctantly and walked over to the girls turning his head one way and then the other expecting to see us in tears.

'Dance?' he said.

The girl immediately rose and walked into the middle of the room.

'Poor Cook,' I thought, but I was glad I wasn't dancing. Then Cambray stood up with Cottrell and walked over to the girls. Cambray said: 'Wanna dance?'

After a few minutes I was called upon to dance.

'Would you like to dance?' I stammered.

I held my partner and raced round the Corinthian Room till the record ended.

This kind lady comes every week and it seems more like the Army than dancing.

N. F. STEWART (3A)

THE KING'S ARMY

(The Society of Cavaliers)

OF ALL THE STRANGE and exciting events that Cokethorpe has seen, perhaps the most unusual was when the 'Sealed Knot' came to refight a battle of the English Civil War in the very grounds of the school. I am, or was, a member of the 'Sealed Knot', until the Regiment which I belonged to broke away and formed its own society, which is called 'The King's Army'.

I belonged to 'Sir Bevil Grenville's Regiment', a regiment which did in fact exist in the Civil War and was renowned for its valour, prestige and well-trained men.

How did I come to join? The answer is very simple. The Colonel of our regiment was my schoolmaster, and he inspired me to join.

But just to join was not enough. First of all I had to provide my own uniform. My mother made this. It consisted of a felt hat with the brim turned up at one side, covered with plumes (ostrich feathers). The next item of my uniform was a shirt with lace at the collar and cuffs. My mother also made me a green doublet and cloak and I bought a pair of heavy thigh boots (which well nigh enveloped me and which were practically indestructible).

But the most important article was my sword. It had a thick blade at the hilt, tapering to a sharp point. This hung from a leather baldrick with a shining brass buckle.

I looked at myself in the mirror and, to my surprise, gone was the small unimportant figure I had seen earlier. In its place was a seemingly imposing and gallant figure. Fire flashed from my eyes as my hand strayed to my sword hilt and, with one quick gesture, I drew it and held it aloft as it glittered in the sunlight.

One of the first musters I ever went to was the 'Siege of Coker Court'.

Coker Court is an old manor house near Yeovil, Somerset, which was being used as a school until recently.

We travelled down the day before, talking of what would ensue if we were captured by Roundheads. However, our conversation was interrupted by the coach coming to an abrupt halt.

We had stopped directly in front of the house. On stepping out of the coach I took a breath as I drank in the sounds all around me. Nevertheless, I anxiously felt my crumpled hat hoping that its plumes were undamaged and I straightened out my cloak which I had sat on in the coach. The house lay tranquil, bathed in the golden sunlight of a summer's afternoon. How different it would look in a few hours time!

The next morning was Sunday, the day of the battle. After we had packed up our tin openers and our camping cooking stoves (We were going home straight after the battle), we sat outside on the grass, polishing up our helmets and swords.

Later that morning, we went down to the pub, where we, in our uniforms, were made a great fuss of. However, we eventually managed to get some cans of shandy, and then we made our way back to camp.

My friend and I were both pages to the colonel and that afternoon he went up to the top of the hill and began scouring the countryside for a sight of the enemy. Suddenly, his eye alighted on a great moving mass. I followed his gaze. After a brief moment of close study he confirmed our fears, 'They're Roundheads,' he said. We hurried down the slope and presently we ran into our own men. Row upon row of our Pikemen stood at ease, drinking from bottles of beer. Within minutes the Roundheads would be upon us.

Suddenly there was a shout followed by crackle of musket fire (they were only firing blanks of course). Roundhead pikemen advanced out on all sides and very soon the Royalist pikemen were engaged, fighting furiously. The Colonel dropped back into the house. We sounded the retreat and the whole of the Regiment fell back step by step into the house. There was no time to bar the doors and the Roundheads charged into the great hall where a mêlée was now taking place. I lost sight of my fellow-page and my hat was knocked off in the confusion and 'heat of battle'.

Finally, the hostilities were called to a halt and although both sides claimed to have won, I am sure it was a stalemate.

By now the sun had reached its zenith and it was so hot that both Cavalier and Roundhead alike dipped their hot heads into the swimming-pool nearby. I did not bother to go for a swim and so I finished off my can of shandy.

R. BOURKE (3A)

DEAN SWIFT HOUSE REPORT

ON PAPER this has not been a successful year for Swift. Too often it has been Harcourt that has conquered. Our only victory so far has been the winning of the Inter-House Kicking Competition. For their outstanding kicking, Chown, Scott 11 and Pool were awarded their colours.

However, the fact that we have only one victory to report does not mean that Swift has not striven hard for others—far from it.

Although the Cricket Cup went to Queen Anne, our team did creditably. Several third-formers showed promise for the future, while Urquhart, as so often in so many events, showed us something of the measure of his all-round skills. It is pleasant to record that he himself was awarded the All-Rounders Cup and shared the Batting Cup.

We put up a good fight for the Rugby Cup. We did not win but colours, a reward for stout play, went to Urquhart, Spencer, Hodge and Hollis, with special mentions going to Crellin and Harfoot.

Great House spirit was shown in the cross-country and road-relay events and Bird, Shutt, de Pass, Scott 11 and Crellin all got their colours.

On Sports Day we won ten out of twenty-four events (including both sprint relays), a fine feat. In the end, only twenty points separated us from the winners. Special mention must be made of Scott 11 who won the Junior 100 metres and Junior High Jump, Hollis and Pool who won the Senior and Junior Javelin, Crellin who came first in the 400 metres and Urquhart who won the Senior 100 metres. Athletics colours were given to Crellin, Scott 11, Halls, Pool, Hollis, Hodge and Urquhart.

Our House play 'Alec in Wonderland' was a pronounced success. The cast was large and many members of Swift found themselves treading the boards for the first time. We particularly enjoyed the acting of Saunders and Hollis, to name but two. Our thanks go to the author Mr. Carpenter, and to our stage manager, Robinow.

Last year we said goodbye to Mark Lister (who had led us well as Head of House, Lam, Bridge, Fleischer, Dobinson and Brooker. Lam with 3 'A' level passes, is now reading chemistry at the City University, while Fleischer is at an American university.

Swift's recent achievements have not been impressive, but the will and the spirit remains, as do our hopes for the future.

P. SPENCER

HARCOURT HOUSE REPORT

HARCOURT, ONCE AGAIN, has had another magnificent year, winning 6 cups of the 8 already presented.

However, the House was unfortunate enough to lose one of the first competitions in the winter term. This I feel was through no fault of our

own for B. Jones, one of the most versatile kickers in the school, was injured a day before the Inter-House Competition, seriously affecting the morale of both our teams.

Harcourt, though, soon recovered in traditional fashion to claim once more the Rugby Cup, which has been won by the House for 4 years running, entirely owing to the persistent eagerness of the members to do well.

With the Rugby Cup secure, we went ahead to win the Inter House Sevens Cup which we have won for two successive years. Special credit at this point, should be given to the following boys who made possible the winning of these two cups—G. Cartwright, B. Jones, G. Manley, T. Richards, M. Scott, J. B. Vaughan-Fowler, M. Pearce, R. Carraher.

The Cross-Country and Road Relay Cups also went to Harcourt. The Cross-Country was a pleasure to run in when so many Harcourt members were trying their best and of the first 7 runners to finish, 5 were from Harcourt House. The same spirit shone forth in the Road Relay, which produced marvellous running and gave everyone an exciting afternoon.

To end the 'year of Victories', Harcourt again managed to win both the Standards Cup and the Athletics Cup. The Captain of Athletics, G. Cartwright, should be given much praise for his shrewd selection of the right competitors for the right events and for his enthusiasm. We have done a little research into finding out how many years the House has been winning the Athletics Cup and discovered that Harcourt has lost only once in the last nine years.

The academic results have remained pleasing if not spectacular. Of the four Upper Sixth members of Harcourt last year, two deserve a mention for the number of 'O' and 'A' levels they obtained, R. Harvey and S. Gleeson obtained two 'A' levels each, both in Biology and Physics in addition to their many previous 'O's.

Harcourt presented a very successful House play written and indeed directed for them by J. Vaughan-Fowler. We are very grateful to all concerned.

Finally, the House was sorry to see the departure of such pillars of strength as Adeniyi-Jones and Haydon. Also, Harvey, Gleeson and de Rouen have all been missed.

R. MASSEY

QUEEN ANNE

UNFORTUNATELY WE HAVE had few successes on the games field this year and our rivals, 'more brawn than brain', have left us only to look forward to our annual success with the Cricket Cup. A little more effort on the field from those boys who are not athletically built, or who are just docile, would do much to spread confidence to the House teams.

Efforts were made, and good ones, too, in the School Cross-Country by Boston—who in arriving first fulfilled an ambition he has long held, Van de Steene, Godsland, Howard, Miller, Webster, Macleod and Davis, all of whom arrived in the first two dozen. Most of the above mentioned ran in the Inter-House Cross-Country when the team came second and all received their House Colours.

With a brilliant display of cross-trumping and under-bidding, Queen Anne captured the newly presented Bridge Cup. The Queen Anne team for this difficult game was Daniel Webster, a third-former who played with astounding confidence and an equally astounding accuracy, and Christopher Davis.

Last term we said 'Goodbye' to Robert Martin, who is much missed on the sports field, while last year saw the departure of Alan Mellaart, the Head Boy, who went to the University of Durham, and James Wells, a prefect, who has joined the forces on a short-service commission as a helicopter pilot in the Royal Navy.

Thanks are due to Christopher Webb for taking charge of the House book and for help in so many ways, to James Tomlinson and Richard Morel for coping so well with the sports, and finally to Richard Bartholomew and Andrew Hanby for writing, and to Mr. McCallum for directing, the House play.

In conclusion, all members of Queen Anne welcome back Mr. Allen after his operation, and are pleased that he has recovered so quickly.

C. DAVIS



PRIZES

Presented by the Right Reverend the Abbot of Downside, on 8th July, 1973

Sixth Form: Chemistry	R. Harvey
History	A. Mellaart
Form Prize: 5A	N. Middleton
5B	G. Cartwright
4A	R. Bartholomew
4B	M. Gleeson
3A	T. Richards
3B	R. Carraher
Art Prize	H. Bryant
Cullen Debating Prize	S. Fleischer
Music Prize	J. Allmond

DEATH

In the misty haze of dawn a blur of a figure appeared.
Nobody knew who he was, or from whence he came.
As he walked down the village road all forms of life ceased.
The miners on their way to the pithead
paused,

looked round.

There was no sound.

A visitor came to our dirty

dingy

mining village.

S. FANTHORPE (4A)

THE BOAT CLUB

THE CLUB'S coaches are back on their feet. Our wonderful new 'launch' bucked in midstream, threw the driver onto the hand throttle and crashed into a cruiser at speed, cutting one of the hulls in two. An exciting rescue operation saved the engine from damage, but repair work is still going on to the superstructure, if that is the right prefix.

By the end of the season, we had eight crews on the river and the House Regatta was a hard fought affair, with Harcourt just managing to retain the Cup. Six regattas were entered and our crews won six heats in all, which is an improvement. The crews were:

<i>Crew A</i>	<i>Crew B</i>	<i>Crew C</i>	<i>Crew D</i>	<i>Crew E</i>
Samms	Spencer	Bodenham 1	Cole	Wyatt
Webb	Boston	Allmond	Sillitoe	V-Fowler 2
Haydon	Dobinson	Hollis	Hodge	Agius
Massey	Attwood	Middleton	Dempsey	De Pass
Brooker	Gee	Hill	Betts	Taylor 2
	<i>Crew F</i>	<i>Crew G</i>	<i>Crew H</i>	
	Miller	Crewe	Burrin	
	Fanthorpe	East	Warren	
	Frearson	Alford	Hanby	
	Richards	Richards	Crellin	
	Bodenham 2	Cooper	Melville	

To try to relieve the ever-pressing problem of transport to and from the river, the Headmaster found us a cache of seven cheap cycles. In the true unisex spirit of the age, they are female cycles, or perhaps I should say, cycles to carry females. So now we have our own cycle repair shop with resident mechanic, Allmond, to add to the boat-building shop, which is working on the launch. We are soon going into the canoe-repair business, to support the ever-growing interest in these craft and to help us follow up the handling proficiency and fibre glass moulding courses run by the Education Authority in Oxford. Our first group on these thoroughly enjoyed itself. Of course, it isn't rowing, but it is wet.

The Captain of Boats, John Haydon, is leaving us and our promising A crew will be split up. We will miss this very active Captain but welcome his successor with confidence. He is Russell Massey.

COKETHORPE CRICKET CLUB REPORT 1973

Captain: R. Adeniyi-Jones, Vice-Captain: A. Urquhart, Secretary: J. Tomlinson
 AFTER AN UNDEFEATED season any cavilling on the part of the master-in-charge may appear rather uncharitable, but, although senior Cokethorpe teams have remained undefeated since 27th May 1972 (a run of no less than 25 matches), the XI in the 1973 season won only three victories, compared with the six in 1972. Several of the matches left drawn last season might have ended positively had one of the basic tenets of cricket been followed—'Strive for a win from the first ball and only shut up shop when victory has become unattainable. I hope that this year's XI will take the message to heart and play positive cricket throughout the term.

In fact, the 1973 campaign did open with two successes. In freezing conditions after driving through clouds to get to the match, good batting by Urquhart and early wickets for Adeniyi-Jones took the XI to victory by 66 runs over Kingham Hill. On the following day, Davis rode his luck to take 59 off the Shiplake bowlers



COKETHORPE LOOKING EAST
by J. Ling (Lower 6)



CUT AND THRUST
(The Sealed Knot at Cokethorpe—July 1973)

while the Vice-Captain added 38. After the declaration, Tomlinson and Adeniyi-Jones opened the bowling, but the spinners did the damage; Urquhart baffled several batsmen, taking 3-8, while Van de Steene teased the rest taking 6-36. With a deep mid-wicket his figures would have been even better! However, the margin in the XI's favour was 59 runs and the fielding had been very sound on both days.

The next week brought three draws. The XI started too slowly against St. Edward's and were only rescued by accurate spin-bowling, whilst a gallant rear-guard action conducted by Pohl and supported by Gleeson saved the day against Thame. Against Bloxham, a new fixture, Tomlinson accumulated steadily, Adeniyi-Jones swatted happily and Bridge hit a whirlwind 41* before the declaration. After three Bloxham wickets had fallen cheaply rain made it difficult for the XI's spinners to grip the ball and only one more wicket was bought, and that dearly.

While it was being decided that blue bats were to be black-balled at Lords, the XI concluded the pre-examination part of the season with two more draws and sadly the policy 'Do not lose at any cost' was, by now, beginning to override all other considerations. Peter Scully scored 96 for P.J.G.'s XI, but Urquhart bowled well to take 6-57, and then proved his value as an all-rounder by scoring 41 while Adeniyi-Jones (67) batted with increasing authority and power at the other end. Inexplicably, the chase was called off with the XI needing only 10 runs with 3 wickets in hand. The least said about the Magdalen match the better. The XI batted for two-thirds of the time available, allowing themselves little chance of forcing a win and seemed somewhat put out when Magdalen rightly declined the challenge.

After the examination gap, Abingdon were beaten, but three more draws followed. Against Abingdon the XI fielded very badly. The hay fever season had arrived, but Urquhart bamboozled the batsmen to take 4-19. After the declaration, Tomlinson and Urquhart combined very well in a record second wicket stand of 110 scored in only 68 minutes. Both played shots of true class and scored well-deserved half centuries. However, such are the vicissitudes of cricket that from 125-1 the XI plunged to 133-7 in a quarter of an hour, and the baying of the Abingdon gallery was only silenced when Gleeson and Van de Steene knocked off the remaining runs. Against Redrice, the XI were without Adeniyi-Jones, out of cricket for the rest of the term, and Urquhart became captain. By now the weather had broken and it was hard work squeezing runs out the sodden turf, but thanks to Van de Steene, who cut and hooked happily, chasing up and down the wicket like a greyhound, the XI were able to declare and take the first four Redrice wickets before torrential rain put an end to the match—the square quickly taking on the aspect of a lake. We drove home through floods with drowned cars littering the roads.

Unquestionably the Malvern match was the toughest test for the XI, and it seemed ominous when we set out up the A40 apparently in convoy with a tank. When the XI fielded, more catches went down than I care to remember and only de Souza seemed safe in the deep. However, Malvern batted for too long, and, with Tomlinson playing well for 55 not out, the match relapsed into stalemate. Finally, Pangbourne completely outplayed the XI but were unable to get through the Cokethorpe tail, so another draw resulted.

During the season three batsmen topped the 200 mark, and of these, two passed Bulmer's eight-year-old record of 242 runs scored in a season. Urquhart, the new record holder, finished with 246. All three will once again be available this year so the batting should be fairly sound. Without Adeniyi-Jones, the fast bowling may lack an explosive element, but Tomlinson and B. Jones have been developing muscles all winter and much is expected of this pair. No doubt Urquhart and Van de Steene will continue to purvey their own brands of magic, hypnotizing opposing batsmen into succumbing to strokes that are a somewhat free interpretation of the text-book.

Finally, our sincere thanks are due to the Bursar and his splendid ground staff nobly led by Eric Ellery who has put in yeoman service on the various pitches and shown considerable tolerance towards both boys and masters, cheering us all with his well-seasoned West Country humour.

GENERAL SUMMARY OF MATCHES PLAYED

XI: won 3, drawn 8, lost 0

- Wed. 9th May v. Kingham Hill (away). XI 96 (Urquhart 23), Kingham Hill 30.
 Thur. 10th May v. Shiplake (away). XI 129-6 dec. (Davis 59, Urquhart 38), Shiplake 70 (Van de Steene 6-36, Urquhart 3-8).
 Sat. 12th May v. St. Edward's 3rd XI (away). XI 93 (Davis 27), St. Edward's 85-6 (Urquhart 3-14).
 Wed. 16th May v. Lord Williams' G.S. Thame (home). Thame 166-5 dec., XI 87-7.
 Sat. 19th May v. Bloxham 2nd XI (away). XI 145-3 dec. (Tomlinson 60*, Bridge 41*), Bloxham 125-4 (Tomlinson 3-17).
 Sat. 26th May v. P.J.G.'s XI (home). P.J.G.'s XI 168 (Urquhart 6-57, Van de Steene 3-43), XI 159-7 (Adeniyi-Jones 67, Urquhart 41).
 Wed. 30th May v. Magdalen 2nd XI (away). XI 150-6 dec. (Davis 61, Urquhart 41), Magdalen 57-2.
 Sat. 16th June v. Abingdon 3rd XI (away). Abingdon 146-6 dec. (Urquhart 4-19), XI 149-7 (Tomlinson 62, Urquhart 50).
 Wed. 27th June v. Redrice (away). XI 109-7 dec. (Van de Steene 32, Davis 21), Redrice 52-4 (Tomlinson 3-19).
 Thur. 28th June v. Malvern 'A' XI (away). Malvern 169-7 dec., XI 90-2 (Tomlinson 55*).
 Wed. 4th July v. Pangbourne (away). Pangbourne 171-7 dec. (Van de Steene 4-66), XI 69-9 (Bridge 20).

INVITATION MATCH

Sun. 24th June. 'A Cokethorpe XI' v. P. T. Scully's XI. Cokethorpe 134-9 (Green 42, Tomlinson 27, Urquhart 24). Match abandoned as a draw after heavy rain.

AVERAGES

Batting (qualification 6 innings)

	I	N.O.	H.S.	R	A
Tomlinson	11	2	62	243	27.00
Urquhart	11	0	50	246	22.36
Davis	11	0	61	224	20.36
Bridge	11	2	41*	133	14.78
Adeniyi-Jones	8	0	67	114	14.25
Pohl	8	4	15*	56	14.00
Van de Steene	7	2	32	60	12.00

Bowling (qualification 8 wickets)

	O	M	W	R	A
Urquhart	73	13	19	235	12.37
Van de Steene	65.3	8	21	321	15.29
Tomlinson	96.5	30	12	241	20.08

COLOURS

XI	XXII
R. Adeniyi-Jones	E. Van de Steene
A. Urquhart	G. Pohl
J. Tomlinson	S. Gleeson
C. Bridge	C. Moore
C. Davis	

CRICKET CUPS

All-Rounder's Cup	A. Urquhart
Fielding Cup	R. Adeniyi-Jones
Batting Cup	A. Urquhart & J. Tomlinson
House Cricket Cup	Queen Anne

HOUSE MATCHES

1st Match: Queen Anne 70 (Van de Steene 25, Jones 4-5, S. Gleeson 3-14), Harcourt 63 (Jones 38*, Moore 3-11, Tomlinson 3-13).

2nd Match: Swift 85-9 innings closed (Tomlinson 3-14), Queen Anne 86-5 (Davis 32, Tomlinson 31*, Urquhart 3-13).

No third match needed.

NOMADS TOUR 1973

ON THE SUNDAY after the end of term, the Nomads began their second visit to the industrial jewel of the Midlands. Unexpectedly, our caravan included Sister Haynes and David Tomlinson, Jr., acting as 'transport', and very glad we were to have them. We lunched on sandwiches and ale at the 'Swan Inn', Henley-in-Arden, and established our base at the Norfolk Hotel, Birmingham. The tour party consisted of Messrs. Green, de Weymarn and Jamal with Adeniyi-Jones, Urquhart, Tomlinson, Bridge, Van de Steene, Gleeson, Moore and Morel. Messrs Chatterton, Bourne, Knowles and Glass were guest players.

After checking in, the party split up and went its several ways. The masters scouted for talent at Harborne Cricket Club, whilst another sort of talent was sought by the lads at 'The Duck' and 'Rebecca's'.

On Monday, the serious part of the tour began against the Police at Tally Ho! 'Serious' was the word for it. After half an hour both openers were out and our score was 10. However, Urquhart and Green added 92, Adeniyi-Jones batted brightly, splitting his trousers, and we finally reached 150. Police wickets tumbled, but although Urquhart used all his guile and Chatterton charged in snorting like an enraged bull, the last wicket just would not fall. After lavish Police hospitality we separated, the older generation feeling their bruises and looking for ballast, while the younger bloods headed for 'Rebecca's'.

On Tuesday the Milburnesque Paul Knowles added his weight, while Stuart 'My-word!-that-was-motoring' Glass kept wicket. We briefly lost Old Bill, whose statement on return, 'I was busy looking for your cobblers', was misconstrued until it was pointed out that Van de Steene now had studs in his boots. At Norton Barracks, Worcester, we were given lunch, after which the Sergeants' Mess did its best to sabotage the masters. After 50 minutes it looked as if Army tactics were succeeding for the Nomads' total was 25-4! Tomlinson now joined Green, 80 runs came in 70 minutes, and, with the wicket bouncing, the Signals were reduced to 106-8 with 25 minutes left. However, even though Glass was shattered, no further wickets fell, and only a moral victory was won.

On Wednesday, after lunching Duke of York style, we were savaged by Paul Knowles at Harborne. He scored 131 out of 221-2 dec. in 102 minutes. None of the bowlers relished the experience and during this onslaught the Nomads were distributed like a missionary organisation to all parts of the field. This total rather daunted the younger Nomads but we sailed past 120 with only 3 wickets down and victory became a distinct possibility. However, it was not to be and when de Weymarn went the final overs were quietly negotiated.

Against Moseley Ashfield we nearly all came unstuck and were lucky to draw. Moore bowled well, but with the top of the pitch crumbling we batted poorly, only Adeniyi-Jones getting into double figures. Thanks to stout defence by Gleeson and Moore we survived somehow. After the match the lads left to make the most of their last night in the big city and consequently Gleeson failed to make breakfast on Friday morning.

Our transport problems were overcome with the assistance of a lady purporting to be the Captain's godmother, and we set off for the Heavy-duty Alloys Ground at Redditch where another Police Force awaited us. On arrival we were delighted to find Mr. Ellis, who had come to score and carry passengers home, and later Mr. Thomson arrived completing our homeward convoy. When we batted Tomlinson dawdled, Bridge injected urgency, Moore swished violently and Gleeson employed his famous leg glance in daylight. In this match our fielding reached its zenith. Urquhart frequently hit the stumps with his returns and de Weymarn took two splendid catches, while the bowling of Adeniyi-Jones and Moore was fast and furious. The ten West-Mercian Policemen were reduced to 92-8, so again all we needed was one more wicket—so near and yet so far.

Our return home was complicated when an accelerator cable broke outside Evesham. Nevertheless, we were back at school by midnight, tired but happy. More than £130 had been earned for the School Appeal and 1974 will see us off once again trying our luck on by now familiar ground.

DETAILS

- v. 'F' Division, Birmingham City Police: Nomads 150 (Green 61, Urquhart 36), Police 103-9 (Urquhart 4-35).
- v. 14th Signal Regiment: Nomads 149 (Green 65, Tomlinson 45), Signals 125-8 (Tomlinson 3-28).
- v. Harborne C.C.: Harborne 221-2 dec., Nomads 160-7 (de Weymarn 67, Bridge 31, Green 22).
- v. Moseley Ashfield C.C.: Ashfield 162-4 dec., Nomads 52-9 (Adeniyi-Jones 20).
- v. 'B' Division, West Mercian Police: Nomads 131 (Bridge 40, Tomlinson 39), Police 92-8 (Moore 4-36, Adeniyi-Jones 3-41).

COLTS CRICKET

THE 1973 SEASON was an enjoyable one, but, sadly, the side was unable to improve on the record of its predecessor. The problem was one of maturity for, hard though Jones, Gleeson, Brennan and the others tried, the side had to rely on Under-14 recruits for most of its bowling and batting strength. Consequently, I suppose, it could be said that the 1973 Colts lacked a little horse power.

Nevertheless, what power there was was entertaining to watch and extremely promising for the future. Kennaway and Scott II, newcomers, both arrived to form the spearhead of the attack. The former, especially, maintained an immaculate length, and together they bowled 62 per cent of the overs and captured 53 per cent of the

wickets—an admirable feat. In addition, Marshall held some staggering catches close to the wicket, while Jones, Shutt, Pool, Godsland and Scott II all contributed useful fielding performances.

Despite the difficult task confronting Jones, and his understudy Brennan, himself captain of the Under-14s, wickets were generally not a problem. Marshall bowled a tidy if slightly wayward length, Taylor adequately with a little luck, and Jones himself, having discovered a 'wobble in the West Indies', proceeded to cultivate it during the season, with some success. When spin was required, Brennan with his 'floaters' and Halls with his leg-spinners filled the bill, but as so often happens at this level, there were few matches when enough runs were on the board for spin to be risked, and consequently, they had little opportunity to develop their arts. However, when they did, the results were reasonable.

The batting relied far too much on Jones. He was the only one with both the strength and the style to take on the average Colts bowler. He was the only boy to achieve an average in double figures. He missed a much deserved half-century by one run, and if so much responsibility had not rested on his shoulders, he might have relaxed more, and scored accordingly. His departure to the 1st XI made a big hole in the team which was difficult to fill. Gleeson, who kept wicket tidily though still having much to learn, tried hard, but his style is too cramped at the moment to ensure a long successful innings. Halls, Shutt, Marshall and Pool all showed they have some potential with better technique, but no one except Jones made over 20 runs in an innings.

Yet, despite all this, good cricket was played. The fielding was, as usual, excellent, the bowling more than tidy, and, under Jones' and Brennan's sensible leadership, a fair standard of out-cricket was achieved.

Thus the season progressed. Defeat at Kingham, on a brute of a wicket, was really caused by a failure to play forward, and inexperienced captaincy, too many close fielders protecting too few runs. However, splendid catches were held by Shutt, Pearce and Marshall.

For the second season running, three runs-out were recorded in the XI's innings at Shiplake, and these effectively wrecked any chance we had. Further insipid batting resulted in another heavy defeat at the hands of a highly talented Stowe side. This was followed by our only victory against Burford when splendid bowling by Scott II and Kennaway, aided by excellent fielding, put us in the hunt.

Nevertheless, the batting still gave much cause for alarm. Gleeson batted 71 minutes for 11, but Brennan, choosing the hittable ball carefully, finally guided us to success.

The bad fielding display was at Bloxham, where the only worthwhile feature was Jones' 49, at the end of which he had the misfortune to hit his wicket. The standard of play improved at Magdalen, while a heavy rainstorm just saved this XI at Redrice. Lastly, Halls and Kennaway chose the final match at Pangbourne to display hidden batting talents.

In many ways it was a disappointing season on paper, but 27 good catches were held and in general the cricket was lively and entertaining to watch. Once again, I should like to express my thanks to Jones, Brennan, the scorers, groundstaff and cover party for their help throughout the season. We appreciate their efforts.

Played 8 Won 1, Lost 6, Drawn 1 Cancelled 2

v. Kingham Hill (Away). Colts 59 (Jones 20*), Kingham Hill 61-8 (Taylor 5-26).

v. Shiplake (Away). Colts 41, Shiplake 46-2.

v. Stowe (Home). Colts 23, Stowe 24-1.

v. Burford (Home). Burford 46 (Scott II 5-30, Kennaway 5-16), Colts 50-8.

- v. Bloxham (Away). Bloxham 170-3 dec., Colts 73 (Jones 49).
 v. Magdalen (Away). Magdalen 75 (Marshall 3-8), Colts 27.
 v. Redrice (Away). Redrice 111-9 dec. (Kennaway 4-38, Taylor 4-9), Colts 43-9 (Marshall 15).
 v. Pangbourne (Away). Pangbourne 102 (Brennan 3-18), Colts 61.

LEADING AVERAGES

BATTING

	I	N.O.	R	A
Jones	6	1	73	14.60
Shutt	8	0	53	6.62

BOWLING

	O	M	R	W	A
Taylor I	18	2	45	9	5.00
Marshall	18	6	41	5	8.2
Kennaway	65.2	14	159	15	10.6
Scott II	57.1	7	197	13	15.2

Those who played: Jones (Captain), Brennan (Vice-Captain), Carraher, Gleeson II, Godsland, Girling, de Souza, Scott I, Scott II, Pearce, Shutt, Marshall, Taylor I, Kennaway, McHugh, Pohl, Pool, Underwood, Halls.

RUGBY RETROSPECT 1973/4

1973/4 must go down as a vintage year in the history of Cokethorpe rugby. It was a triumph for determination, dedication, fitness, enthusiasm, teamwork and above all enjoyment, and it is therefore hardly surprising that many records were broken. The side won over half its matches, scored more points, had no fewer than nine players who did not miss a game. Yet we played no more than twenty boys throughout the season. Credit for this should be shared between the Sanatorium and the Gym.

Few of the players would deny that Urquhart dominated the scene. Here, at last, was a real captain, one who returned with a determination to mould, train, and bring the most out of his side, and it was from him that the remainder took their cue. He was given great support by Massey, Hollis, Cartwright and Davis to name but a few. Urquhart acquired a record number of points, but points are not scored unless a team combines as this one did.

The first essential to success in rugby is fitness. Under Urquhart's direction, training in the Gym—'genueflections' and 'bend over rowing'—became the order of the day. The results were staggering; not only was the usual crop of minor injuries cut to a minimum, but the mauling power of the forwards towards the end was a real reward.

This was followed by strenuous practice, and through the efforts of the Bursar and Terry, we acquired a home-made scrummaging machine, with which Massey really achieved creditable results, nearly crushing Mr. Green's foot in the process.

At hooker, Manley relied heavily on the experience and ability of his props. As the season progressed, he improved perceptibly, and remaining defects were outweighed by his enthusiasm in the loose. Beside him, Massey led by example and displayed many of the assets of a good prop. He, like Urquhart, was unlucky in that their final school year coincided with strong competition in their respective positions in the County Trials.

The third member of this formidable front row was Attwood, who proved to be a player of enormous strength, having the ability to inspire in moments of crisis. When he departed, the XV were lucky enough to possess an experienced and able replacement in Webb. Behind this trio appeared an unlikely couple. Hodge, stocky, sturdy and strong was partnered by Scott I, tall, of tender years but not timid. Together they produced a shove which few front rows would fail to appreciate. Against Burford, Hodge carried the whole load as Scott was suffering from one of his unfortunate nose-bleeds, and was almost incapacitated for most of the match, and yet typically he refused to give up, and the Burford pack was pushed back.

In the back row, Davis provided much-needed experience and stability. He played very solidly, forming a useful partnership with his captain, one which perplexed many defences, and often dominated the back of the line-out. He and Urquhart also showed considerable positional sense sweeping up many a loose ball when the opposition threatened. Making up the pack were Spencer and Richards at wing forward. Both lacked the ability totally to disrupt the opposition's backs, but Spencer was invaluable in the line-out, while Richards' considerable rucking power will improve with time.

At scrum-half, Urquhart led and played hard, improving considerably as the season progressed. If only he could develop a strong right hand, he would become a very able player indeed.

The most difficult position to fill, when the season began, was at outside half and here Jones, with an incredibly safe pair of hands and an astute boot, performed well. His defence being suspect, he still has much to learn, but, gaining confidence, he began to use his weight. This, with his speed and ball sense, will one day make him a well-equipped fly-half.

The centres, Cartwright and Martin, developed into a useful unit scoring 56 points between them and, taking opportunities, generally harried the defence. Cartwright's speed was invaluable. Many of his exciting runs ended in tries.

On the wings, natural talent was limited, but Boston and Hollis showed considerable determination. The latter, in particular, showed defensive flair, brave tackling and a willingness to run at the defence, but both were suspect handlers and sometimes attacks broke down.

Van de Steene at full back was, at his best, a real force whether attacking or defending. For his size, some of his tackles were spectacular and brave, while his sallies into the line often created dangerous openings, but a tendency to become upset in adversity still weakens his performance.

This report would not be complete without a mention of the full-time reserves (in particular Morel) who kept themselves in a complete state of fitness to meet any emergency.

As usual, there were many highlights and disappointments. The team did well against the Invitation XV which contained two county players, gained considerable experience against a powerful John Mason XV, but achieved the vital breakthrough against Shiplake, when much-needed confidence was acquired. Victory against Bloxham was followed by defeat at the hands of Rendcomb, when we did not make the best use of the elements.

The second half of the term began impressively against the strongest Old Boys' side yet. (How sad it is that this talent is only united once a year!) After a satisfactory victory at Kingham Hill, where the pack nearly broke a post, we suffered a most disappointing defeat by Redrice where leads of 10-0 and 16-8 were still not enough. The silence on the coach home was unbearable.

A thrashing by a highly talented Abingdon XV was no disgrace, but the term ended with successful matches against Magdalen, Stowe and Burford—all won. The

final one at Thame was so exciting, the match being in the balance all the way, that it left the spectators breathless.

A new atmosphere appeared this year—the approach was different. The XV took the field as a team, warmed up seriously as a team and played like a team. This spirit has spread to the A XV side and to the Sevens.

It only remains to thank most warmly Sandy Urquhart, who did a splendid job, Russell Massey and his prefects, Charles Hollis for his work as Secretary, James Tomlinson and the touch judges, Messrs. Green, McCallum, Thompson, Witter and Hipkin for their invaluable help, the ground staff and all the rest, spectators included, who have helped to make it, fittingly, the most enjoyable season I have had at Cokethorpe.

M. DE W.

STATISTICS

	Played 15	Won 7	Lost 8	Points for 276	Against 229		
v. Invitation XV	Home	Lost 12—20
v. John Mason, Abingdon	Away	Lost 7—28
v. Shiplake College	Away	Won 32— 3
v. Bloxham 2nd XV	Home	Won 19— 6
v. Rendcomb	Home	Lost 9—20
v. Peers School, Littlemore	Away	Lost 7—16
v. Old Boys' XV	Home	Lost 16—26
v. Kingham Hill	Away	Won 20— 8
v. Redrice	Away	Lost 16—20
v. Abingdon 2nd XV	Home	Lost 11—37
v. Magdalen 2nd XV	Home	Won 21— 6
v. Burford	Home	Won 24—12
v. Stowe 3rd XV	Home	Won 40— 0
v. Lord Williams' Thame 'A' XV	Away	Lost 18—21
v. Whitefriars 2nd XV	Home	Won 24— 6

100% appearance:—A. I. J. Urquhart, R. G. Massey, C. E. K. Hollis, G. A. Cartwright, B. M. Jones, M. R. Attwood, R. W. Martin, G. V. Hodge, M. I. Scott.

1st XV Colours re-awarded to:—A. I. J. Urquhart, R. G. Massey, C. M. P. Davis

1st XV Colours Awarded to:— M. R. Attwood, G. V. Hodge, C. E. K. Hollis, G. A. Cartwright, G. A. Manley, T. D. Richards.

Half Colours awarded to:—E. Van de Steene, R. J. Martin, B. M. Jones, M. I. Scott, P. H. Spencer, C. J. Webb, R. E. G. Morel, D. J. J. Boston.

Others who represented the side:—P. H. Vaughan-Fowler, J. A. Tomlinson, P. C. Brennan.

Leading Scorers:—A. I. J. Urquhart (10 Tries, 16 Penalties, 18 Conversions) 124; C. M. P. Davis (9 Tries) 36; G. A. Cartwright (8 Tries) 32; R. J. Martin (4 Tries, 2 Penalties, 1 Conversion) 24; R. G. Massey (5 Tries) 20.

'A' XV SUMMARY

- v. Witney R. F. C. (Home), Lost 0—20;
- v. St. Catherine's, Oxford (Away), Drew 0—0;
- v. Burford School 'A' XV (Away), Won 16—13.

SEVENS

- At Peers Littlemore:—
- v. M.C.S. Brackley, Lost 7—13;
- v. Gosford Hill School, Won 20—4.

At Burford School:—
 v. Whitefriars 'B', Won 12—0;
 v. Cirencester, Won 9—0;
 v. Burford, Lost 6—16.

HOUSE MATCHES

Inter-House Rugby—Harcourt
 Inter-House Kicking—Swift
 Inter-House Sevens—Harcourt

COLTS RUGBY

ANY GOOD TEAM must have a good Captain. In Brennan we had a first-rate tactician, no mean craftsman and one capable of pouring oil on even the most troubled waters. A team must also have ability. We had talent, but its effectiveness, especially in the backs, was limited by the size of our players. At this junior level, it is especially important not to be undersized, because the equation relating size to strength to penetration is all too effective and although Carraher, Vaughan-Fowler III and others were able to penetrate the defences of the opposition on occasions, our heavy defeats were largely a result of the other teams' physical superiority.

Our forwards improved as the season proceeded and if Scott I and Richards, who were of Colts age, had not been required to play for the 1st XV we might have achieved far more. However, Girling, Buchanan-Brown, Brennan, Lambert and Vaughan-Fowler III were working quite well together by the end of the season.

With six matches played, and only one victory to our credit, morale was beginning to ebb, when a thoroughly deserved 24—4 victory against Abingdon School provided the boost we needed.

The following match against M.C.S. was wide open until the closing stages when two quick tries put paid to our hopes. The next match against Whitefriars was of better quality than any other, and the experienced referee said it was the game of the season for him. Indeed the imaginative rugby held the game wide open until the final whistle. A draw would have been a more just result than the 20—23 defeat that occurred.

Perhaps the match we least expected to win was our greatest triumph. Lord Williams' School, Thame, has a reputation, respected the County over, for fine rugby. However, Scott II started the scoring and Crellin had added another by half-time, but not until the closing stages was the affair settled with a fine try by Brennan.

Regular players were:—Brennan, Betts, Howard, Lambert, Girling, Buchanan-Brown, McHugh, Gleeson, Vaughan-Fowler III, Vaughan-Fowler II, Carraher, Cottrell, Crellin, Scott II, Marshall and Taylor I (touch judge).

Others:—Scott I, Richards, Pool, de Pass, Macleod, Pearce and Burrin.

COLTS RUGBY RESULTS

Shiplake College	A	Lost	0—32
Wood Green School	H	Won	6—0
Bloxham School	H	Lost	4—44
Rendcomb College	H	Lost	8—22
Kingham Hill School	A	Lost	0—54
Redrice School	A	Lost	0—44
Abingdon School	H	Won	24—0
M.C.S.	H	Lost	0—16

Whitefriars	A	Lost	20—23
Burford School	H	Lost	0—38
Stowe School	H	Lost	0—20
Lord Williams' School, Thame	A	Won	12— 4

ATHLETICS

WET WEATHER DELAYED the start of the athletics season at the end of the Easter term. However, once started, the struggle to gain 'standards' was on. Vaughan-Fowler I, Van de Steene, Camilleri, Cartwright I, Bryant, de Pass, Godsland, Halls, Jones, Taylor I, Vaughan Fowler II, Buchanan-Brown, Cook I, Cottrell, Crellin, Pearce, Pool, Richards, Scott I, Scott II, White, Aires, Alford, Carraher, Cartwright II, Joyce, Macleod, Manly II, Marks, Rebanks and Vaughan-Fowler III all distinguished themselves by gaining one or more top standards; Vaughan Fowler III attaining the maximum number of points.

Sports Day itself was held on 1st April, a blustery day, which deterred all but the hardiest spectators. Nevertheless, four new school records were established. Cartwright I knocked 0.3 of a second off the Senior 400 m. time of 53.4 secs. Pearce established new records for the Junior 800 m. and 1500 m., lopping 20 seconds off the old 1500 m. record; and the Junior 200 m. record fell to Scott I who cut 0.2 of a second off the former record.

The results of the athletics competitions were as follows:—

STANDARDS COMPETITION

1. Harcourt; 2. Swift; 3. Queen Anne

SPORTS DAY

1. Harcourt; 2. Swift; 3. Queen Anne

INDIVIDUAL SPORTS DAY RESULTS

JUNIOR	SENIOR
100 m.—Scott II (13.0 sec.)	Urquhart—(12.7 sec.)
200 m.—Scott I (25.8 sec.)	Cartwright I—(24.6 sec.)
400 m.—Crellin (59.4 sec.)	Cartwright I—(54.2 sec.)
800 m.—Pearce (2 min. 21.9 sec.)	Boston—(2 min. 15.4 sec.)
4 × 400 m. (open)—Harcourt House (3 min. 55.1 sec.)	
1500 m. (open)—Pearce (4 min. 45.25 sec.)	
4 × 100 m.—Swift House (54.1 sec.)	Swift House (50.2 sec.)
High Jump—Scott II (1.45 m.)	Vaughan-Fowler I (1.5 m.)
Long Jump—Cottrell (4.68 m.)	Hollis—(5.30 m.)
Triple Jump—Vaughan-Fowler III (9.82 m.)	Cartwright I—(11.33 m.)
Javelin—Pool (29.26 m.)	Hollis—(32.56 m.)
Shot—Vaughan-Fowler II (9.35 m.)	Brennan—(10.39 m.)
Discus—Warren (25.01 m.)	Camilleri—(31.21 m.)

CROSS-COUNTRY AND ROAD RELAY

THE INTRODUCTION of four Divisions enlivened the sport this year. Promotion and relegation was on a timed basis and competition was keen, especially amongst the juniors.

The Inter-House competition was held on a treacherous February afternoon and was won by Boston individually, and Harcourt collectively.

House Result:—

1. Harcourt	1658
2. Queen Anne	1758
3. Swift	1842

The Inter-House Road Relay was also won by Harcourt fairly easily, but a hard fought battle took place for second position.

Final Result:—

1. Harcourt 109 min. 54 sec.
2. Queene Anne
3. Swift

An inter-form event also took place being won by Pearce individually and 4B as a form. Eighteen boys were entered for the North-Oxon Championships, where Pearce came 3rd in his age group and was re-awarded his colours.

The Under-15s team did well to come 4th out of 13 and the Under-17s team excelled to come 1st out of 10 to collect the gold medals. At the Wood Green Relays we did less well, but a courageous effort by our captain M. Pearce made our 'A' team performance better than mediocre.

Full Results:—

Under-17	A Team	7th out of 13
	B Team	8th out of 13 (Top B Team)
Under-15	A Team	16th out of 22
	B Team	18th out of 22 (3rd B Team)

BRIDGE

MANY NEWCOMERS contracted into our Club, which alternates between the Corinthian Room and the Library, when the latter venue is free of the encumbrance of readers.

Much interest was shown in the new House Bridge Competition which was won convincingly by Queen Anne, with Swift taking second place. The fate of the trophy was virtually decided in the first rubber when Queen Anne made four spades doubled redoubled, after some unusually optimistic bidding from Swift, who never fully recovered from the shock, although they did defeat the young, but spirited, Harcourt pair.

Particular congratulations must go to the winning House, who were admirably represented by Webster, a quite remarkable player for a third-former, and Davis. The other teams were: Hodge and Samms (Swift) and Crisp and Fanthorpe (Harcourt).

JUDO

THE SICKENING THUD of Carraher was heard throughout the front part of the School. Betts had just inflicted a stomach throw. Meanwhile, Richards was beating up Buchanan-Brown.

As usual, we had a good year for Judo, even though M. Attwood left at the end of the Autumn term and I took on the Captaincy. Last term, T. Richards and Buchanan-Brown went up to London for the Junior Championships, but they failed to win anything.

Members this term include Cooke II, Vaughan-Fowler III, Shutt, Dawe, Betts, Lewison-White, Buchanan-Brown, Richards, Wilson and myself.

M. PHILLIPS

RAMBLING

'Keep to the straight and narrow path'.

NO DOUBT the above maxim has saved many an errant youth from sounding the depths of turpitude, yet to the rambler the advice is fatuous as it is impossible to adhere to it. It is a well-authenticated fact that the English footpath was worn into

the landscape by the mediaeval reveller on his befuddled way from one hostelry to another. Thus, the path may be narrow, but it is never straight. The line of least resistance had little challenge for our yeoman ancestor—not for him the obvious slope, but the hardest ground, the stickiest clay and the gully where the healthiest thistles flourish. To these diversions, modern farming man has added the barbed wire, the intemperate cow (there is one in every otherwise docile herd) and the disappearing footpath. The last-named we found to be particularly virulent in the more recherché districts of Gloucestershire, where in the name of efficiency, or at the behest of a fiendish disposition, well-behaved tracks suddenly abscond without due warning. There can only be one other explanation, and that too improbable to be considered . . . I cannot read a map.

THEATRE REPORT

THROUGHOUT THE CENTURIES, the theatre has provided a welcome escape from the trials and tribulations of everyday existence. Life at Cokethorpe is no exception. 'Forceful', 'vivid', 'striking', 'tense', are some of the adjectives often used to describe 'Drama'. And whether at Stratford or Oxford, we have had a taste of all of them.

During the past year there have been two outings to the Oxford Playhouse. The first was to the W. H. Auden's and Christopher Isherwood's 1930's satire, 'The Dog Beneath the Skin'. The play was a comment on pre-war Europe, but has not dated too much and was still entertaining, if rather hard to follow. The occasion was memorable for us as it must have been one of the last occasions on which W. H. Auden made a personal appearance before his sudden death a little later.

The second visit to the Playhouse was to see 'The Wolf', which most people enjoyed rather more, for its sparkling wit and precision of timing. This play, with Edward Woodward, Leo Kern and Judi Dench in the leading roles, was a comedy about a jealous husband, his wife and her supposed lover.

The School has been lucky in seeing every play presented by the Royal Shakespeare Company at Stratford this season: 'Love's Labour Lost', 'The Taming of the Shrew', 'King John' and 'Richard II'.

Although I myself did not see 'Richard II', those who did thought it somewhat tedious, but they did admire the production. The play was also memorable in that Ian Richardson and Richard Pascoe shared the roles of Richard and Bolingbroke alternately. We saw Pascoe's Richard but it would have been fascinating to see Richardson's interpretation as well.

The others, however, proved more popular. 'Love's Labour Lost' and 'The Taming of the Shrew' are both comedies and the colourful and ingenious decor made each one enjoyable to watch.

Although most of the newspapers gave 'The Taming of the Shrew' bad notices, as they often seem to with entertaining plays, it was probably the funnier of the two. Alan Bates played Petruchio. This is a farcical role and it was rather unusual to see it played by Bates. It is a light-hearted play and the audience, in the front rows, added to the fun by throwing plastic fruit at the stage. A carrot also came down on a parachute. All in all, 'The Taming of the Shrew' was a fast-moving, colourful play, perhaps more enjoyable for us males to see woman being made to respect man, her master.

As the Upper Sixth are studying 'King Lear' for 'A' level they have been fortunate, or unfortunate, enough to see it four times. They have seen two films both at Bicester, one English and the other Russian.

Paul Schofield played Lear in Peter Hall's English version and most of us thought it slow-moving, colourless and rather pedestrian. There were too many long drawn-out episodes, thus by the end of one scene, it was difficult to remember how it had started. However, it was useful for exam purposes if nothing else.

Most found the Russian film more moving. The gaunt setting was appropriately depressing. One could almost feel the Scandinavian blasts penetrating the gloom of the tents. The Russian who played Lear gave, in my opinion, a better performance than Paul Schofield, in that he did not overact and his craggy lined face made one feel more sorry for his Lear than Schofield's.

No one, it seems, liked Marlborough's stage production of 'King Lear'. Nothing was cut from this long play and by the end everyone was half asleep, and numb, owing to the hard seats. All agreed that 'King Lear' is far too ambitious for any school to tackle. Most of the actors, especially the boy who played Lear, were limited in the range of their voices. However, almost everyone admired the way the school had made use of their small stage; they skilfully managed to group all the characters without making it seem too crowded.

The fourth and best Lear has been the one we saw at Stratford. It was performed not at the main theatre with the flags outside, but at 'The Other Place', which is a big shed-like building a few hundred yards up the road from the famous theatre, but also run by the R.S.C.

There are only 140 seats, which are in a horse shoe of tiers round the floor, which is in fact the stage. Thus, there is a more intimate atmosphere between the actors and the audience.

The text of this 'Lear' had been slimmed and many of the secondary characters had been left out. Thus the play was shorter, moved more quickly and was, owing to the close proximity of the actors, more enjoyable.

However, four different performances of 'King Lear' within a year is enough. There is a rumour that yet another 'Lear' is pending in Oxford. *Sauve qui peut.*

J. SHEPHEARD (Upper Sixth)

DEBATING

JUNIOR MEMBERS have caught the eye more than usual this year. The Autumn term saw Moores and Buchanan-Brown vainly trying to persuade us that the British Monarchy should be abolished. Manley II and Fanthorpe had no difficulty in crushing this motion by 42 to 2.

Later, another motion (moved by Fanthorpe and Kennaway) sought to convince us that 'This House would like to emigrate'. Patriotic sentiments enabled Girling and Taylor II to ward off the resolution by 25 to 3.

The seniors were less loyal. In a 'debate', which set out to discover which nation has done most for mankind, Lambert (U.S.A.) carried the day with 22 votes. Davis (Ireland) scored 13 votes, Vaughan-Fowler I gained 11 for Italy, but Britain, whose advocate was Bartholomew, could score but 8. Only the Germans did worse. Burchett had sensible things to say but registered only a single vote.

The Mock Election, held on 28th February, did not prove to be an accurate pointer as to how the nation as a whole would vote. The teaching and domestic staff were included in the Electoral Roll. There was a 97 per cent poll, and the Conservative candidate (Boston) swept to victory, followed by the Liberal (Sillitoe); the National Front (Vaughan-Fowler I) and Labour (Hodge).

For the Cullen Debating Prize, the question under discussion was what invention had done least for mankind. Boston, Bartholomew, Burchett and Fanthorpe argued the case for the gun, the pneumatic drill, the electric pylon and the motor-car, but the unredeemingly evil nature of napalm, took the palm for devilishness. Vaughan-Fowler I spoke sincerely and eloquently to win the prize.

The decision was not a thing that could be left to the vagaries of a democratic ballot. Mr. Lane kindly acted as judge, bringing to the task a percipience and objectivity that the mass of the audience might have lacked.

NATURAL HISTORY

THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY has sprung to life after expiring in the summer of 1969. This renewed interest stems from a hard core of masters and boys, who formed a group, which, at the moment, has very close ties with the Ashmolean Society in Oxford. Thus, we attend as many of their functions and meetings as possible. At the beginning of the School year, for example, the Society was lucky enough to listen to Dr. J. Phillipson, a member of the Ashmolean Committee and father of a Cokethorpe boy.

The Society has made a successful trip to the Natural History Museum in London; a party visited Peter Scott's reserve at Slimbridge and a group went to Wytham Woods, near Oxford, to listen to birdsong. Also, we attended the World Wildlife Fund's lecture on 'Your local naturalists' trust', given by the President of the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Naturalists' Trust.

We recognise the danger of our becoming totally dependent upon other societies, exhibitions and meetings, and so it is hoped that small ecological studies will be carried out by the younger boys, especially in this summer term. In this respect, the clearing and enlarging of the pond must be mentioned. M. Drew has completed the badly needed repairs to the dovecote, which is also in the Market Garden. Finally, a number of boys have given lectures to the Society (J. Bird, P. Dawe and R. Bartholomew).

R. MASSEY

LIBRARY NOTES

THE MOST STRIKING ADDITION to the Library shelves this year has been the complete set of new Encyclopaedia Britannica which was the generous gift of the Cokethorpe Society.

Thanks must go, too, to Mrs. Robinow for a handsome set of Harrison Ainsworth's novels, to Kevin Ching for a set of really lovely volumes of reproductions of Chinese art, and to Dr. Slee and Peter Wilson Esq, each of whom have given us a number of books. Indeed, a good many of the latter's gift have had to be held back for lack of space. New shelves are promised for this term and should solve our problem, temporarily.

We ourselves have bought something over a hundred new books, at the same time, paring down our existing stock to accommodate them.

Bartholomew, the Head Librarian, and his indefatigable team (Hanby, Buchanan-Brown, Mullen and Moores) have continued to see to the day-to-day running of the Library; the typing of Cooper and Groves has been indispensable.

The Library is a busy and (usually) quiet place, serving a multitude of functions. Last February it was first a hustings and then a polling booth. The Chess and Stamp Clubs meet there regularly; even inter-house Bridge has trespassed occasionally on our hospitality!

WOODWORK

A CONSIDERABLE VARIETY of things has been made or started this year.

It was unfortunate that the parrot should have died before John Gee could complete its stand, but with the aid of screw-on legs, he did manage to make a coffee table in record time.

Derrick de Souza has persevered with the construction of a cabinet for a record player and records. Jonothan Betts and Francis Winstone-Partridge have made useful bookcases.

Nigel Alford is in the midst of making a corner stand for a plant and Christopher Cambray has made good progress towards the completion of a television table.

Quite different from all the others, Kevin Miller made a cage for his chicken.

J.W.M.H.

ART

SEVERAL TALENTED PAINTERS have emerged in the last two years, though few have developed their activities as far as we would wish.

There were enough paintings and drawings of interest for us to arrange a small exhibition during the summer half-term of 1973. It is the lure of 'O' levels that has produced surprisingly good work from unexpected sources; some candidates panic during examinations, and paint in a manner entirely unsuited to their abilities, presumably with the puritanical idea that it cannot be a good picture if they enjoy painting it. Luckily, three weeks is allowed for the imaginative composition and this gives students time to make one false start.

Ching and Ling have brought considerable life to the Art Class and their style of painting makes a pleasant contrast to that of the English brigade, de Pass, Bryant, Miller, the 'fauviste' Bodenham and expressionist Burchett.

DOUBLE-THINK

BOYS:

I only leant on it. =

It is shattered beyond repair.

I've lost it. =

I threw it away.

Someone's pinched it. =

I left it somewhere.

I'm sorry I'm late for games, sir. =

I couldn't fool Sister.

I was trying to mend it. =

I had the greatest difficulty in breaking it.

Can I come on the trip, sir? =

I want to miss afternoon school.

May I have a fuse for the fan heater? =

I stuck a pencil in the fan. Don't ask me why.

I was only opening the window. =

I found it much easier to knock the glass out than to open it in the ordinary way.

Who is on duty this weekend? =

What can we get away with this weekend?

STAFF:

I don't want to deal with that question just yet. =
I haven't a clue what the answer is.

Another fascinating aspect is . . . =
They're sure to ask this in 'O' level.

I left it in the Common Room. =
I haven't marked it yet.

It's on order. =
I've forgotten to do anything about it.

COKETHORPE SOCIETY

FOR THOSE WHO were unable to attend this year's dinner and A.G.M., you will wish to know that Vivian Williams was elected Chairman of the Society in place of Nigel Lambert, whose commitments now preclude his continuing to hold this appointment. However, we are delighted that Nigel has been appointed a Governor of the School, the first Old Boy to be accorded this honour. There is little else to report from the A.G.M. except that we would like to have seen more Old Boys present.

The most successful occasion of the year was the Annual Rugger Match followed by an evening at the Upper Reaches Hotel at Abingdon. The Old Boys won 26—16 and thanks are due to Michael Tonkin for getting the team together. Those who attended the dinner and disco in Abingdon afterwards considered the occasion a great success, and, as this is to be an annual occasion, we look forward to seeing an ever-increasing number of Old Boys and their wives and girl-friends attending.

It is one of the pleasures of this office to hear from Old Boys who have left the School and here is some news of those from whom I have heard:—

Antony Frost is at present managing a new garden centre at Willington, near Bedford.

Robin de Rouen is working in a theatrical agency but may be by now out on film location.

Peter Ingerslev spent three years at Kingston-upon-Thames Polytechnic studying Architecture and then worked for one year as an assistant architect in Exeter. He has now taken one year off to go to Cliff Bible College in Derbyshire.

Peter Wynter is getting married in 6 months' time.

Frank MacGinty was in France getting to know the wine business at first hand!

John Hancock now lives permanently in Australia where he has been for seven years—he has his own business importing products (mainly from the U.S.) and distributing them throughout Australia.

Richard Woods has recently returned from a holiday in Canada and is thinking about living there.

Simon Thomson, as may be expected, is working for an aviation consultant; as he says . . . 'a lot of flying all over the world but fun'.

Philip Burbury is at present undertaking a course at technical college up at Stockton-on-Tees.

Nigel Samuelson, a solicitor with a large firm in Bristol, now has a baby daughter.

Jeremy Hitchcock has now moved from Essex to Devon where he is serving his articles in a solicitor's office and hopes to qualify in 1977.

John Campbell was commissioned on 9th November 1973 from Sandhurst into the Royal Engineers.

John Buckner has been in Minnesota and California since last year and is due back in this country sometime this year.

Andrew Wild is working as an instructor at the National Mountaineering Centre in North Wales, and was last heard of organising an expedition in the Mount Ford area of Greenland.

Michael Lousada is shortly to be married and works in an Estate Agent's practice in North Bucks. He has just taken up motor racing.

John Hughes is working as a cameraman at Border Television Studios in Carlisle --'interesting but hectic'.

Marcus Steel is in Australia but may be back in the U.K. this year. He has had a number of jobs including being a 'ringer' on a cattle station—now working in a ship-yard.

Peter Croxford is in Western Australia, iron-ore mining.

John Bally is running his own 60' chartered yacht in Hellenic waters.

Andy Webb is married with a two-year-old son and is still living in Kitwe, Zambia. He was made a director of his company in 1972. He hopes to return to the U.K. in 1975.

I am hoping later this year to circulate all Old Boys with a list of their up-to-date addresses. If any of you have moved recently or have knowledge of any other Old Boys' moves, will they please let me know (104 Maidenhead Road, Stratford-on-Avon). We are always anxious to increase membership and like to have your news at any time.

TREVOR KEY

John Backus has been in Minnesota and California since last year and is back in this country sometimes. Andrew Wild is working as an instructor at the National Woodworking Centre in North Wales and was last heard of organizing an expedition in the Mount Ford area of Greenland. Michael Louzada is shortly to be married and works in an export agent's practice in North Bucks. He has just taken up motor racing. John Hughes is working as a cameraman at Borden Television Studios in Cambs. Marcus Steel is in Australia but may be back in the U.K. this year. He has had a number of jobs including being a rigger on a cattle station—now working in a ship yard.

Peter Croxford is in Western Australia, iron-ore mining. John Ball is running his own ex chartered yacht in Hellenic waters. Andy Webb is married with a two-year-old son and is still living in Kintaw, Nambias.

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OXFORD

It is one of the pleasures of this office to hear from Old Boys who have left the School and here is some news of those from whom I have heard:— Antony Frost is at present managing a new garden centre at Willington, near Bedford. Robin de Rouen is working in a theatrical agency but may be by now out on film location. Prior Ingersley spent three years at Kingston-upon-Thames Polytechnic studying Architecture and then worked for one year as an assistant architect in Exeter. He has now taken one year off to go to Cliff Bible College in Derbyshire. Peter Wymer is getting married in 6 months' time. Frank MacGilly was in France getting to know the wine business at first hand. John Hancock now lives permanently in Australia where he has been for seven years—he has his own business importing products (mainly from the U.S.) and distributing them throughout Australia. Richard Woods has recently returned from a holiday in Canada and is thinking about living there. Simon Thomson, as may be expected is working as an aviation consultant; as he says . . . 'a lot of flying all over the world but fun'. Philip Burbury is at present undertaking a course at technical college up at Stockton-on-Tees. Nigel Samuelson, a solicitor with a large firm in Bristol, now has a baby daughter. Jeremy Hitchcock has now moved from Exeter to Devon where he is serving his articles in a solicitor's office and hopes to qualify in 1977. John Campbell was commissioned on 5th November 1971 from Sandhurst into the Royal Engineers.

