



THE PEACOCK



1985

The Magazine of
Cokethorpe School

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Cover photo: *M. G. Samkin (245), J. Russ (260) and A. R. Picton-Warlow (282) making a splash to come in 1st, 2nd and 4th in the 1500m steeplechase final in the Oxford County Athletic Championships. (Courtesy of Oxford & County Newspapers).*



View east from the roof

H. Jones

1984-1985

A YEAR OF ACHIEVEMENT

and promise for the future

There can be no doubt that this has been a year of achievement, and pride of place among those things which it is fitting to mention here must be given to Mr. N. J. Mills, surely as enthusiastic and energetic a Bursar as any school has had. It is under his aegis that so many schemes for improved facilities and equipment, as well as a thorough interior redecoration and smartening up of the house and grounds — upon which so many parents and visitors have commented favourably — have been brought to fruition. What he has managed to initiate and achieve in the space of only a year of his 'Five Year Plan' is truly remarkable.

We were pleased with the examination results of the summer of 1984, particularly at 'A' level. The results of boys in the Remove, who were re-sitting some 'O' levels a full year after their first attempts, were also extremely good; and reinforces the Headmaster's view that more boys who are not of 'A' level calibre should stay for that whole extra year, when they can study a mixture of old work and new.

The rugby season of 1984 was a highly enjoyable one. Although the 1st XV contained many young and inexperienced players, their spirit was always excellent and they never gave up. During the Lent Term we managed, in spite of the snow, to play most

of our football fixtures. The 1st XI had only a moderate season but the U.15 team showed encouraging improvement, and here, as with the junior rugby teams, we quite obviously have much potential for the future.

It was a great shame that the Regatta on Open Day took place in such stormy conditions. Nevertheless, the oarsmen have had a successful term, winning three major events including the Junior Ball Cup.

The cricket XI, who have lost only one match in each of the last two seasons, was this year unbeaten. We shall much miss Bamikole Akande, who has played *for five years* in the 1st XI, Captained it for two, and overall has taken 50 more wickets than any other Cokethorpe boy in the school's history!

Next to cricket, however, the accolade on the games field must go to a number of athletes who have given outstanding performances. Alastair Picton-Warlow and Matthew Samkin ran for Oxfordshire in the U.17 County Championships at Norwich in March. Earlier that term both boys had run with distinction in County trials and school events — coming first and second, respectively, for the second time in the annual Cross-Country race. In icy weather conditions on the undulating course at

Shotover, Matthew Howland became the A.C.F. National 400 m. champion; and Keith Pitt won the A.C.F. South Eastern Region Junior 1500 m. He and Stephen Edwards also ran in the National A.C.F. Finals. Oladapo Akande is the Oxfordshire Junior Long Jump champion, and he shared the Jones Trophy for the best performance in County Athletics championships. All these boys have brought great honour to the school. Fittingly enough, six records were broken in the sports on the last day of term, including three junior ones by Toby Messenger.

A Classical Studies trip to Greece, a skiing trip, and A.C.F. and Outward Bound Camps have also constituted an important and worthwhile part of what has been a very active year.

The House plays, all of them written by Cokethorpe boys, produced an excellent evening's entertainment in December — most notably from Jeremy Abbott who wrote, produced, and acted throughout the Harcourt play. The School play in March, *Zigger Zagger*, was a splendid achievement which involved nearly a quarter of the boys, and produced several outstanding actors.

The Cup for the Creative Hobbies competition was once again won by Queen Anne, and the judges, Mr. and Mrs. Grimshaw, from the Art Department at St. Edward's School, Oxford, were most impressed by the overall standard. The best individual exhibit was undoubtedly Paul Norman's silhouettes of members of staff, some of which are reproduced here.

As usual we have had an attractive programme of evening speakers throughout the year, and in March

reached the 100th General Studies talk, which was given by Frank Delaney. Those who especially live in the memory are Major James Babington-Smith, Glynn Christian, and Jerrold Northrop Moore; but a visit which will never be forgotten by those who heard him was that of James Candy, who, at 83 years of age, held a junior audience spellbound with tales of his childhood with Sir Arthur Evans, and of his own life as a gaucho in the Argentine.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that they have an open invitation to all our special events, whether they take place in the morning, afternoon or evening — and this includes such occasions as lectures, debates, declamations, and of course any of the sports fixtures. It always gives us much pleasure, too, to see parents in the congregation at our weekly services — Mass in the Roman Catholic chapel and Sung Communion in the Anglican Church. (Please check the times beforehand, as they do tend to vary!).

As with previous editions of the school magazine, publication day is, in its way, a cause for minor celebration, since it marks the end of a long period of chasing up articles, choosing photographs, correcting galley proofs, juggling the text about — and a dozen other tasks. It is hoped that this issue of *The Peacock* constitutes not only as full and faithful a factual record of the year as possible, but also encapsulates something of the *spirit* of what is going on at Cokethorpe. This foreword, although it has emphasised some of the achievements of the past year, is not designed to be a eulogy either of the efforts of boys or staff; but it is intended to show that we are confident that there is much promise for the future.



Through the gate

D. E. Ash

SCHOOL RECORD

Head of School

B. B. Akande

Deputy Head of School

J. W. Abbott

School Prefects

S. J. Boggon
D. J. J. Fenton
B. G. Humphrey
J. W. Jones
P. T. Norman
S. R. Smith

Heads of Houses

Swift B. B. Akande
Harcourt J. W. Abbott
Queen Anne P. T. Norman

School Officers

Captain of Boats J. W. Jones
Vice-Captain T. S. Goslin
Captain of Cricket B. B. Akande
Vice-Captain J. W. Abbott
Captain of Rugby B. B. Akande
Vice-Captain B. G. Humphrey
Captain of Soccer B. G. Humphrey
Vice-Captain B. B. Akande
Senior N.C.O. Sgt. A. P. Venman

House Prefects

Swift O. O. Akande
I. Badawi
D. E. J. Farley
B. A. Goad
A. P. Hues
A. A. Purdue
Harcourt I. Bayarri
M. Howland
M. Jaded
A. R. Picton-Warlow
Queen Anne I. M. A. Ogborn
J. M. Reeve
J. D. Russ

We congratulate **Dr. Clark L. Brundin, B.S., Ph.D., M.A.**, who is a member of our Governing Body, on his appointment from this October as Vice-Chancellor of Warwick University. Until recently Dr. Brundin was Estates Bursar of Jesus College and Vice-Chairman of the General Board of Faculties at Oxford.

APPOINTMENTS

Mr. R. J. Gould became Chairman of the Governing Body in September 1984. Mr. Gould has recently retired after twenty-five years Headmastership of Stanbridge Earls School, and is now living in Lymington. He succeeds Mr. J. E. Craig who during his seven years as Chairman has worked extremely hard for the school. Mr. Craig remains on the Governing Body as Chairman of the Finance Sub-Committee.

Mr. M. St. J. Parker, Headmaster of Abingdon School, and **Mr. G. V. Surtees**, lately Headmaster of the John Lyon School, Harrow, have also been elected to the Governing Body.

Mr. M. Carter succeeded Mr. P. J. R. Jowitt as Second Master in September 1984.

Mr. J. W. Stark, M.B.E. becomes Housemaster of Queen Anne this term in succession to Mr. A. E. Gentry, who, after four successful years as Housemaster, has been appointed Head of Science. Mr. Stark is taking over the command of the A.C.F. from Mr. D. L. Thomson, who founded our detachment five years ago and has enthusiastically brought it to its present high standard. Mr. Stark will also be taking over the running of Judo.

Mrs. Pauline Shaw succeeded Mrs. E. Webb as The Headmaster's secretary in January 1985.

Mrs. Valerie Taylor was appointed as The Bursar's secretary in October 1984.



The Old Berks Hunt meeting at Cokethorpe in November.



Mrs. Webb.

VALETE

STAFF

MRS. EVELYN WEBB

Evelyn Webb retired at the end of 1984 after seventeen years of devoted service to Cokethorpe, first as Bursar's secretary and then as Headmaster's and School Secretary. She served under three Headmasters, all of whom I am sure remember her with great affection and gratitude.

During my sixteen terms with her she never missed a day's work through illness, a record which should make the rest of us feel humble and ashamed as we retire to bed with our aches and pains. She worked tirelessly for the school, not only during the daytime but also at home in the evenings — as will be testified by many who saw her staggering from her office to her car laden with baskets of paper, which always looked as if they were going to spill their contents over the ground, but I am sure never did!

Her office was the focal point of the school. It was not perhaps so formal and tidy as that of our idea of a 'typical' secretary, but it was a place of warmth and friendship as well as of business — a place where boys and masters (and visitors) could guarantee to get a sympathetic hearing and sound advice, or

perhaps just a cosy chat. Telephone callers, too, always received a polite and friendly answer, however rushed she was.

Evelyn managed to keep up with countless Old Boys, and her office was always their first port of call when visiting the school. With her son Christopher (recently retired as Secretary of the Cokethorpe Society) she organised many Old Boys' functions. It is good to know that she is still assisting the Society in her retirement. — Did I say retirement? Surely she will never retire! I am certain she is even now as busy as ever at her new home in Chesham.

Whenever I think of Evelyn the words that spring to mind are generosity, patience, warmth, good humour, understanding, and above all kindness. In spite of much provocation on occasions, I never — well, hardly ever! — saw her ruffled or cross. We all miss her so much at Cokethorpe, and yet I still feel she is very much a part of the place. She always receives a warm welcome on her visits, and so I do not say goodbye — merely a very big Thank-you.

D. F. G.

MR. H. H. BARKER

We were very sad to say goodbye to Mr. Barker at the end of the Summer Term. 'Peter', as he was always known to members of Common Room, came to Cokethorpe in the summer of 1980 to teach Physics as a 'stop gap' between the departure of Mr. Jolly and the arrival of Mr. Gentry the following September. He had then just retired from a long and distinguished career as Head of Science at Wood Green School.

By the end of that summer term, just as we were due to say goodbye to Peter, we found that he had become totally indispensable — and so he stayed on on a part-time basis to teach Practical Science, run the photography club, and do a host of other things.

Although one often had to be very quick on the uptake in order to appreciate Peter's sense of humour, his enormous enthusiasm was always completely evident. His relations with senior boys — who loved the 'A' level Physics practicals which often used a certain amount of home-made equipment — were always particularly good. What he will be especially remembered for is the running of 'O' level

and C.S.E. courses in photography — courses which yielded such wonderful results for the displays on Open Day, just as his Physics lessons produced outstanding exhibits for the Oxford Science Fairs of 1981 and '82.

How on earth are we going to manage without him when it comes to setting up the next Creative Hobbies exhibition, or simply the decorations in Hall for the Christmas Dinner? — for it is Peter who has automatically done these things in recent years.

I imagine that few people know that in his youth Peter was an athlete — a middle-distance runner who very nearly ran in the race in which Roger Bannister broke the 4 minute barrier for the mile at White City. Even now he still swims once a week, acts as Secretary for the Witney Camera Club, and regularly lectures to the Oxon Branch of the Association of Science Teachers.

Although he has finally decided to retire from Cokethorpe, we would like him to know that he will always receive a warm welcome here.

P. J. G.

MR. JOHN WHITE

John White, who has retired as Woodwork Instructor, came to Cokethorpe from Cothill Prep. School, where he was on the maintenance staff. Although he was initially appointed to the maintenance side here, he was soon switched to the arts and crafts staff as Woodwork Instructor, a position in which he had an inspiring effect on dozens of boys who were thereby enabled to submit carpentry exhibits of great variety and a very high standard for the annual Creative Hobbies competition. The new aviary, which has already been the subject of an article in a national magazine by the President of the Junior Bird League, is a fitting reminder of his expertise and dedication. We wish John well in his retirement, but happily he will still continue to come to Cokethorpe on some Sunday afternoons to help with the woodturning, and, of course, to supervise the inmates of the aviary.

MR. SIMON GODDARD

Mr. Goddard retired as Judo Coach at the end of the Summer Term. We are very grateful to him for his tireless and loyal service to the school over the last five years and he leaves us with warm good wishes.

BOYS

J. W. ABBOTT (1981, Harcourt) Upper 6th. Deputy Head of School; Head of House. 1st XV; Vice-Captain of 1st XI (soccer) and 1st XI (cricket). School Colours for rugby and cricket; House Colours for cross-country and soccer. Fielding Cup; 5th Form English Literature and History Prizes; 6th Form History Prize. School play; three House plays; House debating team, two years.

B. B. AKANDE (1979, Swift) Upper 6th. Head of School; Head of House. Captain of 1st XV; Captain and holder of most wickets for 1st XI (cricket); Vice-Captain of 1st XI (soccer). School Colours for rugby, soccer and cricket; House Colours for cross-country and athletics. All Rounders Cup; Bowling Cup; Fielding Cup. School play; 1985; two House plays; House debating team. Headmaster's Prize; *Peacock* Prize. C. of E. sacristan for three years.

O. O. AKANDE (1982, Swift) 5A. House Prefect. Captain, U.16 XV; 1st XV; 1st XI (soccer) and 1st XI (cricket). Half-Colours for rugby; House Colours for soccer, cricket and athletics. County record holder for U.17 long jump.

J. D. BARNES (1982, Swift) 5A. U.15 XI (soccer) and U.16 XV. Acting Prize, 1985. House debating team. Grade 8 in Effective Speaking.

E. J. F. BARNES (1982, Swift) 5B. U.16 XV; 1st XI (soccer) and 1st XI (cricket). House Colours for cross-country, road relay, soccer, rugby and cricket. Badminton Cup. L/Cpl. in A.C.F. Green belt, judo.

I. BAYARRI (1982, Harcourt) 5B. House Prefect. Joint Vice-Captain of Boats; Senior IVs (Junior Ball Cup); 1st XV. School Colours for rowing; House Colours for cross-country. Peacock Sculls Cup for Open Event. Competed in U.17 cross-country championships. House Play.

N. J. BOGGON (1981, Swift) Remove. Photography Prize; two House plays.

S. J. BOGGON (1981, Swift) Upper 6th. School Prefect; Deputy Head of House. Captain of Tennis; 1st XV; 2nd XI (soccer); U.15 XI (cricket). School Colours for rugby; House Colours for soccer, cricket, cross-country and athletics. Photography Prize; 5th Form Chemistry Prize. House play. Two merits in Effective Speaking. C. of E. sacristan for two years.

T. J. BOMFORD (1983, Harcourt) Form 2. J.14 sculls. House Colours for rowing and cross-country. Declamations Prize.

P. S. BROOKER (1982, Swift) 5B. 1st XV; J.16 rowing. Half-Colours for rugby. 4B Form Prize. School play; House play. Junior brown belt.

J. L. CLARK (1982, Queen Anne) 5B.

A. COLLIER (1984, Queen Anne) 3B.

D. E. J. FARLEY (1983, Swift) Upper 6th. House Prefect. 1st XI (soccer). House Colours for soccer, cross-country, shooting. 6th Form Physics Prize; shared Art Prize in Creative Hobbies competition.

D. J. J. FENTON (1981, Swift) Remove. School Prefect; Deputy Head of House. Captain of Boats; Rowing Colours; House Colours for rugby and athletics. Wyvern Shield for clay-pigeon shooting. 5th Form British Constitution Prize; Grade 8 in Effective Speaking. Top of the Form team. Orange belt, judo.

M. HOWLAND (1982, Harcourt) 5B. House Prefect. 1st XV; 1st XI (soccer). Half-Colours for rugby and shooting; House Colours for soccer and athletics. L/Cpl. in A.C.F.; A.C.F. County record holder for the 400 m.

B. G. HUMPHREY (1980, Harcourt) Upper 6th. School Prefect; Deputy Head of House. Captain, 1st XI (soccer); Vice-Captain of 1st XV; 1st XI (cricket). School Colours for rugby and soccer; House Colours for cricket, tennis and athletics. 3rd Form Prize; 4th Form Prize; 5th Form Geography and Biology Prizes; 6th Form Geography and Biology Prizes. House play.

P. T. LONGBOTHAM (1982, Queen Anne) 5A.

H. A. MAKTABI (1981, Swift) 5B.

M. D. MCGILLYCUDDY (1984, Swift) 5B. U.15 XV. School Play.

K. W. McLOUGHLIN (1982, Harcourt) Form 2. U.13 XI (cricket); U.14 XI (soccer). School play.

P. T. NORMAN (1982, Queen Anne) Remove. School Prefect; Head of House. 1st XI (soccer); 1st XI (cricket). School Colours for cricket; House Colours for soccer and rugby. Photography Prize.

J. S. PEACOCK (1984, Harcourt) 3B.

D. C. J. PINNELL (1983, Harcourt), 4B.

A. A. PURDUE (1981, Swift) Remove. House Prefect. 1st XV. House Colours for athletics and rifle-shooting. House play.

G. T. ROBERTS (1982, Queen Anne) 5B. U.14 XV. House Colours for athletics. Two merits in Effective Speaking.

M. G. SAMKIN (1983, Swift) 5A. U.15 XV; 1st IV; Cross-Country team. School Colours for cross-country; House Colours for rowing; 5th Form French Prize. Won North Oxon Cross-Country championships, and participated in the National Cross-Country championships.

S. R. SMITH (1981, Harcourt) Upper 6th. School Prefect. 1st XV; 1st XI (cricket); 2nd XI (soccer). School Colours for rugby; House Colours for cross-country. 5th Form Physics Prize. House play; House debating team.

T. L. SYDENHAM (1982, Swift) 5A.

T. P. WALKER (1982, Queen Anne) 5A.

D. F. N. de M. WOODLEY (1982, Queen Anne) 5A. Junior Cullen Debating Prize; 3rd Form Declamations Prize; shared Art Prize in Creative Hobbies competition. School plays; House plays.

SALVETE STAFF

Mr. E. J. Fenton joined the resident staff this term. He was educated at the Royal Grammar School, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and took a degree in Theology at King's College, London. He has just completed his P.G.C.E. at Magdalene College, Cambridge. Mr. Fenton will teach R.K. throughout the school and also some science, and will assist with the coaching of rowing.

Mr. T. Lawry joined the staff this term to take over boat maintenance and assist with the coaching of rowing. He was educated at Bedford Modern School, and gained experience in boat building and repair skills during three years with Cambridge Racing Craft. He comes to us after four years service in the Royal Marines, and will also be assisting Mr. Stark with the A.C.F. and in the gym.

BOYS

The following New Boys entered the School in January 1985:

E. Bailey, (*Matthew Arnold School, Oxford*); M. Barnes, (*Kinloss School, Marchwood, Southampton*); D. Ogunlami, (*International School, Ibadan, Nigeria*); J. Mwenewanda, (*Primary School, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania*); D. Morrison, (*St. Edmunds, Canterbury*); A. Morrison, (*St. Edmunds, Canterbury*).

And in April 1985:

A. Illman, (*Oxford School*); R. Oldham, (*Burford School*); A. Gbaja-Biamila, (*Newlands School, Seaford, Sussex*); A. Shorrocks, (*Burford School*).

And in September 1985:

S. Adewole, (*St. Lawrence College Junior School, Ramsgate*); C. Alderton, (*Ashfold School, Aylesbury*); R. Alexander, (*St. Thomas More, Kidlington, Oxon*); A. Baylis, (*Rushmoor School, Bedford*); A. Berwitz, (*St. Anthony's, Hampstead*); N. Bingham, (*Burford County Primary*); J. Blackwell (*Brynteg Comp., Bridgend*); J. Brown, (*Dragon School, Oxford*); R. Browning, (*St. John's School, Sidmouth*); E. Casey, (*Chilton Edge School, Sonning Common*); N. Chowdury, (*Brown's Tutorial, Oxford*); D. Dona, (*Christ Church Cath. School, Oxford*); N. Davey, (*John Mason Comp., Abingdon*); M. Ellerton, (*Abbot Beyne, Burton on Trent*); R. Ellison, (*Becketts, Great Missenden*); M. Featherstone, (*Moor Park, Ludlow*); A. Forster (*Littlemead School, Chichester*); R. Henderson, (*Wicken Park School, Milton Keynes*); I. Howells, (*North Oxford Prep. School*); J. Horada, (*Durston House, Ealing*); J. Jeffs, (*Corona Academy, Hammersmith*); S. Jewell (*Josca's, Frilford Heath*); G. Lisk, (*British Independent Prep. School, Monrovia, Liberia*); F. Kamal, (*St. Paul's English High School, Karachi*); V. Kehoe, (*The Tutorial, Windsor*); S. Keith-Berkley, (*Licensed Victuallers School, Slough*); T. Liao, (*Dover College Junior School*); J. Man, (*Notre Dame College, Hong Kong*); J. North, (*Summertown Middle School, Oxford*); M. Orebiyi, (*Ashfold School, Aylesbury*); J.-L. Pastor, (*Colegio Olimar, Valencia, Spain*); J. Penny, (*Dragon School, Oxford*); J. Pether, (*Burford Middle School*); P. Pether, (*Burford Primary School*); R. Pye, (*North Oxford Prep. School*); S. Robertson (*Spratton Hall, Northampton*); D. Roscoe, (*St. Hugh's School, Carswell*); A. Ross, (*North Leigh Primary*); M. Saati, (*Haileybury Junior School, Windsor*); P. Scriven, (*Buckland Primary School*); M. Searson, (*Burford Primary School*); J. Shearing, (*Kingsbury Hill House School, Marlborough*); M. Smith, (*Overthorpe School, Banbury*); C. Whitwell (*Orwell Park School, Ipswich*).

PATER FAMILIAS

It is of interest to note that A. J. Baylis, whose father was at Cokethorpe from 1959 to 1962, is the first Old Boy's son to enter the school.



The Bursar: N. J. Mills, Esq.

THE FIRST 365 DAYS

Lewis Carroll in his fantasy *Through the Looking Glass* wrote — “Now, *here*, you see it takes all the running *you* can do, to keep in the same place. If you want to get somewhere else, you must run twice as fast”. How much truth is in those words I am only now discovering, a year after my arrival at Cokethorpe.

Having received a boarding School education in rural Somerset, albeit over twenty years ago, and having held Bursarial Posts for nearly ten years, I noticed that the decorative state of Cokethorpe in the late summer of 1984 looked a little frayed at the edges, and a coat of paint was long overdue in many places. However, this was quickly rectified by a major re-organisation of the Maintenance Staff and the appointment of a full-time professional decorator. Together with the use of contracted labour, this has made such a difference to the look of the fabric in the last twelve months.

One problem that any new Bursar would inherit was one that had been with the house in Cokethorpe Park long before the arrival of the School in 1957, and one that many an Old Boy who has slept on the top floor can testify to — the question of the leaking roof. Even as I write, work is well underway to replace the roof completely, restore the ballustrades, and replace the ill-fitting window frames. The total estimated cost of all this activity is nearly £ $\frac{1}{4}$ million. The School has been very lucky in obtaining a grant from the Government-sponsored English Heritage, which will pay a large part of the total bill.

One of the conditions of receiving financial help from English Heritage will be that from next year the grounds, buildings and history of the house must be available to the public during certain days of the School holidays. In 1986 it will be 900 years since the church at Cokethorpe got its first mention in the Domesday Book, and with help from the Old Boys Society, restoration work is now underway on the stained glass windows and particularly on the main window above the altar. It is therefore very fitting that Cokethorpe will be the subject of English Tourist Board publications, although there will *not* be car stickers to rival “I have seen the Lions of Woburn”, reading “I have seen the Boys of Cokethorpe”!

Whilst there has been great activity with decorating, part of the old Chemistry Lab has become a Laundry, not only providing a quicker and more efficient service, but cutting thousands of pounds off the annual Laundry Expenditure Account — money to be re-invested in other quarters within the School. It would have been easy for anyone to spend, without limitations, money to improve facilities; but my brief was to make the books balance and one of my early decisions was that, where it was at all possible, any large increase in expenditure should be compensated for by similar savings elsewhere.

Last term saw one of the old stables being converted into a small studio where boys can practice

with their musical instruments. At the other end of the block the Rifle Range was repaired and extended. During the Summer holidays restoration work was undertaken on the panelling in the Corinthian Room. This gave me particular satisfaction, as I feel that something which reputedly dates from Queen Anne must be worth preserving.

To pay for all our development it seemed sensible to me that our residential facilities should be put to use for more than thirty-six weeks of the year, and so, with the blessing of the School Governors, a programme has been started to encourage groups to stay at Cokethorpe during the holidays. Summer 1985, although having restrictions with the roof repair, saw several weeks with the school occupied. Plans are in hand already, in this respect, for the Easter and Summer holidays of 1986.

There is already talk of a School Appeal to extend the Common Room Block and build two Squash Courts, and plans are being laid for a much needed new toilet/bathroom complex. A larger classroom has appeared next to the changing rooms, whilst the new building for the teaching of Car Mechanics is quite impressive.

Bricks and mortar are important to any School Bursar, but so are people. The ability to communicate right across the spectrum, from the Board of Governors to the part-time ancillary staff, is paramount to success. I am, I hope, succeeding in this — and that Catering, Domestic and Maintenance Staff will feel inspired by the many changes that are taking place. My first impressions of a loyal conscientious workforce within these departments have proved to be correct, and Cokethorpe is indeed fortunate in this.

What of the disappointments of the past year? I have only one lasting complaint and, hopefully, that will improve as time goes on. All I will say is that each fire extinguisher which is let off as a prank, each window pane or piece of furniture broken by carelessness, are obstacles that slow up the process of improving conditions; time and money being wasted "to keep in the same place".

If this is the present, what of the future? When I came to Cokethorpe I made targets of what I wished to see achieved in the non-academic administration of the School within three years. Rather than say we are going to reach those targets in two, standing back and appraising the first twelve months, I would say, because of the support and the enthusiasm of people around me, those targets have now been raised much higher for the remaining two years.

N. J. M.

THE ANGLICAN CHAPEL

Once again I would like to thank the Reverend David Lane who drives here from Langford nearly every Sunday to take our Sung Communion service. When one remembers that he also has three or four other Services to take each Sunday in his scattered Parishes we are all the more grateful for his devotion — and it takes several feet of snow to stop him coming! On those Sundays when Mr. Lane is unable to come we normally have Compline at 9.00 o'clock in the evening in the Corinthian Room — this short service is becoming very popular.

The Annual Confirmation was conducted (for the fourth time in the last six years) by Bishop Bulley who is very popular here. We are very grateful to the Reverend James McCloghry, Vicar of Standlake, for preparing our candidates.

The Old Boys Society have very generously offered to pay for the repair of the broken Stained Glass Windows and work has already started on the East Window. Also the valuable ancient chained books have been repaired and are now conspicuous in a special glass fronted cabinet in the Church. We are still having problems with the roof and one of the walls and it is obvious that more restoration is going to be needed in the near future.

May I, as usual, express my gratitude to those ladies who every week decorate the Church so beautifully with flowers, and to the boys who help to prepare for the Services.

D. F. G.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPEL

This year we have been fortunate in being able to have Mass celebrated every Sunday in our Chapel and we are very grateful to Father Ricken and Father Dawber (and other Priests) from Campion Hall for what they have done for us. I would also like to thank Group Captain and Mrs. Vaughan-Fowler for fetching the Priests every Sunday from Campion Hall. It is always a pleasure to see members of their family at Mass with them.

Once again we have been most grateful to Father Taylor, Parish Priest at Witney, for coming every Monday to give the boys Religious Instruction.

Finally our thanks to Mrs. Goldsmith for providing the flowers each week.

D. F. G.

Comment in an English essay on Morning Prayers:

"We were all hoping for a long prayer that morning, so that, hopefully, we could read about King Henry VIII while the Headmaster was talking about King David ..."

(Anon!)

SWIFT HOUSE REPORT

Swift started off the new year with great enthusiasm by retaining the Rugby Cup. A very young Queen Anne XV was beaten comprehensively 44-0 in a forty minute game played in the best of spirits by both houses. The match against Harcourt was closer but Swift still won convincingly 28-3. Unfortunately this victory was marred by one of our props who chose to argue with members of his own side, thus forfeiting his House Colours. Although we finished level with Harcourt on points in the Seven-a-side they were victorious due to their superior juniors who ran in numerous tries. Fady Dona ("Henry VII") and Neil Pineo ("Computers") represented the House in the Mastermind Competition, but although they both did well on their chosen subjects they slipped up on General Knowledge. Queen Anne won Creative Hobbies once again but our display was well organised by Dominic Farley, ably assisted by Charles Turner, David Smith and Mark Hues. However we ran away with the Recommendations Cup once again to make up for any disappointment. The House plays again proved to be great fun; Swift's offering, "Murder at Hamlet Hall" was directed by an old boy of the House, Richard Banham, and was performed well considering the limited time available for rehearsal. Unfortunately David Fenton left a page of his script backstage which threw the whole cast for a while but Dona and Ben Goad were impressive in the major roles, learning their lines to perfection while Bamikole Akande and Stephen Boggon displayed previously unexposed talents as duellists!

The Lent Term proved to be equally entertaining. Swift was determined to win the soccer again, captained by Idriss Badawi. The first match was played in the snow against Queen Anne but our superior power and finishing proved too much for them in a 7-3 victory. The crunch match was always going to be Swift v. Harcourt, the "auld enemy". Harcourt pulled back from 2-0 down to two all, but poor Jeremy Abbott's penalty miss did not help their cause. Harcourt, a team of inspiration when all their exciting talents flow, were set back on their heels and finally overwhelmed 4-2 by the powerful Swift team. This year we came third in the cross-country with too many heavyweights at the tail of the field — all of whom counted. Matthew Samkin came second to his keen rival Alistair Picton-Warlow for the second year running, but both were selected for Oxfordshire and competed in the National Championships before the end of term. However we won the Road Relay easily with a talented team, all seven of whom had finished in the top twelve in the School cross-country. To crown his fine season team captain Matthew Samkin produced a blistering inward leg to bring home the baton. Unfortunately we could only manage second place in the Six-a-side football, (those Harcourt Juniors again!), but we nearly snatched the Music Cup from cultured Queen Anne. Great credit went

to Mark Holmes for his solo singing, to Trevor Wright for his plucky violin playing, to Tim Sydenham and George Haworth on guitar and of course to the famous "House Prefects" as the Drunken Sailors. Debating went to Queen Anne, rather to Harcourt's surprise, although both houses proved too strong for us, but we won Recommendations convincingly again thanks to a united House effort. One moment of high humour featured the adventures of James Mwenewanda in London during the second Exeat. Next term's Head of House Ben Goad will dine off this story in years to come but at the time he must have been thinking murderous thoughts.

The long "wet summer" began well with Swift retaining the Cricket Cup. We played Harcourt on a sticky wicket, but the captain played an anchor role scoring 30 not out out of a 90-6 in 40 overs. This proved to be good enough, for Harcourt were bowled out for 42 despite some courageous resistance from the Vice-Captain of Cricket. Swift enjoyed a wider margin of victory over Queen Anne. Bamikole Akande scored 103 not out, his maiden "ton" at Cokethorpe, Spicer performed the hat trick, while Jackson also captured three wickets. On Open Day we retained the Six-a-side thanks to steady bowling from Oladapo Akande and useful contributions with the bat from Spicer and Jackson. In the afternoon both Swift Fours triumphed in the Inter-House rowing regatta. The senior crew consisted of Samkin, Goad, Fergusson and Anthony Hues with Mercer coxing, while the junior crew was made up of Cope, Goslin, David Smith and Robin Price with Turner coxing. Goslin also won the U.15 sculls in very difficult conditions but Kentish sank on the way to the start — obviously a trainee Oxbridge oarsman. Without our Captain of Tennis, Tim Sydenham, we knew we would be in trouble this year, but we did not go down without a fight, Howe and Turner beating Queen Anne in three sets. We did not fare so well in Athletics either, although our seniors were clearly dominant, but we held on to Recommendations by one point — a near thing.

On behalf of the House I should like to say goodbye to our "ever-green" House Tutor Mr. J. W. Stark, (unfortunately Queen Anne keep stealing "Swiftly" trained masters) and wish him good luck in his new post. I would also like to thank my right hand man Stephen Boggon for his moral support in times of peril. We would both like to thank Mr. Green for our Swift education and wish him every success with the House in the years to come. Without the efforts of the whole house the successes which we have enjoyed this year would not have been possible and I am very happy to have had such a good year before leaving.

B. B. Akande



La chute des feuilles: Pencil study from Millet by T. S. Goslin.

HARCOURT HOUSE REPORT

Despite the fact that Harcourt House has little in the way of silverware to its name this year, it has still been a more successful year than one may suppose. The fact that we have won fewer of the sporting cups can be attributed more to a shortage of sporting seniors rather than any lack of effort. Indeed, the attitude of Harcourt members towards House competition has been as good as I have ever known it.

The Michaelmas term started brightly enough with a resounding 28-0 win over Queen Anne in the House rugby. However, if the first battle was won, the war certainly was not and we fell foul to Swift 28-3. To the credit of the House, we bounced back to win the Seven-a-side with a magnificent and continuous stream of tries from the juniors. For their efforts the entire team — Cole, Collett, Endeley, Harbour, Ng, Okeke and Shorrock I — were justly awarded their House Colours. The seniors also played their part, defeating Queen Anne and mounting their own 'charge of the light brigade' into the Swift heavy guns, restricting them to only 4 points. Mr. James' coaching was much appreciated!

In the Arts and Crafts exhibition at the end of term Harcourt turned out an impressive display. Harbour carried off the Art prize with his distinctive painting style and interesting prints, while Collett's creative and carefully executed ceramics took the Pottery prize. The younger members of the House, who contributed a prodigious number of artifacts made in the wood-turning shop, must not be forgotten. On the House drama side we have gone from strength to strength. The House play was an undoubted success. Written and produced by Abbott, who also acted, it was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience. Whilst the whole cast was very good, special credit must go to Smith I, who played the largest role and was word perfect, and to Price II, who stole the show with one dramatic collapse. Javed's entrance 'dressed to kill' also brought the house down. Our grateful thanks go to Mrs. Ferris, who supplied the superb costumes — particularly Javed's turban.

Like Michaelmas, the Lent term started well when we swept to victory in the cross-country. This year we managed to obtain fewer places in the top twenty, but we packed the middle order and this resulted in a fine win. Hearty congratulations go to Picton-Warlow on his second overall win in this event and for competing in the National Cross-Country championships. Many in the middle order were awarded their House Colours. Our lack of runners in the top twenty counted against us in the Road Relay and this cup was prised from us by Swift after three years. On the running front, the House has watched with pleasure and admiration the success of Howland and Pitt in the National Running championships.

The former winning the 400 m. and the latter running his personal best in the 1500 m. To move on to football, our match versus Swift took a cruel twist of fate at a crucial position. A missed penalty let Swift off the hook and they ended up as 4-2 winners. However, our dismay at this defeat was taken out on Queen Anne, whom we defeated 6-0. Here special mention must go to our goal-keeper, Ng, who in spite of his small stature flung himself about the goal mouth with effective abandon. For me this performance typified the attitude which has been the hallmark of our sporting performances this year, particularly from the junior end of the House. Thanks to the skill and enthusiasm of these same juniors, Harcourt once again rallied and won the football Six-a-side.

The House was also the winner of the new Mastermind competition. Our strong team consisted of Shorrock I, with the highest score in the specialist round, and Edwards, who surprised more than a few people with his knowledge of space and won the individual Mastermind prize. We never seem to be in good voice for the Music competition and this year was no exception, although a number of instrumentalists made their willing contributions. There were some very conscientiously prepared and well-delivered speeches from our debating team, ably organised by Smith I, but we were narrowly defeated in this competition.

To some extent the Summer term was also a story of narrow defeats, although we did end up with a notable success. In the Cricket, both matches were lost due to weak batting and the cricket Sixes were also lost, after defeating Queen Anne in the first match and then collapsing against Swift, making any chance of recovery impossible. By far the best batting performance came from Cole against Queen Anne in the second House match when, with a miserly total on the board, he promptly smashed the bowling to the four corners of the pitch. Going for one of the fastest 50s in Cokethorpe history, he ran out of partners! In the rowing, too, we were pipped at the bell, despite successes in the sculls by Bayarri and Bomford, who were both awarded their House Colours. There was a good turn out all round for the standards this year with Cole, Endeley, Gbaja-Biamila, Okeke, Pitt and Smith II putting in tremendous individual performances. At the end of the term, though we were delighted to win the tennis and, on the very last day of term, the Inter-House sports for the first time in a number of years. Endeley is to be congratulated for setting a new record in the junior high jump at 1.65 metres. On the previous day in the final of the senior high jump Jones I set a new record only to have it superseded at once by the eventual winner.

We would like to wish all the leavers good luck for the future and to extend our thanks to the School Prefects, Humphrey, Jones I and Smith I and all the House Prefects for their invaluable help in the smooth running and discipline of the House. I look on this past year as a year of hope for the future. Our juniors will soon be seniors and, if not next year, then certainly the year after, I can see Harcourt sweeping the board again as we did two years ago. This year it has been reassuring to see that the old Harcourt spirit and determination has not faded. Watch Harcourt next year, because in the words of a famous American, "you ain't seen nothin' yet".

J. W. Abbott

QUEEN ANNE HOUSE REPORT

At the start of the Michaelmas Term, we were looking forward to a successful rugger season with fresh blood in the House Senior XV. Under the excellent instruction of J. P. W. and R. G. T. we raised our standards and put up some good performances in the 7-a-side and 15-a-side competitions against more experienced players. It was impressive to see so many youngsters braving it in the senior side, in particular M. Vernon, a 3rd former. House colours were awarded to P. Norman, D. Pinnell, E. Imonioro, D. Tang, D. Demner and M. Vernon. In the new 'Mastermind' Competition Queen Anne was well represented — J. Reeve and D. Jones doing well, though nerves on the night prevented the favourite, Reeve, from winning (the questions too, on Computing, were very hard).

The House managed, through a fine all round effort, to carry off the Creative Hobbies Competition once again, some notable individual contributions being made by D. Woodley (Painting), P. Norman (Photography), and S. Pedoe (Pottery). G. Roberts and D. Law were most helpful in setting up the display and one will never forget the silhouettes, an idea of Mr. Barker's.

Lent began with the House coming 2nd in the Inter-House Cross Country; we have some very good runners, Russ, Messenger, Ogborn, Walker and Pedoe all coming in the first 20. J. Russ also ran the 3rd fastest time in his leg of the Road Relay. In the Soccer competition we played to a high standard, again with many juniors in the team, and though losing we fought well in the snow. Colours were awarded to Kibble, Imonioro, Norman, Tang, Sitinas, Wariebi, Knight, Bryan and Vernon. The

Music Competition was again won by the House in another most enjoyable competition. We had some good singing groups and good individual instrumentalists. The outstanding performance and winner of the overall music prize was A. Venman for his beautiful rendition of "Brideshead Revisited". Other musicians of promise were I. Kershaw, T. Walker and the 4th form group of singers (Lavender, Pinnell, Tang and Jones) were very professional and entertaining.

The House debating competition was also won by Queen Anne in this (Lent) term, capably undertaken by Walker and Russ, and Woodley and Jones. All in all it was a successful term for the House, finished by a most enjoyable play written by T. Walker. This gave a rising young star and newcomer to the School, C. Stobo, a chance to introduce himself, something he did with much aplomb.

The Summer term again saw an enthusiastic House trying their best in all competitions. In the cricket we beat Harcourt convincingly but lost to Swift, so were runners-up, an improvement on past years. It was nice to see Queen Anne score 138 for 8 against Harcourt, a very high score in a 30 over match. Cricket colours were awarded to P. Norman, J. Reeve, S. Johnson, J. Russ and N. James. The House rowing team did not fare so well, though the Junior 4 were only narrowly beaten in the final on Open Day; they were D. Law, N. Anderson, I. Kershaw and J. Bryan, coxed by J. Wetherill. The House tennis competition was well contested and Queen Anne has some outstanding players; S. Johnson, N. Sitinas, P. Norman and D. Pinnell all acquitted themselves well in this competition, N. Sitinas winning the Junior Singles competition.

It was a pleasure to see Queen Anne win the Athletics Standards competition, an event in which everyone can make a contribution. We have some exceptional athletes and many boys were awarded House colours in this section: D. Pinnell, D. Tang, T. Messenger and T. Imonioro are a few of many names which could be mentioned here. Ted and Toby in fact set new school records, Ted in Senior High Jump, Toby in Junior Javelin, Junior Discus and Junior 100m. The House tried very hard to win on Sports day and lost by 2 points to Harcourt. A tremendous effort from all who took part and we were all left wondering what might have happened if that baton had not been dropped in the 4 x 100m relay race.

At the end of another successful year for the House, we are all very sorry to see Mr. A. Gentry, Housemaster for 3 years, leaving the House, but he has been appointed Head of Science here at Cokethorpe. We all wish to thank him for his help and encouragement over the years, though we all wish Mr. J. Stark, who is taking over next year, best wishes in his new position.

P. T. Norman

PRIZES

(Presented by the Headmaster of Abingdon)

Headmaster's Prize:	B. B. Akande
Open Art Prize:	S. J. Harbour & N. M. Pineo
Junior Debating Prize:	D. O. Jones & M. G. Howe
Music Prize:	A. P. Venman
Junior Music Prize:	R. M. Price
Photography Prize:	P. T. Norman
Declamations:	
4th Form:	D. O. Jones
3rd Form:	M. J. Holmes
2nd Form:	T. J. Bomford
1st Form:	J. B. Price
6th Form:	
History Prize:	J. W. Abbott
Geography Prize:	B. G. Humphrey
Physics Prize:	D. E. J. Farley
Biology Prize:	B. G. Humphrey
5th Form:	
English Prize:	J. M. Reeve
History Prize:	T. L. Sydenham
Classical Studies Prize:	E. E. Imonioro
British Constitution Prize:	A. P. Hues
French Prize:	M. G. Samkin
Geography Prize:	A. P. Hues
Mathematics Prize:	F. Y. M. Chan & J. M. Reeve
Physics Prize:	J. M. Reeve
Biology Prize:	J. M. Reeve & J. D. Russ
Form Prizes:	
4A:	D. O. Jones
4B:	N. Sitinas
3A:	J. S. Shorrocks & M. R. Pye
3B:	S. R. C. Lowe & A. M. Wariebi
2:	H. Mellowship
1:	E. J. T. Reynolds



Mr. Stark announcing results on Sports Day.



The Battalion A.C.F. Athletics Cup, retained by Cokethorpe for a year.

CUPS

(Presented by The Headmaster)

Michaelmas Term 1984

Rugby Football:	Swift
Creative Hobbies:	Queen Anne
Recommendations:	Swift

Lent Term 1985

Rugby Sevens:	Harcourt
Soccer:	Swift
Soccer Sixes:	Harcourt
Cross Country:	Harcourt
Individual Cross Country:	A. R. Picton-Warlow
Road Relay:	Swift
Inter-House Music:	Queen Anne
Inter-House Debating:	Queen Anne
Mastermind:	S. J. Edwards
Mastermind Team:	Harcourt
Recommendations:	Swift

Summer Term 1985

Cricket:	Swift
Cricket six-a-sides:	Swift
Batting:	M. J. Spicer
All Rounders:	B. B. Akande
Bowling:	B. B. Akande
Fielding:	S. J. Smith
Rowing:	Swift
Senior IV:	Swift
Junior IV:	Swift
Open Sculls:	I. Bayarri
Junior 15 Sculls:	T. S. Goslin
Junior 14 Sculls:	T. J. Bomford
Junior 13 Sculls:	T. J. Bomford
Tennis:	Harcourt
Individual Tennis:	S. J. Smith
Rifle Shooting:	Queen Anne
Clay Pigeon Shooting:	M. Glanville
Davis Cup:	P. P. Marshall
Athletics Standards:	Queen Anne
Athletics Sports:	Harcourt
Recommendations:	Swift

THE HOUSE PLAYS

The House plays were held on the evening of Tuesday, 11th December. A large number of boys and parents filled the gym, and waited with interest to see if the plays would be as enjoyable as those of the previous year. They were not to be disappointed, and went away later having seen three most entertaining productions.

By coincidence two of the plays involved the characters of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, although in rather different ways. Harcourt's play was well-rehearsed, with witty dialogue and as colourful characterisation as one could wish for. We were treated to uncouth servants, the household of one Count Vincentio de Campari (a Spanish aristocrat whose wife, aided by various variously-flawed accomplices, had stolen her husband's jewels), and a suitably Capone-style gangster and his henchmen. Jeremy Abbott and Simon Smith as the bungling "Barratt" Holmes and Dr. Watson were able to fit in many mocking comments in a very natural repartee throughout the play.

Swift's play was the most ambitious production of the three. The plot revolved around the comic inability and increasing self-doubt displayed by the second Holmes (played excellently by Fady Dona, who, though only in the 4th Form, was on stage almost throughout the play) as the cast are murdered all around him. The action took place in a house where a production of *Hamlet* was being rehearsed. Considering the great complexity of the script there were very few noticeable errors and a number of special effects were well executed, as were the humorous episodes.

Finally, Queen Anne put on a romp entitled "Goldilocks and the Five Punks", in which Goldie played jauntily by Julian Russ, went through a parody of the original story involving a visit to the dwellings of the punks and some Cokethorpe Rastafarians. The play was composed of a succession of quick, short scenes and included the use of an orator to explain the frenzied and extremely amusing action. Like the Harcourt play, it included a well-staged fight. The happy ending tried to draw attention to our views about the way people dress.

All the plays were well received by the audience, who appreciated the time and effort that had been put into them by all concerned, especially since they were put on immediately after the school exams. The programmes produced by each House were also very pleasing.

R. G. T.

MASTERMIND

During the Lent Term, in place of the usual 'Top of the Form' competition, it was decided to hold a *Mastermind* contest instead. There were six finalists in all, two from each House: Simon Edwards and Jonathan Shorrock (Harcourt); Jonathan Reeve and Daniel Jones (Queen Anne); and Fady Dona and Neil Pineo (Swift). Two prizes were awarded: one for the overall Mastermind, the other for the winning House.

Reeve and Pineo both took Home Computing for their Special Subjects, while Edwards took as his The Exploration of Space, 1958-85. Shorrock chose Liverpool F.C. Dona and Jones both chose historical topics — The Life and reign of King Henry VII, and The Life and career of Franklin D. Roosevelt. Thanks go again to P. J. G., N. J. M., and H. H. B., for compiling the specialist rounds for Messrs. Dona, Shorrock and Edwards. M. P. H. did a splendid job with the two rounds of computing questions, and, in the case of Reeve, was rather hard put to it! M. C. provided the R.K. questions which were used in the General Knowledge rounds.

Mr. Cranham and Mr. White again acted as the question masters, asking the Special Subjects and the General Knowledge rounds alternately. The computer scoreboard operator (for which Reeve had written the programme) was Michael Stead, and P. J. R. acted (impartially as ever) as timekeeper.

As so often at Cokethorpe the Corinthian Room provided the *mise-en-scène*, and tremendous effort had been gone to recreate the setting and atmosphere so familiar from television, with lights and music (operated by Paul Norman), dais (courtesy of J. W. S.) and contestants' chair (none other than H.M.'s 'hot-seat'). From the moment the music came on, the lights dimmed, and the first contestant took his place, ('Your name, please?...') in the dreaded seat, it was generally agreed that this competition was far more fun than 'Top of the Form'.

The overall Mastermind was Stephen Edwards, with 23 points and 8 passes; and the winning House, Harcourt, with Edwards and Shorrock amassing 43 points between them. Our commiserations to the 'gallant losers', as Magnus M. would say; everyone performed extremely well, and we certainly hope to hold another contest this year.

P. J. C.

Sentence in a letter of apology from a 5th Former:

"Dear Sir, I write to apologise for the lack of my presents at 2.30 yesterday ..."

Rugby

1 ST XV RUGBY FOOTBALL REPORT

P9 W3 D1 L5 Points for 136 Points against 92

There were a great many changes in the 1st XV this season resulting in a very young and inexperienced side. Throughout the campaign the entire squad showed great conviction and indeed by the time the first match arrived they were also a very fit combination after many intensive fitness sessions. However, fate decreed that we were to lose our first game against John Mason School from Abingdon, the first time, incidentally, we had lost to them for a long time. It was a very closely fought match, with our captain Akande I leading by example with many exciting breaks throughout. However, despite some very spirited and gutsy performances by Picton-Warlow and Sam Smith in the back row in their first matches we narrowly lost the game 14-18, John Mason surviving a storming rally in the last few minutes.

Stung by this unexpected setback we were in a very determined mood when we played Larkmead in our next match and we were to be rewarded with one of the biggest wins the School 1st XV has ever achieved, 54-0! We scored many tries in appalling conditions, the rain was coming down in stair-rods, the best coming from Akande I, Jeremy Abbott, Cope and Smith II.

Confidence was now sky high for our next match against local arch-rivals, Henry Box. Our games against this side are usually very physical indeed. We began well with a neat try by Akande I, our gifted outside-half leaving defenders for dead as he weaved and side-stepped his way through to the line. The team then went from strength to strength and eventually won the match 32-3. One of the highlights of the match was an awesome, rampaging run by Boggon I through the middle of the field leaving a trail of carnage behind him as he scored under the posts!

The traditional, annual match against the Old Boys was next and it seems, sadly, that this might well be the last of these affairs because of various regulations brought in by the Rugby Football Union next season. These matches are always very testing and hard fought and this year's contest proved to be no exception. The older, heavier, more experienced opposition, once they had settled down after half an hour, generally controlled affairs and ran out winners 18-6 in a match full of exciting incident.

Mixed is the only way I can really describe the team's fortunes after half-term. Oratory was to prove a very hard match indeed as usual and some of our younger players did find themselves out of their depth, perhaps their confidence was shaken after the

Old Boys' match? We still found ourselves narrowly in the lead at the interval by 6 pts to 4, due to the very industrious and destructive work of the back row and a battling display by one of our props, Brooker. In deteriorating weather conditions the greater teamwork of the opposition put great pressure on us in a very tense finish earning Oratory a 14-6 victory.

One of the best tries of our season was scored in our next game against Shiplake. It was scored by Akande I, who up until this point had scored in every game this season. He broke free from tackles on our '22' and swerving in and out he ran the length of the field before touching down under the posts. Perhaps because of the excitement our chief coach, Mr. James, managed to slip a disc! He was unable to contribute any further and his vocal support was sorely missed, however Mr. Stark proved that it was not only the Welsh who have very powerful vocal chords! Despite all the touchline commotion, Cokethorpe kept their concentration and held on to win a hard-earned victory, one of the few we have had against Shiplake.

Our fixture list is full of difficult matches and our next match against Rendcomb is always very demanding. On this occasion we were in the unusual position of being bigger and heavier, if not older. It made no difference, however, as the team did not play well enough to overcome a well-drilled and mobile pack which produced excellent ball for a very skilful outside-half who dictated the course of the match and kept us on the defensive on our line for long periods with swift breaks and searching touch-kicks. We were lucky to come away only going down 14-0!

Our penultimate game was against our other local rivals, Woodgreen. This is usually a fairly comfortable victory for the 1st XV, but on this occasion the opposition were well organised and put up a great deal of resistance in the face of constant attacks and in fact the only reason that the final score remained 0-0 was thanks to a last minute try-saving tackle by Imonioro. Mr. James was not very pleased at all!!

Radley, our most prestigious match, was our last and we always raise our game for this one. Yet again it was a very closely fought affair with Cokethorpe's courageous efforts almost snatching victory, but for a whole host of tactical errors towards the end in the face of continuous pressure from Radley's disciplined pack, handing Radley the result 17-12.

(Continued on page 21)



*Some moments from
the House Matches*

Left: Goad leaping like a salmon against Queen Anne in order to secure good possession.

Below: A rather clumsy (and illegal!) tackle threatens Spicer's progress towards the try line.



olid scrummaging by Queen Anne on the Swift Line.



Akande calmly slots over another conversion despite Queen Anne's attempts to charge down the kick.



School House matches always attract keen interest.



Norman preparing to kick-off.



"Get your head in Wariebi!"



"Where's the ball?!"



Akande cutting a swathe through Queen Anne defence.

In conclusion the 1984 First XV season was certainly not one of our best, but by this token neither was it one of our worst. We were never beaten heavily, showed at all times tremendous guts and character and many of the younger players progressed in leaps and bounds, especially J. Reeve and S. Smith and this should stand them in good stead next season. I would like to thank Mr. James and Mr. Stark for preparing us with the most back-breaking, exhausting training I have ever experienced. Our thanks is also extended to Matron for supplying us with continually clean kit and to Mandy Smith from the kitchen for providing us with such excellent teas. I would like to wish next year's squad the best of luck in what promises to be a very full season with several fixtures against schools the side has never faced before.

B. G. Humphrey

UNDER 15 RUGBY REPORT

Although some fixtures were cancelled, it is nevertheless to the credit of this team that they were defeated only once during the season. The season started well with a reasonable performance against John Mason. This was a new fixture for the Colts and as it is often difficult to assess the strength of the Comprehensive Schools' sides we were relieved to earn a draw. The Wood Green game produced a spirited performance, and then came the match against Icknield School. This was another new fixture, and although it ended in a defeat the team played hard and acquitted themselves well.

After this the team really settled down, and the pack, which was heavier this year, worked well and won an increasing amount of ball. The backline was strengthened by the addition of two more experienced players, Samkin and Fergusson. The other backs were Jabez, Endeley and Messenger. Pinnell and Barnes were sound at half-back. There were no particular stars but they were all determined and effective runners.

We had a solid front row in Tang, Mercer and McGillycuddy. Tang distinguished himself in the loose and Mercer was particularly able as hooker. The other forwards, Demner, Goslin and Lavender all made a solid contribution.

The final match against St. Edward's — another new fixture — was perhaps the best performance of all, and the team worked hard to hang on to the lead.

Finally, a word of thanks to our coaches, Mr. Watts and Mr. R. Thompson. I wish the team the best of luck in the future.

D. C. J. Pinnell

UNDER 14 RUGBY REPORT

This year's U.14 team was a very strong one, in spite of the fact that twelve of the boys in the squad were new boys and one of us had not played rugby before. We played eight games, of which we won four, lost three, and drew the other.

The first game of the season was against Stowe. It was an interesting game because this was the first time we had played as a team, and although we drew 4-4 the result was quite pleasing. I say 'quite pleasing', because there was obviously some weakness in the scrum.

The Second game was against Larkmead when the team was excellently led by a very determined Captain in J. Shorrocks. He always kept us going and never gave us a chance to slacken. The two props, M. Vernon and Y. Badawi, both played very well and Badawi scored an encouraging try.

The third game was a disappointing one. Most of us were ill and the weather did not help at all. At the end of the first half we were winning, but the tide soon turned and we lost 4-30 in a game that we just wanted to forget!

The fourth game was against Millbrook. The team was very strong and we badly needed a win to get our determination back. Our scrum played very well but the most impressive part of the team was the three-quarters. Their movement was perfect. Their speed and the pattern in which they attacked was like the motion of a wave. F. Cole was the figurehead of the line, and he moved with such aggressiveness that the opposing team seemed to be afraid of him. He was well backed up by R. Okeke and J. Endeley.

The fifth and sixth games were both lost, but the seventh game against Kingham Hill was won with great zest. The last game was against Oakley Hall. In this game nearly all the players scored a try, and we will always remember when our little hooker M. Horton scored his first try.

I would like to thank all the players in the squad, especially our Captain. All the team would like to say thanks to our two reserves, M. Lydon and P. Marshall, for being so faithful at all times, but we must give our greatest thanks to Mr. Daniels and Mr. Gentry for coaching us so well. We look forward to the next season.

A. M. Wariebi

CROSS COUNTRY REPORT



*The English Schools Championships at Norwich:
Oxfordshire preparing to emerge from Trap 5.*

The weather in the Lent term flattered to deceive. At first it was chilly but reasonably dry and early practices for the School Cross Country run went smoothly enough. The race itself, held on January 25th was won in 30 mins. 41.34 secs. for the second year by A. Picton-Warlow whose raw strength took him ahead of his arch rival M. Samkin over the plough on the bottom half of the course, with Russ, Barns, Farley, Mercer, Edwards, Goslin, Messenger and Pitt filling the remaining top ten places. There were 13 more starters this year, making a field of 132 and of the nine non-runners, two were absent and two in the San. However this is mainly an Inter-House Competition and the Cup was won by Harcourt, (2661 points), from Queen Anne, (2825), with Swift, (2930), third. This was a very good effort, for Harcourt and Swift had only 43 starters each, while Queen Anne managed to get out no fewer than 46 of their members and were thus at a slight advantage being able to discard their last three finishers. Swift who were victorious in 1984 suffered badly from this numbers game for in spite of having 7 in the first 12, (and 18 in the first 40), they also had the last three to finish, four out of the final five and 11 out of the last 24. Harcourt managed to pack the middle of the field far more proficiently and consequently deserved their victory.

The North Oxfordshire Championships were run in almost springlike conditions on January 30th at Bloxham. Our Under 15 team was very much a scratch affair including two eleven year olds Birch and Jackson, ("we only had to use the map once Sir!"), but Pye finished 10th and so was picked to run for the North in the County Championships. Our Intermediates won their team event with remarkable ease however, leaving eight other schools trailing behind in their wake. Samkin was first, breaking the Bloxham Course record in 23 mins. 10 secs., Picton-Warlow a few yards behind him was second, Russ came seventh and Mercer 15th. Samkin, Picton-Warlow and Russ were all selected to represent the North ten days later.

The County Championships were run on Saturday, February 9th at South Parks, Oxford, in truly atrocious conditions. Snow fell on Friday night and was still falling on Saturday morning as we drove cautiously into Oxford along an icy, treacherous A40. In fact the majority of the North team failed to arrive at all, being stuck in a snow drift south of Banbury, but the Cokethorpe contingent performed manfully. In the Intermediate race (6,000 metres) Samkin came 4th, Picton-Warlow 8th, but Russ who had been sixth at 4,000 metres tired over the last lap and finished 11th. Pye ran bravely in the



The start: Samkin in middle of picture.



The finish: Picton-Warlow, 267th.

Junior race (4,000 metres) to come 16th, but found the conditions extremely testing and did well to finish at all. Samkin and Picton-Warlow were selected to represent Oxfordshire in the English Schools Championships to be held on the Show Ground at Norwich on March 23rd.

To give our county runners a warm-up race apart from the Road-Relay, we entered a weak team in a triangular match against Kingham Hill and King's, Gloucester on March 20th. Samkin stamped his class on the field and duly won the event, Picton-Warlow and Russ finished fifth and sixth respectively, with Pitt a creditable 11th. However we were without all our footballers, so Kingham Hill (46 pts), beat

Cokethorpe (59 points), with King's Gloucester (75 points) third. In the National Championships Picton-Warlow came 267th out of 325 finishers, but unhappily Samkin was forced to drop out with an injured knee. However it was a great achievement to have two runners selected for the County team and both boys more than deserved the award of their full school colours. On the same day Pitt, who had previously won the South-East District A.C.F. Cross-Country Junior Championship finished 16th in the A.C.F. National Championships at Pirbright Barracks so perhaps he will follow Samkin and Picton-Warlow into the Oxfordshire team next season.

P. J. G.



Samkin and Picton-Warlow 1st and 2nd in North Oxfordshire Championships.



"We only had to use the map once, Sir!"



Truly atrocious conditions for the County Championships at South Parks, Oxford.

INTER-HOUSE ROAD RELAY

This year the Road Relay Competition was delayed until the Ides of March by some truly atrocious winter weather for while it is possible to run Cross-Country in ice and snow, road running is far too dangerous a pastime to attempt in anything but ideal conditions. No soothsayer was required to work out that Swift were clear favourites, for all seven of their runners, (including the two juniors), had finished in the first twelve in the School Cross-Country race in January, and in spite of the date this proved to be an occasion when the "mighty Caesars" were to triumph fairly comfortably over the "conspirators".

However there were to be moments of doubt for the Swift team on the way to the podium. Edwards (Harcourt) began by running what was to be the fastest outward leg of the day in 18 mins. 10 secs., taking a 1 min. 9 secs. lead over Mercer (Swift), with Queen Anne a further minute and a half behind. Swift's two Juniors, Goslin and Pye, reduced Harcourt's lead to just 27 secs. over the next three miles, although Pitt and Shorrocks both ran well. On the second lap O. Akande overtook the Harcourt runner Miles, while Barns (Swift) came home in the excellent time of 16 mins. 47 secs. to give his House a lead of almost four minutes over Harcourt after twelve miles. Farley and Samkin, who produced the fastest inward leg the for second year running, (16 mins. 19 secs.), extended the difference by nearly three more minutes on the last lap with Queen Anne a further five minutes behind Harcourt, despite a splendid personal effort from Russ on the last leg.

Despite the considerable distance between the teams for the majority of the race all runners kept going well and should be congratulated on their lonely efforts.

Lap	Swift
One	36 mins. 37 secs.
Two	36 mins. 47 secs.
Three	34 mins. 54 secs.
Total	108 mins 18 secs.

	Harcourt
One	36 mins. 10 secs.
Two	41 mins. 13 secs.
Three	37 mins. 44 secs.
Total	115 mins. 07 secs.

	Queen Anne
One	40 mins. 55 secs.
Two	40 mins. 15 secs.
Three	39 mins. 07 secs.
Total	120 mins. 17 secs.

P. J. G.

Top: Mercer, Ogborn and Edwards about to get the race under way.

Centre: Jones handing over to Humphrey at the end of lap two.



Samkin bringing home the baton for Swift.

Soccer

1 st XI SOCCER REPORT

At the start of the season there were some doubts about the strength of the squad of available players, the centre-half position again presenting most difficulties. However, we had a full fixture list of thirteen matches to look forward to — weather permitting! — and the season started with an air of optimism.

Our first game against John Mason School saw us play some smooth soccer from midfield into attack and we matched them for some time. Our defence, however, let us down and our mistakes were costly. The score would have been heavier were it not for an acrobatic display from the goalkeeper, E. Imonioro. In the next game at Kingham Hill we were determined to reduce our defensive errors, but went behind early on and though we fought well we were always behind and lost a close game 4-2, B. Akande scoring one and forcing an opponent into scoring an own goal for the second.

At Larkmead we played in a very open game and after taking the lead we fell behind 4-2 (the defence again!) only to score two late goals and force a well-deserved draw. A very close game on the one warm day of the season; scorers were J. Kibble and P. Norman who had a very good game on the right wing.

Some bad weather followed and 3 matches were cancelled, one against the Old Boys.

Our first win of the season came against our old rivals Henry Box, and though it was a close affair we won 5-4 (B. Akande 3, P. Norman 1, J. Kibble 1). Again Ted Imonioro was outstanding and kept us in the game with some typically athletic saves.

We knew that the next month, March, would be hard; six matches were played against some very good teams, the best of which, Worcester R.G.S. were to give us a real lesson in team play. We lost 9-1 and we were all full of admiration for their style of play. We had one good victory in this month, 8-1 against Douai School in which confidence returned, enough even for J. Abbott, our most reliable defensive player, to score a goal!

In the final match of the season, away at Reading Blue Coat School, we were 2-0 up at half-time having had the advantage of slope and a strong wind. Unfortunately in the second half, despite a brave fight, we went down 3-2, the home team used the slope very well and kept us pinned down for most of the second half. A. Wariebi from the 3rd form helped in defence and shows much promise for the future.

Results	P	W	D	L	For	Against
	10	2	1	7	24	43

Scorers: B. Akande 9, J. Kibble 6, P. Norman 2, M. Spicer 2, O Akande 1, T. Imonioro 1, B. Humphrey 1, J. Abbott 1.

A. E. G.



Mr. Gentry (left) with the 1st XI.

UNDER 15 SOCCER REPORT

Last season was certainly one which 'came good' in the end. The first half of the season was played generally in very poor weather conditions. It only took one match to pass last season's entire total of goals, but we unfortunately lost an exciting match against John Mason 7-4 with Lavender scoring a hat-trick. Less than a week later we drew against old rivals Kingham Hill 5-5 after leading 4-2 which was very annoying, certainly a victory chance tossed away because of slack defensive work.

We were totally outclassed by a very experienced and well-organised Larkmead side, full of county players, who scored eleven goals as it was, but would have scored several more had it not been for the woodwork and some heroic goalkeeping by Johnson. We even managed to miss a penalty! Our next opponents, another football-playing comprehensive school, Henry Box, were again too good for us, winning 6-1, but at least the game produced probably our best goal of the season, a twenty yard full volley by Sitinas which left their keeper standing.

Tangible improvement, brought about by the introduction of some 'new blood' into the side, saw an encouraging result produced against Bearwood College a strong football school, and despite another defeat, 0-5 this time, there were some promising signs. Reeve, Haworth and Wariebi were added to the side and the teamwork immediately improved and a pattern of play began to develop based on a very tight defence marshalled by S. Smith.

The aggressive midfield of Tang and Beeharie I were the deciding factor in our first win of the season against Leighton Park 3-0, as they won plenty of ball for our forwards which enabled T. Goslin to score a hat-trick. The upturn in our fortunes continued with a very worthy and hard-earned away draw against Oratory 1-1 with Cole saving a penalty.

Brimming with confidence after the depression of the earlier part of the season we finished in excellent style with a superb 5-2 win against Douai with goals coming from Sitinas (2), Knight, Goslin and Shorrock I in a great display of attacking football which thrilled the crowd who cheered us on.

It will be very interesting to see if the progress of the players is continued next season and how many of them will find their way into the first team.

C. D. Knight

UNDER 13 SOCCER REPORT

As a result of the expansion of Forms One and Two, (and with judicious help from a few of the younger members of the Third Form), a new team, the U.13 Soccer XI came into being at Cokethorpe this year. Admittedly results were rather mixed, but with so few boys to choose from, (fewer still once the rowers had sunk their fangs into some innocent necks after Christmas!), it would have been very surprising indeed if we had recorded more than one victory against some talented local Preparatory School 1st XIs.

In the Michaelmas term we were beaten 3-0 by St. John's College School Oxford, a very polished outfit indeed and but for some brave goalkeeping by Vernon and some frantic play by McLoughlin, Kabbara and Birch, unquestionably the three stars of the team, the margin of defeat would have been greater. In the Lent term McLoughlin took over in goal and aside from his undisputed supremacy in that position was able to exert more control over the defenders and do some of their thinking for them. We beat St. Hugh's, Faringdon 2-1 in a spirited match but an outstanding Joscas team proved too good for our youngsters in the final game of term.

Apart from the players already mentioned Price and Jackson buzzed about busily in midfield, Bryan, Hues and Hadeed did well in defence, notwithstanding the odd air shot, while Beeharie showed glimpses of good ball control in attack. Lydon, Horton, Wetherill, Kentish and Mateunas were all called upon at least once to represent the "Peachicks" and it is to be hoped that several of them will develop full plumage and acquire pretty colours in the future.

P. J. G.



Right: Under 13 Soccer game.

SKIING TRIP

The annual School Ski Trip this year took place at Chamrousse from 11th - 19th April. In spite of a last minute change of plans we finally met up with the coach at Kings Cross. The coach was shared with Dunchurch School and throughout the holiday both parties worked hard and enjoyed themselves.

Chamrousse is a modern, twin village complex on a ridge above the Isere valley, built at a height of 5,500 feet with slopes rising to 7,550 feet. Chamrousse was the site for the alpine events of the 1968 Winter Olympics. There are 26 lifts serving 50 km. of marked pistes of all standards and almost double that amount of off piste ski-ing. There are 28 marked pistes which include the Olympic Men and the Olympic Ladies Downhill.

The party had a good coach trip to Dover and courtesy of Townsend Thorenson, crossed a fairly calm channel and a short visit to the bridge was most enjoyable. The twelve hour coach ride from Calais to Chamrousse was punctuated with girlish giggles, boisterous laughter and a most repetitive, squeaky voice saying — Alistair-Alistair-Alistair (I think Alistair was fast asleep). The coach stopped 6 km. short of our destination to put on snow chains — after a great deal of experimenting they were fitted and we were off again. We finally arrived. "This is your room", "This is your group leader", "These are your skis", "This is snow", — it all happened so quickly and one could not help but feel we were going to enjoy the holiday.

The group leaders were: George — a seasoned professional with a good sense of humour; John — who led the top group and was very laid back, (he was an exceptional skier); Frances — a bouncy effervescent young leader, not much older than her group who had a marvellous style; Aileen — a tall rather aloof Nordic type, who seemed to have quite a way with a certain big bouncy 5th former; Brandon, an ex-holiday tour guide, and last but not least Trina, who was a group leader and resort manager. She was an excellent skier and an efficient organiser.

The Ski-ing instruction was of a very high calibre and everyone improved daily. The coaching and instruction of the E.S.F. Ski Instructors was first class.

On the first night as Mr. Daniels and I were talking to the Staff from Dunchurch School we were introduced to a Simon Batty. Simon's brother is an old boy of Cokethorpe — it is a very small world!

On Sunday the 14th April Charles Turner was given a nice surprise when wine appeared at table and two marvellous chocolate cakes were marched in to dinner by the Chef. Everyone sang happy birthday; Charles was slightly abashed but very pleased that his birthday had not been forgotten.

By the end of the week we had experienced several changes in the weather from bright sunshine to thick mist, crusty snow to marvellous powder snow and varying degrees of temperature.

The final tests came all too soon and everyone's ski-ing had improved tremendously. Many of us received our Slalom Certificates.

It was with great reluctance that we boarded the coach to come home. Will we go again next year? Why not ask any of the following:

Alistair Picton-Warlow, Edmond Barns, Charles Turner, Simon Harbour, Paul Barry, Alexander Collett, Samuel Smith, Joseph Mercer, Paul Brooker, Yahia Badawi, David Tang, Jason and Nicholas Smith.

J. W. S.

CREATIVE HOBBIES COMPETITION

The second annual Creative Hobbies Competition was held in the Library at the end of the Michaelmas term. The overall standard was even higher than last year and reflected much credit on all the exhibitors, and of course on Mrs. Stone, Mrs. Worthington, Mr. John White and last but not least Mr. Barker who not only inspired much of the excellent photography on show but also masterminded the setting up of the House displays.

The competition was judged by Mr. and Mrs. Grimshaw who run the Arts and Crafts department at St. Edwards School, Oxford. Main prizes in the specialist areas were won by Woodley and Harbour (Art), Collett (Pottery), Kershaw (Woodwork) and Farley (Photography). But the overall prize went to Norman for his silhouettes of members of staff. The House Cup was awarded to Queen Anne for the second year.

D. F. G.

From a 4th Form British Constitution exam essay on The Speaker:

"There have been many famous Speakers. One was Lloyd George, the great Welsh speaker. Another is Dylan Thomas, who retired only a year or two ago."

And from a 4th Form English exam essay, describing the faces round a roulette table:

"The Wheel was spun, and the person in charge said: 'No more bets', and the ball bounced around inside the oval dish ..."(!)

Silhouettes
by
Paul Norman





CAREERS

Four years ago careers was first allocated a permanent base from which to operate in the form of two small rooms above the archway to the inner courtyard. The siting was particularly convenient because it was central with one room as an office and the other, slightly larger, for a display area. Displays are frequently changed and the careers material is constantly updated and extended. The arrangement is fairly straightforward with a standard careers cataloguing system being used. It is always something of a pleasure to find the place slightly untidy — although I was not so pleased some time ago, before the new common rooms were opened, when someone started to cook snacks there — because it does indicate that it is being used. The rooms are usually open each day for pupils to browse around it. However, it is doubtful whether it is really used enough by some pupils.

One explanation of the latter could be that the careers lesson introduced into the Form IV timetable had to be dropped after one year because of timetable pressures. The careers talks and films that took place at that time are gradually being reintroduced, although careers videos rather than films are the thing these days. Getting together an adequate audience for talks, though, is not so easy as one may suppose, given all the other demands on the pupils.

Over the past four years I have attended a number of courses, ranging from careers in engineering to the leisure industry and more recently to one concerning jobs available in The City. My colleague in careers, Mr. Adderley, will be attending a similar course on careers in the Forces later this year. Useful contacts were made on these occasions. Perhaps the



Careers Advice from Mr. White.

most interesting feature in the past couple of years has been that some boys have gone on work experience. Two boys spent a day with a piano restorer and another spent a week at a local bank. The three accompanying articles are by boys who have benefited in this way.

N. H. W.

CAREERS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE COURSE AT CIRENCESTER

Shortly after arriving at Cirencester, most of those attending the course missed the first lecture because the location of the lecture theatre was not made clear to us. However, the visit that followed to a beef farm was very interesting, although there was insufficient time to see everything, unfortunately. During the first evening we heard about various courses available at Cirencester Agricultural College.

On the second day we started off with a talk on agricultural engineering — not of particular interest to me — but it did broaden my knowledge of other careers available in the countryside apart from farming. Buying and selling fertilizers was another area considered. I was especially attracted by a talk on forestry, which was really well presented. We also heard about jobs in water parks and horticulture. A

little later that morning, much to my surprise, I was fascinated by a lecture on animal care and scientific experiments with insects and pests. Then we selected an establishment to visit. My choice was the farm because farm management is one of my main interests.

A talk on chartered surveying was first on the third and final day of the course. It was a pity that the lecture, which was to follow, on agricultural auctioneering did not take place, but a later discussion on farm management I found useful because it gave me lots more information and positive ideas for the future. The course as a whole certainly gave me a good idea of the very wide range of careers available connected with the countryside.

B. A. Goad

WORK EXPERIENCE AT THE OXFORD PLAYHOUSE

A Diary

Monday 3rd. Dec. I arrived at the Playhouse, went to the upstairs office to see Mary Hine and was directed to the stage where I was to be instructed by the stage manager. The New Vic Company were due to arrive at 1.00 p.m. for a production of 'Under Milkwood' and their stage set had been sent ahead. Their lighting director was positioning the lighting rig with its computer controlled lights. The simple set had already been put together, but various people in charge of different departments were arranging flats, checking sight lines and making certain that everything was secure.

After lunch I went to the Westgate Central Library where we were involved in the publicity for 'Papertown Paperchase', a forthcoming Christmas production for children. Posters were displayed, including posters and poems recently submitted in a children's competition to promote the production.

Tuesday 4th Dec. Today I spent in the company office of Anvil Productions filing the curriculum vitae of literally hundreds of actors — from repertory theatres, just out of drama school and some well-established actors. This information is eventually studied by the artistic director when considering actors for Playhouse productions.

Wednesday 5th Dec. was a script reading day in the office. I waded through a tremendous range of material, rather like the official reader does. If he should be attracted by a piece of writing, he recommends it to the artistic director, who may then recommend that it is put on. This is extremely unusual, though, because the material normally has only a minority interest.

Thursday 6th Dec. Before lunch, with the stage manager, I helped to check all the seats in the auditorium before the start of 'Under Milkwood' that night. This may sound tedious but it is very important. Broken chairs were taken to the workshop

where the life-sized boat for Alan Ayckbourne's 'Way up Stream' was moored.

The afternoon saw me writing up and posting the schedule for the 1985 productions, the rehearsal dates and the shows.

Friday 7th Dec. Started with a short trip to Oxford Station with props from the recent 'Henry IV Part 1' production to be sent back to the suppliers in London. We walked into the parcels office carrying an armoury of sabres, daggers, shields and swords, which must have looked quite imposing. Then another trip, this time to the Headington storerooms to check on some backdrops that were required for a production of 'Mephisto' in Canada.

That afternoon saw me back in the office to write and photocopy the standard rejection letter for the scripts I mentioned earlier. Another more productive letter concerning the possibility of some drama workshops on stage fighting came next. A few rejected drafts later, a fierce confrontation with the electric typewriter from which I emerged victor (I think) and I completed it. I was immediately assigned another job dealing with — yes, you've guessed it — more letters. This time they concerned casting decisions.

I really enjoyed my week. It was interesting to see the turmoil behind the scenes in preparation for a production and the amount of paperwork needed to hold the entire operation together. There were numerous other little incidents that I haven't mentioned, like answering the telephone when the secretary had gone out and being confronted with an irate caller talking non-stop for two minutes about confused tour dates and then being expected to make an answer. Panic! On Saturday night, as I sat ready to enjoy 'Under Milkwood' and the actors ran up and down the ramp I had helped to construct, a sudden thought dawned on me, 'What if it collapses?'

A. E. D. Spencer

WORK EXPERIENCE AT AN ESTATE AGENTS

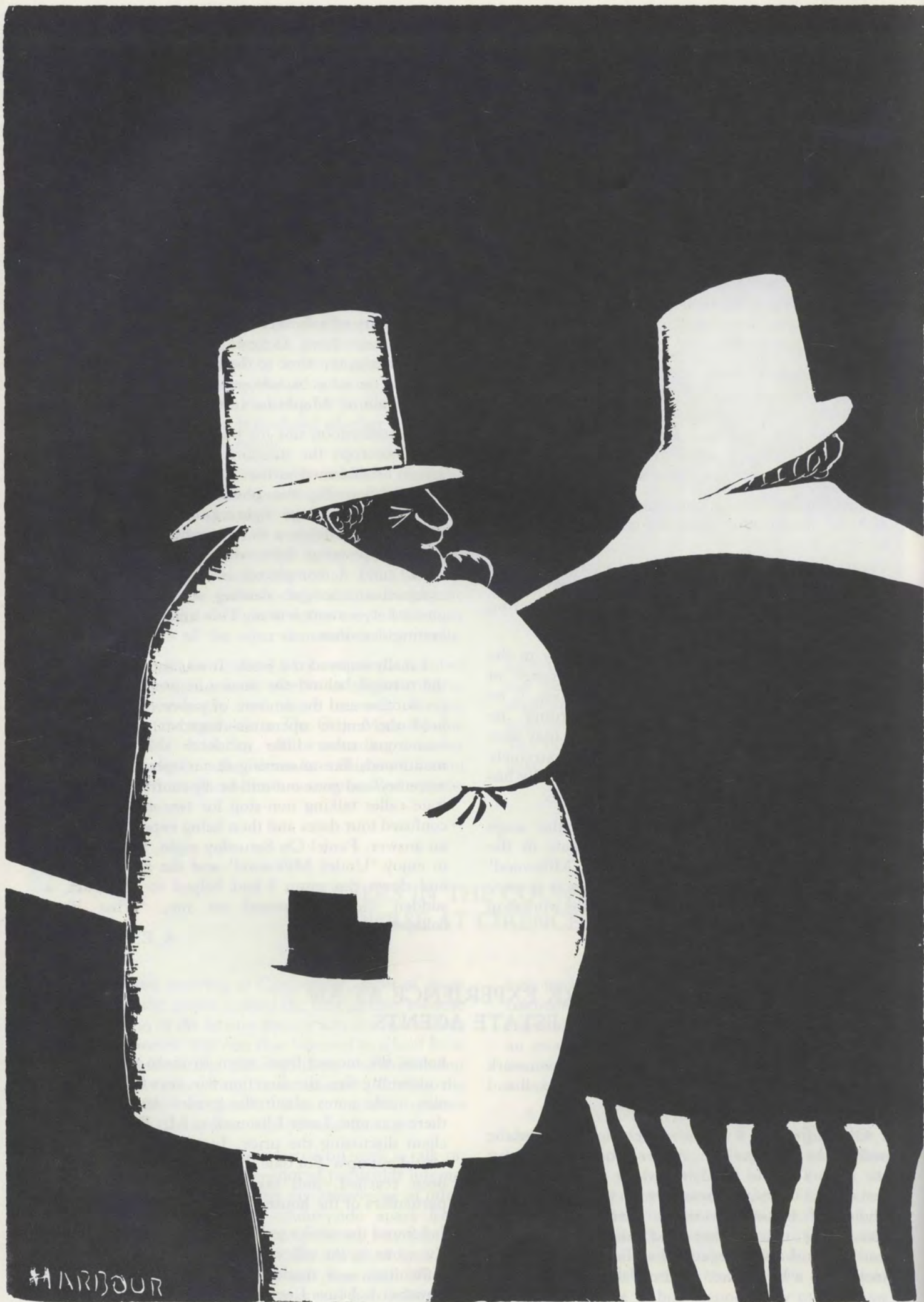
With the help of my father, I arranged my own work experience during the Easter holidays at Buckell and Ballard, the estate agents in Wantage.

On my first day I was introduced to the rest of the staff by the manager, Mr. Auger, who told me about the work I would be doing whilst I was there. A certain amount of time was spent in the office putting photos of houses on their 'particulars' (details concerning that house) and photocopying new particulars. I also reorganised a filing cabinet, which took quite a long time. At times during the week I went out to value houses and to accompany clients viewing houses with Mr. Ryan. When we valued a

house, we moved from room to room taking notes concerning size, the direction windows faced etc. We also made notes about the garden and garage, if there was one. Later I listened to Mr. Ryan and the client discussing the price. Just before we left, we would put up a 'For Sale' board, if an agreement had been reached, and take photos to go with the particulars of the house.

I found the week extremely interesting and useful. Everyone in the office was very helpful when I had difficulties and made the work pleasant. In the Summer holidays I am looking forward to doing the same thing again.

M. J. Lake



Two Men: Scraper board by S. J. Harbour.

The General Studies Talks

1984-85

This was the seventh season of General Studies and, as usual, those who have attended have enjoyed some fascinating talks on a very varied number of topics. In March we also reached the 100th talk, which took the form of a 'lecture-miscellany' by FRANK DELANEY. Using a modified version of the script for *Betjeman Country*, an entertainment first presented at the Lyttleton Theatre in 1983, he took us on a nostalgic journey through the towns and countryside which form both the subject-matter and the background to the poetry of John Betjeman. It included many affectionate sideways glimpses at the poet himself, whom Mr. Delaney got to know well in the last part of his life. This was an occasion which had been looked forward to with great anticipation and Mr. Delaney's performance fulfilled every expectation.

Our first speaker of the year was Mr. DAVID JENKINSON from the National Railway Museum, York, who gave an illustrated talk entitled 'From Stagecoach to Locomotive'. This was a repeat of a highly successful talk, originally given as a Christmas lecture for children at the Royal Society of Arts — and, as the title suggests, it covered everything from the Regency locomotive (circa 1820) which was no more than 'a garden shed on wheels', to the high-speed train of today. Mr. Jenkinson was accompanied by Mrs. Townend, an expert on the Royal Saloons, which have played a significant part in the development of trains — for in the 19th century many innovations were first tried out with the Royal trains which were then adopted for general use.

A talk which in many ways complemented this was the one given at the beginning of the Lent Term by Mr. E. O. INMAN, the Keeper of Duxford Airfield. Formerly a Royal Air Force station — indeed, a very celebrated Battle of Britain airfield — Duxford is now part of the Imperial War Museum, and houses the largest collection of historic aircraft in the world. Mr. Inman discussed the historic role of many of the aeroplanes and gave us a revealing insight into some of the problems of maintaining such a collection.

On an entirely different note Mr. KEITH WHELDON, from the Department of Humanities at Oxford Polytechnic, gave a superb talk on 'Common Sense and the Visual Arts'. Illustrated with slides of paintings from the Romantic period to the present day, Mr. Wheldon's main contention was that common sense is a very limited faculty for an understanding of the visual arts, since one of the functions of art is to challenge the common-sensical

notions of everyday life. One example, for instance, was showing a Mondrian painting of lines and squares and asking why such a minimal amount of imagery can be given such importance. Mr. Wheldon illustrated his points with a dual projection throughout — Ucello juxtaposed against Mondrian, Titian/Manet, van Eyck/Kandinsky, and so on. This was an extremely rewarding talk, easily accessible to both arts and science pupils, and it really didn't pose any difficulties for younger members of the audience.

Mr. LEN BADEN, Head of Business and General Studies at the West Oxfordshire Technical College, gave another illustrated talk on China, which he toured extensively in the summer of 1983. As he was ostensibly there to visit his daughter at the University of Peking, he was able to travel about the country rather more than is usually the case for a tourist, and the insights which he was able to impart from his own observation built up a picture of Chinese society rather different (in some respects) to the one portrayed in our western press.

Coincidentally enough, our next speaker Mrs. AUDREY BLACKMAN had just returned from a trip to China too. Mrs. Blackman trained as a sculptor at Goldsmith's College and has held several major ceramics exhibitions in this country and abroad. Her work can also be seen in various galleries and private collections. She talked about the making of her rolled pottery figures, and, in particular, the making of one figure — 'A Seat in the Sun'. This, and a number of other examples of her work which she brought with her, excited a good deal of interest afterwards among Mrs. Worthington's potters — and in fact Mrs. Blackman had given generously of her time to work with them all earlier that afternoon.

The Director of Education for an Industrial Society, JULIA CLEVERDON, came to talk about 'Industry, Management and the Future'. The Industrial Society is an organisation supported by management and the television networks to foster a greater understanding of industry, in schools, universities and the community generally. Miss Cleverdon started her working life as an industrial relations officer with British Leyland, and in addition to her work for the Industrial Society she also serves on committees of the D.E.S., the Department of Trade and Industry, and the Board of the 300 Group. Any resumé of her talk defies a quick precis: suffice it to say that she was most amusing, as well as instructive; and that the Headmaster was equally impressed when he later heard her address a S.H.M.I.S. conference during the Lent Term.

Another diminutive, but very lively, lady making her second visit to Cokethorpe was Dr. JANET MORGAN. Fourteen months before she had talked to us about editing Richard Crossman's diaries. On this occasion she talked about the researching and writing of her biography of Agatha Christie, the reactions to it from Christie fans (and fanatics), the 'mystery' of her disappearance in 1926, the question of identification with her subject, and the very interesting point about Agatha Christie's preoccupation in all her later books with the difference between appearance and reality. Although it did not evoke the expected response from the audience — many of whom watch, but few of whom now actually *read* Agatha Christie — this was nevertheless an extremely good talk, and it was a pleasure to see Dr. Morgan again.

Major JAMES BABINGTON-SMITH, Chief Instructor at the School of Photographic Interpretation at R.A.F. Whitton, gave a marvellous illustrated talk called 'Evidence in Camera' — the title of a book by his more famous aunt who, during the second world war, provided the vital link which led to the identification of the V-1 sites at Peenemunde. This was both a historical and technical talk about the interpretation of aerial reconnaissance photographs, from the second war and after, to the Falklands and the situation in northern Ireland today; and not the least interesting part of it was his description of the intensive training programme for cadets at the school who wish to qualify in this branch of intelligence work.

GLYNN CHRISTIAN is a familiar enough face on *Breakfast Time* and *Pebble Mill at One*. However, it was not in this role, but as the descendant of Fletcher Christian, *Bounty* mutineer, that he came to talk to us in February. (His grandfather William was born on Norfolk Island, which was settled by descendants of the *Bounty* mutineers; William's grandfather, Isaac, was born on Pitcaird Island, and it was *his* grandfather who was Fletcher Christian.) The causes of the mutiny on the *Bounty* have been much discussed in more than 2,500 books and articles; but, as Mr. Christian began by saying, although it is one of the best-known stories, it is also one of the least properly understood. Since he had lectured to the Royal Geographical Society on the subject in 1983, new information had come his way and he was now in a position to make some rather exciting statements. Incidentally, he has himself recounted the story of the mutiny and its aftermath in *Fragile Paradise* — a book which is more than simply the story of a quest for his ancestor, but in a very real sense a personal quest.

In March JERROLD NORTHROP MOORE, author of several books on Elgar, and most notably a magisterial biography *Edward Elgar: A Creative Life*, gave a superb talk about the composer whose life and work he has researched for twenty years. Although this was a general rather than a specialist talk — designed, in Mr. Moore's words, 'to plant a fertile



Glynn Christian, with 'Bounty' relics.

seed in the minds of those to whom Elgar is perhaps no more than a name' — it drew on every facet of his detailed knowledge of even the minutest details of Elgar's life and music. It was accompanied by generous musical illustration which showed Elgar, by turn, as the religious visionary, the drum-beating patriot, and the full-blooded romantic — but to H. M.'s chagrin there was, alas, no time for the final quotation which Mr. Moore had planned from *Symphony No. 1*!

Although it has to be a time for winding down the programme for the year, we managed to have three talks during the Summer Term. The first was an illustrated lecture on Charles Darwin given by Dr. ALLISTER SMITH, Head of Biology at the Oxford Polytechnic. Dr. Smith covered every aspect of the Darwin story so exhaustively that there were not many questions left for us to ask afterwards. Mr. ROLAND HUNTFORD, author of the controversial dual biography on which the immensely successful television series *The Last Place on Earth* was based, came to talk to us about Scott and Amundsen and the race for the South Pole. Although he confessed that he was not a practised speaker, what Mr. Huntford had to impart — with the aid of slides and microfilms of Amundsen's diaries and notebooks — was fascinating. He gave a very clear insight as to why it was the Norwegians who were successful. Amundsen may have been a 'buccaneering entrepreneur', but he had done his homework.

Last, but by no means least, Mr. JAMES CANDY gave a marvellous talk about Sir Arthur Evans, and also about his own life among the gauchos in South America. This occasion, which was specifically planned as a 'junior' General Studies, is reported on more fully elsewhere in the magazine.

P. J. C.

DECLAMATIONS

I was honoured to be invited to adjudicate at the 1985 Declamations.

This year the contestants came from Forms 1, 2, 3 and 4 and for boys of this age the standard was remarkably high. The set passages for Form 1 were *Requiescat* by Oscar Wilde, *The Lake Isle of Innisfree* by W. B. Yeats and a passage from Arthur Ransome's *Winter Holiday*. The Wilde poem requires deep sensitivity and the final verse, with its quiet intensity, was rather beyond those who attempted this piece. The rhythm of the Yeats *Isle of Innisfree* is most subtle but the feeling seemed to be successfully caught by those who chose this poem. The excitement of the Ransome sledge ride appealed to the readers and most of them achieved a good sense of character. The final paragraph of pure description presented problems of anti-climax.

The finalists in this form were J. B. Price, E. J. T. Reynolds, N-L. J. Perry and S. K. MacDonald. Price has a pleasant voice, he conveyed the excitement of the sledge ride most successfully and maintained interest to the end of the passage. In the verse he was initially affected by nerves but recovered strongly and the final impression was very pleasing. Reynolds also has a good voice; he tended to bury his head in the sand and read the prose too fast but his dialogue here was successful. Perry rather missed the pathos of the Wilde poem and in both his selections his tone lacked variety; however, he clearly has potential in this field. MacDonald, although nervous, appeared to enjoy himself as he gained confidence and his Yeats rendering was lively. Price won narrowly from Reynolds.

The set passages for Form 2 were John Clare's *Autumn*, Kipling's *The Way through the Woods* and another Ransome passage, this time concerning a squall at sea. Clare's pleasure in all that he sees in the countryside requires real enthusiasm and the maintenance of the rhythm through the run-on lines is by no means easy. The variety of tone and pace in Kipling's poem also presented problems. The crisis and excitement among the crew in Ransome's boat led to some breathlessness but plenty of entertainment.

The finalists here were T. J. Bomford, M. F. Kentish, K. W. McLoughlin and A. Shorrock. Bomford started too fast in the prose but managed the dialogue well and finished on a high note. He lost the rhythm of the Clare poem but appreciated Clare's love of the countryside. Kentish read the prose with insufficient variety of tone and pace but he achieved more success in the final verse of the Kipling with the horses' hooves and the swishing skirt. McLoughlin managed to convey the danger in which the young sailors found themselves but after succeeding with Kipling's rhythms and interior rhymes he lost the sense of mystery at the end.

Shorrock kept his head down and failed to grip his audience in the prose and wasted his good voice; and in the Clare poem he rarely rose above a rather flat tonal quality. Again there is good potential here. Bomford won the Form 2 prize.

Form 3 were represented by six finalists: M. J. Holmes, M. J. Barnes, C. B. C. H. Jones, M. R. Pye, M. J. Horton and M. Lydon. Their set poems were Jon Stallworthy's *Burning the Stubble*, Clifford Dymont's *The Axe in the Wood*; and the prose passage came from Golding's *Lord of the Flies*. The rhythm of the first poem is very difficult to master and the general pessimism difficult to relieve. The somewhat mundane language of the Dymont, though essential to the mood of the poem, is difficult to make interesting. The atmosphere of the boy explorers in the *Lord of the Flies* was something which all who attempted it appreciated.

The standard among these six contestants was pretty level and it was not easy to select a winner. Holmes has a good voice and he made the best shot at the *Axe* poem, although he did not quite bring off the agony of the final lines. He chose a prose passage from a favourite school story and brought this off with considerable panache, achieving excellent rapport with his audience. Barnes found the rhythms of the *Stubble* verse a little beyond him but he put over the feeling successfully. He showed mastery of the different characters of the Golding boys but lost the attention of his audience in the middle of the passage. Jones made the *Axe* poem very clear and conveyed his understanding of the theme with authority. He relished his piece from a Dahl short story, putting over the mordant humour with a pleasure which communicated itself to the audience. Yet the passage was a little too long and he lost his way in the middle. Pye used his good voice effectively in the prose passage, but the tonal quality of the *Stubble* rendering was less impressive. Horton, too, failed to give sufficient variety to the tone and pace of the *Axe* poem and he never established the theme of his prose passage. Lydon chose an air crash for his prose contribution and achieved a good sense of indecision among the passengers but failed to point much individuality to the characters. After a lot of thought I decided that Holmes had merited a narrow victory.

The Fourth Form finalists were D. O. Jones, F. Dona, M. G. H. Howe and S. T. T. Johnson. In fact they opened the proceedings and Jones set a standard which no-one else succeeded in bettering. The set poems here were Browning's *Home Thoughts From Abroad*, in which the intensity of feeling is expressed in the rhythm and the final line is so vital, and Norman MacCaig's *Moorings* which no-one attempted. The prose came from Lawrence's *Sons and Lovers*, a very difficult passage where Lawrence is

seeking to reveal the strange relationship between Paul and Miriam.

Jones managed this difficult passage well, varying the volume and tone skilfully, although perhaps the pace lacked such variety. He chose some Eliot for his verse contribution, obviously enjoyed the work and used his pleasant voice to good effect, particularly in his control of the rhythm. Dona never really came to terms with the prose and although he finished the verse on a strong note the main body of the poem sounded very flat. Howe's diction was clear but he failed to convey the bitterness of the Sassoon poem which he chose and, despite his nice voice, he read the prose monotonously. Johnson read this piece as though he enjoyed it and was more successful than the others in conveying the relationship of the two

protagonists. He was less successful in conveying the poet's longing to be in England in Browning's poem and his disillusion with the gaudy melon-flower. Jones won this section fairly comfortably and I felt that he was the best of all the competitors.

With eighteen competitors this evening of declamations was something of a marathon but the audience of young boys was remarkably attentive and I felt that they were genuinely interested in what was going on and were aware of the aims of the exercise. It will be interesting to see how those who took part develop in the next year or two; they should feel encouraged to compete in the future.

S. F. Florey

EFFECTIVE SPEAKING

(Mrs. D. B. Fisher is the Chief Examiner of the External Examinations Department of Trinity College of Music. She has been coming to Cokethorpe for many years to assess the boys in their Effective Speaking examinations, and we are most grateful to her for contributing the following article to this edition of The Peacock. — Ed.)

Trinity College's Effective Speaking examinations have been designed to encourage students of all ages to develop their skills in oral communication. The academically able and the less able both stand to gain in confidence by having an independent assessment of their communicative skills. The examiner is looking for clarity of speech, reasonable use of vocabulary and the ability to convey thoughts and information in an effective manner.

Candidates are asked to deliver prepared talks which may be on any subject and may be illustrated by the use of visual aids. During the many years I have examined candidates at Cokethorpe I have enjoyed talks on subjects as varied as cricket, guns, the keeping of rabbits, and their habits, the sex life of guinea pigs, foreign tours, and most memorable of all, a talk, with LIVE AID on snakes. Now I am one of those people who cannot even look at a picture of a snake without feeling really ill. The candidate brought his aid in with him and placed it on the table, at which point I averted my gaze. He spoke with tremendous enthusiasm on the subject and took the snake out of the jar to prove to me it did not have eye lids; at which point I gave him full marks and retired to the Headmaster's study for a glass of sherry. Joking apart, these examinations are of tremendous value to young people who will at some time in their lives have to communicate with the world outside school and home. Many an appointment or position or place in further education

depends on the interview, and how well the candidate presents himself. "The inability to communicate is worse than the inability to read and write" is very true in present day society.

Many of the boys at Cokethorpe have something worthwhile to say, sometimes they find it difficult to express themselves, but to be able to converse with a stranger, to offer opinions and ideas and to respond in conversation is a most useful skill to acquire. Reading aloud and interpreting prose, verse or drama also helps them to appreciate and use effectively their native language. Students from overseas have in many cases given fascinating talks on their countries of origin, showing an appreciation and understanding of the English language, whether it was their first or second tongue.

Cokethorpe has for many years supported this work, and whether boys have struggled through grade three or have carried on to become really competent in the subject and gained high marks in the senior grades, all have benefitted from the experience and those of us who have had the pleasure of assessing their work have greatly enjoyed meeting the boys and helping them to share in the pleasures of effective communication.

Mrs. D. B. Fisher

EVENSONG

*The sands of time call to a stranger
but she says this isn't something new;
I've walked along the beaches always
taking time to dance with you.*

*I know it's something vague now
and autumn kisses blow away,
but did you walk here with a stranger?
I dreamt of shadows playing yesterday.*

*On the shore her silhouette is melting
and her dress
like summer petals floats on velvet wings.
No other feeling could ever be so simple,
or so cautious;
No other silence could mean so many things
The evening tide is chasing sunsets
and waves like mountains
travel far away.*

*I heard a man spent a lifetime
building bridges —
I'd like to walk across them someday.*

*The sands of time call to a stranger
but she says this isn't something new;
I've walked along the beaches always
taking time to dance with you.*

I DREAM IN ECHOES

*I dream in echoes
and they all sound like you.
Sometimes I live in memories
the places that I knew.*

*I dream in echoes,
cloud islands drifting on waves of expression,
observations translated into situations,
images walking towards each other,
passers-by in second state.*

*Bursts of light rebound off mirrored eyes
glazed by your transmission,
and in such skies
no nightmare ever cries.*

*Whispers in the dark
find their mark.
But time was never mine;
it echoes down the line
and over the mountains I'll have to climb,
following the dream
and the stream,
watching the water
fall downwards to the sea.
And there you are there, and there were we
on the shore, closer once more,
dreaming in echoes, drifting as the wind blows.*



A PRELUDE TO ENDLESS

*I cannot recall how many times I walked into endless,
or how many times I felt the need.
I cannot recall when I discovered isolation folded up
inside me, or how deep that isolation was.
I cannot recall ever feeling so cold before or ever
wanting the darkness so much, like a helpless child
in its cradle.*

*But I can recall...
the vast neon corridors in the night
the silver streets glittering with rain
the loneliness of the crowd, their senseless laughter
the vacant moments of distress
the repressed expressionless hours spent hoping
the long walks into endless...*

*Girl's Head by Neil Pineo
Poems by Adrian Spencer.*



Mrs. Brown makes a point about 'The Palace of Minos'.

Memories of SIR ARTHUR EVANS

Sir Arthur Evans was the most renowned British archaeologist of the early part of this century: his discovery at Knossos, in Crete, of a hitherto unknown Bronze Age civilisation which flourished over 3000 years ago — and which he named 'Minoan', after a legendary Cretan king — is still regarded as one of the most important digs in the whole of archaeology.

In 1884 Evans became Keeper of the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford. In the early 1890s — at the same time as he bought land on Boars Hill, where he built himself a magnificent house called Youldbury — he totally transformed the museum, and as a result of his connection with it, it now houses the finest collection of Minoan antiquities outside Crete.

For those who were present (which included the Headmaster and myself, and the members of the 4th Form Classical Studies set), one of the highlights of the summer term was our visit to the Ashmolean on 31st May, where Mrs. Ann Brown of the Department of Antiquities talked to us about the life and work of Sir Arthur Evans, and showed us some fascinating items from his personal papers, photographs and mementoes which are now also in the care of the museum. Appropriately enough, Mrs. Brown had just returned from Crete the previous week.

Shortly afterwards, Mr. James Candy came to give the last General Studies talk of the term. Sir Arthur Evans' wife died tragically young and he never had any children of his own; that is why he 'adopted' the 10-year old James Candy and became his guardian. Mr. Candy is now one of our last living links with Evans; he and his school friend, Denis Haskins, are now the only people alive who knew the great man intimately — and, moreover, knew him in a way that few of his fellow archaeologists ever could.

Mrs. Brown began by saying that her talk was not about dating, or the intricacies of deciphering Linear B, "but just a few reminiscences and the opportunity to handle some of the artefacts and turn the pages of his diaries and notebooks." From our point of view that was the wonderful thing: often enough one can look at such things behind glass, but one can't touch them or turn them over in one's hand. Having told us something about Evans' family background, the first item Mrs. Brown placed on the table in front of us was a packet of letters written by young Arthur to his step-mother when he was at Harrow. Even as a boy he accompanied his father, himself a noted pre-historian and archaeologist, on his various

excavations and journeys. His father took him to excavate in the cliffs near Dulwich and the young Evans found shards of Roman pottery there; Mrs. Brown then produced these shards for us to look at too.

As an undergraduate at Oxford Evans ignored four of the five questions in a History paper; but he still got a First, by answering one question that interested him at great length, and by performing equally brilliantly in his viva. After Oxford he was based in the Balkans for seven years as a correspondent for the *Manchester Guardian*, reporting on the political unrest in Bosnia. In 1882 he was accused by the Austrians of helping the Serbs and Croats, taken for a spy, imprisoned and nearly shot! He was banished from the country, and returned to England to seek a new sphere of activity — as Keeper of the Ashmolean.

During his time in the Balkans Evans had kept up his interest in archaeology, and in the late 1880s and early 1890s he became very interested in the newly-discovered Mycenaean civilisation of ancient Greece. In Athens, in 1883, he met Heinrich Schliemann, the German businessman-turned-archaeologist, who claimed to have discovered the ruins of Troy. It is a meeting that has been somewhat embroidered by a number of writers, with Schliemann's wife, Sophia, apparently regaling Evans with an account of the finding of 'Priam's Treasure'. In fact, their conversation was not momentous; and, as Mrs. Brown told us, from the record of Schliemann's wife it probably consisted of little more than pleasantries and polite enquiries on the part of both men.

In the spring of 1893, while searching in the trays of antique-dealers in Athens, Evans came across a number of tiny three and four-sided gem stones engraved with what appeared to be a system of unknown writing. He was told that they came from Crete, and this was what impelled him in 1894 to go to Crete for the first time himself. Mrs. Brown then showed us his diary for this first visit to Crete. The entries were accompanied by dozens of little pen-and-ink drawings of coins, seals, shards of decorated pottery — and, in particular, an extremely detailed drawing of the engravings on a late Minoan blackstone. Mrs. Brown also drew our attention to the sketches of a Bronze Age knife and some small Neolithic axe-heads; she then laid the blackstone and the knife beside the drawings, so that we could judge their accuracy for ourselves. "Evans always had a good eye for the tiniest details of such artefacts," she said.

Evans' walks round Crete, and the finding of more pottery and artefacts — especially in the caves at Kamares — gave him his first ideas on dating and period. He now had the idea that the island was the home of an earlier period of Mycenaean civilisation, and was anxious to begin excavating at the key site, Knossos. However, as Mrs. Brown explained, it took five years of protracted negotiations to buy the site, and it was not until 1900 that the first pick-axe penetrated the mound of the Kefala Hill. An appeal was launched — the Cretan Exploration Fund — but it did not go well. The public mind was preoccupied with the Boer War; and the lavishness of Evans' own lifestyle — in contrast to the frugal example of Flinders Petrie — almost certainly discouraged subscribers. Fortunately, as a rich man's son, Evans had access to considerable private means.

Mrs. Brown now held in her hand a notebook which she could not allow us to handle: Evans' diary for the first season's excavations at Knossos. Its state is too fragile — the paper has browned with age and the first pages are flaking at the corners. We peered over her shoulder as she carefully turned the pages. '23rd March 1900: Began to dig ... Workmen paid at 8 piastres a day...' etc. — and almost at once there follows a series of the now-familiar little drawings of the things he began to find. Exactly one week later the entry for 30th March records the discovery of 'a kind of baked clay bar ... with script on it and what appears to be numerals'. Within days the workmen had turned up a hoard of more than a hundred tablets; they were of two kinds and Evans named them Linear A and Linear B.

Mrs. Brown then opened a large album containing original photographs of the excavations, and we studied them closely. There was the Throne Room, fragments of frescoes, and the huge *pitthoi* in their various stages of being unearthed. There was also a photograph of Evans himself in white topee standing with his workmen on the Grand Staircase. She also took down from the shelves behind her just two of the volumes of the monumental *Palace of Minos*. With its 3000 pages and 2400 maps, plans and illustrations, it is not only a sweeping account of Minoan civilisation, but one of the greatest works of archaeological scholarship ever written. "Arthur Evans' comparative grasp of other civilisations of the same period was astonishing," said Mrs. Brown; and she added: "One of the things he had was enormous imagination — and that's something that very few archaeologists have today." She also emphasised the autocratic aspects of his character. "He had enormous push, and was very determined and demanding. In fact, he could be rather ruthless... All this, of course, is in contrast to the Arthur Evans you will hear about from Mr. Candy, who remembers him fundamentally as a very kind man."

What, I asked Mrs. Brown, was Sir Arthur's

opinion of other archaeologists of his time? She replied that there are not many references in his correspondence to his fellow archaeologists — although what comments there are are invariably kind ones. "He did have one lengthy and fairly acrimonious professional disputation with Alan Wace. But on the whole he was too absorbed in his own work at Knossos to pay much attention to what others were doing; and he was sufficiently secure in his own reputation and achievements not to have to snipe at other archaeologists."

In her biography, *The Find of a Lifetime*, Sylvia Horwitz remarks that Evans was 'a remarkable blend of scholar and man of action'. 'Nothing in his outward appearance betrayed the mettle, the panache within. He was insignificant in stature, barely five feet two inches tall. He was myopic, middle-aged, and unabashedly Victorian from his polished boots to his Homburg...' But behind this conventional exterior was quite a different personality. For Arthur Evans was a romantic who had a love of adventure and a lively, vivid imagination; he was a man of the most single-minded concentration, who could be intimidating as well as aloof, and yet nevertheless inspired loyalty as well as awe. Although he had espoused the cause of oppressed masses in the Balkans, there was much of the imperialist about him. 'At Knossos, even without looking up from their spades, his Cretan workmen were acutely aware of his presence; and with his bouncy step and his walking stick, Prodger, he seemed to be everywhere at once.'

* * *

As Michael Wood has noted, in his Foreword to James Candy's autobiography *A Tapestry of Life*: 'It is frustrating now, forty or so years after Evans' death, to find that our radio archives have preserved no interviews with the great man. It is our loss: from the picture which emerges in James' book, one imagines that Evans would have been a must for T.V., rather like Sir Mortimer Wheeler.' It is this which gives Mr. Candy's memories their special interest, and it is no exaggeration to say that, when he came to talk to us on 4th June, he held us spell-bound with his recollections.

He first encountered Evans in 1912 when he and a number of friends had voluntarily formed themselves into a group of Boy Scouts. They performed their scout-craft on the south slope of Boars Hill, below Lord Berkeley's estate. Then, one day, on the orders of the gamekeeper, they were ejected from Lord Berkeley's land, as their activities were disturbing the pheasants in his wood. Their scoutmaster went to see Sir Arthur Evans at Youlbury, who was only too pleased to give the boys the use of his estate. It was the beginning of a long association between Evans and the scouts, and he often used to visit them on scouting nights.

"Most archaeologists were scared stiff of Sir Arthur Evans," said Mr. Candy, "because of course he was very autocratic. But there *were* two sides to him, and to me he seemed the kindest and most generous man I had ever met. He was so friendly. He would watch us do our exercises, and all the preparations for winning our badges. He even liked to join in certain games, like 'Flag Raiding'. Just imagine that! — the great Sir Arthur Evans crawling on his hands and knees through the bracken, like one of us, in order to capture the enemy's flag..." He chuckled to himself at the recollection of it.

Evans noticed that the 10-year old James Candy was very pale; he asked the scoutmaster if he knew the reason. He was told that the boy was suffering from an infected mastoid, and that after two operations there had been no improvement. His parents were poor tenant farmers on Boars Hill; they had five other children to bring up and had done everything they could for James. Unknown to young James' Evans made many visits to his parents, and the outcome of these meetings was that he wanted to send the boy to the best ear specialist in Harley Street, and also to be responsible for his education. From now on everything would be paid for by him, and he would become the boy's guardian. After this James became 'Jimmie' to Sir Arthur, and he lived with him from 1912 until he went off to make his own way in the world in the Argentine in 1922.

The house at Youlbury is gone now, but in Evans' hey-day it was a stately pile run with all the luxury and graciousness of the Edwardian era. "To me, it was out of this world," said Mr. Candy. "There were twenty-two bedrooms and five bathrooms, and if guests arrived they always had a chauffeur and a lady's maid." There was a Roman bath with three steps going down into it — notwithstanding which Sir Arthur himself took his bath in a tin tub which was kept under his bed! There was also the beautiful hall, laid out in black and white marble in the form of a labyrinth, with the Minotaur in the centre. It had a man's body with a bull's head. At the end of the hall were two mahogany replicas of the throne of King Minos at Knossos.

"I had a lovely bedroom next to Sir Arthur's," said Mr. Candy, "and he had a bell-push installed which rang in his room, so that if I needed anything in the night he would know." He confessed that during his first weeks at Youlbury he was often homesick, and would sometimes have nightmares and wake screaming. Sir Arthur would come running in in his night-gown to comfort him with a hug and a kiss.

"I wonder what his fellow archaeologists would have made of that side of his character!" Mr. Candy mused.

Thereafter, James' life settled into an unchanging daily routine. One of the maids woke him at 8 a.m. with a plate of fruit and a can of hot water in his basin. Breakfast was at 9 a.m. — a typically

Edwardian meal with salvers of cold ham or kippers, eggs, bacon and kidney on the sideboard. Sir Arthur sat at the table going through his letters, throwing them over his shoulder on to the floor when he had read them. After breakfast James would go to the morning room for his lessons, while Sir Arthur went to work in his library, where the work in progress was spread out on many trestle tables.

"Sir Arthur never had an assistant or a secretary, and every word of his books was written with a white goosefeather quill pen," said Mr. Candy. The paper was always black-edged, in memory of his wife Margaret.

At midday, Sir Arthur would emerge from the library and he and James would go for a walk in the gardens and round the lake. On Sir Arthur's instructions, none of the paths at Youlbury were straight, and he would mark out new ones with little sticks. Lunch was at 1 o'clock, with two maids to wait at table and a white menu card in each person's place. After lunch Sir Arthur had a short siesta in the library; and then, at 3 o'clock, the two of them would sally forth for a variety of activities that depended on the time of year. It might be butterfly-catching or croquet on the lawn, or sometimes visits to places of local interest like the Roll-Right Stones or Avebury.

Between 6 and 7 p.m. Sir Arthur would write letters in the library. Dinner was at 7 o'clock sharp; there were never any pre-dinner drinks, but if guests were present — which they often were — champagne would be served with the meal. A typical menu was oysters, pheasant, pudding and a savory.

"After dinner, Sir Arthur liked to play billiards with me, though I always managed to beat him, due to his poor eyesight," said Mr. Candy. "At nine o'clock one of the maids would put a decanter of whisky in the drawing room for him. Then, at nine-thirty on the dot, Sir Arthur would retire to bed. Of course, I had to go too. Later, when I was older, I could stay up with my friends — and if there were any guests they were left to amuse themselves. But Sir Arthur never changed *his* habits!"

The highlight of the year at Youlbury was the childrens' party, always held on Twelfth Night. It was an occasion when Evans really let himself go, and the high point of the evening was the famous 'bull game', which took place in the entrance hall.

"Sir Arthur stood in the centre, and each child had to follow the black marble tiles all over the hall which brought him to the Minotaur. He would make a bellowing sound, like a bull, catch the boy or girl and toss them up in the air, and catch them again amid shrieks of delight from everybody." Mr. Candy made a bull-like roar, in imitation of Sir Arthur, and laughed again as he remembered it all.

So far as James was concerned, the best characteristic of Sir Arthur's personality was "the way he could come down to the level of whoever he was talking to." Although Sir Arthur was by then

over 60, he evidently had a wonderful ability to enthuse and encourage children. "He wouldn't talk about archaeology unless I specifically brought it up. He'd just talk about everything that interested him. He could tell you as easily about the life on the bottom of the lake at Youlbury, as of the archaeology of Knossos." Mr. Candy paused for a moment. "Of course, when he told you to do something, by Jove, you had to do it! In that way he was quite a Victorian. You could always tell when he was going to get angry, because he would start scratching the back of his head. He was quick to anger, but he was just as quick to forgive..."

Had Sir Arthur any little foibles or eccentricities?

"Yes, he did," said Mr. Candy. "He had one particular habit when we were out together. One moment we would be walking along at a leisurely pace. Then, some idea would come into his mind and he would suddenly dart away at top speed as though he was jet-propelled, quite forgetting I was with him! I had to dash after him to catch him up. Then, just as suddenly, he would slow down and we would resume our normal pace, as though nothing had happened!

Another idiosyncrasy was that Sir Arthur carried his own personal 'excavation tool' with him. Mr. Candy held up a hand and crooked his little finger.

"He allowed the nail of his little finger on his right hand to grow a quarter of an inch. This enabled him to remove the dirt from his finds with it. I can see him now, peering at some small object, working his nail into all the cracks and crannies..."

Sir Arthur was also very particular about clothes.

"All his clothes were made for him. His boots were without laces — they just had a tag at the front and back so that he could pull them on quickly. The point is that he couldn't bear to waste time, in any way. His shirts were made with stiff turned-down collars; although they had the eyes for a stud, Sir Arthur just pushed one end over the other and put on his tie, which was also ready-made. Of course, he was never without his famous walking stick, called 'Prodger' — and if anything caught his eye, he would prod it with the stick."

The young James Candy met a good many interesting and famous people at Youlbury. Among them were the resident poets of Boars Hill, Robert Bridges and John Masefield. Other visitors ranged from Professor Gilbert Murray to the young Mortimer Wheeler, and even, one morning in 1917, Tomas Masaryk, the future President of Czechoslovakia, whom he found sitting on a bench in the garden.

"Lord Caernarvon was another visitor. He stayed several times while I was there," said Mr. Candy. "I can see him now, sitting at the lunch table talking about his Egyptian excavations, and saying — 'Evans, if Carter doesn't find something *this* season, I'm going to sack him!'" Ironically, that was the

season when Howard Carter did discover something — the tomb of King Tutankhamun.

Mr. Candy remembered Sir Arthur saying to him one day: 'Jimmie, I've decided to reconstruct Knossos as it should be.' Between 1922 and 1930 he did gradually restore many parts of the Palace to show what it might have looked like, but this has always been a subject of controversy. In Evans' defence it must be said that, in face of the harsh Cretan climate, he was presented with certain problems of conservation; and as he had rescued Knossos from oblivion it was natural that he should want to protect what he had found. There was, however, another reason: and that was to make what he had discovered more intelligible to the people who went there. As Mr. Candy remarked:

"He knew that there is a big difference between what a mass of crumbling ruins means to an archaeologist, and to the general public." And he added: "I think myself that this has been one of the greatest attractions of Knossos for generations of visitors to Crete."

One evening in the spring of 1941, only a few months before Sir Arthur died, James Candy went to see him for the last time.

"He was sitting in a chair in the big drawing room at Youlbury, with a black cat beside him. He said to me, 'I ought not to be living here, Jimmie.' I asked, 'Why not, Sir Arthur?'; and he replied, 'You know, I've spent all my money on Knossos.' And so he had."

* * *

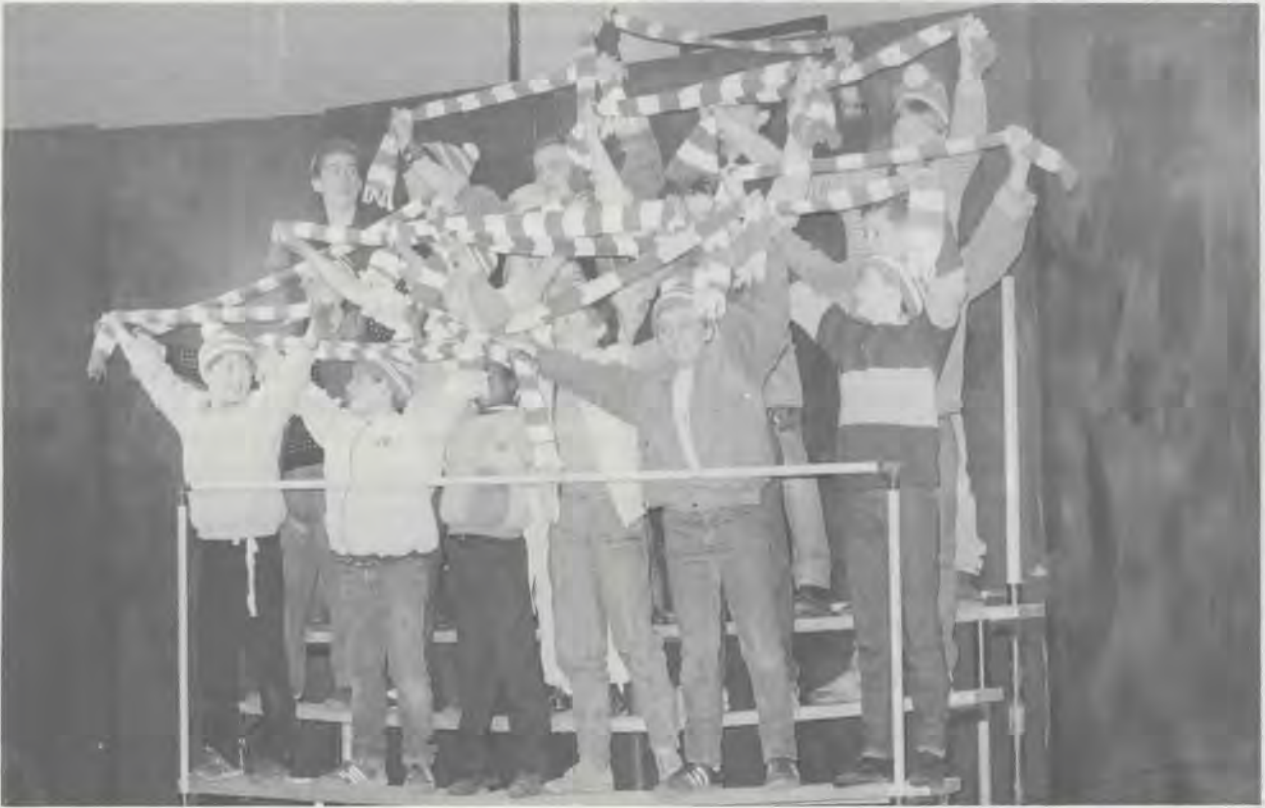
Sir Arthur Evans died on the 8th July, 1941. The house which he had built was demolished nine years later. On the Jarn Mound there is now a memorial to him. But it may be that, in one form or another, his spirit still haunts the gardens and grounds that were once so beautifully landscaped in those far-off summers before the first world war.

At Youlbury during the filming of the sequence in which James Candy appeared for Michael Wood's series *In Search of the Trojan War*, a beautiful white swan suddenly appeared on the lake and glided towards them. The camera crew were rather excited about this, and everything was hurriedly adjusted to include a shot of the swan in the foreground, with James and Michael Wood sitting in deck-chairs by the edge of the lake.

"You know," Mr. Candy said, "the funny thing is that that swan had never been seen there before and, as a matter of fact, I've never seen it there again. When the filming was over, Michael Wood and I just looked at each other and said — 'Sir Arthur sent that swan!'"

P. J. C.

THE SCHOOL PLAY



The vociferous chorus, led by S. Smith, chanting 'City!', 'City!', City!'.

Zigger Zagger

Mr. Nightingale's ambitious decision to choose *Zigger Zagger* by Peter Terson as this year's play resulted in one of the most successful productions of recent years, following in the fine tradition of *The Real Inspector Hound*, *A Sleep of Prisoners* and *The Italian Straw Hat* — all of which were very well received.

Zigger Zagger set against the background of football hooliganism in the early sixties, called for a considerable cast and in fact some forty boys of all ages were involved in some aspect or another of the production.

The plot revolved around the progress through adolescence towards maturity of one Harry Philton, and of his growing awareness of life's mundanity, its obligations, responsibilities and true meaning. Although some may criticise the play for being overlong and occasionally repetitive, it is cleverly crafted and offers ample scope for many boys of ranging abilities to express their talents in a series of short scenes involving many different characters.

Jason Barnes played the part of Harry, the young lad from a typical industrial town, full of doubt and uncertainty about life and his future, with no support

from his rather flirtatious mother, who would rather have him out of the house. He is also under the influence of Zigger Zagger, the football gang leader, who lives a supposedly romantic life, free of commitments, roaming the country following the City and their centre-forward Vincent, and generally causing trouble for all and sundry. Harry was thus quite a demanding role as he was on the stage for the best part of two and a half hours, but Jason obviously has a genuine gift for acting and I felt he largely succeeded in his portrayal of the boy. There appeared to be a lot of Barnes in Harry and it almost seemed to be a role written for him. If at times his expression lacked a little variety, he conveyed very sensitively the confusion, frustration and depression felt by Harry in the face of all the conflicting influences, advice and opinions of others.

As the play moves from schoolroom to football ground to Careers Office and Harry encounters several stereotypes of adult society (such as the Headmaster, the teacher and the policeman) he grows intellectually and emotionally apart from his early mentor, Zigger Zagger. Zigger was played by Adrian Spencer with a great deal of conviction and



unlike Barnes, perhaps, quite against type. Despite a little woodenness and lack of fluidity in expression he, I felt, communicated the latent aggression of the character well and proved a suitable foil to Harry throughout the performance as he sought to seduce him away from the steady job, the wife, kids and a mortgage.

Spencer's function as the 'bad angel' was countered by 'the perfect British citizen' — Harry's uncle, Les (played by David Pinnell) who believes in the better things of life, but also, more importantly, a steady job. The size of the part, the similarity of the lines and the fact that he was playing someone who was far older than he, all combined to make this quite a testing experience for Pinnell, but he was up to the challenge and was generally secure in the character as he preached his unappealing words of domesticated wisdom to the reluctant and dilemma-stricken Harry.

There were several female roles in *Zigger Zagger* and it was important that a tendency towards "camping up" the parts was avoided. I felt that Fady Dona (who played Sandra), Mark Holmes (Glenice), David Law (Edna) and Lionel Lincoln-Lewis (Harry's mother) all performed admirably, with appropriate femininity most of the time! The apparent lack of self-consciousness was most impressive.

The nature of the play required a string of cameo-like performances. Daniel Woodley was a very authoritative recruiting sergeant, though on occasions he was a little too enthusiastic in his barking, almost at the cost of his voice. A poor beleaguered policeman was played by Paul Brooker, more interested in the football than in dealing with misguided delinquents like Harry caught up with the gang. Although this was only a relatively small part, it was quite a difficult one and he coped well with the range of emotions; he also managed the rather repetitive nature of his lines very competently. Jeremy Abbott, while again having only a small role, was perhaps the star of the evening with his excellent characterisation of the Scottish Careers Officer who had trained in adolescent problems and social psychology and therefore 'knew it all'. The scene in the Careers Office, the dialogue between Barnes and Abbott, proved to be one of the most effective and entertaining in the entire play and the pair certainly had the audience warming to them, appreciating the humour but also the pathos of Harry's plight. Abbott's experience of many previous roles in House and School plays was clearly evident to great effect on the night.

Excellent support was lent to Harry on his odyssey of self-realisation by Tristan Walker as the rather sordid newsagent and the egotistical Vincent, the



Top: *Zigger* and his faithful followers.

Centre: *Harry* meets another of his 'uncles'.

Bottom: '*Join the professionals, they'll make a man of you!*'.

'darling of the terraces'; Ian Kershaw as the disillusioned Youth Leader; Bamikole Akande as a rather incongruous Uncle Albert and the medical officer; Andrew Jackson as Uncle Brian, a 'friend' of Harry's mother and the crusty old soldier; Michael McGillicuddy as the cynical teacher; George Haworth as the ineffectual judge; Matthew Howe as the 'wet' Football Club Chairman; Daniel Woodley who also played the Dentist and Stanley; and Daniel Jones who played the parts of the patient Headmaster and the ingratiating Vicar with great poise and presence.

Singing and soccer chanting plays a major part in the play and a chorus of some sixteen boys drawn from throughout the School, and extremely ably led by Samuel Smith, were required to represent Zigger's football followers, Harry's classmates and some hooligans at a bus stop. This meant that they were on stage, standing on terracing, for virtually the whole performance. It must have been exhausting to stand there under the hot lights and given their young ages they stuck to the task manfully and fairly raised the roof with their renditions of 'Oh when the Reds!' 'Bless 'em all' and 'I'm forever blowing bubbles'. Their enthusiastic efforts were greatly enjoyed by the audience, who were pelted with plastic bottles, scarves and toilet rolls — it was one of those occasions when it wasn't advantageous to be sitting in the front row! The presence of so many younger boys in the chorus epitomised the spirit of the ideal school play, however complicated that may make rehearsals.

One felt that, although certain scenes fell a little flat and occasional scene shifts took too long, the entire cast were exhilarated by the experience. What was already a daunting challenge was made far more intimidating for the cast by the fact that the stage set was extremely simple; it consisted solely of a background of flats painted black and arranged in an arc with a very primitive carpeted living room area at the front of the stage. Thus, the audience's attention was focussed entirely upon the performers. The spotlighting emphasised this effect and in fact the stage lighting throughout was very cleverly co-ordinated with the use of quite a sophisticated arrangement of lights. Michael Stead and Duncan Morrison deserve to be commended as the operators.

Although, at times, the play's message might appear a little dated it does provide something of an insight into some of the reasons behind football's current chronic problems and for that reason one could still identify with it. All in all this was a triumphant evening, full of memorable moments and performances — truly a School play.

P. J. R. R.



Top: *Vincent — idol of the teeming millions.*
 Centre: *'It's the likes of you give football a bad name'.*
 Bottom: *Zigger's mob go on the rampage.*

Re-roofing at Cokethorpe

The work of completely replacing the roof of the main building began in May. The total estimated cost of the whole project is nearly £1¼ million, and this could increase as the slates and lead are removed to reveal further damaged timbers.

The timetable of the re-roofing, which is to be done in three stages, is to near completion in November, but once again this is open to question as the wear and tear of the years have taken their toll.

Approximately 40% of the cost of the repairs to the roof and ballustrades is being met by a grant from ENGLISH HERITAGE, part of the Government's Historic Buildings Commission. In return, from 1986, the school and the surrounding grounds will be open to the public for at least thirty days of the year.

One of the conditions of accepting the grant from English Heritage is that the roof be restored to its original state of Stonesfield Slates, and the flat areas leaded. Although English Heritage were asked if modern materials could be used, thereby reducing the cost of the repair, the answer was an emphatic 'No'. The roof has to be returned to its original condition.

THE ROOF TIMBERS

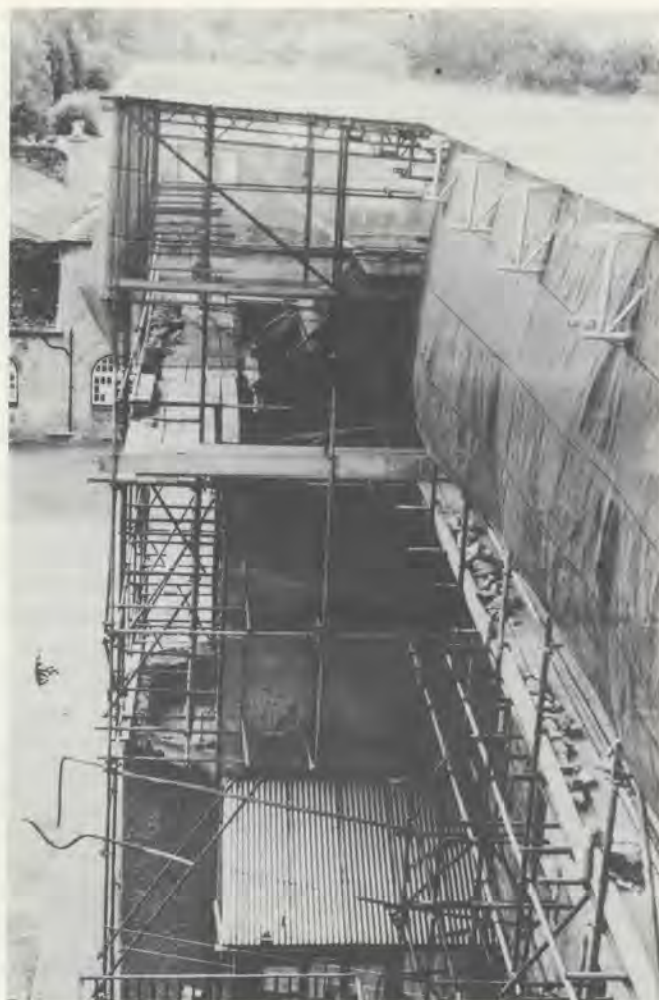
The wood framework of the roof has altered very little since its original construction in 1709. If comparison is made with the roof of the nearby sanatorium, though, it can be seen that instead of the original inverted W-shape, the main roof has been altered to a flat shape.

In 1700 the oak timbers were assembled at ground level and the joints marked. The whole thing was then dismantled and re-assembled on top of the walls. The original carpenters' marks are clearly visible on some of the removed timbers.

the oak timbers that are rotten are now being cut out and replaced by new. Close inspection of some of this material shows that a lot of the wood used in the original roof was second-hand even in 1700.

It has been suggested that the north-west wing of the house was built around an existing Tudor manor house, and that some of the timbers may have come from that. However, no proof of this has yet come to light.

The ballustrade, which is also to be replaced, is of Cotswold Stone. This was added to the house at a much later date, partially to hide additions to the top floor, built as accommodation for the domestic staff.



STONESFIELD SLATE

Stonesfield Slate comes from a localised area around the village of Stonesfield, Oxfordshire. The last slate was quarried in 1912, although in its heyday 20 quarries were producing. As a result, some of the slates now being used are between two and three hundred years old, and many replacement slates used second or third hand!

The Slate was formed millions of years ago in the bed of a river, and its resilience is second to none.

Dug out of the ground in the Summer, the slate was covered with wet cloths during the winter and water poured on them. With the arrival of the hard frosts the Slate then split naturally. The best slates were called "Potlids". Today there are very few craftsmen working with Stonesfield slate.

The slates were originally secured to the roof by Oak Pegs. These were far superior to the nails that are used today.

The present renovations have also yielded examples of original 1700 plaster, using real horse hair as the binding factor.

Further information about the Roofing work can be obtained from the Bursar.

TEACHING RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE

Shall we call it Religious Knowledge, Religious Education, Religious Studies or what? In which case will it appear on the timetable as R.K., R.E., or R.S.? Such questions have exercised nearly as many eminent minds for nearly as long as the debate between the Evolutionists and the Creationists. In the latter case of course there really is no debate as God did it anyway in his way. In the former case what's in a name? The important point is the content of the course and the methods of teaching.

At Cokethorpe the teaching of R.K. (I will use this term to maintain some consistency) has evolved in the last few years. A separate department now exists staffed by a full time layman instead of part-time clergymen. The great advantage is that the professional teacher brings no denominational bias. In the classroom he is neutral. That does not mean of course that he does not hold strong beliefs and views, but simply that, when in the classroom, he seeks to draw out his pupils and not impose himself.

This year, for the first time, has seen a sizeable entry for the 'O' level in R.K. Boys have traditionally shied away from this subject supposing it not to fit the 'macho' image. It is pleasing to see boys now studying the subject seriously and with considerable success. As 'O' levels go it is a relatively easy one to pass and can certainly mean the difference between four and five 'O' levels if numbers are important.

R.K. syllabi have changed very little over the years especially at 'O' level. Each syllabus is based on a section of the Bible and at Cokethorpe, at the moment, we study the Life and Teaching of Christ from the gospels. C.S.E. syllabi are more adventurous, encouraging project work and also orals. Boys with less writing ability benefit from this approach. The forthcoming new G.C.S.E. examination syllabus will combine both concepts almost certainly to the benefit of all boys and should encourage more boys to enter.

One of the greatest challenges facing an R.K. teacher is to communicate Biblical truth to modern so-called sophisticated youth. It is amazing that so many young people are prejudiced against the Biblical record by the time they reach secondary age. The publication of new attractive and scholarly reference books has helped enormously. The advent of the video has brought the setting of the Bible stories very much to life and some of the reconstructions are excellent. The multiplication of accounts of modern instances of miracles, healings, men and women sacrificially serving others, organisations which exist solely to help others and much else has helped pupils to see the truths at work in the setting of today.

A part of R.K. teaching will always be discussion of issues, moral, ethical and religious. The aim is always to encourage pupils to think for themselves and work out their attitude. Of course it is helpful to hear other people's point of view both of peers and in the classroom context, that of the teacher. The ability to work through a moral dilemma is a sign of maturity and the aim of every R.K. teacher.

What of the future? As mentioned already the new G.C.S.E. syllabus will mean a change of teaching approach and should prove of benefit to the boys. No doubt more individual projects and pieces of research will be undertaken calling for more pupil participation. Perhaps at the upper end of the school some of the moral and social issues discussed will result in practical action in the community in such a way that boys leave Cokethorpe with a consciousness as well as an understanding of what religious faith is all about, especially the Christian faith.

M. C.

CLASSICAL STUDIES

I have always been fascinated by Greece and its ancient cultures, and two years ago, after what seemed a lifetime of teaching Mathematics, I suddenly decided to start teaching the new Classical Studies course — this leads to a joint C.S.E./'O' Level examination. I do not know a word of Ancient Greek and to begin with I really was one lesson ahead of the class, but I am much enjoying the experience and I even sat the 'O' Level exam with my Vth Form set in June (I only pray I pass!)

I have concentrated on the Greek half of the syllabus rather than the Roman. There are two papers to prepare for — the first consists of the History, Culture, Politics and everyday life of Athens and Sparta in the 5th Century B.C., and for the second paper we have to study a comedy by Aristophanes (this year it is *The Clouds*) a tragedy (Sophocles *Oedipus*) and a particular aspect of Greek Art in depth (this year *Sculpture*). The latter topic has taken us twice to the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, and once to the British Museum to see the *Elgin Marbles*.

The highlight for me has been the week's Classical Tour of Greece in April when our small party visited so many wonderful sites and saw so much beautiful sculpture and architecture.

I really do recommend a change of subject for schoolmasters at some stage of their careers. It is so refreshing. Incidentally, for prospective 6th Form candidates, I hope to be able to offer Classical Studies 'A' level in future.

D. F. G.



Theatre of Epidauros

I. M. A. Ogborn.

The Classical Studies Trip to Greece

Day 1 — Tuesday

We arrived at Athens airport at about 3 o'clock, having left Luton at 9.45 a.m. We were greeted by warm weather and after passing through security were welcomed by our holiday representative. After an hour we arrived at our first hotel, the King Jason. Everyone was asked to meet in the restaurant area to be briefed on what we were going to do, and also sample some Ouzo. Not many people liked it as first, but we all got used to it later! At 7.30 p.m. we had dinner and afterwards some of us ambled round the city for a while.

Day 2 — Wednesday

In the morning, after an early breakfast, we left Athens to go to Mycenae. Although it was only 8 a.m. it seemed like midday because it was already so hot. The temperatures that day topped 90°, which was said to be very hot for the time of year. At Mycenae we saw the famous Lion Gate, an imposing entrance to this famous site, and one of the oldest monuments in Greece. Major excavations in the last century by Heinrich Schliemann revealed a complex of fascinating tombs — including those attributed to Agamemnon and Clytemnestra — as well as the foundation of a Temple. Half a mile down the hill, outside the walls, are some Beehive tombs of enormous dimensions.

In the morning we also passed through Corinth where the famous canal drops steeply down some 40 metres, is 25 metres wide and 10 metres deep. Most ships can pass through it.

That day we also visited Epidauros, which lies in a wooded valley surrounded by mountains. The sites of most interest there were the Stadium and the Theatre, which is the most perfectly preserved

example built by the Greeks. It could seat 14,000 people and though some of the seats are 70 feet above the level of the stage, the acoustics are so perfect that one can hear every word from below quite clearly.

That night we stayed at the King Saron Hotel on the coast near Corinth, which was the nicest of all the hotels we stayed in, I thought.



... and the view from above.

Day 3 — Thursday

We left the King Saron at 8.30 a.m. and made our way to Olympia. Most of the journey, which was about 120 miles, took us along the coastline of the Ionian Sea. We arrived in Olympia and stopped at a picturesque place where we ate in a hotel recommended by the guide. After a delicious meal of olives wrapped in vine leaves we made our way to the Olympic Stadium and the ruins. It is one of the most peaceful sites in Greece and a great achievement of archaeological excavation, a direct result of which was the revival of the Olympic Games in Athens in 1896 by Baron Pierre de Coubertin. We explored it thoroughly, and then made our way back to the coach to be driven to the Hotel Ilis. In the evening there was a church service nearby. As most of the Greek churches have loud-speakers so that people outside can hear the service, it was pretty hard to get to sleep that night.

Day 4 — Friday

We were woken at 7.30 a.m. We left the Hotel Ilis and went on our way back to Patras, so that we could travel to Delphi by ferry across the Ionian Gulf. Delphi must be one of the most beautiful and spectacular ancient sites in Greece. It has a superb situation with stunning views over acres of olive trees on the plain below. It was once the centre of worship of the Earth goddess. Above the temple is the 4th century BC theatre; even higher up can be found the well preserved ruins of the stadium where the Pythian Games were held. It is 200 metres long and its 12 tiers of seats could hold 7000 spectators. On the road to the village is the museum which houses the famous bronze statue of the charioteer which was found in the sea in 1896.



Delphi.

Day 5 — Saturday

We made our way to Meteora, which was an unforgettable sight. This group of monasteries perched high up on the strange rock outcrops towers above you, dominating the surrounding area. The rocky cliffs, worn by erosion from the wind and rain, are so steep that they resemble walls formed by man, not nature, and it is easy to see why hermits many centuries ago chose the site as a place of refuge. Meteora is situated in the Plain of Thessaly and is sometimes known as the "rocky forest" because the rock formation juts out of the plain rather like a cluster of trees. The earliest monastic community was founded in the 14th century, and 200 years later it had grown to include thirteen monasteries and twenty smaller settlements. Today only a few monks and nuns make up the community. Until the 1920s, when steps were cut into the rock, the only means of access was by a perilous series of long ladders, or a net hoisted up by a primitive crane which overhung the abyss.

That night we stayed at the Hotel Davani. At 11.30 p.m. we joined in the Easter celebrations led by the Patriarch of the Northern Province of the Greek Orthodox Church. At midnight precisely there were fireworks, singing and church bells to celebrate the risen Christ — a very memorable moment.

Day 6 — Sunday

We made our way back to Athens. The journey took us through the famous Pass of Thermopylae and lasted most of the day. What a relief it was to get back to the King Jason: in the previous four days we had covered about 1500 miles! In the late afternoon a small party decided to go and visit the Parthenon, but unfortunately the gates were closed, so we just had to be content to photograph it.



Corinth Canal.



One of the few remaining Greek remains at Corinth.

Day 7 — Monday

We had a complete day in Athens, which was marvellous. A small group explored the Parthenon properly; we were there for about four hours just admiring this breath-taking piece of architecture. At about 2.30 we had lunch in a most exotic place overlooking the Acropolis. After lunch we looked round the shops and some of the markets, and at 5.30 headed back to the hotel to get ready for the main event of the day, which everyone had been looking forward to. After an early supper we left by coach to go to the Pnyx where we saw a *son et lumiere* which lasted about an hour, and showed how the Persians took over the Acropolis in 480 B.C. before the famous naval Battle of Salamis.

After this we went to a fantastic night club where we had a meal and were entertained by some



Monument to the Greeks who died at Thermopylae in 480 B.C.

traditional Greek dancers. It was nearly 2 a.m. before we arrived back at the hotel, singing 'Old Lang Syne'.

Day 8 — Tuesday

Our last day. In the morning we went on an excursion to a monastery outside Athens, and then once again to the Acropolis. Then it was time to check in at the airport at 1 p.m. for the 4 o'clock flight.

It was a marvellous holiday — even if the Headmaster did get annoyed with me sometimes for deserting him for a female Classical Studies teacher!

I. M. A. Ogborn



The Parthenon.

Music

THE CHRISTMAS CONCERT

It was very encouraging to see so many parents and friends at this year's music concert at what is a very busy time of the year. The highlight for me was the appearance of the school's brass ensemble consisting of Andrew Venman, Keith Pitt, Matthew Lake and Ian Ogborn. Their performances of 'Silent Night' and 'Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer' could never be described as polished but were spirited and bravely accomplished. The group has only been playing together for a very short time and are to be congratulated on their contribution to the evening. The enhancement they brought to the singing of some of the traditional Christmas carols was appreciated.

There were good solo piano performances from John Herron and Neil Pineo and a cornet solo from Andrew Venman which produced the predictable whispered singing 'I'm dreaming of a white Christmas'. Form 1/2 sang two pieces, 'The Virgin Mary had a Baby Boy' and 'Let's go to Bethlehem'. They produced a good sound and whilst there was some embarrassment I thought they enjoyed their contribution.

The assembled body of people sang heartily especially in 'The Twelve Days of Christmas'. The remainder of the programme was made up of readings associated with the festivities of the season read by Mr. Colin Gordon who also sang a solo accompanied by Mrs. Phillipa Loveless.

What a pity more boys did not take part. I know that it is not easy to stand in front of a number of people but many boys do have talents which would be very much enjoyed if they were shared. I look forward to hearing more music from the boys next Christmas.

M. C.

INTER-HOUSE MUSIC COMPETITION

This year's House Music Competition took place over two days and had over 50 solo competitors and 15 groups. Instead of dividing the competition into separate instrumental classes, this year there were only two broad divisions — Solo Performance and Group Performance. As in previous competitions each entry was judged on its own merit, giving competitors equal opportunity to gain points for their Houses.

The Preliminary Round was held on the afternoon of Tuesday, 12th March with the majority of the school as spectators. A panel of adjudicators — the Headmaster, Mr. Carter, Mrs. Loveless, Mrs. Stone, Mr. Gordon and Mr. Silvercroft — awarded marks after each entrant's performance and the average mark was then calculated by Mr. Hudson, assisted by Stead. It was apparent that most competitors had taken this year's competition very seriously and had put much time and energy into giving of their best. Nerves always dictate the overall standard and musical appeal of any player, but many of the entrants, especially Herron, Holmes, Pineo and Venman, gave musical, well-controlled and unflustered performances that were a pleasure to hear. It was encouraging to see so many boys willing to stand up and sing in front of their peers — a daunting experience in any boys' school — and pleasing to hear the greatly improved standard of guitar and brass playing that has been fostered by the enthusiastic, committed teaching of Mr. Silvercroft and Mr. Cutting.

At the end of the afternoon Queen Anne emerged as the mid-competition leaders by a small margin over Swift and Harcourt, and David Smith and Justin Price found themselves with prizes awarded for the best and most promising performances from beginners. The afternoon was efficiently marshalled by Mr. Stark, and to him, as also to the adjudicators and scorers, go my thanks for helping to make the preliminary round so enjoyable.

The Final Round was held the following evening in front of a large audience of parents and friends. Entries for the Solo and Group Performance sections were limited to equal numbers per House and these were the quality performances. The adjudicator was a former colleague of Mr. Goldsmith's at Radley College — now on the music staff of Bloxham School — Mr. Christopher Fletcher-Campbell. His comments were witty, concise, both critical and constructive, and were much appreciated by performers and audience alike.

From many fine performances he singled out two that were excellent by any standards — Andrew Venman's accomplished cornet playing of Geoffrey Burgon's theme for 'Brideshead Revisited' and Mark Holmes' solo treble singing of a Christmas carol. Other prizes went to Tim Bomford for his confident, musical playing of two guitar studies (accompanied by Mr. Silvercroft), to George Haworth for his bass playing of the rhythmic, busy and demanding bass line from The Jam's 'Start', and to Neil Pineo for a neat and well-rounded performance of a piano miniature by Jurgon Golle. Other pleasurable performances came from the brass

OPEN DAY

ensemble of Walker, Venman, Ogborn and Kershaw who gave the evening a transatlantic flavour with 'The Star-spangled Banner', from the singing duo of Holmes and Morrison II in 'Silent Night', and from the Swift Youth Singers with a lively interpretation of 'Doh, Re, Mi'. The evening was concluded by the Swift Prefects with a suitably reeling, rumbustious rendition of 'What shall we do with the drunken sailor?', but even this enthusiastic effort was not sufficient to wrest the lead away from Queen Anne House who won the Music Cup by a narrow margin from Swift.

The evening's music-making was of a pleasingly good standard and I hope that next year's Music Competition will show a similar improvement in musical performance in the school.

C. G.

GUITAR EVENING

Our visiting guitar teacher, Jay Silvercroft, hosted an evening of guitar music in the Corinthian Room on Wednesday 19th July for the benefit of the growing numbers of guitar pupils and their parents.

Five pupils from Cokethorpe — Jason Bryan, Matthew Horton, Daniel Jones, Justin Price and Robin Price — opened the evening by playing a series of simple duets with Mr. Silvercroft. For some this was their first public performance but even extreme nervousness did not prevent them from giving very creditable performances.

Another pupil, Miss Jo Honour, a teenager of the same age as some of the Cokethorpe pupils, played two difficult and intricate arrangements of works by Bach with great stylishness and apparent ease, showing what sort of performing standards Cokethorpe pupils might be expected to achieve with sufficient commitment, practice and dedication.

Another pupil, Mr. Neil Sleight, gave us some Blues and Ragtime music, played a Carulli duet with Jo Honour, and the two of them joined Jay Silvercroft in the first performance of his amusing Quodlibet 'Franglais', written for Cokethorpe.

It was, of course, Jay Silvercroft himself who gave us the most scintillating performances of the evening, displaying his skill and musicality, both as performer and composer, in a fiendishly difficult study in harmonics by Yeatman and in his own 'Gray Blues' for 12-string guitar.

The evening was greatly enjoyed by all who attended, and my special thanks are extended to Jo Honour and Neil Sleight for coming to play to us, and especially to Jay Silvercroft for the unstinting energy and time that he devotes to encouraging guitar music at Cokethorpe.

C. G.

It wasn't the greatest of starts, for it was raining. Even so, the cricket competition started promptly and though the conditions were far from ideal, there was only one break for rain and the game was exciting and of a high standard. The first match produced the highest score, with Harcourt making 57 runs in the five overs allowed. This was due mainly to Paul Barry and Fela Cole, who opened. Barry hit a very quick 17, including two big sixes. However, overall victory eluded Harcourt, and true to tradition Swift won the competition.

After watching the cricket competition I moved on to have a look at the Craft displays. Among the pottery exhibits were some beautiful pieces of work which must have taken hours to make. The centrepiece of the woodwork display was the aviary which has been built by boys this term under the watchful eye of Mr. John White, who has seen the whole project through from the plans to the finished product. Very nice it looks, too — and I should think that the birds must feel they have more room to move in!

While I was inspecting these displays I could hear shots coming from the rifle range where there was a .177 air rifle competition in progress, with the added incentive of a prize for the best shot. Perhaps this is the place to mention that the A.C.F. had done themselves proud with a huge display which must have included an example of nearly all the equipment they possess, from parade uniform to mountain climbing gear.

Another exhibition which I found very interesting was the photographic one. This was beautifully presented by Mr. Barker and the boys in the Photography Club, and it was obvious that only pictures of the best quality were presented. A number of them were taken in strange perspectives which were not immediately recognisable, but when you saw what the subject was you realised the difficulty that the shot must have involved.

All the science labs were open. The physics lab was full of gadgets; whether they all worked, I don't know, but it looked good nonetheless. In the chemistry lab there was a series of complicated experiments on show. They were all in specific order, so that one could follow them and learn something from them. In the biology lab there was a big display of things collected by Mr. Daniels, including collections of insects, slides, microscopes showing plant tissue, and a rather sharp set of dissection instruments. David Law was also there blood-testing any parents or visitors who were game enough!

By now it was time to go down to the Regatta. Alas, the weather had not improved much; in fact it had got worse. Swift were the overall winners of the competition and the prizes were presented after tea. In spite of the rain it was a happy occasion for those who had done well.

M. R. Pye

DEBATING SOCIETY

THE INTER-HOUSE DEBATING COMPETITION

The first of the three inter-House debates was contested by Queen Anne and Harcourt, and took place on January 24th. The motion was that 'This House believes that National Service should be reinstated', and to my mind it was a surprisingly difficult one for the four speakers to debate because none of them had first-hand experience of conscription or the state of the country at the time of compulsory National Service.

Simon Smith, proposing the motion for Harcourt, spoke with obvious conviction and had a well-prepared speech. Julian Russ, in reply, also had a confident approach — and although at times his speech was a little disjointed, it was well-researched with an abundance of facts and figures. Graham Humphrey, seconding the motion, started confidently and maintained well-reasoned arguments throughout; he was clearly the best speaker of the evening. Tristan Walker seconded for the opposition, but although he raised several good points he failed to put them across forcefully enough, and too often finished with a shrug of the shoulders or a joke to obtain cheap debating points. Comment from the Floor was disappointing, with the exception of Edwards and Price II who were commended by the Chairman for their contributions. At the end of the evening the judges awarded Simon Smith 75 points and Graham Humphrey 86 for Harcourt. Julian Russ and Tristan Walker scored 67 each. When put to a vote in the House the motion was carried by 161-134. Queen Anne clearly had their work cut out for them if they were to win the competition.

The House assembled again on February 7th to debate the motion that 'This House believes that an Englishman takes his sport too seriously'. For Harcourt this was their second and final appearance in the competition, but for Swift it was their opening debate. Due to a slight error on the part of the Chairman, Bamikole Akande opened the debate by opposing the motion! As expected, he had a good argument and if he was a little surprised at being asked to 'open the innings' it didn't show. Jeremy Abbott then proposed the motion, also raising a number of good points in a speech that was rather longer than the younger members of the audience perhaps appreciated. Michael Pye, in his first debate, showed no signs of nervousness, and considering his age he delivered a very fine speech indeed; I'm sure he will be prominent in many debates to come. Jason Barnes seconded the motion, and this was also his first debate. At one point his

speech dwindled a little, and in places it was slightly disjointed. However, considering his inexperience, this too was a creditable attempt. The judges awarded Jeremy Abbott 108 points and Jason Barnes 56 for Harcourt; and to Bamikole Akande and Michael Pye they awarded a combined total of 159 points. The motion was just carried when put to a vote in the House.

When the House gathered for the concluding debate between Queen Anne and Swift on February 14th, Queen Anne required 189 points to overtake Harcourt's 325. Swift required 166, and they looked the favourites. The third and final motion was that 'This House regrets the discovery of America'. Daniel Woodley proposed the motion. He spoke forcefully and raised a laugh from the audience on more than one occasion. Matthew Howe opposed the motion, but really did not put across his ideas with any great conviction. The seconders, Daniel Jones and Fadi Dona, both spoke clearly and concisely, although Dona was inclined to read a little too much. Comment from the Floor was by far the best of the three debates. The judges awarded 110 points to Daniel Jones and 94 to Woodley, and Howe and Dona scored 161 between them. To everyone's delight Queen Anne had turned the tables on Harcourt and won with a combined score of 338. Swift brought up the rear with 320 points.

Thanks must go to Mr. Watts, who once again acted as Chairman of the Judges in all three debates; and to Mr. Daniels, Mr. Randall, Mr. James and Mr. R. Thompson, who assisted him at various times.

J. W. Abbott

THE JUNIOR CULLEN DEBATE

This year's Junior Cullen Debate took place on June 10th. The motion, that 'This House believes professional sportsmen are paid too much', was proposed by Daniel Jones and Matthew Howe, and opposed by Ian Kershaw and Samuel Smith. Our guest Adjudicator was Mrs. E. M. Banham, who, besides being one of our Governors, is also the mother of R. V. Banham (1978-83) who won both the Junior and Senior Cullen Debating Prizes during his time here. Mrs. Banham was assisted in her task by Mr. Randall and Mr. Daniels.

After a fairly lengthy deliberation the Judges awarded the Prize jointly to the proposers, although when put to a vote in the House the motion was in fact defeated by 20 votes (46-26).



Jeremy Abbott and Clare Houghton speaking in the Inter-School Debate.

THE JUDGES' VERDICT ON THE JUNIOR CULLEN DEBATE

The Judges were looking for the team which could produce two good speeches, equal proportions of quick thinking and decisiveness when it came to taking questions from the Floor, and strength in summing up.

The general standard of speeches was good, with all participants speaking clearly. It could be said, however, that they lacked a sprinkling of humour with which to liven up speeches that were otherwise rather serious. Daniel Jones, proposing the motion, provided a speech which combined good content with strong argument, and proved to be the most polished of the evening. He was seconded by Matthew Howe, who also provided plenty of good content, but with excessive use of notes he did not score so highly on debating skills. It was noticeable that Jones answered most, if not all, the questions from the Floor.

Ian Kershaw and Samuel Smith opposed the motion, with Kershaw immediately attacking several points made by Jones to provide a very impressive impromptu opening that captured everyone's attention. Smith, although clear, became at times slightly lost in his notes, and this detracted from the overall impact of his speech. Where this team was strong was in its ability to crush argument from the Floor. Both boys showed eagerness to answer questions and they replied with some sound points.

It was not easy for the Judges to come to a decision, but we felt that Jones and Howe just clinched it with speeches that were slightly more consistent in their arguments, and by their very decisive summary. Although the opposition's summary was fair, it did not follow on in the same strength as their answers to the Floor, and they didn't quite capitalise on what had been a strong position at that stage.

We congratulate the speakers on their efforts and thank everyone concerned for such an enjoyable evening. Although the Floor got off to a slow start, we thought that there were several promising contributions from the 3rd Formers.

Mrs. E. M. Banham

INTER-SCHOOL DEBATE

During the last week of the Summer Term an inter-school debate was held with Wroxhall Abbey on the motion that 'This House believes that woman's place is in the home'. The motion was proposed by Jeremy Abbott and Daniel Jones, and opposed by Miss Clare Houghton and Miss Brione Cowles. The debate took place in front of a number of senior boys, the majority of the 4th Form, and about thirty girls from Wroxhall Abbey. The standard of speaking, and the arguments employed by both sides, was pleasantly high — but in terms of debating technique it was in many ways the girls who showed themselves to be the more incisive. They had had a long hot journey coming to Cokethorpe that evening, and it is not easy to come into another school (particularly a boys' school) and do such a thing as this.

There were only a limited number of comments from the Floor, but those who spoke were Humphrey, Edward Smith, Justin Price, Ferris and Mrs. Goldsmith; and principally Miss Maycock for the girls. The motion was carried by five votes (29-24), but there were a large number of abstentions.

Afterwards, the senior boys had the pleasure of entertaining our visitors and the two sides mixed socially with evident ease and enjoyment. We would like to thank Wroxhall again for helping to provide such a pleasant evening.

D. O. Jones

THIS HOUSE BELIEVES THAT *An Englishman takes his sport too seriously*

The Motion, as proposed by Jeremy Abbott

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen —

Let us make clear what we understand by the word 'sport'. In the Oxford English Dictionary it is defined as 'a pastime, game or outdoor activity pursued for fun, amusement or pleasure'. Now apply that definition to what we know as sport and it might just as well read — 'an essential occupation with a win-at-all-costs-attitude necessary'.

There are two main reasons for our all too-serious approach to sport. Firstly, money. Bryan Robson was transferred from West Bromwich Albion to Manchester United for £1,500,000. Kevin Keegan in his two years with Newcastle was reputed to be earning £3,000 *per week*! I challenge anybody in this room to justify that amount of money being spent on two players. I think that this spendthrift attitude is damaging in the extreme — for whilst the top clubs become richer, the lesser clubs become poorer.

Of course, with these inflated fees the club backers expect success. Indeed, in order to make the whole venture financially viable to sponsors, advertisers, shirt manufacturers and so on, the top clubs *must* be successful and this inevitably encourages a Machiavellian, the-end-justifies-the-means, a win-at-all-costs attitude.

Instead of football, let's take a look at snooker. Before mass press and media coverage we had a friendly, formal but sporting game. What we now have is a slow, deadly boring, tactical game. We even have the first signs of crowd trouble. I can't believe it — we have crowd trouble at snooker matches! Where will it end? British Rail laying on special alcohol-free trains for snooker fans to follow Higgins around the country? Even snooker — previously a pleasant gentlemen's game — has been turned into a deadly serious occupation.

I said there were two reasons for our attitude to sport. Obviously it would be terribly unfair, and grossly naive, to believe that money is totally to blame for turning sport into a fight to the death contest. There's also the question of our character and code of conduct. Ask any Frenchman and he will tell you that the English are pompous, arrogant, superior and stubborn. We have to win at everything, and if we don't win we turn it into one of those glorious defeats that we English are oh so good

at. Even in amateur sport nowadays there are all the traces of professionalism creeping in, satisfying our desire to emulate the bad example of our sporting heroes. Everyone knows what I'm talking about — the odd tap on our opponent's ankle off the ball in football, the occasional short-arm tackle or punch thrown in the scrum on the blind side of the referee in rugby, the 'subtle' bouncer to the tail-end in cricket. What we need is a restoration of a gentlemen's code of conduct, and to bring sport back into perspective as a game for fun.

Let me illustrate my point further. I played in a cricket match last summer which turned very nasty. After a couple of dubious decisions, tempers became frayed, language turned very colourful and fists nearly flew. A formal complaint was submitted to the league demanding a replay with neutral umpires. Was this for the Nat. West. Trophy, the John Player league, or the Schweppes county cup? No — it was for the honour of winning the Oxford and District league division three title — hardly cricket's most prestigious award. But if I had mentioned those immortal words "Never mind, it's only a game", I doubt I would have been playing for the same club this year.

What happened to the days of public outrage — not violence, mind: merely outrage — when a professional was picked to captain England at cricket — a man who stooped so low as to accept money for playing a game? What happened to the days when rival supporters sat side by side cheering on their respective teams, poking fun at the opposition instead of hurling bricks over 20 ft. fences at each other and heading them back? Whatever happened to the days when, if they got the centre-forward out of the pub before kick-off he played, and if they didn't they put out an apprentice and substituted him at closing time? Alas, I'm afraid we shall not see them again.

Recent statistics show that 1 in 5 British athletes regularly take anabolic steroids. It's illegal, but of course winning is just too important and no-one remembers the challenger — only the champion. I'm afraid that in this country we have our priorities wrong. The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher earns £55,000 per annum. Mr. Bobby Robson, a very distinguished man, earns £72,000 per annum.

That's almost £20,000 more than the Prime Minister. Is *this* how we value the two positions? Is sport more important than the nation's welfare? Of course not — and the sooner we realise this and do something about it, the better it will be.

Blood sports are also now far too serious. In the old days they were pleasant enough, but now we have to have a police escort to protect the hunt from saboteurs and a constant guard must be kept for foul play from those intent on destroying these old sports. It is terribly sad, but there are far more important things for police to be doing than protecting hunts and field sports.

When we balance these things up, I believe that if sports cannot be played in an atmosphere of friendly rivalry, then they might as well not be played at all. However, I suppose it could be worse. We *could* be living in the farcical world of the Italian soccer league. For instance, it was rumoured that the Spanish footballer Diego Maradona, would transfer from Barcelona to Naples. When this rumour was denied there were riots. However, when he did eventually sign for Naples for a staggering fee of £6 million, there was a three day carnival to celebrate. Mr. Maradona even has a prayer written to him. It goes like this —

*Our Father
Maradona
Who wert in Barcelona,
Praised be thy name.
Come to us fast
Thy will be done — at home and away.
Give us this day our Sunday victory
As we deserve it,
And do not delude us
But deliver us from Juventus, Roma, A.C. Milan
and other rotten clubs.*

Oh yes, you may laugh and pour scorn — but could this be England of the 21st Century? Can you imagine it?

*Oh give us this day, Kevin Bod,
Our victory to help win the league:
And deliver us from Liverpool,
Man. United and Spurs,
For thine is the Kingdom, Amen.*

I think the Greeks had the right idea — the coming together of athletes in friendly and fair competition — and it is sad that this noble idea has long since vanished from our sporting arenas. I believe an Englishman does take his sport far too seriously and I would like to leave you with the unofficial Olympic motto from which I think we could all benefit —

“It is not the winning that is important but the taking part; in life it is not the conquering but the fighting well.”



Little Meg

P. T. Norman

GHOSTS

*The rustling of the trees
And the creaking of the door
Makes one often wonder
And question even more,
Do you believe in ghosts?*

*Strange movements in the night
And the flashing of a light
Can make you shake and quiver
And almost die of fright —
Do you believe in ghosts?*

*A white enshrouded figure
Quickly comes to mind;
Easy to portray,
Most difficult to find:
Do you believe in ghosts?*

*Visions from our history,
Figures from the past —
Elizabethan, Roman,
And every other cast —
We don't know where they come from
Or even where they go,
After years and years of study
Failure's such a blow —
Should we believe in ghosts?*

*I've mended all base floor boards,
And strengthened beams and posts,
Simply to convince myself
There's no such thing as ghosts.*

Steven Lowe

Cricket



Back Row: *S. Smith, P. Barry, A. Jacson, O. Akande*; Middle Row: *P. Norman, J. Abbott, B. Akande, M. Spicer, J. Reeve*; Front Row: *J. Beeharie, S. Johnson*.

1st XI CRICKET REPORT

During the last few years School senior cricket has been enjoying an unparalleled run of success. In 1982, 1983 and 1984 the XI won five, four and eight games respectively while losing only one match per season. This year Bamikole Akande has led an unbeaten XI, only the second time that this has happened in Cokethorpe's relatively short history, and although just four victories were achieved it would be ungracious to cavil at the achievement of this very young but spirited team which finally included no fewer than four Fifth, and four Fourth formers.

Not surprisingly a great deal of responsibility rested on the Captain and Vice-Captain and I am sure that Jeremy Abbott, himself top all-time wicket-keeper with 32 career dismissals and a more than useful batsman, will forgive me if I concentrate briefly on the outstanding achievements of our first "international" cricketer, Bamikole Akande. During his time at Cokethorpe Bamikole appeared in 55 out of the 56 matches in which the XI was engaged, a record far surpassing that of any other player, took 129 wickets for the XI, fifty more than the next highest on the All-time list, (a County 2nd XI player!), caught more catches than any other fielder and scored a commendable 622 runs. During his two year captaincy the XI has played 24 matches, won 12, drawn 11, lost one and enjoyed a sequence of 23 matches without defeat. If one adds to all this Bamikole's 33 wickets and 321 runs in 25

Nomads matches his value to Cokethorpe cricket over the last five years is even more apparent and the XI will miss him considerably in 1986.

There were no indications that this was to be the year of the mid-summer monsoon when the season opened. Nets were up and pitches were in fair order at the start of term, for although Easter had been cold the weather in general had been dry. Our immediate problems were much more mundane. For the second year running we had to replace both opening batsmen, very unlucky by any standards, and work out who could fill the vacancy as Akande's partner with the new ball left by the departure of J. B. Wankling. Here at least we had three "possibles" in the persons of Norman, Reeve and Spicer to choose from, but there was no genuine spinner in the Senior squad to replace "Strike-bowler" N. Smith so it was either a case of making do with an all seam attack or looking for a promising junior to introduce when the time was ripe. Fortunately we found what we were looking for in the person of J. Beeharie, although if he is to reach his full potential and run through opposition XIs in future he must concentrate on developing his control of length, line and above all, flight. In fact after the initial practice games the first five in the batting order looked fairly solid with Norman and S. J. Smith emerging as capable openers followed by the more experienced Spicer, Akande and Abbott. However the middle order had a marshmallow quality which was worrying and the

tail was longer than we would have wished — social cricketers all, but not great batsmen. As the season developed the inclusion of two more Fourth Formers, Johnson and Barry improved the quality and pugnacity of the batting and with Beeharie also in the lower order the tail shortened significantly.

The XI began the season by drawing with Radley and beating Abingdon. Spicer dominated the batting against Radley with 62 not out, although Norman, Jackson and O. Akande chipped in with useful contributions and the XI declared at 134-7 in just over two hours. Reeve showed how much he had matured as a fast bowler since last year picking up 3-42, Spicer captured 3-31 but the Captain found the wicket too slow and Radley finished with 124-8. Akande bowled pretty fast on another docile wicket against Abingdon but this time sheer speed did the trick and he took 6-23 in 17 overs as our visitors were dismissed for 79. The XI made heavy weather of scoring the necessary runs, for although Norman, S. J. Smith and B. Akande reached double figures it was thanks to some sensible batting from Abbott, 26 not out, that the match was finally won.

The second half of May should have prepared us for the sodden dampness of one of the wettest Junes on record. First, heavy rain washed out the Shiplake fixture but a few days later the XI dodged the showers at Stowe and the batsmen made the most of an easy-paced wicket. The openers put on 20 before Smith was caught, but the score had advanced to a healthy 96 before Norman lost concentration and was bowled for 34. Akande joined Spicer in another productive stand, several singles were scampered, Spicer hit a brace of sixes and had recorded his second half-century of the season when the XI declared at 170-2 in two hours ten minutes. After tea Akande bowled rapidly but could not hit the stumps and although Norman 4-14 and Reeve 2-18 had some success and Sam Smith held a marvellous catch racing at full gallop towards the boundary, Stowe escaped with nine wickets down for 71 after 35 overs. Low pressure over Europe produced two inches of rain prior to the Oratory match turning the Senior into a cross between a swamp and a lake, but we were just able to play on the Chapel pitch although the wicket was dreadfully slow while the long, damp outfield pulled up perfectly timed cover drives yards short of the boundary. Norman and Smith both failed (2-2), a ghostly French Oral had the XI confused but Akande, first with Spicer, (until he was run out for 11), then with Abbott, (17 including his first six), repaired the damage and when he departed for 51 at 84-5 the slog was on. Barry was in his element hitting two sixes and a four in ten minutes on his debut, Reeve hit another six and the XI reached 109 just before 4.30. Akande sent Oratory reeling with figures of 8-6-6-7 and held a fine catch at backward short-leg to complete a splendid day's work. Beeharie took his maiden XI wicket when he got his line right and Norman polished off the tail with 2-6 giving the XI victory by 56 runs.

We drove to Dean Close on the "Glorious First of June" erroneously believing that summer had arrived at last. After Akande had won the toss it was encouraging to see Smith playing with greater fluency and he was unlucky to be trapped on the back foot by a ball which kept rather low for 16 out of an opening stand of 26. Spicer flourished for a while but when the score had reached 60 he failed to make proper use of his pads and was bowled behind his legs by the off-spinner — P. J. R. R. would have had apoplexy! Akande failed to make contact — no lenses — and was bowled without scoring but Abbott (32) rose to the occasion once again and with Norman chancing his arm and hitting a six over extra-cover which broke a window in the police station, the total reached a hundred in an hour and a quarter before Norman as caught for 51. Johnson batted very soundly on his debut making 12 before being taken at cover when trying to increase the scoring rate. Barry struck out, clean bowled for a duck, but Jackson came in right on cue to join Abbott and together the pair scampered and clouted 29 in 19 minutes allowing the Captain to treat spectator D.F.G. to a declaration at 156-7 before half-time. After tea Akande showed great hostility taking the first five wickets but four or five catches went down in the arc between wicket keeper and gully, (even the peerless Abbott had an off-day), so it was fortunate that Spicer chose this match to find his form with the ball removing the last five batsmen for 18 in 10.1 overs. In fact the bowlers hit the stumps eight times, two players were L.B.W. so fielding practice was evidently necessary. Nevertheless the XI won by 49 runs with 17 balls left.

In spite of a further break in the weather, rain, thunder and lightning hit us at the start of the G.C.E. season, (snow fell on the North Midlands on June 7th!), the match against Bloxham produced some excellent cricket. Akande opened the batting with Norman, who raced to 17 before lifting his head and losing his middle stump. Spicer joined in a second wicket stand of 85 in 86 minutes until the Captain fell L.B.W. to a full toss for 46. Spicer went merrily on to 53 before sacrificing his wicket on the stroke of tea taken at 134-3 and may have been a trifle surprised when the XI batted on after the interval. However this allowed Barry and Abbott to flail away cheerfully adding 36 in 18 minutes before the declaration at 170-3. Akande took a wicket in his first over but seemed a little jaded after his batting and came off with awesome figures of 9-5-4-9. Norman and Spicer captured three wickets each in rapid succession and Bloxham were dismissed for 59. Jackson, who had clearly been impressed by the sartorial elegance of D. R. Jardine as portrayed in the *Bodyline* series on television was excellent at cover point, Barry and Smith snapped up sharp catches in front of the bat while Spicer soared into the air like a leaping salmon to cling on to a return catch which seemed to be clearing him by at least a yard. Even the master in charge of the Bloxham team was impressed by the purposeful and enthusiastic way

Right: *An early season fielding practice.*

Below left: *Paul Norman following through cleanly, with Edmund Barnes at gully.*

Below right: *Jeremy Abbott diving down the leg side to collect an Akande thunderbolt, anxiously watched by Michael Spicer.*



Abbott on the attack at Malvern, sweeping the spinner.



Akande and Johnson leading the Magdalen team off the field for tea.



The undefeated XI in the final match of the season.

our youngsters had bowled and fielded and paid them a generous compliment after the game.

The next two matches, leading up to the Inter-House Six-a-sides on Open Day, ended inconclusively. Sam Smith rattled up an impressive 49 against Kingham Hill but ran himself out, Spicer played patiently for 27, Barry again slogged happily and Cole showed promise for the future with a breezy nine. However we had only bowled two overs when the skies opened and a match the XI looked like winning had to be abandoned as a draw. On the next day Rendcomb found Akande hard to get away (12-5-4-15) and batted for a long time before declaring at 134-8. The XI had less than an hour and a half in which to make the runs and after the departure of Norman took no further chances ending with 61-1, Akande 30 and Smith 17.

A frustrating few days of heavy rain followed. The Nomads match against Steeple Aston and Rousham was cancelled on Sunday 23rd and by Tuesday morning we had a lake on the Senior field more suited to rowing than Cricket. Not surprisingly the Pangbourne fixture was cancelled on Wednesday but thanks to the foresight of the founding fathers of Malvern College, who built this famous school halfway up a hill, we were able to play there on Thursday. Malvern ran up a useful total in two and a quarter hours declaring at 152-9 and only Norman with 4-51 had much success with the ball, although Spicer bowled a nice tight line. The XI were left with an hour and three quarters to get the runs or survive and with three wickets down for ten in under half an hour, and with the pitch playing decidedly nasty tricks the undefeated record was threatened. However the two old men put on 84 in an unbroken stand for the fourth wicket in better than even time and salvaged the draw. Abbott even went onto the attack as the final twenty overs were running out, jumping down the wicket to drive, pull or even sweep a talented spinner, ending with 39 not out to Akande's 40. Conditions at Cokethorpe had not

improved greatly by Saturday. The Senior still resembled a quagmire so the match against P.J.G.'s XI had to be played on the chapel pitch on another lifeless wicket. P.J.G.'s XI, containing no fewer than ten Nomads, ran up 204-4 in 44 overs, (the highest total ever scored against the XI), and it was good to see some of the old stars putting the youngsters firmly in their place. Nevertheless, despite two marvellous reaction catches by Cole at short-leg and a superb running catch in the deep by substitute Wariebi, the XI were still undefeated at 91-6 when stumps were drawn, Abbott 17, Jackson 15 and Barry 16 not out being the main run scorers.

The overriding consideration in the final match of the term, against Magdalen, was to avoid defeat at any cost. The XI began badly losing Norman for 11, but Smith (19) and Spicer (29) put on 45 stealthy runs; the Captain scored 25 cautiously in a little over an hour and when he was eighth out at 108, two Fourth formers, Howe (12 not out) and Beeharie (10 not out) added 22 precious runs enabling Akande to declare at 130-8. Magdalen still had a slim chance of victory and with a side almost totally made up of Sixth Formers could afford to lose a few wickets in the chase for quick runs. Akande took 2-31 in nine overs but it was Spicer who applied the brake, conceding only 11 runs in eight overs. Magdalen reached 87-4 by close of play so the XI were able to celebrate their unbeaten season with runs in hand.

Finally a few words of thanks must go to our groundsman, Martin Walker, who had such a difficult summer to contend with but still managed to produce easy-paced, true wickets; to Sister and the two Matrons for keeping the XI fit and tidy; to Martin, Amanda, Margaret, Kath and Selina for looking after the inner men and to Stead and his small posse of scorers, James, Lake and Simon Smith who looked after "those damned dots" with such great diligence.

P. J. G.

SUMMARY OF MATCHES PLAYED

XI: Played 11, Won 4, Drawn, 7, Lost 0

Sat. 4th May v. Radley U.16B (Home) XI 134-7 dec. (Spicer 62*), Radley 124-8 (Spicer 3-31, Reeve 3-42).

Wed. 8th May v. Abingdon 3rd XI (Home). Abingdon 79 (B. Akande 6-23, Spicer 3-17), XI 82-6 (Abbott 26*).

Sat. 18th May v. Stowe 3rd XI (Away). XI 170-2 dec. (Spicer 54*, B. Akande 37*, Norman 34), Stowe 71-9 (Norman 4-14).

Wed. 22nd May v. Oratory 2nd XI (Home). XI 109 (B. Akande 51), Oratory 53 (B. Akande 6-7).

Sat. 1st June v. Dean Close 2nd XI (Away). XI 156-7 dec. (Norman 51, Abbott 32), Dean Close 107 (Spicer 5-18, B. Akande 5-36).

Sat. 8th June v. Bloxham 2nd XI (Away). XI 170-3 dec. (Spicer 53, B. Akande 46, Barry 24*, Abbott 21*), Bloxham 59 (B. Akande 4-9, Spicer 3-3, Norman 3-4).

Wed. 19th June v. Kingham Hill 1st XI (Home). XI 130 (S. J. Smith 49, Spicer 27), Kingham Hill 7-0.

Thurs. 20th June v. Rendcomb 1st XI (Away). Rendcomb 134-8 dec. (B. Akande 4-15, Reeve 3-32), XI 61-1 (B. Akande 30*).

Thurs. 27th June v. Malvern Senior Colts (Away). Malvern 152-9 dec. (Norman 4-51), XI 94-3 (B. Akande 40*, Abbott 39*).

Sat. 29th June v. P.J.G.'s XI (Home), P.J.G.'s XI 204-4 dec., XI 91-6.

Wed. 3rd July v. Magdalen 2nd XI (Home). XI 130-8 dec. (Spicer 29, B. Akande 25), Magdalen 87-4.

NOMADS TERM MATCHES

Played 3, Won 2, Drawn 1, Lost 0

Sun. 5th May v. Oxford Downs Strollers C.C. (Away). Strollers 66 (H. Scott 6-17, B. Akande 3-16), Nomads 67-4 (Macleod 28*, Norman 21).

Sun. 2nd June v. Ducklington C.C. (Away). Ducklington 150 (Macleod 7-56), Nomads 104-7.

Sun. 16th June v. Oxford Downs Strollers C.C. (Home). Nomads 166-5 dec. (Randall 52, Spicer 34*, Norman 33, Macleod 22), Strollers 38 (B. Akande 4-3).

XI AVERAGES

BATTING (Qualification 6 innings)

	<i>Inns</i>	<i>N.O.</i>	<i>H.S.</i>	<i>Runs</i>	<i>Ave.</i>
Spicer	10	2	62*	263	32.87
B. Akande	11	3	51	262	32.75
Abbott	9	3	39*	166	27.67
Barry	6	2	24*	71	17.75
S. J. Smith	9	1	49	131	16.37
Norman	11	0	51	177	16.09

BOWLING (Qualification 6 wickets)

	<i>Overs</i>	<i>Mdns.</i>	<i>Wkts.</i>	<i>Runs</i>	<i>Ave.</i>
B. Akande	118. ⁵	41	31	242	7.81
Spicer	71. ⁵	15	18	20 2	11.22
Norman	49. ⁵	9	14	18 2	13.00
Reeve	69.	18	14	232	16.57

COLOURS

XI: B. B. Akande, J. W. Abbott, M. J. Spicer, P. T. Norman.

XXII: J. M. Reeve, S. J. Smith, A. N. M. Jackson, P. R. Barry.

HOUSE MATCHES

1st Match: Swift 90-6 innings closed (B. Akande 30*, Abbott 3-16), Harcourt 42 (Abbott 21, B. Akande 5-5, J. Beeharie 4-11).

2nd Match: Swift 148-3 innings closed (B. Akande 103*), Queen Anne 54, (Spicer 4-8, Jackson 3-4).

3rd Match: Queen Anne 137-8 innings closed (Reeve 35*, Norman 35, Johnson 22, S. J. Smith 4-11, Cole 3-38), Harcourt 68, (S. J. Smith 27, Cole 25*, Reeve 4-4, Norman 4-21).

INTER-HOUSE VI-A-SIDE COMPETITION (OPEN DAY)

1st Match: Harcourt 57-2 (Cole 26) beat Queen Anne 36 all out by 21 runs

2nd Match: Swift 48-2 beat Queen Anne 45-2 (Norman 30) by 3 runs

3rd Match: Harcourt 25-3 lost to Swift 28-0 by 5 wkts.

SUMMARY OF UNDER 15 MATCHES PLAYED

Played 5, Won 2, Drawn 1, Lost 2

Sat. 4th May v. Rendcomb U.15 (Away) U.15 132-6 dec. (Howe 51, Johnson 33, Barry 20), Rendcomb 63-6.

Wed. 8th May v. Abingdon U.14 (Home). Abingdon 97 (J. Beeharie 3-11, Cole 3-22, James 3-28), U.15 20.

Sat. 18th May v. Stowe U.15B (Away). Stowe 85 (J. Beeharie 4-20, James 3-10), U.15 86-7 (Johnson 22).

Wed. 5th June v. Bloxham U.15 (Away). U.15 132 (Johnson 25, Messenger 22*), Bloxham 134-6.

Wed. 12th June v. Kingham Hill U.15 (Home). U.15 116 (S. J. Smith 38), Kingham Hill 66 (Cole 5-7, J. Beeharie 3-25).

UNDER 15 CRICKET REPORT

The U.15 team had a fair season winning two, drawing one and losing two of our games. We also lost two games due to the wet weather. In the first match, away at Rendcomb, we lost the toss and were put in to bat. We went on to score 132-6 declared, with M. Howe (51) and S. Johnson (33), sharing an opening stand of 58. James and Cole opened our bowling and took two wickets each and although we bowled well, Rendcomb managed to hold on for a draw.

Our next match was at home to Abingdon, always a strong team, and they batted first reaching 97 all out, Cole and James taking three wickets each, J. Beeharie taking 3-11 with off-spin. We were quite pleased that we had kept them to a reasonable total and went in to bat confidently, but unfortunately we collapsed and were bowled out for 20.

At Stowe, we faced a good start of 43-1, but managed to bowl them out for 85 runs (Cole 2-26, Beeharie 4-20, James 3-10). After tea we went in to bat and started off very slowly, S. Johnson making a good 22 runs. It was P. Barry who helped more than anyone to win the game with a cavalier 18, with the overs and time running out.

At Bloxham we batted first in a constant fine drizzle, making 132 all out, a reasonable total (Johnson 25, Cole 18) Barry managed 2 huge 6's and lost the ball in the Bloxham headmaster's garden. It was also nice to see D. Demner and T. Messenger scoring well. When we started to bowl, the weather became worse and rain came down harder, but although the conditions were dreadful, we continued somehow, Cole and James taking two wickets each. However Bloxham made runs steadily as our bowlers lost their footing and found the ball difficult to hold. In the end we lost by four wickets after a very good 50 by the Bloxham number 3 (eventually bowled by S. Smith).

The last match of the season (as it turned out) was at home to Kingham Hill; we batted first and made 116 all out despite S. Johnson being out for a "golden duck" off the first ball of the match. S. Smith made 39, a much needed innings and Messenger and Demner again scored useful runs lower down the order. When we bowled, Cole was on brilliant form and went on to take 5 for 7. N. James took a magnificent "caught and bowled", Smith (1) and Beeharie (3) taking the other wickets as we went to a comfortable win bowling them out for 66 runs.

On the whole it was an enjoyable season, and I would like to thank Mr. Gentry, our Coach, and the whole team and the scorers for their efforts.

J. Beeharie

UNDER 14 CRICKET REPORT

We started the season, most surprisingly, with a disappointing defeat at the hands of our great rivals Kingham Hill. We began the match by bowling extremely tightly to dismiss them for only 40 with Cole taking 4 wickets and Okeke 5. We were very confident when we went in to bat, but we were in trouble right from the start as Johnson and Ng, our opening batsmen, were only able to score 3 between them. The highest scorer of a terrible batting performance which saw us bowled out for a paltry 35, albeit on a very poor quality wicket, was Wariebi who managed to reach the dizzy heights of 10 which included two fours. This was certainly a match best forgotten.

We recovered from this great set back to earn a good draw against Oratory, a side who had bowled us out for only 5 the year before!! They scored 117-8 (Beeharie 4-31) and after our feeble batting against Kingham Hill the future looked ominous, but Johnson who made the team's joint highest score of the season, 42, while leading a determined defensive effort until he was run out by a magnificent throw, enabled us to reach reasonable security at 70-8 and earn a draw.

We next visited Oakley Hall Prep School, a very good side, and put up our best batting performance of the season (Johnson 25, Shorrock I 26, Okeke 42) finishing with a total of 112 against their varied array of spinners. Oakley began their innings well, but Beeharie II with 5-28 and Cole 3-4 ripped through their innings after the first wicket fell and they were all out for 64.

We were starting to feel much more confident and it was just as well as our next match was against Bloxham, another very difficult match. We almost surprised ourselves with our efforts: we actually bowled out mighty Bloxham for 56 runs, with yet again Cole (5-16) and Okeke (3-18) doing most of the damage, being far too quick for the batsmen. With Johnson being required for the 1st XI, a great honour, it was Howe who opened with Ng and although he only scored 10 he performed the very useful role of 'sheet anchor'. After several alarms, Cole (11) and Shorrock (19 not out) saw us to 59-6 and a rare victory at this level against Bloxham by 4 wickets.

Henry Box unfortunately had to 'scratch' their team from the Lords' Taverners Cup competition and we had a 'bye' which took us through to a tie against mighty Radley. Because of cup rules regarding exact ages, we were forced to play a greatly weakened side who nonetheless, while only scoring 24, played with a fair amount of character and

determination, especially Price II, McLoughlin, Marshall and Badawi II. Facing a very strong side which included an offspinner who had turned out for their 1st XI, creditable batting performances came from Ng and Beeharie II. We managed to take one wicket and indeed could have had three or four but for near misses!

We played very lethargically against Rendcomb College, in our first home match during the best weather of the summer. Rendcomb batted first, we thought at the time rather too long, scoring over 150 runs, but we felt that we had a chance of holding out for a draw. However, our fragile batting collapsed again and it needed a fighting innings from Okeke to bring a hint of respectability; as it was we were skittled out for 51!

Our batting let us down yet again in our final match against Magdalen; although reasonable scores were made by Cole (10), Okeke (11) and Collier (10 not out) we only managed to total 62, never enough to beat Magdalen who duly won by seven wickets but our bowlers did make them work very hard for their victory.

We were sad to lose the Pangbourne fixture because of the weather, but we were lucky otherwise in a very mediocre summer. Although our results were rather mixed several players showed a great deal of promise and it will be interesting to see how they will progress in the seasons to come, especially Cole, who had one game for the 1st XI, Johnson, Shorrock I & II, Okeke and Wariebi.

J. Shorrock

SUMMARY OF UNDER 14 MATCHES PLAYED

Played 7, Won 2, Drawn 1, Lost 4

Wed. 1st May v. Kingham Hill U.14 (Away). Kingham Hill 40 (Okeke 5-18, Cole 4-13), U.14 35.
 Wed. 22nd May v. Oratory U.14 (Away). Oratory 117-8 dec. (V. Beeharie 4-31), U.14 70-8 (Johnson 42).
 Thurs. 23rd May v. Oakley Hall 1st XI (Away). U.14 112 (Okeke 42, J. Shorrock 26, Johnson 25), Oakley Hall 64 (V. Beeharie 5-28, Cole 3-4).
 Sat. 8th June v. Bloxham U.14 (Away). Bloxham 56 (Cole 5-16, Okeke 3-18), U.14 59-6.
 Thurs. 13th June v. Radley U.14 (Away). Cup Match. U.14 24, Radley 25-1.
 Thurs. 20th v. Rendcomb U.14 (Home). Rendcomb 157-4 dec. U.14 51 (Okeke 20).
 Wed. 3rd July v. Magdalen U.14 (Home). U.14 62, Magdalen 63-3.

SUMMARY OF UNDER 13 MATCH PLAYED

Wed. 15th May v. St. Hugh's 1st XI (Away). U.13 48 (A. Shorrock 29), St. Hugh's 52-6 (V. Beeharie 5-9).



*'Great oaks from little acorns come':
 Colts today, but stars of the future.'*

Rowing



The Senior Crew receiving their Pots after winning at Stratford Regatta.

BOAT CLUB REPORT

Rowing is an extraordinary sport: there are no half measures. If you are the best you win; slightly less good, and your defeat is all but total. Whatever the outcome of any other good team game, such as rugby, there is always the inter-action of players, the oscillation of emotions, and the awful post-mortems. With rowing you prepare and pack for hours; you travel for miles; you row for a moment, and you win or lose — there are no 16-18 score lines in this sport. Although the emotions experienced by oarsmen are more polarised than in other sports, I have never seen any final ball or whistle elicit such spontaneous and powerful delight as that experienced by a winning crew at the bell.

The high sporting standards at Cokethorpe have always amazed me. We are a small school with relatively few boys from which to choose our teams, and yet year after year we compete against and often beat far larger schools. Perhaps it is our very size, however, that promotes the determination of our crews and teams.

Rowing present a small school with an even greater problem, for we cannot arrange a fixture against a particular school, or indeed against a Third II or Second 15 of a larger school. All regatta events

are open. If we compete in a J.16 event, then we must expect A crews from all the larger schools. This is why winning a regatta means so much to us, and why so many other schools look up to us and support us — a small dog beating a larger one in the same ring. Furthermore, winning just one regatta means beating so many other schools.

LENT TERM

The setting of our boat club on the Thames at Newbridge must be one of the most attractive in the country, yet regular training through January and February weather can cloud the memory of those summer outings. There were days when even the most spartan of our oarsmen's hands could not clasp an oar. Training of the more junior crews was also rather hampered by the rain. This in itself does not affect us, but the level of water, and speed of current means that if inexperienced crews can 'boat' at all, then they make negative headway and have to be collected from Oxford two days later!

After many cold training hours we entered our first event on March 2nd — the four mile Worcester Head of The River race. We were lucky with the weather, a cool day with plenty of sunshine. Armed



The Marlow Ball Cup: Winning J16A Crew.



J16A boating at Evesham Regatta.



J16A making their way to start at Evesham.



J16A adjusting out at Evesham.

with Mars Bars our two top crews rowed up to the start for a long, cold wait. Sympathising with the crews' predicament, R. G. T. and myself drove up to offer support and advice and were delighted to find that the start was by the banks of a building as useful in its way as the two by our own Boat House.

Out of forty-three IVs entered, our senior crew rowed well to come 16th with a time of 22.34 mins., and our J.16 crew beat the host crew to come 28th with a time of 23.31 mins. These were both very creditable performances for the first event of the year.

SUMMER TERM

Although obviously the Summer Term is a hectic one, with regattas most weekends, the competitive crews improved greatly in both spirit and technique throughout the term. Furthermore, the conditions were now such that our more junior oarsmen and scullers, with more time on the water, came on in leaps and bounds. A poor analogy for rowing, I know, but actually quite descriptive of some of the J.14's earliest attempts. Armed with some skill, full of anticipation, and with probably some of the best equipment per boy of any school in the country, we started our regatta season.

Our first regatta was at Evesham, where we again entered our two top crews. It is perhaps rather painful for me to dwell on this event for too long; suffice to say it gave valuable experience to the crews, reminding them of the standards that they would have to face over the coming weeks. (Another of life's lessons was learnt later that day, much to the rest of the crews' delight, by the J.16's man D. F.!)

Carmel regatta is a superb invitation event held at Carmel College, Wallingford, on a Sunday. After an all-encompassing tour of Wallingford, we rigged enough boats to enter three IVs and a sculler. The start of this most successful day saw T. Bomford winning his first heat against the Dragon School in the J.14 sculls. Sadly he was later knocked out by a very strong sculler.

After doing so well in their first heat, and having led for the early part of the race with a very high rating, our senior crew was then beaten by a first class Wycliffe IV. The J.15 were next to make their debut, but unfortunately, due to a last-minute change to carbon fibre blades, their balance went awry and they rather bashed their way to the finish. Our J.16 crew, however, rowed superbly throughout the day, beating the host crew and two others fairly convincingly. The final was probably the most exciting of that day and possibly of the entire season. They rowed in fine form, with the rest of our club running and cheering them from the bank, to a win of half a canvas over Walton Rowing Club. Our first pots of the season were christened very shortly after the ceremony!

It was only three days later that we travelled to Marlow to compete in the Ball Cup Regatta. This is an event which changes location every year; it is designed for the smaller rowing schools and eight schools entered this year. We immediately got off to a good start as our senior crew beat King's School, Gloucester, by half a length. This was followed by a win for our J.16's over Beckett School. Sadly, the senior crew was knocked out in the next round by a strong Wycliffe College crew, but our juniors went on to beat Carmel College and the Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe, in the final. The Junior Ball Cup was ours again. Sadly, this was the last time this year that our winning J.16 was to race competitively as a crew. This was due to injury, and the temporary disappearance of our Bow man.

On either side of half-term were the Hereford Schools Regatta and the Coate Water Regatta, where we entered many new crews to give them some experience of such an event. Although we did not expect to do well, we won a few heats.

We were not invited to Shearwater Regatta this year — perhaps because they were only racing eights. Instead, we managed to arrange a friendly afternoon's racing with Radley College. We took our J.15A crew, who were by now rowing with far more style and an as yet untried J.14A crew. We had a most enjoyable afternoon and both schools won two events in each category. The day ended with a good tea and we made plans to repeat the exercise next year.

Our last major regatta of the term was at Stratford-upon-Avon, over a superb course which finishes between the club house and the theatre. Jason Jones, the only member of last year's 1st crew still with us, had competed here before in the same Senior C restricted event. The competition was stiff, including crews from Wycliffe College and Cheltenham College. Although very keen for a win we were not too optimistic. However, after two exciting victories over Wycliffe and Stratford Rowing Club we went through to the final. The crew rowed with great guile and determination and they finally broke the resolve of their opponents, coming out of the last bend with a tremendous effort rating 39 to steal a victory over Cheltenham at the line. This was quite the best they had rowed all season, and no less excellently coxed by L. Lincoln-Lewis, who stood in for the usual 1st crew cox, O. W. Garrard. The tankards were presented to the smiling crew by the Lady Mayor of Stratford.

The Saturday after Stratford was Open Day, and yet again we were immensely grateful to Mr. D. J. Smith for the use of his lake at Stanton Harcourt for the House regatta. Having given up hope that the gale and driving rain would abate, racing started at 2.00 p.m. We tried to race off the final of the Junior

sculls, the heats having been raced earlier in the week, but the waves were so high, and the sculls took so much water, that a brave Kentish actually sank 50 yards out! Eventually the waves died down and we managed to row most of our races. The afternoon produced a win for Swift over Harcourt in the Senior IVs, and again a win in the Junior IV for Swift over Queen Anne. The sculling events also produced some good racing, and eventual winners were I. Bayarri (Open), T. Goslin (J.15) and T. Bomford (J.14 and J.13). The event was won overall by Swift with a total of 14 points, followed by Harcourt with 12 and Queen Anne with 4. The scores were produced by awarding 5 points for a IV's win, 3 points for a sculls win, 3 points for coming second in IV's and 1 point for coming second in sculls.

It would take more words than I have already used to thank all those concerned in helping with our

successes this year (and I would hate to steal space from the cricketers!) But I would like to thank the rowing masters who have given up so much of their time to coach in all conditions, and also to thank the Headmaster and parents who have given so much invaluable support at so many of the events. Finally, a special thank you to our Captain of Boats who has attended every regatta and who, despite his many other duties, has been a huge help in arranging some of the more tedious aspects of our sport.

As I write this, it all seems so far away now. The boats are all packed up and many of our oarsmen have left us. But many boys who have left, and even some who are still with us, have joined Rowing Clubs, and I wish them all the best for the future.

I look forward eagerly and optimistically to next year's rowing.

W. H. C. D.

A Rowing Double

During the summer holiday The Headmaster was delighted to receive the following letter from David Fenton, who left Cokethorpe in December 1984 and who, during his last year here, was Captain of Boats:

*'Cat's Abbey',
Northleach,
Glos.*

Dear Mr. Goldsmith,

I thought that you might be interested to hear that Christopher Walker and I are now members of Pershore Rowing Club, and that we won Gold Medals in the National Junior Championships of Great Britain in a Coxed Pair. After this, we were chosen by the England selectors to row in an international competition against the French, where we again won another Gold Medal.

We hope to further this next year by being selected for the English under-23s Eight.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

David Fenton.

Although David Fenton omitted to mention it, we have since heard that the presentation of the Gold Medal in France was in fact made by Mr. P. J. R. Jowitt, who, in addition to being Second Master, was an outstanding rowing coach during his two years here from 1982-84.

All who knew David and Christopher congratulate them on their splendid accomplishment and wish them the best of luck in future events.

WORKING WITH WINSTON

On Tuesday 11th June Miss Grace Hamblin O.B.E. who was for many years secretary to Sir Winston Churchill, came to talk to one of the 3rd Form history sets. Dame Mary Soames, in her biography of her mother, Clementine Churchill, records that Miss Hamblin was 'depended upon and beloved not only by Clementine, but by Winston and all of us children', and that 'no account of Chartwell would be complete without a prominent Mention in Despatches for her'. After Sir Winston's death Miss Hamblin became the first Administrator of Chartwell when it was handed over to the National Trust.

Miss Hamblin, now 78, spoke to 3B for nearly fifty minutes with only the briefest notes to prompt her — an impressive performance by any standards. To do justice to all that she told us would require more space than is available here. As Miss Hamblin kindly allowed us to make a recording of her talk, what follows here is a shortened version of the full transcript, which we print in this way in the hope that it captures something of a remarkable lady talking about a remarkable man.

'Good morning, boys —

I have never before spoken to a class, so I am feeling very nervous because I feel that boys of your age are much more critical than grown-up people. You must think that I am a very old lady because Sir Winston died 20 years ago and I was his secretary for 33 years, so that takes you quite a long way back doesn't it?

I think some of you have been watching the series *The Wilderness Years*, and I went to work for him in 1932 which was the beginning of the 'Wilderness Years' — or at least soon after the beginning. He was often in a terrible state of depression then, for two reasons: first, because he could see what was happening abroad and he knew that war was coming; and secondly, because he was out of office. He had held every office there was to hold, so he was a pretty experienced politician by that time. In fact, he'd experienced more than most people experience in a lifetime. He was in his 50s and one would think that his political career was nearly over — but he was to become Prime Minister twice and live to the great age of 90, so there was still a great deal to see and do.

You will read in your books about his policies, his achievements and disappointments, and so on. I want to speak to you mainly about what it was like to work for him, because I think you should combine with your history lessons a knowledge of what he was like as a private man. He was dynamic, but gentle — and if you can mix the two you have got a very good character. He had enormous courage, with no fear of anything — moral or physical. He was a hard taskmaster, but he worked so hard himself that he accepted it as his right in others. We all had to say goodnight before leaving the house and sometimes, after a particularly trying day, one would be dismissed with 'Goodbye, my dear — it wasn't your fault', which was supposed to make up for a great many shouts during the day. However, I must say, Churchill had a wonderful way of making you feel that everything you did was important and gradually

one gained confidence. He taught us all there was to know about loyalty. While he would be angry and say so in no mean terms to oneself, he would never deprecate one secretary to another, which was something I felt we all might take a lesson from. Gossip and tittle-tattling were absolutely foreign to his nature, and of course this applied in a wider sense to his friends and colleagues. His sincerity and integrity were such that he wouldn't knowingly deceive a Cabinet Minister, a secretary or a bricklayer. He never bore a grudge and he trusted people implicitly almost in a childlike way. His sense of humour was extremely subtle, but it was very near the surface and ready to bubble over at any time.

I lived nearby and knew Chartwell when I was very young. I had friends living on the estate and when the former owner, Major Campbell Combe, was there his daughter held a Sunday School which I attended. Before Churchill bought it, it had been empty and very overgrown; I think it was empty for seven years, so to myself and my friends it was a lovely playground. There wasn't a corner we didn't explore and know. It is in the heart of Kent, in a peaceful little hollow of its own, encircled by hills and trees, and it has the most heavenly views. Churchill fell deeply in love with it as soon as he saw it, and to him it was a perfect retreat. He had come down from London one day in 1922, and he just saw it and bought it almost immediately. Apart from the war years he lived there until his death and it was the place he loved to be. Sometimes he would say, 'If Kent is the Garden of England, this is God's corner'. Much later, in his war memoirs, he was to write: 'I never had a dull or idle moment from dawn till midnight, and with my happy family around me I dwelt at peace within my habitation'. Although he pushed and bullied and worked us to death, and there were many tense and unhappy days, we all felt that peace within his habitation; and when, after a week in London, as the car entered the first precincts of Chartwell, he would murmur 'Ah, Chartwell!', we

all wanted to say 'Yes, ah, Chartwell...' He had all his hobbies and pleasures there, and he could spend hours painting in his studio. Incidentally, I think one of the things about him which is made least of is his painting. He had a lovely studio, the walls of which are still covered with his paintings — and it was an important part of his life because he could go and lose himself there. But it's wrong to think that Chartwell was a place only for pleasure; it was also the place from which his best works sprang. *The Wilderness Years*, I think, give you the impression that he was mostly a politician. Well, of course he was a politician — but he was also a tremendous author, and during my first years with him he was very much occupied with writing his book on his great ancestor Marlborough. Politics took up a great part of his time, but he earned his living by writing.

* * *

By 1932, of course, I was earning my own living. I had been summoned home from a job further afield for domestic reasons. I was desperate to find a secretarial job and when I saw Churchill's advertisement for a personal assistant for political and literary work, I thought I had better apply for it and see what happened. So I applied for the job with great nervousness, and I was engaged because I lived so near — not for any other reason — and he could keep me working late into the night, which was his habit. He would start working in bed at 8.30 in the morning, and he would carry on — with perhaps one or two little rests — until 2 or 3 the next morning. Although he was out of office he still had a vast amount of correspondence as a Member of Parliament. Letters had to be well laid out, and even small notes to him were well typed. He only had two secretaries during those 'Wilderness Years' and we worked like Trojans. I can't imagine anyone would work as hard these days!

During my first 6 years he was much engaged in writing the life of Marlborough. I took dictation from him, and sometimes from his literary assistants — he always had several assistants in his literary work. Although his own dictation went on far into the night, he would expect to see it in typescript first thing the next morning. He didn't seem to realise that it could take an hour or so to type out what he had dictated! I also kept his proofs in order. His proofs were terrific, and I don't think anyone else who is an author does it in quite the same way. They were printed on huge galley sheets and he had about a dozen copies of every proof. They were circulated to his friends who were interested in what he was writing, and they would return them with their criticisms. It was my duty to collate these criticisms on to one particular proof, so that if he wanted to refer to it at any time, there it was. It was quite a business getting used to that.

At first I found the work almost unbearably hard, but I knew I'd got to stick to it. It wasn't so much the nature of the work but the strangeness of going into

that sort of household; and getting used to him, of course, was not easy. If he was annoyed he would roar, which I hadn't been used to at all. I came from a gentle home where nobody raised their voices and when I complained to my mother she just said, 'Well, my dear, if you don't like it, go away, but I shan't think much of you'. I had a great respect for my mother, so I thought I'd better stick to it.

* * *

Sir Winston very rarely gave praise. You didn't expect praise — but one took it for granted that if there were no grumbles, all was well. He once said, meeting him somewhere — I think it was in a corridor at No. 10 — 'My dear, you carry very heavy responsibility'. That was praise. And when I had been away ill for many weeks I had a letter from him in which he said 'I hope you will be as happy in returning to us as we shall be receiving you', which I think was the highest compliment one could receive. I'm sorry to say I didn't keep that letter: I didn't realise the value such things would have. Sometimes his comments were a little backhanded. He came into my office once with a friend. I was working there alone, and, in introducing me, he said: 'This is my secretary. But to think that I once commanded a Fleet!'

He had little sympathy with trivial occurrences. One mustn't stay away for a cold or any other small thing. I remember once staying away for about four days. On the way back I saw him building a wall, and as I walked towards the house he leaned over the wall and said, 'Oh, you're back. What's been the matter?' I said, 'I think I'm a little bit anaemic'. 'I don't know what you do to make you anaemic,' he replied. That's all the sympathy I had. On the other hand, when one was very ill no-one could be more sympathetic. When I was in hospital for a long time he sent me dahlias from the garden at Chartwell.

It is unnecessary to say that he was an education and broadened our lives beyond words. I hadn't been with him for many weeks when he went on holiday in the south of France. I soon received a telegram 'Please bring me the papers on India and some cobalt blue'. He was painting and had run out of cobalt blue, obviously. Not send, but bring — and I who had never been out of England had to be with him by the first possible 'plane. It was just a beginning. Life was full of surprises, and one never knew in the morning where or what might befall one before night, or where one would be. I've got painful memories of typing on trains and in other awkward places, because of course it never occurred to him that it might be difficult to type while you were going along in a car — it just had to be done!

Once, I remember, he was going to speak in Manchester, and his speech wasn't finished. Making a speech was quite a big business. He always left them too late. If he was going to make a speech at 4 o'clock the next day, he would start that evening and

work very late into the night. I would make long notes just as he dictated it: this would be corrected time and time again: then it would be put into what he called his 'speech notes', which was his own particular invention. One had to shorten the words and make the layout look rather like poetry. I hope one day you will see a facsimile of something like that. Of course one must never make a mistake, because although he didn't read his notes all the time, he relied on them to keep him going, and if he glanced down and saw that there was something in his notes which was wrong it put him off.

* * *

After the war Sir Winston foresaw great difficulty in re-opening Chartwell. At first he didn't know whether he could continue to live there, mainly for financial reasons. However, a group of his friends came forward and they bought it from him and handed it to the National Trust, with the proviso that he should live there for the rest of his life. Apart from the financial aspect, this was a great advantage in every way because it meant that he could see what would happen to his beloved home after he had died. He knew that it would be preserved and this gave him tremendous pleasure. Every now and then out of the blue he used to say, 'Do tell them how I loved to feed my Golden Orfe'. What he meant was tell the public after he was dead. He loved animals, and among them were the lovely Golden Orfe which are still in the pool where he used to feed them daily.

Over the years I have had to apply myself to the care of tropical fish and butterflies. He adored butterflies and he had a little house outside where he could put the chrysalis and watch them emerge. They used to come from a butterfly farm nearby. One day a new lot had arrived, and we went out and spread them on the side. As we went out, Sir Winston left the door open. I said, 'Did you mean to leave the door open?' 'Yes,' he replied, 'I can't bear this captivity any longer'. He was too soft-hearted to keep them! Then there were Canada geese and pigs. He was never more pleased than when my father

fixed a wire brush to a long stick and presented him with a back-scratcher for his pig — they adore that. His racehorses were a great joy to him, and he would come home from a race and say 'Well, did you back it?' I said, 'No, I didn't'. 'Well, you must be a fool'. Of course, there was always a cat. Mostly it was a marmalade cat, and he left a wish in his will that there must always be a marmalade cat at Chartwell.

* * *

The gates of Chartwell are now closed for security reasons, I'm afraid, but in his lifetime they were always open and generally the front door too. Groups of people would stand at the gate to catch a glimpse of him and he would say, 'Do come in, come and see my Golden Orfe'. He loved to see people and was an extremely good host.

There were always interesting and important people coming to Chartwell. Almost as soon as I arrived there was Charlie Chaplin; he and Sir Winston had great rapport. There was T. E. Shaw — Lawrence of Arabia — who was a great friend of Sir Winston. He would arrive in the middle of the night on his motorbike and leave it perched up outside, so that when one went along in the morning the butler would say to me, 'I shouldn't go up, Miss, they're still there'. I could make a talk about that alone... There were children's parties, and carols and a huge tree at Christmas time, with Randolph, his son, as Father Christmas. There were weekend parties, some gay, some serious, sometimes with talk going on for hours in his study. There were harvest homes with the staff gathered in. There were times when news was bad, or Sir Winston deep in his work — an important speech or an article — and you could almost hear a pin drop, so it seemed, for days on end in that great house. Whatever his mood, the whole household were bound to follow it; but with his family, in spite of its many ups and downs, there was a warmth and a welcome and a tremendous sense of belonging. Little wonder that long before the end it had all become to me much more than just a job — it had become a way of life.'

MATTHEW HOWLAND



Matthew Howland, who left at the end of last Summer Term, could quite well qualify to be called our 'Sportsman of the Year'. He achieved very good results for the School and A.C.F. athletic teams in the 400m event. At the A.A.A. County Trials he gained second place, and at the North Oxon Schools he very narrowly missed the gold medal. During this period he represented the A.C.F. at Battalion, District and National level, winning the 400m at each appearance.

The photographs on this page show Matthew running at Wellington College and receiving his prize from Colonel Fladgate. He is then seen (above opposite) coming round the final bend at Iffley Road Stadium.

Perhaps the best photographs here are the ones of Mrs. Howland presenting the new Howland Cup to Matthew, and Matthew then presenting it to the first recipient, Bamikole Akande, who won the senior 400m on Sports Day in July.

Matthew trained hard for his running, and he also tried his hand at Olympic Weight Lifting — with an overall lift of 100Kg for the snatch and clean and jerk.

We look forward to hearing about his future athletic achievements.

J. W. S.





THE ARMY CADET FORCE

This year has seen the school detachment making a much bigger impact in company, battalion and even national events. This has been especially true where sport is concerned because of the enthusiasm and tireless efforts of Mr. Stark. In January thirteen cadets represented the detachment in the battalion cross-country at Shotover. We did very well. Our senior team took first place amongst the seniors, with LCpl. Barns coming in first. Our juniors made up the bulk of the Somme Company team which came first. Cdt. Pitt, as he was, came second in the juniors. The trophy won was unbelievably enormous, and has definitely been the centre-piece of the school trophy cabinet this year. LCpls. Barns and Edwards, along with Cdt. Goslin, and Pitt were chosen to represent the battalion in the S.E. Region at Wellington College in February. At the National at Pirbright, LCpl. Pitt led for the first mile but then unfortunately was sick but finished up 16th, bringing honour to himself and the school. LCpl. Edwards ran for the seniors and also did well.

Cross-country running was followed by Athletics in April held at the Horspath Sports Ground. As a result of this battalion meeting LCpls. Pitt and Howland were selected to represent the battalion at the Regional Championship at Wellington College in May. Here again they did well coming first in their events and have gone forward to represent S.E. District at the National Championships at Colchester on Saturday 29th June, LCpl. Pitt in the 1500 m. and LCpl. Howland in the 100 m., 400 m. and Relay. At the time of writing this is two weeks away and we wish them well.

.22 Shooting has also been very successful this year. In LCpl. Howland, Cdt. Baxter, Cdt. Walker and Cdt. Pedoe we have the makings of a good team and these have been well supported by Sgt. Venman, Cdt. Stead, Cdt. Ferris and Cdt. Horton. In the *News of the World* Challenge Cup we scored a respectable 691 out of 800. However, it was not quite high enough to put us through to round two. We entered the "Cadet Hundred" competition this year for the first time. This is a national competition and 122 teams took part with a total entry of 573 cadets. Our team A came 44th and team B came 69th. We were delighted that Cdt. Walker came 94th and so gained a 1985 Cadet Hundred Badge. LCpl. Howland came 109th. They were the best two cadets in Oxfordshire.

Another competition we entered was the *Country Life* Competition. This is exciting and challenging and includes shooting at a scene drawn on the target, following fire control orders given by the team leader looking through a telescope. We have not heard yet how we did. At the moment we are shooting for the county .22 team championship known as the Hamptune Cup. Unfortunately the .303 range at

Otmoor was closed for a long time and so there were only two occasions when it was possible to do some full-bore shooting. Mr. R. Thompson took six cadets in May when they were able to practise with the 7.62 target rifle. The Battalion Rifle meeting was in June and nine cadets attended. These were mostly our younger cadets so we did not bring back any trophies. They were able to do both .303 and 7.62 shooting.

The outstanding cadets this year have undoubtedly been Sgt. Venman and LCpl. Pitt. They have served the detachment well. Their enthusiasm knows no bounds. They are willing to try anything and then persevere until they succeed. They have been helpful in so many ways, not least in encouraging and helping the juniors. The determination they always show will no doubt be an asset to them in later life. Sgt. Venman completed his 2 Star training with us early in the year and then attended about eight weekends with Peninsula Company, the Battalion's Headquarters Company at our weekend training centre, Rodney House at Bicester and successfully completed his 3 Star training. He is the first cadet at Cokethorpe to reach this standard. The adventure training aspect of this was a three day expedition along the Pennine Way with 16 Cadet Training Team assisting. LCpl. Wright is another senior cadet who has shown great enthusiasm. He attended a signallers course one weekend with Sgt. Venman.

In the early autumn all the cadets completed their training at 1 Star level. Squad A, consisting of fifth formers were doing 2 Star Skill at Arms, Squad B, consisting of fourth formers were doing 2 Star Map and Compass and 2 Star Fieldcraft and the third form recruits were doing Drill, Turnout and Military knowledge. At the end of the autumn term all the recruits passed the recruits test. Captain Murphy C.O. of the 16 Cadet Training Team visited us in December to test the 2 Star Skill at Arms and Map and Compass. The tests were quite demanding and not everyone passed. LCpl. Howland was commended for his ability in Skill at Arms.

In the Spring the recruits were doing 1 Star Map and Compass and 1 Star Skill at Arms, Squad B were doing 2 Star Skill at Arms and Squad A Adventure Training. Sgt. Nichol of 16 C.T.T. visited in May and tested Squad B at their Skill at Arms, six cadets passed and five failed. LCpl. Pitt was particularly commended for an impressive performance. The Summer term was taken up with Adventure training. The 1 Star cadets learnt how to make an improvised shelter, choose a camp site, cook, light fires, pack rucksacks and how to react in an emergency. Emergency resuscitation was taught with the help of "Anatomic Anne". The climax was the hike along the "Ridgeway" from Wendover to Chinnor through



Battalion rifle meeting on Ottmoor range.

Chequers, the Prime Minister's country residence. The day was scorching hot and the scenery magnificent. The twelve miles seemed endless to all but the hardiest of the cadets. Towards the end all were tiring fast, when Mr. R. Thompson suddenly appeared on the track at about 8.30 p.m. in the evening. The transformation in the cadets was dramatic. Suddenly strength seemed to come from nowhere. For an hour we made emergency shelters in the hedgerow. They were of a high standard. A pleasant hour was then spent around a camp fire with Robin Thompson singing and playing his guitar. Rouse was at 6.00 a.m., 6.45 we departed, 7.20 we handed in stores and 7.45 we were having breakfast at school and another school day had begun with only the painful blisters to remind us of the day before. On a Saturday afternoon four cadets walked eight miles north along "the Ridgeway" from Wendover to Tring. The 2 Star cadets as well as doing Adventure Training, which involves being able to cope with broken arms, bleeding, burns, scalds, exposure and shock and preparation for a twelve mile hike and camp also visited the local Regimental Museum at the Slade and learnt some of the history of the regiment, and also did some Citizenship Training by visiting the Thames Valley Police at Kidlington. This was particularly interesting and enjoyable and we were loath to leave (though no one tried to prevent us!). Sgt. Wheeler looked after us very well and we learnt much from him. We looked at their latest Land Rover. Cdt. Johnson was breathalysed and found to be under the Limit, and we visited their Motorway Control Centre. The teachers present were stunned to discover that policemen were so much better paid. However, it was sadly stressed that it can be a dangerous job these days.

There have been other activities during the year. The Remembrance Day Parade in November



At Bicester Garrison assault course.

involved a march past and "Eyes right". In March Lt. Col. MacColl paid us our "Annual Visit". The detachment paraded at the front of the school for his inspection. In June seven cadets took part in the Cadet Sunday parade through Oxford. Capt. Stark had helped them to turn into the smartest of soldiers, with carefully pressed shirts, armlets and barrack trousers and mirror-like boots.

The Summer Camp this year is being held at Deverell Barracks in Ripon in August and three cadets are attending along with Capt. Stark. Besides military skills being taught there will be an opportunity to canoe and abseil and do some orienteering as well as to look at modern weapons and learn about signalling. Training is in preparation for the 3 day battalion exercise code named "Pot Luck" which takes place in the second week. However, it is not all work as one day is given over to an outing to Scarborough. The fortnight camp costs each cadet the princely sum of £14.00 and the tax payer ... It is sad that only three cadets are able to go from the Detachment.

Promotions have been numerous this year. Venman was promoted to Cpl. and then to Sgt., our first 3 Star Sgt. Cdt. Edwards, Pinnell, Pitt and Smith S. were promoted to LCpl. They have all shown leadership potential. Amongst the junior Cdt. Marshall and Wariebi have displayed leadership skills and D. Smith great keenness, and Horton, Price I and Bryan solid qualities. Lt. Stark was promoted Captain in April and made 2 I/C of Somme Company. This must be good for the detachment. He is also taking over as Detachment Commander in September and so the Detachment looks forward to an exciting new year in his capable and experienced hands.

D. L. T.

OUTWARD BOUND REPORT

The Outward Bound group has expanded, again this year, both its numbers and the scope of its activities.

It is hoped that in the future when somebody finishes his time with the Outward Bound, he will have all the skills that would enable him to survive for several days in very wild country and to find his way successfully back to civilization.

In September we started a cooking course for the Fifth Form boys. The idea behind this was that it would be very useful for anybody on a camping expedition who had no pre-cooked or tinned food to be able to prepare his own meals. At the same time, it may well be in the future that a number of girl friends or wives will be very grateful that some Cokethorpe Old Boys have this skill! About ten boys attended the course, and learnt how to prepare a simple three course meal. They enjoyed themselves and I am sure it was worthwhile. None of this could have happened, of course, if it had not been for Martin Geelan, the School Caterer, who very kindly gave up a lot of his spare time in order to run the course. We are very grateful to him.

Another new course was husbandry. The matrons kindly ran a course for a small group of boys who were taught how to sew and repair tents and clothes. For those who think that this is rather a strange course for a boys' school it is worth remembering that all sailors and marines are taught these skills.

In the Spring Term the local St. John Ambulance Brigade ran another first aid course for us and it was pleasing that this time everybody passed and a few boys were highly commended.

All boys in the Outward Bound group are taught a few basic knots. One of the reasons behind this is that it is thought that they might be useful during an expedition across rough country. To practice this we learnt how to tie a bowline knot and then lowered boys from the roof of Mrs. Webb's office — as if they were going into a ravine to rescue a casualty. This went very well and a number of boys are to be congratulated on overcoming their natural apprehension and meeting the challenge.

In March we took a small party of volunteers from the Fifth Form to the Brecon Beacons. We had not been to this area before and the venture was nearly called off because of the bad weather. Fortunately, the local weather bureau gave us an encouraging forecast so we set off and reached the area in a little over two hours. Next morning, we awoke to find the ground covered in snow but bathed in sunshine. The scenery was stunningly beautiful and the whole trip was a success.

We have recently bought some new equipment and this year we will be adding to the obstacle course.

J. P. W.



Top left: 3rd formers
about to start off on
The Ridgeway.
Centre: 4th formers
about to set off along
Pennine Way.
Bottom left:
Outdoor cooking —
end of Summer
term.



Top: *Pen-y-fan*, one of the highest points on the *Brecon Beacons*.

Centre: The party being briefed before starting off on the first leg of their journey up *Pen-y-fan*.

Left: Breakfast on the first morning! (Samkin, Mercer, Picton-Warlow).

ACTIVITIES

CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING

Clay Pigeon shooting has carried on apace this year. We have had fewer guns but this has not discouraged the keener members from shooting. There are a variety of guns being used at the moment within the club, ranging from the 12 bore to the 20 bore, and in one case a 4.10. The shot size that we mainly use during shooting ranges from 6-8. During the course of shooting great care is taken to ensure that the different types of cartridges are kept well apart so that they do not get mixed up. We have some old guns which still use the hammer action but do use modern cartridges: these are owned by M. Lake and M. Stead and still prove to be very effective. When shooting a clay it is vital to keep the gun in a sweeping motion during and after a shot. If you shoot directly at a clay the shot will fall behind the travelling clay, so you must shoot ahead of it to make sure that the clay coincides with the shot. We have three different types of stands. They are 'overhead' and 'away', and when shooting these you must blot out the clay and keep swinging, whereas with a clay moving from side to side you must judge the correct distance to shoot ahead of it and keep the gun swinging in order to hit the travelling clay. On each stand each person shoots a total of approximately 10 cartridges, making a total of 30 in any one session.

Recently more boys have shown interest in the sport and it is slowly becoming more popular. In future terms we are hoping to expand the club and to shoot game on local surrounding grounds.

M. Glanville and M. Stead



RIFLE CLUB

The good news is that the Range is going to be enlarged during the summer holidays so that it can accommodate four boys shooting at a time instead of the present two. This will mean that boys will be able to do more shooting.

At the moment there are a number of good shots in the school. Walker, Baxter, Howland and Mercer of the fifth form stand out amongst the seniors with average scores between 91 and 94.

The encouraging thing to report is that there is a lot of keenness amongst the juniors, as well as talent which needs fostering. Pye, Holmes, Ng, Marshall, Price I, Shorrocks II, in particular could do well in this sport with perseverance.

As some of the best shots are also cadets in the A.C.F. we have entered a number of cadet competitions this year including the "Cadet Hundred" competition (see A.C.F. report), News of the World Cup, Countrylife Competition and Hamptone Cup. In all these we have done quite well. Half school-colours were re-awarded to Walker, Baxter and Howland for taking part in these competitions.

Walker was the enthusiastic captain of the Queen Anne team that won the House Cup. All four members of the team shot well averaging 91 out of a 100.

Queen Anne	Walker T. (Capt.)	91
	Venman A.	92
	Pedoe S.	89
	Messenger T.	91
	Total 363	1st
Harcourt	Howland M. (Capt.)	93
	Baxter R.	94
	Ferris W.	84
	Pitt K.	82
	Total 353	2nd
Swift	Mercer J. (Capt.)	94
	Price R.	81
	Turner C.	80
	Pye M.	89
	Total 344	3rd

D. L. T.



*Nolan Perry fires a shot
(despite the stance!)*



Study of H.H.B.

S. J. Boggon

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

When I joined the staff five years and one term ago, I was invited to run the photography activity. It is not false modesty to say that I was ill-qualified for the job; I had had an interest in photography for many years, but mainly in the technical and historical aspects. Photography up telescopes and down microscopes, and as a useful tool in Physics, were my only claims to competence. However, I have not infrequently been asked to teach subjects far removed from my chosen discipline, and so I acquiesced. For me it has been a wonderful experience, and I would dearly like to think that a few members of the club have thought likewise. With a modern camera and the excellent professional processing facilities available, anyone can take pleasing photographs. So I followed in the footsteps of my predecessor, Mr. White, by encouraging the boys to think a little about composition, light, shape, texture, and so on — and then do things the hard way in the dark room. Although it sounds rather pretentious, we tried to express our artistic talents and personalities through the medium. I am now busy disposing of the five year accumulation of discarded prints, and I find it as nostalgic as all sorting out of yesterday can be; a sign of old age, perhaps, which prompts me to catalogue subjects and authors of portraits, photograms, still lifes, visits we made, and bits and pieces of Cokethorpe looked at but not previously noticed.

Let me now comment on the last year. I regret to say that uppermost in my mind are the misfortunes. The dark-room ceiling fell down in November; the water supply, sink and waste froze solid for a week or two in winter; and in the early spring the school laundry opened beneath us to deprive us of a water supply when it was in operation. By accident (or cruel design!) the washing of dirty linen and the washing of prints have been time-tabled together: I am led to believe that some prints have been washed under the changing-room showers, in the bath, and even flushed in the loos.

As Ash remarked, many a break-through has happened by accident (vide Fleming and penicillin, etc.). And so it was that someone switched on the light when he, Ash, was developing a print. 'Pseudo-solarisation' became the popular process, and but for the claims of Sabbatier the technique would be known by all as the 'Norman effect'.

There is a breed of photographers who are always experimenting. We have experimented from Daguerrotypes and calotypes to milk clouds in glass bowls and drops of milk falling into petry-dishes; from silhouettes, ambrotypes and albumen prints to high key, low key and colour printing. We haven't achieved much but, as some sage wrote, 'To travel hopefully is a better thing than to arrive, and the true success is to labour'. However, Ash's photograms of

"I know of few things more surprising in science than the gradual appearance of a picture on a blank sheet."

William Henry Fox Talbot

Ceramics

Fairy Liquid suds ('Where Alph the sacred river ran') so impressed the C.S.E. adjudicators that it will henceforth appear in the syllabuses of all Southern Regional Examination Board school photography courses. The moderating panel were rapturous in their acclaim — such texture, such form, such shapes, so fluid, so evocative, so everything. They also liked Paul Norman's low key photographs of faces, 'Durer' hands, and figurines — and, of course, his silhouettes in the manner of Etienne de Silhouette.

I shall miss what is possibly the oldest darkroom in the country after Laycock Abbey: those two rooms — the one dimly lit by amber light, and the other which we call the 'studio' — to be found at the top of the narrow crooked staircase. I have enjoyed especially the company of Paul Norman, Dominic Farley, David Ash et al in our little sanctuary above the arch; there is a peculiar intimacy to be shared as each successively peers into the dish in the fond hope that the image reluctantly emerging will be the one to appear in future editions of *The Times Century of Great Photographs* (Thames & Hudson, £25).

'He had been an unconscionable time dying (= retiring); but he hoped they would excuse it.' (Macaulay's *History of England* (1849), Vol. I, ch. 4.).

H. H. B.

P.S. One final anecdote. A bitterly cold January evening, clear, crisp but moonless and the four of us are out in the field away from the House lights to photograph the night sky. We set up the cameras in the frozen grass, set the shutters for time exposure and retired to the comparative warmth of the Corinthian Room. Twenty minutes later we returned to release the shutters for repeat attempts. For half an hour we crawled across the field searching for the cameras — crawled for fear of treading on them, being certain they were in close proximity. Suddenly a nameless member of staff returning from 'The Bell' drove up to the front door, headlights on full beam. The results showed the Aurora Borealis or similar atmospheric phenomena!



H. H. B.'s hands, after Dürer.

"Hath not the potter power over the clay ...?" Well we are not all potters yet and some of our lumps of clay do not seem to make good vessels, but we are trying, and getting better at it, as those who visited the pottery on Open Day and saw Charles Stobo demonstrating on the wheel can affirm. His skill, rather newly acquired, stood the test well and he was able to answer questions and explain what he was doing without losing his rhythm and he now has a row of bowls awaiting firing as a reward for his efforts.

Pottery on display showed the use made of other traditional methods of production. Matthew Howland made use of slab building technique in his G.C.E. 'O' Level piece, a complex lidded box, and also in some of the supporting work including the group based on "fungi" and his "fiddle". Alexander Collett's "Tudor house" (made earlier in the year and not on display) and "Church" were outstanding pieces in slabware. David Smith uses the same method for his fleet of coaches — three to date — with great success and Reah has produced an excellent "fish" wall plaque and two unusual slab boxes.

Vases and bottles as well as small bowls have been built up from coils by most of the boys doing pottery and Sitinas, Glanville and Collett have shown strength in this field. Alexander Collett has also made an attractive moulded dish with sgraffito decoration. Sam Smith's large moulded dish is sgraffito decorated while his smaller dishes are sprigged — a method of making and applying small moulded pieces of clay to the plain surface of the pot. Richard Miles used a large moulded shape combined with slabs to make an unusual bowl raised on a tall foot ring.

Having the electric kiln, now just a year old, and proving very reliable, did not deter the boys from attempting a more primitive method of firing their pots. With much enthusiasm a collection of bricks and concrete slabs were gathered and a small sawdust-firing kiln was built, packed with pots and sawdust and fired. When the pots were cool we found some of them damaged. However, enough survived to show how attractive pottery can be when fired in a sawdust kiln, particularly where all or part of the pot is burnished before firing.

During the autumn term we were fortunate in having Audrey Blackman, the ceramic sculptor, to show her video to the school and she very kindly agreed to join us in the pottery beforehand to talk to and advise some of the more interested boys on building ceramic figures. She was most helpful and we all profited from her enthusiasm and interest. Collett was working on a seated figure, now complete, and Simon Pedoe has since made several interesting figures.

B. W.



Mrs. Blackman explains a point to Keith Pitt.



Coil built base: A. Collett.



Stoneware slab built box: M. Howland.



Stoneware seated figure: A. Collett.



Stoneware modelled group mushrooms: A. Davies.

Art Department

The opening term of the academic year started with a new venture within the Art/Ceramic departments, in that these subjects were included in the choice of 'O' Level options offered to the 4th Forms. Among our first art option students are a group of most able boys and it is to be hoped that the promise they have showed in their first year will bear fruit by the end of the second one! This same group of boys played an important part in contributing to the Art, Craft and Photography House Exhibition, held prior to the end of the Michaelmas Term of 1984. The exhibition was well attended, the exhibits being judged by Mr. and Mrs. N. Grimshaw of St. Edward's School and won by Queen Anne House. The overall Art Prize was awarded to S. Harbour and D. Woodley.

Also during this same term a visit was arranged to the Royal Academy of Arts to see the Modern Masters Exhibition: Paintings selected from the Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection. I had considered the Renoir Exhibition as a possible alternative but in the event was pleased with our final choice. The range of work the boys could experience within the Academy exhibition, was vast. As Anthony Burgess states at the beginning of his personal view of the collection "The Thyssen-Bornemisza collection of pictorial art, classical and modern, is acknowledged to be the finest of all at present held in private hands ..." (barring that of our own Queen). Thus the boys were able to view and consider many aspects of modern art with Salvador Dali, Max Ernst, Rene Majoritte and Lucien Freud arousing particular interest amongst them.

Two new methods of picture making have been experimented with during the Spring and Summer terms. D. Pinnell spent a considerable amount of time and trouble designing and then producing a wax and fabric-dyed picture of a head of a woman. T. Goslin and G. Haworth produced our first silk-screen print, an abstract design. Now that we have the screens, dyes, etc. these mediums of work can be developed further and also integrated with conventional painting and drawing. The standard of originality of ideas is increasing throughout the school. P. Mateunas and J. S. Shorrock, N. Pineo, S. Harbour, E. Smith, W. D. Ferris and A. Morrison have all produced work showing originality in either composition or technique. But originality of ideas must be based on strong basic drawing skill. Developing this must be the aim both of those who draw and paint for pure pleasure and all potential examination students. Two boys took the Oxford Board 'O' Level examination in the final term of the School year and we hope that they will be as successful as our '84 students were. If the standard of work displayed in the entrance hall is to be maintained the art department is going to be kept busy over the coming year.



A. S.

Figure sketch (in 5 minutes)

N. Pineo

WOODTURNING AND CARPENTRY

The very generous grant received for equipment, tools and machinery, has enabled more boys to take up "woodworking" with a consequent increase in the number and diversity of objects produced. Although much equipment is still needed, I have been extremely pleased with the general high standard of the objects made and the interest shown by the boys, since expansion of the workshop facilities.

In Carpentry, with a far greater production of articles than ever before, Price II received a recommendation for his Baby Walker which he planed and made very well, and Hues II for his tray with very good mitred joints on the corners of the surround — he has since produced another of a similar standard.

Although a reasonable standard of Woodturning has been achieved, many articles have not been finished off as well as they should have been. I have had to overlook this to some extent because the two lathes are in such great demand that not enough time can be spent to give a first-class finish.

Of course, the main project this term (and for part of last term) has been the building of the aviary. Many boys have spent much of their time helping to build it — most of whom are interested in keeping birds but some have worked just to see it take shape. The planning and building of the aviary has also given me a great deal of pleasure [besides a lot of hard work] because keeping, breeding and exhibiting birds is my hobby. I hope the future bird-keepers of Cokethorpe will get enjoyment from it, *but please may I stress that boys do need a great deal of supervision where living creatures are concerned.*

This is my last article for "The Peacock" as I/c Woodcraft, so may I just say how much satisfaction and enjoyment I have had from this work, and take the opportunity to wish my successor good luck in furthering the expansion of the department with the hope that it brings him the same satisfaction.

A. S. J. W.

A TRIP TO CHELTENHAM AVIARY

Towards the end of the summer term a few members of the Bird Club were taken to Cheltenham aviary by Mr. John White. We saw lots of parrots and budgerigars. There was a Golden Macaw which was sitting in a dead tree, and it actually spoke. It was able to say 'hello', 'goodbye', 'parrot' and 'stupid'! There was a great variety of birds in the aviary — big birds and small birds, and seed-eating and apple-eating birds. It was a very enjoyable and interesting day out, and I would like to thank Mr. White for arranging the trip.

J. B. Price

JUDO REPORT

The first thing of note this term was the B.J.C. National Championships at Bletchley. This is a junior competition for under-16 year olds. Unfortunately some of our lads were fractionally too old to enter. However, Sam Smith was within the age limit and after practice sessions with the rest of the area squad he went and took part. Obviously the standard of competition at that level is high, and although he didn't progress far he fought very well and gained a great deal from the experience.

On Open Day we put on a display, although as the weather was so poor this had to be in the gym. Most of the boys had never performed in public before and were a little nervous, but they acquitted themselves very well and everyone seemed to enjoy it.

At the end of term we had our usual grading. Sam Smith and Keith Pitt reached the grade of Green Belt with three black stripes, which is the highest B.J.C. Junior Grade. They should make good seniors, as should Paul Barry and Andrew Venman. Of the younger lads Justin Price has a very good technique.

As I am leaving Cokethorpe I would like to wish everyone all the best for the future.

S. Goddard, 2nd Dan

COMPUTER CLUB

When I first joined the Computer Club three years ago the only machine available was the rather dated Commodore "Pet", which was housed in the old Maths room. Since then the club has grown enormously and has moved to the new Maths room.

Last year the school invested in three modern B.B.C. Model 'B' microcomputers, complete with three disc drives and a printer. We have at the moment one colour visual display unit, and two black-and-white televisions, but some more colour V.D.U.'s and possibly four more B.B.C. Model 'B's' are promised soon.

The B.B.C. is a powerful machine with a 64 kilobyte memory, of which half is used by the machine and the other half by the user. It can show up to sixteen colours in very high resolution and it has a powerful sound generator.

Although games are played on the machines, boys are encouraged to write their own programmes and keep them on their own personal discs. The club is open every day at breaktime and also during the reading hour; one afternoon a week is set aside for programming only.

There are courses in computer science both at 'O' and 'A' level and it is hoped that more boys will be able to take these.

J. M. Reeve

NOMADS TOUR

The 14th Tour to the jewel of the Industrial Midlands, (or as the City fathers have taken to calling Birmingham since the recession began to bite, "the Big Heart of England"), began in drizzle on Monday, 15th July. As there is a well-known superstition that rain on St. Swithin's Day means rain for the subsequent forty days, and considering the gloomy forecast when we set out in this apology for a summer, we were probably lucky to get in as much cricket as we did.

The full touring party consisted of Messrs. Green and Randall, Old Boys H. Scott (Vice-Captain), Macleod, Wankling, Shelley and N. Smith with B. Akande, Abbott, Spicer, Norman, Reeve and S. J. Smith from this year's XI. Rod McKenzie, well known to Radio 1 listeners, came up on Thursday bringing a charming lady scorer so we had considerable strength in depth and twice we were able to lend a player to the opposition.

As tradition dictates the main group lunched at the White Swan, Henley-in-Arden on the way to Birmingham but the view was uninspiring. N. Smith took on the fruit machine with relish but Scott and Macleod arrived late after spending the morning failing in their quest to rescue Hugh's boots — not quite the Holy Grail but a good story nevertheless. We were met at the Norfolk Hotel by the Leicestershire group, courtesy of Mr. Spicer, P.J.R.R. Courtesy of B. R. and Shelley from Solihull — all tennis shorts and sun tan. Sadly for connoisseurs of female receptionists former Nomads' pin-ups Alison and Bridget had moved on to "fresh woods and pastures new", and although the replacements were pleasant enough they lacked star quality.

After a brief "junior" team meeting in The Duck, (the old hands had heard the patter so often they were let off!), and a demonstration of outstanding space machine hand and eye co-ordination by "hot-shot" Reeve, we drifted down to the Lychee Gardens for our pre-tour Chinese meal before retiring early. Even Wankling and Abbott, the only tourists to sample the delights of Liberty's were back at a respectable hour preparing themselves for the exertions of the morrow, for sponsorship money was at stake and the whole party was aware of its' extra responsibilities.

Tuesday's events began with a bang. No sooner had the last person arrived in the mini dining room than one of the student waitresses endangered the Captain's arteries with a glass-shattering performance and the senior quartet were all given second breakfasts to avoid the possibility of internal haemorrhages. Scott visited the City to buy new boots (taking P. C. Macleod to advise on style), but the pair seemed to be missing when we had to set out for the appropriately named Bate's Lane. In fact the Captain could have curbed his ire for the two worthies had been in another bar in The Duck, competing on the electronic Olympic Games machine, and overtook the Convoy before it reached Tanworth.

Although the wicket was damp we batted first after winning the toss, working on the theory that if we could survive the initial half hour the pitch would dry and probably quieten down for a while before the bounce became uneven. Macleod proved to be the only sacrificial lamb, for Akande (30) and Shelley (16) put on 38 for the

second wicket steadily and when Akande fell to the spinner we had reached 70-3 in 90 minutes. Spicer flourished briefly but Wankling hit a spirited 28 before departing at 107-5. Scott and Green added 15 quick runs, Scott hitting a big six onto the pavilion roof, but Abbott found it difficult to pick up the right line. Sam Smith played confidently, cracking his first ball for an agonising three, and old age and extreme youth put on a hectic 23 in 14 minutes, (Green 19, Smith 11), before the declaration at 160-7. After tea a great running catch by wicket keeper Abbott gave Scott his hundredth Nomads wicket and in the next over Wankling disposed of the other opener with a ball which lifted alarmingly from a full length. Norman helped the young star of the Tanworth batting, (who had been dropped at second slip by Shelley in Scott's first over), to add 39 before Akande bowled him comprehensively. This inspired Wankling to still greater efforts: Reeve held an excellent overhead catch at mid-off to remove the "star", then the Tanworth Captain was bowled first ball making the score 52-5. Akande cracked number five on the forearm with a wicked delivery and after he had been marched off to have ice applied to the resultant "egg" our quickies picked up a wicket each, the outgoing batsmen sighing more with relief at being out of the firing line than with disappointment at being dismissed, 7-71. The injured hero now returned and the best stand of the innings followed until Shelley broke through with the help of a fine catch by Sam Smith. Akande and Wankling finished off the innings in the most decisive manner giving the Nomads victory by 55 runs with 11 balls remaining.

After the match came the usual fun and games. Our quartet of relay runners Shelley, Reeve, Wankling and Akande showed Tanworth four sets of clean heels round the boundary, Randall excelled in "boat races", Abbott's low centre of gravity made him unbeatable around the single stump while Sam Smith's gymnastic agility brought him the overall chair balancing championship before Wankling's extra weight ended the game permanently as the wood splintered. The sporting ladies of Tanworth played a full part in the evening's events although Alison missed her annual shower and young Victoria's damaged shoulder kept her out of the action. Eventually we dragged ourselves away for a curry at the Bharaat Tandoori where the food was fair but the service so deplorably slow that it was 2 a.m. before we returned to our hotel.

On Wednesday Boys and Old Boys clashed at soccer before lunch at The Duck where Shelley joined us with his sister Cookie. Nick Smith set off for Harborne before the rest of the Convoy and true to form was soon found driving in entirely the wrong direction. The Captain made a fast pilgrimage up "bomb alley" further bemusing poor Nick and perhaps it was not surprising when he was bowled for 0 in the third over when Harborne put us in to bat. Randall joined Macleod getting off to a racing start with two threes, but after this rush of blood the great man retired behind the shield wall of his front pad and it was Macleod with 23 who dominated the second wicket partnership of 34. Shelley scored a "dashing" 30 in 65 minutes before he was caught at 90-3, Randall was run out by a direct hit from the boundary for a vigilant 28 in just under two hours

(97-4), and soon afterwards Akande was caught for 17 by Harborne debutant Reeve. As the Nomads' innings had now lasted for two and a half hours quick runs were vital if we were to set a respectable target. Spicer (30) and Wankling (15) added 36 in 14 minutes; Scott was bowled for four but Spicer and Green put on 29 in 10 minutes before our Leicestershire Colt was stumped charging the leg-spinner, so 84 runs had come in 31 hectic minutes enabling us to declare at 186-8. Both sides enjoyed a tea rated by Randall as best of the tour before Harborne tucked into the Nomad's bowling with even greater relish, fifty runs coming in half an hour. Our great adversary Paul Knowles flailed at nearly every delivery until his failure to hook an Akande bouncer forced him to retire hurt with a badly bruised cheek. Some curious umpiring decisions gave numbers three and four "lives" and Spicer and Shelley had to be brought on to deny the batsmen the advantage of the extra speed with which the ball was flying from the willow's edge over the slips and through poor Nick in the gully! This ploy brought instant success, both bowlers taking a wicket in their first over and when Shelley held a dramatic catch off his own bowling near the square leg umpire, despite the oncoming juggernaut who appeared to be about to turn the frail form into raspberry jam, Harborne were 121-4. A fine running catch in the deep by Wankling removed the Harborne captain twenty runs later, Spicer struck twice in an over (159-7) but Knowles returned to farm the bowling keeping Reeve away from the strike and the match was drawn.

The Harborne President, Ted Baker, (better known at Cokethorpe as Mark Yates's grandfather), was kind enough to buy beer for both teams and another splendid evening in the clubhouse followed. Paul Knowles generously took four of the senior players for an indian meal, but the captain's group retired early after a snack in the village — a cold courtesy of West Oxfordshire District Council was taking its' toll and there were still two days to go.

On Thursday the party was still in high spirits and the morning was spent in a variety of innocent pursuits. Once again lunch was taken at The Duck, the convoy assembled, (Randall arrived by taxi to join it), but within minutes of setting out we had lost Nick Smith. After calling one halt to await the wanderer, (who had taken a different route and arrived at the ground first!), and another to wait for Wankling who disappeared briefly into the trees, we arrived at Lapworth to meet McKenzie and our opponents.

Lapworth won the toss and advanced to 155-7 rather slowly before declaring. Wankling made the ball do a

great deal off the seam, finishing with 3-51, Scott and N. Smith took two wickets each, but although he beat the bat with great regularity Akande remained wicketless. Abbott took two more excellent catches, N. Smith held a fine diving gully catch, Wankling pouched another skier and to his delight the captain caught his annual slip catch. After tea we needed to score at four and a half runs per over if we were to achieve victory and Akande got us off to a good start with a fluent 27. Spicer went cheaply but Macleod had scored 24 in even time, batting quite beautifully, when he was needlessly run out by Abbott 3-71. Wankling went for a duck and although McKenzie scored a crisp 10 in 11 minutes five wickets were down for 83 when he was bowled by a full toss. Abbott and Shelley steadied the innings, putting on 26 in half an hour, but when Scott joined Abbot 47 runs were still wanted in 11 overs. However these two batted splendidly and the game was won with sixteen balls remaining. Abbott's 48 not out was easily his best innings of the season and he dominated the bowlers in the closing stages scoring off 12 of the last 13 balls he received, but Scott's 18 not out was an impressive effort in failing light and steady rain.

After a pleasant evening with the opposition the Nomads returned to the City in various groups. The eighteen year olds went to the "Taj Mahal", the Old Guard visited Liberty's for over Twenty-Five's night but the youngsters returned to the Hotel after failing to get into the nightclub. Spicer was accidentally locked out of his room after taking a shower and wandered the corridors for some time draped in a towel, which was more of a mini-skirt than a toga, seeking a key.

All the Juniors were twenty minutes late for Friday's breakfast, served by Rusty Lee's daughter! We were glad to see the return from holiday of head waitress Julie who seemed taller, slimmer and blonder, but disappointed to realise how much rain had fallen during the night. In fact it poured until noon and after paying our bills at the Norfolk and eating a final Duck dinner we reached Rowington to find pools close to the square and no possibility of any cricket. We visited a small village pub, the quaintly named "The Case is Altered" to work out sponsorship figures before returning to the Rowington ground for a team photograph taken by a young lady enticed from the tennis courts by Akande. Mrs. Shelley and Cookie arrived to watch the match but ended up taking Randall to the station and within minutes Mr. and Mrs. Spicer had picked up the Leicestershire lads and the party broke up for another year after a successful and enjoyable tour.

P. J. G.

SUMMARY OF TOUR MATCHES

Won 2, Drawn 1, Lost 0

- v. Tanworth-in-Arden C.C.: Nomads 160-7 dec. (Akande 30, Wankling 28, Scott 21), Tanworth 105 (Wankling 5-50, Akande 3-16).
- v. Harborne C.C.: Nomads 186-8 dec. (Shelley 30, Spicer 30, Randall 28, Macleod 23), Harborne 167-7 (Spicer 3-29, Shelley 3-36).
- v. Lapworth C.C.: Lapworth 155-7 dec. (Wankling 3-51), Nomads 157-6 (Abbott 48*, Akande 27, Macleod 24).
- v. Rowington C.C.: Pitch flooded, match abandoned, without a ball bowled.

The Cokethorpe Society

News Letter

President	: R. V. Gould
Chairman	: V. J. Williams
Treasurer	: A. W. Baker
Secretary	: G. A. Manley
Assistant Secretary	: C. Webb
Committee members	: R. Banham, A. Storrie

The Annual General Meeting of the Cokethorpe Society was held on 19th April 1985 at Cokethorpe School combined with an excellent dinner. The guests of honour at the Dinner were Mr. R. Lyle who is now a Vice-President of the Society and Mrs. Evelyn Webb. At the Dinner a presentation was made to Evelyn Webb in recognition of the tremendous support she has given to the Society.

The major project at present being undertaken by the Society is to replace/repair the windows of the Anglican Chapel in particular the stained glass window of the East Window; on this project we expect to spend up to £1,500.

The annual rugger match last October was a hard fought, entertaining game won by the Old Boy's by 18-6. Afterwards we had a most enjoyable tea in the Corinthian Room, followed in the evening by a disco/buffet in Ducklington.

We all hope the Society will prosper, and although our members are relatively large we do require active support. We are always interested to hear your news/views especially if you are a recent leaver.

G. A. Manley



Ex-Staff

- H. S. Clayton:* I am sorry to report the death of "Tubby" Clayton in November 1984. He will be remembered by us all as an inspiring House Master.
- R. V. Lyle:* Enjoying retirement — welcomes any Old Cokethorpean "to drop in for a drink". Address: Rossmore, Horns Lane, Combe, Oxford.
- D. Cooke:* Address: 18 Portland Road, Gravesend, Kent.

Old Boys

- M. Attwood:* Present address: 61 Victoria Street, Swanley, Long Eaton, Notts.
- R. Carraher:* Recently succeeded in passing further banking exams. Still working for Credit Lyonnais in London.
- A. Cook:* Address: 32 Belcome Road, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire. Now working for International Aeradio Ltd., after having successfully qualified as U.K. A.T.C.O. in Aerodrome and Approach.
- J. Fairchild:* Recently returned from Australia where he was 'Best Man' to Peter Sin.
- P. Kirkby:* Address 3/5 Parliament Lane, Gibraltar Works as a Sales Co-Ordinator for his father's Shipping Cargo Agents. He and his brother send their regards to all who remember them.
- R. Kaye:* New Address: 32 Swallow Rise, Knap Hill, Woking, Surrey.
- W. Manley:* At present undertaking research into Wildebeest in South Africa as his topic for a Ph.D. Present Address: S.A. Lombard N.R., P.O. 174, Bloembof, Transvaal 2660, South Africa.
- R. Massey:* Present Address: Affottemstrause 199, 8050 Zurich, Switzerland.
- P. Scully:* New Address: 2 Putney Heath Lane, London SW19.
- P. Sill:* Married Mandy Wilson his Australian girlfriend in Melbourne on 11th April this year. They are now living in Melbourne, Peter already having found a job with an accountancy firm.
- J. Tomlinson:* Now on the stage in London — following in father's footsteps!

Shrove Tuesday, 1985: the annual Worthing Pancake race, open to all employees of hotels in Worthing. Won twice by Mark Yates, Old Boy (far left). Photo courtesy of Worthing Herald.

