

THE PEACOCK



1986

The Magazine of
Cokethorpe School

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Editor

P. J. C.

FRONT COVER: *David Steele (Northants, Derbys & England) playing forward, with John Murray (Middlesex & England) keeping wicket.*

BACK: *David Tomlinson auctioning one of several autographed bats after the match. Son James (O.B. and former Head Boy) sitting, right, at his feet; and Colin Milburn, left, in front of the new pavilion.*



Cokethorpe — North Side, with the restored balustrade.

Photo: M. Glanville.

RAISING OUR SIGHTS

*The Second Master, Mr M. Carter,
contributes the preface to this issue.*

The weeks leading up to the end of the summer term have seen a rush on the athletics track to obtain standards. House points are awarded, one, two or three according to which pre-determined standard is reached. Each year's major games' results are compared, favourably or otherwise with previous year's results and the unstated question, 'What was the standard of this year's XV or XI?' is answered.

Teachers are busy writing end of term reports and, consciously or not, creating a standard of comparison between boys. Indeed, at the moment one of the most overworked words in educational circles is 'standards'.

Outside the school environment too, much of society seems to be addressing the subject of standards. Is there a moral decline taking place in this country? Are we in danger of losing the work ethic which our Victorian forefathers held high on their list of standards? Will the traditional family as a unit continue to survive the bombardment of the late twentieth century or will it be relegated under a 'new standard' of 'free' relationships?

There is something in the blood of teachers it seems, which makes them strive for higher standards. Probably most of us have read the words 'Could do better' on at least one of our reports! At Cokethorpe we are constantly looking for ways of raising standards, in behaviour, in teaching, in equipment, in buildings, in manners, in relationships and so the list could be extended.

We have worked on the curriculum in recent years and believe it is now better — not the best it could be, no doubt, and certainly it will not be static. We are looking forward to this year's new intake and to sampling the potential it has. It is then up to us to continue to help to realise that potential and bring boys to the all-round maturity we long to see at the end of their school career. Many boys do reach that standard. A few days ago I stood at the front of the school shaking hands with leavers. Some are going on to higher education whilst others were breathing a sigh of relief that formal education had ended. All had contributed to the school and all had received much from it. Each contribution had been unique and each boy had gained in totally different ways. That is one of the joys of a small school, boys are people and not numbers on a roll to be placed in slots

as the system demands. We are expecting an increase in numbers in the next few years but never by so many that Cokethorpe stops being a small family-type school.

I suppose one of the most graphic examples of a standard is the plumbline. It is used practically of course by builders but metaphorically too. There is no doubt that the plumbline facing Secondary Education at the moment is the new G.C.S.E. system for which teaching begins this September. Although it is a completely different concept it will inevitably take some time before we stop comparing it with the now well established plumbelines of G.C.E. 'O' level and the C.S.E. Change and adapt we will of course and no doubt we shall look back in a few years time and wonder what all the fuss was about.

As educators we unfortunately still face the situation where at the end of the day the most important standard from the point of view of potential employers, further education interviewers or university entrance registrars is the piece of paper with the examination results! We are thus determined to grasp hold of the G.C.S.E. and to do the very best we possibly can for each boy. It will require extra dedication and determination from teaching staff, more resources of books and equipment, more time for personal research. The staff must grapple with new syllabi and boys will need to learn new study methods. At the end of the day I believe that our boys will benefit greatly from the new system and the standard of our public examination results will be even better.

Placing the plumbline against our relationships urges us on to improve the quality of our pastoral care. In twelve months time there will be four houses instead of three and that of course reduces the house unit size and makes for increased individual care. We are investigating ways of improving our knowledge of and therefore care for individual boys even more. Boys do not fit into convenient slots; these are sportsmen, these artists, these academics, these are good all-rounders! Each boy is unique and needs specific care to suit him. In this area, as in many others, it would be too easy to follow

'standard' practice without really considering what is best for Cokethorpe. We are a small community with ideal opportunities for cross-cultural interaction, co-operation and mutual respect. We have a mixture of young boys and older boys, those capable of leading and those who need to be led, those who need support and those who can look after others. That is a good, healthy mix, contributing to a happy community.

We believe that parents are a part of our 'extended family' and we look forward to developing our links. We see the educational process as a partnership between home and school. Open communication between us needs to continue. More and more parents are becoming involved in many different aspects of school life. There is nearly always some way in which we can use the diverse expertise at the finger tips of our parents.

The future at Cokethorpe looks bright in all respects. With the Appeal going well we look forward to a whole new common room/teaching block by September '87 when we can spread and make ourselves more comfortable. It will be marvellous to be able to offer some parents help with fees either to enable boys who would benefit from a Cokethorpe education but could not afford it or to enable some boys to stay with us when there are financial difficulties at home. The Appeal will also mean we can build squash courts on site, to the benefit of boys, staff and no doubt some parents too.

Alongside the extra efforts which will be necessary for G.C.S.E. and increased pastoral care we shall continue to strive for a higher standard in those areas which make up the general ethos of the school. We shall work on manners, courtesy, good speech, positive attitudes, respect for one another, understanding and tolerance. Such qualities are not formally 'taught' but generally 'caught' from all those who work on the Cokethorpe Park site.

I believe that Cokethorpe is heading towards becoming the best small independent secondary school in the country.

M. C.

COKETHORPE PARK

Its History and Architecture

by David Sturdy

Cokethorpe consists of a large 18th-century house (now Cokethorpe School) in a sweeping parkland setting, a medieval church (now the School Chapel) two hundred metres away to the east, a 19th-century Home Farm four hundred metres north of the house and a Georgian gothic fishing lodge by the river on the far side of the A415 road from Witney to Abingdon that skirts the park. In the gap between house and church there was once a fair-sized village whose faint earthworks, much flattened by ploughing to create or extend the park in the 18th century, can be picked out in low sunlight. One day this might be investigated, but the house is the main object of interest.

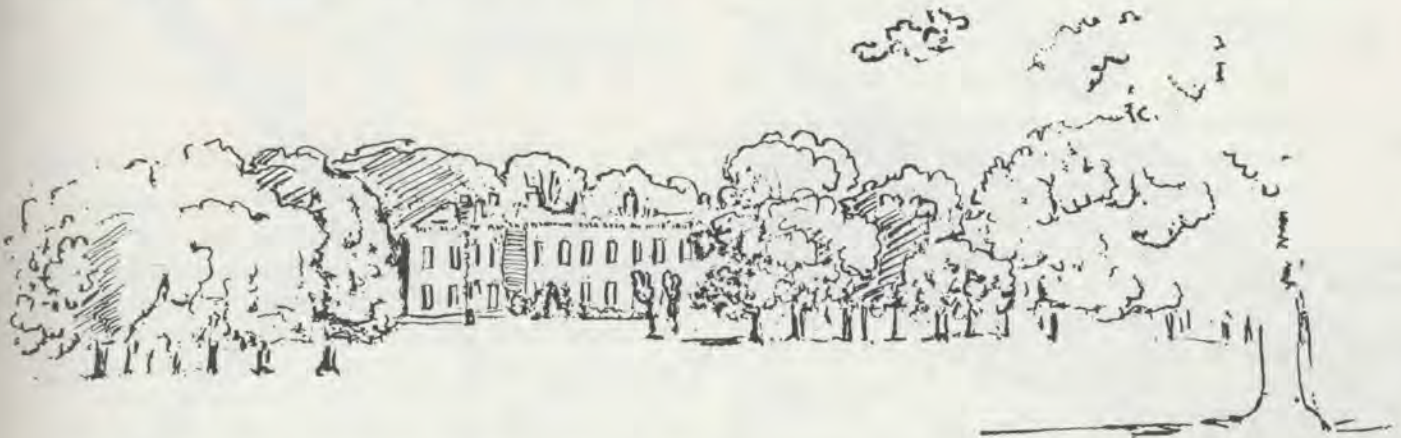
SETTING

The landscape, predominantly of straight roads and lanes and rectangular fields, is essentially a 19th century creation. The Common Fields of Ducklington were enclosed in 1837-39, those of Standlake as late as 1853; Cokethorpe straddles the boundary of the two parishes.

The parkland immediately around the house, together with the stable block to the west and the ha-ha which divides the park from the gardens probably all date from about 1770, when a wealthy East India merchant, Maximilian Western, modernised his new

estate. He may have swept away the last houses of the village between church and house. Earlier in the 18th century Lord Chancellor Harcourt had probably laid out fine formal gardens, most likely on the north front, as we have mentioned above. But these were now out of fashion and were swept away everywhere in the later part of the century. The manor-house of Tudor and Stuart times no doubt had small walled gardens and orchard.

If we consider Cokethorpe as a largely deserted medieval hamlet set among innumerable strips of ancient arable fields on the broad gravel terrace between the Thames and the Cotswolds, we can observe with interest that it is one of nearly 20 largely abandoned medieval hamlets within a circuit of half a dozen miles. Some of the others are completely flat, having been ploughed for many years. Others are faint bumps and hollows in the ground. Yelford, close by, has a small stone church and a fine timber-framed 15th century manor-house. Cokethorpe may once have looked like this. A single fragment of a grand late medieval house remains as an elaborately moulded beam re-used inside the dovecote or round building in the yard. At Radcot there is still a handsome gabled 17th-century stone manor-house. In Stuart days, before any of the present house was begun, Cokethorpe may have been like this.



Sketch of the north side of Cokethorpe and park, c.1824.

(Courtesy of Bodleian Library)

DAVID STURDY is an architectural historian and archaeologist who began his career as Assistant Keeper of Antiquities at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. He was later a Lecturer in Archaeology, first at Liverpool University and then at London University. He now works on architectural studies of 17th and 18th century Oxford buildings, and looks after the archives of University College, Oxford.

HISTORY

For centuries Cokethorpe was a minor part of successive great landowners' estates. In the 11th and 12th centuries the d'Oilly family, the leading local barons, who held Oxford Castle as constables for the Crown, were the overlords, as they were of the adjoining villages of Ducklington and Hardwick. It was divided between two families in the 13th century, to be re-united in the 15th in the hands of the Lovells, Lords of Minster Lovell five miles to the north-west. Their lands were seized by King Henry VII after the Battle of Bosworth Field in 1485.

For the next generation and a half, Cokethorpe was held by the Crown and managed by royal bailiffs or was granted out to royal favourites, who tended to be rather unlucky. Sir Thomas More crossed Henry VIII in 1535 by refusing to acknowledge him as Head of the Church in England; Henry Norreys crossed him in 1537 by being rather too familiar with his Queen, Anne Boleyn. They both lost their heads and their estates went back into royal possession.

During the 17th century Cokethorpe passed rather rapidly from hand to hand, being sold six times between 1601 and 1708, when the Harcourts came. It is not always easy to tell when the estate was being used simply as a source of income, when the family which owned it was regularly in residence and when they allowed other relations to live there. During the 1630s, when Sir David Williams, a Kings Bench

judge, owned Cokethorpe, it was actually the home of his nephew's father-in-law Sir Matthew Carew. Before that, a family called Saunders leased and farmed the land, without owning it. From the 1660s a minor family of local squires called Stonehouse owned and presumably lived at Cokethorpe.

The early manor-house was probably beside the church. The later manor-house of Tudor or Stuart times, built on a new site away from the church at an unknown date lies just beside the present east front, the whole of the present house having been built as additions to it, except for the east front itself, built to cover the scar, as it were, left when this Tudor or Stuart house was torn down in about 1770.

As the main body of the house is so much their creation, the story of the three generations of Harcourts is related in the sections dealing with the exterior and interior of Cokethorpe. Lord Chancellor Harcourt's grandson, the orphaned son of young Simon, grew up with notions much grander than his forbears'. In the late 1750s he built a magnificent villa at Nuneham Courtenay, complete with a new village along the main road, new farms and a new church. To get the fine Taynton building-stone to construct it, he tore down much of the ancient family seat at Stanton Harcourt. And to pay the final bills, he sold Cokethorpe, which he no longer needed as a country residence, in 1764.



Enlargement from an ordinance survey map showing the house, church and grounds. There was once a fountain on the south side of the house.



Above left: *Nuneham Park, the Harcourts' house of 1756-59 at Nuneham Courtenay. The three-sided bay in the centre of the main block was probably the model for the similar bay on the east front at Cokethorpe.*

The wealthy East India merchant who moved in, Maximilian Western, soon tore down the older main block or east range and built a new east front to make Cokethorpe look like a section of Nuneham. Western was followed by his son and a grand-daughter who married into the Stricklands who owned Cokethorpe for much of the 19th century. For a few years around the turn of the century the estate belonged to the Cottrell-Dormers of Rousham, who inherited from the last Strickland. But in 1908 they sold Cokethorpe to the Fieldens who still own and farm the land around the remaining parkland. Here Cokethorpe School was established in 1957.

ARCHITECTURE: THE EXTERIOR

Cokethorpe is a Queen Anne and Georgian house built in four stages during the 18th century. The main east front that greets visitors, with its porch of coupled Ionic columns in front of a large projecting three-sided bay, is the fourth and final stage of building, dating from about 1770. It has two floors, plain window-openings and a mansard roof with attic windows. This front replaced the older manor-house, of Tudor or earlier date, to which all the rest of the present house had been added earlier in the century. The foundations of this older house lie beneath the gravelled forecourt just outside the front door. One day perhaps, excavations will reveal them for a time, telling us when the house was built, how large it was and leaving us with finds of pottery, bronze and so on that were used there.

We can see the three earlier 18th-century stages by looking at the north and south fronts. The south front, the third stage, dates from 1720. It has two floors each with six tall segmental-headed windows with ornately moulded surrounds; the two floors are of equal height and equal architectural importance. When it was first built, this south front had seven windows on each floor, but the two eastern-most windows were pulled down in about 1770, the fourth stage, when the old house was demolished and replaced by the east front. At this time too, the pediment and attics were added, which transformed the appearance of the front.

The two earlier stages can both be seen from the outside on the north front. The right-hand or western projecting wing and the central five windows are the second stage and date from about 1715 or a little before. The first stage is the left-hand or eastern projecting wing and the extra two bays beyond that on the east. This, the earliest part of the present house and the first to be added to the older manor-house, dates from about 1710 or soon after. The north front, of two floors with simple window-surrounds, has a certain drama in its two projecting wings.

Cokethorpe has no west front. The ends of the north and south fronts are separated by a narrow courtyard which is dominated by a tall, isolated, round building, probably built in the 17th century as a dovecot. The old manor-house was then well off to

the east, but the added wings brought the house close to the dovecote.

LORD CHANCELLOR HARCOURT

Without being very uniform, almost the whole of Cokethorpe was built in about ten years from 1710 to 1720. The estate had been bought in 1708 by a well-known local family, the Harcourts. The Harcourts of the previous century or so had been the reverse of quiet country squires. The Elizabethan Sir Walter was knighted by the Earl of Essex while on campaign in France. His son Robert was a Jacobean adventurer, almost a buccaneer, noted for his persistent but unsuccessful attempt to establish an English colony in South America, which cost him several of his family estates. Robert's son, Sir Simon the cavalier, fought as a mercenary in the Low Countries and Central Europe early in the reign of Charles I, returning to die in action during the Civil War of the 1640s serving as Governor of Dublin. The cavalier's grandson and namesake was born in 1660 at the ancient family seat of Stanton Harcourt three miles east of Cokethorpe. His remaining properties were heavily mortgaged and he had to make his way as a lawyer and in politics. This Simon Harcourt was knighted in 1702, created a baron in 1711 and a viscount in 1712. He held high office as Attorney-General in 1707-8 and 1710, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal in 1710-13 and Lord Chancellor in 1713-14. As well as acquiring Cokethorpe in 1708, he bought the Nuneham Courtenay estate of 2000 acres in 1710. Harcourt's nose for a bargain was well known; Nuneham was looked on as "the cheapest pennyworth that ever was bought" in the county.

Stanton Harcourt stood empty and unused except for occasional visits and picnics. Simon Harcourt had given up the great double-courtyard 15th-century manor-house, although it had been fully furnished when his father, Sir Philip, died in 1688. Nuneham, a convenient stopping-off place on the road to London (but not yet the main family residence), served as an occasional residence. But Cokethorpe was the main country and summer residence of this particular Harcourt at the height of his political career and afterwards while he was in opposition. Between 1708 when (as Sir Simon) Harcourt bought the property and 1727 when (as Viscount Harcourt) he died, a very wide and cultured circle of friends came to stay at Cokethorpe for part of every summer.

Today, the most celebrated of Harcourt's friends is the poet Alexander Pope (1688-1744); one summer he borrowed the chapel tower at Stanton Harcourt to work on his translation of the Homer's Iliad. It is one of the few parts of the ancient manor-house to survive there and is still known as "Pope's Tower". Another friend was Harcourt's fellow lawyer, politician and amateur architect, George Clarke, who drew up a range of schemes for the south wing at Cokethorpe; these make it clear that Clarke designed this third stage, in its original form, without attics and pediment.

As we shall see when we look at the inside, Harcourt seems to have intended this part of the house to be a more-or-less self-contained residence for his son, another Simon. This young Simon Harcourt died at the age of 36 in 1720, just as the wing was finished and his books were about to be shelved in his Library there. Pope, inevitably, wrote the epitaph for the family chapel in Stanton Harcourt church, as he also wrote a touching and slightly ridiculous epitaph to a young engaged couple killed when they were struck by lightning.

The two first stages that together make up the north front are Harcourt's extensions soon after he had bought Cokethorpe, hastily run up for seasonal entertainment. The old house may well have been moated; this seems to be indicated by cracks at the west end of the north range. Harcourt would have had the moat filled in and a grand formal garden laid out and planted on the north front. At Blenheim Palace, grandest of all political gestures in stone, a vast and ornate formal garden was the first part of the whole project to be completed, only 7 miles to the north, between 1705 and 1712. Masons and labourers who worked at Blenheim very likely also worked at Cokethorpe; they would have been glad of the work after 1712, when progress at Blenheim was abruptly halted (for political reasons) for four years.



A Regency watercolour of Stanton Harcourt church and manor house, c.1834, showing 'Pope's Tower'.

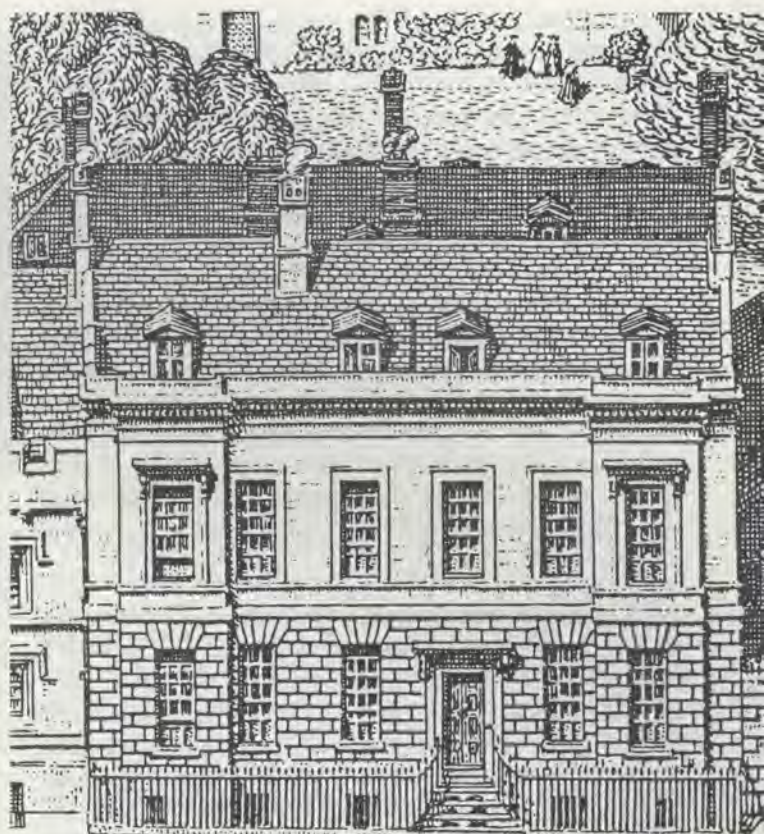
The east front (the fourth stage) of about 1770 dates from after the sale of Cokethorpe by the grandson of Lord Chancellor Harcourt to a wealthy East India merchant in 1761. He sold the property to raise cash for rebuilding Nuneham Courtenay, but strangely enough the design for Nuneham, drawn by an Eton carpenter and contractor, Stiff Leadbetter, provided the theme for this part of Cokethorpe. At the back of Nuneham there is a large three-sided projection or bay. An exactly similar feature dominates the front of Cokethorpe. The Woodstock master-mason, John Hooper, who constructed the shell of Nuneham in 1756-59 may well have been called in by the Harcourts' successors at Cokethorpe.

DR. GEORGE CLARKE: POLITICIAN VIRTUOSO AND ARCHITECT

The south front of Cokethorpe (the third stage) dating from 1720 was designed for Lord Harcourt by his friend and fellow Tory politician George Clarke (1661-1736). Clarke was a remarkable man. His father, Sir William, Secretary at War under Cromwell, had kept his post at the Restoration of 1660 to serve Charles II in the same capacity. No mere administrator, he had gone into action afloat beside the men he sent to war, and died of wounds at the Battle of Solebay in 1666. A fine collection of Cromwellian fortress-plans survives with his son's architectural drawings at Worcester College, Oxford; everyone kept their official papers at home in those days and these plans never reached the War Office after his death.

Sir William left a 5-year-old son, George, educated at Brasenose College and the Inner Temple and elected to a fellowship at All Souls College in 1680 at 19. He began a public and parliamentary career of over 50 years when, at 24, he became M.P. for Oxford University in 1685. George Clarke held Office as Judge Advocate-General (1681-1705), Secretary at War (1692-1704; his father's old job), joint Secretary to the Admiralty (1702-5) and Lord of the Admiralty (1710-14). In opposition under the Hanoverians from 1714, he kept his seat in Parliament but lived mostly in Oxford, where he was a respected and highly influential figure until the end of his life.

Clarke took a prominent part, as Oxford's leading man of taste, in all architectural projects in and around the city. He built a large stone house in High Street in 1706 as his first attempt at architecture. It shows no very close relationship with Blenheim Palace, begun the year before by Sir John Vanbrugh for the Duke of Marlborough to celebrate a victory (the Battle of Blenheim in 1704) which owed much to Clarke's administrative genius. Clarke lived in this house for thirty years and left it to become the Warden's Lodging of All Souls College: he had built it on the college site with this in mind.



George Clarke's house of 1704 in the High Street, Oxford. Now the Wardens' Lodging of All Souls' College.

Clarke had a large hand in the design of Queen's College, Worcester College, the Codrington Library and north quadrangle at All Souls College, Christ Church Library, the New Buildings of Magdalen College and the Radcliffe Quadrangle of University College. At Kingston Bagpuize he built the Rectory for the head of Worcester College, and at Cokethorpe he drew plans for the south range and the Corinthian Room. Because of academic quarrelling, he left his architectural library to Worcester College with his father's fortification plans, 200 or so drawings by Inigo Jones and John Webb in the early and mid-17th century, and nearly 500 designs of his own and his contemporaries. Among these last are nine for Cokethorpe, which allow us to see him putting forward and working out several different versions of the south range.

ARCHITECTURE: THE INTERIOR

As we enter the house, a last glance at the exterior suddenly warns us to beware. We realise that all the sash windows, with their thick glazing bars (so characteristic of the early 18th century) are modern, on the east front of about 1770, on the south front of 1720 and on the north front of about 1710 and 1715. A little detail, the horns projecting downwards from the upper sashes, never found on authentic 18th century sashes, indicates an early 20th century date.

This prepares us to understand that some of the interior details are not genuine 18th-century work

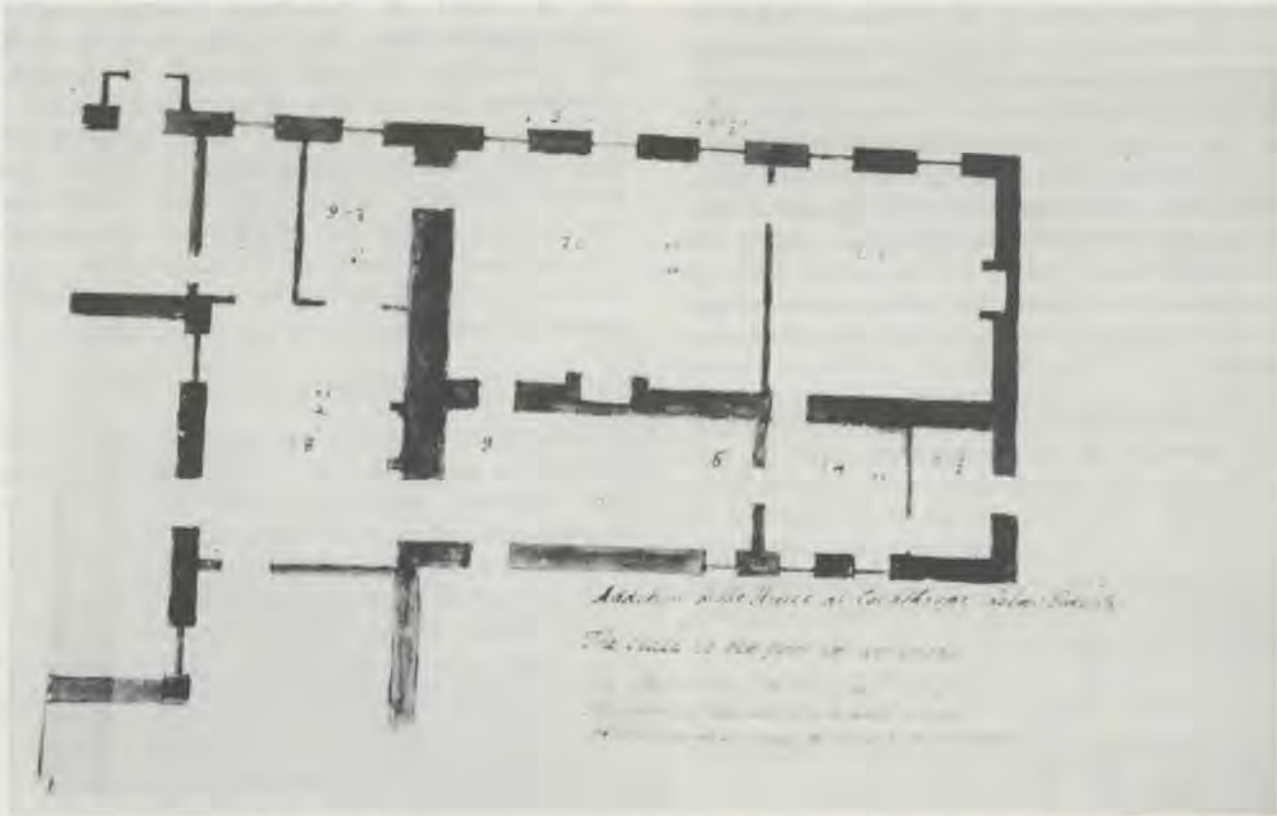
but modern pastiche. The six-sided Entrance Hall lies within the projecting three-sided bay of the east front. Unlike the exterior, which is consistently of about 1770, the interior has a modillioned cornice and panelling typical of about 1730 or '40. But the handsome stone fireplace, dated MCMXIII for 1913, makes us realise that all details of the Entrance Hall are of that date.

Major Percy Fielden bought Cokethorpe in 1908. Five years later, it is clear, he had the house lavishly redecorated and partly refitted by a West End firm of decorators. As well as all the sash-windows and the interior of the entrance hall, the rear hall or inner lobby and the main staircases were redone at this time. On the stairs, the elegant narrow balusters were kept and replaced, with some additions, on the new staircase.

The ground-floor room in the projecting east wing of the north range, now the Masters' Common Room, is something of a problem. It has a fine panelled interior with elegant carving in the style of about 1710-1730. This goes very well with the date of the actual part of the house, the first stage of about 1710. The panelling takes account of a window, to the left of the fireplace, which was blocked in about 1715 when the rest of the north range, the second stage, was added. But the carving looks a little fresh and the stone fireplace is clearly a twin of the 1913 fireplace in the Entrance Hall, so that the panelling may have been improved or brought from elsewhere. Cokethorpe's most splendid interior is the main ground-floor room in the south wing of 1720. It was designed by Dr. George Clarke, whose papers

include two variant designs for the panelling. In the usual way of that time, the walls are laid out as if they were a cut-out model, ready to be folded up. The whole room is lined with dark oak panelling articulated with massive Corinthian pilasters. The splendid bolection-moulded fireplace of Sicilian grey (that is, speckled white) marble seems to be original. At first the full width was used for burning logs. But later, perhaps at the end of the 18th century the elegantly plain cast-iron grate for burning coal (now available by the recently-constructed canal system) was put in. When it was first installed the Queen Anne or Corinthian Room was three bays long, that is, it took up the central three windows of the south front. Later it was extended by another window to the east to include what was at first a separate lobby.

This Corinthian Room was planned as the main reception room of the new range built for young Simon Harcourt. The room above was to be his Library. Some of George Clarke's schemes show the Library as five bays long, but in the end it seems to have been built to the same three-bay length as the Corinthian Room below. Sir John Evelyn, son of the celebrated diarist, was brother-in-law to young Simon Harcourt and his unpublished diary tells us of his visit to "Cockthrop", as he called it, just after the young man's tragic death and of how he "viewed ye new apartment below stairs & ye library over it built to gratifye him who was never to see it finish't, ye workmen being still in it." He was sure that "when they have done the whole building outside & in will be very handsome & a great addition to the House." We can readily agree today. The next year, Evelyn tells us, he spent late May putting books in the Library and early June



The south range: a ground floor plan by Dr George Clarke showing, to the left, the old house, centre (30 feet long) the Corinthian Room, and right (22 feet long) the Headmaster's study as a State Bedroom. (Courtesy of Worcester College, Oxford)



*The panelled interior of what is now the Masters' Common Room.
A photograph from the first School Prospectus (c.1957)*

writing the catalogue of it. There is nothing to see of the Library over the Corinthian Room. It was stripped out in the mid-19th century, to judge from the existing plasterwork, and has been subdivided into rooms now used as dormitories.

Upstairs in the north range there are three rooms with fittings of interest. Two small adjoining rooms have dressing tables of the late 18th century built into their window recesses. One has three lifting tops with

space for brushes and combs, a recess for a chamberpot and so on. Both have various drawers and cupboards below. At the far end of the north range, a large room, quite grand enough to have been a reception room, has good original panelling and an excellent simple fireplace of fine dark grey marble with a carved wooden outer surround and mantelpiece. When most of the house was built in the early 18th century it was still normal for some bedrooms to be downstairs among the drawing rooms and ante-rooms. Some drawing rooms and even dining rooms were regularly planned upstairs. After the middle of the 18th century it became the custom for bedrooms to be upstairs and reception rooms downstairs, as today.

At Cokethorpe, as a school, none of the rooms has any antique furniture or paintings. We must hope that one day a benefactor will assist in furnishing one or two rooms for the times when the house is open to the public. We must remember that when it was new, the house must have seemed, to modern eyes, very bare and spartan. It was meant for a large, constantly changing house-party for a few summer weeks or months. Cokethorpe was planned, not for fine pictures and grand furnishings but for Lord Harcourt and his friends such as the diplomat and poet Matthew Prior (1664-1721), the satirist and churchman Jonathan Swift (1667-1745) and the fashionable dramatist and poet John Gay (1685-1732). The authors of *Gulliver's Travels* and the *Beggars' Opera* were once the most important part of the furnishings of the house!



The Corinthian Room.

SCHOOL RECORD

Head of School

J. W. Jones

Deputy Head of School

M. Javed

School Prefects

A. P. Hues

A. Y. Lee

J. M. Reeve

A. E. D. Spencer

M. J. Spicer

Heads of Houses

Swift A. P. Hues

Harcourt M. Javed

Queen Anne J. M. Reeve

School Officers

Captain of Boats J. W. Jones

Vice-Captain T. S. Goslin

Captain of Cricket M. J. Spicer

Vice-Captain J. M. Reeve

Secretary S. J. Smith

Captain of Rugby S. J. Smith

Vice-Captain M. J. Spicer

Captain of Soccer M. J. Spicer

Vice-Captain I. Badawi

Senior N.C.O. Cdt. Sgt. A. P. Venman

House Prefects

Swift I. Badawi

D. R. Fergusson

G. A. J. Haworth

V. P. M. Kehoe

J. A. Mercer

T. N. Wright

Harcourt P. R. Barry

L. J. Lincoln-Lewis

S. J. Smith

Queen Anne S. R. Dore

D. O. Jones.

C. B. Lewis

I. M. A. Ogborn

J. D. Russ

A. P. Venman

VALETE

STAFF

MR. R. G. THOMPSON

Mr. Robin Thompson left at the end of the Summer Term to return to his beloved North Country, and to take up a post at his old school, the Royal Grammar School, Lancaster. Exhibiting a typically northern trait, he was always wont to call a spade a spade, and his gritty, determined approach to life earned him the respect of everybody associated with him, both in and out of the classroom.

During his two years with us he has impressed as an inspiring teacher of science, and an enthusiastic and proficient rowing coach who was directly responsible for sowing the seeds of the sport with many younger boys. It is to be hoped that his unstinting good work with the scullers is carried on in seasons to come. Perhaps his greatest triumphs, though, were with the coxed pair of Bayarri, Jones I and Lincoln-Lewis who, during this last term, were promoted from Senior C to Senior B status because of successes early in the season. Robin also contributed to the running of Colts rugby, and he was a very conscientious resident master who brought his own brand of Monty Pythonesque humour to what can sometimes be a mundane responsibility. Evening duty will not be the same without his pink 'dog' wandering the corridor outside the dormitories!

We would like to wish him the best of luck for all that lies ahead in the future, and to thank him for his contribution to school life over the last two years.

P. J. R. R.

MR. S. F. FLOREY

Some six years ago Frank Florey retired from a long and most distinguished career at Hurstpierpoint College — a Housemaster of long standing, Head of English and, for five years, Second Master. Well for us that he chose to abandon the rolling downland of Sussex for the level pastures of Oxfordshire on which his family has farmed for several generations. From Northmoor to Cokethorpe is but a short step and, renewing a friendship with Mr. Goldsmith which dates back to the 1940s, Frank agreed in 1981 to come and teach English Literature to our sixth form.

Inevitably, not many boys have had the benefit of his wise tutelage since then; but many more than those he taught will have experienced something of his generous and invariably good-humoured concern for all whom he has encountered at Cokethorpe. In Common Room especially we shall miss the

unfailing courtesy and forbearance, the jocularity which is acute but never unkind and the warmth which is genuine and dependable.

Frank Florey has given that whole hearted support to the school which we associate with long years of loyalty and reward, but have no right to expect of a new acquaintance. Perhaps I should say 'acquaintances,' for Frank has drawn his wife Peggy within our modest orbit, much to our pleasure; and it is to them both that our thanks are due, our very best wishes extended, and the hope — sincerely expressed — that they will regard themselves as welcome friends whenever they return.

C. J. N.

BOYS

The following left in December 1985:

D. E. ASH (1984¹, Swift) 5A.

N. DAVEY (1985³, Swift) 4A.

B. A. GOAD (1981³, Swift) Remove. Deputy Head of School. Head of House. 1st XV 1st IV. Rowing Colours; Full Colours for Rugby; House Colours for Rugby and Rowing, Yellow belt, Judo. Merit in Effective Speaking. Two House plays.

J. KIBBLE (1982¹, Queen Anne) 5B. U.14, U.15 and 1st XI (Soccer).

A. R. PICTON-WARLOW (1982³, Harcourt) Remove. House Prefect. 1st XV. J.16B Crew. Full Colours for rugby and running. House Colours for Road Relay, cross country, and tennis. Won School cross country twice. Ran in N.Oxon championship and for Oxon in Schools' Championship at Norwich. Won AAA Steeplechasing at Oxford. Green Belt, Judo. Two merits in Effective Speaking. House play.

The following left in April 1986:

S. ADEWOLE (1985³, Queen Anne) 3B.

M. J. BARNES (1984, Harcourt) 4B.

S. A. COPE (1983², Swift) Remove. House Prefect. J.14 and J.16 rowing. 1st XV. Half-colours for rowing and rugby; House Colours for soccer, rugby and rowing. Green belt, Judo.

E. E. IMONIORO (1983³, Queen Anne) Lower 6th. 1st XV and 1st XI (Soccer) High Jump record, 1985.

M. F. ISMAIL (1984², Swift) 4B.

S. SAATI (1985³, Swift), 3B. Capt. U.14 XV.

The following left in July 1986:

E. ACCAD (1985³, Queen Anne) 3B. U.14 XV. U.14 XI (soccer).

N. R. ANDERSON (1983³, Queen Anne) 5B. U.15 XV. J.14 and J.15 rowing. House Colours for cross country and rowing. Honours in Effective Speaking.

P. R. BARRY (1984¹, Harcourt) 5A. U.15, U.16 and 1st XV, XI (soccer and XI (cricket). Full Colours for rugby; Half-colours for cricket. Orange belt, judo. Merit in Effective Speaking.

I. BAYARRI (1982², Harcourt) Remove. U.14, U.16 and 1st XV. J.15, J.16 IV. Senior B Coxed Pair. School Squash team. Rowing Colours. House Colours for rugby and cross country. Open Sculls Cup.

J. BEEHARIE (1984³, Swift) 5B. U.15 and U.16 XI (soccer) Captain, U.15 XI (cricket). 1st XI (cricket) and Nomads Tour, 1985. House Colours for cricket. Silver medal for weight-lifting. Orange belt, judo.

R. J. BROWNING (1985³, Harcourt) 3B.

A. G. COLLETT (1983³, Harcourt) 5A. U.14 XV. U.14A and U.15A rowing. School tennis team. House Colours for rugby, tennis and cross country. 4th Form pottery prize; prize for pottery in Creative Hobbies Exhibition, School Play, 1985. Two merits in Effective Speaking. Pottery Prize, 1986.

D. L. DEMNER (1983³, Queen Anne) 5B. U.16 XV. U.14 and U.15 Cricket.

S. R. DORE (1983³, Queen Anne) Remove. 1st VIII. House Colours for Music Competition. School Play. 1986. Effective Speaking, Grade 9.

D. R. FERGUSON (1983³, Swift) Remove. House Prefect. U.16 and 1st XV. J.14, J.15, J.16 rowing. House Shooting Team. Half-colours for rowing and rugby. Rowing Colours.

W. D. FERRIS (1984³, Harcourt) 5A. U.14, U.15, U.16 A crew rowing. House shooting, tennis and volley ball teams. Athletics. House rowing. House colours for Cross Country and rowing. A.C.F. 1 Star. School play 1985. 1 House play.

A. FORSTER (1985³, Queen Anne) 5B. 1st XI (Soccer); 1st XI (cricket).

O. W. GARRARD (1982³, Harcourt) Remove. 2nd IV and 1st IV, Rowing, Cox Rowing colours in 3rd Form. L/Cpl. in A.C.F., 2 star. Black belt, Judo. Merit in Effective speaking.

M. GLANVILLE (1984², Harcourt) 5B. U.14 and U.15 XI (cricket). House Colours for photography and creative hobbies exhibition. Clay Pigeon shooting award, 1985. Merits and Grade 9 in Effective Speaking.

T. S. GOSLIN (1982³, Swift) 5A. House Prefect. 1st Rowing, J.16 A Crew, 1st Crew. Vice-Captain of Boats 1984-1986. U.15, U.16 and 1st XV. U16 and 1st XI (Soccer) Volley Ball team. Half-Colours for Rowing and rugby. Rowing Colours. House colours for Soccer, Cross country and Road relay. A.C.F., 1 star. 2 Merits Effective speaking.

W. H. R. GRIFFITHS (1983², Queen Anne) 5B U.14 XI (Soccer) and XV. House colours for Cross Country and Athletics.

S. J. HARBOUR (1982³, Harcourt) 5B. 1st XV. J.15 Rowing. House colours for Rugby and Cross Country. 4th Form Art Prize. Open Art Prize, 1986. 5th Form Geography and Biology Prizes (shared).

G. A. J. HAWORTH (1982³, Swift), Lower 6th. House Prefect. U.14, U.15 and 1st XI (Soccer) U.15 and 1st XI (Cricket) Volley Ball Team. House Colours for Soccer, Music, Cricket, Cross country, Chess, Tennis doubles and Rugby. 5th, 6th Form Guitar Prize. A.C.F., One star. Merit and Honours in Effective speaking. School play, 1985.

J. C. G. V. HERRON (1982³, Swift) Remove. Martin Browne Memorial Prize, 1986. Merit in Effective Speaking. First Aid Certificate with Honours.

A. P. HUES (1982³, Swift) Remove. School Prefect, Head of House. J.14B rowing. 1st IV (Cox) J.16B, Senior IV. 2nd XV Rugby, Captain. Full Colours for Rowing, Rowing Colours, House Colours for Top of the form, Rugby, Music competition and Clay pigeon shooting. 3B Form Prize, 5th Form Geography and British Constitution Prizes. Cpl. A.C.F., 1 Star. House plays (twice). 2 Merits in Effective Speaking.

M. JABED (1982³, Harcourt) Remove. Deputy of Head of School and Head of House. U.14, U.15 and Captain of 2nd XI (Soccer) U.14, U.15 and 1st XV, U.14, U.15 and 1st XI (Cricket) House colours for Soccer, Rugger, Cross country, 6-a-side soccer and chess. Lt.cpl A.C.F., 3 star. House play. Effective Speaking, Grade 7.

J. W. JONES (1981³, Harcourt) Upper 6th. Head of School. Secretary of 6th Form Bar. J.16 IV, Novice IV, Senior IV, Senior Pair, 1st VIII, Captain of Boats. Full colours for rowing. Rowing colours. House colours for cross-country and Road Relay. 5th Form Biology Prize. Cpl. in A.C.F. Gold award in weight-lifting. Debating 4th and 6th Form. 5th Form Declamations Prize. Effective Speaking, Grade 9. Badminton team. Semi-finals of Oxfordshire trials. Headmaster's Prize, 1986.

I. P. KERSHAW (1983³, Queen Anne) 5A. U.15 XV, 1st Crew rowing. House colours rowing. House debating. Regatta (Ball cup) Effective speaking, Grade.

C. D. KNIGHT (1984², Queen Anne) 5A. U.15, U.16 XV, Captain, U.15 XI (Soccer) Vice-Captain, U.16 XI (Soccer), 1st XI (Soccer) Full colours for Soccer. House colours for Athletics.

M. J. LAKE (1982³, Harcourt) Remove. House colours for Music Competition.

T. C. LAVENDER (1984³, Queen Anne) 5A. U.15 and U.16 XV, 1st XI, (Soccer) House colours for Soccer, Rugby, Cross country, Athletics and Music competition. Effective speaking, Grade 7.

D. J. L. LAW (1983³, Queen Anne) 5A. J.14 and J.15 rowing. Under 15 XV. House colours for Cross country, athletics, standards, and rowing. A.C.F., 1 star. Merit in Effective speaking, Grade 8.

A. Y. LEE (1984³, Harcourt) Upper 6th. School Prefect, Deputy Head of House. House colours for Cross Country. 6th Form Physics and Chemistry Prizes.

L. J. LINCOLN-LEWIS (1982³, Harcourt) Remove. House Prefect. Cox for J.14 and J.15 IV. Cox for Senior Pairs. Half colours for rowing and Rowing colours. 6 Tankards for coxing. A.C.F. 1st Class shooting badge. School play 1985. House plays.

S. K. MACDONALD (1984³, Swift) 2.

S. R. A. MATTHEWS (1984¹, Harcourt). 5B. U.14 XI and U.15 XI (Cricket). Scorer for these and for Nomads. Silver medal in Weight lifting. Yellow belt, Judo. Effective speaking, Grade 8.

J. A. MERCER (1982³, Swift) Remove. House Prefect. U.14, U.15, U.16 and 1st XV. U.14 and U.15 XI (Cricket) J. 15 and J.16 IV (Cox) House colours for Cross country, Road Relay, Rugby, Rifle and Clay pigeon shooting and Rowing. Full colours for Rugby and Cross Country. Ran for Oxfordshire Boys Clubs Cross country. Green belt, Judo. Wyvern Shield for Shooting.

T. O. B. MESSENGER (1983³, Queen Anne) 5A. U.14, U.15, U.16 XV. U.14 and U.15 XI (Soccer) U.14 and U.15 XI (Cricket) House colours for Cross Country, Road Relay, Rugby and Rifle shooting. School records in U.15 Junior Javelin and Discus and U.15 800, 1985. 5th Form Biology Prize.

R. D. MILES (1983³, Harcourt) 5B. U.14 XV. U.14, U.15, U.16 and U.16B rowing. House Colours for rowing, cross country. 3rd Form woodwork prize. Green belt, judo.

S. NARENDRA (1985¹, Harcourt) Lower 6th. 1st XI (Soccer) Volleyball Team. 5th Volley ball trophy. Yellow belt, judo. Effective Speaking, Grade 9.

J. C. PENNY (1985³, Queen Anne) 3A.

A. E. D. SPENCER (1984³, Queen Anne) Remove. School Prefect. 1st XV. House Colours for rugby. Acting Prize, 1985. Two School Plays.

M. J. SPICER (1982³, Swift) Remove. School Prefect. U.14, U.15, U.16 XV, and Vice-Captain of 1st XV. U.14, U.15, U.16 XI and Captain of 1st XI (soccer). Captain of U.14, U.15, and 1st XI (cricket). Full Colours for cricket and soccer; Half-colours for rugby. House Colours for cross country. Batting Cup. Oxon Volleyball Champions Team, 1985-86. Squash Team. Nomads Tour, five times. School Play, 1984. Merits in Effective Speaking. All Rounders and Bowling Cups, 1986.

C. J. STOBO (1984³, Queen Anne) 5B. 5th Form pottery prize. House Play. Effective Speaking, Grade 8.



Drawing of the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, c. 1824. (Courtesy of Bodleian Library, Oxford). This, and the sketch on p.5, have been retouched by Neil Pineo.

THE ANGLICAN CHAPEL

The Reverend David Lane, who has been closely associated with Cokethorpe as Chaplain and teacher of Religious Studies for 23 years, retired from his parish of Langford in April. He now lives at Moreton-in-Marsh and has kindly agreed to continue to celebrate at our Sunday Eucharists. On the occasional Sunday evening we still have Compline in the Corinthian Room and many boys appreciate this quiet and moving form of worship. I would like to thank Mr. Fenton for all his help and support in our services.

The annual Service of Remembrance took place on Sunday November 10th and was followed as usual by March Past and General Salute by the A.C.F. detachment — the Last Post was sounded by two cadets in front of the main house. This is always a very moving occasion.

The Carol Service on the last morning of the Michaelmas term was as usual very well attended by boys, parents and other visitors — the church seems to get more crowded each year! There was also a short service in the Church on Ascension Day.

Nine boys were confirmed by the School Visitor, The Right Reverend Conrad Meyer, Bishop of Dorchester on Sunday June 15th and as usual this was incorporated with the normal Sung Communion Service. The boys were prepared this year by The Reverend Christopher Drummond, Rector of Ducklington, and we are very grateful for all the time he has spent on this during the last six months.

We are very grateful to the Old Boys' Society for so generously paying for the repair of the East

Window — and minor repairs to the windows too. Also during the course of the year the Communion Rail has been restored and the Pulpit replaced in its original position. The plaster over our heads still causes concern at times and at the beginning of the summer term a large number of tiles were blown off the outside of the roof.

Finally I would like to thank my wife and other ladies for decorating the Church for our weekly services, also Matron and her loyal band of cleaners for their hard work, and, last but not least, the group of boys led by Mark Hues and Edward Casey who get things ready so efficiently for the services — and even clear away afterwards!

D. F. G.

RENOVATIONS TO THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

Just before Old Boys' day in October, the East window of the Church made a re-appearance having been missing for most of the summer term for repairs. The final piece of glass was put in place by Edward Swingler, the Cornish restorer of period stained glass. The main work of restoration and repair was carried out in Fowey.

Besides the East window, the north side aisle window and the windows of Saxon origin in the West side of the tower have also been repaired. The restorations to the latter were done with 16th century glass removed from a redundant country church in Northamptonshire.

The total costs of the repairs are in excess of £1500, which is generously being met from the funds

of the Old Boys' Society who originally purchased the building for the school from the Church Commissioners in 1979. It is hoped early next year to start repairs on the leaking west window.

Visitors to the church may have noticed that the pulpit, originally built in 1842 by the then Rector of Ducklington, Mr Farley, with wood taken from Magdalen College tower, has been restored to its original position at the south side of the chancel step. This work, together with the replacement of the altar rail and repairs to the oak panelling in the Corinthian Room, has been undertaken by local craftsman Chris Keely from Abingdon.

There are other plans to restore the church to its former glory — although this cannot, alas, include the oak pews removed in recent years, or re-building the minstrel's gallery that was over the present site of the font!

N. J. M.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPEL

Mass has been celebrated most Sunday mornings by Father Anthony Azzopardi from Campion Hall, and we continue to be very grateful to Group Captain and Mrs. Vaughan-Fowler for providing the transport each week. Whenever possible the Service is accompanied by the Head Master on the organ or piano — are there no other volunteers?

On the evening of Advent Sunday there was a special candle-lit Service organised by Mr. Fenton and attended by all the boarders. On Whit Sunday Anglicans joined the Roman Catholic for Mass — it was nice to have the Chapel so full for this ecumenical act of worship.

Father Taylor has had to give up his weekly visit for Religious Instruction — we are very grateful for all he has done for Cokethorpe during the past five years. His place has been taken by Father Tapparo, Priest of Eynsham, who now instructs the boys in two groups on Monday and Tuesday afternoons.

I would like to record special thanks to Alexander Collett who for the last two years has prepared the Chapel for Mass each Sunday with such devotion and good humour — also for the support given to him (especially as Lesson Readers) by many other Roman Catholics.

D. F. G.

CANDLELIT ADVENT SERVICE

Advent Sunday 1985 was marked by a special candlelit service in the Roman Catholic Chapel. The theme was the traditional one of Christ as the light of the world, and the mood one of expectation. Not only an immediate looking forward to the celebration of the festival of Christ's birth, but also an expression of hope for Jesus' second coming to Earth.

The service began in total darkness apart from the light of the altar candles. From these were lit two tapers and gradually the light was passed from one member of the congregation to another, all of whom had been issued with candles. By the middle of the second verse of the opening hymn — 'O come, O come, Emmanuel' — the chapel was ablaze with light. The packed chapel re-echoed to the sound of this hymn and for once the Headmaster's enthusiastic keyboard skills were met with answering zeal.

A selection of readings and prayers had been made from those recommended by The Book of Common Prayer, not only for Advent but for occasions which seemed to require a similar mood. These were read by various members of staff, some of whom had made very special efforts to be able to attend the service.

After a lesson from Isaiah and a prayer for schools, the congregation sang, with no less enthusiasm but perhaps a little more unfamiliarity, our second hymn — 'Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes'. This was followed by our only non-scriptural reading of the evening, the preamble to John Milton's *Paradise Lost* read by Mr. Peter Cranham. Immediately after this was a reading from the prophecy of Micah which identifies Bethlehem as the birthplace of the saviour. Continuing the idea of the announcement of Christ's birth we sang our third hymn 'On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry', connecting our thoughts with the promises of the first lesson. To complete the chiasmic structure of the service the first fifteen verses of the Gospel according to St. John were read.

The evening was concluded with the great Advent hymn 'Come, thou long expected Jesus'. In the absence of a priest to give a blessing, the congregation left the chapel after repeating together the words of the grace from St. Paul's second letter to the Corinthian church.

E. J. F.

In the religious studies class:
"Solomon had 700 wives and 3000 concubines."
Question: "How big was his bed, sir?"

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

On Sunday the 10th of November, the A.C.F. cadets of Cokethorpe detachment held the annual Remembrance Sunday parade and march past. The two minute silence at eleven o'clock marked the end of a week of extensive preparation and practice.

For two days before the Sunday, boots were cleaned, then polished, inspected by the N.C.O.s and repolished until an acceptable standard was reached. During the reading hours of that week the cadets were marched up and down the driveway in a desperate bid to reach perfection that was thought unobtainable by all (but we did it!)

On the day itself, everything went perfectly and all the cadets marched down to the church in step with each other. The headmaster inspected the cadets and asked questions with interest.

All the cadets endured the bitter cold that howled around the front of the school. This was especially felt during the two minute silence. We were all very pleased to get back inside the cadet hut. At the end of it all, we all agreed that the day's events had gone very well.

L/Cpl. T. N. Wright

A VIEW FROM THE BURSARY

A Bursar's working day could hardly be more varied. You never quite know what will happen from one day to the next, and I have often threatened friends and colleagues alike that I would some day sit down and do for my profession what James Herriot has done for his. I am sure that the experiences of the way of life of a school Bursar — for a way of life it certainly is, rather than simply another job — could fill several volumes, just writing of the personalities and characters in their particular school. When emulating this latter-day author I might call my first literary effort "All Children Great and Small". For the time being, however, I must concentrate my thoughts on a reflection of the past twelve months — one day greater things may follow!

Perhaps the greatest thing over the past year has been the continuing advance, and near completion, of the roof restoration. The north and east sides are now complete, and the removal of the final scaffolding pole from the front of the house was met with great delight. Together with the new Cotswold stone balustrade, the Stonesfield slates make a very welcome sight after months of stripped timber, much of which has had to be replaced as well. I have it on good authority that a similar operation should not be necessary for over 300 years!

Another building project that was completed around the end of May (and also caused great celebration) was the new Toilet Block. At last Cokethorpe Boys will be excused the use of what has probably been one of the oldest and most antiquated systems in the country. The legend of the Round House loos has finally been laid to rest! Plans are in hand to restore that building, the suggested use being a Local History facility.

A great deal of time has been spent over the past twelve months on the new Building Appeal. The plans for Squash Courts and the new Laboratories and Common Rooms are well in hand. The new Cricket Pavilion was opened in June at the School's first Charity Cricket Match.

Yet another of the many hats that the Bursar has worn in 1986 has been one of co-ordinator of outside letting of the School facilities and buildings. These have included a regimental dinner, weddings, including the use of St. Mary's Church for the ceremony, a ladies luncheon club, antiques fair, and in the summer holiday the adventure company, Camp Beaumont. Plans are already in hand for a New Year residential house party, and, at Easter 1987, a residential soccer school for Americans, run by an Englishman who is an American Football Star!

On the Home Front the Bursary is now sporting a computer that not only produces the bills faster than my Secretary (if that is possible), but also provides information that is helpful in the general administration of the School. The company that provides the management of the school catering has been changed during 1986, the service now being provided by a subsidiary of Trust House Forte, Gardner Merchant Ltd. To date, the change has been totally successful.

Paint and restoration this year have again been the key words — altar rail and pulpit being replaced in the Church, together with the wood-panelling in the Corinthian Room. The top-floor Study bedrooms, like the recently decorated and refurbished middle-floor dormitories, now have new paint, carpets and furnishings to match the new roof.

1986? A good year, I think. A year in which various projects have borne fruit. A year in which, from the Bursar's viewpoint, there has been progress in the development of Cokethorpe. Once again, a year in which I am very thankful for a loyal team of workers. I am sure Staff and Boys alike, for all the help she gives them, would echo my feelings in saying a special thankyou to my secretary and other pair of hands, Val Thomas.

Perhaps 1987 will be the year of that Book. What was it to be called — "Bursar's Might Fly"? If the 1987 vintage is like this year's it could be a good starting point.

N. J. M.

SALVETE

STAFF

Mr. A. R. A. Snow joined the staff as a resident master in September to teach Science and Mathematics. He graduated in Science at St. Andrews University in 1982, and took his P.G.C.E. at Durham University. He has been teaching at Rhyddings County High School in Lancashire for three years.

Mrs. C. Williams joined the staff in September to teach French on a part-time basis. A graduate of Caen University in Normandy, she has taught for fifteen years in schools in France and England. Mrs. Williams is married with three children.

Mr. M. Edwards joined the staff as a resident master in September to teach English. He graduated with a Combined Honours degree in English and History at Southampton University in 1980, and took his P.G.C.E. at the University of East Anglia. He comes to us from Bredon School, Tewkesbury, where he has been teaching for two years.

Mr. T. MacIntyre has joined us this September for one term to teach some junior Science and Mathematics. While at Tonbridge School he studied Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Chemistry and Physics at A level.

BOYS

The following joined the school in November 1985:

A. J. Ogilvy, (*Matthew Arnold, Abingdon*)

The following joined the school in January 1986:

A. A. Busaidy, (*Secondary School, India*); T. R. Gardiner, (*The Dragon School, Oxford*); J. P. Lenehan, (*Wood Green School, Witney*); M. R. Lowe, (*Walton High School, Stafford*); R. Martyr, (*Ernulf Community School, Bedford*); J. W. O'Dwyer, (*Wood Green School, Witney*).

The following joined the school in April 1986:

O. Bekouw, (*Brandsma M.A.V.O. Bussum, Netherlands*); A. J. D. Bryan, (*Magdalen College School, Oxford*); J. E. Etkin, (*Holly House, Chelwood Gate, Sussex*).

The following joined the school in September 1986:

N. A. Bailey, (*Christ Church Cathedral School, Oxford*); J. M. E. Benfield, (*Windrush Prep School, Burford*); M. R. Bowerman, (*Beachborough*); R. E. Boyland, (*Henry Box Comp, Witney*); L. T. Casson (*Oratory*); D. Chapman, (*Hitchin Boys School*); J. B. Clapton, (*Josca's*); J. Day, (*Ripley Court, Surrey*); R. J. Deeley, (*Wycliffe College*); P. J. B. Downes, (*Our Lady's Convent, Abingdon*); D. J. Essen, (*Lambourn Primary*);

M. G. P. Evans, (*Wicken Park*); L. M. Fitzpatrick, (*St. Andrews, Wantage*); C. P. R. Gardner, (*Sandroyd*); M. R. M. Gauntlett (*Malvern College*); P. A. S. Gibbs, (*Apeley Wood*); N. F. Hair, (*Josca's*); D. G. Hart, (*Clares Court, Maidenhead*); D. G. H. Hodgetts, (*Misbourne, Gt. Missenden*); C. M. Horn, (*Christ Church Cathedral School, Oxford*); J. R. S. Hughes, (*Prior Park, Bath*); R. Jaber (*Greenhill School, Cyprus*); N. J. Jervis, (*Josca's*); P. B. F. Jones, (*Croft Hall, North Leamington*); M. J. C. Joubert, (*Josca's*); Y. Kargasi (*Oratory*); H. R. G. Kitching, (*Bramcote, Scarborough*); C. A. Lamden, (*Caversham Primary*); S. T. Lancaster, (*Wantage Comp*), D. T. S. Li, (*Abbey International School, Malvern Wells*); G. H. Lyons, (*Freeland Primary*); B. Marjanovic, (*Loaks Park, H. Wycombe*); D. M. Marsden, (*St. Nicholas, Abingdon*); A. J. McIntosh, (*Pinewood, Shrivenham*); T. H. Mellor, (*Josca's*); A. Mumford-Smith (*Aylesbury Grammar*); W. Nasser (*National College of Choeifit*); J. C. Needham, (*Beachborough*); B. Patel (*St. Thomas à Becket, York*); J. D. Pritchard, (*Josca's*); J. G. Ruff, (*Davenies, Beaconsfield*); G. E. P. Rutter, (*Hordle House, Milford on Sea*); B. K. Selormey (*Achimuta School, Accra*); J. M. Stockdale, (*Josca's*); J. E. Wingrove, (*Haileybury Junior School*); J. W. K. Wong, (*New Method College, Kowloon*); J. Yisa-Doko, (*Rimi College, Kaduna, Nigeria*).

The Celebrity Cricket Match

COLIN COWDREY'S COKETHORPE XI

v.

COLIN MILBURN'S SCAT'S XI

On Sunday 8th June a Celebrity Cricket Match and Family Fun Day was held at the School. The proceeds were to be divided equally between Somerset Court Autistic Trust and the Cokethorpe Building Appeal. A person with an interest in both causes is actor and former Cokethorpe parent, David Tomlinson, and it is mainly through his efforts that such a prestigious list of participants was compiled. The Bursar, Mr. N. J. Mills, who was responsible for a great deal of the preparatory work on and before the day, reports on the event.

Perhaps it was the telephone call from Barclays International Bank in the City, 48 hours beforehand, that really made me realise that the big day was approaching; it was not good news. Colin Cowdrey's personal secretary was warning that even the 1987 President of the M.C.C. can fall victim of a heavy cold. He was confined to bed and was unlikely to be able to lead his team on Sunday the 8th. Alas, this proved to be so.

The day began at 5.00 a.m. with the Caterers working away to prepare food for boys, celebrities and, hopefully, the large number of members of the public who were likely to attend. A quick survey at 7 a.m. showed the numerous marquees were in place, including a splendid one for entertaining the celebrities and their families and also the guests of Gardner Merchant, a division of Trust House Forte and our main match sponsors. It was beautifully adorned with flower arrangements from Matron. 7.30 a.m. saw the arrival of a parent, Mrs. Holmes, an important figure in the fund raising events surrounding the Match. Slowly other figures and equipment arrived and by 11.30 the stage was set.

All we needed were the players and, as if by Royal Command, at 11.55 precisely the first of our guests, former England and Northants, big-hitting Colin Milburn arrived with Cokethorpe Old Boy (and one of the match organisers) James Tomlinson.

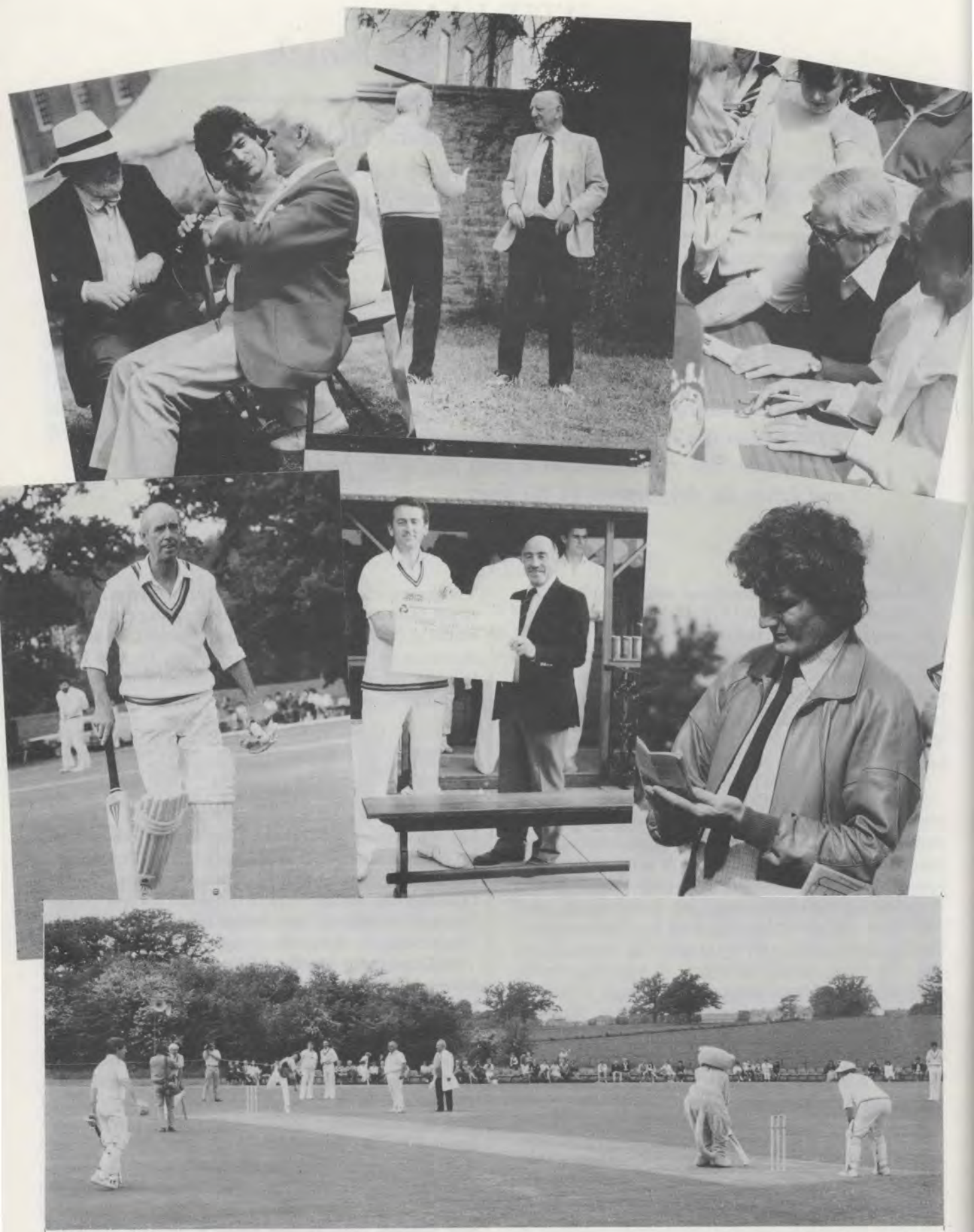
Lunch was a hearty affair, actor Freddie Jones arriving in a large Panama hat, while his veteran friend and colleague Esmond Knight, blinded in the sinking of the Bismarck during the second world war, enjoyed the atmosphere of the occasion. David

Tomlinson certainly enjoyed the strawberries, as did Brian Johnston, direct from broadcasting on B.B.C. Radio's Test Match Special, where, on several occasions in the previous three days, he had been telling avid listeners across the country about the jamboree about to take place at Cokethorpe.

With Colin Cowdrey indisposed, ex-Gloucestershire, Worcestershire and England star, Tom Graveney, was elevated to Captain of the Cokethorpe XI, whilst Graham Cowdrey, on a day off from playing for his native Kent against Oxford University, stepped into the team vacancy caused by his father's absence. The toss was made, Graveney's eleven — or as it turned out, twelve — elected to bat. Opening the batting were ex-England players David Steele of Northants and Brian Luckhurst of Kent, Steele being the first to be caught by the Cokethorpe Vice-Captain of Cricket, Jonathan Reeve, off the bowling of Capital Radio's Andrew Parkinson, whose father Michael is famous in all forms of the media.

Entertainer Roy Castle, the only man not to trouble the scorers, was the next man in and out. The departure of Luckhurst brought Cowdrey and School Governor, Oxfordshire's Richard Pineo, together — the former scoring 58, the latter hitting three sixes in his 33. The Captain scored 12 before being stumped by ex-England and Middlesex keeper John Murray, off the bowling of former colleague Eric Russell, now cricket coach at nearby Shiplake College.

The two undefeated batsmen at tea, at the end of the allotted 35 overs, were ex-Northants skipper Jim Watts with 28, and star of the T.V. Comedy series



CELEBRITY CRICKET MATCH MONTAGE

Top left: *Freddie Jones (in the hat) and Esmond Knight being interviewed.* Centre: *Kenneth Cope chatting to Brian Johnston.* Right: *Harry Worth and Brian Cant signing autographs.* Middle left: *Eric Russell (Middlesex & England).* Centre: *cheque presented by Gardner Merchant to Somerset Court.* Right: *Bob Willis.* Bottom: *Isla St. Clair bowls the first ball of the match to the Pink Panther.*



From left to right: Bob Willis, Fred Titmus, Richard Pineo, John Pember, Andrew Parkinson, Jim Watts (hidden), Rod McKenzie, Mike Smith, Brian Cant (hidden), Isla St. Clair, Christopher Blake, John Murray, John Price, Tom Graveney, Frank Whittaker, David Tomlinson, Colin Milburn, Bill Frindall, Michael Spicer, Jonathan Reeve, Graham Cowdrey (hidden), Eric Russell, Brian Luckhurst (hidden), Dennis Compton, Kenneth Cope, David Steele (hidden) and Brian Johnston.

"That's My Boy", Christopher Blake with 48, including 5 enormous sixes. The total — 239 for 6 wickets. During the tea interval, as they had been doing elsewhere in the grounds throughout the afternoon, the Eynsham Morris Men and the A.C.F. Band of the Royal Green Jackets entertained in front of the pavilion. Jazz critic Benny Green, veteran comedian Harry Worth — remembered by many of the people attending for his antics on T.V. in front of a shop window — Freddie Jones and David Tomlinson helped to keep the hungry autograph hunters happy even through tea. Joining the cricketers and celebrities in the marquee was Home Secretary Douglas Hurd and his family, Mr. Hurd having an interest in the afternoon's proceedings as President of the Cokethorpe Appeal.

After the break the familiar figure of the former England Captain Bob Willis was seen to be umpiring, whilst the "Bearded Wonder" from Test Match Special, Bill Frindall, was seen in the less familiar role of opening bowler. Ex-England and Middlesex openers Mike Smith and Eric Russell began the innings for Colin Milburn's XI, Russell going cheaply, but Mike Smith progressing to be his side's top scorer with 51, including twelve fours!

Probably one of the most exciting innings of the day came from the No. 3 batsman, School 1st XI Captain, Michael Spicer, who was next in and scored 46, including three sixes and three fours. Children's T.V. Entertainer Brian Cant could only manage 7 runs, the same total as B.B.C. Radio 1 Newsreader and Old Boy of the school, Rod

McKenzie. John Price and John Murray, Ex-England and Middlesex colleagues scored 1 and 8 respectively, and despite a last ditch effort from Jonathan Reeve (who in his unbeaten 25 struck three sixes off the last three balls of the last over, bowled by Brian Luckhurst) Colin Milburn's team could only manage 201 for 8 off their allotted 35 overs. Fred Titmus, Ex-England and Middlesex, now a test selector, and the Geordie Captain did not reach the crease. Cowdrey's team had won by 38 runs.

An Auction of items, donated by parents and friends, by David Tomlinson quickly followed the cricket and bidding was brisk from members of the public who had remained. And what of the rest of the day? Besides the various other entertainments — including the 91 key concert dance organ, originally built in 1912 in Antwerp for the Black Cat Dance Hall, the broadcasting of three hours live radio for B.B.C. Radio Oxford, including commentary direct from one of the umpires on the field must rate as unique, as must the bowling of the first ball of the day to the Pink Panther (alias fifth former Daniel Jones) by singer and T.V. celebrity Isla St. Clair.

As the sun set a quick tally seemed to indicate an attendance of nearly 4,000 people from which the net proceeds would be around £4,000. The day had been profitable as well as very enjoyable. With lots of thank you letters to write, lots of clearing up to come, it was a very weary Bursar who dragged himself off to bed that evening, perhaps dreaming of other such cricket matches in future.

PRIZE GIVING

Prize Giving this year took place on Tuesday 1st July. The occasion began with the Headmaster welcoming all present, and especially Dr. J. M. Moore, Headmaster of The King's School, Worcester, and formerly Head of Classics for fifteen years at Radley College. After presenting the prizes, and a humorous introduction in which he referred to his long friendship with the Mr. Goldsmith — now extending over more than twenty years — as 'a tribute to the stamina of both of us', Dr. Moore then spoke to the assembled company. It was certainly the most notable address of recent years, and we were greatly struck afterwards by the number of parents who expressed a wish to meet Dr. Moore. We thought that they — as well as those who could not be present that evening — might therefore like to have the opportunity to read at leisure the main part of Dr. Moore's speech, and we are most grateful to him for allowing us to reproduce it in this way here.

'Mr. Goldsmith, Ladies and Gentlemen —

On an occasion like this, it is customary to utter a string of platitudes along the lines of: 'Congratulations to all the prizewinners, and bad luck to the rest ...' Now this is probably true here too, but I want to twist the theme a little this evening and look at something else. Academic education is important, and what you get from the classroom is an essential part of being at school. I am sure that it is under control here. However, I remember once asking a boy what he had learned at a particular lesson, and got the sharp answer: "More than I shall ever need to know about penguins, sir!" And that makes the point...

In Education balance is important, and even more, balance between the formal academic subjects which are so much in our minds at this time when some of you will have just finished a gruelling encounter with the examiners, and the other things which a school can give you. I want to suggest a few areas which everyone should be thinking about when they are learning and teaching, and which may be of use to you in planning your futures. The whole thing centres round the question: What is a school for? I would like to suggest a few main objectives.

First of all, concentration. It is vital that we all learn *how* to learn — or, if you like, develop our intellectual muscles, without which the brain cannot function usefully at any level. But it is not enough just to collect facts like over-active sponges. We must learn to sift knowledge, to weigh up its value and assess the reliability of what is taught. I always remember the shocked horror with which my pupils used to greet me when I told them that what they had just read in a textbook was wrong. They are, you know, often wrong — even Maths books — and it is vital to be critical as you read. Furthermore, it is important that all pupils should be stretched as far as their mental capacity will take them — there is great pleasure in this exercise of the mind.

Secondly, we need two languages — and here I do not mean English and a foreign language (valuable as one is), but the ability to write and speak good English and the ability to handle figures with reasonable confidence. Without these two skills, we should all be lost in the modern world. To them I would probably add basic familiarity with a computer. This can come through games as well as through using the machines for more serious purposes. I would have laughed ten years ago if anyone had told me that I would spend long hours on one — but I do; without the word-processor in my office not merely would my secretaries have problems keeping up with the flow of paper required, but I should myself be lost. I use it regularly, and found it the harder to learn to use because I had not touched a computer during my education. They did not exist in those primeval days.

Thirdly, it is important to appreciate man's importance and his place in the natural world. When your Headmaster and I have long retired, you will be amongst those responsible for taking decisions about how to use the world and its natural resources, and those decisions will not be easy to take. They will be all the harder if you have not thought carefully about the conflicting claims of industry, politics, ecology and conservation.

Fourthly, and following on from the third, you need to know about your position as a trader and consumer — and we all do both in some way or other. You need to know your rights as a consumer and your obligations as a supplier. Both areas are now fairly complicated, and, sad to say, those who do not know in simple terms where they stand can be taken for a ride or end up in deep trouble — or both. Related to this is the way in which we organise ourselves as a society, and the way in which societies work together or come into conflict. We have, thank heaven, had a long period of relative peace, but it will only be preserved by constant vigilance and positive action to ensure that it continues. We are all

involved in that — at one level as voters, but in some ways at a higher level within the society of our own country — in our jobs, our towns and our social relationships.

Fifthly, we need to know about and appreciate the secret, non-rational side of man — the mystical and artistic side of his nature which produces inspiration, poetry, drama, painting and so on. These arts give so much to life. Look at them, think about them, and even if you are not lucky enough to be able to produce something in these areas yourself, try to appreciate what others have produced and see things through their eyes.

Finally, there is the whole side of education which allows people to explore their relationship with each other, and their personal identity. You are lucky to be in a boarding school; it gives you a chance to find these things out — to learn how to work together: to see authority in terms of service to the community — to realise that no society can work without cooperation, and give and take.

All of this relates to your life at school, inside and outside the classroom. However, the *facts* you learn are, in the long term, not all that important; much of the information is soon outdated, but the attitudes and awareness of the adult — awareness of himself, of the world he lives in, and of the groups he lives in, and how to relate to them — is enduring. We need people who are not easily deceived, not afraid of change and yet not inclined to demand the unattainable. We need individuals who are cool-headed and responsible, not people who run away from problems, and imitate the ostrich who stood up, turned round, and buried his head in the sand — it is not effective, and not an elegant posture.

* * *

One of my brother's parishioners once asked him if St. Paul ever got an answer to that immensely long letter he wrote to the Corinthians. You have no chance of answering this evening — I think — but it is time I drew to a close before you are tempted to describe this speech as immensely long as well! I hope that those of you who are leaving will remember for a long time the values and standards which you have acquired here. You will need them, as you will need determination and integrity to make your way in what is now a hard world, and one which is not likely to get any easier, Good luck to you all.'

PRIZES

<i>Headmaster's Prize:</i>	J. W. Jones
<i>Martin Browne Memorial Prize:</i>	J. C. G. V. Herron
<i>Open Art Prize:</i>	S. J. Harbour
<i>Junior Art Prize:</i>	M. J. Horton & J. Endeley
<i>Pottery Prize:</i>	A. G. Collett
<i>Junior Pottery Prize:</i>	A. J. F. Blackwell
<i>Senior Cullen Debating Prize:</i>	D. O. Jones
<i>Richard Early Prize (Junior Debating)</i>	M. R. Pye & A. R. G. Morrison
<i>Declamations:</i>	
<i>4th Form:</i>	A. R. G. Morrison
<i>3rd Form:</i>	S. A. Robertson
<i>2nd Form:</i>	J. B. Price
<i>1st Form:</i>	P. J. Scriven
<i>Rosewell Prize (Best Overall Declamations)</i>	S. A. Robertson
<i>Mastermind</i>	E. C. J. Casey
<i>6th Form:</i>	
<i>Physics & Chemistry</i>	A. Y. Lee
<i>5th Form:</i>	
<i>English Language:</i>	D. O. Jones
<i>English Literature:</i>	F. Dona
<i>History:</i>	F. Dona & S. J. Smith
<i>Political Studies:</i>	S. J. Smith
<i>Classical Studies:</i>	N. Sitinas
<i>French:</i>	F. Dona
<i>Geography:</i>	N. Sitinas & S. J. Harbour
<i>Mathematics:</i>	J. M-K. Man
<i>Biology:</i>	S. J. Harbour & T. O. B. Messenger
<i>Physics & Chemistry:</i>	N. M. Pineo
<i>Religious Studies:</i>	D. O. Jones
<i>Form Prizes:</i>	
<i>4A:</i>	A. R. G. Morrison
	M. R. Pye & J. S. Shorrock
<i>4B:</i>	J. L. Pastor & A. M. Wariebi
<i>3A:</i>	D. A. Roscoe
<i>3B:</i>	J. C. Shearing
<i>2:</i>	R. L. Pye
<i>1:</i>	N. F. Bingham

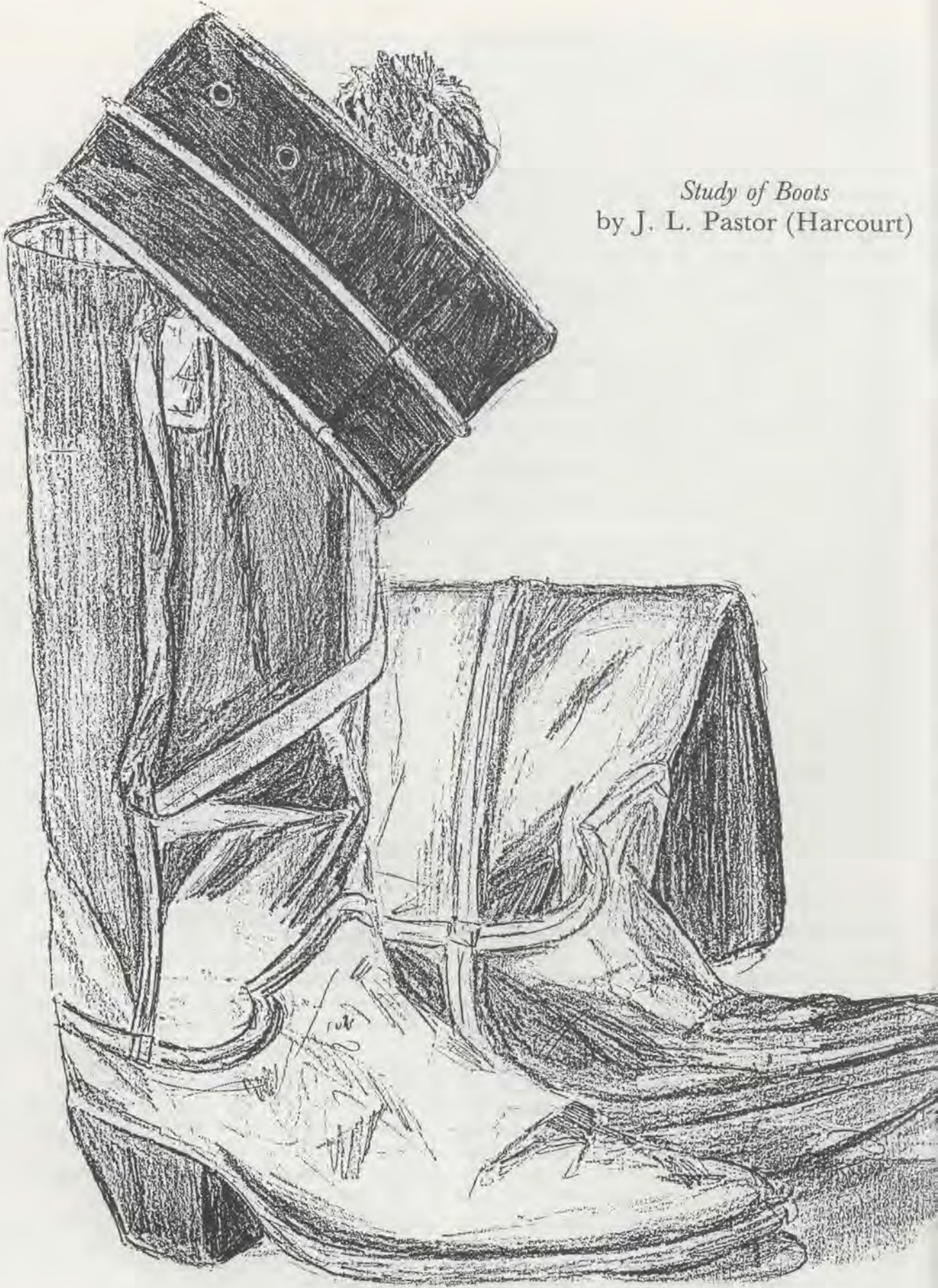
Overheard in Common Room:

"The whole of life is going to become a resource for G.C.S.E..."

"... What I think happened was this. They were both going to Greece: they'd seen 'Zorba the Greek', and they just wanted to emulate the Plate Dance..."

"Really, you know, I think debating is almost as unpleasant an activity as badger-baiting..."

Study of Boots
by J. L. Pastor (Harcourt)



Juan Luis Pastor (85)

HARCOURT HOUSE REPORT

Harcourt started off what has been a most successful year by winning the rugby seven-a-side with more ease than last year. Once again we had an outstanding junior team and a strong senior one. The seniors beat Queen Anne, 22-0 and drew v. Swift, 12-12. The juniors won all their matches with every team member scoring a try in their match with Queen Anne. Outstanding performances were made by the two captains, Picton-Warlow and Shorrock I and also by the pace men, Endeley and Okeke. Both teams received their House Colours. In the House rugby we were successful v. Queen Anne, but lost to Swift because we lacked weight and strength in the scrum. Our thanks must go to Mr. James for his coaching and advice. At the end of the Michaelmas term we had a very strong entry in the Creative Hobbies exhibition, but lost the competition by a narrow margin. Next time we must be sure to type our labels. Our thanks go to Collett, Glanville, Matthews and Miles, who set out our exhibits with much style. Later in the year Glanville was awarded House Colours for all the contributions he has made to photography within the school, not least the school magazine. Picton-Warlow left at the end of term and it seemed to everyone as though more than one person had departed because he was such a vital and cheerful member of the House, who contributed much to our community, especially in sporting events and the House plays. He was also a good House Prefect over four terms.

At the beginning of the Spring term there was the surprise return of Bayarri, who was soon much involved with everyone else in helping the House to retain the Cross Country Cup, which we did with 8 runners in the top 20. Pitt came second to his running rival, Russ of Queen Anne. All runners inside the top 20 received their House Colours, as did a large number of those who rose 20 more places in the lower orders and were equally important in securing victory in the competition. It was good to see the younger members, Jackson, Perry and Price II doing well in this event. A long run of tradition was broken by not staging the Road Relay — our team would have been a strong one. Later in the term we started the football season by losing the Six-a-side to Queen Anne. Once again the juniors played well, winning all their matches. However, this defeat did not put us down because we went on to win the House football on overall goal difference with a very young side. We had a 5-2 win over Swift and did well to draw v. Queen Anne, who had six members of the School XI in their team. Special mention must be made of Chan, our goalkeeper, and Barry for his defensive play. There were some good crunchy tackles by Javed and two of the younger players, Mateunas and Shorrock I, each scored goals in both matches.

The standard of debating this year was particularly high. Edwards organised our teams, consisting of himself, Jones I, Shorrock I and Smith I. Their speeches were delivered with clarity and conviction. Edwards and Shorrock I went on to compete in the Cullen Debates. A large number of Harcourt members qualified for Declamations with Price II and Robertson winning prizes in their respective groups. Once again our music was not up to scratch, although there were several individual performances which were much enjoyed, and Pitt had the highest individual score for his trumpet solo. The Mastermind competition we lost by only one point to Swift. Casey, who chose the Great Western Railway as his special topic, was awarded his House Colours on achieving the highest individual score.

Not having Cole, who had suffered an accident fielding for the 1st XI trying to take a catch with his teeth, was a tremendous loss for our athletics team. He was replaced by an enthusiastic Ng and the team went on to win the Inter-House sports by a narrow margin. Smith I set a new record of 1.74 metres in the senior high jump and our juniors broke the record for the 4x100 metres relay. Later in the term we won the Rowing for the first time in a number of years. The junior IV were knocked out in the qualifying rounds. The senior IV won their event in a very exciting race v. Swift. House Colours were awarded to all members of the Senior IV — Ferris (bow), Miles (2), Jones (3), Bayarri (stroke) and Gerrard (cox) — and Jackson, who narrowly lost his junior sculling event to Pether. In fact, Jackson has won a number of sculling medals during the course of the year and was awarded his School Half Colours at the end of the year. In the cricket we won our match v. Queen Anne by 6 wickets with good, tight bowling from Smith, who also batted well, and Barry. It was poor batting in the high orders that lost us the match with Swift. We made up for this with an overall win in the Six-a-side competition on Open Day with by far the best batting performances coming from Barry and Okeke, who were awarded their House Colours as was Shorrock for his wicket keeping.

A great deal of effort and energy has been put into all that we have done this year by all members of the House from Form I to Form VI and much has been achieved. However, for all those that remain there are still some cups out there to be won in the new school year, so let us hope the new school year will be even more successful than the last. It remains for me to thank Jones I and the House Prefects for all that they have done to keep good order and discipline within the House. I should also like to thank Mr. White, Mr. Daniels and Mr. James for all their help and support during the year.

M. Javed

SWIFT HOUSE REPORT

It must have been a daunting task for Ben Goad to take over as Head of House in September from the formidable and highly successful Bamikole Akande. Nevertheless Swift began the new year in fine style beating Queen Anne 12-0 and Harcourt 13-0 to win the Inter House Rugby Football cup. Much credit for these two victories must go to the Swift pack for its sheer strength and determination and particularly to Stuart Cope who scored all four of our tries. Spicer kicked extremely well, converting three out of four and adding a penalty goal for good measure. Idriss Badawi played solidly at full back, but the tackle which will stay in our memories for years to come was put in by Niyi Lawal when he brought down Harcourt's flying wing-three quarter J. Endeley close to the Swift line. Others who deserve a mention for their determined play are the relatively inexperienced Dolapo Ogunlami and Anthony Hues and the young but extremely brave prop-forward Yahia Badawi. All in all it was a fine team effort and each player was awarded his house colours. However the 7-a-side competition was a very different story, for although our seniors beat Queen Anne and drew with Harcourt, our juniors, (without Lawal whose date of birth was in question — wrongly as it turned out), were no match for either of the other Houses, so Swift finished 2nd overall. On the artistic front Swift triumphed in the Creative Hobbies Competition. Here the excellent organisation and presentation of our display by Charles Turner, David Smith, Mark Hues and Mark Holmes won the day. However it must be said that without the art work of Neil Pineo and Simon Jewell it would probably have been a very different story. The Recommendations Cup was closely contested this term, but thanks to Fady and Dany Dona (22 points) and Michael and Richard Pye (21 points) Swift emerged triumphant by a mere four points. It was a great shame that there were no House plays this term although the School was treated to a highly enjoyable Masters play in their place. At the end of term we were sorry to say goodbye to two loyal members of Swift, Ben Goad and David Ash, but wished them the best of luck in the future.

Anthony Hues took over as Head of House in January and Swift immediately finished 3rd in the Cross Country! Joe Mercer was our outstanding runner coming in 3rd, Michael Pye came 7th, Tim Goslin 11th, Duncan Fergusson 14th and Neil Pineo 17th, but yet again we were defeated by the sheer weight of our own "too too solid flesh" — 11 "Swifts", (All of whom counted) finishing in the final twenty-two Overall. Indoors our debating teams did us proud. Trevor Wright and Fady Dona beat Harcourt 50-44 and Michael Pye and Angus Morrison beat Queen Anne 64-61. However in the third debate Queen Anne beat Harcourt 55-50, so

although neither of the Swift pairs had been beaten we still found ourselves in 2nd place. In the 6-a-side Soccer our Seniors shared the honours with Queen Anne but the juniors were once again trampled by the other two houses so we finished 3rd. The Soccer House Matches were both lost, 3-1 and 5-2, although it was unfortunate that we had to play the first half of the first match without Tim Goslin, who was seeing the Doctor, while in the second match Duncan Fergusson was absent for the same reason, forcing us to field two twelve year old full backs against the powerful Harcourt team. However the term ended on a much higher note, for Swift won both the Music and Recommendations cups. George Haworth played his guitar extremely well, Mark Holmes and Michael Pye sang splendidly while Adrian Illman was the outstanding pianist. However we will not forget James Mwenewanda leading the Frog chorus or our winning margin of 21 points. At the end of term Stuart Cope left and he will be missed considerably.

The Summer term started off with a great victory for Swift in the Inter House Cricket. Our Captain Michael Spicer more than made up for his low score in the Queen Anne match by taking 4-12, but found his true form against Harcourt scoring 39 and taking five wickets for seven runs. In fact we defeated Queen Anne by nine runs in a close game, but overcame Harcourt by 65 runs in the final match. Matthew Howe, Michael Spicer, Idriss Badawi, Jashwanth Beeharie and Joe Mercer, who took four wickets overall, were awarded their House Colours. In the Six-a-side competition on Open Day Swift beat Harcourt by two runs thanks to a magnificent and undefeated 63 run partnership between Michael Spicer and Matthew Howe, but lost against Queen Anne by four wickets. As a result of the mathematics which followed, Harcourt were pronounced the overall winners with Swift a close second. The rowing was more open than it had been for years but our hopes of winning for four years in a row were dashed when both our scullers, Charles Turner and Richard Ellison were knocked out in the heats and although our Junior crew, Timothy Gardiner, Simon Jewell, David Smith and Michael Kentish beat Queen Anne in the finals by four lengths, our senior crew needed to overcome the very strong Harcourt four in the final to win the cup. Although they lost, Duncan Fergusson, Tim Goslin, Anthony Hues and Robin Price certainly gave them a run for their money but this allowed Harcourt to "borrow" the cup from us by a single point. However Swift won the Clay Pigeon Shooting with a team of seasoned campaigners, Anthony Hues, Paul Kehoe, Joe Mercer and Duncan Fergusson. Joe Mercer's shooting was of a particularly high standard and he won the Wyvern Shield for the highest individual

Score. The Athletics was won by Harcourt with Swift coming last, hardly surprising considering the dearth of athletes that we have at the moment, but Swift finished the term well by winning the Mastermind Competition thanks to the combined brains of the two Pye brothers. Again Swift won the Recommendations cup for the nineteenth time in twenty-one terms — a proud record indeed.

Finally I would like to thank Michael Spicer for

helping me run the House so efficiently, but of course this would not have been possible without the help and enthusiasm of the House Prefects, Idriss Badawi, Stuart Cope, Duncan Fergusson, Paul Kehoe, Trevor Wright, George Haworth and Joe Mercer. I would like to wish all my fellow leavers good luck for the future. I am very honoured to have been Head of Swift and wish the House much success in the future.

A. P. Hues.

QUEEN ANNE HOUSE REPORT

I would like to start by welcoming Mr. J. Stark as the new Housemaster of Queen Anne. We all hope he will be very happy in his new post.

This year Queen Anne seemed to have a much higher proportion of very junior boys many of whom had to play for senior house teams. In about three years time though I am sure these boys will be a very great asset to the house as there are some excellent sportsmen and academics amongst them.

In the Michaelmas term we started very much as the underdogs in the inter house Rugby and although we lost both matches, the players gave their all, especially the 1st XV players J. Reeve, E. Imonioro, A. Spencer and A. Wariebi.

In the Spring term we were much more successful and narrowly came 2nd in the interhouse soccer which was decided on goal difference. We beat Swift 3-1 and drew 2-2 against Harcourt, the goals coming from N. Sitinas (2), C. Knight, E. Imonioro and A. Forster. Queen Anne won the 6-a-side football to topple the favourites Harcourt. D. Jones, J. Russ, A. Wariebi and I. Kershaw carried away the inter-house debating cup for Queen Anne with excellent performances. The cross country was very frustrating with Queen Anne coming a very close 2nd again. J. Russ won the overall competition with R. Ness, I. Ogborn and I. Kershaw not far behind. A special mention must be made for the 11 year old, N. Bingham who came 27th among the 16 and 17 year olds! Obviously a good future prospect! Soon after this J. Russ was selected to run for Oxfordshire and came 196th in the cross country nationals. Unfortunately this year we failed to win either the music or creative arts competitions which we had dominated in the past.

In the summer term we won the .22 rifle shooting with A. Venman also winning the individual cup. The cricket team, although with a number of 1st XI players, did not perform on the day. In the first match we dismissed Swift for 58, with J. Reeve

quickly disposing of the 1st XI captain and arch rival M. Spicer and then Howe. When J. Russ was unleashed he snapped up the rather long Swift tail to take the last 6 wickets for 6 runs!. Only J. Reeve hung around in the Queen Anne innings to top score with 12 as we were skittled for 49. Against Harcourt we scored 103 (M. Orebiyi 34, S. Johnson 31) but this did not prove a great enough target.

In the 6-a-side we lost to Harcourt and crushed Swift. In the Swift match S. Johnson scored 22 of our 30 runs needed, J. Russ batted soundly in both matches and N. James finished with overall figures of 2 wickets for 5 runs — fine bowling in 6 over games. But we came last overall due to our runs scored against wickets lost ratio.

In the rowing and sculling mention must be made of S. Dore, I. Ogborn, A. Venman, I. Kershaw, J. Bryan, R. Oldham, J. Pether and P. Pether who all performed well during the year and especially to J. Pether who won the individual House sculling.

Yet again we came a narrow 2nd in the athletics finishing 4 pts short of Harcourt, leaving Swift trailing in our wake. M. Vernon did well for the juniors, winning the discus and 100m with a 2nd in the shot as well. J. Russ broke the 17 year old senior 1500m record by over 16 seconds, also winning the 800m and coming 2nd in the javelin. The senior 100m relay team which consisted of J. Reeve, C. Knight, A. Al Busaidy and T. Messenger also broke the school record. At the junior end there were some tremendous efforts, especially from J. Penny and M. Searson. The competition was duly poised on the final event which Queen Anne won, but Harcourt's 2nd was sufficient to win them the overall competition.

I would like to thank Julian Russ for the support and help he has given me over the last year and wish him luck as Head of Queen Anne when he takes over next term.

J. M. Reeve.

WET

*Wet is rain,
rain is clean and blue,
blue is the morning and mourning too,
Wet is the kiss that touches you.*

*Wet is sea,
sea is mysterious blue.
blue is for sadness and sad is for crying.*

*Would you share these things with me,
dance in the rain,
drift with the sea and let the tears fall as they may?
Sometimes I'm not afraid I'll melt in the rain,
I'm not afraid I'll be lost at sea,
I'm not afraid I'll cry again,
because it's tears of joy you bring to me.*

*Would you share these things with me,
dance in the rain,
drift with the sea and let the tears fall as they may?
Some times.*

*Wet is love,
love that's pure and free,
free is the feeling I feel deep inside me,
come and see,
that wet is me!*

Russell Baxter

CREATIVE HOBBIES COMPETITION

This year the competition (the third) took place in the Corinthian Room at the end of the Michaelmas term and all agreed that the extra space (it had previously been in the Library) made viewing easier and more comfortable. It was the first time we had to assemble the house displays without the expertise of Mr. Barker, but, thanks to all the hard work by Mr. Lawry and his team of boys, the results were still impressive. However, perhaps the overall standard of the individual entries was not quite as high as in former years.

The exhibits were judged by Mr. M. G. H. Dillon of Abingdon School and we are very grateful for the large amount of time he spent here at such a busy stage of term.

First prizes in specialist areas were awarded to Mark Smith (Woodwork), Charles Stobo (Pottery) and Neil Pineo (Art) and the special prize for the best hobby went to David Smith for (need I say) his Heyfordian Coaches. The House Cup was awarded to Swift.

D. F. G.



Pen and ink study of house by Simon Jewell (Swift).

PROGRESS ON THE APPEAL

The specific aim of the Cokethorpe School 1986 Appeal was to raise £100,000 towards the £500,000 required to build an extension to the Common Room Block, 2 Squash Courts and a Cricket Pavilion and also to establish a bursary fund.

Our first task was to seek a President and Vice Presidents. For President we required a prestigious person, obviously with connections at Cokethorpe. We could not have wished for anyone more fitting than our Local member of Parliament and current Home Secretary, The Rt. Hon. Douglas Hurd, C.B.E., M.P. Friends of Cokethorpe, current parents, former parents, old boys and previous masters make up our list of 84 Vice-Presidents and in whose honour a reception was held at the end of November last year.

As a result of the Vice-Presidents' Reception, we were able to launch our Appeal officially in the New Year with a rousing total of £23,000. We held three Appeal Meetings for Current Parents during Lent Term and a further two meetings during the Summer Term. These meetings were extremely well attended and, as a result, the bulk of our current total was raised, thanks to the generosity of parents.

A further reception, sponsored by our Caterers, Gardner Merchant Ltd., was held in April for 'Old Boys'. The evening proved to be a great success, with approximately 50 former pupils, spanning several eras, with their respective partners.

Money has also been raised in other ways by boys themselves in various Fund Raising Activities. Sponsored events included:- a bird watch — David Roscoe; Half Marathon — Julian Russ, Keith Pitt, Matthew Lake, Mr. Stark and Mr. Lawry; Parachute Jump — Simon Dore, Andrew Venman, Ashley Forster and Mr. Lawry; Swim — Simon Dore, Ian Ogborn, Russell Baxter and myself. An Aviary Raffle run by Nicholas Horn, William Jackson and Justin Price and a Derby Sweepstake run by Anthony and Mark Hues also took place. Well done all of you. Further events are now being planned for next Term!

Obviously the highlight of our fund raising efforts was the Charity Cricket Match held on June 8th. On the proviso that half of the proceeds would be donated to Somerset Court Autistic Trust, we were able to, with the help of James Tomlinson (a former pupil) and his father, David Tomlinson, gather together a host of Star Cricketers and Celebrities for a Cricket Match at Cokethorpe. The Weather Gods were surely looking after us giving our first day of summer this year and I am sure a good day was had by all.

To date, we are three quarters of our way to our target and with our cricket pavilion already erected and building programme commencing in September, an exciting and productive year has been achieved. On behalf of the appeal Committee many thanks to each of you that has helped.

Lynn Adams, *Appeal Secretary.*

CUPS

Presented by The Headmaster in Final Assembly

Michaelmas Term 1985

<i>Rugby Football:</i>	Swift
<i>Rugby Sevens:</i>	Harcourt
<i>Creative Hobbies:</i>	Swift
<i>Recommendations:</i>	Swift

Lent Term 1986

<i>Soccer:</i>	Harcourt
<i>Soccer Sixes:</i>	Queen Anne
<i>Cross Country:</i>	Harcourt
<i>Individual Cross Country:</i>	J. D. Russ
<i>Inter-House Music:</i>	Swift
<i>Inter-House Debating:</i>	Queen Anne
<i>Mastermind Team:</i>	Swift
<i>Recommendations:</i>	Swift

Summer Term 1986

<i>Cricket:</i>	Swift
<i>Cricket six-a-side:</i>	Harcourt
<i>Batting:</i>	S. J. Smith
<i>All Rounders:</i>	M. J. Spicer
<i>Bowling:</i>	M. J. Spicer
<i>Fielding:</i>	F. Cole
<i>Rowing:</i>	Harcourt
<i>Senior IV:</i>	Harcourt
<i>Junior IV:</i>	Swift
<i>Open Sculls:</i>	I. Bayarri
<i>Junior 15 Sculls:</i>	J. Pether
<i>Tennis:</i>	Queen Anne
<i>Individual Tennis:</i>	M. C. Vernon
<i>Rifle Shooting:</i>	Queen Anne
<i>Clay Pigeon Shooting:</i>	Swift
<i>Davis Cup:</i>	A. P. Venman
<i>Wyvern Shield:</i>	J. A. Mercer
<i>Athletics Standards:</i>	Queen Anne
<i>Athletics Sports:</i>	Harcourt
<i>Recommendations:</i>	Swift



The 1st XV, flanked by coaches R. J. and P. J. R. R. Back row: J. A. Mercer, S. J. Smith, A. R. Picton-Warlow, P. R. Barry, B. A. Goad, I. Badawi, V. P. M. Keyhoe, A. E. D. Spencer. Front row: J. M. Reeve, T. S. Goslin, A. M. Wariebi, E. E. Imonioro, M. J. Spicer, J. Endeley, D. R. Fergusson.

First XV Flatter to Deceive

THE 1985 RUGBY FOOTBALL SEASON

The 1985 season put great demands upon a youthful 1st XV squad in that we had a very full and testing fixture list, including an involvement in the County U.19 cup. Matches against Icknield Hall, Leighton Park, King James (Henley) and Wycliffe College were contested for the first time and we hope to continue most of these in the future.

We appeared to have, at least on paper, a well-balanced side with a promising mixture of experience and flair, and the early season morale was high as the team began to build its levels of fitness. By the time the first match came along the team really were straining at the leash, and after overcoming early rustiness ran in several exciting tries to beat local rivals John Mason by a comfortable 20-11. Following a convincing win over Wycliffe College, scoring 5-1 in the process, the team allowed themselves to approach the first Cup match a little complacently and were made to struggle for a long time by a very spirited Chipping Norton side before

running out clear winners by 24-10 — one of the tries having been scored by the season's star forward, Picton-Warlow. The team really did miss his commitment and pace around the field when he was side-lined by injury.

A weakened Icknield Hall side were easily swept aside, as were the 'auld enemy' Henry Box in this highly impressive all-conquering start. Events were to prove, however, that these results were against very moderate opposition, with the squad possibly learning very little in a rugby sense — and while the side generally played with spirit we were not to win another game before the end of the season.

Leighton Park were a very big, skilful, well-organised side who inflicted the heaviest defeat that the 1st XV has had for many years; but the margin of 30-3 does not do the team justice because at half-time they were over twenty points down, and Mr. James was delighted at the way the side showed great character in holding the opposition to just one more

try, almost scoring several of their own, flying winger Endeley being particularly unlucky.

The defeat at Whitefriars by 32-14 was brought about by the team's lack of scrummaging weight and poor 'close-to-the-line' defence, which again saw us reach half-time well behind. Again, however, with the game seemingly lost the boys produced a storming rally containing some of the best forwards and backs combined-movements that I have ever seen, which produced a quite brilliant try by Endeley, who must have beaten six or seven players as he finished off a movement with a 70-yard burst to the line; there was certainly a great deal of honour in this defeat.

By beating Chipping Norton we then progressed to the quarter-final stage where we met King James School, Henley, who are regular winners of the trophy and favourites this season (they were eventually runners-up). The match was played at Cokethorpe in front of a large crowd, but, to be honest, in general the team did not play well, possibly overawed by the physical — if not technical — superiority of their opposite numbers. They continued to put themselves under pressure, giving away costly penalties and soft tries in the process. Once more, with the game out of reach the players roused themselves with the help of an enthusiastic support to produce a finale which went some way towards doing themselves justice, but King James, despite having a player sent off for dissent, held on easily to clinch victory 27 points to 3.

By now injuries were starting to take their toll, and with fixtures piling up thick and fast the resources of the squad were stretched to their utmost. The confidence of some of the younger boys was also rather shaken in the face of regular defeat by bigger, and in some cases older, packs. However, players such as Goslin (possibly the star back), Wariebi (a brave and attacking full back), Fergusson (a very committed, determined tackler in the centre), and Spicer (whose goal-kicking exploits were a revelation) continued to play their hearts out despite the fact that they invariably had little or no ball, and in spite of the courageous efforts of Kehoe, Barry, Mercer, and Goad in the forwards.

The match against Oratory is one best forgotten because, while the margin of defeat was slight, one suspected that several players did not have much heart for the contest, which was most annoying as it was certainly a game we could (and should) have won. More honourable defeats followed against Shiplake (4-8) and Rendcomb (9-25); indeed, it was

only in the dying seconds that Shiplake snatched victory in an exciting match which could have gone either way. Radley achieved a more emphatic victory than usual by 18-0, as the season began to fade away disappointingly with a whimper. Several members of the side were now beginning to show signs of staleness and more than one or two were probably playing with injuries which perhaps should have been rested. But to their credit they kept playing enthusiastically, being led by example through the sterling effort of young S. Smith, who had a commendable first season as skipper.

The final match of the season, on the last day of the Michaelmas Term, was against Douai School near Reading; and it was a match, played on quite a narrow pitch, which in some respects typified our experiences throughout the latter part of the season — that is to say, uncertain scrummaging, defence cracking under sustained pressure near the try line, half-hearted tackling in the centre. Yet with the scraps of possession we did gain we contrived to play some tremendously exhilarating open rugby. To lose 20-0 was most frustrating and depressing as, with Mercer having his best game of a consistently effective season, for most of the match we were quite simply the better side, Douai being run ragged by superb 'support' rugby.

Although the season finished on a low note (eight successive defeats!) after such an encouraging start, we are building season by season a reputation in the County for playing very attacking 'Barbarians-style' running rugby, and this campaign was no exception as it contained several tremendous tries and movements which will be fondly remembered by boys, masters and Old Boys alike for years to come. If we could combine the running and handling skills of our backs and forwards, with an ability to win possession regularly in the 'tight', in line-outs and scrummages, then we really would be a force to reckon with at first team level. I hope that next season we will be able to develop a big, heavy pack which will be able to cope with the forward units we have to meet.

I look forward to following the progress next season of Endeley, Cole, Badawi I, Edwards and Wariebi amongst others, who when called upon played with great endeavour. I am sure the squad would like to thank Mr. James for his enthusiastic training and great reserves of patience when things weren't going as well as they might have been, and I would like to thank the Matrons for looking after the kit yet again.

P. J. R. R.

Points		Playing Record					Tries	
For	Against	P	W	D	L		For	Against
161	212	13	5	0	8		28	39

Some First XV Character Sketches



SAMUEL SMITH: *A 5th Former in his second season in the 1st XV. A very capable Captain, inspiring all by his tireless covering, constructive and creative ball-handling ability, and good humour in adversity (of which there was plenty last season!) He performed many courageous deeds in defence, leading from the front by example against much bigger and older sides. Not a heavy points scorer, but he set up several scores with his quick thinking and genuine pace — essential qualities for the modern flanker or No. 8. An intelligent player, duly awarded his full Rugby Colours after a very consistent season.*



MICHAEL SPICER: *Member of the Remove and a School Prefect, who excels in all team games. Even as Vice-Captain he proved to be one of the finds of the season! In September Mr. James was very worried about the XV's half-back combination: who was to replace the great Bamikole Akande? Spicer and Timothy Goslin, the regular partnership, exceeded all expectations and played excellently in their different ways. Michael was a very effective link in getting his line moving smoothly, but it was his devastating accuracy from all distances and angles with conversions and penalty goals which was the real bonus. Scored 53 points during the season. Awarded his Full Colours.*



TIMOTHY GOSLIN: *5th Former. One of the most pleasing aspects of the season was the unanticipated progress of Tim as scrum half. (He had spent most of this time the previous season playing as a wing forward!) Alert, courageous, a quick and accurate passer, he forged a very consistent understanding with fly half Spicer. He rarely received good clean ball from his pack, but he always fought for the scraps patiently under great pressure, aware of any opportunity to make a break. He scored three tries. He shows a lot of promise and I hope he continues to play and enjoy the game when he leaves the school. Awarded his Full Colours.*



ADULE WARIEBI: *Young — only fifteen but looks thirty! Adule had an exceptionally good season after having been thrown in at the deep end at full back with no previous experience at all. Typically, he rose to the challenge, was given an extended run in the 1st XV, and proved to be one of the most consistent members of the squad. He improved with every match, and his fielding of the ball, combined with the 'siege gun' range of his kicks, was a very significant factor in our attempts to counter-attack out of defence. He is a very powerful straight runner and his charges down the field, sometimes from his own line, struck fear into the hearts of our most mature opponents. Awarded his Full Colours.*



JOSEPH MERCER: *Even for a schoolboy hooker Joe was rather on the small side. Consequently he took many knocks, but always bounced back to his feet and carried on when some large members of the pack were inclined to make more of a performance. R. J. was unable to fault his effort; and through his spirit, his stamina and tireless commitment around the pitch he was a real example to the rest of the team. It's a pity that this was his first, and last, season. We will sorely miss his whole-hearted attitude, as he has become quite an expert hooker, usually under tremendous pressure in the beleaguered front row — a real 'terrier'.*



JOHNNY ENDELEY: *4th Former. If he had received enough ball from the forwards, then Johnny would have been a very potent weapon in our attacking armoury. As it was, it was very frustrating to watch this player of genuine class have to perform miracles with poor ball. He did extremely well with the ball he did receive, creating and scoring five splendid tries virtually out of nothing. Possessing a blinding turn of speed, he also has the ability to swerve, side-step and weave, and was continually tying defences in knots as they tried to put a hand on him. In defence, his own tackling was virtually faultless. Several spectators remarked that he would have been well worth his place in the U.19 County side!*

U.15 RUGBY REPORT

We started the season very strongly with wins against John Mason in the first round of the Oxfordshire Knock-out Cup (34-4), Wycliffe College (24-4), Leighton Park (40-0) and Whitefriars (18-14). The team was working as one and the ball was made available to the backs as often as possible so that Cole and Okeke could use their speed to give us the tries we needed to win all four matches. I must comment on an excellent try by J. Bryan who, after beautiful timing, intercepted a ball from the opposition and then ran the whole length of the pitch to bring us four more points against Wycliffe College.

By now the team was working very well indeed. The forwards had got it right and very often with the lighter pack we managed to win a good proportion of the ball in the scrum. The backs were also working very well, as usual. Then came the crunch — F. Cole broke his ankle in the game against Oratory. We lost the game 32-12 and also Cole for the rest of the season.

Next was the second Cup Match, and with rather a light side (as we had lost players who were slightly over age) we managed quite well. New faces were given a chance and overall it was a good performance by all, even though we lost 15-7!

Despite the efforts of such individuals as Vernon, Lowe, Bryan, Ng and Okeke we only managed to win one of the next four matches. We lost to Icknield (28-3), Rendcomb (4-20) and Radley (8-13). But even with these matches lost morale remained very high, and the season wasn't over yet. We'd started on a good note and we decided we would finish on a good note — and we did this by beating Douai 24-4.

In addition to those I have already mentioned above, I would like to say "well done" to A. Illman and P. Marshall who both tried very hard as flankers. Also to J. Penny and M. Orebiyi who, when they weren't playing for the U.14's game, gave us extra strength.

J. Shorrock.

SUNDAY NIGHT AT EIGHT IN THE CORINTHIAN ROOM

It would be a fascinating study to trace the history of the Corinthian Room and the various events, formal and informal, which have taken place there. Since Cokethorpe has been a school, nearly thirty years now, the room has seen an enormous variety of events and people. But if only that Queen Anne panelling could speak I fancy it would reminisce of cosy Sunday evening family get-togethers around the fire, informal and relaxed.

Such was the thought that inspired 'Sunday Night at Eight in the Corinthian Room', to give boarders an opportunity of such an experience on just a few occasions during the Michaelmas and Lent terms, the 'dark' evenings.

The first occasion saw a local accountant Mr. Peter Campbell display his talents on the piano by the fireside. As well as disguising modern tunes in a medley for a prize-winning quiz, Mr. Campbell described and illustrated how he had composed a wedding march. The evening concluded with improvisations in the pianist's favourite style — jazz.

The second evening was both family and informal — a do-it-yourself musical evening. There were good brave performances from Messrs. Venman, Pitt, D. Smith, Howarth, Wariebi, Horton and Horada. Some were playing in 'public', as it were, for the first time and all did very well. We were treated to the guitar-playing and singing talents of Mr. R. G. Thompson, to the delight of all present.

Mr. John Simpson, a reporter with B.B.C. Radio Oxford came to give us an illuminating insight into the workings of a local radio station. He was bombarded with questions and I think I detected one or two aspiring 'radio men'.

Our horizons were widened on two separate Sunday evenings with talks and slides from around the world. The local organiser for the Save the Children Fund, for whom we have collected money, came to enlighten us as to how the money is spent and where the most urgent needs were. The intriguing country of Nepal came to life for us with slides from a returned missionary, Miss Carter. We were fortunate on this occasion because Miss Carter had moved freely around the country and not simply followed the tourist routes.

Another do-it-yourself evening, involved the participants in two school trips describing their experiences. We were treated to the balanced diet of fun-skiing in the French Alps and the intellectual delights of Greece. The boys from both trips communicated their enthusiasm and pleasure and reinforced the usefulness of such events.

During the Lent term, in keeping with the period prior to Easter, we watched the video-film 'The Silent Witness', an intriguing account of the history and investigations surrounding the Shroud of Turin. The final get-together consisted of a Mock Trial — some thoughts on the basis for believing in Jesus Christ.

I hope that this variety of Sunday Night at Eight activities have contributed, however slightly, to the rich tapestry of the history and experiences of the Corinthian Room.

M. C.

SCULLING ACTIVITY IN THE MICHAELMAS TERM

Many people see sculling as merely being rowing for loners; as the camaraderie of the members of the sculling squad demonstrated, this is far from the truth. The group of boys involved can best be described as a mixture of age and experience, contrasted against youth and vigour.

After the first few weeks it became clear that the younger members of the squad had some potential but obviously needed plenty of outings in order to be ready for some racing at the end of term. They quickly graduated from the heavy, slow (but stable) playboats, to the lighter, faster (but very unstable!) racing shells.

Our first event was the Pangbourne Junior sculls, held on a delightful stretch of river by the Child Neale Wildlife Park. Considering that our scullers had only had about ten outings at that stage, and two of them raced in playboats, they did well. They sculled to the best of their ability but were left out of the medals in this high standard event attended "en masse" by all the major rowing schools and clubs in the area.

Our second day out at Evesham Head of the River Race, held two weeks later, was much more successful. By this time our competitors had had a vital few more outings and did not have "first time nerves". We came away with Silver and Bronze

medals in the J.13 event and Silver in the J.12 event — the Golds in each case being won by larger and much more experienced boys from local rowing clubs. There was an amusing few moments at the presentation when our three winners collected their medals in succession inside the packed Evesham R.C. clubhouse. Several people remarked on the small size of our scullers — the last medal being collected by the diminutive but determined Pether II, who was only J.11!

The medals were won by James Pether (J.13 Silver) William Jackson (J.13 Bronze) and Piers Pether (J.12 Silver). Edwin Reynolds (J.13), Charles Turner and Keith Pitt (both J.16) also sculled creditably at the two events. Of the four younger scullers Jackson recorded the best aggregate time over the two courses.

I would like to thank Turner and Pitt for their help in organising the logistics of outings at Newbridge, and for looking after the boat trailer; I would also like to thank the parents who came to provide valuable support and provided an extra pair of hands at vital moments during boating.

Congratulations are also in order to all the scullers who resisted the unnerving tendency of sculling boats to capsize for the entire term. Long may this continue!

R. G. T.



James Pether, and the Silver Medal he won in the J.13 event at Evesham Head of the River race.



D. F. G., alias Miss Marple.



"What kind of gun would you say this was?"

THE MASTERS' PLAY

This year it was decided to have a change from the customary House Plays at the end of the Christmas Term, and so a masters' play was held in their place. The production took place on the evening of 10th December: from the start the audience were in a jovial mood, and when the curtain was raised to the spectacle of the Headmaster knitting the laughter must have been heard throughout the grounds!

The play was set in a country house in England in 1930 and the storyline was that of a detective adventure. An old man, Peter Eliot (played by J.W.S.), who it was thought had disgraced the family name, was seeking an heir among his distant relatives — and this provided the excuse to bring together the strangest assortment of people, ranging from the seductress, Elfrida Higginbottom (E.J.F.) to Brother Francis, a monk from a silent order (P.J.G.) One by one, we were introduced to several shifty characters, all of whom had been cast very well — especially Ronnie Darius (W.H.C.D.), Major Younghusband (J.P.W.), Captain Trelawny (M.C.), the brothers Richard and Robert Trelawny (R.G.T.) and (T.J.L.), and the befuddled, rustic gardener Walter Hopcroft (M.P.H.)

Act I ended dramatically with the Butler (P.J.C.) being shot by a hand with a pistol which emerged from a gap in the backcloth. The crime needed to be solved and Superintendent Spriggs (J.A.) was called in. As his deductions were made we were shown why each relative was unsuited to inherit the fortune and therefore had a motive for murder. Eventually a suspect was accused, but no sooner had Superintendent Spriggs denounced Younghusband

as the murderer than Miss Marple (D.F.G.) leapt to her feet and, in true Agatha Christie tradition, made her own revelations to prevent a miscarriage of justice. It had not been the Butler who had been murdered at all, but Eliot disguised as the Butler so that he could view his prospective heirs unhindered. Brown was therefore the murderer.

The play was extremely humorous and all those in the audience thoroughly enjoyed themselves. I would like to thank all the staff and their helpers who were involved — and especially the writer and producer, Mr. Nightingale, as it is only seldom that so rapturous an applause has been heard in the gym.

D. O. Jones.



"I don't know where to go. They knocked me greenhouse down..."

Photos: R. J. Reah

CROSS COUNTRY REPORT



Ian Ogborn leads Michael Pye and Ray Ness through the ford, with a mile still to go.

As usual training for the School Cross Country run began on the first full day of the Lent Term and by race day on 24th January, the majority of the boys were fairly fit and certainly eager to get it all over with. 145 runners set out from the School back gate at 2.45, but J. Russ (Queen Anne) soon established a commanding lead, finally romping home in the excellent time of 29 minutes 55.46 seconds, 67 seconds ahead of his nearest rival K. Pitt (Harcourt). These two were followed by Mercer, Edwards, Ness, Ogborn, M. Pye, S. J. Smith, Bayarri and Messenger who made up the first ten of the 142 finishers. At the other end of the field young Jeffs found himself stuck in the mud on the far side of the river but fortunately was rescued by a pair of tail enders. Harcourt, collectively, won the Inter-House Competition with 3224 points from Queen Anne with 3307 points, while Swift were third with 3480 points. However, this was the closest race for some

time and although all runners deserve warm congratulations, several eleven year olds, (Bingham 27th, Searson 58th, R. Pye 59th, Scriven 60th and Alexander 61st), particularly distinguished themselves.

The North Oxfordshire Championships were run on 29th January in freezing, snowy conditions at Kingham Hill, and although our junior teams were badly hit by three soccer matches which had to be honoured, Cokethorpe dominated the Under-20 age group with Russ 3rd, Mercer 5th, Edwards 6th and Ogborn 8th. In the Intermediate section, Pitt finished a creditable 8th, Ness was 14th, M. Pye 18th and Messenger 26th, while in the Under 15's "old man" Kentish came in 20th with Bingham 36th, Searson 37th and R. Pye 38th. This may not seem very impressive at first glance but it should be remembered that Bingham and R. Pye will be eligible to run in this section for two more years while



Julian Russ — winner of the School Cross country and member of the Oxfordshire U20 team in the National Championships.

Searson has three more years before he has to compete as an Intermediate, so much will be expected of this trio in the future.

From these Championships, teams were to have been selected to represent the North at South Parks, Oxford, on 8th February, but unhappily for our five qualifiers these County Championships were not held due to the Teachers' Industrial action, so Russ had no opportunity to gain his revenge over the Bloxham runner who had just pipped him at Kingham. However, he was chosen as first reserve for the County Under 20 team and due to the unfortunate injury of one of the original squad he was called up to run for Oxfordshire in the National Cross Country Championships in Durham on Saturday, 22nd March. After a splendid run he finished 196th out of about 320 starters, was the third finisher for Oxfordshire and was only a few seconds behind Matthew Samkin who was running for Lincolnshire.

On a Sunday earlier in March the School entered teams in the Oxfordshire Association of Boys' Clubs

annual Cross Country Championships at Blenheim. Predictably Russ won the Youths Race, Michael Pye won the Boys Race and team prizes were captured in three of the four age groups (Seniors, Youths and Boys). However, Wantage Youth Club spoilt a clean sweep when their team won the Colts event. Several of our runners qualified to represent the County in the National Association of Boys' Clubs Cross Country Championships in Stoke but very few were free to run on the specified day as domestic fixtures piled up.

It was also a great shame that we were unable to stage the Inter-House Road Relay Competition to round off the cross-country season this year. Ice and snow made roads and pitches dangerous for weeks on end and when the weather finally improved there was such a back-log of fixtures and cup matches to be played and rowers to boat, that something had to give and unfortunately this year the Road Relay was squeezed out of the Sporting Calendar.

P. J. G.



Michael Pye, first in boys event at Blenheim, showing style and determination.

SPONSORED PARACHUTE JUMP

Mr Lawry writes about the weekend parachute course which he, Andrew Venman, Simon Dore & Ashley Forster did during the Lent Term, culminating in a jump at Lewknor in Buckinghamshire in aid of the School Appeal.



Common Room. Monday morning, 10th Feb. 0850 hrs.

T.J.L.: "Good morning, John".

J.W.S.: "Good morning, Tim".

T.J.L.: "Great day yesterday".

J.W.S.: "Yes, the boys shot well. Excellent."

(Pause)

"You're parachuting for the school appeal, do you mind?"

See if any of the boys are interested."

T.J.L.: "Mmm, very well John."

J.W.S.: "Must go, P.E. See you at lunch."

T.J.L. pours coffee, ponders over conversation, looks at clock, leaves to open workshop. Thinks: Not worth arguing over, you know what these ex-Marines are like! Now, I shall need a good poster to entice the boys to jump from a 'plane.

Saturday March 8th 0900hrs.

Blue school minibus leaves school entrance, a choral diminuendo of "Here we go, here we go, here we go," drifting back to the main building where the saner members of staff start a normal Saturday's duty.

We meet the rest of the course at the training centre and are quickly put at ease with cups of coffee. After a brief introduction, training begins. The two jump masters are regular Forces and deliver their lectures with precision and humour, instilling confidence amongst the class. Our boys took full advantage of the programme and put 100% effort into the training. We were drilled in all areas of the flight and jump, and practised our landings over and

over again. One chap on the course could not get the hang of side landings and would crash to the floor like an unwanted sack of potatoes, much to the delight of the Cokethorpe contingent. By the end of the day we felt ready and were looking forward to the jump, scheduled for the following day. The Sunday was spent sitting in the minibus waiting for the poor weather to break. It didn't and a deflated party returned to school.

After one other wasted journey, we finally managed the jump on April 26th. Simon Dore gives his account of the day:

"We arrived at the drop zone early on Saturday morning to a clear sky and no wind. We gave our names to the jump-master and were the first lift of the day. Mr. Lawry was to be first out, then myself, followed by Andrew Venman, then Ashley Forster. We eagerly put our kit on — jumpsuit, main parachute, reserve chute (most important!), boots, helmet and one-way radio. We then boarded the plane, watched tentatively by the rest of the course. As we took off, we knew there was no turning back.

We were given the 300 feet mark, our height to assume landing position and I remember thinking, "Not another 1700 feet to go!" Soon we were at 2000 feet and the orders were given to cut the engine. "In the door — Go!" That was Mr. Lawry out. I made a scramble for the door and was pushed back into my place. Only seconds now to my turn but the pause seemed an age. The next order broke the lingering silence, "Cut, in the door — Go". I was out, the rushing wind caught my breath and the turbulence tossed me like a rag doll. Then there was the jolt of my chute opening and a wonderful, still silence as I floated downwards. The bright clear day gave an impressive panorama of the countryside below me. The time of descent is around two minutes but it seemed only a few seconds before I had to adopt a landing position and suddenly the ground was there rushing up to meet me. It was a good landing and I collected up my parachute and walked to the site caravan feeling elated by the experience."

By 5 p.m. we were back at school feeling pleased with our day's efforts. We were met by J.W.S. and an assortment of games kit clad warriors.

J.W.S.: "How did it go?"

T.J.L.: "Super."

J.W.S.: "Any problems?"

T.J.L.: "Had a twist but no real bother."

J.W.S.: "Good, we're running a half marathon tomorrow with Keith Pitt, Matthew Lake and Julian Russ. I'll pick you up at 8.30."

T. J. L.

THE ARMY CADET FORCE

The Detachment has gone from strength to strength throughout the year and is at present 40 strong. This includes 1 Sgt, 3 Cpl's, and 5 L/Cpl's. In January ten cadets passed their One Star Test and are now well on their way to gaining their Two Star Certificate.

There has been a very busy programme with the highlight being the Cotswold Way Walk in May, when twenty four cadets and Mr. Perry (Cadet Perry's father) walked approximately 23 miles in two days of very changeable weather. The walk started at Dowdiswell Reservoir and finished at Chipping Campden. In some places it was very hard walking indeed. The school kitchen kindly provided the fresh rations and on the second night the cadets ate a rather nice Chinese meal in the field — almost cooked by Ng, the Birthday Boy!

Cadet Sunday was held on 15th June and I was delighted with our Detachment. They were very well turned out and their drill was excellent. It was a very long day from Reveille at 0730 hrs, until we got back to school at 1800 hrs. It was also perhaps the hottest day of the year, but not one of the cadets complained. They were a credit both to the School and the A.C.F.

Whilst 17 members were marching through Oxford, A.U.O. T. Lawry was in charge of an A.C.F. Display at Minster Lovell which included a static display, abseiling, raft race, field cooking, etc. The Detachment were there at the request of the Scouts Association and I am pleased to report that quite a large sum of money was raised.

Perhaps the most important event this year was the Battalion Athletics in which Somme Company competed with 12 Cadets from Cokethorpe. The South East Region Athletics followed shortly afterwards and 11 Cokethorpe cadets brought back a total of 2 Shields and 14 medals. The following were selected to represent the S.E. Region in the A.C.F. National Athletic Finals on June 28th at Colchester:

Cdt. Gbaja-		
Biamila	Class A	Long Jump
" Orebiyi	Class A	Shot
" Ng	Class B	100m
" Russ	Class C	800m and 1500m

A very good effort all round.

The Battalion Rifle Meeting was very well attended with Cpl. Wright gaining 5th place, just pipped by Cpl. Pitt for 4th place within the



*The Cokethorpe Detachment. Centre: J. W. Stark, M.B.E., flanked by
T. J. Lawry (A.U.O.) and Senior N.C.O., A. P. Venman.*

Company. I was also very pleased to note the results of the Davis Cup Competition.

Sgt. Venman	97
Cpl. Wright	94
Cdt. Forster	96
Cdt. Baxter	96

The same four cadets also took part in the N.S.R.A. Junior Summer Under 18 Competition with a team total of 697 — well done.

Due to the busy programme this term there have been no outside visits. The Detachment has concentrated on gaining Star Awards which the Cadet must obtain in order to be promoted. The Commanding Officer's directive clearly states that the Company priority is to pass cadets as Recruit, One and Two Star Level in accordance with the time schedule laid down in the Army Proficiency Certificate.

Mr. Lawry (A.U.O.), who is also the Company

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Officer, has introduced the scheme to the Detachment and he has had a very encouraging response. The D of E Scheme is ideally suited to the A.C.F. grading system.

As Company Second in Command I find myself becoming more involved with the remaining five Detachments at Carterton, Burford, Witney, Eynsham and Littlemore, and as a result Mr. Lawry (A.U.O.) will become Cokethorpe Detachment Commander next term. Mr Lawry is also an ex-Royal Marine and is qualified in all outdoor pursuits and expeditions. I will continue to assist on Detachment Day and in addition Mr. Randall will also join the detachment as Second in Command.

The A.C.F. is well established and is participating more and more at Company level. This is to be encouraged and I wish the Detachment well for the future.

J. W. S.

Prize for chauvinism to the master who pinned a notice to the Rowing board:

'Cambridge & Oxford Boat Race'

FRENCH

For a number of reasons many of our boys do not find French one of their easier subjects. In the first place, boys come to us from a number of sources and therefore their grounding in French varies tremendously. Some come from Prep Schools, and whilst I hasten to add that they are not necessarily better, to have started a foreign language at the age of eight or nine can be a considerable advantage. Other boys come from schools where the age at which it is customary to start the study of languages is by no means uniform.

Those who have any kind of difficulty with English can find that both written and oral work in another language is simply an added burden.

But of course one does not want to dwell too long on the problems. What are we doing about them? To begin with, we have, in the last year, started on a new course, "French for To-day" — written, incidentally, by a late Headmaster of The Henry Box School in Witney. This course has the rare and vital quality of a very good compromise: it provides a number of imaginative and well thought out stimuli for oral and aural work, and yet at the same time it does not lose sight of the need for a sound grounding in the basic grammar.

Some books now encourage the practice of 'pair work' — a waiter speaking to a client, for example — and this our boys respond to well.

The number of interesting and stimulating readers that are now available is a great asset, as this allows boys of varying ability to work at their own level (and speed). The video is also a great visual aid and

although programmes vary a lot, many are very useful.

At the moment, those in Forms 1 and 2 work together as a form; in Form 3 there are two sets, the lower of which does European Studies. This involves some French conversation with very little written work, together with the study of some aspects of European history, geography and culture. In Forms 4 and 5 boys are all in one set per form, and this has not been at all easy as the difference between the best and the least good — both in terms of ability and motivation — has been too great. Fortunately, in September Mrs. Williams will be joining the staff to teach French on a part-time basis. This will be a tremendous help to us for Mrs. Williams was born in France and has had teaching experience in England. In addition to the obvious advantages that this will bring, it will enable us to have three sets in the third form and two sets in the fourth and fifth.

Occasionally we have a French lunch. This is not at all formal, and we do not all speak French! However, these meals are well supported and I feel that it is a good thing to introduce boys to some dishes (such as Ratatouille) that they may not have had before.

It would be rash to commit oneself too much when making statements about G.C.S.E. However, in general the G.C.S.E. will certainly allow a greater concentration on oral and aural work, and this will help many who find difficulty with the correct use of tenses.

J. P. W.



Captain's example and old-fashioned wingers restore First XI reputation



Endeley bravely wins the ball in a duel on the half-way line.

1ST XI SOCCER REPORT

We began the soccer term with an air of enthusiasm, sure that we would have a good team after a disappointing one last year. In fact, we had an unusually good squad of players from which to choose. Competition for a place in the 1st XI was keen and was a necessary part of building a successful side.

Our first match was in the U.16 Mid Oxon Cup, which we had entered for the first time. Knowing the standard was high and that we had been drawn away at local rivals, Wood Green, we were far from confident in this our first outing. However, thanks to some stalwart defending and outstanding goal-keeping by F. Cole, we managed to win 1-0 through a fine individual goal by N. Sitinas. A good confidence boost to our young side.

The first XI match proper was at St. Alfred's Hall, Wantage, again a new fixture so we did not know what to expect. We met a very good team, older and more experienced who beat us 3-1 in very muddy conditions. We played well despite losing and only

lost in the latter stages after M. Spicer had equalised with ten minutes to go. A disappointment, but we learned much from this game and went on to beat Kingham Hill 4-2 at home in our next match. This was a game played in very windy conditions, but Cokethorpe's midfield trio of A. Forster, J. Shorrocks (U.15 Captain) and M. Spicer (1st XI captain) all played exceptionally well. Spicer himself scored 3 goals and Cole, now playing at centre forward, got the other.

Next came Henry Box; knowing of our reputation (from Wood Green) they were all out to beat us. We played with confidence now and the forward line — N. Sitinas and C. Knight as wingers, with T. Goslin and F. Cole as strikers — caused havoc in their defence. We went into a 3-1 lead at half-time. Unfortunately, we made some mistakes and allowed Henry Box to force a 3-3 draw, a most exciting game and full of promise of things to come.

In the next round of the cup, we were all thrilled to hear that we had drawn Gosford Hill, the holders, at

home. It was a tense, close game in which our defence were solid, A. Wariebi and D. Tang in particular. N. Sitinas gave us the lead with a typical individual goal, though Gosford came back strongly to draw level. In the second half, our opponents nearly took the lead, but their goal was disallowed for off-side, a difficult, but correct decision, by the referee. A few minutes before the end J. Endeley scored the winning goal amid cheers from the home supporters.

The following day produced a rather tired performance against John Mason School and we went down 3-1. After the Lord Mayor's Show...

At that time, in early February, the weather turned very cold and we had a few inches of snow. We were due to play Wellington College, away, this too being a new fixture. We heard that their pitches were unplayable and even though our pitches were snow-covered, they agreed to come to Cokethorpe. It was a marvellous game, played in the true spirit of the game in cold, icy conditions. Everyone enjoyed themselves and we ran out narrow victors 3-2, in a game in which M. Spicer was outstanding scoring 1 and having a hand in the other 2, despite missing a penalty! C. Knight and T. Goslin also scored. Our defence had to weather the storm as Wellington's bigger boys pressed hard in the last quarter, I. Badawi in defence and T. Imonioro, in goal, kept us in the game, Ted in particular with some typically cat-like leaps in goal.

The cold spell that followed, which I am sure everyone will remember, icy winds and frozen pitches, was to put football out for three weeks — a most frustrating time and we were especially disappointed to miss the game against Clifton College.

We were glad that the fixture at Worcester R.G.S. was still to be played though our pitches were still too hard and ice covered. We were pleasantly surprised when we found their pitch green and quite playable. After our 8-1 defeat last year, we were determined to make amends and on a hard pitch on a windy day we played the better football and deservedly won 2-0. The two wingers N. Sitinas and C. Knight especially had exceptional games and both scored fine goals. Our best win of the season this was a fine team effort.

If the Worcester game was the high point, then our next match was the reverse. We went down to an inferior side from Larkmead by 6 goals to 4. Several chances were missed on a day of many mistakes and this game is best forgotten.

We raised our game for the next home match against Leighton Park, who had also beaten us last year. This time we played much better and created many openings in a flowing game. Neither side could score and the final result, a goal-less draw, was a fair result. It was, nevertheless, an exciting affair and nerve-wracking at the end, for both teams threatened to snatch a winner.

Oratory School visited us the following weekend and their strong side dominated us from the kick-off. We have been very slow starters this season, and once Oratory took the lead, they never allowed us to get back into the game. We were well beaten 4-0 in the end and must be criticised for our lack of heading power in this game.

The semi-final of the U.16 cup, a home tie against Burford came next. Inside information (from J. Shorrock) led us to expect a formidable side and that is just what we got. Although we played well for the first 20 minutes and had good chances to score, we went behind through a defensive error. We pressed hard after that but this cost us more goals and we were well beaten 3-0 in the end. Everyone enjoyed the "cup run" and we were pleased to have gone so far. This young side has much to offer next year.

The final match of the season proved to be, for some team members, the 6th consecutive day of competitive soccer! There were some very tired limbs when we kicked off at Douai. However, we played some sparkling football and for once settled well straight from the start. Unfortunately, a bad mistake in defence meant we turned around 1-0 down at the interval. The team was a little down-hearted but determined to rectify the situation in the second half. The second half display was super. Spicer headed a lovely goal from a cross by C. Knight. Knight then volleyed into the roof of the net to put us into a 2-1 lead. Then it was 2-2 as Douai battled back. T. Goslin then made it 3-2 with 5 minutes remaining. Now we were beginning to feel those tired legs and Douai pressed ever harder to force the equaliser and the final result was 3-3, a most exhilarating game with which to end the season.

M. Spicer as captain must be complimented on his personal contribution to the team as well as his enthusiastic captaincy and calm leadership. Colours were awarded to M. Spicer, N. Sitinas, C. Knight, D. Tang, A. Wariebi and T. Imonioro.

A. E. G.

Sentence in a computer studies prep:

"A computer will help the doctor to keep a record of his passions." (patients?!)

U15 SOCCER REPORT

As the Spring Term was my first term at Cokethorpe, I didn't know what to expect on the sporting side and I was very surprised at the high standard. I managed to play my way into the U.15 team and I held my place regularly. We had a small squad and unfortunately there was not much strength in depth; this was to be our downfall.

The season started with a bang, a 6-0 victory over Kingham Hill, at home. J. Endeley and R. Okeke spear-headed our attack superbly, but it was quite obvious that if one of these players were to be injured we would have some problems in picking a forward line.

The second match was against a very strong, more experienced side from John Mason School. They took an early lead and soon after that they added another goal. However, we battled back well with Shorrock, our skipper, leading a great fight. We snatched a 2-2 draw, but we could easily have stolen the result.

We had a long lay-off during the big freeze in February, and this upset our pattern and continuity. This showed when we met the powerful and very talented team from the Royal Grammar School, Worcester. The score was 2-7! The only reward was two well-taken goals by Okeke and Endeley.

Larkmead proved to be the turning-point in a weather-afflicted season. They were the visitors and it was certainly a battle royal, with J. Shorrock once again through his experience and strenuous efforts trying to keep the team together. We eventually lost 1-5. Unfortunately, during this match Endeley was sent off for stupid retaliation; he was excluded from the side for the rest of the season. We were now severely handicapped in attack and this showed in the game against Leighton Park. We knew we should have won but the team's morale was low, and we were very tired as well after several matches in quick succession. The score was 1-4.

Confidence was at rock-bottom now, but we were still determined to end the season on a high note, which we did with an impressive 3-1 away victory over Douai. This, at least, was satisfying.

This was a difficult season, as we had no strength or experience in depth. Shorrock, Okeke and Endeley also played for the U.16 side, and Shorrock had games for the 1st XI. (I'm pleased to say that these three were in the team that reached the semi-final of the Mid-Oxon U.16 Cup.) There were other stars, too: Ng was a very safe, courageous full back; Horton battled continuously on the left wing; and Bryan and Vernon performed several mighty feats in defence. Some of these should surely fight their way into the 1st XI next season?

J. W. M. O'Dwyer.



J. P. W. and the U15 squad.



E. J. F., David Tang, Tim Lavender, Simon Harbour and others on the slopes at Chamrousse.

Once again I find myself writing a short report on the skiing holiday which took place at Chamrousse, France from the 11th-18th April. I enjoyed the holiday and I am sure all the boys did too. The staff were very helpful and friendly, and the skiing was excellent. The following are extracts from my diary:

Thurs 10th: We met up at school where passports were checked, final arrangements made and pocket money counted again. Mr. Daniels and Mr. Fenton carried out the correct procedure by checking out 'The Bell' and showed almost precision-timing in catching the coach as it was moving off. The coach trip was quite good, with just two exciting moments when I thought the driver had developed 'race-driver syndrome'. The sea trip was quite different as many of the boys experienced a rough crossing for the first time, though the Master's team showed a certain style by having a huge evening meal. We arrived in Calais and set forth into the night.

Fri 11th: Yes, we circumnavigated Paris twice — then stopped for breakfast. Stuttering French produced excellent coffee and croissants. As we left Grenoble the sun was shining but there was no snow! We went higher and higher, but still no snow! At about 4,000 feet there it was — a small patch of snow, quickly followed by more, and then we were totally surrounded. We had arrived. Skis were issued, boots tried on and clipped up, and I noticed on many faces that pleased-to-be-back look. Then we were off on the ski lift.

Sat 12th: Marcus Barnes had a disagreement with a button lift, Michael Lydon fell off the chair lift and later on gave a perfect demonstration of the splits. Tim Lavender, not to be outdone, fell over a little slope! But as Angela the Ski Instructress said, "If you don't fall down once a day, you are not trying". The weather was very misty all day and very cold. In the evening Mr. Fenton exchanged hats with a local man and for the remainder of the holiday he skied wearing an extremely large black 'Tarte'.

Ski Holiday



Sun 13th: To echoes of "Bonjour Tarte" we had a really wonderful day's skiing. Paul Barry 'Wiped Out' and the One Star course had an adventurous tour with Mr. Daniels in the afternoon. Ian Kershaw had an argument with his ski-pole. Toby Messenger, Daniel Ferris and Daniel Jones met suddenly under a small bridge ... they are still friends. For many of the team, the button lift and the chair lift were firmly mastered.

Mon 14th: Slight mist and very cold. The peace was shattered by screams of laughter when Ian Kershaw and Jason Bryan played 'double deckers' on a black run. Again no-one was any the worse for the incident. Jason Barnes became Group Leader for a few minutes — until he and the class disappeared over a steep slope. It brought out the point that leading a group IS a skilled job.

Tues 15th: By today everyone was pleasantly tired; after all, four full days of skiing is quite demanding. Hitesh Patel made friends with the button lift and was seen standing on top of the mountain gazing out into the far distance, at peace with the world. This was a good day for taking photographs and many happy incidents were captured to keep us going until next year.

Wed 16: an unbelievable half metre of snow fell during the night and we all enjoyed a most interesting day, mostly off piste, in deep powder snow. Again there were many, many incidents — all enjoyable, and to the individual, unforgettable

Thurs 17th: The final day and everyone was determined to get as much skiing in as possible. But all too soon skis had to be returned, kit packed, and it was on the coach for home.

I must also mention the evening activities, which included a disco, Trivial Pursuits (which produced more action than the disco), the Great Toboggan Race, a trip to Grenoble and a swimming trip, the village Treasure Hunt, film night, etc. etc. I feel I could write a book about this holiday, but I must sign

off now. Once again, I am sure that everyone enjoyed it and I was very pleased to be a member of the party. I would be quite happy to repeat the trip next year. I wonder, however, if there will ever be such a marvellous group of boys together again?

J. W. S.

CLASSICAL STUDIES TRIP TO GREECE

We left Gatwick and arrived in Athens at 1 o'clock; and after checking into the hotel we were given a welcome glass of Ouzo, the national drink. Some of the boys went to the Areopagus and Pnyx that afternoon, and after supper we went for another walk around the area of the hotel — Athen's version of Soho!

We had the morning of the second day entirely to ourselves. Unfortunately it absolutely poured with rain, but we all went to the Acropolis and saw the Parthenon, the Caryatid Porch on the Erkhtheion, and in the museum the statue of the Blon Boy. In the afternoon we went to Cape Sunion and saw the Temple of Poseidon. You can see Byron's signature scrawled on one of the columns there.

The third day really saw the beginning of our tour. We left the hotel at 8 o'clock and started towards Corinth, passing the island of Salamis, made famous in 480 B.C. during the sea battle between Athens and Persia. We reached the Corinth canal about 10.30, and watched a cruiser using the canal, which is about four miles long. Then we set off to ancient Corinth — although in fact there is only a small amount of Greek remains there, as most of it is Roman. After Corinth, Mycenae — where we saw the famous Lion Gate, the entrance to ancient Mycenae, and the shaft and beehive tombs. We had lunch in Mycenae at the Electra Restaurant, and afterwards went on to Epidaurus, where we visited the most famous Greek theatre, still untouched by time. Our tour guide lit a match at the bottom, on the Orchestra, and it was audible right at the top. After this we went to Nauplion where we were staying the night. That night we went to the Fair and met up with a girls' school trip from Brighton; we acted as escorts for the girls at the disco later that evening.

The next day we were on the road at 7.45 a.m. We followed the coast and then went over the mountain range to Sparta. We passed through Sparta and went on to Mistras, a Byzantine Pompeii, once capital of Laconia, and occupied at different times by the Byzantines, Crusaders and Venetians. After lunch

we made our way back to Sparta and the day's travelling was over.

On the fifth day the trip continued over the Taygetos Mountains, towards Olympia. We visited all the Olympic sites, including the Stadium, the State Treasuries, and the Temples of Zeus and Hera. Everyone in our party ran on the Stadium. There were two races — I won one, and Miles Harris the other, but I'm afraid I was accused of cheating because I ran the wrong way! We returned to our hotel in Olympia, and that evening some of the boys went out to a disco. The following morning we went to the Museum of Olympia and saw all the artefacts of Greek times, and a depiction of all the different events, like the vicious Pankration (a 200 m race in full armour!). Then we went north to the port of Patras, where we caught the ferry across the Gulf of Corinth and continued along the coast to Delphi, stopping off for lunch at a beautiful restaurant. In Delphi we visited the museum and saw the most beautiful bronze statue in the world, the famous Charioteer. Then we saw the site of the Temple of Apollo, and the training and resting area for the athletes in the Pythian Games. We travelled back to our hotel in Itea, and as it was someone's birthday we did some Greek dancing!

On our last full day we were up and back at Delphi by about 8.45 a.m. We went up and looked at the site of the Delphic Oracle, and then went up on to the Stadium again. By 10.30 we were back on the coach and raring to go and see Osios Loukas, another Byzantine church with frescoes and mosaics in gold and coloured stones. After having lunch at Osios Loukas we started back to Athens, passing the ancient city of Thebes where King Oedipus came from. That evening some of the tour group went to a barbeque and Greek dance night, where the wine was free and unlimited. It was a very good night indeed — what I can remember of it! The next morning we were up at 7 o'clock, and for me breakfast was coffee and fruit juice. At 11.30 we were taken to the airport, ready to catch the 'plane home. In all, it was a very memorable trip.

A. P. Venman.

AN INTERVIEW WITH ARISTOPHANES

INTER: Aristophanes, I've seen your play *The Frogs*. I thought it was very funny. What inspired you to write this latest production?

ARISTO: Well, I thought what with the war** at present, that I should write a play that would inspire the people of Athens not to lose heart, and to keep our morale up. At first I thought of having Aeschylus or Euripides back — but then I thought I'd just write another play myself.

INTER: *The Frogs* is an extremely funny play, isn't it? I especially liked the scene where Dionysus keeps exchanging the lion skin and club with Xanthias. Didn't you use Xanthias in one of your other comedies?

ARISTO: Yes, that's right. He was Procleon's and Anticleon's slave in *The Wasps*. He had a friend called Sosias.

INTER: I thought so. Anyway, in *The Frogs* you say that two more poets are needed in Athens. Surely being a poet and playwright yourself, you are the only one needed?

ARISTO: Well, yes. Possibly. It's kind of you to say so. But you know *The Frogs* is only fiction. It's not true in the slightest. And I didn't exist in the play, did I?

INTER: No, I suppose not. What do you consider to be your best play?

ARISTO: Well, there are four I really like — *The Archanians*, *Lysistrata*, *The Knights* and *The Clouds*.

INTER: What about *The Wasps*? Or indeed *The Poet and the Women*?

ARISTO: (Shrugs) I really don't know. *The Clouds* should be my least favourite, perhaps, because it came third — but I still like it, don't you?

INTER: Yes, I did. I liked the part where Strepsiades and Pheidippides are arguing who should go to the 'The Thinkery'. All Pheidippides thinks about are horses — yes, that was very funny.

ARISTO: Thank you.

INTER: What got your writing started?

ARISTO: When I was ten my father told me I had to go to school. This was strange, as most other children I knew went to school at seven. However, I learnt to write, and one day our grammatiste told us to write a story. Well, I did — and I covered six sheets of papyrus. It was about a small dog who got lost in the Peloponnesian Mountains and had to re-discover civilisation. Then when I was twelve I suddenly thought one day 'I'll write a play'! And that's how it all began, I suppose.

INTER: Why comedies rather than tragedies?

ARISTO: Well of course I began by writing tragedies, but I could only find relatively interested sponsors, and that meant I had to make do with third-rate actors. Then when the tragedies were performed people thought they were hysterically funny because of all the mistakes made by the actors, so I thought that there was only one solution — comedies!

INTER: How do you actually write the plays?

ARISTO: I generally start by thinking of a couple of comedy characters — perhaps a take-off of an important person at the time or a prominent figure in parliament. I start to write a story round them and it just goes on from there.

INTER: Do you enjoy your work?

ARISTO: Enjoy it? Of course. Of course I do. I love it. Why would I do it if I didn't?

INTER: I'm afraid our time is nearly up. Would you like to finish by telling us a joke?

ARISTO: Oh, all right. What do you call a man with a turtle on his head?

(Interviewer looks blankly)

EURIPIDES!!!

INTER: Ha, ha, ha...

ARISTO: What's so funny?

INTER: Your joke!

ARISTO: Oh. I told that in *The Wasps*, I think.

INTER: Well, thank you very much for joining us, Aristophanes. It's been a pleasure.

ARISTO: Thank you.

INTER: And now we return to the studio for the Attican weather.

E. Casey.

THEATRE TRIPS

LYSISTRATA

On Friday 28th February, the 4th, 5th and 6th Form Classical Studies sets went to Cambridge to see a Greek Play called 'Lysistrata'. It is a comedy written by Aristophanes, who lived in the 5th century B.C. We started our from Cokethorpe after lunch. The journey to Cambridge took about two-and-a-half hours but it seemed to go pretty fast. When we arrived we had about half-an-hour to look round the town before making our way to the Arts Theatre.

The performance began at 5.30. The scenery was good, portraying the gate to the Acropolis in Athens. This had the small temple to Athena Nike positioned just behind it. Towards the front of the stage there were four or five small Greek houses built into the side of the stage.

The main character was of course Lysistrata. The actress who portrayed her in the play was extremely good, I thought. The other main characters were Calonice, an assistant of Lysistrata; Myrrhine, another assistant; and an Athenian Magistrate more of whom you shall hear later.

The basic plot is that Athens is at war with Sparta. (This war was called the Peloponnesian War, after the region of Greece containing Athens and Sparta). The women of Athens get totally fed up with war and they take over the Acropolis, to try and persuade the Men of Athens to make peace with Sparta. The Magistrate tries to persuade them to leave, and a superbly made up Chorus of old men arrive on the scene and try to smoke the women out by lighting a fire. This doesn't work either because a chorus of old women arrive and throw water all over the men and the fire. Then the women start to make fun of the magistrate. They dress him up in old womens' clothes, and then teach him how to knit. Soon, though, some of the Women's husbands arrive, and, judging by their appearance are missing having sex with their wives every night!! Eventually, however, a soldier named Cinesias appears, who is the husband of Myrrhine, and for a minute he thinks he and his wife are going to make love there and then, but she keeps leading him on and then stopping, and pretending to go and fetch things from the house.

After the escapade, two Athenian Negotiators arrive, together with two Ambassadors from Sparta. They don't get on that well until Lysistrata calls upon a very beautiful woman called Reconciliation to calm the men down. They keep wanting to have sex with her but Lysistrata says they'll only have a party if Athens and Sparta make peace. The play ends with the two cities making peace and everyone having a party. Right at the end, all the men disappear into the different houses with a girl, apart from Lysistrata, and the play ends with her ripping

down the recruitment posters and writing peace signs on the boards instead.

Altogether I think the trip was very worthwhile, and I think I am speaking for everyone who went on it when I say I enjoyed it immensely.

E. Casey.

Postscript: During the Lent Term we were also hoping to go to a performance of 'The Bacchae' at King's College, London — but, alas, the production was cancelled. However, we did go to see a performance of Euripides' 'Medea' at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, on Thursday 19th June.

LARKRISE TO CANDLEFORD

In early May we had a 4th Form English trip to the Oxford Playhouse to see 'Larkrise to Candleford'. It is an account of working class life in Oxfordshire around the turn of the century, centred around Larkrise, a small village inhabited mainly by farmers and farm-workers, along with their wives and children. The main family, however, have their income provided by stone masonry, which is the father's occupation. The family is called Timms, and they have two children, a boy and girl, called Edmund and Laura.

The play's storyline is really just a day in which everyone behaves as they normally do. It opens with several farm-workers meeting early in the morning and deciding who should be in charge of the men that day. Finally they elect someone and they set off to work.

Through the play several street vendors come onto the scene selling various things — fresh vegetables, china, and so on. This was always followed with a song, as the play was semi-musical. Towards the interval we again see the farm-workers sitting down to a rather tedious long lunch-break during which they chat casually and sing a couple of songs.

After the interval the main story was about one of the girl's friends going to get a job in the nearby big house as a maid. On the way to the house she comes across a tree called a 'witch-elder', but this sequence I thought was fairly weak. The play closes with Mr. Timms meeting all the farm-workers in a local tavern, where they talk about politics and sing yet more songs. The last sequence shows them all standing in a church — then the first world war comes into the conversation and the priest reads out the names of those who will die in the war, and one of them is the small boy, Edmund.

Altogether, I didn't think the play was wonderful. It was entertaining in parts, but there were sections which could have been shortened or left out. However, it was still worth going to because it gave a good idea of what rural life in Oxfordshire was like at that time.

E. Casey.

MUSIC

THE CAROL CONCERT

This was my first Christmas concert at Cokethorpe and I didn't really know what to expect, although I had been warned that I was not to hope for anything too grand. The Corinthian Room was packed with parents and friends of the school and there was standing room only for the boys who crowded into the back.

The first item in the programme was a community attempt to sing 'The First Noel'. This put everyone in the right frame of mind to hear Caspar Jones and Mr. Gordon play a piano duet entitled 'Country Revels'. Caspar played well and carefully but I can't help feeling that the revellers must have been octogenarians to judge by the speed at which the revelling took place!

We then heard the first of several performances by the treble choir which consisted of thirteen members of the first, second and third form. They sang a song entitled 'Whence is that Goodly Fragrance Flowing?'. Many of the choir sang very well indeed, although there were a couple of unintentional harmonies that sounded quite well in the event.

The next item was another piano duet, this time played by Matthew Lake, who had recently passed his Grade 5 exam. He and his father played an arrangement of J. S. Bach's Christmas cantata 'Wachet Auf'. Once again the piece was accurately played on the whole, although I suspect that the last few chords would have woken Bach himself.

From one of the most senior and accomplished musicians in the school we moved to one of the youngest, Peter Scriven. He was almost hidden by the music stand but had no difficulty in making himself heard. We heard two pieces, 'Prelude' and 'Piero' and it was refreshing to discover that even beginner's music can be pleasant.

Once again it was the turn of the audience to demonstrate that there were others of musical talent in the room as we all sang 'Away in a Manger' whilst John Herron made his way to the piano. There was quite a change of mood from our singing to the deliberate beat of 'Bethlehem Blues'. We continued on the Jazz theme when Keith Pitt brought up his trumpet to play 'Acapulco 1922'. Despite the stage whisper from C. G., "Don't blast them out", we certainly heard the tune.

Once more the treble choir came to the front, and on this occasion they were to be accompanied by a rather unconventional string quartet consisting of the four guitarists, George Haworth, Adule Wariebi, Matthew Horton and Robin Price. Their performance of 'Silent Night' was probably not the best that I have heard but I certainly found the guitars provided an interesting backing.

There was a short, unscheduled interval whilst two pianists were sought but not found, and so Simon Keith-Berkeley stepped into the breach and played a 'Romance' on his clarinet. It was rather a breathless affair but he played well when he remembered to breathe and the brief encounter lasted long enough for the missing pianists to make their way to the front. Ross, Horada and C. G. then played what we were told was a piano trio but turned out to be a six hand piano part for the next performance by the audience, 'Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly'. We were ably helped by Andrew Ross, in particular, who played the tune so loudly that his finger must have hurt by the end of the carol.

The choir was already in position to sing the 'Star Carol' which they did well although several of the choir seemed to have begun to lose concentration and started to sing an extra verse. Horada then came back to the piano to play a study by Heller followed by a Scott Joplin rag.

The last two items on the programme involved the brass players. First Andrew Venman played a piece on his cornet which will have to go, as it did in the concert itself, unnamed. It was confidently played, although I thought a little too fast, which resulted in one or two split notes. Following the solo, Venman was joined by the rest of the brass group (Kershaw and Pitt) to accompany the whole gathering as we sang 'O Little Town of Bethlehem'.

Following the concert, mince pies and coffee were served in the hall which rounded off the evening very well. I have to rely on comparisons provided by those who have been to similar occasions in the past, but I am reliably informed that the concert was the best of recent years.

E. J. F.



Left: *Adrian Illman playing Clementi.*
Above: *Harcourt Trumpet Trio.*



Above left: *Queen Anne junior choir.*
Above: *Mark Holmes' prizewinning solo.*



Above: *Jason Bryan playing his Japanese Sakura.*
Right: *The judges consider Keith Pitt's trumpet solo*



INTER-HOUSE MUSIC COMPETITION

This year's House Music Competition moved into the micro-chip age with the use of a computer. Mr. Hudson wrote a programme which enabled Trevor Wright to display the scores of individual competitors and House totals for the preliminary round of the competition on Tuesday 11th March. As last year, a panel of adjudicators awarded marks to over 50 entries in this round and the average of these marks was credited to House totals.

This preliminary round was the opportunity for beginners — as well as some of greater accomplishment — to experience performing in public for the first time. Five trumpet beginners, displaying varying degrees of nerves, entertained us with short pieces, and Lenehan managed a short solo on the French Horn after only a few lessons. It was very pleasing to see several boys taking part in the solo singing class, but most of them could have given better performances if they had chosen more suitable pieces — and if they had arranged to rehearse with an accompanist beforehand. They were very fortunate that Mr. Peter Gritton, one of our visiting brass teachers and a member of the adjudicating panel, was able to step in and improvise piano accompaniments in a variety of keys and styles.

It was the string class which was perhaps the most accomplished — largely due to the energies and inspiring teaching of Jay Silvercroft, but as in previous years it was the piano class which attracted the largest number of entries. These ranged in standard from one-finger pieces by Robin Browning and James Mwenewanda, to a Clementi Sonatina and a Scott Joplin Rag.

Several Group singing entries concluded the preliminary round with Swift leading by a small number of marks over Queen Anne, who were ahead of Harcourt by a similar margin.

The final round was held in the Corinthian Room on the evening of Friday 14th March. The adjudicator was Christopher Fletcher-Campbell of Bloxham School, and, for a second year, we were again very grateful to him for giving up his time, and for his informed, impartial adjudication which always managed to strike just the right balance between criticism, encouragement and helpful practical advice.

Of the twelve solo performances in this round, Mr. Fletcher-Campbell particularly commended Mark Holmes for his well-controlled light tenor voice

('In dulci jubilo'), and he was impressed by a guitar solo from Jason Bryan who gave an atmospheric convincing performance of a traditional Japanese Sakura with its delicate harmonic touches.

One of the most popular performances of the evening was George Haworth on the bass guitar. His accomplished performance of his own composition — 'Street Fever' — showed both melodic inspiration and technical mastery of the instrument, and earned him one of the music prizes. James Horada brought the Broadwood grand to life with a zippy, toe-tapping performance of Scott Joplin's 'Maple Leaf Rag', but Mr. Fletcher-Campbell gave the piano prize to Adrian Illman for his colourful, controlled treatment of the first movement of the early Clementi sonatina.

The brass section again provided the winner of the prize for the best performance this year, Keith Pitt, with a sparkling trumpet interpretation of the 'Spanish Flea'.

After the refreshment interval came some of the most musically rewarding performances of the evening — the duets, trios and ensembles. Here it was Queen Anne's guitar trio — Bryan, Horton and Wariebi, playing a witty and effective 'Quodlibet' by Jay Silvercroft — that provided some most enjoyable listening, closely followed by Harcourt's trumpet trio — Pitt, Ogilvy and Lake. Swift Junior Choir provided some light relief with a simple arrangement of Paul McCartney's 'Frog's' Chorus', ably accompanied on the piano by Adrian Illman. The Headmaster also gained special commendations (but no prize!) for his colourful, varied, Brahmsian hymn accompaniments for three of the group singing entries — but it was the final entry of the evening, Queen Anne's Jones plus Five in another McCartney song 'Let 'em in', that proved to be the most musically rewarding of the evening.

Here it was obvious that a great deal of time and effort had gone into that entry. The performers made the best use of their varied abilities — including improvised hand percussion on the piano lid and the programming of our electronic keyboard — and special mention must be made of Adrian Spencer's rhythmic and accomplished piano accompaniment.

After Mr. Fletcher-Campbell's adjudication the final points total showed that Swift had won the House Music Cup, with Queen Anne in second place by a decreased margin of points.

C. G.

PHOTOGRAPHY

by Mark Glanville

A number of people have asked me recently when and how it was that I became interested in photography. It is an interest I have shared with my father for some years — but, looking back, I think that an accident has something to do with it.

I first started taking pictures at the age of 12. At the time my father had a Pentaz Spotmatic which I used occasionally when we went on holiday, and on a few other occasions. The more I used the camera the more interested I became, and I found the results I was obtaining became a little better each time. While I was on holiday with my parents in South Devon, we had a small sailing boat. One day we went out to take some photographs looking back onto the beach. As we returned a large wave engulfed the boat, and all that was inside — including the camera — was completely drenched in salt water.

As soon as we reached our house we quickly extracted the partly used film and removed the lens. We rinsed out both the camera and the lens in fresh water, hoping to dissolve any salt that had entered into the mechanics, and thus hopefully slow down the process of corrosion. We immediately contacted a camera repair service and within an hour we set off



to Plymouth to see if the camera could be saved. In fact, it was a complete write-off. We were told that to take the camera to pieces and carry out the necessary repairs would cost more than a new equivalent camera!

On returning from holiday we naturally applied to the insurance company, and after a time they paid a small amount which they thought would purchase a camera to the same specification. Although it was nearly £65 short, we put the money towards a Nikon F.E. At the same time we purchased a standard 55mm macro lens, which we could use for the majority of our pictures. The old camera was one that I had used occasionally, and in a way I think it was really this new one which helped to keep my interest going, because it was more up-to-date, of a higher quality, and easier to use. After a year or so we started to add to the system with a dedicated flash unit, and a 200 mm lens which we bought second-hand.

I continued to use the camera for nearly a year on a relatively frequent basis, sending the films to be processed at a local lab. At the age of 14 I joined 'The Photographic Workshop' in St. Mary's Road in Oxford. There I learned the basics of developing black and white negative film, and also printing by hand my own black and white prints, which gave a much better understanding of what went on after you had exposed the film. This understanding of exposure and photo composition again helped to increase the quality of the photographs I was now producing. I was now becoming more deeply involved in a hobby which was turning out to be very expensive, and because of the cost of hiring the enlarger in the dark room at the club, we decided to set up a dark room in a spare bedroom at home, purchasing all the equipment from Morris Photographics in the High Street in Oxford. It never crossed my mind then that one day I might work on a part-time basis at the shop during the school holidays, but in fact this is what I have been doing for a year now; and when I leave Cokethorpe this summer I'm going to work for them full-time from the beginning of August. It would be nice to think that, in one line or another, I might eventually have my own photographic business.

Within three months of acquiring our own enlarging equipment we exchanged the Nikon F.E. for an up-dated version, the F.E.2, which had a few extra advantages such as T.T.L. flash metering through the lens, and a flash synchronisation speed of 1/250 sec. Shortly after that I got an F.E.2, which was my first personal camera. By now I was extremely pleased with the photographs I was producing, and I wanted to start learning how to print my own colour prints. To do this successfully requires an auto processor, so that the temperature of the chemicals can be kept within 0.5-1 deg. C., thus ensuring that consistent results can be produced time after time. It took a while to master getting the

correct colour balance which did not come into black and white printing, but eventually I did so and I was soon producing some reasonable colour prints which improved further with practice.

I was now eager to start adding to my camera equipment and over a period of nearly a year purchased a number of second hand lenses. The first was a 24mm f2.8 which I found particularly useful when taking photographs of scenery, and enabled me to fit much more of what I wanted into my photographs without having to stand a long way off. After that I purchased (again second hand) a 105mm f2.5 which has double the magnification of the 55mm macro. This was very useful in taking photographs of objects which were further away, and it can also be used to take photographs of wildlife without necessarily getting physically closer to the subject.

A wide range of lenses has enabled me to take a much wider range of photographs. It has also enabled me to compose the photographs better and fill the frame with more interesting parts, and to eliminate things which I did not want and which tended to distract the eye from the main subject. From the five photographs of the Mercedes car accompanying this article you can get some idea of what the different lenses do. They are all taken from the same angle and the same distance (30 yards), simply by increasing the focal length of the lens. In (A), for example, using the 24mm f2.8 wide-angle lens — which tends to distort the overall appearance of the picture, but can lead to interesting results especially when photographing scenery — because of the curvature of the lens the car appears to be farther away than it is. In (B) the standard 50mm lens recommended for general 35mm photography enables the photographer to include the majority of the subject in the picture. In (C) I was using a 105mm lens, and in (D) a 200mm f.4 lens. In (E) the same lens as in (D) was used, but in combination with a 2x Tele-converter (TC 201), which doubles the focal length of the lens making it a 400mm lens. There are some disadvantages in using a Tele-converter, though, because 2f stops are lost due to the extension of the lens. This makes the lens slightly slower, which means that it either has to be used in brighter conditions, or a faster film must be used to compensate for the loss of light passing through the lens. Unless the film speed is increased or the lens used in brighter conditions, this inevitably increases the risk of camera-shake (which blurs the photograph) because at such high magnification the camera cannot be held still by hand using a shutter speed of a 1/60 — 1/125 sec over a focal length of 200mm +.

Recently I have purchased several more accessories for my camera, such as a dedicated Nikon flash unit SB 15 with the T.T.L. function; and also a motor drive which enables one to take photographs in rapid succession on continuous shooting up to 4.5 frames per second. It can also be used as a winder on

single frame shootings, just to wind the film on to the next frame. I have also bought a Nikon F.A., which has the advantage of an integrated metering system. What this means is that what you see through the lens is metered into five separate areas: the light readings are analysed by a micro-computer in the camera, and this therefore produces an average exposure which — in theory! — is the correct one.

All this implies how quickly camera technology is changing, and one of the main problems with the equipment of today is that it is so quickly outdated and replaced by something new within three or four months. An example of this is the Minolta 7000, which within three months was succeeded by a 9000. Both cameras are autofocus, and both camera bodies are compatible with the lenses and flashes — the difference being that the 9000 has the integrated metering system. The 7000 has a built-in motor-wind, whereas with the 9000 the motor-drive can be added as an accessory. Five months later Minolta brought out a 5000, which does not have so many facilities as the other two, but still accepts all the lenses that a 7000 would. This is very annoying when you are trying to decide on a camera to purchase, because you are always wondering whether they will bring out a new camera that does more or is merely a simplified version of what is on the market at the moment.

Some people tend to think that having a good camera automatically produces a good or almost perfect result. Nothing could be less true. If the best results are to be produced much is left up to the photographer himself, and he must know how to cope with varying circumstances and if need be how to set the appropriate aperture and shutter speed. All my cameras, however sophisticated, have a manual mode — so that all the information fed into the camera can be set by the photographer. This means that if incorrect information is set, the photograph does not turn out to be correct. To produce good results comes purely with practice and learning from the mistakes you have made previously.



B: *Standard 50mm lens.*



C: *105mm lens.*



D: *200mm f.4 lens.*



A: *24mm f2.8 wide-angle lens.*



E: *200mm lens plus 2xTeleconverter — in effect a 400mm lens.*

THE GENERAL STUDIES TALKS

1985-86

*Ian Kershaw and Samuel Smith report on this year's talks **

LEO AYLEN

The first event of the new General Studies season was poetry reading by the South African writer Leo Aylen. It must be admitted that at first the poster on the notice-board didn't arouse much expectation; however, those who thought they were in for a quiet poetry reading were quite wrong, for as things turned out this proved to be an extremely entertaining and amusing evening. Leo Aylen, who was born in Zululand and has worked as an actor, director and writer in the theatre, has obviously spent a lot of time working on ways of presenting his poetry as an entertainment — as indeed he reminded us it was in the times of Homer or Chaucer. With his range of voice and sense of timing, he certainly brings all the skills of an actor to the task, and he told us he now felt confident he could hold the attention of any kind of audience — even one hostile to poetry. Of course, some boys tried to prove him wrong, but most did not succeed! I must say I have never heard poetry declaimed in quite the way he did — nor, in the case of some of the poems, at such break-neck speed. His programme was based entirely on his own work and all the poems were recited from memory. They ranged from some very serious (and moving) short poems, to a number of rather comic narrative ones. The evening concluded, appropriately enough, with a sequence from *Return to Zululand*, and afterwards many boys crowded round to buy autographed copies of the books he had brought with him.

DAVID AND RACHEL BURDEN NICHOLAS ROBERTS

There were two musical events on the General Studies calendar this year, and, although the music in question is generally not within our more modern tastes, these occasions have always proved to be very enjoyable. The second event of the Michaelmas Term continued the entertainment nature of the first — although it was designed to be both entertaining and informative. This was a lecture/recital for classical guitar by David Burden, a winner of the Julian Bream Prize while he was at the Royal Academy of Music. Using several guitars from different periods he played a wide variety of pieces, from the Baroque to Ragtime, to show us how the

guitar has developed over the centuries. His present instrument certainly sounded quite different to the one made 100 years ago, let alone the mandoline or lute of Elizabethan times. Several of the arrangements were by Mr. Burden himself, and in some of them he was ably accompanied by his wife on the violin or oboe: the result was very pleasant, with both instruments complementing each other well.

During the Lent Term we had another lecture/recital, this time by Nicholas Roberts, which was designed to be an introduction to the harpsichord. Mr. Roberts began by saying that it is ironic that the harpsichord should need 'introducing' at all — in the 18th century there was so much great music written for it that it has, in fact, got a larger repertoire than the piano. He played seven pieces during the evening, including the Passacaglia from the Suite in G Minor by Handel; others were by Byrd, Purcell, Rameau and Couperin, Bach and Scarlatti. In his view the music of Rameau and Couperin is among the very greatest ever written, and ought to be considered on a level with that of Mozart and Beethoven. This was a wonderful opportunity to hear 17th and 18th century music played as it should be, and of course the Corinthian Room was a perfect setting for it. At the end of the recital Mr. Cranham fetched a candelabra and the lights were turned off, so that Mr. Roberts could play an encore by candlelight alone. Mr. Roberts then invited any Cokethorpe pianists to try his harpsichord: Horada, Herron and Browning all made their debut, and both the Headmaster and Mr. Carter also played.

MALCOLM PENNY

In the past we have had several talks about aspects of natural history, but the third talk of the Michaelmas Term, 'Wildlife Filming behind the Scenes', by Malcolm Penny, was certainly one of the most interesting of all. Mr. Penny is an ornithologist turned film-producer and general naturalist. He has worked for the Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge and Oxford Scientific Films, for whom he produced a number of special one-hour documentaries. He also produced the first two series of *Animals in Action*, and is probably best known as the writer of dozens of Anglia T.V. *Survival* programmes. He told us that he prefers to make films about small animals, because not so many people know so much about them. He based his talk on one of his own films, and also a

* Ian Kershaw in Roman type, Samuel Smith in italics.

number of slides. He didn't give away all the secrets or tricks of the trade, by any means, but he showed us certain time-lapse techniques, and the results of high-speed and low-speed photography. He also talked a little bit about his current film on killer whales, which will be shown some time in 1987.

CAPT. R. J. F. TURNER

Capt. Richard Turner came to give a talk on 'Life in Russia', based on his experiences as a Naval Attaché at the British Embassy in Moscow. Like the talk on wildlife filming this was a very well attended occasion; and in fact for many boys it was probably the highlight of the talks during the Michaelmas Term, and the most enjoyable talk we have had from an ex-member of the forces. Having commanded both surface ships and submarines, Capt. Turner ended his career as a Commodore in Naval Intelligence. In 1973 he was appointed as a Naval Attaché to Moscow, and after a year learning Russian he went there in 1974. He defined an attaché as 'the ears and eyes of the Ambassador': this naturally led him to travel a great deal all over the U.S.S.R., and he gave us many interesting examples of the kind of information he was able to report back to his Ambassador as a result of these trips. The three years he spent in the Soviet Union were the time of President Nixon's efforts at détente, and this enabled both he and his wife to do a number of things that would otherwise have been impossible. (His wife, for example, actually taught in the English Faculty at Moscow University.) In a nutshell, Capt. Turner said that he had 'loved the experience, liked the people, hated the system'. Clearly life can be enjoyed in Russia by the privileged few (chiefly Party officials, 'the Big Cheeses'), but we were told that children are impregnated with 'appropriate' political opinions from a very early age, and we saw slides of some five-years olds in military-style uniform. Since he left in 1977 Capt. Turner has been able to keep up with a number of friends in the U.S.S.R., and he has been back there twice. He talked very knowledgeably about it all and, together with his magnificent slides, there was a great deal to be learned from this occasion.

H. MONTGOMERY HYDE

The next talk could hardly have been in greater contrast to the one on life in Russia. This was a very interesting and unusual slide lecture by Mr. H. Montgomery Hyde about the life and times of the Irish poet and dramatist, Oscar Wilde. Although he is the author of 52 books, on a variety of literary and historical subjects, it is for his work on Oscar Wilde that Mr. Montgomery Hyde is probably best known; indeed, he must surely now be regarded as the greatest living authority on the subject. His interest in Wilde began in an unusual way. In 1928 he occupied at Magdalen College, Oxford, the same set of rooms as Oscar Wilde had had when he was there 50 years before. At that time he was greatly moved by reading *The Ballad of Reading Gaol*, and this impelled him to find out everything he could about its author. Of course, when he started to do this in the 1930s and 40s it was still possible to meet many people who had known Wilde, and he had talked to

them all. Max Beerbohm had the best recollections, he said, for he had sat through all the trials in 1895.

Among the many things Mr. Montgomery Hyde described to us in some detail was the long letter of bitter recrimination written by Wilde when he was in prison to his friend Lord Alfred Douglas. However, the highlight of this talk was undoubtedly the recording of Oscar Wilde's voice reading the closing stanzas of *Reading Gaol*. It was made on an Edison phonograph at the Paris Exhibition in 1900, just a few months before Wilde's death. To our ears there was nothing obviously Irish about the voice at all, but Mr. Montgomery Hyde said that, as an Irishman himself, the pronunciation of certain words made it obvious to him that the speaker was of Irish origin.

JOHN OSMAN

The first talk of the Lent Term was given by John Osman, the Court and Diplomatic Correspondent of Radio 4 News. It was entitled simply 'Forty Years a Reporter' — and it should be added at once, after twenty years with the B.B.C. and nine years with the Daily Telegraph, Mr. Osman's career as a journalist extends to well over 100 countries. It is always a rather uncanny experience to meet — or in this case, to see — the person whose voice one knows so well from the foreign correspondents' bulletins on the News, and Mr. Osman had some very interesting and amusing stories to tell — although he made it clear that his Court duties are a pure pleasure in comparison to the situations his foreign assignments had sometimes landed him in! He also gave some advice to boys who might be hoping to become reporters themselves. It was a pity, though, that on this occasion more boys did not ask questions to make Mr. Osman delve further into his experiences.

DR. GEOFFREY THOMAS

John Osman's talk took place just a few days after Michael Heseltine's resignation as Defence Secretary, and inevitably he told us a certain amount about how that was seen from a reporter's viewpoint in London. Topicality of a different kind was provided by Dr. Geoffrey Thomas, Deputy Director of the External Studies Department at Oxford University, when he came to talk about Halley's Comet. 'Comet fever' hasn't struck in quite the same way this year as it did in 1910, and since there are at least a trillion comets in the outer solar system, it is understandable that professional astronomers should question the extent to which this particular comet arouses more interest than others. Inevitably, though, this talk created a great deal of interest, with one of the longest lists on the notice-board seen this year. Dr. Thomas began by telling us about Edmund Halley and his scientific relationship with Newton; but it was when he came to comets in general, and Halley's comet in particular, that he really gripped the attention of the audience. The comet was first observed by Halley in 1682 and almost every time it has appeared some great tragedy or catastrophe has taken place; Dr. Thomas gave us several examples of

these, from ancient times to the death of King Edward VII in 1910. This was one of the most interesting talks of the Lent term, naturally made more so by the slides.

DR. SUSAN WHARTON

The next talk was a very unusual one. It was given by Dr. Susan Wharton of the Dept. of Manuscripts at Sotheby's and was called 'Collecting Other Peoples' Letters'. Dr. Wharton took a degree in French and German at Cambridge, and it was while studying for a doctorate in 15th century French literature in Paris that she answered an advertisement for a job at Sotheby's, and, to her surprise, was appointed to a post in the Manuscript Department. Although not a graphologist, she is now regarded as one of the foremost handwriting experts in this country. Dr. Wharton gave a most illuminating insight into the pleasures and pitfalls of collecting letters and manuscripts, and her talk was illustrated by slides, many of which were concerned with aspects of forgery. She told us a great deal about the business of identifying forgeries (type of paper, sort of pen, ink, even the way it is folded), and the most elementary mistakes made even by great forgers of the past. However, some forgers' work has become so famous that it is now collected in its own right — e.g. William Henry Island, who is renowned for his forgeries of Shakespeare and Queen Elizabeth I.

In a newspaper article about Dr. Wharton and her work, it had been stated that she can recognise at a glance the writing of most famous men and women since the 16th century. With her agreement, Mr. Cranham put her to the test on this at the end of her talk, with some xeroxes of parts of original letters he had acquired from another London dealer. It took Dr. Wharton less than thirty seconds to identify correctly all five examples of the handwritings of Voltaire, Goethe, Frederick the Great, Napoleon and Proust. This was really very sporting of her indeed!

DR. CHRISTOPHER ANDREW

The penultimate talk of the Lent Term was given by Dr. Christopher Andrew, Fellow and Senior Tutor of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, and his subject was 'The Cambridge Moles'. As one would expect from someone who is also a presenter for *Timewatch*, Dr. Andrew was a very professional speaker, but his talk was so full of good stories that after a while it was easy to get muddled between them! He explained how Communist ideas gradually came to appeal to people like Donald MacLean, Kim Philby, Guy Burgess and Anthony Blunt while they were still undergraduates; but he also spoke of the misery they came to endure leading a double life, and how, eventually, many of them lived in a state of barely controlled schizophrenia. The only visual aid Dr. Andrew employed — but still a very revealing one — was a few pages he had xeroxed from the 1934 issue of *Granta* which contained an interview with the undergraduate Donald MacLean. Anyone who had known what to look for, said Dr. Andrew, could clearly have spotted a future 'mole' from the way in which MacLean unconsciously gave himself away in this interview by his delight in the three different

characters he admitted to adopting with different people at different times.

REDMOND O'HANLON

During the early part of the Summer Term we were fortunate to have a talk by the naturalist, explorer and writer Redmond O'Hanlon, who gave us a fascinating account of his Amazon expedition 'In Search of the Maturaca'. When Mr. Cranham first approached him, he received a short reply on a postcard which read simply: 'I am flattered by the invitation to talk to your boys, but on the dates you mention I shall be somewhere in the headwaters of the Orinoco...!' However, persistence and the happy accident of meeting Mrs. Cranham (armed with her hypodermic) at his local surgery, still brought Dr. O'Hanlon to Cokethorpe at a later date. The Amazon expedition was financed by The Sunday Times at a cost of £15,000, and his 110 slides of the journey must surely be the largest number ever shown by a General Studies speaker. He didn't find the River Maturaca, but he did reach a mountain range no-one had seen since 1853 and which he was able to verify had been accurately sketched at that time. He also found a tribe no-one had made contact with since 1926. Although Dr O'Hanlon's description of his journey was put over with a good deal of humour, in a similar vein to the published account of his earlier trip to Borneo with the poet James Fenton — it was clear that he was lucky (several times over!) to come back from South America alive. Undeterred, this intrepid explorer is off to the Congo this summer.

Guest speakers during the Michaelmas Term will include Anthony Price on 'Thriller Writing' and Robert Lacey on 'Ford'. There will also be another *Shakespeareana* performance by Geoffrey and Laura Kendal on November 20th. Other details on the School Calendar.

And during the Lent Term, 1987: Dr. Rosalie David on the Manchester University Egyptian Mummy Project (January 29th); Robert Swan, leader of the Trans-Antarctic Expedition 'In the Footsteps of Scott' (February 12th); and Neil Brand on 'Hollywood and the Silent Era' (February 26th).

Parents and other guests are welcome at these talks, as at all school events.

Photos by Mark Glanville.

Left: *Gerrard Neale M.P. with our Prime Minister and leader of the Opposition.*

Below: *Speaker's procession. Fadi Dona, Serjeant-at-Arms; Ian Kershaw, Speaker.*



Question Time.



A point about the Mace.

TWO POLITICAL EVENTS

A General Studies Double Bill

THE SCHOOL PARLIAMENT

The House was gratifyingly full, even in spite of the Three-line Whip on all boys except those who had gone to play in the 1st XI cricket match at Malvern. "Have *you* ever defied a Three-line Whip?" asked on boy. "Yes, I have," says the speaker at the Despatch Box. The voice is that of Gerrard Neale, Conservative Member for North Cornwall; it is 3.15 p.m. on Thursday 26th June, and while the real Question Time is still in progress in 'another place', Mr. Neale is addressing 150 pupils in the Corinthian Room during one of his dramatised sessions of the House of Commons. In the background is a gentleman from Mitsubishi with a video-camera, and two producers from Central T.V. who have come to observe the proceedings prior to the filming of the 'Parliamentary Roadshow' in Birmingham the following Monday.

It all started four years ago when Mr. Neale undertook to give a talk at his daughter's school. Finding himself faced with a larger audience and far more time to fill than he had expected, on a sudden impulse he divided the pupils into two groups — Government and Opposition — and installed the Headmistress as Speaker of this mock chamber. He realised then that, if he could acquire the appropriate props, he had hit on the ideal way to present Parliament to young people, and since then he has done so in both independent and state schools in this country, and in the United States. He returns to America again this September to present the show to pupils in New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and Washington.

Gerrard Neale goes to great lengths to get the details and atmosphere right, with the aid of gowns and court suits, wigs and lace jabots, which are either cast-offs from Moss Bros or have been begged or borrowed from fellow barrister or M.P. friends. And so it was that after lunch on this particular Thursday nine boys were quickly transformed in the Library into the roles of the Speaker (Ian Kershaw,) Speaker's Chaplain, Secretary and Trainbearer (Stuart Robertson, William Jackson and James Pether), Serjeant-at-Arms (Fady Dona), 3 Clerks (David and Edward Smith, and Edward Bailey), and a Doorkeeper at the Bar of the House (Mark Hues).

Meanwhile, across the way in the Corinthian Room, boys were squashed in all along the Treasury and Opposition benches, thus creating an extra air of theatre and expectation. The old Bishop's chair in the Church had been pressed into use as the Speaker's chair; and although we had not been able to re-create the tiered effect of the benches in the real House of Commons, in every other respect our chamber with its oak panelling resembled, if not a 20th century House of Commons, then at least an 18th century one as Pitt the Younger, Fox or Burke might have known it!

Proceedings began promptly at 2.30. A little preliminary explanation (with the aid of a C.R.A.C. booklet *What Happens When I Vote*, written by Mr. Neale himself), and it was not long before the Speaker's procession wound its way into the chamber, preceded by the Serjeant-at-Arms bearing a magnificent replica Mace (courtesy of a theatrical company). With the Speaker and Clerks seated, the 'House' then listened for nearly 1½ hours as Mr. Neale explained the finer points of Question Time and divisions, debating, and the conventions of the Commons. During this part of the proceedings Daniel Jones and Stephen Edwards played the parts of the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition at Mr. Neale's bidding. It was a very hot afternoon indeed in the Corinthian Room that day, and it must be said that our M.P.'s behaved splendidly, especially when it came to questions, which ranged from whether the Queen now has any power in Parliament to what you do if you're going to abstain from voting.

We were also very fortunate to have Mr. Neale that day, for not only had he attended a Ministerial Meeting that morning (as Nicholas Ridley's P.P.S.), but, after talking to us, he had to return to London to vote in an important division that evening. He was then motoring down to his constituency in Cornwall that same night! We are extremely grateful to him for having fitted in this visit to us during his busy schedule before the Summer Recess. All who were present learnt a great deal from the experience, and we shall certainly remember it as a most unusual, and indeed unique, event.

P. J. C.



THE HOME SECRETARY

On Friday 27th June the Home Secretary, The Rt. Hon. Douglas Hurd M.P., P.C., was at last able to fulfil his engagement to talk to the School, which had had to be postponed from the earlier date of 2nd May due to the prison officers' dispute. Although, on the previous day, Mr. Hurd had been at the Despatch Box in the House of Commons to answer questions in the absence of Mrs. Thatcher at The Hague Summit, it had been felt by some political correspondents that he had kept a comparatively low profile: perhaps he was saving his energies for constituency duties on the Friday! Whatever the truth of this, the occasion at Cokethorpe was a resounding success, with both Mr. Hurd and the boys in their best form. 'What a pity we can't see all the members of the Cabinet like this,' one member of the audience remarked to me afterwards; and Mr. Hurd himself remarked, as he left the hall — 'The smallest boys always ask the most *direct* questions!'

After a short introductory talk, Mr. Hurd fielded answers to questions for nearly three-quarters of an hour. It is difficult to do justice to the occasion in words other than his own, but it would hardly be fair to print a verbatim version of his replies, and, in any case, limitations of space do not allow it. Suffice it to say that, as his remark above implies, Mr. Hurd was impressed with the sharpness of questions, which ranged from his opinion of Neil Kinnock as Leader of the Opposition to whether he ever wears a bullet-proof vest. He was also asked how he gets on with Mrs. Thatcher socially, whether he felt he had a proper say in what is decided at Cabinet level, and what advice he would give to anyone going into politics.

As a visit by such a senior member of the government is perhaps unlikely to take place again in the time of even the youngest boy present that day, the Political Studies sets had naturally prepared for the occasion with some thoroughness. (It should be added, though, that good questions were asked by boys who don't do Political Studies as one of their options, and afterwards I realised we were remiss in one respect: for although he answered questions on such topical matters as South Africa, Bob Geldof's knighthood, the American air-attack on Libya, and the Hippy Peace Camp, in spite of the hint contained in Mr. Hurd's opening remarks, there were very few questions on the work of his actual Department.)

For his part, Mr. Hurd's replies to a series of questions about the Cabinet gave us insights into politics and government which will be useful to the Political Studies sets for quite some time. He thought that only one question was unfair: *viz* — Did he think Tom King or himself was better suited as Northern Ireland Secretary? In justice to Mr. King, Mr. Hurd pointed out that Mr. King has had to deal with things which never confronted him.

It is, I think, always very fascinating to meet or be in the presence of someone who wields great power — or, in this instance, is at the very hub of political power in Britain today. This is the third occasion in my time at Cokethorpe that Douglas Hurd has come to talk to the boys. I remember him first while he was Front Bench spokesman on European Affairs in 1977. Then, in 1979, when he was Minister of State in the Foreign Office, he came as a member of an 'Any Questions' panel. Now he is Home Secretary, with a previous Cabinet post — to which he confessed (rather surprisingly) both he and his wife look back with a certain nostalgia — already behind him. I sincerely hope that it is not out of place for me to say so, but as he has climbed higher up the

political ladder, so the calibre and qualities of the man have become more apparent. However, although it was partly his position as a senior member of the government which made this occasion a very special one for us, it was, first and foremost, the fact that he is our M.P. which made the visit possible at all. Mr. Hurd had an extremely full programme in the constituency that day and we got more than our fair share of his time; we would like to thank him once again for what proved to be a most memorable occasion. 'Is there a little job going as P.P.S.?', one of my colleagues whispered to me afterwards. I wouldn't mind if there was!

P. J. C.





Roald Dahl and contestants relaxing after the event.

DECLAMATIONS

Monday, May 19th was a memorable day at Cokethorpe, not only because it was the first really fine day of the Summer term, nor yet because it seemed that almost the entire school was limping on sore feet after particularly gruelling Outward Bound and A.C.F. expeditions, nor even for the somewhat long-winded performance of the taking of the school photograph — but because after all this Roald Dahl really did arrive to judge the 'Declamations', and thus provided the excuse for a number of boys to show off their skills with the spoken word. This was the sixth annual Declamations, and, by a happy coincidence, the term in which the competition was first held was also the term when Roald Dahl first came to Cokethorpe to give a talk to the boys.

Nicholas Bingham began with a very clear and accurate reading of the Form 1 set piece, 'Dido's disappointment' by Joan Aitken, which he followed by an equally clear recital of Wordsworth's 'Daffodils'. Although as the first competitor his nerves showed a little at times, this was a most commendable performance. Adam Bryan, not only in the first form, but in his first term at the school, also gave very good reading of the set passage, but with his Spike Milligan poem he was just a little too quiet. Piers Pether — the youngest boy in the school

— certainly did not let himself down, and he recited his own choice of poem, 'The Paint Box' by E. V. Rieu, with confidence and accuracy. He too was a little bit quiet and perhaps just a touch too fast in places, but these were not very serious faults. The final contestant from Form 1 was Peter Scriven, who read the Joan Aitken passage confidently and captured the attention of the audience with his own choice of poem 'Rhubarb Ted'. Once again there was tendency to rush, but this didn't detract from the quality or the humour of his reading.

The Form 2 readers were John Lenehan, Justin Price and Edward Reynolds and, unlike the first form, two of them decided to choose a piece of prose of their own. The set poem was 'Sowing' by Edward Thomas, which Lenehan followed with a reading from *The 27th Annual Great Hippopotamus Race*. It goes without saying that these were read well, but I felt that a little more could have been made of the humour of the prose passage. Justin Price had learnt Mary Coleridge's poem 'The Deserted House' and his recital of it was balanced and sympathetic. I was glad that someone had chosen to read the set prose passage from Oscar Wilde's 'The Nightingale and the Rose' and Price did it very well indeed using every opportunity to inject feeling and pathos into

the piece. Edward Reynolds was not as strong on the set poem as he was in the reading of his chosen passage from Agatha Christie's *A Holiday for Murder*. His accents, intonation and expression were superb.

The selection of finalists from Form 3 had clearly been particularly difficult, and in the end there were five very good entrants. It is unnecessary to say that all were impressive but it must be said there were particular features of merit about each competitor. Michael Ellerton had difficulty with the set prose passage, 'Losing a Falcon' by T. H. White, but the softness of his voice paid dividends in his choice of poem, John Masfield's 'Posted as Missing'. Matthew Featherstone also read the set prose with a slightly casual air which, I thought, rather spoilt the drama and disappointment of the piece. However, the same sort of tone highlighted the weirdness, and so improved the effect, of his chosen poem, Lewis Carroll's famous 'Jabberwocky'. I think he has convinced me that the only thing for a 'mome rath' is to 'outgrabe', and if ever I should come across a situation other than this, it would be very odd indeed.

Caspar Jones recited the set poem, 'Preludes I and II' by T. S. Eliot, with panache but it was almost nothing in comparison to his prose reading from *Nicholas Nickleby*. (I don't think he was trying to curry favour when he accredited the authorship of this passage to Roald Dahl himself, but Mr. Dahl denied having written any such work, and as Dickens himself was not present to refute the suggestion, the reading could proceed!) It was animated and, accompanied by appropriate gestures, was the most dramatic reading of the evening. Stuart Robertson had quite a task to make an impression after such an act, but his confident and sensible reading of the set prose was probably the best of the evening. Somehow he managed to combine something like a news reader's matter-of-fact tone of voice with the dismay at the loss of the bird that might be expected were it his own — indeed the passage is written in the first person. His recitation of Kipling's 'The Deep Sea Cables' was also very good. David Roscoe recited the 'Preludes' very well but rather let himself down with his choice of prose. He read from a little book called *Cricket in Bloomers*, but I'm bound to say that he was at least half way through the passage before I realised exactly what it was about.

Julian Blackwell led the way for the Form 4 Contestants with the set prose from Nina Bawden's *Terror in the Night*, which was read with a little too much dramatic effect to be credible — but a good fault perhaps? His choice of poem was a humorous one by A. J. Lindon called 'A Cautionary Tale'. Again he spoke just a little too fast for the full effect to sink in, but he was not put off by the occasional interruption from the audience's laughter. Edward Casey did very well even to make it to the front of the Corinthian Room, having been one of the unfortunates who had walked about thirty miles in the twenty four hours leading up to the competition. His own choice of prose was from *The Iliad*, a brave choice and quite well executed, although I felt he was a little put off by having to accept one prompt in the set poem, John Masfield's 'A Wanderer's Song'.

Mark Holmes tackled the set poem with care and precision, although perhaps not sparkle. His choice of prose was from one of James Herriot's books and concerned the plight of the author trying to board a 'bus carrying two large parcels of books. Holmes's accents were both amusing and, as far as I can judge, accurate imitations of the Yorkshire dialect.

Angus Morrison chose to read the set prose and did so with an intelligent and interesting use of tone, pitch and volume that showed not only that he understood the passage but that he wanted his audience to do so as well. It was a pity that he had to take a prompt on his poem, Rupert Brooke's 'Clouds', and this seemed to put him off a little for the remaining part of the poem.

The competition ended, Mr. Dahl did not keep the winners in suspense for long. There were to be six prizes — one for each year, one for the best overall reader, and one for the runner-up. Scriven won in the first form, Price in the second and Morrison the fourth. The third form prize and runner-up went to Stuart Robertson and Caspar Jones, respectively — and Mr. Dahl said that the prize for the best overall reader clearly lay between these two, but that on this score he found it quite impossible to distinguish between them.

The evening was rounded off by Roald Dahl reading one of his own *Revolting Rhymes* to provide an amusing end to a very entertaining event.

E. J. F

MASTERMIND

The second Mastermind competition was held on the evening of Friday 20th June. Once again, two prizes were to be awarded: one for the individual winner, the other for the two contestants who amassed between them the largest number of points for their House. The reigning 'Mastermind' was Stephen Edwards, and Harcourt the holders of the House prize.

The six Finalists and their Special Subjects were: Edward Casey (The Great Western Railway, 1935-47), David Roscoe (British Inland Wild Birds), Michael Pye (The History of the Mormon Church), Alistair Shorrocks (Manchester United, 1970-86), and James Horada (The History and Working of the Trumpet). The sixth contestant was to have been Angus Morrison with 'The Life and Works of Dick Francis', but unfortunately he was confined to bed on the morning of the competition; his place was very gallantly taken by the 12-year old Richard Pye, who chose as his Special Subject 'English History, 1066-1381'. The Swift team was thus made up of two brothers.

The specialist rounds were, I thought, even better than those last year, both in terms of choices and the quality of questions: indeed, the latter had a great deal to do with the authentic atmosphere of the competition, which Mr. Fenton (who set up the Corinthian Room for the occasion) had gone to so much trouble to ensure in other ways. As it happened, not everyone managed to score double figures on their Special Subject, but they still brought great credit to themselves and their Houses for the way in which they kept their nerve in the hot seat. The final result was a very close-run thing — both on the part of the individual contestants and the three Houses — and was as exciting a conclusion as that of any competition which has been held this year. Edward Casey (27 pts, 8 passes) won over Richard Pye (26 pts, 4 passes) by 1 point, who in turn had a 1 point lead over David Roscoe (25 pts, 1 pass); and on this occasion Harcourt were just pipped at the post by Swift with a score of 44, closely followed by Queen Anne with 41.

Thanks are due to The Headmaster and the National Railway Museum for the questions on the



The Competitors:

Front: D. A. Roscoe, E. Casey (winner), R. L. Pye.
Back: M. R. Pye, J. J. Horada, A. Shorrocks.

Great Western Railway; and again to H.M. for those on Dick Francis which were not used. The Bursar clearly relished preparing the questions on Manchester United as much as he did those on Liverpool United for Alistair Shorrocks's elder brother last year. Mr. A. J. S. White, Mr. P. Gritton, Mr. A. Webster and Mr. P. J. Green were responsible for the rounds on birds, the trumpet, the Mormon Church and medieval history. Mr. Randall acted as timekeeper; Michael Stead as computer scoreboard operator (programme by Mr. Hudson); and Tim Lavender as manual scorer. To all — and to Mr. White who acted as joint question master — many thanks again.

P. J. C.

Scoreboard

	House	Spec. Subj.	Gen. Know.	Passes	TOTAL
CASEY	H	11	16	(8)	27
ROSCOE	Q.A.	7	18	(1)	25
M. PYE	S.W.	7	11	(6)	18
SHORROCK	H	8	8	(13)	16
HORADA	Q.A.	10	6	(6)	16
R. PYE	S.W.	14	12	(4)	26
Swift	44	Harcourt	43	Queen Anne	41

DEBATING RETROSPECT

The Debating Society has undergone a remarkable renaissance this year. Adrian Spencer reports on the Inter-House Competition, and our two Guest Adjudicators give their assessment of the Senior and Junior Prize debates in the Summer Term.

THE INTER-HOUSE COMPETITION

The first of the Inter-House debates during the Lent Term took place on 6th February, and was contested by Harcourt and Swift. The motion was 'This House believes that experiments on animals should be forbidden'. Jason Jones, who proposed the motion, was a little nervous in opening the debate; nor did he have an easy task, as it was hard to define where to draw the line on animal experiments that concerned the well-being of humans. However, Jason chose to emphasise the cruelty that was suffered by animals in seemingly needless experiments for cosmetic purposes. His speech was well-researched and complemented by posters and leaflets which showed in grisly details the torture that animals are put through.

Trevor Wright, opposing the motion, was clear and concise. He had a strong voice, and although his speech was a little short he managed to convey his argument well.

Sam Smith seconded the motion and he, I felt, contributed more emotionally to his speech and gave the impression that he really cared about the subject. Having said that, I feel that he relied on the sensationalism of the visual aids I have already mentioned, and in this sense his speech was similar to Jason's.

Fady Dona seconded for the opposition, and gave the most entertaining speech of the evening. He was very enthusiastic and obviously believed strongly in what he was saying. He caused quite a stir with the vehemence of his argument, his references to the Bible and Nazi scientists! On close inspection there was, in fact, little here in defence of animal experiments. Still, it was a very good debating speech.

Comment from the Floor was of a surprisingly high standard for this first debate. Price II, Edwards and Wariebi were especially commended for their contributions. Jones III, Jackson, Endeley, Hues II, Law, Lydon, Russ and Shearing also spoke. When all was said and done, the Judges awarded Harcourt

44 points and Swift 51. When put to the vote in the House the motion was defeated by 16 votes (66-50) with 9 abstentions. Having defeated Harcourt, Swift now had to take on the formidable powers of Queen Anne!

The House reassembled on 20th February. The motion was 'This House believes that capital punishment should be restored'. Wariebi, proposing the motion, opened with a confident and aggressive speech, albeit read slightly quickly; because of this he tended to stumble over his words in places. Opposing the motion, Michael Pye gave an excellent and forceful speech — quite theatrical in places and possibly the best speech of the competition. He kept the attention of the Floor all the time.

Seconding the motion for Queen Anne was Kershaw; this was his maiden speech and he did well. Although he was a little unsure in places and generally had to rely on his notes a lot, he nevertheless complemented Wariebi's speech ably. Angus Morrison, also giving his maiden speech, seconded for the opposition; he too made a creditable debut. He was very self-assured; he used many quotations in his speech and was quite entertaining. As with Pye, a very well-polished performance.

Comment from the Floor in this debate was not so good (or plentiful) as in the first one, with only Edward Smith being commended from the Chair. Discipline did start to deteriorate towards the end, too, and the Chamber got a bit disorderly in the absence of the judges, who were clearly chewing over their verdict. When they returned, the judges awarded 64 points to Swift and 61 points to Queen Anne, a result which showed that although the proposers had had the easier task, — which, however, they had performed very well — the opposers had made the best of their task too. When put to a vote from the Floor the motion was carried by 29 votes (77-48).

The third and final debate took place on 6th March and was fiercely fought out between Queen

Anne and Harcourt. The motion was that 'This House believes that the Police do not have enough power'.

Edwards proposed the motion for Harcourt, and although he quite rightly stated at the outset that it was almost impossible to define power, he thereby set the pace for a rather confused speech. It was only when he came to the fielding of questions and comment from the Floor that he clarified his arguments and showed how well he can think off the top of his head. Julian Russ replied for the opposition with a well-written speech full of facts and figures. These occasionally got in the way of the point he was trying to make, and his delivery was slightly staccato. However, on the whole, the content of his speech was excellent, and clearly gave Queen Anne the edge from the beginning.

Shorrock seconded the motion and based his whole argument on 'I really feel for the kids on the street', but he was clearly wrong on several major points and therefore wasn't entirely convincing. His speech was a good effort, but a little disjointed. In contrast, Daniel Jones gave a fine speech, clear and confident, and one which sealed Queen Anne's argument well.

Comment from the Floor was sparse but good, with Price II giving his usual contribution — this

time a motto; a spirited attack by Mr. White — well replied to by Jones (with much accompanying applause); and a humorous intervention by Ted Imónioro. Law, Robertson, Wariebi, Venman, Endeley, Kershaw and Sam Smith also spoke. The judges awarded 55 points to Queen Anne and 50 to Harcourt. When put to the Floor the motion was carried by 21 votes (57-36), with 7 abstentions. It is worth saying here, I think, that it was good to see a sensible attitude to the voting from the Floor; the boys had obviously considered which speeches merited points, rather than just voting out of loyalty for their own House.

And the result of the competition? As was expected, Queen Anne triumphed — although only by 1 point! The final scores were:

Queen Anne	116
Swift	115
Harcourt	94

Thanks must go to all those who acted as adjudicators: Mr. Stark, Mrs. Goldsmith, Mr. Fenton; Mr. White, Mrs. Carter, Mr. Watts; Mr. Green, Miss J. Munro, and Mr. Daniels; and of course to Mr. Cranham, the Chairman, for organising most skilfully the entire competition

A. E. D. Spencer

PRIZE DEBATES IN THE SUMMER TERM

This year the Senior Cullen Debate was contested (on an individual basis) on Friday 16th May, and, in the wake of the American bombing of Libya, the motion was a fairly topical one, "This House approves of meeting terrorism with force". The motion was proposed by Julian Russ and Daniel Jones, and opposed by Stephen Edwards and Trevor Wright. Mr. Richard Smail, Head of Classics at Radley College, kindly came to adjudicate. The debate was of a high standard, and was notable in one respect for the way in which Edwards demonstrated once again — as he did during the inter-House debates of the Lent Term — his ability to think quickly under pressure from the Floor. Messers Venman and Hadeed made their maiden speeches, and the following also spoke: Wariebi, Horton, Cole, S. J. Smith, Kershaw, Law and Endeley. Smith was particularly commended by the Chair for his two contributions. The judges unanimously decided that Daniel Jones was the best individual speaker, and this was reflected by a vote from the Floor for the sake of interest — Jones (41), Russ (16), Wright (15) and Edwards (11).

The Junior Debating Prize was contested on a team basis on the evening of Friday 20th June. The motion, "This House would fuse the television", was proposed by Michael Pye and Angus Morrison;

and opposed by Adule Wariebi and Jonathan Shorrock. On this occasion we were pleased to have Mr. Peter Hamilton, formerly a barrister, now a businessman, as our guest adjudicator. This debate, like the senior one a month before, was also of an extremely high standard, although it was perhaps one in which the seconders on either side distinguished themselves more than the principal speakers. As was to be expected, the motion excited a good deal of comment from the Floor, causing the Chairman to commend all who spoke: Johnston, S. J. Smith, Vernon, Kershaw, D. Morrison, Blackwell, Edwards, D. Smith, Macdonald, Browning, Law, Kabbara, Endeley and Pastor. Several of these spoke twice, in fact. When put to the vote the motion was defeated by a mere three votes (26-23, with 3 abstentions), which, in view of the Judges' decision, was perhaps of some consolation to the opposers!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Smail and Mr. Hamilton once again for giving up their time to adjudicate, and for submitting the written summaries of their adjudication which follow this report. I thank my colleagues, P. J. R. R., W. H. C. D., and E. J. F. for assisting the judges at various times.

P. J. C.

THE JUDGES' VERDICT ON THE SENIOR CULLEN DEBATE

This House approves of meeting terrorism with force

Mr. Jones, proposing the motion, spoke with considerable persuasiveness. His voice was clear and he maintained excellent eye-contact with those he was attempting to persuade. The structure of his speech was well-articulated, and he used historical, topical and local examples to good effect. He might perhaps have improved his timing: epigrams deserve emphasis, and "appeasement is cowardice" needed a pause to bring it home. Nevertheless, Mr. Jones was an assured speaker and he certainly convinced the Judges who were unanimous in their decision to award him the prize.

Mr. Edwards, leading for the opposition, had the second speaker's difficulty: should he adapt his prepared opening to take account of the proposer's arguments? He did not, and so the beginning of his speech lost impact, since he too began with a definition of terrorism. Mr. Edwards dwelt at length on the Libyan crisis, and his speech tended at times to become too much of an attack on the policies of the British government: perhaps he allowed his personal political beliefs to colour his argument overmuch. Nevertheless, he spoke with sincerity and vigour, his illustrative material was good, and he handled questions from the floor — always a politician's most difficult task — with great skill.

Mr. Russ, supporting the proposition, again began with a definition. He showed a good sense of rhetoric, and caught the attention of the House by his persuasive early arguments. In the central section of his speech, however, he tended to lose eye-contact; perhaps speakers should consider using a number of small cards for their notes instead of unwieldy sheets of paper.

Mr. Wright, supporting the opposition, brought particular dignity and maturity to the debate. He used his sonorous voice and impressive presence effectively, though he should perhaps have tried to modulate his voice and vary the speed of his delivery. He was, however, particularly successful in his summing up, with just the right blend of new material from the Floor contributions and emphasis of original arguments.

All four speakers are to be commended for their clear, well-organised speeches. The range of historical and topical knowledge which they (and the House) showed was particularly impressive. The atmosphere of the debate was dignified yet lively, and the enthusiasm of the Floor, combined with the readiness of the paper speakers to answer their challenges, produced creative debating of a very high standard.

R. C. Smail

THE JUDGES' VERDICT ON THE JUNIOR CULLEN DEBATE

This House would fuse the Television

The judges were looking for a team performance which scored well under three general headings, namely, content, delivery and, thirdly, a general heading taking into account the way in which points made by the other side of the floor were dealt with, or the ability to use examples to support an argument. Overall, the debate was lively, interesting and thoroughly enjoyable. It was a somewhat invidious task having to select a winner. However, we concluded that the proposer's Messrs Pye and Morrison should be declared the winners.

Mr Pye made a well delivered speech but we thought that its content was a little light. On the other hand Mr. Wareibi, who spoke first for the team opposing the motion, presented a well-argued,

cogent speech. Unfortunately, this was spoilt by the fact that he read it. His reply at the end of the debate was also a little weak. The next to speak was Mr. Morrison who seconded the motion. He delivered an excellent speech. It was well structured and argued, well researched, and delivered with great style. This was the point at which the debate really took off. Finally, Mr. Shorrocks spoke second in opposing the motion. He delivered a well argued and forceful speech. He performed particularly confidently in swotting some of the comments made from the floor.

These comments ought not to detract from what was undoubtedly a very high level of debate which showed no signs of running out of steam before the vote was called for.

P. B. Hamilton.

Advice to young debaters from the Adjudicator:

"Use a smaller piece of paper for your notes: it's rather difficult to make a rhetorical flourish holding a sheet of A4!"

THE JUNIOR CULLEN DEBATE

'This House would fuse the Television'

Angus Morrison seconding the
Motion for the winning team

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Floor —

The 1985-86 Television Season got off to a chilling start. A monitoring of the programmes shown from 6.50 p.m. onwards on all four channels in viewing regions throughout England, Scotland and Wales during the first week of September revealed that virtually one programme in three contained scenes of physical violence. Viewers saw —

A man having his throat cut with a kitchen knife, with a close-up of the victim's throat.

A man hitting a woman with his fists then battering her to the ground with a stick while the camera focussed on her bloodied face.

A sheriff with a pickaxe in his chest.

Two men and a woman beating a victim to the floor with wooden clubs, with his blood seeping into the carpet.

A villain holding a pistol to the head of his victim, then injecting him with a hypodermic needle thrust into his nose.

Beyond individual incidents of particular horror and gore, we should consider the cumulative desensitizing effects of such broadcasts. With five to fourteen year olds now watching an average of 23 hours of television a week, experts believe that by their late teens they could have witnessed some 16,000 violent deaths. When they reach adulthood, will they not be much quicker to resort to their fists or boots to solve their problems or get what they want?

Statistics suggest it!

Since the arrival of commercial television and the start of the rating battles in 1955 — when violence began emerging as a crucial ingredient in televised entertainment — reported crimes of violence against people in England and Wales have risen from 7,884 to 114,187 a year, and rapes known to the police from 340 to 1,433. The great majority of studies made of the subject cite television as a significant factor in these increases. Author and former television critic Milton Shulman asserts: "The evidence identifying television as an incredibly major contributor to violence is as clearly and scientifically established as the relationship between cigarette smoking and lung cancer".

Last December when the issue of television violence flared into fierce debate, the B.B.C. announced its intention to review its guidelines. Critics, however, have rarely objected to the scope of the guidelines — but rather to the fact that they are too often simply ignored.

The most flagrant breaches came with the screening of *Scum* — a purported look at Borstal life. It contained scenes showing a kicking in the genitals, a coshing using a sock full of billiard balls, an attempted braining of someone with a iron bar, and a homosexual rape. The national viewers and listeners association started a two-year legal battle to condemn the vetting procedures that had allowed *Scum* onto the screen in the first place. In the High Court, Lord Justice Watkins described the film as "gratuitously offensive and revolting without the slightest attempt to introduce any element of fairness or make any attempt to provide a balanced view of Borstal life." A further move was made in a private member's bill introduced in the House of Commons last December by M.P. Winston Churchill, who cited mounting evidence to link obscene and grossly violent material with the rapidly escalating incidents of violent, sadistic and sexual crime.

As the public debate gathers momentum, Conservative Party Chairman, Norman Tebbit, predicts a widespread revulsion against television violence. "The public will demand that television producers think about the effects of what they broadcast upon impressionable people."

I would like to talk a little bit about the News. When a viewer is watching the news he is only presented with one form of information — one point of view. Look at the Chernobyl disaster; on the television we heard that some 2000 deaths had been reported — in fact then there were only two. Ladies and Gentlemen, when you sell sausages is it the *meat* content that sells them? Is it the *goodness* that sells them? No, it's the sizzle in the frying pan! It's just the same with television.

Why do we need T.V.? If it is news we need, we can read that in the papers, and as most of us have

access to two or more papers we can get a broader outlook on the news — different opinions.

Finally, let me just say a word about television and its effect on the family. A Family Unit can only work if it *communicates*. If the family unit cannot communicate within itself, but relies on the T.V. — then that unit is void. The security of a family is kept together by communication — adolescents talking to their parents about their problems. Television destroys the unit of family life for either the children or the parents, or both. They are all watching the dreaded box. This leads to juvenile delinquency

because the juvenile is unable to communicate his problems with his parents — who are the best people to sort them out. Let me quote from Milton Shulman again: “Television certainly broadens the horizons of the young and brings the cultural heritage of the past and present to millions. But against these positive benefits must be balanced its enormous encouragement of violence and its anarchic, superficial and trivial vision of life. Somehow we must now start fighting back to stop it poisoning the most precious asset held by any society: the minds and sensibilities of our young people.”

A FEW MOMENTS FROM THIS YEAR'S DEBATES

“A Student has the advantage of open all hours — I mean, the Open University.” (Jonathan Shorrocks)

“Animals that are killed for food are painlessly killed. They are either shot or electrocuted...” (Jason Jones)

“I don't quite understand your question, but I'll attempt to answer it.” (Stephen Edwards)

“Did not Peter Sutcliffe remind us of someone we knew at the time?” (Michael Pye)



A few moments from the first night



THE SCHOOL PLAY

Treasure Island

Many congratulations must go to Clive Nightingale for undertaking such an ambitious production as "Treasure Island", and so imaginatively. Excellent use was made of the Church for the set, and the upper deck scenes in particular were enhanced by the acute shape of the beamed roof. The scene changes, of which there were quite a number, were managed effectively, and the camouflage netting was an inspired solution for the island scenes. (I did feel, however, that the placing of it was not so carefully handled, or perhaps sufficiently rehearsed, and some of the actors thus made their entrances and exits with difficulty, and at best rather awkwardly.) The music which was played while the audience took their seats — Khachaturian's 'Spartacus' — created just the right atmosphere of excitement and anticipation. I ought to mention too the excellent sea shanties, which had been very carefully chosen and were sung with great gusto by Mr. Gordon and Mr. Fenton.

Long John Silver (Stephen Edwards) managed his leg excellently throughout, no easy task; he also remembered his mammoth part very well. Jim Hawkins (Justin Price) gave us an enchanting performance — we believed in him absolutely. He is another who should be praised for his word-learning. The scenes between him and Captain Smollett (Daniel Jones) were good, but the latter made us need to lean forward a little to hear what he was saying. When employing a provincial accent an actor must always try to be convincing and at the same time make himself clearly understood; for the audience to have to strain to catch the words diminishes the impact of his performance, and therefore of those scenes.

There were some lovely moments between Squire Trelawny (Simon Johnston), who spoke clearly and boldly, and Dr. Livesay (Mark Holmes), very sympathetically played. One that stands out for me was Jim, front stage, describing a scene to the two of them — a very convincing moment.

Benn Gunn is the light, humorous relief almost every play needs, and Casper Jones seized this opportunity gladly and gave a fun performance. However, no actor — be he schoolboy or any other — ever removes his beard, wig or make-up in full view of the audience, except under specific conditions! Black Dog (Simon Dore), Billy Bones (Russell Baxter) and Blind Pew (Julian Russ) made

their characterisations positively felt, however small their appearances, and Blind Pew did not fail to send a shiver. His entry is always a moment of excitement in this story.

All the minor parts always a vital and necessary element to hold a play together, were executed very well, and special mention must I feel go to Anderson (James Penny) who was clear and never forgot his characterisation for a moment. It must have been hard for Morgan (Clifford Alderton) to have been on stage throughout, but he weathered the convincing storm that Duncan Morrison — who was responsible for sound lighting — created.

I really enjoyed watching all the characters coming alive, and the details — such as the sword fights, Redruth's death, the daring leap from the rigging into the water, and many other colourful touches — all combined to make a memorable and sustained performance.

Jennie Jones.

Those who had smaller parts in the Cast and who have not been mentioned in this review were:

Harry	John O'Dwyer
Redruth	Michael Kentish
Merry	Michael Lydon
Israel Hands	Adrian Spencer
Dick	Alexei Berwitz
O'Brien	Edward Bailey
Tom	Haydn Mellowship
Cray	Stuart Robertson
1st Pirate & Assistant	
Stage Manager	Mark Hues
2nd Pirate	Nolan Perry



Right: Duncan Morrison, lighting and technical operator.

Runs and Declarations galore — but elusive victory



House match cricket can be tense too. J. Reeve bowling to I. Badawi with A. Wariebi at silly mid off in the Swift v. Queen Anne match.

1ST XI CRICKET REPORT

Clearly Robert Browning, one of the famous poets of Victorian England, could not have been a great devotee of the Summer Game. Anyone who could have written "Oh to be in England now that April's there" could have had little concept of the sodden misery that cricketers endure each spring in this our green and pleasant land. Certainly the rain followed the bedraggled Indian tourists around in May this year while on the domestic front Spicer's youngsters found themselves dodging showers in near Arctic conditions with monotonous regularity, and it is greatly to their credit that they became such a good team during the course of the season.

However, from the start it seemed highly unlikely that the XI would enjoy the same degree of success that had almost been taken for granted over the previous four years. No longer could we call upon the Services of several outstanding cricketers whose exploits had made 1982-1985 such a golden age for Cokethorpe cricket. In fact a team of Old Boys selected from these years might read in batting order, Andrews, Healey, Shelley, Tomes, B. Akande, Wankling, N. Smith, Fisher, Abbott, Norman and Markham, and of the current XI only the captain himself could be sure of gaining a place in such a

powerful side. Nevertheless S. J. Smith, Reeve, Johnson, Howe, J. Beecharie and Cole had shown promise in 1985 and much was bound to depend upon their development if the XI was to compete with opposition teams whose members tend to be drawn from their various Sixth Forms and who are usually a year a head older on average than the best XI we can put into the field.

Sensible and consistent batting allowed the XI to declare in each of the four matches played in May. Against Radley Smith and Johnson posted their intentions for the season by putting on 50 for the first wicket before Smith was run out; Johnson scored 50 and Spicer made 48 attractive runs in an hour before the declaration at 152-8. However, although Spicer bowled tidily the support bowlers were not tight enough and several boundaries were conceded by indifferent field placings allowing Radley to sneak home with just four balls and one wicket to spare. At Abingdon the XI lost three quick wickets before Johnson, (60) and Howe (55 not out) broke the record for the fourth wicket partnership adding 105 runs in an hour and a half, (despite Johnson's running), which allowed Spicer to declare at 144-4. Abingdon were reduced to 65-9 at the close by some



Above left and right: *P. J. R. Randall Esq. working the ball to leg in his patient innings against the XI.*



Middle left: *Another scalp for Spicer — A. E. Gentry Esq. bowled for 5!*

Above right: *D. Roscoe keeping Spicer at bay in his innings against the School. J. Reeve crouches menacingly at short-leg.*

Bottom left: *Former 1st Captain Simon Ashby walks away after being bowled by Reeve for 14.*

lively bowling but even two dramatic wickets for Jabez in the final over could not quite do the trick and the match was drawn. Shiplake provided a much sterner challenge for the XI but Smith, 48, and Spicer 33, established a good base, while Cole played some extravagant shots, including an overhead tennis smash over square leg, in his highly entertaining 20. Spicer took three wickets, Smith holding two good catches, so Shiplake were restricted to 102-3 at the close. Unfortunately bad weather washed out the Stowe and Oratory matches but against Dean Close on May 31st the XI raced to 194-4 thanks to a fluent 76 from Spicer and a battling 65 from Smith. Spicer followed this up by bowling excellently, taking 6-45 in 17 overs, but Reeve lacked penetration and although Jabez induced several false strokes the ball would not run for the XI and Dean Close scrambled a draw with 132-8.

In early June the XI drew three more matches outplaying Kingham Hill, struggling against Magdalen and ending all square with Rendcomb in a high scoring match. Spicer once again showed what a splendid all round cricketer he is at Kingham dominating the batting with 31 out of 99 and taking 5-22 with the ball. Howe and Barry also batted well in this game, Reeve bowled with much more life and freedom while Russ took an outstanding catch in the gully which surprised and delighted everyone. Reeve also bowled steadily against Magdalen, but this was Wariebi's day and his 7-27 was an outstanding performance for a boy in the Fourth Form. Unhappily Cole, our other Fourth Former playing in this match, was struck a dreadful blow in the mouth while fielding at silly mid off so could not bat, and when Johnson, Smith, Spicer, Barry and Reeve were dismissed for 44 all seemed lost. However Howe batted with great determination for over an hour to hold the middle order together and when he was bowled Forster and J. Beeharie held on for almost half an hour to earn the draw. Smith dominated the batting against Rendcomb to become the first Cokethorpe player to score a century in a home match, and with good support from Barry (34 not out), added an unbroken 94 in an hour for the fourth wicket before the declaration at 172-3. However Rendcomb were far from dismayed, handling Reeve and Wariebi roughly, and Spicer had to call up the centurion to partner him with the ball. Spicer finished with 4-44 while Smith took 3-40 and these too very nearly bowled the XI to what would have been a famous victory. In the end Rendcomb scored a creditable 166-8 and the match was drawn.

During the period of the School examinations the XI's team spirit was really put to the test. No one who broiled in a broken-down coach for several hours at Kingston Bagpuize instead of driving down to play Pangbourne is likely to forget Wednesday, June 25th in a hurry and perhaps the XI was still suffering from heat stroke when they lost to Malvern

the next afternoon. Once again Smith was run out and although Spicer and Howe battled hard, and Cole struck some belligerent blows, a weakened team could only manage 109 on rather a bouncy pitch. Spicer bowled with life and venom to take 3-37, branding one young Malvernian in the process, but some attractive stroke play and good running between the wickets saw Malvern triumph by 7 wickets.

After all their trials and tribulations the XI enjoyed considerable success in the final two matches of term. P.J.G.'s XI was dismissed for 120 thanks to steady bowling from Spicer and James, who took three wickets each, backed up by some splendidly aggressive fielding by the rest of the team. Smith and Johnson then put on 62 for the first wicket before Smith fell to the left arm guile of Mr. Nightingale for 37. Johnson struck some lusty blows to improve the scoring rate before being caught and bowled for 44; Cole was caught at third man off the top edge and when Spicer was caught by Endeley for 3, to be followed back to the pavilion in rapid succession by Reeve and Barry, the XI's chances of winning seemed to have disappeared. However from 99-6, Wariebi and Howe nursed the score along to 118 with one ball remaining. Howe quite rightly flung his bat, the ball climbed steeply to drop into, and out of, the hands of the forlorn fielder at deep extra cover, the batsmen ran like hares and the winning three runs were completed as the return came in to the bowler's end. At Bloxham, Howe took on the role of sheet anchor, opening the innings in the absence of Johnson, (who was playing a different part altogether!), and made 43 in a little over two and a quarter hours. Meanwhile Spicer had scored 50 out of a second wicket partnership of 69 in 82 minutes, while Cole had contributed a typically swashbuckling 35 out of the 54 scored for the third wicket in a frantic 34 minutes, enabling Spicer to declare at 155-7 (for the Sixth time in ten matches) and exert maximum pressure when Bloxham batted. In fact the match ended in another draw in spite of five excellent catches being held and Reeve coming back to something like his best form with the ball. Unquestionably the XI was desperately unlucky not to end the season with a second victory for a ball from Spicer clipped the off stump of the Bloxham number three without removing a bail when the young gentleman in question had made only two — he went on to score fifty out of Bloxham's 93-6, so perhaps the XI could claim a moral victory at least.

Finally a few words of thanks must go to our groundsman, Martin Walker, who produced wickets which were truer and outfields better tended than has been the case for several years; to Sister and the two Matrons for keeping the XI fit and tidy; to the kitchen staff for preparing meals at odd hours; and to the posse of scorers too numerous to mention who pandered so kindly to my passion for statistics.

P. J. G.



1st Captain M. J. Spicer in contemplative mood during a House match.

XI AVERAGES

BATTING (Qualification 6 innings)

	Inns.	N.O.	H.S.	Runs	Ave.
S. J. Smith	10	1	108	303	33.67
Howe	10	3	55*	203	29.00
Spicer	10	0	76	284	29.40
Johnson	8	0	60	174	21.75
Barry	8	2	34*	77	12.83
Cole	7	0	35	83	11.86

BOWLING (Qualification 6 wickets)

	Overs	Maidens	Wkts.	Runs	Ave.
Wariebi	18. ³	3	10	82	8.20
Spicer	131. ²	31	32	299	9.34
Reeve	107. ²	19	16	372	23.25

COLOURS

XI: M. J. Spicer, S. J. Smith, J. M. Reeve, M. G. W. Howe
 XXII: P. R. Barry, S. T. T. Johnson, A. M. Wariebi, F. A. Cole,
 M. Jabez.

SUMMARY OF MATCHES PLAYED

XI: Played 10, Won 1, Drawn 7, Lost 2

Sat. 3rd May v. Radley U.16B (Away). XI 152-8 dec. (Johnson 50, Spicer 48, S. J. Smith 22), Radley 153-9 (Spicer 3-37).
 Wed. 7th May v. Abingdon 3rd XI (Away.) XI 144-4 dec. (Johnson 60, Howe 55*), Abingdon 65-9 (Reeve 4-32).
 Wed. 14th May v. Shiplake 1st XI (Away). XI 144-9 dec. (S. J. Smith 48, Spicer 33, Cole 20), Shiplake 102-3 (Spicer 3-32).
 Sat. 31st May v. Dean Close 2nd XI (Home), XI 194-4 dec. (Spicer 76, S. J. Smith 65, Howe 20*), Dean Close 132-8 (Spicer 6-45).
 Sat. 7th June v. Kingham Hill 1st XI (Away). XI 99 (Spicer 31), Kingham Hill 43-8 (Spicer 5-22, Reeve 3-20).
 Sat. 14th June v. Magdalen 2nd XI (Home). Magdalen 128 (Wariebi 7-27), XI 84-8 (Howe 29).
 Thur. 19th June v. Rencomb 1st XI (Home). XI 172-3 dec. (S. J. Smith 108*, Barry 34*), Rendcomb 166-8 (Spicer 4-44, S. J. Smith 3-40).
 Thur. 26th June v. Malvern Senior Colts (Away). XI 109 (Spicer 32), Malvern 112-3 (Spicer 3-37).
 Sat. 28th June v. P.J.G.'s XI (Home). P.J.G.'s XI 120 (James 3-16, Spicer 3-18), XI 121-6 (Johnson 44, S. J. Smith 37).
 Wed. 2nd July v. Bloxham 2nd XI (Away). XI 155-7 dec. (Spicer 50, Howe 43, Cole 35). Bloxham 93-6 (Reeve 3-34).

HOUSE MATCHES

1st Match: Swift 58 (Russ 6-6), Queen Anne 49 (Spicer 4-12, J. Beeharie 3-3).
 2nd Match: Queen Anne 103 (Orebiyi 34, Johnson 31, Barry 5-27), Harcourt 104-3 (Ng. 45, S. J. Smith 44*).
 3rd Match: Swift 117 (Spicer 39, Barry 4-25), Harcourt 52 (Spicer 5-7).

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

1st Match: Swift 63-0 (Spicer 49*), beat Harcourt 61-2 (Barry 34*) by 2 runs.
 2nd Match: Queen Anne 39-4 lost to Harcourt 40-1 by 4 wickets
 3rd Match: Swift 29-3 lost to Queen Anne 30-1 (Johnson 22*) by 4 wickets.
 Harcourt won the cup with a Runs Scored/Wickets Lost average of 33.67, Swift came second with 30.67 and Queen Anne third with 13.80
 North Oxford C.C. 61-0 beat the Cokethorpe "Elite" Squad 51-3 (Spicer 21*), by 10 runs.

SUMMARY OF UNDER 15 MATCHES PLAYED

Wed. 7th May v. Abingdon U.14 (Away). U.15 121 (Orebiyi 46, J. Shorrocks 30), Abingdon 100-6 (Endeley 3-26).
Wed. 14th May v. Shiplake U.15 (Away). U.15 156-8 dec. (Ng. 31, Okeke 22, M. Pye 20*), Shiplake 158-6 (Orebiyi 3-42).
Wed. 4th June v. Bloxham U.15 (Home). U.15 147 (Ng. 56, Okeke 30, Cole 20), Bloxham 73-8 (V. Beecharie 3-1).
Wed. 11th June v. Rendcomb U.15 (Home). U.15 221-6 dec. (Cole 77, Ng. 69, M. Pye 27), Rendcomb 46 (James 3-8, V. Beecharie 3-16).
Sat. 14th June v. Magdalen U.15 (Home). U.15 89 (O'Dwyer 20), Magdalen 66-8 (Endeley 3-18, Penny 3-20).
Wed. 18th June v. Kingham Hill U.15 (Away). U.15 118 (J. Shorrocks 33*, O'Dwyer 20), Kingham Hill 119-4 (Wariebi 3-26).

U14 CRICKET REPORT

After allowing victory to slip from our grasp against Kingham Hill in the first match despite dropping nine opposition wickets for 61 after amassing a very healthy score ourselves, thanks chiefly to Orebiyi (64 not out) and Shorrocks II (41) the rest of the season was spent fighting largely defensive actions because of the (abject) frailty of our batting. Despite worthy efforts from the already-mentioned and Roscoe, Ellerton and O'Dwyer, we were never consistent enough to bat confidently and set a total or to chase a score. There was towards the end of the season the feeling of inevitability that, however well we bowled, fielded and contained a side, our batting would never be able to survive until the close of play. While victory was generally always beyond our capabilities, there was more than one occasion when an honourable draw was almost achieved.

As I have previously mentioned the opposition was never allowed to gain total control when put into bat and score too many runs chiefly because of the heroic bowling of the likes of Hadeed whose progress, at least with the ball, was extremely encouraging and skipper Roscoe. Penny, until Mr. Nightingale stole him for the play, also performed very well indeed, bowling straight and hitting the stumps regularly. He and Ellerton also earned praise for the standard of their fielding and catching throughout the season.

We found the all round strength of larger schools like Rendcomb, Magdalen and Dean Close too much to cope with, but perhaps the most disappointing defeat was against Warriner School from Bloxham in the U.14 Lord Taverner's Cup.

This was a match we should have won, but our batting collapsed totally, and in less than two hours a 40-over-a-side match was a terrible humiliation.

We at least showed some spirit in the final match of the season against Bloxham who included two or three county players in their line-up. The opposition raced away in the first hour against some very mediocre bowling to score 75-1 and I felt that a score of well over 200 was looming, but thanks to a prolonged bowling stint by Hadeed who took 6-40 from 17 overs and a very tidy spell by Roscoe, they were restricted to 131-9 which didn't exactly give us hope of a result but the boys had good reason to be satisfied with themselves as there were also some good catches taken. Bloxham eventually wicketed out the final Cokethorpe batsman at 6-30 with only 4 of the final 20 overs remaining. The total of 65 all out was largely due to a patient opening partnership of 27 between Roscoe and Ellerton, the latter remaining for 1½ hours at the wicket, scoring only 4 but showing great determination. Although nobody scored many runs tremendous application was also shown by Blackwell, Martyr and Kabbara.

Several of the boys who played with the U.14 side in 1985 are now established members of the 1st XI and I would like to think that two or three of this side would be up to making the grade next season. It will be interesting to chart the progress of wicket keeper Birch, Martyr, Smith IV, Kabbara, Pye 2 amongst others next summer as they will have certainly learned some lessons from this campaign.

P. J. R. R.

SUMMARY OF UNDER 14 MATCHES PLAYED

Wed. 30th April v. Kingham Hill U.14 (Home). U.14 130-4 dec. (Orebiyi 64*, A. Shorrocks 41), Kingham Hill 60-9 (A. Shorrocks 3-6, V. Beecharie 3-15).
Sat. 31st May v. Dean Close U.14 (Home). U.14 95 (Roscoe 28, Orebiyi 22), Dean Close 96-2.
Wed. 11th June v. Magdalen U.14 (Home). Magdalen 132 (Hadeed 5-16, A. Shorrocks 4-58), U.14 50.
Wed. 18th June v. Warriner U.14 (Home) Cup Match. U.14 31, Warriner 32-2.
Thur. 19th June v. Rendcomb U.14 (Home). Rendcomb 126-7 dec. (O'Dwyer 3-24), U.14 38.
Wed. 2nd July v. Bloxham U.14 (Away). Bloxham 136-9 dec. (Hadeed 6-48), U.14 60 (Roscoe 20).



*Our first U13 team. Back row: N. L. Perry, D. A. Roscoe, R. L. Pye, M. R. Lowe, R. Martyr, C. D. Birch.
Front row: A. Bryan, M. O. Smith, J. B. Price, M. Ellerton, M. Searson, N. F. Bingham.
Master i/c P.J.R.R.*

U12 AND 13 JUNIOR SPORT

One of the current growth areas of the School is in forms 1 and 2 involving boys aged between 10 and 12 and as a result over the last two years we have been steadily building sports fixtures lists for these year groups, establishing new links with schools in the private and state sectors. This coming rugby season for example we have arranged at least five matches for our U.13s with various schools and we hope to arrange at least as many matches during the football term.

The benefit of arranging matches for the younger boys was very evident during this last cricket term. The Junior Colts cricket squad was by far the largest that we have had to deal with and the fact that as well as having 10 U.14 matches we also had five matches at U.12 and U.13 level meant that 27 boys out of a squad of 31 played for the school in a representative match which can only be a healthy situation.

The cricket matches this season were played against Carterton, Kingham Hill and St. Hugh's and with the exception of the fixture against St. Hugh's which had to be abandoned half way through its course because of rain, all the matches were won and there were some splendidly exciting close finishes (we won by 12 runs against Kingham and by 1 wicket against Carterton with just two balls to come!) to encourage the boys. The team led by Justin Price, a youthful veteran of the U.14 side, until he was required for the School Play, played hard and enjoyed themselves thoroughly, which I always feel is the main thing at this age. It was also pleasant to see so many parents attending the matches. Several of the boys were good enough to play for the U.14 side, thereby gaining more experience for the future and I hope that this age group will go from strength to strength as the school grows not only in cricket but at all sports.

P. J. R. R.

From a history essay:

"At this time Mary Queen of Scots fled to France..."

In the biology class:

Question: *What is a fertilised egg called?*

Answer: *It depends on what the parents decide.*



Our first ever 'Cokethorpe Eight' passing under Hammersmith Bridge, exhibiting some individualistic timing.

Cokethorpe's Fine Fours slide to victory

BOAT CLUB REPORT

A dramatic, and you may think rather immodest, heading to this report, but I always feel it ought to be realised that at every Regatta Cokethorpe attends we compete against a large number of Schools and Clubs.

At any one Saturday Regatta where we win, we will have beaten perhaps seven or eight other Clubs who have all entered their best crews in that category. In this sport there is no such thing as the time honoured gentlemanly agreement that we should play the Radley Whatever XI just because we are a small School.

A J.16 or Novice event can attract any School or Club in the country who chooses to enter that category. Indeed our 16 and 17 year old oarsmen have spent more time rowing against men in their 20s than they have against those of their own age group. It is for these, and many other reasons, that any victory at a Regatta really is a valuable achievement indeed.

Rowing is a peculiar sport in so many ways; most sports like rowing require hours of fitness and skill practice before any competition can be undertaken, but how often does a rugby or cricket team spend 97% of their competitive day preparing equipment and only 3% of their time actually competing. It can take an hour or so to de-rig our fours and sculls and to tie them safely to our trailer, the same to rig them when we arrive at the Regatta; this activity is repeated for the return to our own Boathouse — 4 hours of spanners, drivers, ropes and toil for a 3 minute race! Even the most fashion conscious of women would surely not spend the equivalent 240 hours dressing for a three hour party.

Perhaps this is yet another reason why passions run so high in our rowing world and why the boys obtain such great pleasure and pride from a victory. As they say, the more you put in.....

LENT TERM

For those of you have not yet visited our Boathouse at Newbridge, it is the most idyllic of settings four miles from the School on the Thames by the Rose Revived. However many tourists and locals may enjoy watching us row past in the summer while they enjoy a beer, or navigate the river, you will only find Cokethorpe boys and a few rather chilled swans

on this particular stretch in February and March. It is then that we do most of our training for the coming Regatta season. Rowing in sub-zero temperatures with wet oars in a stiff north wind is good training indeed for an oarsman, but sadly many of our newer and less experienced oarsmen spent less time on the water than I would have liked, as the stream was often running far too high and fast for safety. In fact, Thames Water had advised me not to boat on so many occasions that I had to go against advice several times. Despite this, we had a useful term getting over many of the basics.

SUMMER TERM

Although this is our most hectic term with Regattas most weekends, the conditions allowed us time on the water such that especially our Junior Crews came on very well indeed. In fact we were lucky enough to have four quite natural oarsmen in our J.14 and despite their vastly differing sizes they pulled well together as a crew and as friends. Armed with new skills and fitness, hopeful anticipation and a beautiful new coxed pair, Cokethorpe Boat Club started the Regatta season.

Sunday 27th April: A good start to the season. Our new coxed pair with I. Bayarri at stroke, J. Jones at bow and L. Lincoln Lewis as Cox won the Senior C. Event by a Canvas. The Cokethorpe Junior Scullers, Pether and Jackson took 1st and 2nd in the Junior Sculls.

Saturday 3rd May: Season continued remarkably well; Junior Sculls succeeded again, the coxed pair won to move up to Senior B Status after yet another very close final and our novice crew acquitted themselves well to miss the final narrowly.

Sunday 11th May: J.14, J.15, J.16 Pair and Sculls met at Carmel College. All our oarsmen rowed well beating other Schools but were knocked out during the heats. Only the J.16 reached the final where they sadly lost by a canvas to Windsor Boys School.

Wednesday 14th May: Under pouring rain, two crews attended the Bull Cup Regatta. The Senior Crew rowed well, but were beaten by a strong Belmont IV. Our J.16 crew rowed a total of 8 miles over four heats to beat Wycliffe College in the final. They won the Junior Ball Plate.



*The winning Senior Pair: J. W. Jones & I. Bayarri;
L. J. Lincoln-Lewis in between.*



*The J15 rig the Restricted IV at
Carmel Regatta.*

Saturday 31st May: All our crews turned out at Coate Water Park Regatta. This was a very high standard event and although we did not take any pots, all crews acquitted themselves well.

Saturday 14th June: One of the first days of good weather at a Regatta this season. Sadly this was the last Senior event. Our Senior Novice crew who had only got together at the start of the season won their first two races of the season. A good feeling and a good end to their year.

Saturday 21st June: With many thanks again to Mr. T. J. Smith for the use of his Lake at Stanton Harcourt and to whoever else for the weather, our Inter-House Regatta was a great success. All Houses were of a similar standard this year, giving some excellent racing. All our heats took place against the clock on the River near Newbridge as time only allowed finals on the day itself.

The Victors were:

Junior Sculls — Pether I Swift.
Senior Sculls — Bayarri I Harcourt
Junior IV Swift
Senior IV Harcourt

The overall winners were Harcourt who beat Swift by only one point.

Saturday 28th June: The Ratcliffe College Regatta is a small Regatta that does not accept the very largest schools, although the competition does include invitations to Belmont Abbey School. Yet another lovely summer's day heralded the finale of our season. Two crews from Cokethorpe took part and although one J.15 was knocked out by Becket School in the final, our J.14 crew won their first pot of the season, well deserved medals and smiles and a fine end of the year.

I would have to use more space than allowed to thank all those concerned in helping with our successes this year, but I must mention a few: I should like to thank the 'Rowing Masters' who have given up so much of their time to coach in all conditions; the Headmaster and parents for their invaluable support at Regattas and finally the boys, especially J. Jones, the Captain of Boats and indeed S. Cope, who has remained trained and competed in our Boat Club while still doing a full time job and also revising for his exams here.

I wish all the very best to those who have left the Club, not least of all R. G. Thompson who has done wonders in coaching throughout. For those of us who remain, I am sure that we are all looking forward to the next season.

W. H. C. D.



'Never was so much given to so few by so many'. Open Day regatta trophies.

RIFLE CLUB

In the autumn 28 boys shot regularly each week, 6 shot on two occasions and 11 shot only once. Baxter and Mercer were the two top scorers averaging 93. Berwitz, Kehoe and Demner averaged 88, Holmes 87, Wright 86, Venman 84, Goad 83, Chowdhury and Pye I 82 and Badawi II, Ng and Dona II 81. Others had lower averages.

N.S.R.A. Junior Winter Competition

Under 18 Team (outward scoring targets)	Baxter	86	92
	Venman	85	77
	Wright	83	77
	Chowdhury	68	52
	Total 620		
Under 15 Team	Holmes	84	91
	Berwitz	93	86
	Ng	95	86
	Pye I	82	90
	Total 707		

By Easter Berwitz had improved his average score to 91, Forster to 90, Pye I to 88, Ng to 86, Venman to 85 and Badawi II to 83. A new boy to the school, Al Busaidy, averaged 84 for the term.

Immediately after the Easter holiday we held the Inter-House competition when for the second year in succession Queen Anne were the winners.

Queen Anne	Veman Capt.	92
	Demner	85
	Messenger	90
	Al Busaidy	90
	Total 357	
Harcourt	Baxter Capt.	96
	Ng	89
	Barry	74
	Berwitz	93
	Total 352	
Swift	Mercer Capt.	88
	Pye I	94
	Holmes	83
	Turner	82
	Total 347	

The Davis Cup Handicap competition was won by Venman with a handicap of 5 and a score of 92 giving him a final total of 97. Runners up were Forster, Baxter and Wright.

N.S.R.A. Junior Summer Competition

Under 18 Team	Baxter	89	87
	Venman	91	90
	Wright	80	84
	Mercer	87	89
	Total 697		

D. L. T.

CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING

We have enjoyed yet another very good year's shooting and have made a few improvements to equipment and the general run of things. We have moved our shooting location, which has enabled us to try some exciting overhead shooting, as clays tear over a small clearing in our copse. We also continue with our usual away and rising shots, and the always difficult low-traversing birds. Even some of our old die-hards have enjoyed the move, although some still hanker after the low clay that just had to be taken as it passed the old 'Trespassers will be Prosecuted' sign on the sewage plant. The woodworm-riddled lattice fencing has now been replaced and a sparkling new sign now hangs on an even newer brick surround.

The majority of our guns are now 12 bores, as even the younger boys have quickly progressed through their 20 bores, and I must say that the standard of shooting would not be out of place in any local clay shooting club. I am also always very impressed with how well boys respect and maintain their guns, whether they are their own or they have been lucky enough to borrow one. The after-shoot cleaning sessions are as much a part of the sport as anything; there is something very evocative about the clinging smell of gun oil.

I think the only other change that I should mention is that we now use mini-clays instead of the old lumbering full sizers of last year. These provide excellent sport and I challenge even the fastest avian to keep up with one.

We were lucky enough to have our Inter-House clay competition on one of the few sunny days of spring. Four relaxed yet tight-lipped marksmen from each House were given ten birds from each of three positions — away, overhead and traversing. The results were as follows, giving Swift House the Shooting Cup and J. Mercer the honour of being the best shot of the day:

SWIFT

	Away	Traversing	Overhead
Hues 1	1	6	8
Ferguson	4	2	9
Kehoe	8	2	9
Mercer	9	6	10
Total: 74 clays			

QUEEN ANNE

	Away	Traversing	Overhead
Messenger	7	0	8
Stead	5	3	8
Griffiths	4	0	8
Al-Busaidy	8	4	10
Total: 65 clays			

HARCOURT

	Away	Traversing	Overhead
Glanville	6	5	8
Barry	9	1	7
Perry	7	1	9
Miles	1	1	5

Total: 60 clays

Although clay pigeon shooting is perhaps an expensive sport, we have all gained a great deal from the year's shooting and I look forward to continuing with the old hands, and indeed starting some new blood, in the autumn.

W. H. C. D.

ATHLETICS

The Gymnasium

Very few of the Old Boys would now recognise the gymnasium with its new floor covering, new (albeit fragile) roofing tiles and brightly painted interior. The Weights Room has also been transformed into quite a large work/conditioning/remedial room. With this facility we have this year produced three South Midlands weight lifting champions and a County champion.

The BANHAM BOX presented by Mrs. E. M. Banham takes pride of place in the gym and keeps the new Judo/Gymnastic mats company. A more recent addition to the gym is the full sized trampoline which has already become the focal point for a group of boys every Thursday evening, and they are well into the syllabus.

The Rowing Group have found the gym and the Weights Room very useful this term for land training, and again I would like to thank Mr. Wetherill for his very kind gift of the rowing machine. Now what we really need is a Multi Gym!

Athletics Standards

During the Summer Term, cricket and rowing are the major sports and in order to continue the standards competition, boys are coached and tested during their P.E. periods. This has worked quite well, and of course any boy not involved with one of the main sports can attend the afternoon sessions. This is also a very good method of continually assessing athletic performance of the individual.

Running

The running bug again hit Cokethorpe and this year we started with the Bicester Fun Run, a two lap I.O.K. course. Matthew Lake and Julian Russ

enjoyed the run but regretted having taken the Christmas pudding beforehand.

A strong team entered the Oxfordshire Boys Club Championships and almost had a clean sweep. The following were selected to represent Oxford in the Nationals: J. Russ, R. Pye, S. Edwards, I. Ogborn, M. Searson and J. Mercer. The North Oxon followed and again J. Russ was selected to represent Oxford in the English Schools Championships at Durham.

The Bourton-on-the-Water I.O.K. run was enjoyed by Messrs. Thompson, Lawry, Stark and K. Pitt, J. Russ, M. Lake, S. Dore (yes Simon Dore) and J. Jones. The Stratford Half Marathon came next, this was rather a tough one (it seemed all uphill to me) and it required stamina and determination to complete it. Julian Russ returned a time of 1hr 26. with Mr. Lawry on 1hr 28. Keith Pitt and Matthew Lake also ran very well.

As if this was not enough, Matthew Lake ran the Ridgeway Cross country half-marathon. This is a real test of endurance — very well done Matthew. Keith Pitt was pipped to the post by his father in the half marathon, but this was also a very good effort from Keith.

The finest run of the year must, however, be the John Davie Appeal Marathon which he ran on Open Day. He completed the run in 3hrs 10 mins and raised quite a considerable amount of money for the Appeal. From all of us, John, a very big thank you.

Sports Day

Because the Play this year was being staged at the end of Term, Sports Day was held two weeks earlier than usual. School records were broken, the weather was perfect and the programme ran smoothly and kept to split second timing. The competitors enjoyed themselves but something was missing — the great number of parents who normally attend on the last day of term — so it all seemed rather flat.

The two highlights of the meeting were, I feel, Sam Smith's new High Jump record of 1m. 74 and Matthew Searson's 1500m.

Everyone has made a very good effort this year, especially as we are a small school (and dare I say it again — the potential is tremendous). The accompanying table shows all the record-breaking achievements of the year.

We now have most of the equipment we require, but I would like to improve the track and especially the Long Jump run up. Did I hear someone say an all weather run up? And what about the hurdles? Ah well, Rome was not built in a day — but that is Classical Studies, not my field.

J. W. S.

School Records 1986

Senior	1500m	Russ	4m. 23.72
	High Jump	Smith	1m.74
	4x100 Relay	Queen Anne House	49.23
Junior	4x100 Relay	Harcourt House	51.02

Age Group Records 1986

Under 14	100m	Gbaja-Biamila	12sec.49
	400m	"	62sec.82
	Javelin	"	23m.45
	Discus	"	23m.44
	High Jump	"	1m.65
	Long Jump	"	4m.80
	Triple Jump	"	11m.48
	800m	Penny	2m.30.13
Under 15	100m	Vernon	12sec.40
	200m	Okeke	25m.16
	Shot	Shorrocks I	11m.89
	Long Jump	Okeke	5m.55
	Triple Jump	Matuenas	9m.20
Under 16	100m	Vernon	12sec.40
	Shot	Wariebi	11m.49
	Discus	Messenger	31m.40
Under 17	100m	Kehoe	12sec.50
	800m	Russ	2m.19
	Shot	Baxter	10m.60
	Discus	Dore	24m.00
	High Jump	Smith I	1m.74
	Long Jump	Fergusson	5m.15
	Triple Jump	Badawi I	10m.89
Under 18	400m	Bayarri	1m.06.12
	Javelin	Bayarri	22m.10
	Shot	Ogunlami	10m.70
	Discus	Ogunlami	27m.70
	Long Jump	Narendra	4m.85
	Triple Jump	Jabed	10m.32

Under 19 Nil

TENNIS

A team of six players, captained by Otto Bekouw, played the annual friendly match against Radley College and again we lost. Time I think to look into this area, and next year we must concentrate more on skills training. The Radley coach commented upon our team's obvious fitness and hitting power, but that is not enough — we want to win. Look out next year, Radley.

J. W. S.

OUTWARD BOUND

In the winter term a number of 5th formers were given a course in basic camp cooking by Mrs. Goldsmith and Martin Geelan. This ended with a competition in the first week of the Easter term in which both groups produced a three course meal for a competition which Mrs. Carter kindly judged. Both groups did well but the overall winners — who introduced an attractive little menu — were Martin's group, T. Lavender, D. Jones, W. D. Ferris, C. J. Stobo, P. R. Barry and T. O. B. Messenger. Many thanks to both Mrs. Goldsmith and Martin who gave up so much time to ensure that the courses were a success.

We are also grateful to the matrons who again ran some husbandry courses. There was no competition at the end but M. Doherty was judged to be the most skilful.

Mr. Fenton joined the Outward Bound group in September and took over the responsibility of training the 3rd form. This has been very useful because Mr. Daniels has, as a result, been free to run a course for a few boys in elementary vehicle maintenance.

In the Spring term we had another First Aid course, run by the St. John Ambulance Brigade. At the end we were again pleased to get a pass rate of over 90% in the exam.

In the Summer term instead of taking the 4th form to the Brecon Beacons, or other similar wild country, we decided to try an experiment. We went down to Avebury, where we were lucky enough to be able to camp on the Hues' Farm, and then set the boys off on a Marathon walk along the Ridgeway. Each group was given the challenge of attempting to walk 26 miles within a 24 hour period. In the past we have all camped together but on this occasion each group was able to choose where to camp provided that it was within a 3 mile stretch of the Ridgeway. In this way they would be able to decide whether to walk a greater or lesser distance on the first day. In fact everybody ended up in the same place just above Wantage. All groups managed to complete the distance within the time which was no mean achievement as in addition to the walking boys had to carry all their equipment, tents, food and spare clothes.

The 3rd form also had a successful camp but on a different part of the Ridgeway near Streatley. Some groups got lost temporarily, but eventually found their way to the camp site. There are places on the Ridgeway where navigation is not absolutely straight forward and I do feel that if these trips are worth doing they must not be too easy or otherwise there can be no real sense of achievement in completing the distance. In fact on the whole the 3rd form did very well.

For the first time we have some boys who have entered for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. The four 4th formers F. A. Cole, Y. Badawi, S. R. C. Lowe and A. M. Wariebi will start their training in earnest in September and we wish them the best of luck.

J. P. W.

RAMBLING

On Monday afternoons, whilst most of the school was involved with A.C.F. and Outward Bound, Forms 1 and 2 went rambling with Mr. Thomson. On the first Monday we walked around the grounds looking at the remains of the kitchen garden, discovering an ancient path which used to cross the school and finding some old farm machinery. We left the grounds, walking through Hardwick as far as the back road to Witney. The excitement came at the end when the footpath crossed the Windrush by means of a ford. This was a slight struggle as the bank of the river was very muddy. The following week we were more adventurous and walked to Witney along footpaths across fields and along the river bank. After a long wait by the leisure centre the mini bus eventually came to pick us up.

The four mile walk around the Standlake gravel pits proved almost too much for some and the crocodile tail became very long, so long in fact that several boys missed the day-boy bus home. In a bird recognition quiz Ross was found to be very knowledgeable, identifying sixteen out of nineteen birds. Two boys did not succeed in identifying any — not even the common House Sparrow — and a farmer's son only recognised one! However, on another occasion, an observation competition in the school grounds produced different results. This time the boys worked in pairs and Price II and Reynolds were the winners finishing in 79 minutes and scoring 96%. They were the only pair to find an owl pellet. Pether I and MacDonald also did well scoring 86% in 59 minutes.

The 4th November found us building a bonfire for the firework display. This was a job well done and the following evening proved to be enjoyable. Also in November we visited the Burford Wild Life Park. What a fascinating place this is, even on a winter's day when we were almost the only people there!

In January we walked across a flooded Port Meadow, wondering at times whether we were ever going to reach our destination, for water seemed to cover the face of the earth. There were large flocks of duck and waders about but we found it difficult to identify them. Another favourite place of mine is

Shotover and here we did quite a lot of running, up hill and down dale. Some of us had good views of a Green Woodpecker that seemed to be flying our way. It is interesting how high places hold a fascination for us.

Birdland, at Bourton-on-the-Water, is always worth a visit, though unhappily we were too late for the feeding of the penguins. How fast and agile they are when the fish are thrown in and they never collide! The Natural History Museum in Oxford is another marvellous place, with its enormous skeletons dominating the hall. The boys also enjoyed the Pitt Rivers museum with its endless collections of everyday artefacts from primitive cultures around the world.

One afternoon when snow lay deep on the ground we trudged around the lake at Blenheim. Who could not fail to be enthralled by the beauty of that scene? Equally beautiful, though on a far smaller scale, is the little church at Widford near Burford, now with no village attached to it but surrounded by fields. Formerly, a Roman Villa stood on the spot; the occupants must have enjoyed a pleasant existence in that sheltered little valley. We poked around in vain in mole mounds for Roman coins. The field by the river was covered with ice, much to the delight of the more adventurous amongst us.

When the weather became really hot in the summer several Monday afternoons were happily spent swimming at the ford. A floating log seemed to be the focus of activity. No matter how many boys managed to sit on it it refused to sink.

D. L. T.

ICE COLD IN OXFORD

Ice skating at the futuristic looking rink in Oxford is one of the wide variety of activities available on Thursday afternoons in the Lent term. The skating itself gives vigorous exercise, and is a source of fun for boys of all ages, to say nothing of the coach ride through the countryside to get there. Mind you, for the master in charge it is not without its hazards. Provoked by the head boy, I myself took to the ice for the first time in my life, in advancing middle age. But I received much friendly help and encouragement, and actually began to enjoy myself. Never too late to learn. I should like to say a big thank-you to Ogborn, who did most of the organising, and to all the boys themselves for their exemplary behaviour.

J. A.

WEIGHTLIFTING

The weightlifting club takes place on the activity afternoon and has been run by John Stark and Fred Knipe, both very experienced coaches. Fred is an international referee and has given a lot of his spare time encouraging the boys. John wanted to spend more time coaching judo and asked if I would stand in for him. I have never lifted competitively but often used weights to improve my sports performance. Fred immediately took me under his wing and soon I had passed my B.A.W.L.A. (British Amateur Weightlifters Association) leaders coaching award. Simon Dore has been a keen lifter and gained his leaders certificate on the same course.

In the past, the sport has had much bad press, mainly due to the "Beefcake" competitions first held in America. Physiques were developed far beyond their corresponding strength and prizes were given for the best posing body rather than the strongest competitor. Many people tend to think of weightlifters as slow lumbering strongmen, similar to the circus performers once often seen. If you can imagine an 11 stone man putting twice his weight above his head in less than a second, as in the Olympic Snatch lift, you can begin to appreciate the speed, balance, strength and courage needed to succeed at the sport.

We are keen that boys understand the mechanical and physiological movements of lifting weights and this helps from a safety point of view, keeping injuries to a minimum. The atmosphere within the club has been good and although numbers have fluctuated from week to week, due to other commitments, we can look back on a very successful year indeed. We entered over 30 boys for Britain's Strongest Schoolboys award, with weights ranging from 95 kilos (Wareibi) down to 40 kilos (Pether II). Jason Jones gave the best performance lifting more than his own bodyweight, earning him a national medal award. Other good lifts were by Ellerton, Mathews, Baxter, Wareibi and Doherty.

During the term, three of our best lifters, Simon Dore, Adule Wareibi and Russell Baxter competed at the West Midlands power lifting championships and all returned with gold medals. A fortnight later, they competed in the southern regional championships and again returned with their "pots of gold". An excellent performance, even more creditable considering our numbers at school. Combined with a recent win over the Witney novices, they can feel pleased with their years efforts.

At the end of the summer term, we lose Simon Dore, our keenest competitor. Simon's reputation for abruptness was never less apparent than when he was coaching our younger members. His patience, dexterity and encouraging manner was a credit to his year. Simon leaves to pursue a career as a Physical Training Instructor in the Royal Marines. It will be



Gold Medallists — Russell Baxter, Adule Wareibi and Simon Dore.

a sad loss for the club but we wish him the best of luck (from personal experience I know he will need it!) We look now for someone as keen as Simon to help keep the club standard high and assist with coaching. Young Piers Pether perhaps?

T. J. L.

EVERGREEN

*Love soft as an easy chair,
love fresh as the morning air,
one love that is shared by two —
I have found it in you.*

*Like a rose under the April snow,
I was always certain love would grow,
love ageless and ever green, seldom seen by two.
You and I will make each night a first,
every day a beginning.
Spirits rise and their dance is unrehearsed,
they warm and excite us,
coz we have that brightness now.*

*Two lights that shine as one,
morning lovely as the midnight sun,
love ageless and evergreen,
the love that could have been.*

Russell Baxter



Art Department

This year both the 4th and 5th year art groups were of a size where differing styles and attitudes stimulated some interesting and lively work within each group. The 4th year option students will be the last to be entered for the ordinary level art exam. The new G.C.S.E. now makes its entrance. As in all other subjects this will bring changes. Students will now be encouraged to work themes through in various media and in 2 and 3 dimensional studies. Background research and art history study can be assessed and grades added towards the eventual exam results. Two years of course work is also evaluated, for each student, towards the final certificate grade.

During the autumn term the 5th year group paid a visit to the Royal Academy to see the Reynolds exhibition. Due to Reynolds being unanimously voted first President soon after the foundation of the R.A. and his having then held the position until 1790, he obviously played an important part in influencing artists both here and on the continent. He also re-kindled the interest of the public at large in the fine arts in this country. It was a change therefore to visit and study an English artist who had achieved this rather than the more visual Italian or French arbiters of style and influence.

During the same term members of the 5th year produced an excellent poster for a General Studies talk on Oscar Wilde and the Creative Hobbies Exhibition had interesting and varied art work contributions from all sections of the School. The work this year was judged by Mr. M. Dillon of Abingdon School. The art prize was awarded to Neil Pineo.

In the Spring term the activities afternoon art group designed and executed the blackcloth for the Masters' play "The Lady in the Corner". Baxter and Harbour were later to contribute art work for the Summer term School play, "Treasure Island".

The art work displayed in the front hall throughout the year showed how varied is the imagination of many of the Cokethorpe students. For the academic year of 1985-86 the Open Art Prize was awarded to Simon Harbour. The fourth year Art Prize had joint winners, these being Matthew Houghton and John Endeley.

A. S.

Ceramics

The ceramics department continues to expand as we move into the second year of the G.C.E. course and the new group of prospective candidates swells the numbers. I was delighted to hear that M. Howland had passed his ceramics 'O' level. As our first candidate, he successfully sat the examination after only one years study. Congratulations Matthew, and thank you for setting us such a high standard.

In the Autumn term we made a visit to London jointly with the Art Department. We travelled by coach and leaving Mrs. Stone and her group of painters at the Royal Academy to enjoy the Reynolds exhibition, we went on to the Victoria and Albert Museum. We climbed the wide, shallow staircases until we reached the top floor, lit entirely by roof lights. All the walls were covered in glass fronted shelves to almost their full height and on these were displayed pots of all shapes, sizes and colours. The centres of the rooms were also generously filled with large display cabinets containing pottery from many countries and many ages.

At the top of the stairs we found ourselves among the colourful modern ceramics of Lucy Rie and Jacqui Poncelet, and we worked our way past huge jugs by Michael Cason, vases by William Staite-Murray to the work of Susy Cooper and the Pottery Ladies, and on past the rise of Wedgwood and the Industrial Revolution to the traditional Staffordshire slipwares of the 17th century. We studied the cases full of Italian majolica albarellos and more cases of delftware including the "blue dash" charges; we looked at Persian bowls, Staffordshire pew figures, Hispano-Moresque lustre bowls and Bernard Palissey's strange dishes modelled in high relief. We tried to sketch some of the pots we liked so that we might retain a clearer memory of them. So many of the V&A's vast collection of ceramics are used to illustrate books and articles on pottery that some pieces were already familiar, but we were continually amazed at the difference between photo and reality — size and colour are difficult to realise in reproduction but we found the forms often deceptive too — bowls were not only larger and more colourful but possessed fuller curves or a subtle turn to the rim; figure groups were not only more intricately modelled but amazingly smaller and more delicate.

The Craft and Hobbies competition at the end of the Autumn Term provided a show case for the potters throughout the school, and it was very nice to see the pick of the year's work so well displayed with the painting, drawing and other craftwork.

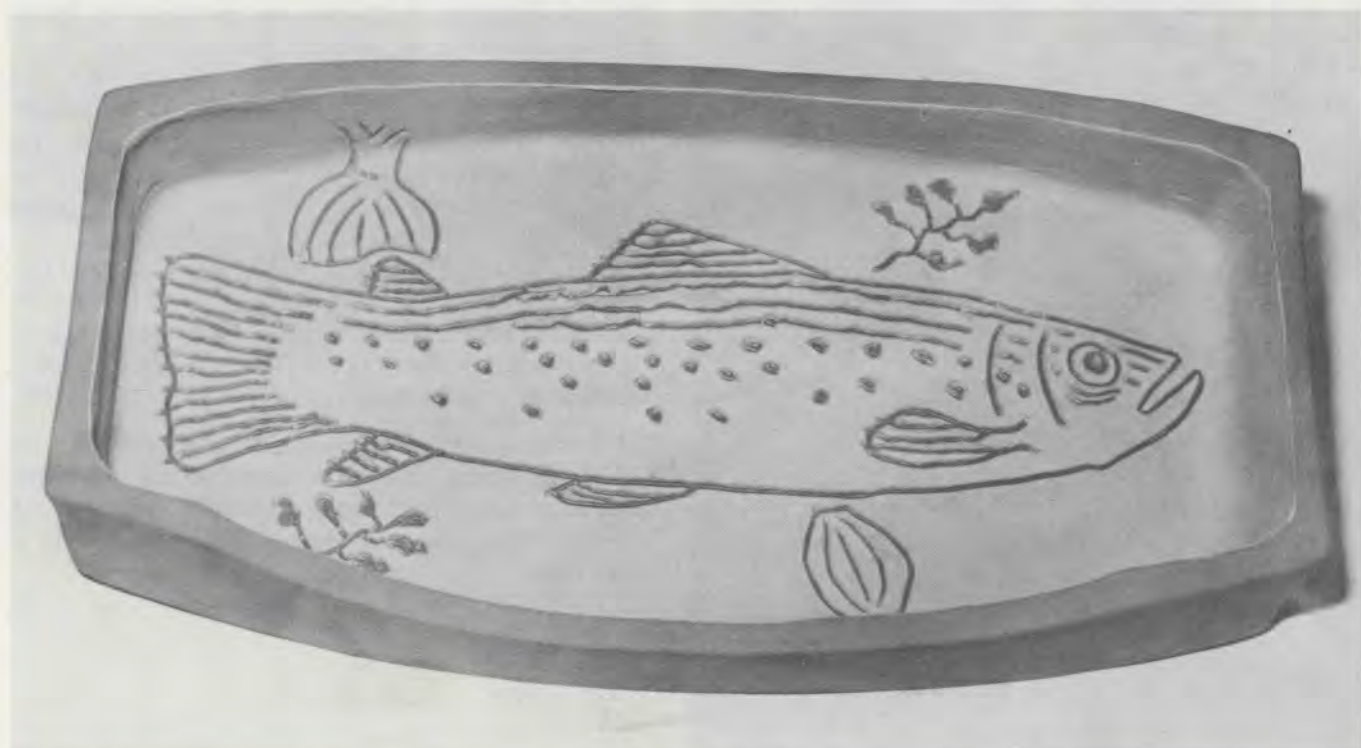
Open Day coming just before the G.C.E. Ceramics assessment supplied an opportunity for the candidates to set up their work a few days in advance and gain a wider audience, and I think everyone enjoyed the resulting display in the Pottery Room. I hope the examiner did also! Each candidate showed his distinctive style with Simon Pedoe concentrating on modelled figures and animals and N. Sitinas modelling abstract forms. Emphasis on C. Stobo's display was on wheel thrown ware and A. Collett had a very good and varied display with his modelled "cow", slab-built tudor house and thrown and moulded examples. K. Pitt and M. Glanville showed mostly slab and moulded earthenware with some slip decoration and S. Smith was another with a varied group of pieces including some incised work. Richard Miles' work was predominantly slab ware including a large agateware teapot, a bread crock and a hot water bottle with a very well made screw cap.

There is always work on display in the school by our up and coming potters and while we continue to develop the skill and creativity of — to mention a few names, such as Julian Blackwell, Reah, Leveham, Donall, Berwitz, Featherstone, Reynolds, Searson, Ross and Liao we can look forward to further successful exhibitions in the coming years.

B. W.

Opposite page: *Part of the Open Day ceramics display — work by A. G. Collett.*

Below: *'Olympic Group' — exam piece by S. R. Pedoe.*



Serving dish by A. G. Collett.

Woodwork

The rebuilding of the workshop area started last August with roughly three weeks to the start of term. It was one of those tasks that looked fairly straightforward initially, but as you progress you find more and more needs doing. False ceiling, more lighting, new level floor (cobble give character but are rather dangerous in a workshop situation) three new benches, four tool cupboards and pegboards, coats of paint and varnish all round. I had already ordered sets of new tools, six bench vices and a band saw, so was keen to keep the cost of building materials to a minimum. (I am sure the bursar will find this hard to believe as he is convinced I have shares in Clarkes timber merchants. I wish I had!)

The term started with a bang ... my new lighting system fused rooms 1 to 6. It was then that Philip Randall noticed what a practical chap I was. "Practically blew the school up Tim." A minor setback, down to work. Years 1-3 operated on a round-robin system as usual — Art, Ceramics, Woodwork. I remember the first lesson vividly, the delighted faces entering the new "play" area;

"What does this do sir?"

"Is this sharp sir? Ooh, yes it is!" (First casualty)

"Wicked electric drill sir."

I turn to see my lovely new bench peppered with holes and slowly disintegrating in a pile of sawdust, a 4 foot figure barely visible behind the flying wood chippings, with a stance commonly adopted by John Rambo and his eyes glazed with delirium as my Bosch Handyman whines to fever pitch fighting to grind the drill bit into a fresh piece of wood.

Lucky the drill is in reverse, I thought.

My previous woodworking experience had been on a voluntary basis for an orphanage in Bedford for kids who kept running away from other orphanages. A few months and battle scars later, I thought I was prepared for most types of budding "blizzard" woodworkers. Cokethorpe came as a slight jolt. A little firm direction was needed, and given, things soon settled down.

Many of the boys had knowledge of the craft from John White and soon projects were developing. I decided to give the boys a fairly free hand in what they made, enjoyment coupled with learning being the key factor. Projects such as 6 foot rocket ships with operational jet motors were discouraged for smaller artefacts such as pencil cases and tuck boxes. Several reasonable and rather interesting items emerged. Mark Smith of Form 2 won the Creative Hobbies joinery prize with his snow sledge, whilst Richard Reah won the wood-turning section with several pieces of work including three new scrolls for the clock tower. Richard Oldham must have a mention for the imaginative pieces that he continues to produce. Paul Matuenas of the fourth year O level group wins the woodwork prize for his graphic ability and work/prep quality, and I have awarded an extra prize to Nicholas Horn who has spent many hours with me working on projects throughout the year, mainly other people's. I should like to take this opportunity to thank all the boys who gave up their free time to help with a number of activities, ranging from the building of my office, props for the school plays, the extension of the workshop, and the goose house. My thanks to: Justin Price, Richard Reah, William Jackson, Stephen Mathews, Simon Dore, David Law, Wayne Lloyd, Michael Lydon, Charles Whitwell, Mark Hues, Ashley Forster, Andrew Venman, Keith Pitt, Trevor Wright, James Jeffs, Ian Kershaw and uncle Tom Copley.

I look forward to next academic year with the new G.C.S.E. group and the introduction of more graphic design work, and hopefully, if the tools arrive on time, the introduction of metalwork to a small scale.

T. J. L.



*Richard Reah with one of the new scrolls
he made for the clock tower.*

THE NEW LAND ROVER

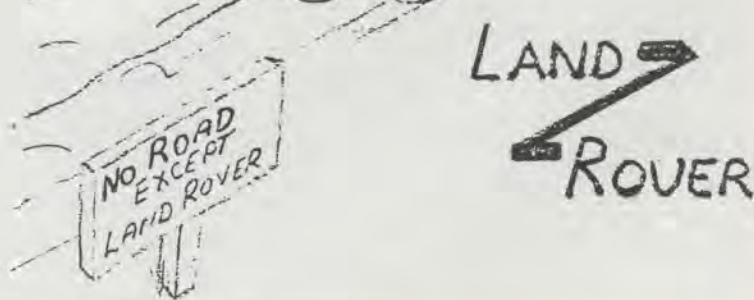
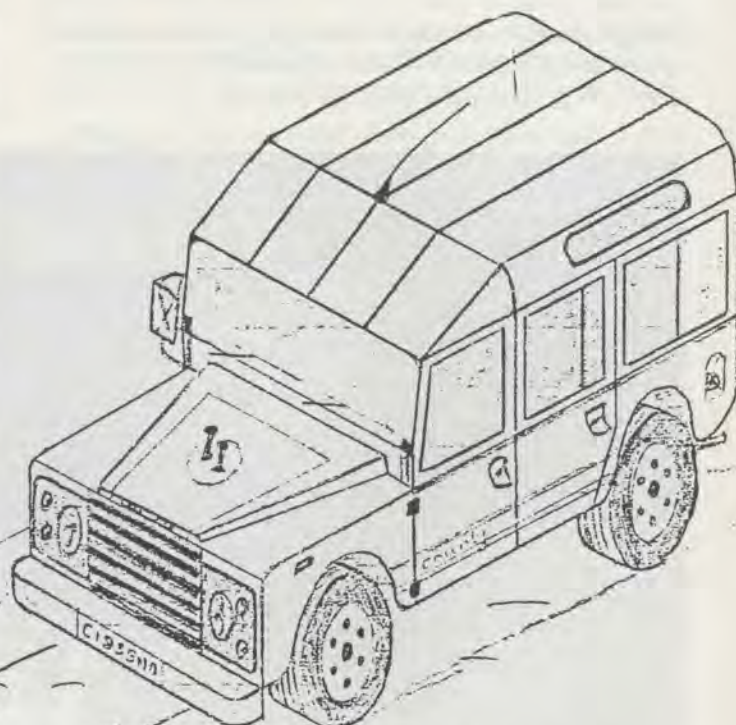
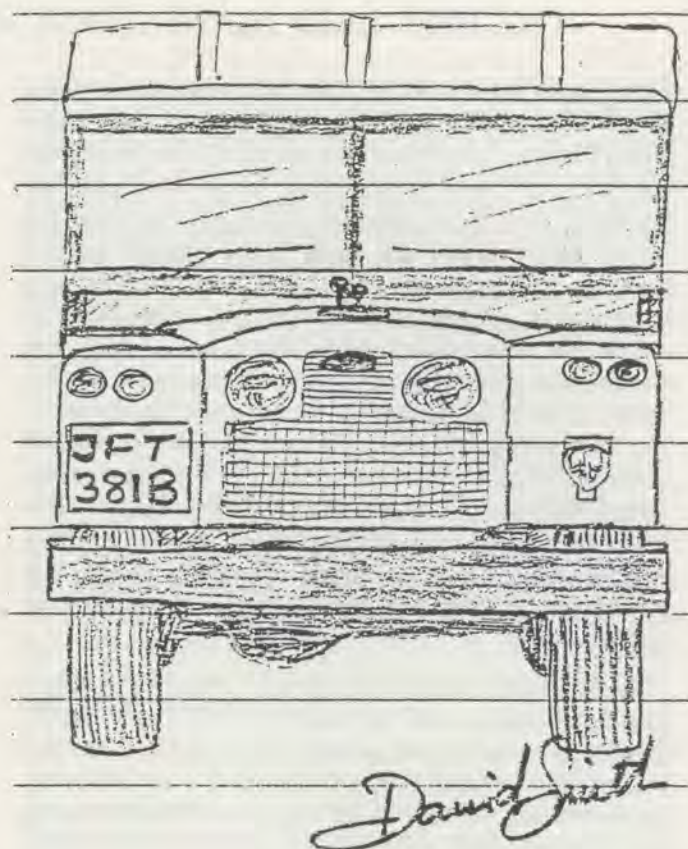
Last spring the brown 109" Y reg. Land Rover, which was bought for towing the boat trailer and carrying boys to and from the river, was sold, and the school purchased a brand new 110", A reg., station wagon instead. It has a hard-wearing specification, and a hard-to-keep-clean colour — white! The vehicle is one of the latest Land Rovers, with a powerful V6 2.8 litre engine. C 487 GJO is a 5-door standard version and is permanently four-wheel drive. It has high and low ratio gears with the added advantage of a differential lock which transfers power to any wheel in contact with the terrain, even if two other wheels have lost traction. It has a ZF 5-speed gearbox, compared with the old versions which had 4 speeds plus overdrive. The tyres are big Avon Ranger Mk II, with the spare on the back door. To take the big Avon tyres, heavy duty coil springs are fitted; the old versions had leaf springs. Because of the tyres, the coil springs and the highly raised up body, the vehicle has a minimum ground clearance of 45 cm, but it can wade while water is touching the bonnet, for all doors and electrical parts in the engine are sealed.

The inside of the new 'tank', as some boys call it, is surprisingly luxurious. The seats, though basic, are comfortable. The noise from the engine has been dampened by a newly designed roof-lining and secured doors, windows and air vents. All windows open, except front and back; and the present model has a new one-piece windscreen. The back window is electrically heated and has its own wash-wipe system.

When Land Rovers were first designed and built in 1948, they were basic, hard-wearing and practical. That was the Series I. In 1959 the Series II was brought out, bringing new comforts to the 'workhorse'. In 1972 came the Series III which was a superb vehicle and won most 4 x 4 events it went in for. Two years before that Land Rover Ltd. gave birth to the Range Rover, which was and still is the best 4 x 4 and 6 x 6 vehicle around. (6 x 6 means that all six wheels have traction). 1983 saw the beginning of the Ninety and One Ten inch Land Rovers, which Mr. Daniels described as 'the roaring beasts'!

Land Rovers are now better than ever before. The school is proud to own this magnificent vehicle and it should serve us well for years to come.

D. G. Smith



THE BEST LAID PLANS...

I had intended to call it "What has happened to them now?" — but the answer must be that in many cases I don't know. In the last two issues of *The Peacock* the quantity of news from Old Boys has steadily declined, and, in an attempt to try to re-vitalise this section of the magazine, early in the summer term I decided to circularise fifty Old Boys of various generations, asking each of them to write 200-300 words on what they had done since they left Cokethorpe, or what they are doing now. I also asked, if possible, to have a fairly recent snapshot — the idea being to set it side by side with a slightly enlarged version of themselves out of the appropriate school photograph of the time. As the Bursar now offers the magazine to Old Boys at a very preferential rate, and I am told that quite a number have taken advantage of this, the time seemed favourable to such an idea.

Alas, I have received (at the time of going to press) just three replies, and the willing promise of a fourth. Naturally, this is not enough for a feature on the scale I had in mind, and it leaves me in rather an embarrassing position with the three Old Boys who have replied. All I can do here is to give the merest substance of what they wrote.

Below: Saved from a crippled ball of fluff, Gilbert steps out with a few of his friends. Goose mansion built by N. W. Horn, S. A. Robertson & C. B. Alderton.

Those who were contemporaries of Guy Brady (1980-82) and Timothy Anderson (1979-84) may be interested to know that the former is now in his fourth year as a successful tour operator ('Guy's Tours') in the Cotswolds. He has a general sales agent in the U.S.A. and can arrange anything from a night in a gipsy caravan to a flight over the Oxford colleges!

Timothy Anderson has just completed an enjoyable first year at the University of St. Andrews, reading three subjects for the first two years, but intending to major in History. I can just imagine him wearing his red gown on Sundays! Although he still has no idea what he wants to do when he graduates, he expects to succumb to the lure of the City and its potential for big monies!

Rory Bourke (1974-78) graduated from Aberdeen University in 1984 with a degree in Art History, and has been working in the oil paintings department of Bonhams, the auctioneers. At the moment he is temporarily working for Burberrys in Regent Street, hoping to find work in a commercial gallery, preferably specialising in sporting and marine pictures.

Richard Banham (1978-83), who kindly undertook to write a piece at a later date, is now an Officer Cadet at The Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. It should be added that he is there largely — or perhaps even entirely — by dint of his own efforts, and his persistence does him great credit.

P. J. C.



NOMADS TOUR

The shattering news of Vice-Captain Hugh Scott's crash into a cement lorry and the consequent broken bone in the "battered babe's" neck could easily have cast an air of gloom and despondency over the 15th Tour to the "Jewel of the Industrial Midlands". Fortunately Hugh made such a happy recovery that he was able to join us as a spectator in mid-week, so we were able to set out for the Big Heart of England from our respective bases on Bastille Day, Monday July 14th in much better spirits than had seemed likely a week earlier.

The full touring party consisted of Messrs. Green and Randall, Old Boys Macleod (Vice-Captain), Tomlinson, Shelley, N. Smith and Abbott, with Spicer, S. J. Smith, Reeve, Johnson and Howe from this year's XI. Rod McKenzie, joined the party on Wednesday to play against Harborne and Lapworth, bringing his charming wife Karen to act as scorer, while the original (1972) Vice-Captain Michael de Weymarn drove down from Wrekin to play against Rowington.

Only a small group ate the traditional lunch at the White Swan, Henley-in-Arden on Monday but the view through the leaded lights was as attractive and mobile as ever. Nick Smith quickly, (and profitably), engaged the fruit machine while Jeremy Abbott appraised the bar with the eye of the true professional. After this interlude we drove to Birmingham and registered at the Norfolk Hotel and considered the implications of the revolutionary changes to what had been a well-known T.T. Hotel ... the Edgbaston Bar indeed!

The captain was increasingly relieved as the other members of the legion assembled. Simon Johnson was dropped off by his father on his way South, James Tomlinson arrived by banger to fill the reception area with his kit and personality, James Shelley drove in looking like an extra from yet another remake of the film *Beau Geste*, (unshaven but cheerful), P. J. R. R. was conveyed from Cardiff to New Street Station courtesy of B.R. and Mr. Spicer dropped the young Leicestershire foxes (Michael Spicer, Sam Smith and Matthew Howe) just before opening time. Nonetheless it was not until the Met released Stuart Macleod that the main party was complete.

Tuesday dawned dry and bright and everyone was down to breakfast in good time. Room 123 had been lucky enough to receive early morning calls at 6.30 a.m. and 7 a.m. planned by N. Smith, to make sure that they were not fined on the first morning but seemed none too pleased, but James Tomlinson's awful Richie Benaud impression and talk of invitations to Liberty's on Thursday quickly improved the mood. After breakfast the "ancients" went putting, but after a conventional nine holes the 1986/7 ruling junta joined in and it was observed that chipping from the earth of the rose beds with a putter was not as easy as all that.

After lunching at the Duck we drove in stuttering convoy to Tanworth in Arden. This year we found Bate's Lane without irritation, even if we did have to dodge earth movers and road making machines before arriving at the ground itself, but then found ourselves assigned to a Turkish bath of a changing room which resembled in size and airlessness the original Black Hole of Calcutta.

It seemed to the captain that the Nomads might be in for a difficult afternoon when he lost the toss, but much to his surprise and delight Tanworth elected to field first in

perfect batting conditions. Tomlinson and Sam Smith began steadily and twenty runs had been scored before Tomlinson played over a slower ball of full length which bowled him. Spicer settled in carefully before Smith was bowled for 11 (29-2) after fifty minutes so the scoring rate needed prompt acceleration. This was achieved with Macleod and Spicer together and when the vice-captain was caught for a well played 17, 43 runs had been added in 35 minutes. Spicer kept the scoring rate going at an even pace although Abbott, who has yet to bat well on this ground, and was now being persecuted by the spinners could only manage one in a quarter of an hour before perishing, stumped (87-4). Green and Spicer took the score to 116 with surprisingly nimble footwork, (Abbott please note!) and lusty blows before the captain was "gloved" down the legside for 20 in 24 minutes. Spicer's fine innings ended when he was bowled for 61, trying to force the pace, but Nick Smith batted splendidly to make 19 out of 28 in 21 minutes with Shelley before being run out with the score at 160. There was just time for Johnson to get off the mark and for Shelley to double his score before the declaration at 173-7.

Tanworth got off to a flying start, fifty runs coming from the first eight overs for the loss of only one wicket, but when Tomlinson was brought on as first change the scoring rate slowed somewhat and Spicer bowled with greater and greater penetration finishing with the creditable figures of 5-44 in 17 overs. Macleod spun out two of the tail enders (thanks to Tomlinson's safe hands in the deep and a blinding catch in the gully by Spicer), and when the ninth wicket fell at 134, fourteen balls remained. However there was to be no dramatic eleventh hour victory and although the close fielders gathered like so many vultures, Tanworth escaped with a draw at 141-9.

When we had emerged from the Black Hole after showering and changing, further fun and games took place in the main pavilion. Sam Smith once again showed his gymnastic ability in the round the chair game, James Tomlinson was damped down when acting as engine four in Lancaster bombers, while Howe and Johnson were baptised in Stuart Macleod's yachting contest. Jeremy Abbott once again excelled in the two p game.

On Wednesday morning S. Smith, Howe and Johnson were fined for coming down to breakfast after the Captain's deadline but things looked up for them when the Boys overcame the Old Boys at football on the hotel lawn. This surprising result was achieved in spite of Macleod's skill and Tomlinson's professional fouls, (on all bar Spicer who would not allow himself to be kicked), but with the aid of some questionable refereeing from the captain in the deciding encounter. The Senior pro spent the next half hour chatting up Birgit, a pretty young waitress from Munchen-Gladbach as she sunbathed by the lawn until the arrival of Rod McKenzie and the bearded Hugh Scott, complete with Dickie Bird cap, changed the focus of interest, neatly filling the time remaining before lunch.

Quite a crowd turned up to watch our match against Harborne and we began well enough, Tomlinson and Macleod putting on 32 for the first wicket before disaster struck. Mr. Vice was caught in the slips, McKenzie was bowled playing back first ball and Tomlinson was caught at cover to make the score 36-3. Spicer defended stubbornly for half an hour while Sam Smith doubled the score, hitting two sixes into the trees in his bright 29.

Green and Shelley put on a further 22 before the Captain misjudged a cut departing for 15, Howe was caught at mid off before getting under way (98-7) Abbott went for 9 and Shelley for 17 grafted in eighty minutes. Finally Randall pushed a broad pad down the wicket once too often and was adjudged L.B.W., leaving the Nomads all out for 127. After tea the openers set about our bowling with great relish, and despite a splendid tumbling catch at long off by Howe, Harborne raced to a nine wicket win with sixteen overs left.

On Thursday once again the coin came down "heads" so after team photographs in front of the pavilion taken by Hugh Scott we were able to sit in the shade while the Lapworth fielders sweltered in the sun. After being given some batting practice by his wife (who is a fiendishly quick bowler) McKenzie belted the bent-armed Lapworth opener to all parts for 28, but after his fall, in strode the youthful Johnson to gain some experience playing against the men. To say that he succeeded would be a considerable understatement for after the departure of N. Smith for 25 (2-70), Johnson and Tomlinson stepped up the pace putting on a further 78 in fifty minutes before Johnson was bowled for an excellent 67 (no canal for him!). Tomlinson went on to 54 not out in 74 minutes, supported by Spicer who made him run like the wind and Sam Smith who watched with glee from the non-striking end before the declaration at 203-4. Our swing bowlers Spicer (in) and Shelley (out) now came into their own and Lapworth were soon on the rack. Seven catches were snapped up before Spicer bowled the Number 11 with the second ball of the final over giving the Nomads victory by 88 runs. Given that the wicket was still true, that the outfield was very fast and that attacking fields were being set, the successful bowlers' figures do them great credit: Spicer 17.2-7-4-36 and Shelley 14-4-6-50.

Shortly after breakfast on Friday morning, while the team was packing and paying bills, we were reinforced by the arrival of Michael de Weymarn. Now a grey haired "badger" the co-founder can still reduce the captain to near helplessness at times; this was part of an early conversation. M. de W.: "How's old Hugh Scott?"

P. J. G.: "He's got a broken neck that's all."

M. de W.: "Oh, last I heard he was in the cleaning business."

After that we lunched at The Duck, answered some General Knowledge questions, noted that Reeve was the unquestioned superstar on the "Rambo" game and had another team photograph taken by the best looking barmaid, before setting out for Rowington.

Once again we were lucky with the toss electing to field first to make the most of the conditions, a decision which would have paid greater dividends had we had some really fast bowlers in the side. As it was Spicer and Shelley knocked over the openers, but it was Tomlinson and Macleod who worked their way through the rest. The former, who can still hit the pitch with a fair thump for one of his vintage, took 5-34 in two spells of medium-fast, bowling, (even slipping in a couple of fastish leg breaks and a googly, for good measure), while Macleod captured 3-33 with his leg breaks. Abbott held three catches behind the stumps, Macleod, Green and Johnson took one each, while Johnson entertained the assembled multitudes searching for the ball in the bushes and nettles. Nevertheless it was a fine performance to bowl out a strong Rowington side for 145.

After tea, which was voted best of the tour by some way, Macleod and Sam Smith added 39 for our first wicket in 33 minutes in spite of a wicket which was still giving the quick bowlers a fair amount of help and the fact that Sam Smith was having trouble with the zip of his trousers. Macleod took a nasty blow on the forearm and his 26 was a brave display after his various trials and tribulations. In fact both openers were out at the same score but Tomlinson now joined Spicer in a stylish 56 run partnership in 55 minutes and with these two going so well a victory seemed very much on. Unfortunately Tomlinson was caught at long off a foot short of the boundary, de Weymarn could not really get going (4-112) and when Spicer departed for a well-played 31, essaying rather too ambitious a hook, our score stood at 116-5. Abbott was bowled at 120 hitting across the line and so in limped the Captain to join Nick Smith. Green was almost nailed by an early beamer, managing to guide it away for four at the last moment, Smith played some splendid square drives and with one delivery left the Nomads total was 140-6. All Smith had to do was hit a six and the game would be won (!) — he swung his bat gallantly but instead of finding the middle the ball took the edge and he too was caught, so the match was drawn after all. However Rowington had fielded splendidly, showing considerable all round athleticism, throwing in with great venom and hanging on to some hard chances, so perhaps this was the best possible, result.

After an enjoyable evening in the Club next to the ground the party broke up to go its several ways. Considering our various difficulties this had been a highly successful tour from most angles, and certainly the younger cricketers should have gained some useful experience which will stand them in good stead next season.

P. J. G.

SUMMARY OF TOUR MATCHES

Played 4, Won 1, Drawn 2, Lost 1

v. Tanworth-in-Arden C.C.: Nomads 173-7 dec. (Spicer 61, Green 20), Tanworth 141-9 (Spicer 5-44)

v. Harbourne C.C.: Nomads 127 (S. J. Smith 29), Harborne 131-1

v. Lapworth C.C.: Nomads 203-4 dec. (Johnson 67, Tomlinson 54*, McKenzie 28, N. Smith 25), Lapworth 115 (Shelley 6-50, Spicer 4-36)

v. Rowington C.C.: Rowington 145 (Tomlinson 5-34, Macleod 3-33), Nomads 140-7 (Spicer 31, Macleod 26, Tomlinson 24)

