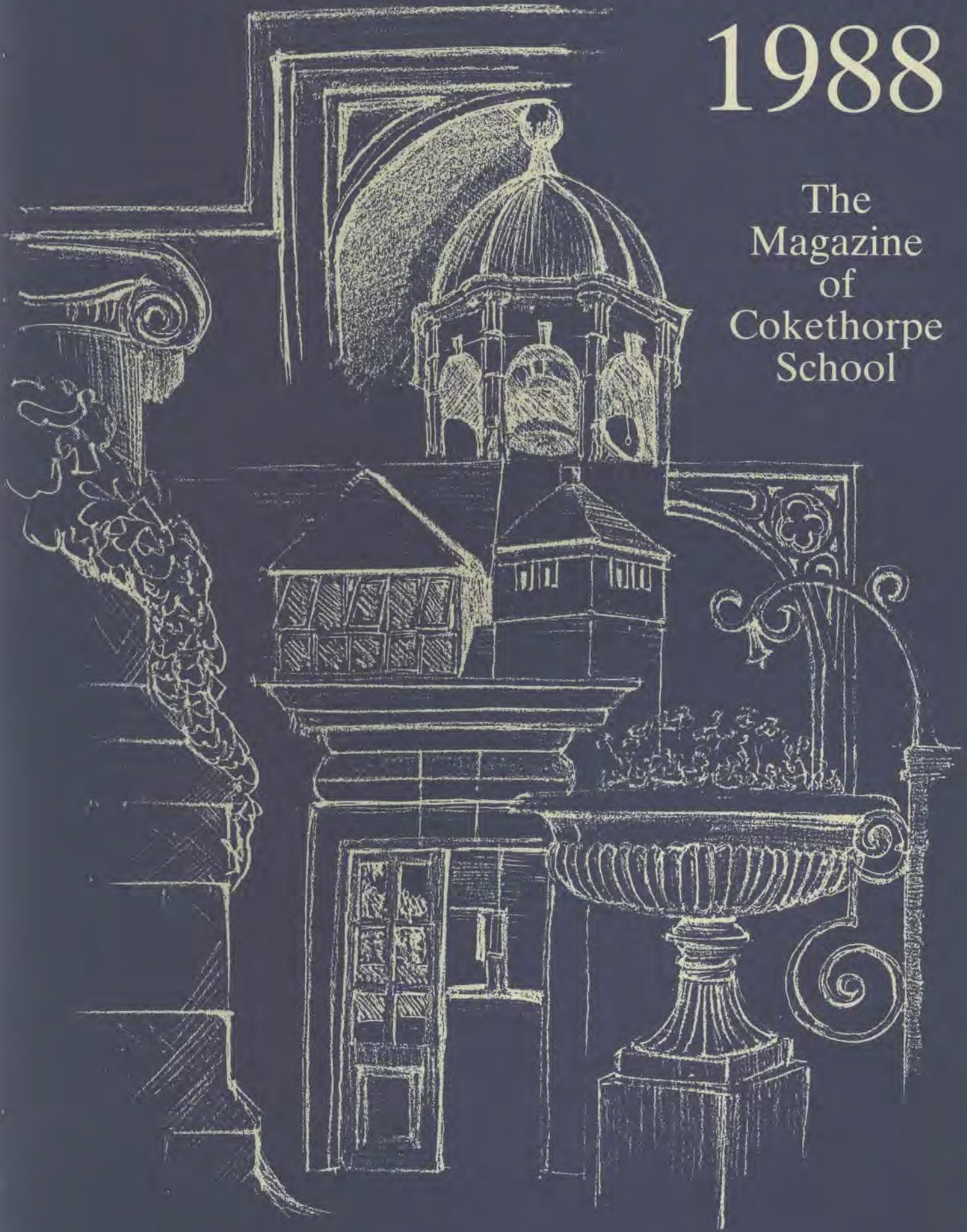


The Peacock

1988

The
Magazine
of
Cokethorpe
School





CONTENTS

School Record & Valet	3
Appointments, Salvete & Cups	4
Staff Appreciations	5
Church & Chapel Notes	7
Memorial Service for P. T. Ellis	8
Swift House Report	9
Harcourt House Report	11
Queen Anne House Report	13
Vanbrugh House Report	15
Bursar's Report	19
Prizes	21
Rugby Football	23
Cokethorpe Revisited	27
General Studies Talks	31
Feature: Vincent van Gogh	35
The Cross Country	37
Classical Studies Trip	41
Skiing	42
Dutch Cycling Trip	43
House Music Competition	46
Soccer	47
Feature: Wood and Man	49
The School Play	53
Feature: Pig Farming	55
Rifle Shooting	57
Ceramics	59
Army Cadet Force	61
D of E & Outward Bound	62
Debating Retrospect	63
Pond Club	65
Boat Club Report	67
Cricket Reports	69
Wine Tasting Trip	75
Old Boys' News	76

Editor
P.J.C.

FRONT COVER:
Cokethorpe Montage by Simon Jewell

Acknowledgements

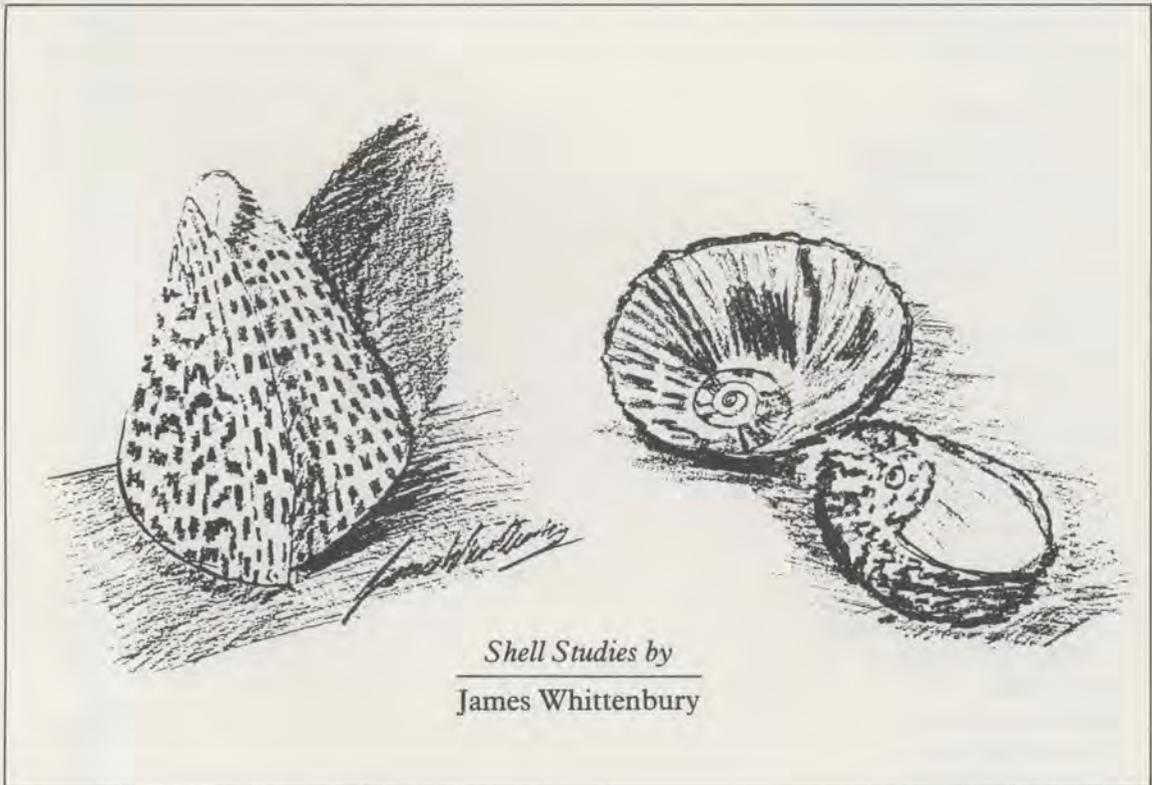
*I am grateful to all boys and colleagues who have contributed material for this edition of *The Peacock*, but would particularly like to thank once again Mr. R.V. Lyle, Mrs. I. Moeller, and Mr. A. Teague for the articles which appear on pages 8, 27 and 46.*

Thanks also to Simon Jewell for executing so quickly the 'Cokethorpe Montage' which appears on this year's cover. His 'Montage of Oxford Scenes' – on which it seemed a shame to superimpose any lettering or title – is on page 34.

I thank Mr. E.J. Fenton for assistance with proof-reading, and in other miscellaneous ways both before and after that stage.

We are once again indebted to Mr. M. Edwards for the majority of photographs, although some have been provided by Richard Reah and Justin Etkin, and the Headmaster has kindly loaned three from his own collection.

- Ed.



SCHOOL RECORD

Joint Heads of School

V.P.M. Kehoe
S.J. Smith

School Prefects

A.M. Wariebi
D.O. Jones
M.G.W. Howe
R.M. Price
E.F.M. Smith
B. Selormey
N.M. Chowdhury
C.G. Turner
N. Sitinas

Heads of Houses

Swift: V.P.M. Kehoe &
M.G.W. Howe
Harcourt: S.J. Smith
Queen Anne: A.M. Wariebi
Vanbrugh: D.O. Jones

School Officers

Captain of Boats: C.G. Turner
Vice-Captain: S.A. Robertson
Captain of Rugby: A.M. Wariebi
Vice-Captain: S.J. Smith
Captain of Soccer: A.M. Wariebi
Captain of Cricket: S.J. Smith
Vice-Captain: M.G.W. Howe
Secretary: A.M. Wariebi
Senior Cadet: Cpl. M. Gauntlett

House Prefects

Swift: O.R. Bekouw
J.M. Haywood
M.R. Hues
M.R. Pye
A.R.G. Morrison
Harcourt: A.S. El-Hawrani
N.W. Horn
P.P. Marshall
S.A. Robertson
Queen Anne: M. Lydon
J.J. Horada
H. Mellowship
M. Gauntlett
M.O. Orebiyi
Vanbrugh: E.J.J. Bailey
Y. Badawi
A.J.F. Blackwell
R. Hall
M.J. Horton
S.R. Pedoe

THE NEW VISITOR

We extend a special welcome to the new School Visitor, Bishop Crispian Hollis, Auxiliary Bishop of Birmingham with special responsibility for Oxford. He has already spent a day at the school in January and made a very good impression on all who met him. We hope that he will be a frequent visitor to Cokethorpe, including perhaps at Mass on occasions.

D.F.G.

COKETHORPE GOVERNORS

During the past twelve months there have been several changes on the Board of Governors.

Group Captain P. Vaughan-Fowler, Mr. E. Ingerslev, and Mr. C. Bourke, together with Mrs. E. Banham, have retired after long associations with the School.

In addition, in October 1987, it was with great sadness that we learned of the death, after a long illness, of Mr. Michael Tod. A Solicitor and a School Governor, Mr. Tod had been associated with the School since the formation of Cokethorpe Educational Trust in 1963. He will be sorely missed.

In March, 1988, Mr. M.V. Gauntlett and Mrs. J.E.H. Jones, both current Cokethorpe parents, joined the Board of Governors.

N. J. M.

VALETE

The following boys have left the School and we wish them every success and happiness in the future:

FROM SWIFT:

F. Dona; D. Dona; M. Ellerton; M.G.W. Howe; M.R. Hues; V.P. Kehoe; J.K. Man; J. Mwenewanda; N.M. Pineo; R.M. Price; E.F.M. Smith; C.G. Turner.

FROM HARCOURT:

A.J. Baylis; A.T. Berwitz; J.D. Brown; A. El-Hawrani; M. Featherstone; S.R.C. Lowe; J.C. North; S.A. Robertson; B.K. Selormey; I. Selormey (II); I. Selormey (III); A. Shorrocks; S.J. Smith.

FROM QUEEN ANNE:

A. Criado; O.P. Hope; M. Lydon; H. Mellowship; D. Morrison; A. Mumford-Smith; M.P. Stead.

FROM VANBRUGH:

Y. Badawi; E.J.J. Bailey; C. Benito; P.D. Deeley; M.J. Horton; M.D. Hunter; D.O. Jones; S.R. Pedoe; N. Sitinas.

FROM JUNIOR:

J.T. Smit; L.T. Casson; C.P. Byrne; D.J. Essen.

(List as at 24.8.88)

APPOINTMENTS

Mrs. I. Zimehl, H.N.D. (Ceramic Design) joined us in January to teach ceramics. She came fresh from studying at Harrow College of Higher Education and has a special interest in ceramic sculpture.

Mrs. L.A. Charlesworth, became Headmaster's secretary in January having been a secretary at Oriol College, Oxford.

Mr. G.S. Pipe, B.A. Hons. (Jurisprudence) Oxon., joined the Science Department in January to teach Chemistry. Mr. Pipe is a keen oarsman, having represented his College, St. John's, and Oxford University itself.

Miss S. Ridding joined us in February as Sanatorium Sister having held the same position at Breadon School, Tewkesbury. She trained at the Dorset School of Nursing.

Mr. C. Maskery, B.A. (Hull) joined us in April as Director of Sport from Carterton Comprehensive School. He is currently coaching the Oxford United Youth Team and is staff coach at the Oxford United Centre of Excellence. He is married with two children.

Mrs. M.J. Sanderson, B.A. Hons. (Manchester) M.Sc. Educational Studies (Oxon.). Mrs. Sanderson joins us this term to teach English. Formerly Headmistress of the Girl's Upper School, King Fahed Academy, London, prior to that she was Deputy Headmistress of Our Lady's Convent Senior School, Abingdon and Warden of St. Clare's Hall, Oxford.

Mr. M. Hay, who has just left the Duke of York's Royal Military School, Dover, joins us as 'Student Prince' for one term to help with Mathematics, Technology and Graphical Communication project work in particular.

SALVETE

We welcome the following pupils into the School:

INTO SWIFT:

J.J. Arrowsmith (*Pinewood*); S. Gradwell (*Durston House*); S. Gregg (*Dragon*); J.R. St. J. Hart (*Long Close*); R.J. Hatton (*Gateway*); A.J. Jones (*Josca's*); L.M.J. Kilminster (*Oakley Hall*); N.W. Read (*Sompting Abbots*); J.C.P. Shearing (*Kingsbury Hill*); C. Tsang (*Oratory*).

INTO HARCOURT:

S.D. Bamber (*St. Hugh's*); L.D. Cooper (*Icknield School*); E.W.L. Crossley (*Gayhurst*); K. Kerr (*High School, Miami*); S. Morton (*Sandle Manor*); Z.B. Tsegaye (*Oratory*).

INTO VANBRUGH:

C.A. Bateman (*Oakley Hall*); S. Fakhouri (*Sherborne Study Centre*); D.C. Galley (*Oakville H.S., Ontario*); R.A. Lane (*Oratory*); M.D.W. Murgatroyd (*Caterham*); C. Pearson (*Lutterworth High School*); R.A. Prosser (*Crookham Court*); M.A. Rimmer (*Dean Close Junior*); C.I. Taylor (*Henry Box*); N.J. Tyndale (*Monkton Combe Junior*).

INTO QUEEN ANNE:

N.I.K. de Foubert (*Eagle House*); C.R. Fuller (*South Warks CFE*); S. Pinkham (*Great Houghton*); T. Priest (*Dean Close Junior*); B.S. Reilly (*Wycliffe Junior*).

INTO JUNIOR:

A.S.D. Albert (*Keffolds Farm*); A.E. Arundell (*Colegio Ingles Mexico*); G.J.B. Clark (*Henry Box*); J. Cooke (*Manor House*); J.S. Cooper (*Aston Primary*); P.C.C. Crabbie (*Windrush*); J. Dow (*Clopton Hall*); J-P. Hoddinott (*Brightwell Primary*); L.C. Hollick (*St. Nicholas Primary*); J. Jefferies (*Bayswater Middle*); P.A. Johnson (*Wheatley Park*); C.P.C. Joubert (*Joscas*); A.E. Mann (*Standlake Primary*); R. Mashood (*Holmewood*); B.D. Mundy (*Underhill*); S.A. Sharich (*Christ Church Cathedral School*); T. Sharich (*Christ Church Cathedral School*); L. Staniford (*Summertown Middle*); A. Szerauc (*St. John's Primary*); S.J. Tilson (*St. Bartholomew's*); G.D.A. Viner (*Papplewick*).

(List as at 24.8.88)

CUPS

Presented by The Headmaster

MICHAELMAS TERM 1987

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

LENT TERM 1988

Soccer:	Queen Anne
Soccer Sixes:	Harcourt
Cross Country:	Swift
Individual Cross Country:	A.J. Blackwell
Inter-House Music:	Queen Anne
Inter-House Debating:	Swift
Recommendations:	Queen Anne

SUMMER TERM 1988

Cricket:	Queen Anne
Cricket six-a-sides:	Harcourt
Batting:	S.J. Smith
All Rounders:	
Bowling:	M.R. Bowerman
Fielding:	S.J. Smith
Mellowship Cup:	Queen Anne
Senior IV:	Swift
Junior IV:	Queen Anne
Open Sculls:	Swift, C.G. Turner
Junior Sculls:	Q. Anne, J.E. Pether
Tennis:	
Individual Tennis:	
Rifle Shooting:	Vanbrugh
Clay Pigeon Shooting:	M.P. Stead & R. Prosser
Davis Cup:	R.A. Prosser
Athletics Standards:	
Athletics Sports:	Queen Anne
Recommendations:	Swift



Mr. Thomson and Mrs. Worthington in their respective quarters

STAFF APPRECIATIONS

We have numerous staff departures to record this year. In December we said goodbye to Mr. D.L. Thomson and Mrs. B. Worthington; also to Mrs. Shaw and Sister Morris.

Derek Thomson came to Cokethorpe to teach chemistry in September 1968, having just graduated from the University College of Wales at Aberystwyth. At the time he was appointed there had been a fairly long period when it had been difficult to obtain a good chemistry teacher on any permanent basis – but Derek quickly settled the department down, and stayed for nineteen years, during which time he saw the laboratory move from rather sordid quarters between the inner and outer courtyards to the now magnificently-equipped new block. From the start he established a very good relationship with pupils, and up to the time of his marriage to Lois Lowe in November 1983, there was often no limit to the number of extra-curricular activities he was prepared to take on – whether it was rifle or clay-pigeon shooting, rambling, visits to science films or concerts in London, supervision of the Pond Club, or simply the annual Guy Fawkes' Night fireworks display. For many years he used to take boys to Tuesday evening meetings of the Ashmolean Natural History Society and the Oxford Ornithological Society. Although he was not in any sense militarily-minded, he took responsibility for establishing and commanding the ACF contingent here for five years. On the pastoral side, he was for eight years Harcourt House Tutor; and Senior Resident for slightly longer than that.

Derek was a patient and kind teacher who nevertheless exacted high standards from his pupils; and in his last two or three years both he and his senior pupils were rewarded with a good run of chemistry 'A' level results. (A deeply-committed Christian, there was, however, at one time a

rumour that he had more Bibles than chemistry books in the Lab., and he seldom failed to rise to the bait in Common Room if there was any kind of discussion – or even a passing remark! – about Darwin's theories of evolution.) He will be much missed, and we wish him and Lois and their two daughters, Ruth and Hannah, every happiness in their new home in Devon.

Bridget Worthington came here in 1981 to start up pottery and ceramics from scratch. Trained at the Birmingham College of Art, where she spent four years studying for her National Diploma in Design in illustration, her first teaching post was at Friary School, Lichfield, a Grammar School for girls. After her marriage she taught on a part-time basis at St. Mary's School, Wantage, but raising a family interrupted her career and it was not until after living in the Cotswolds and eventually settling in Steventon that the classroom could again claim her attention and time. She became art teacher at Cothill Preparatory School, where she started a ceramics department; and it was while she was there that she was invited to repeat the experience by starting ceramics here.

During her time here Bridget's original 'stable' doubled in size, and this, together with several crops of splendid 'O' level results, is ample testimony to the effort and endeavour which she invested in her subject. The success with which she inspired so many boys was also evident in the ceramics work displayed in the annual Creative Hobbies exhibition, and last December in particular many of the pieces attracted high praise from the judge, Mr. Anthony Baines.

Such was Bridget's shyness and humility that, on the last day of the Michaelmas Term, a group of pupils literally had to waylay her on her way to the Carol Service

in order to present her with a farewell gift, their thanks, and best wishes for the future. She has now moved to Cornwall where she intends to devote all her time to developing her own work.

Pauline Shaw succeeded Mrs. Webb as the Headmaster's secretary three years ago. In her time here she not only carried out all her official duties meticulously, but was a great friend and helper to many boys. Nothing was ever too much trouble for her – passports, plane tickets, certificates, and a host of other things which often involved intrusion into the peace and quiet of her office – and the warmth shown to her by the school on the last day of the Michaelmas Term must surely have been plain testimony of their feelings for her. Many members of Common Room had cause to be grateful to her too, and we send her all good wishes in France, where she and her husband have now gone to live.

Eve Morris was Sanitorium Sister for only three-and-a-half terms, but during her short stay she impressed us all with her loyalty and enthusiasm for the school: she was a tremendous supporter both of the church services and the rugby – and no match went by without the familiar figure enveloped in her red dragon scarf on the touchline. Never afraid to speak her mind or to reprimand any boy, however large or small, she ran the San very efficiently. However, in a way, the most significant of her deeds while at Cokethorpe happened only days before she left, when there was a dreadful car crash on the A415 right outside the main gates of the school. Eve spent over an hour on her hands and knees tending to some very injured people, one of whom would almost certainly not have survived otherwise. There was no doubt that night of Eve's skill and compassion, and we wish her every happiness in retirement in her beloved Wales.

Michael Edwards left at the end of the Summer Term to take up a new post at Bearwood College. In his two years here his professionalism was always evident – whether it was in his subject, English (where the concise summary was one of his hallmarks); or on the sports field where his style of coaching set an example of how to play hard and positively, but above all with fun and enjoyment. His coaching will be badly missed, especially in soccer and cricket, and the 6th form activities of squash and snooker may not be quite the same for some time.

Always prepared to be an innovator, Michael included the use of computers in his English teaching; he also expanded the teaching of economics. In Common Room he was a founder member of the Cavaliers Cricket Club

and (for a select few!) the now famous Champagne Club. His passion for foreign travel and school trips abroad in the holidays – cycling to Holland, footballing in the Loire, walking in the Pyrenees – allied to his capacity with the camera, meant that he returned on each occasion with armfuls of photographs; and these, together with the hundreds of pictures he took each term, have provided entertainment and amusement for all, in addition to a valuable record of Cokethorpe life which has enriched the pages of the last two issues of this magazine.

Both as a resident and as a day master, Michael committed himself completely to school life, and as a colleague and friend he will be greatly missed. We wish him well at Bearwood, and in his various journalistic endeavours.

At the end of March we also said goodbye to our two 'Student Princes', **Tim MacIntyre** and **Nick Inge**.

In his five terms at Cokethorpe Tim made a lasting impression on Common Room and the School alike. He threw himself into just about anything where there was a job to do, and on many occasions seemed even to invent work for himself; and we shall certainly miss this larger than life character who was always able to give an authoritative opinion on most matters that came to his attention. It is not possible to list here all the activities with which he was connected, but the ACF and the Queen Anne House play in December '86 certainly ought to be singled out, as also the preparations for Comic Relief and 'Red Nose Day' during the Lent Term this year. And who could forget the para-military figure who, with his megaphone, so efficiently organised everybody on Open Day last year? We wish him well with his literary and business endeavours.

Nick Inge joined us last September and stayed for two very full terms. He was extremely popular with boys and staff alike for his direct no-nonsense approach and honest enthusiasm. He taught junior forms history, geography and religious studies, as well as coaching rugby and his beloved soccer. He also acted as a temporary Swift house tutor. During his brief stay he travelled twice to France on skiing holidays with the school, and was as much a help with the administration as he was a success on the slopes. All who knew him here will want to wish him well as he takes up his place in Newcastle to read Business Studies – it might not be Portsmouth but at least they have a first division team!

Appreciations contributed by:
E.J.F., D.F.G., M.P.H., A.S., A.R.A.S.

*The last 'O' level:
Mr Nightingale
Mr Carter and
The Headmaster
toast Vincent Kehoe
as he presents his
geology examination
script.*



THE ANGLICAN CHURCH

We have greatly missed the weekly visits for Sung Eucharist by the Revd. David Lane who has been far from well during much of this year. However, we rejoiced to have him back with us for the last Sunday of the Lent Term and he has been able to come on several Sundays throughout the summer. We all hope that his health will continue to improve. We have been very grateful to other local priests who have come at short notice on many of the other Sundays this year – in particular to the Revd. Gerald Wright (father of Trevor) and the Revd. Charles Holmes, both worker priests in Oxford.

As usual the service on Remembrance Sunday morning was followed by March Past and General Salute by the ACF detachment, and it was very nice to have an old boy, Andrew Venman, to play the Last Post on his cornet.

The annual Carol Service on the last morning of Michaelmas Term took a slightly different format this year and I think most people welcome the change from the traditional “King’s College, Cambridge” pattern which has become so familiar. In the absence of Mr. Lane the service was conducted by Father William Kelly, S.J. who has been staying in Campion Hall, Oxford, and has been a frequent visitor to the Roman Catholic Chapel.

Confirmation took place on Sunday, 12th June, when Bishop Bulley, who is always such a welcome visitor to the school, confirmed 12 boys. This year the candidates were prepared by the Revd. James McCloghry, and we are very grateful to him for coming here so regularly each week throughout the winter and spring.

Again I would like to thank my wife for arranging the flowers in church for our Sunday services, and I know she is grateful for all the help she receives (particularly on occasions like Harvest Festival) from other ladies. Our special thanks are due to Mrs. Gibbons for the enormous amount of time she spent on making the church look so lovely for Confirmation. I would also like to thank Matron and all her helpers for their hard work in keeping the church clean and polished, and for those boys, particularly Edward Casey and Richard Reah, who are such loyal Sacristans week by week.

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPEL

It has been splendid to be able to use this lovely little chapel nearly every Sunday and we are most grateful to the Master of Campion Hall, Oxford, for arranging Priests to come out for Mass. Throughout the Michaelmas Term we were delighted to get to know Father Kelly from the United States who became such a close friend of the school. Other welcome visitors have been the former Provincial Superior of the English Jesuits, Father Earle; Father Tanner, Father Bywater and (on several occasions during the Summer) Father Flynn. We greatly value our close connection and friendship with Campion Hall.

We are also grateful to our former Governor, Group Captain Vaughan-Fowler, and his wife for driving the priests to and from Campion Hall on so many occasions. I would also like to thank Mr. Fenton, Nicholas Ford and

many other boys for their regular help in preparing for Mass and serving at it.

We greatly miss Father Aldo Tapparo, former Priest of Eynsham, who was transferred to Bicester in the Autumn. We send him our best wishes and we have many happy memories of his frequent visits to Cokethorpe.

Church & Chapel Notes by D.F.G.

C of E CONFIRMATION

Sunday, 12th June

There were twelve of us preparing to be confirmed into the Church of England, and we had been taking Confirmation lessons for about one term. The Reverend James McLoghry instructed us, and during the lessons we were taught about the Church year, the Bible, God and Christ, Christian life, and also about the role of Bishops and vicars. The days passed quickly and before we knew it it was Sunday, 12th June, the day we were to be confirmed. The weather turned out to be sunny but a little breezy. The service took place in St. Mary’s Church here at school.

The boys who were to be confirmed were: Julian Benfield, Mark Bowerman, Paul Brown, James Day, Timothy Gibbons, David Hart, Jonathan Hughes, James Jeffs, Stephen Oldham, Edward Reynolds, Tobi Smit and Mark Wilder.

The church was decorated by my mother, who spent a great deal of time over it. The colour scheme of the flowers was white, and many of them were lilies. The congregation consisted of parents, Housemasters, and friends. We, the ‘confirmation lads’, sat at the front. I don’t think we were nervous; it was simply the thought of kneeling in front of the Bishop before all those people – but once the service started we were not nervous.

The service was opened by singing ‘Happy Birthday’. This was dedicated to the Right Reverend Dr. S.C. Bulley M.A., D.D., who was to confirm us. As reported in *The Times*, it was his 81st birthday. Bishop Bulley has been to Cokethorpe on several occasions and is very popular.

During the service there were two readings and a few hymns, including “Love Divine all Love’s Excelling”. We did not have to say much except ‘Amen’ now and again, and then – “I turn to Christ, I repent of my sins, and I renounce evil’.

I did not have any unusual moments during the service, but apparently, according to my sister, there was a mouse running about at the back of the church under Mr. Randall’s chair.

In his sermon Bishop Bulley talked about temptations, such as drink and drugs and vandalising public facilities. He also said ‘Don’t follow the yobs – follow the ‘Christian gang’.

I think the whole service went very well, and afterwards we all proceeded to the Headmaster’s house for refreshments and there was a chance to meet the Bishop.

T. Gibbons

MEMORIAL SERVICE for PAUL THURLOW ELLIS

18th October, 1987

Sadness and thanksgiving walked hand in hand as a large congregation of Governors, former colleagues, Old Boys and friends entered the beautifully decorated little Church of St. Mary the Virgin at Cokethorpe to join with Jo and her family in honouring the memory of Paul Ellis.

The keynote of the service was struck by Rev. David Lane when he said that we were giving thanks to God first for the life of Paul and secondly for the fact that he was now at peace after so much suffering. After a verse from Revelation (Chap. 14 v.13), there followed the opening hymn, "New every morning is the love our wakening and uprising prove" and Psalm 121, "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help."

Mr. Derek Fothergill, a lifelong friend of Paul's, then read those lovely words from St. Paul's letter to the Romans (Ch.8 vv.31-39) beginning, "If God be with us who can be against us?" and ending, "For I am persuaded that neither life nor death . . . shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

In his address, the Headmaster said that all those present had one thing in common – their lives had been enriched by knowing Paul Ellis. He spoke of the inspiration and example of his enormous courage in the face of so much suffering but stressed that Paul had always shrugged off his disabilities and that we should remember him rather in a more positive way, as an excellent Housemaster and English teacher whose skill, patience

and understanding, together with an ability to be stern when required, all combined to reflect his true professionalism. He was widely read as well as being a good listener, wise and witty but never sarcastic.

Mr. Goldsmith went on to say that we should spare a long, long moment's thought for Jo, Pippa and others of his family and that our sympathy and love must go out especially to Jo who had had to endure so much in the last few sad months. Now, however, was the time to be grateful for having been privileged to know Paul and to rejoice in the life and example of one who was such a fine person. The Headmaster concluded by reading some moving words by Canon Henry Scott Holland, of great tenderness and comfort to us all.

The words of the next hymn, "For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, Friends on earth and friends above, Pleasures pure and undefiled, Lord of all to Thee we raise This our grateful hymn of praise" summed up all our thoughts as we knelt in prayer. Then came the closing hymn, "Fight the good fight", which has never seemed more appropriate.

As we moved out, after the final blessing, into the watery autumnal sunshine, the words and music we had just heard in that quiet and beautiful setting seemed eminently right and fitting as a tribute to our dear friend, Paul Ellis, whom we shall always remember with so much affection and admiration.

R.V.L.



Pencil sketch by N.M. Pineo

SWIFT HOUSE REPORT



Interval in House match: Losing 0-2 against Vanbrugh, Mr. Green's half-time talk inspired Swift to a 3-2 victory

A year in which Swift House spirit has been strong but appropriate talent to win inter-House events has been lacking. This year (with the Headmaster's blessing) Swift has created a new record with no fewer than six School Prefects in the House. We had four at the beginning of the year but when R. Price left at Easter to follow his farming career, two more Swifts were added to the prefectorial body making up the full half-dozen.

During the Michaelmas term rugby was the main sport and Swift showed consistency coming second in both Seven and Thirteen-a-side tournaments. The Sevens would have been won had either of our Senior or Junior teams beaten Queen Anne but it was not to be. The Thirteen-a-side team was made up of a great variety of "talent" strengthened by some "old men" from the School 1st XV. Under the captaincy of V.P. Kehoe the team worked hard but once again was edged into second place. We were sorry not to see Pritchard playing due to injury, his talents were greatly missed, particularly in the Junior Sevens.

The Creative Hobbies Competition was won by Swift mainly due to fine entries from Jewell, M. Hues, O. Bekouw, N. Pineo, E. Smith, R. Price and M. Pye. They put much time and effort into their entries but special thanks should also go to C. Turner who organised the collection and display of the entries. Once again Swift won the Recommendations Cup in the Michaelmas term thanks to some fine efforts in the classroom, notably by R. Pye and P. Lenehan. This year Swift did not have a House play but this was greatly to the relief of several senior boys who would, no doubt, have been persuaded to volunteer!

The Lent term began well for Swift (even if we were tired due to Mr. Green's "runs" around the School grounds), for the House did extremely well in the Cross Country, winning by a clear 358 points. With 12 boys in the top 32 finishers it was clear that the House effort was very strong, and several younger boys in particular distinguished themselves, R. Pye coming 9th, Boyland 10th, while Matthews was the first junior schoolboy to finish in a determined 62nd place.

For the third year running Swift was unbeaten in House debating. A. Morrison and M. Pye overcame Harcourt 61-47, while F. Dona and R. Pye beat Vanbrugh to clinch the cup. All four boys prepared their speeches fully and made their points in a clear and forceful manner.

Soccer is not one of Swift's stronger sports at the moment but our XI captained by M. Howe and containing few "professional" soccer players still made the best of the talent on offer. We lost to Queen Anne 3-4, a close match considering they were the overall winners, Harcourt beat us 1-7, but we beat Vanbrugh in the play off for the third place, 3-2. In the senior Six-a-side soccer we came second losing 2-3 to Harcourt, drawing with Queen Anne but beating Vanbrugh 1-0. The junior Six were very consistent, losing their matches 3-0, 3-0 and 3-0!

This year's Music Competition was the best for years. Once again Swift finished second despite the Sixth Form Choir, but we must compliment Horada of Queen Anne for organising his House so brilliantly and producing some fantastic entries.

The Lent term also saw Swift coming second to Queen Anne in the Recommendations; a late and unexpected burst by our rivals gave them victory by just two points.

The beginning of the summer term means revision and exams but it is still the best loved term of the year. The Senior Cullen debate was contested by two Swifts, A. Morrison and M. Pye; both presented good points but A. Morrison won narrowly. In the Declamations Swift also did well with Matthews taking the 1st Form prize, C. Jones the 5th Form prize and A. Morrison the 6th Form prize.

On the rowing front we were second overall, although both the Senior IV and the Senior Sculler (Turner) won comfortably. The Junior IV was very young and lacking in experience but rowed well in the heats to finish third while our Junior Sculler (Scriven) was narrowly beaten in the final by a much more experienced oarsman.

M. Howe, the captain of the House Six-a-side cricket, knew that we did not have a strong team but in the semi-final we needed 4 runs off the last ball to beat the eventual winners, Harcourt, but it was not to be. In the Clay Pigeon Shooting competition we came third overall, just being

edged out by Vanbrugh, but we did better in the .22 Rifle competition finishing second, while Chowdhury was runner up in the Senior Golf competition and Boyland victorious among the Juniors.

On the Standards front the senior boys in Swift have been so heavily involved in revision that they hardly ventured down to the track before Sports Day but the House has not been overwhelmed with athletic talent this year so we were delighted when the Swift Intermediates won the Inter-House cup. The XI-a-side cricket produced a nail-biting finish with Swift losing in a damp final to Queen Anne after an extraordinary fight-back had brought us to the very brink of victory.

I would finally like to thank my joint Head of House, M. Howe and the other Swift Prefects, E. Smith, R. Price, C. Turner and N. Chowdhury, and of course the House Prefects for keeping Swift reasonably trouble-free while still maintaining such a friendly atmosphere with the right amount of discipline. I would like to wish all the leavers much luck in the future and to thank Mr. Green very much for being a very reasonable Housemaster.

V.P.M. Kehoe



Clifford Alderton with Swift entries for Creative Hobbies Competition

OUR TRINIDADIAN FRIEND AGAIN

Discussion after the Hungerford Massacre:

Boy: "I hope you don't mind my saying so, sir, but some Englishmen are stupid."

Master: "I'm afraid they are, H ----. Still, I expect some West Indians are pretty stupid."

Boy: "Oh no sir - nearly all West Indians are stupid . . ."

HARCOURT HOUSE REPORT

The school year started off for the House in a brand new setting, namely the splendid new common room block. The facilities in the new building are a very considerable improvement over the somewhat humble residence we had in previous years. Each pupil now has a study area which is more private. A well-fitted bathroom and kitchen are an integral part of the facilities. This certainly improved the morale within the House and most – although regretfully not all – continue to look after the House well. It was pleasant to welcome Jayne Carter as the first lady member of Harcourt and she has already made a number of contributions to our activities, including an appearance in the House cricket team.

On the sporting front the year began well in the 7-a-side rugby. Even though we did not win overall, the seniors did particularly well, winning all their matches for which they were awarded House Colours. It was mainly due to the efforts of these seniors that we won the House 13-a-side rugby competition. Here, I think, a mention must be made of Lowe, Ng, Selormey 1 and El Hawrani – the latter actually scored the clinching try with a badly injured hand.

The Lent term did not go so well for the House. We were defeated in the final of the Football XIs by Queen Anne. However, in the other matches we played magnificently, beating Vanbrugh and Swift 12-0 and 8-1 respectively. Recognition must go to El Hawrani, McLoughlin and Shorrock, who also played major roles in the successes of the School 1st Football XI and were awarded their House Colours. In the Cross Country we again lacked strong finishers in the middle of the field. We did hope that Casey would win the individual prize; however, he had to be satisfied with 5th place. Other finishers in the top ten were Price II and Smith 1. After the cross country we regained our dominance on the football field by winning the Senior 6-a-side competition. Our juniors were less successful, but still they gave a gutsy performance. Their captain, Oliver, was awarded House Colours for football as were El Hawrani, Lowe, McLoughlin and Shorrock.

During the Summer term we regained the 'Pine Shield' for 6-a-side cricket in a nail-biting quarter final versus Swift. We got to the final via match with Queen Anne, which we won in spite of a very low score of 32 in our innings. This was a complete all-round effort by the team, although a special mention should be made of Horn 11, Lowe, Price, McLoughlin, Shorrock and Smith 1, all of whom played for the School 1st XI. We were not so successful in the Cricket XIs, being knocked out in our first match. In the Rowing our Senior IV was not so successful, but the Junior IV put up a very good show in the final against the Queen Anne crew, which was the favourite for the competition, losing by only half a length. The juniors were awarded their House Colours.

Not all our successes were on the sports field. Even though we never do very well in the recommendations competition, we always seem to take the majority of prizes on Open Day. This year was no exception – we took 11 out of 35 prizes. Well done to the winners. In the autumn term certainly the most satisfying success for me was the House play 'Murder at Moorstones Manor'. Inevitably, there were some hiccups, such as when El Hawrani, thinking



Sam Smith on fine form

the doorbell was the telephone ringing, had to ad-lib until it rang again! The play went well and was enjoyed by all, not least those performing in it. As usual House plays bring out new and unexpected talent – this year's play certainly did that in the form of Baylis, El Hawrani and North. The latter was on stage with Berwitz – an old hand at acting – almost throughout the action and they both carried the play to success. A mention must go to Jayne Carter, who also appeared as Ruth – this was the first time she had acted and the first time a girl has appeared in a House play – a real girl, that is.

In the House debating competition we were not so successful due to the participants being otherwise engaged with exams, but North and Price II made a good effort in a rather confusing debate. It was much the same in the music competition, where we rarely expect to do well. Most of our entries were of an alternative nature. We had no less than three pop groups performing, especially the already well-known 'Chauvinists', who had previously appeared in aid of Comic Relief. They all gave good, if somewhat loud performances, especially 'Marshall & Co.' with his cover version of 'Fade Away', for which, together with his organisational efforts, he received his House Colours.

Finally, I would like to thank my deputy Head of House, Selormey 1; the House Tutors, Mr. Daniels and Mr. James, and the Housemaster, Mr. White, for their efforts within the House, especially over these last two years when I have had the privilege of being Head of Harcourt. I would also like to wish the House, my successor, Paul Marshall, and those who are leaving the best of luck in the future. Let us hope that those remaining can capitalize on this year's victories.

S.J. Smith

MURDER AT MOORSTONES MANOR

Harcourt House Play

The play, a zany take-off of country house murder mysteries, defies review, so outrageous were the characters and events – much to the delight of the audience. This is what made it so suitable as a Harcourt House play, perhaps! Many an amusing moment was enjoyed during rehearsal and not least during the performance by all concerned. The misfortune of our first performance being blacked out 20 minutes before it was due to commence turned to our advantage, because it gave our lighting engineers, D. Morrison and M. Stead, extra time to work on the all-important lighting effects, which they did so well.

Particularly effective was the opening scene ambitiously set in a car, so carefully constructed on stage, making its way to the remote manor house situated on a wild and desolate moor. Lady Chillingford, played with dainty fastidiousness by that veteran of House plays, A.T. Berwitz, has invited both sons and their wives to a celebratory dinner in honour of the old man of house, Sir Henry, an odious man, overacted to perfection by A. El Hawrani. The first death is by suffocation when Dora (J. Carter – making her first welcome appearance on stage), reacting to one of Sir Henry's truly horrible stories, faints into a plate of food, which event goes unremarked by the remainder of the company. At this juncture, Sir Henry is shot dead and this sets the tone for the well sustained chaos which follows; a series of murders ostentatiously committed by shot gun, each followed by a torrent of excuses.

Hugo (J.B. Price), the car-crazy eldest son is shot in bed. Three down and several more to go! Still alive are Hugo's wife played by S. Robertson and the dignified butler (A. Baylis) is ever hovering in the background. J.C. North gave an excellent performance as Charles, the bizarre shotgun-toting younger son – why have we not seen him on stage before this? His Noel Coward style suited the action set in the 1920s. Enter the sinister Dr. Farson (S. Smith), who promptly reveals his love for the lady of the house. Bang! offstage – the offstage effects, so important in this play were very capably handled indeed. Another murder? Not this time – instead in true Agatha Christie style all the suspects gather on stage, but with a difference – each is brandishing a weapon and claiming to be the murderer. The western style shoot out which ensued brought the house down. The telephone rings. The mortally wounded butler answers it and Lady Chillingford, apparently unharmed in the preceding mayhem, calmly takes another call from the mysterious Madge, only to hear a gun shot over the phone. The curtain fell on a performance enjoyed by actors and audience alike.

J. Carter & J.C. North

Top: *'Don't believe them – it was me!'*
J.C. North, star of the Harcourt play.

Bottom: *'I've been your dogs-body for too long.'* Andrew Baylis as the Butler.



QUEEN ANNE HOUSE REPORT



Eyes front, shoulders back: J.W.S., T.J.L. and the House 'on parade'.

Queen Anne has had a very successful year both on the games field and in the classroom. We got off to a good start with the junior seven-a-side rugby team all their matches, with the help of some excellent play by J. Vernon and H. Kitching. The senior seven-a-side did not do quite as well but they still put up a great performance under the captaincy of Adule Wariebi, and the joint efforts of the junior and senior teams enabled us to win the Rugby Sevens Cup.

The Creative Hobbies was not such a successful event for Queen Anne. Although we had some excellent contributions from J. Whittenbury in woodwork, we came a disappointing second. Other excellent and imaginative entries came from D. Morrison and M. Stead with their electronics gadgetry.

We came back for the Lent Term to face the daunting task of the School Cross Country and the inter-House football, in both of which we fancied our chances. After weeks of training enforced by Mr. Green the Cross Country took place on 2nd February, and we managed to come a creditable second, with some excellent performances from Kitching (2nd) and N. Bingham (10th). M. Searson also did well and should make a good impression for the House in future years.

Once again Queen Anne managed to field a very strong football team consisting of three 1st XI players, and once again it was Wariebi who was the backbone of the team. We managed to beat every team, including Harcourt. So far as the football is concerned I would particularly like to congratulate Alexis Criado on his very gutsy performance.

There was a strong team for the inter-House debating consisting of Adule Wariebi and James Wingrove. Although they lost on the night, Wingrove clearly has great potential and I am sure we will be seeing more of him. I also feel that David Hart should be mentioned for his success in the Junior Cullen Debate (during the summer term). The other major inter-House event of the Lent Term is the Music Competition, and this we won with great ease mainly due to the talent and organisation of James Horada, who got together a perfect selection of musicians from the House. Special mention here should go to Yazdan Karbasi and Oliver May for their performances.

Finally, to round off the Lent Term, I should also make a special mention of Nicholas Bingham for his impressive contribution towards winning the Recommendations Cup for the House two terms in succession.



A.M.W.: 'Heads, we win. Tails, we win.'
Ref: 'Yes, sir.'



Mark Smith showing a low drive,
just like Kevin Keegan.

With the rowing, cricket, shooting, Declamations and 'Mastermind' – to mention only some of the more obvious activities – the Summer Term must be about the busiest of the year. From our point of view the rowing was once again under the organisation and control of James Horada. The senior four gave a very good performance but were just beaten by a strong Swift team; however, it was a different story for the juniors who won all their races. The same was true in the sculling: Horada was beaten in the senior scull by Charles Turner, but James Pether beat Scrivener in the junior race. (James should also be congratulated for participating in both the sculling and the fours.) At the end of inter-House regatta we claimed the Mellowship Cup by a narrow margin of two points over Swift.

The Summer Term also sees the annual 'Mastermind' Competition. Although the contestants compete on an individual rather than a House basis, it was interesting from our point of view since two of the four boys taking part – Wingrove and Vernon – are in Queen Anne. Wingrove won the whole competition, taking as his Special Subject 'The Baltimore Clippers'. Vernon was the runner-up with Ipswich Town F.C. as his Special Subject.

Declamations was also dominated by Queen Anne boys, with Roscoe, Bingham and Benfield all picking up individual prizes.

The Clay Pigeon Shooting was won by Queen Anne. This was under the control of M. Stead, who got joint 1st Prize with Prosser of Vanbrugh. Special mentions here should also go to Kitching, Evans and Macintosh for their fine shooting.

Finally, to crown the year, we carried off both the remaining major inter-House events – the Cricket and the Athletics Sports.

I would like to wish all boys leaving the House a happy and successful future, and I would also like to thank Mr. Stark and Mr. Lawry for all their help and support over the last year. As it seems that Adule Wariebi is to move a step higher on the ladder to become Head Boy next term, James Horada has therefore been appointed the new Head of House, and I would like to wish him all the best for the smooth running of Queen Anne in the next year. May it be another successful one!

M. Lydon

IN THE RELIGIOUS STUDIES CLASS

The Wise Men brought gifts of gold, frankincense and mire . . .

In the middle of writing an R.S. essay a boy looks up and is heard to murmur:
" 'Righteousness' . . . That's a good word . . . "

GCSE Coursework:

Question: Using the N.T. you have studied, outline the aspects of Jesus' life which you consider to be most relevant to the present day.

Answer: The first example that comes to mind is the sermon on the mound . . .

VANBRUGH HOUSE REPORT

We knew from the outset, on the sporting side especially, that things were going to be tough for Vanbrugh in this first year. This was mainly due to the lack of senior boys in the House and our having to rely heavily on our juniors. Nevertheless, I am sure that this first year of Vanbrugh will be remembered for the consistently spirited efforts of all our teams against the odds.

Our first sporting event was the House 7-a-side rugby. Here we fielded as strong a team as possible; however we only had two 1st XV players in the seniors, N. Sitinas and D. Jones. The highlight of the afternoon was our match against Queen Anne, the eventual winners, in which we held them to a draw. The juniors also did extremely well under the leadership of R. Martyr but were at a disadvantage in age and size against the other two Houses.

The 15-a-side rugby proved to be a difficult competition, and despite our valiant efforts, we came 4th. A special mention here must go to N. Sitinas, the House sports Captain. He scored all tries against the other Houses and impressed us all with his speed and leadership.

During this term the annual creative hobbies competition was held, and although we were not victorious our standard of entries was high, particularly in the pottery section with the work of S. Pedoe who also arranged the display with help from E. Bailey.

In the Lent Term our hope during the cross country was to finish with all our runners in the first 100. However, fate dealt us a cruel blow because we had the least number of runners and therefore all of our placings



N. Sitinas with P.J.R.R.

counted. Despite the valiant efforts of J. Blackwell, who won the whole competition and N. Ford and T. Shannon, the House was let down by runners who came in over the 100 mark, and as such we came a disappointing 3rd.

In the football competition the House was again at a disadvantage because of the young age of the majority of players. However, in the 6-a-side competition our team only lost one match, as did the juniors. The 11-a-side football was disappointing in that we didn't do as well as we had hoped but excellent performances were seen from J. Blackwell and N. Sitinas.



House soccer XI: a motley but plucky crew!

LONDON 1999

Vanbrugh House Play

This term also saw the House debating which this year was a knock-out competition. Our first debate was excellent, with both main speakers, D. Jones and K. Copinger, arguing fluently; and particularly impressive were the contributions of the House from the floor, notably J. Etkin. As a consequence we won this debate and were in the final where we were narrowly beaten by the more experienced Swift debaters.

Although in the music competition our group singing let us down, our soloists (notably K. Copinger and Hubbard), carried us through to a creditable 2nd place.

The Summer term was the one we dreaded most. We knew that our seniors had little ability in rowing and cricket. However, we were pleasantly surprised by the standard of our juniors in cricket, especially Abeywardene who captained the school Under 14 side. The 6-a-side cricket tournament held on Open Day, although no noticeable result was obtained, showed Vanbrugh in an excellent light and much credit must go to J. Blackwell whose captaincy was exemplary. Also held on Open Day was the House rowing. Unfortunately Vanbrugh were not involved, because we had been knocked out in the preceding heats.

Prize giving saw four prize winners from Vanbrugh – D. Jones, N. Sitinas, S. Pedoe and J. Etkin. Etkin won his prize for the Junior Cullen debate where he was actually opposing another member of the House, Hubbard. Both boys spoke persuasively, but Etkin's team eventually won the competition. It looks as though debating bodes well for the future in the House.

Two more competitions were held during the Summer term, the annual Declamations and the 'Mastermind' competition. In the declamations we were represented by Kelly, Edwards II and K. Copinger. All three boys spoke clearly. In the Mastermind competition we again saw K. Copinger who impressed us all with his general knowledge and his ready answers to his special subject, 'Pistols and Assault Rifles.'

From the athletics side of the term, all boys tried extremely hard and did very well, however N. Sitinas particularly distinguished himself, showing the fruits of hard training.

Finally I would like to thank Mr. Randall and Mr. Snow for all that they have done for the House and I wish my successor, J. Blackwell, all the best and hopefully a few more cups next year.

D.O. Jones

Vanbrugh's first House play was written and produced by Mr. MacIntyre, our assistant House Tutor. He took a long time deciding on the final cast list and after auditions it turned out that more than half the House were involved in the production in one way or another, making it truly a House play.

The play was called 'London 1999' and the plot revolved around the fact that in 1999 the Russians have landed in Britain and we are shown the effect of this on a nice, quiet British family. It was a funny play – and therefore all the harder to act effectively – which looked at the quality of life under the Russians, and the way in which they had conditioned the attitudes of the population.

The production was staged in the gym and lasted about 40 minutes. The stage itself was some three feet high. The stage hands had to be as well rehearsed as the actors in order to ensure that everything proceeded smoothly; amongst the many scene and set shifts required were a 'blackmarket' market, a classroom and a tube train – but these were all erected quickly thanks to the supervision of Daniel Jones and Julian Blackwell. We were also very grateful for the expertise of Michael Stead and Duncan Morrison, who play such a crucial role in all Cokethorpe dramatic ventures.

The head of the family in the play was Reg, who believed most strongly in what the Russians wanted him to do; in his mind they could do no wrong and he promoted them and their actions wherever possible. ("A party card is a thing of beauty . . .") Reg had a disability and was therefore unemployed; because of this he had to send his wife, Treen (played by James Hubbard) out to work laying railway sleepers! James played the long-suffering Treen, who tended to humour her husband whenever politics came into the conversation, with great dignity and patience; and he was awarded House Colours (and also an acting prize in the final Assembly) for his efforts. He certainly deserved this.

The family's children were Bob and Zoe, played by Mark Wilder and Tim Noest. Zoe, a stunning blond, was more interested in personal appearance than politics, and was cheekily played by Tim who brought across her vanity well. Mark was well cast as the mischievous and cunning Bob who tended to say just what he thought – more mouth than brain! He put his natural enthusiasm into the part. Their grandmother, who was forgetful and disrespectful towards the new regime (and almost everything else, for that matter), was performed very ably by Dominic Edwards. This was a small but important part, and although I think Dominic is rather shy he acted very confidently.

IN THE HEAT OF THE MOMENT!

(during this year's debates)

"I am honestly very annoyed that I will never be able to see a living Dodo . . ."

"The main thing about being stabbed or dying is trying to get better."

Ben Cooper as the blackmarketeer had one of the harder tasks because his speeches were particularly long, filling in recent historical background and describing what London was like before the invasion. He pulled it off very well and was a proper 'spiv'! Scaf, a good friend of Bob's, was played by Nicholas Ford who made the character very believable. Those who played the minor characters did so very well, delivering their 'one-liners' with good timing and drawing quite a lot of laughter from the audience. David Chapman used his normal extrovert character to good effect as a woman in the train; and alongside him was another old woman who was well played by Justin Etkin. The other male parts were played equally capably by George Rutter and Mohammed Al Hashemi. There was even a cameo performance by Mr. MacIntyre who stepped in at the last moment (when one of the cast was injured in a car crash) as the schoolmaster; he put his usual zest into the part.

Our play came after Harcourt's production and once they had adjusted to the rather different brand of humour, the audience thoroughly enjoyed themselves – as did the cast despite their nerves. In conclusion I would like to thank everyone who assisted with make-up, props and costumes, and without whom we could not have done anything. I hope this will be the beginning of a good dramatic tradition in Vanbrugh.

K. Copinger

Right: Ben Cooper trying to do a little business with Ford and Wilder

Below: 'What have we here, then?' Copinger asks Etkin.



MY NEW SCHOOL

*My new school in the U.S.A.
Is very different in many a way –
No more 'Hello, old chap',
'What ho!' and all that;
More to 'Hi' and 'Have a nice day',
Is what they will all say.*

*It's an early start at 7.30,
And plenty of sport for getting dirty;
But best of all no uniform to wear –
Only Bermudas to make the girls stare.
What a decision, what clothes to don –
'Hey Mom,' what shall I put on?*

*Rugby and cricket are an alien game,
A pity as we wouldn't have to stop for rain!
It's baseball and basketball, and volleyball too,
Football and soccer to name but a few –
With shoulder pads on and a padded rear seat,
I'll look like an elephant with Size 8 feet.*

*The sea and the surf sound very grand,
Though I am past the age of castles in the sand;
And when the sport is finished and we've had our fun
I suppose there is school work to be done.*

Daniel Essen



BURSAR'S REPORT

As the person responsible for providing the resources for the academic staff at Cokethorpe, it was with great satisfaction that, on Friday 25th September, 1987, I watched the Home Secretary, The Rt. Hon. Douglas Hurd, C.B.E., M.P. officially open the new development at Cokethorpe; new classrooms, laboratories, common rooms and sixth form study bedrooms, changing the face of Cokethorpe for ever. Self-indulgent though it may now sound, I remember thinking that I had counted "every brick laid", from planners, through architects, on to numerous site meetings with the contractors until finally the fitting out of the completed building took place. I must have been unbearable in those final weeks! I was also very much aware that September day of the vast army of largely unsung people who had striven to ensure that everything was completed and finished in time for the day of the opening – from our own maintenance and cleaning staff to fitters and technicians who, in some cases, had worked through the night to ensure the job was satisfactorily completed. The School are indebted to them. Writing as I am now some months later, I can even see the funny side of the eleventh hour crisis over the faulty brass plate that was due to be unveiled by Mr. Hurd – heated 'phone calls, car dashes, it was a real mini drama, coming to a satisfactory conclusion only minutes before the Official Opening. All in all a day in Cokethorpe's short history not to be forgotten!

During the course of the year the Development Appeal was slowly wound down. To date the net monies raised exceed £120,000. The success of raising such a large amount again lies with many people, both from within and outside the School: parents, former parents, old boys, Charitable Trusts, industry and commerce, not to forget individual well wishers who have all contributed in time as well as money in achieving such a fine result. I hope my own secretary, Lynn Adams, will forgive me for singling her out for a special thank you; I am sure many people will agree that without her enthusiasm we would not have achieved so much in so short a time.

September was followed by the October gales. You can imagine my relief when coming into school the morning after to discover that a reported tree falling across the Common Room Block had no effect on our recently opened New Development. However, the offending Tulip Tree had come down across the end of the Old Common Room Block at 3 a.m. that morning, causing damage to the staircase, junior Common Room and the study used by Mr. Stark. It was a tribute to the insurance company and the builders that the matter was dealt with so promptly. Complete with New Roof the building was re-opened by the time boys returned from the half-term break.

The Christmas holidays saw the first group of visitors to hire the School facilities during the year – the West of England Crusaders, an inter-dominational Church Youth Organisation. Seventy young people had an enjoyable house party over the New Year. Easter brought the Berkshire Association of Baptist Youth Clubs for a residential weekend, with over 100 people attending. The same holiday saw John Smith's American Soccer School use our grounds and facilities. Fifty youngsters from all over the United States flew in to learn the skills of our national game. It was also a lesson in eating habits for the Cokethorpe catering staff, as the menus had to be 100%



*After the unveiling and the tour –
Mr. Hurd with Mr. John Proffit,
site manager during the building of the new block.*

American! Summer Holidays, 1988, will again see our own Cokethorpe Park Activity Holidays taking place over three weeks in July and August. If 1987 is anything to go by I am looking forward to seeing EJF, WHCD and ARAS getting a suitable "ducking" by the participants!

On the domestic front the planned maintenance programme of the building and grounds has continued. During the Summer holidays the infamous communal bathrooms will be giving way to individual showers, and alterations are also planned for the entrance and driveway to the School. Whilst planning remedial action for cracks that have appeared in the walls of the Church it has come to light that the subsidence is probably not caused by tree roots, as first thought, but an excessive use of dynamite in the 1930's when a worker called to the estate to remove a dangerous tree, used a method other than felling and got carried away! My source of this information has also given the School the site, between the Church and the main house, of four smaller houses removed in 1760 to improve the view to the church. The history of Cokethorpe Park covers a very long period, and this has been underlined recently with visits by two members of the Women's Land Army, who reminisced about their experiences while stationed at Cokethorpe during the second war. Also visiting Cokethorpe for the first time since 1944 was a veteran American soldier, who was then stationed on land adjoining the School before setting off to join the D-Day Landings.

Looking to the future and returning to the subject of building resources, there are already architect's sketch plans of a sports hall and swimming pool. Likewise buildings to include library, classrooms and a centre for art and technology. At the moment, though, these are but thoughts on paper, and priorities have to be set within the financial constraints of a small, vibrant, but forward looking School. It is with great enthusiasm, then, that everyone in the Bursary looks forward to that future, and I have no doubt that 1988-89 will prove to be as full as the past twelve months.

N.J.M.

CREATIVE HOBBIES COMPETITION

This annual competition takes place in the Corinthian Room at the end of the Michaelmas Term and is an opportunity for pupils to show pieces of work they have created in their spare time as well as classes. This year's event was judged by Mr. Anthony Baines who was Art Master here some years ago. As usual, we had a wide variety of pieces and the overall standard was certainly extremely high. Alexei Berwitz showed a range of Art and Ceramic pieces which were all the product of great imagination. Simon Jewell displayed some of his varied art work. His landscapes and buildings show good perspective, content and symmetry. Paul Deeley's interest in conservation was represented with a display of wildlife photography. Otto Bekouw's woodwork piece – a sjoulbak games board – showed patience in joints and finishing, and James Whittenberry presented a trinket box with at least a dozen dovetail joints. All these pupils were individual winners, and Harcourt House won the award for the best overall presentation.

T.J.L.

COKETHORPE – *From a Girl's Point of View*

Although it wasn't the first time I had been to Cokethorpe, I had a feeling of being out of place as I walked, outwardly calm, inwardly shaking, into the front hall for the first prayers of the term. My father introduced me to a few boys whose names I recognised and within a few seconds he was gone. I was left to fend for myself. I took a deep breath and remember thinking that I must have decided to come to Cokethorpe in a moment of insanity.

After a week I wanted to give up and go home, to the local comprehensive, to the moon, anywhere but Cokethorpe. I spent most of my time by myself because the boys were unsure of what to make of me, and, I suppose, how to react to the daughter of a member of staff. (I also – so they told me later – had a face like thunder, which certainly wouldn't have encouraged anyone to be friendly!) No-one quite knew what to say to me and those who kindly braved the situation and did speak to me were mercilessly teased by the rest.

It didn't last long, though, and now I have been introduced to such delights as a Cokethorpe 'pile-on' – as a spectator, I hasten to add – and witnessed many other funny incidents. Lining up chairs, making appropriate engine noises and pretending to be in a 'bus is, I'm sure, the natural thing for 6th formers all over the country to be doing during break!

On various occasions boys have tried to annoy me, usually by embarrassing me as much as they can. Sometimes, however, it rebounds on them. There was, for example, the incident with the chicken. A member of the 6th form (mentioning no names, Duncan) decided to bring a chicken up to my common room with the sole intention of annoying me with it. At the time I wasn't in the room, but on one of the desks Duncan saw a book which interested him. He sat down, put the chicken on the desk beside him, and settled down for a good read. Unfortunately, his quiet five minutes of mind expansion didn't last long. There was a knock at the door: Duncan grabbed the chicken and shoved it under the desk: the door swung open and Mr. White came in with some prospective parents he was showing round the House. He was in full flight explaining the various advantages of the new common rooms when peculiar noises started coming from underneath the desk . . . Suffice it to say that Mr. White and his visitors seemed to be unaware of this, but it took Duncan a lot of will-power to stop himself laughing, and probably also to stop the wretched chicken from flapping up onto the desk before the door mercifully closed behind Mr. White!

What sport is a girl supposed to do in a school which majors on rugby, soccer, cricket and rowing? Hide is the most obvious solution, but unfortunately not a very satisfactory one. I do cox a crew of four occasionally, although I am too heavy and have to suffer remarks like "Are we sinking, or is it just my imagination?" I have also become a dab hand at putting up the cricket score.

All in all, though, I feel I have settled in fairly well, and now rarely have the opportunity to feel the odd one out. In fact, I can say, with fingers crossed, that I have been accepted as 'one of the lads'.

Jayne Carter

P R I Z E S

Presented by Col. R.C. Hill
 Cadet Commandant of
 Oxfordshire Royal Green Jackets Battalion ACF

OPEN PRIZES

Headmaster's Prizes

Art
 Junior Art
 Music
 Woodwork
 Junior Woodwork
 Ceramics
 Junior Ceramics
 Cullen (Debating)
 Junior Debating

V.P.M. Kehoe & S.J. Smith
 N.M. Pineo
 Y. Karbasi
 J.J. Horada
 O. Bekouw
 J.E.S. Whittenbury
 A.T. Berwitz
 D.N. Matthews
 A.R.G. Morrison
 D.G. Hart & J.E. Etkin

Declamations:

6th Form
 5th Form
 4th Form
 3rd Form
 2nd Form
 1st Form
 Rosewell Prize

Martin Browne Memorial

A.R.G. Morrison
 C.B.C.H. Jones
 J.B. Price
 N.J. Bingham
 J.M.E. Benfield
 D.N. Matthews
 D.M. Marsden &
 D.A. Roscoe
 M.P. Stead

SUBJECT PRIZES

6th Form:

English
 Mathematics
 History
 Ancient History
 Geography
 Politics
 Art
 Biology
 Chemistry
 Physics

F. Dona
 J.M.K. Man
 S.J. Smith
 N. Sitinas & S.R. Pedoe
 F. Dona
 E.F.M. Smith
 E.F.M. Smith
 D.O. Jones
 D.O. Jones
 N.M. Pineo

5th Form:

English
 English Literature
 History

C.B.C.H. Jones
 D.A. Roscoe
 D.A. Roscoe &
 H. Mellowship
 A.J. Ogilvy
 D.A. Roscoe & D. Dona

Geography
 French
 Mathematics
 Physics
 Chemistry
 Political Studies
 Classical Studies
 General Science

A.J. Ogilvy
 H. Mellowship
 H. Mellowship
 N.W. Horn
 A.J. Ogilvy
 D.A. Roscoe &
 N.W. Horn
 H. Mellowship
 S.A. Robertson
 H. Mellowship

Computer Studies
 Religious Studies
 Motor Vehicle Studies

YEAR PRIZES

4th Form: 1st
 2nd
 3rd

3rd Form: 1st
 2nd
 3rd

2nd Form
 1st Form

R.L. Pye
 J.P. Lenehan
 C. Horn & E.J.T. Reynolds
 N.J. Bingham
 P.J. Scriven
 J.R. Vernon
 J.M.E. Benfield
 D.N. Matthews



Pencil sketch by N.M. Pineo



La Soirée de Noel

Nous avons chanté deux chansons françaises, "Sur la Route de Bouzy" et "Hou! là! là! que le ciel est noir!" et avons joué plusieurs scènes. D'autres classes ont également participé à la soirée et nous nous sommes bien amusés, tout en divertissant nos parents et professeurs. Et, pour finir, nous avons tous chanté "La Marseillaise", jouée au piano par Monsieur le Sous Directeur.

Form 1



Pencil sketch by S. Jewell

THE NORMANDY LINK

In September we shall be starting a new French "A" level course at Cokethorpe. The special topic chosen for the next two years is Normandy in all its aspects, particularly through the works of various regional authors. Why Normandy? For personal reasons first: one member of the French Department figured in the film "The Longest Day" and spent some time in the Caen area where he and fellow members of the "Ox and Bucks" re-enacted the D-Day landings, the other graduated from Caen University and lived and taught in Normandy for fifteen years. Historical reasons next: many local families are of Norman descent – the Fettiplaces, the Traceys, and, of course, the Harcourts, came over with William the Conqueror from Normandy, in 1066.

In the Easter Term we had a "Soirée Normande" at Cokethorpe, providing food for mind and body. Mrs. Williams talked about Norman architecture (Tewkesbury Abbey, built of Caen stone, Ashdown House at Newbury, a copy of the Château de Balleroy), Norman towns and countryside, the different seaside resorts, and last, but not least, Calvados, cider, sea-food and cheese. Mr. Florey then told us about his experiences, landing in Normandy just after D-Day and stressing to his audience that war is not glorious and exciting, but frightening and appalling. And we finished the "Soirée" sampling Camembert and Brie, and drinking Normandy cider.

Lying ahead of us now are what we hope will be, not just a lot of hard work, but studies of Maupassant and Flaubert, of Maigret investigating a murder at the port of Ouistreham, and trips to Normandy to visit areas loved by the Impressionists.

Our "A" level students will see for themselves the spires of St. Pierre at Caen and of Bayeux Cathedral, the famous tapestry, the landing beaches, or the ancient port at Honfleur. They will visit farms and see the Norman brown and white cows grazing under the apple-trees, before going on to taste their products.

Work, yes, but enjoyment, compulsorily!

C.W.

Rugby

THE CAPTAIN'S VERDICT

Adule Wariebi, Captain of the 1st XV *interviewed by* *Henry Kitching, Paul Brown and Alexis Criado*

How would you compare last season's results and performances to previous ones?

Last season was disappointing for the lads – it was only an average season in comparison to previous ones. After last year, when we had a really successful team, we had expected a bit more.

What was the overall playing record?

We lost six matches, won five and drew one. So we didn't quite make a 50% success rate.

How did you prepare physically as a team?

Basically, we had to go through a general programme where we were building up to a certain level of stamina which we would be able to sustain – and which would sustain us – for the rest of the season. For the first three weeks after the holidays we had a pretty strenuous set of exercises. Unfortunately, during that time I personally had an injury in a practice match, and other little things hampered us continually.

What did you think was the most beneficial exercise?

Running – for the backs I think it was running. That built up our stamina. We had other exercises where we would run for about five metres, do press-ups, run another five metres, do sit-ups, and so on. Later on, as we improved, the pack would have to go out and push the scrum machines. Mr. James' training routine can be a bit brutal at times, but we know it's in our own best interests!

Who worked hardest in training?

Well, usually what we have is a squad of thirty players who are potential members of the team. You have some players who will definitely be in the team, but other places are there to be taken by whoever works hardest and looks the best and this year people like Steve Lowe and Matthew Horton came out as the hardest workers and they proved that during the season, as they improved in the quality of their game. They were the ones who were running in the last five minutes, so if I had to choose anyone, I would choose them.

Would you like to make any other comments on the squad?

Well, as I said, initially we had about 30 people who came out to try and play for the team. In the end there were 23 who made appearances during the season. That really shows that we weren't a regular unit, because in a season

with about 11 matches you only expect about 19 players at the most to play. The fact that about 23 people played meant that every time we were fielding a different side. I only remember two players who played in every match, Sam Smith and Chowdhury. Howe, who'd been in the team about three years, only got in nine matches. I myself had only six, due to my injury.

Does the team play at the right level? Is it a good fixture list?

On the whole I think we're very fortunate. It's not always easy to get fixtures that are ideal for us because we are not consistently producing very good teams or very bad ones. In a good year with a good team we can defeat a lot of our opponents, and in a relatively bad year we may only get about 25 points scored against us. A team which is usually about the same standard as us in a good year is Rendcomb. Last year we played a game that was 25-24 and we had a really good game. That's the kind of fixture that suits us very well, though actually it wasn't such a close result this year!

Where did you think the strength of the team lay?

It must have been through individuals like Sam Smith who have seen it all, been there before. He was the one holding the team together when times were bad. Then there were people like Lowe who really developed and played very well, with brilliant line-out catches all season. Horton was hooking superbly. Maybe the strongest part of the team was the front row with Badawi and Chowdhury. The pack in the set pieces were probably not so good, but in the line-out they played pretty well and in the loose they were usually mobile. Sitinas in the backs was pretty dominant, especially in the Radley match, our last game. He came in for the first time to replace Shorrock as fly-half, and he had a superb game in which he did everything perfectly.

Were you ready and looking forward to the first match?

Our first match was against Shiplake 2nd's. Last year we played their Firsts and it was the hardest game of rugby I have ever had – all members of the team who had played in that game said the same. So although we didn't know what we would really do, in many ways we were expecting to beat Shiplake. As it happened, with a last-minute try and conversion, they just won!

Did this shake the confidence of the team a bit?

No, not really. But we realised we had to pull our socks up and put in 100% commitment. Probably we went into the Shiplake game a little over-confident. We thought we were as good as the year before, and we found out that there were certain areas in which we were not quite ready. That was what was good about the match. We knew we had to improve and we were looking forward to the next one to see what we could do.

How did the next few games go?

Our next game was against Stow 3rd away. They put up a very strong team. I am sure it wasn't their 3rd, but rather a mixture of 3rd players and some 2nd team players. They had some very good wingers. In that match we were still experimenting to find out who was ready for the team and we had a few players like El Hawrani in on the wing who were just trying to improve their game. That match we lost 21-9, partly due to the fact that there were at least 100 supporters for Stowe who shouted every time we got the ball! That put quite a few players who had just come into the side off. On the whole I thought it was a pretty good performance by quite a lot of players and you could see that there were people in the team who could play well in certain positions, so even though we lost pretty badly it was a plus because we saw we could do quite a lot.

The next match was against Burford at home and it was a well contested game all the way through, and there was quite a lot of drama. At one stage Mr. Randall had an injury and had to go off, and they had to bring on another referee. In the last few minutes of the game we were losing by one point. I had the ball and went through two players, but I had an injury in my leg and I couldn't go any faster and got caught up. So we literally just lost by inches.

When was your first win?

Our first win came at Oratory. We had a pretty dramatic game there, it wasn't decided until about the last two minutes. It was a real relief for everyone in the team because we had had three straight losses and a few heads were beginning to go down in the team and we knew that we had to start to get some results. Endeley scored two brilliant tries. They were pretty unlucky in the last minutes since they scored a try and did not get the conversion because it hit the cross-bar from the touchline, and that meant we had just won. We were really relieved to win that game and it was a great plus for everyone.

Did the improvement continue?

After the Oratory match? Yes, against Wycliffe College we came out pretty well. We defeated them. After the Wycliffe match we had White Friars. There we had really terrible conditions. Players were knee high in mud! And although we should have won, because we were still one point ahead of them in the last minutes of the game, there was a controversial conversion which didn't go over, but the referees said it did. The team's performance on that day should have been better, we should have won it, but we lost the match. Then it progressed to Rendcomb where we had a defeat – though I must say that their team must have been one of their best. They were much better than last year and a lot bigger than our side. Next we had a game against Wood Green, whom we thrashed 44-5. Endeley scored 5 tries. Sam Smith scored 4 tries and had 4 conversions as well. There was one moment when Horton nearly scored but got pushed back about 15 metres by one of their props. That was one of the most amusing sights of the season!

What was the most enjoyable game of the season?

It must be the one here against the Radley 3rd's, which we drew 0-0. That was a match when everyone really performed at their best. The scrum played brilliantly and kept together as a unit all the time, fighting for everything loose. The backs had the communication which they had been lacking at certain times during the season. A few players were leaving and we knew we had to do our best. It is a really hard match every year. Usually we lose, although sometimes only narrowly – but we were determined to win this time. In the match as a whole the first half was about equal, though we had a few chances when we were unfortunate not to score. In the second half we began well down in their half, and we stayed there most of the time and just kept it under control. The Radley boys hung on really well – they had a lot of pressure on them, because a lot of people were supporting us cheering wildly.

Did you miss not playing for the County this year?

Yes, I did miss not representing the County, but my real regret lasted all season and that was simply that I was missing any sort of rugby at all. At my fittest the most I could do was 80% of what I am really capable of doing. My hamstring injury was so prolonged that when I did turn out to try and do my best, I could feel it pulling which meant that I had to slow down in everything I did.

How do you personally prepare for a match?

There are certain teams which I have looked forward to playing against and before that match comes along I get pretty nervous and then I have to keep my mind steady and not think about rugby at all really. There are other teams for whom I don't really prepare, I just get ready to play and when the game comes along I just go out there to kill!

Which away ground do you prefer playing on and do you prefer playing home or away?

I don't have any particular preference. I know I don't like playing at Radley because there are usually a lot of supporters. I don't think it affects me that much, but I think it affects the team as a whole if they have a lot of people shouting for the opposition and not a lot for them. I don't mind playing at home or away as long as the weather is good and everyone is ready to play.

What are the prospects for the coming season?

Quite a lot of people are leaving – only Chowdhury, Horada and myself are staying from this year's team, so all the positions will be changing. The departure of Ng as scrum-half is an important position to fill. Apart from that I would have thought prospects look quite hopeful.

Would you want to be Captain again?

Well, as I had a season in which I only played six games out of twelve, I wasn't really Captain in the fullest sense – I didn't find out how much of a Captain I could really be. Funnily enough as Captain I don't think I play as well as I did when I wasn't. So in a way I wouldn't want to be Captain, but I suppose it depends what happens. I wouldn't refuse it!

JUNIOR COLTS RUGBY REPORT

During the summer holidays everyone was most probably longing to get back to school for a good hard game of rugby. When we returned we wished that we were still on holiday, as we had forgotten that we had progressed from the jog round the pitch with Mr. Daniels and Mr. Gentry to the furious sprint up and down with Mr. Watts and Mr. Inge.

After training Mr. James decided to promote Orebiyi from our squad, but we were still left with a good team, usually with props Gardiner and Jewell, hooker Price, in the second row Kentish and Oldham, flankers Nasser and myself, and finally in the scrum No. 8 Perry. In the backs we had Ellerton as scrum-half who had his moments of glory as did Kitching at fly half. The three quarters were Kabbara and El Hawrani with Horn and Gibbs on the wings. The unfortunate Robert Martyr at full back had to go off in the second match and was unfit for the remainder of the season so Birch joined the team as full back. Others who made occasional appearances in the team were Orebiyi who flew towards the goal line when he got the ball and Horada who played vigorously and well – both these two spent much of their time playing for the first XV. Hadeed played for us when his chest infection allowed. Ford, Roscoe, Ruff, Benito and McLoughlin also played on occasion.

The pack itself was a fairly strong, fit pack. They were usually up with the ball. They weren't all that skilful, but created a number of tries and opportunities. Quite a lot of ball was won by the pack and the scrum-half provided a good service to the three-quarters except for an odd wild one. The fly-half played with some determination and promise. The backs were often slow up in defence, but the full-back saved a good number of tries by his tackling. I think the team as a whole played well, but they could have learned to get back in defence more quickly.

On the whole our results were better than I was expecting. Our first match was away to Warriner; this is usually a very good and hard game but to our amazement they weren't as tough as usual. Our team was much stronger and we won by 18-0. Scorers were Hawrani and Kitching. In the second match, against Shiplake, we not only lost the match, 0-12, but also Martyr who had to be carried from the field. In our third match Hadeed scored a super try, the only one of the afternoon, but we still lost the match 4-20.

Our next game was away to Burford which was drawn 4-4. We should have won but I pulled the conversion attempt wide of the post so I was pretty embarrassed at that. Otherwise, it was a good game. Whitefriars had a superb team who walked all over us, 0-24. Not so good! Then so did Wycliffe. We were defeated 4-19, our scorer again was Hadeed who made a very good effort indeed.

The next match was at Oratory, in which we played well to win 0-15. I scored my best try of the season, just getting into the top corner from the 22 metre line. Orebiyi, Kitching and Gardiner also scored impressively. We beat Woodgreen easily 22-0, with tries from Hawrani, Orebiyi and Gardiner and a conversion from Birch which sewed up the game. We had a disappointing defeat at the hands of Rendcomb who beat us by ten points to nil. Against Radley, surprisingly, we had a victory by fifteen points to four. There were lovely tries and conversions from

Kitchin, Birch and Nasser. Despite tries from Perry and myself we lost to Kingham Hill 8-27, which wasn't too impressive. Our final match of the season was at home to Leighton Park and we were able to end a reasonably successful season by defeating them ten-nil.

M.R. Bowerman

UNDER 13 RUGBY REPORT

Practice began on the first day of the September term, and nine days later we found ourselves playing an away match against Warriner School. Our team was mostly comprised of new boys, many of whom had never played rugby before coming to Cokethorpe, but very good efforts were made and it was clear that after a little more coaching we would have a determined, fighting team. We lost to Warriner 34-10, but we must remember that they were physically stronger and had been together as a side for a year already.

We had three weeks to prepare ourselves for the next match, which was at home against Pinewood. Basic moves were practised again and again, until on 7th October we ran onto the pitch determined and confident of a win. We got just that with a 44-0 victory. Everyone's spirits were raised and good efforts had been made, especially by Daniel Essen, one of our more experienced conversion kickers.

Without doubt, the toughest match of the season was the one against St. Hugh's (played at home) on 14th October. This was the match the team really wanted to win. We battled during the first half, and the smallest man on the field, Kelly, made a good effort in passing and tackling. The second half of the match was to be the finest rugby we would play all term. With only twenty minutes to go we were 6 points to 8 down. Peter Scriven made some excellent runs and almost set up some tries. But St. Hugh's were strong and determined, and for the last quarter of an hour we really had to fight to stop them increasing their lead. We held them off but couldn't quite score, so we walked off the pitch slightly saddened but proud of our efforts. Nevertheless, it was our best result against St. Hugh's for a long time.

After half-term Mr. Fenton and Mr. Lawry were determined to preserve the fighting spirit from the St. Hugh's match so that when we came to play Oratory School at home we had a chance of winning. However, in spite of a superb drop goal by Essen – probably the most impressive move of the season – we were defeated 39-3. A week later we played an away match at Rendcomb, where we also lost 6-28. This was perhaps our poorest game of the season, but we kept our morale up for the final match against Kingham Hill (at home). We were well drilled by now and we certainly showed it. Tries by Lancaster, Searson, Bingham and Scriven, with conversions by Essen, contributed to the 24-13 victory. It was a great way to end the season.

Thank you to all the parents who gave support on the cold windy afternoons.

N.F. Bingham



*Iris and Gwen in 1944.
Below: on the steps of
the round-house last June.*



Cokethorpe, 1944-45: a group of 'jills' on the north lawn.



Pat and Win with their faithful steeds.



Ditchley: Gwen (forefront) peeling 'wood-wool'



The Tractor Gang

COKETHORPE REVISITED

Memories of an ex-‘Lumberjill’ 1942-1945

The date, June 23rd, 1988. A perfect day. Summer had arrived a few days earlier, and Gwen, an old friend from our wartime service in the Womens Land Army had driven down from N. Wales to visit me. We decided to visit our old “stamping-grounds” at Witney and take a look, and perhaps a new picture, of Cokethorpe, our “hostel” from early 1944 to the end of 1945. With some trepidation on Gwen’s part, we ventured up the drive and called at the School to ask permission to take one or two photographs. To our delight we were given a very warm welcome and a guided tour of the school and grounds by Mr. Adderley, and I was then asked by Mr. Cranham if I would write something about our wartime stay at Cokethorpe for The Peacock.

It is not generally known that there was a section of the Women’s Land Army involved purely in forestry, and was known as the Women’s Timber Corps. We worked for the Forestry Commission but wore the same uniform as the W.L.A. (i.e. knee-length “donkey-brown” greatcoat, cord or gaberdine breeches, thick knee-socks, green pullover over a beige ‘aertex’ shirt, and “pork-pie” felt hat). At the end of our initial one-month’s training, we were presented with our W.T.C. green beret and hat badge, depicting a conifer, and this really made us feel rather special. The ‘pork-pie’ was then duly abandoned to the farthest recesses of the locker!

We had all arrived as new recruits at Culford Training Camp in Suffolk on December 28th, 1942. We were all volunteers, the majority of us being girls coming up to conscription age, 20, which would have meant direction into the A.T.S. (Womens’ Auxiliary Territorial Service) or to a munitions factory, probably somewhere in the Midlands, the latter being a fate to be avoided at all costs! During the first week we were introduced to all aspects of forestry, which included the measuring of felled timber and related office work, sawmill work, and tree-felling, with one day in the classroom for lectures. At the end of the week we had to decide which branch of forestry interested us most, and then training began in earnest. Six of the girls in our hut had become friends, and five of us opted for felling as being the most unusual and exhilarating, and one became a measurer. At the end of the course several trainees had decided the Timber Corps was not for them, and were duly released. The six ‘stalwarts’ stuck it out, however, and four of us are still in touch to this day, 46 years later.

Having opted for a posting to the Home Counties, all except one of us being Londoners, and the sixth, Win, being a typically rosy-cheeked lass from Dorset who had a sister living in London, we duly arrived in Slough. We were met by Helen, our new forewoman, who immediately asked us if we’d brought our own axes with us, as there were not enough for about 20 new arrivals. She

took us to our new ‘billet’, the Y.W.C.A. Hostel, and from there we travelled each day by open lorry to the woods around Stoke Poges (Black Park) and Iver Heath. We were felling softwoods in general, mostly larch (a beautiful tree which fostered my love of trees ever since) which was used for pit-props and Army telegraph poles. Larger trunks were cut into lengths for “wood-wool” (packing material) and the thinner toptrunks were called “Cellotex” and were used for wood-pulp for the paper industry. The Army-poles and wood-wool had to be peeled with a “paddle” and was a pleasant, relaxing job after all the heavier work. We all became quite expert with the axe and the cross-cut saw: no electric chain-saws for us in those days, although they were in use, of course, by experienced foresters. Bow-saws were used for cutting the pit-props, ‘wood-wool’, etc.

Burning was a favourite job, particularly in cold weather. We would be given a “drift” of trees to fell, two girls to a drift, and after lopping we would pile the branches to form a hedge either side of the drift, to be burnt later. I can still remember the pungent smell of resin, which used to stain our dungarees (and our arms) and was almost impossible to remove. We had a small bonfire every day, our only means of making tea. A billy-can of water was placed on the fire, and when this boiled the tea (loose – no tea-bags then!) was thrown in, followed by National Dried Milk. We frequently had to remove pieces of burnt conifer from our mugs but this in no way detracted from our enjoyment of the brew!

In late ‘43 or early ‘44, having almost laid bare the entire forest lands of South Bucks (joking, of course!) it was time for us to move on. So it was that we duly arrived, by open Bedford lorry, at Cokethorpe, with all our luggage and tools. Turning into the drive, our first glimpse of the house was a little daunting, after the Y.W.C.A. Hostel in Slough, which was a medium-sized town house, but the parklands surrounding the house were so beautiful that we felt privileged to find we were to live in such grand surroundings.

*Women's Timber Corps
W.L.A., 1943-45*



Top left: Gwen and others felling Douglas Fir at Ditchley Park.

Left: Alice (instructor), Pat and Gwen.

Above: Irish (top left) supported by Pat and Win, Gwen at bottom left. Win was the measurer.

We occupied the west wing, and as far as we can establish, so many years later, our room was the end one which now houses the fire-escape, facing the park on the north side. It may have been the adjoining room overlooking the drive up to the house, as I seem to remember there was a bathroom directly opposite.

The dining-room was below the end 'dormitory', and we also had a recreation (common) room which I think was to the west of the library, which, together with the whole of the east wing, was strictly out-of-bounds, since Major Fielden's family were still in residence there.

I remember us meeting Major Fielden on one occasion, wearing uniform, when he visited our fête on the North lawn, which unfortunately was not a roaring success due partly to rain, but also to lack of advertising.

We only lived in the house, going to work each day by our usual mode of transport, the open Bedford. (On wet days we used a tarpaulin "tilt" over a steel frame, which was rolled back when not required). This was always great fun, and being in our working-clothes (dungarees, heavy, studded black boots and belted smock-coats) we must have looked an interesting, if not amazing sight to the local

people as we passed through Witney and the surrounding villages. We like to think that our healthy tan was the envy of them all, and did much to disguise the dust and black resin stains on the return journey! We had the use of bicycles at 1/- per week, for leisure purposes, but we also used the lorry on Tuesday evenings and Saturdays, Gwen being our driver, to attend dances in the Corn Exchange at Witney, and for shopping. Occasionally, we would be invited to Army or RAF camps, to a dance or film show - Bampton RAF Station was one venue, I remember, where we saw Frank Sinatra on screen for the first time (I don't think we were terribly impressed, Bing Crosby being a universal favourite of long standing!)

We worked for some months in Ditchley Park near Woodstock, on what I seem to remember was a dense wood of Douglas fir. This has an almost black bark and consequently gave the wood behind us a rather forbidding appearance, but after "brashing-out" the undergrowth and lower branches we were able to start felling, and the air was soon filled with shouts of "TIMBER!!" (the smaller the tree, the louder the call!) The crash of falling trees soon dispelled any feelings of gloom we may have had at first.

For some months now, there had been speculation on the wireless and in the newspapers about a Second Front being opened in Europe. The Eighth Army had returned from N. Africa and were training hard, and camped all around Stoke Poges, were members of the 51st Highland Division and the 1st Battalion Gordon Highlanders who had been a very welcome addition to our lives, with their bagpipes, kilts, and Scottish reels (in which we were encouraged to join) at the local village hall.

Towards the end of May 1944, arriving back in Witney one evening on our way home to Cokethorpe, we were amazed at the scene in the High Street. As far as the eye could see were Army trucks bearing a white star on each side, and Army tents and personnel camped all down the main street! The Americans had arrived With much waving, laughing and cries of "Hi, honey!" we carried on to Cokethorpe to another surprise. There were more, it seemed thousands, camped in the fields beyond the drive. They were all "confined to Barracks" and so both sides had to be content with friendly banter, and waves from the windows of the house on our part. Next day, at Ditchley, we discovered we had another battalion camped in the woods, also confined to barracks. This probably only lasted a few days to a week, and then suddenly they were gone. Our Ditchley neighbours said goodbye to us by leaving small heaps of "gifts" by various trees, things like "Candy" (chocolate bars), stationery, cigarettes, chewing-gum etc. We felt rather sad that we couldn't thank them, as these things were all in short supply, sweets and chocolate only being available on coupons, as were civilian clothes.

Early June. One day we were working in the woods, cutting pit-props as usual, when the skies seemed gradually to become alive with aircraft. There appeared wave upon wave of Lancaster bombers towing gliders, and also fighter planes like Spitfires and Hurricanes, and these all carried black and white 'zebra' stripes on their wings. We soon realised that something unusual was happening and later that evening, on arriving back at Cokethorpe, we

heard on the wireless that this was in fact "D-Day", June 6th 1944. The Second Front had begun.

Our lives carried on as usual for the next ten to eleven months, and eventually V.E. Day arrived, on May 8th 1945. By then our little group had dwindled to three, Gladys having met and married a British soldier, and Pat going home to London. Win, Gwen and I, having our one and only naughty spell, went off to London, wearing our dungarees rolled up as shorts (we did this frequently at work) to join in the celebrations, and what a marvellous day it was! By V.J. Day, in September, Gwen had met and married a Scot who was an R.A.F. navigator, so that left only Win and me to make another trip to London for more celebrations.

Not long after this our Area Welfare Officer visited us at work and broke the sad news that we were to be disbanded, now that some of the men were returning from war service. So, in due course, we said our farewell to Cokethorpe. Most of the girls obtained their release to civilian life, Win stayed on in the W.L.A., working at an Agricultural College. I, eventually, was posted to Aylesbury and worked as a tractor-driver for the next three years, and met and married Paul in 1948. (He was in this country as a "guest" of His Majesty's government!).

Win from Shaftesbury, Dorset, eventually married and emigrated to Canada, and Pat now lives with her family in Shaftesbury. Gwen eventually settled with her husband near Wrexham, N. Wales, and I have stayed in Buckinghamshire, very much a 'country girl' by now.

My thanks are due to Gwen, Pat and Win for some helpful memories of those days. It was all a long time ago and much detail has been forgotten, but for me it was a very happy period of my life, one which I wouldn't like to have missed.

IRIS MOELLER

From the artist's sketch-book:



by N.M. Pineo



Mr. Miles Copeland



P.J.C. with Dr. Geza Vermes



Mr. Alistair Paterson. Right: the finished watercolour 'Silver Birches'



*Above right: Mr. John Camp.
Above left: Mr. Charles Fraser-Smith.
Right: Exhibition case of some of
his wartime gadgets*



The General Studies Talks

1987-88

This year we have as usual had a number of afternoon and evening talks given by distinguished speakers from all walks of life.

The Christmas Term began with two talks of a completely contrasting nature, but both were given by men whose experience of life must have been extremely varied, to say the least. Our first visitor, Mr. **Miles Copeland**, spoke about "Careers in Intelligence", a subject on which he is eminently qualified to speak, since he began his career as a counter-espionage specialist in the 'OSS' – the original American Secret Intelligence Service – and was a co-founder of the CIA in the late 1940s. In the 1950s as a security consultant, he was adviser to President Nasser of Egypt and others; and he has also written a number of books on spies and terrorism, of which the best-known are probably *The Real Spy World* and *The Game of Nations*. Having described himself as "just about the busiest unretired retired person I know", Mr. Copeland then proceeded, at high speed and in a strong Alabama drawl, to give a most amusing account of the various operational techniques involved in intelligence work. From time to time he is still called back to the CIA to review the Agency's work in the light of ever more sophisticated developments in counter-espionage techniques. This was a talk which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who were present.

Mr. Copeland was followed by another speaker who was certainly a character – the painter, **Alistair Paterson**, who came to demonstrate his techniques of watercolour painting, and to create before our eyes a Scottish scene on the shore of Loch Rannoch which he called 'Silver Birches'. This was a very relaxed and informal occasion, and although we had not initially expected to keep up a non-stop dialogue with Mr. Paterson, such was his personality that, throughout the hour-and-a-half of the demonstration, all who were present managed to keep up a continuous barrage of questions to which he fielded answers while continuing to paint. Indeed, Mr. Paterson not only painted a picture for us that evening, but also gave us a great deal of his philosophy of life and art; and so successful was the occasion that it was repeated in the summer, when he came to demonstrate in acrylic paints, this time painting a Cornish scene called 'Fishing Boats at Polperro'.

Two other talks during the Michaelmas Term related to experiences during the second world war. Mr. **John Camp** came to speak about his work in the Psychological Warfare Unit, to which he was attached in May 1944 because of being bilingual in French and English. Having landed with the American army on Omaha beach, he was in charge of a tiny four-man unit which consisted mainly of a canvas-sided Austin ambulance with loud-speakers on top. The role of the unit was to talk the enemy into surrender if they would not budge otherwise, and to disseminate news, propaganda and instructions to the

civilian population. His greatest success in the first category was to persuade the German garrison of Cherbourg (1200 men) to surrender after promising them cups of *real coffee*! This exploit made the front page of the *Daily Mail* under the headline "Surrender Salesman!" Mr. Camp ended the war with an American Bronze Star, and running the music department of the German radio station in Hamburg.

An additional item on the printed calendar for the Michaelmas Term, but one which was no less enjoyable for that, was the talk given by Mr. **Charles Fraser-Smith**, the original of "Q" (the inventor of the gadgets) in the Bond books. (Ian Fleming was one of Mr. Fraser-Smith's wartime colleagues.) Mr. Fraser-Smith described in some detail the amazing equipment – much of it on a relatively miniature scale – which he made for special agents of SOE and M16, as well as for partisans and prisoners-of-war. The occasion was enhanced by being able to view and, in some cases, to handle, some of the gadgets. They now form part of a permanent exhibition at Bickleigh Castle in Devon, and Mr. Fraser-Smith brought several of the show-cases with him.

In early November we had a very interesting talk by Dr. **David Billett**, marine biologist from the Institute of Oceanographic Sciences in Surrey. Having reminded us that ocean accounts for seven-tenths of the world's surface, Dr. Billett described the work of the Biology Dept at I.O.S. and some of the problems of doing deep-sea research. He then turned to the purely biological aspects of life in the oceans, and described the various ways in which different kinds of fish have adapted to their environment. This part of the talk took the form of a gradual descent through each 'layer' of the ocean, until we reached the sea-bed itself. The slides he brought to illustrate his talk showed a great variety of creatures, ranging from the beautiful light-producing fish, with their rows of reflective panels, to the rather ugly Angler fish, who catch their prey in an awesome way. Altogether, a fascinating talk.

Events of a musical nature are often included in each year's General Studies programme. Having had violin, harpsichord, lute and guitar recitals at various times in the past, a piano recital seemed to have eluded us until the arrival of Mr. **Paul Skelton**. Mr. Skelton started learning the piano at the age of 12, and has studied at the Royal Academy in this country, and the Frederick Chopin Academy of Music in Warsaw. The second half of his programme was exclusively devoted to music by Chopin. The first half included works by Tchaikovsky, Scriabin and Liszt, and the two 'Poems' by Scriabin were the items I enjoyed most. The Corinthian Room had been meticulously prepared for the occasion; the subdued lighting created a pleasant atmosphere, and Mr. Skelton's skill was certainly shown to the full. At times his hands were just a blur as they flew over the keyboard.



Paul Skelton's piano recital

By way of an encore Mr. Cranham had devised something of a test for Mr. Skelton – which was to play an excerpt of music from a recently-discovered, unpublished Liszt manuscript, a fragment of which had been published in a national newspaper the previous week. The challenge was instantly accepted by Mr. Skelton: some copies of the manuscript fragment were distributed among the audience; and we could only marvel at the way in which Mr. Skelton was able to make sense of the piece, which turned out to be a kind of March.

During the early part of the Summer Term we had a second piano recital, this time by **Alan Etherden**. This was an evening of lighter classical and Victorian drawing-room pieces, the latter being a speciality of Mr. Etherden's. Once again, the Corinthian Room provided the ideal setting for the recital, and of the pieces Mr. Etherden played I particularly liked those by Debussy, especially the impressionistic effects of "Reflections in the Water".

Two speakers who made welcome return visits were **Mr. Neil Brand** and Dr. Leo Aylen. Mr. Brand gave us the sequel to his lecture on "Hollywood and the Silent Era" which formed part of the G.S. programme last year. This talk was called "The Stars of Hollywood", and as the title suggests concentrated more on personalities rather than the techniques of the silent cinema. As before, Mr. Brand brought a number of silent films with him (including the one with the famous scene of Harold Lloyd hanging on to the clock on the skyscraper), and once again he provided live piano accompaniment in his own inimitable style.

In January **Leo Aylen** came to give another poetry reading; we knew what to expect from his previous visit and no-one was disappointed. He recites all his work from memory, and he brings to the recitation all the skills of an actor. Deadly serious one moment, light-hearted the next, at times he had us all in fits of laughter. Towards the end he produced some brain-teasers in the form of poetic riddles, and asked us to say what we thought he was describing. (Fady Dona was particularly good at unravelling the riddles.)

I think Dr. Aylen's poetry recital was the occasion I most enjoyed this year, but there is no doubt that the most memorable talk was the lecture called "Insight on Blindness" given by Mr. **F.R.H. Elgood**. Until January 1982 Mr. Elgood was Headmaster of a well-known Teeside school, when he was suddenly compelled to retire due to blindness. He spoke very frankly and with no self-pity whatsoever about the problems of blindness, and he positively encouraged us to ask any questions we wanted to. Having attended rehabilitation at St. Dunstan's and the Guide Dog Training Centre at Middlesborough, and having gradually come to terms with his loss of sight and acquired the specialised skills that enable him to lead as normal a life as possible, Mr. Elgood now has a greater variety of occupations than when he only had one full-time job. In the second half of his talk he showed us many of the everyday pieces of equipment blind people require, and he also told us how we could best assist blind people in a number of situations (the correct way to help them cross a road, for example.) By Mr. Elgood's request, there was no applause at the end of this talk, as it upsets his dog, Ian. However, many people stayed behind afterwards to thank

him and continue talking to him; and I am sure everyone went away much moved by what they had heard.

The Lent Address this year was given by Dr. **Geza Vermes**, the Reader in Jewish Studies at Oxford University, on the subject of the Dead Sea Scrolls. These precious manuscripts from Biblical times were first discovered in a series of caves at Qumran in Palestine in 1947, and altogether ten complete scrolls and thousands of fragments belonging to what must have been hundreds of other manuscripts, have come to light. As yet, however, only a portion of the Scrolls have been transcribed and published, and Dr. Vermes – the leading authority on the Scrolls in this country – would like to see publication of the remainder speeded up. Having described the circumstances in which the scrolls were discovered, Dr. Vermes then explained in terms that we could all understand what their importance is – especially the way in which they help to confirm the reliability of the Jewish tradition in translating the Bible. Many questions were asked as a result of what Dr. Vermes said, and we were indeed privileged to have had such a distinguished man in our midst.

The next talk was certainly the most ambitious of the year. Called “Wellington & Napoleon: A Confrontation”, it was a long and detailed reconstruction by two military experts of the events leading up to the Battle of Waterloo. The experts were Mr. **Michael Glover**, the well-known military historian and writer, and Dr. **David Chandler**, Head of the War Studies Dept at Sandhurst. As our foremost authority on Napoleon Dr. Chandler naturally described the proceedings from the French point of view, while Mr. Glover was responsible for the English and Prussian viewpoints. Dr. Chandler built into the presentation extracts from the cinema epic *Waterloo*, and throughout the talk continuous use was made of slides and OHP transparencies to show the exact positions of various regiments and the way in which the fortunes of each army changed. Although parts of the presentation were not quite as dramatic as I had expected, both speakers certainly knew their subject in minute detail and between them they produced one of the most fascinating talks I have ever attended.

The final lecture of the Lent Term was given by Mr. **Nicholas Faith** who took as his subject “The Revolution in the Art Market”. As Mr. Faith explained, the art world has undergone a total transformation in the last twenty-five to thirty years, and prices paid at auction for works of art continually stun the public as they make news headlines (the van Gogh ‘Sunflowers’ and ‘Irises’ being only two of the more notable examples in painting.) Mr. Faith then proceeded to lift the lid off what has been until now a fairly secret world, and he described in some detail the way in which Peter Wilson – probably the most famous auctioneer of all time – set about converting Sotheby’s into the multi-million pound international business it now is. Many questions were asked as a result of what Mr. Faith said, and this was altogether a very lively and informative talk on an unusual subject.

E.C. Casey, L6th

Appeal on behalf of *‘Guide Dogs for the Blind’*

It was the General Studies lecture during the Lent Term given by Mr. Elgood, an ex-Headmaster, which triggered me into launching this appeal. I sat mesmerized as he described the difficulties encountered by blind people, and demonstrated some of the aids available to them. The beautiful German Shepherd dog he had with him captivated all our hearts with the possible exception of Mr. Cranham who received a small nip when he inadvertently came between the dog and his master!

Mr. Elgood was sitting at his desk one Monday and by the following Friday he was blind. However he did not sit back and just accept the situation but re-trained to lead an active life and now travels the country on behalf of the blind. I was so impressed with his attitude that I left the Corinthian Room determined to do something for ‘Guide Dogs for the Blind’. Mr. Elgood had told us that £1000 was needed to sponsor the purchase and training of a guide dog – a sum I thought was within reach of the school – and so the appeal was launched.

The first main event was a Charity Lecture ‘Another World Than This: the life and work of Vita Sackville-West’, given by Mr. Cranham on May 8th. Although the turnout was rather disappointing, those who were present were treated to an excellent talk in which Mr. Cranham painted a succession of vivid word pictures of Vita Sackville-West and the world in which she lived, and it was clear that we were listening to an expert on this author and poet. The extracts from her writings were well chosen to illustrate the many facets of her character and work, both as a poet and a gardener; and Mr. Cranham certainly whetted the appetite not only to read some of her work, but also to visit Sissinghurst, the garden which she created on the Kentish Weald.

Later in the Summer term, on June 12th, we were given the privilege of sharing some of Mr. White’s excellent slides in a talk called ‘In Three Continents’. Mr. White has travelled widely, his camera being a constant companion. He has the knack of taking shots from unusual angles and heights, almost certainly making them unique. The show was punctuated with anecdotes, many of which were amusing and we certainly enjoyed the experience. Mr. White’s capacity to quote statistics was impressive – he remembered heights of mountains, and the names of obscure rivers and regions quite effortlessly.

I am grateful to both Mr. Cranham and Mr. White for taking the time and effort necessary to put on two such splendid evenings.

There will be more events of course – at the time of writing the total raised is £320 so we are about a third of the way to our target. Two events are planned for the Michaelmas term, an evening entitled ‘The fun of Mathematics’ and, later, a concert. I would be very happy to fend off offers of help and/or ideas to raise money.

M.C.

General Studies ‘Quote’ of the Year:
“Has Dr. Vermes brought the scrolls with him, sir?”



S. Jewell.

Vincent

Neil Pineo, winner of this year's Open Art Prize, writes about the work of Vincent van Gogh

During my visit to Amsterdam last April I spent some time in the van Gogh museum. Seeing the original works as opposed to just prints in books was quite an experience, and the limited time I spent there wasn't enough. The museum consists of four floors and, in addition to two hundred paintings, it also houses most of van Gogh's drawings and pen-and-ink studies, and many of his famous letters. There is a section containing watercolours by Anton Mauve – van Gogh's teacher for a short time – and also one with Japanese prints, of which the artist was a sincere collector.

The collection is the largest and most representative van Gogh collection in the world. The paintings are displayed partly in chronological order and partly by subject matter. The visitor can thus follow van Gogh through his Dutch and Parisian periods, to the final phase in Provence by which time he had developed the personal style – with its radiant colours and expressive brushwork – by which he is best known. There is a strong contrast between the earliest works showing peasants in dark earthy hues, and the brighter sun-filled work produced at Arles. In several studies of peasants' heads, and particularly in 'The Potato Eaters', van Gogh shows his understanding of their way of life and of the realities of their existence. Van Gogh colours the faces of these figures in the dark hues of "dusty potatoes". The rough and direct manner in which this series is painted adds to the mood of the pictures. This can also be seen most effectively in a series of still-life paintings of shoes which show their worn character; and the directness with which they are reproduced enhances our perception of their true condition.

The highlights of the collection include a number of van Gogh's major works, such as 'The Harvest', 'Sower', 'Cypress with a Star', 'Wheatfield with Lark' and 'Crows in the Wheatfields'. Van Gogh did not slavishly copy nature to produce something photographic; he was all for showing reality, but he also wanted to produce something which showed his personal reaction to the subject. The pictures can be felt by following the lines of paint, not just the outlines of the drawing – and within the areas of colour the directional brush-strokes which make up the overall texture. Each different texture produces a different effect or rhythm, thus adding to the picture as a whole. The attention given to colour is equally important, for each colour reflects the different emotions felt. Van Gogh wanted the colours in each work to interact like "notes making up a chord" in music. If van Gogh repeated a particular scene several times it was not to study – like the

impressionist – the variations of light at different times, but to apprehend its permanent and "real character". As his style progresses the movement in the landscapes becomes more chaotic. The rhythmic brush-strokes become more exaggerated. The skies become tormented, and swirling clouds crash more like waves during a storm. Natural forms seem to grow out of control, twisting and turning to complete a cosmic cycle.

Van Gogh did portraits whenever he could get models to sit for him; more often, because he could not get sitters, he had to rely on self-portraits. He found great expression in the human face, maybe more than in a landscape. Vincent painted twenty-two self-portraits while he was in Paris, each one expressing his mood at that time. He found that it had a calming effect on his mind when he was troubled.

I only fully realised the energy and devotion that van Gogh put into his painting when I read Vincent's letters to his brother Theo. In these letters there is a continuous flow of personal thought and mental understanding of each new undertaking. This endeavour to produce honest work is felt with a sense of mission and life-commitment – eventually taking his own life when his art could no longer continue.

Van Gogh wanted ordinary people to enjoy his large colourful compositions. I do not think he intended his work to be sold for ridiculous sums of money to private collectors, and thus made the preserve of the few.

A big change has occurred in the hundred years since van Gogh was painting. We have seen movements such as the Surrealists and the Cubists, each with their own views on art. My own interest in Surrealist art has gradually diminished in the last couple of years. I still enjoy the dream-filled works of Marc Chagall, for they retain a freshness of spirit and do not follow a particular code or formula. They are simply great pieces. Works of artists belonging to a particular group or movement seem to me hindered rather than achieving something more by following each other. The work is tied down in a way, instead of being open to the free spirit which produces a fresher and more original piece. So even if several artists are working in a similar way and have the same thinking in what they are doing, I don't think they should consciously try to unify their efforts. Each should find his own reality true to himself – as van Gogh did.



P.J.G. brings the flag down . . .



The only time we have needed a safety rope at the ford

THE SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY

The practices for this year's Cross Country were run in a variety of weather. Initially, we were sent out in glorious January sunshine, but on other days there was torrential rain. However, although the weather was bad on the actual day of the Cross Country race – Thursday, 4th February – it did not dampen the enthusiasm of too many of the runners who took part.

Starting from the back gate the familiar figure of Edward Casey was leading the race, with Henry Kitching hard on his heels.

The ford, which had caused considerable problems in the past, was now even more dangerous than ever, and its depth had to be taken carefully into account. A couple of runners were almost carried away by the strong current, so a safety rope was stretched across and 1st and 2nd Formers were told to cross by the bridge.

It was to some people a considerable surprise when a complete outsider – myself! – finished first with Henry Kitching still a good distance away. With most of the slow runners in other Houses, Swift were easily able to keep the Cup with a total of 2011 points. Queen Anne came second with 2369 points; Vanbrugh were third with 2744; and Harcourt not far behind them with 2862.

Although most runners tried their hardest and deserve congratulations, some runners for the future should be particularly mentioned. In Vanbrugh Ford came in 4th; Shannon (3rd Form) came in an excellent 6th; and O'Farrell (4th Form) came 19th. For Harcourt Casey came in 4th, and Price 7th. Many of the Swift 3rd Formers were in the top 30, and Richard Pye came 16th. For Queen Anne Bingham was 10th. All these runners will be seen next year.

A.J.F. Blackwell

'That time of year again!'

or

*'It was raining but there was no way
of getting off the Cross Country'*

CROSS COUNTRY ACCOUNTS BY 3W

Mr. Green fired the starting gun and we all dashed off laughing. Behind me with his steady jog was Jeffs, and beside me, bobbing up and down as if he was at sea, was Hubbard. . . We took the last bend round the cricket pitch and everyone's speed suddenly increased. Many boys started to pass me – one was Rutter, who was also bobbing up and down and already completely red-faced. . .

Dominic Edwards

. . . I was sprinting along and had just passed Mr. Carter. I felt quite comfortable at that speed with no wind or rain in my face. But as soon as I reached the road the wind was stronger because it was more open, and I found it hard to run. I caught up with Edwards who started to talk about the second half of the course. Then, after I got bored with him, I sprinted towards a field for a bit, and then slowed down again to catch my breath. . .

James Young

. . . We climbed a gate into a muddy field. Five other boys were around me. The mud stuck to our boots, weighing us down. Eventually we made it to Hardwick where we ran down through a small alleyway. We then had to climb a gate which was very slippery, and Jervis fell and I tripped over him. Time was passing by, and so were some runners, so I got a move on!

I passed Mr. Watts who was telling me that my laces were wrapped round my legs. We ran on and stopped to look at the river which was deep and cold. Then we moved on towards another boggy field. . .

Timothy Gibbons

. . . I carefully passed the small bridge with a few other boys. The wind was blowing hard against us and most of the time you just had to walk head down into it. It started to rain again and the river beside me was flowing vigorously. I thought the ford must be coming soon. We turned a corner and, to our astonishment, there was yet another field – it seemed never-ending. My shoes got stuck in the mud and came off and I stopped to pick them up. Finally we came to the third corner – after this it was only a short distance to the ford. I looked at some of the worried looks on some peoples' faces, and began to wonder if this was all worthwhile. . .

Paul Brown

. . . It was now about 4 o'clock. I was running towards the ford. I had lost a sock and a shoe, and I was carrying my other shoe in one hand. I was cold and tired as an old duck. When I was about five yards from the ford Mr. Daniels was saying "Come on, Abeywardene – I know you like running without your socks." I just smiled at him and carried on. I was not allowed to cross because Hall was crossing first in front of me. I went half way but then had to come back because I could not breathe properly. Because I was in a bad condition I was allowed to cross by the bridge. On the bridge one of the groundsmen was pulling a rope to help the others. . .

Dilan Abeywardene

. . . When we finished crossing the ford we jogged up to the gate. We had to stop for a moment at the main road because there was a lot of traffic, but Mr. Stark told us to

keep jogging on the spot so as not to get frozen. My shoes were soaking wet and I felt heavy and cold. After we had crossed the road I sprinted in order to gain a few places. I was tired but I knew I had to pass them. I was running with Tonks. I did try to overtake him but it was difficult – my shorts were soaked and clinging to me so much that it slowed me down.

Alexis Criado

... We were now coming up to Home Farm. The wind was lashing down on everyone's faces, making conditions almost impossible. The track zig-zagged down to the main School. I ran at a steady pace, knowing that even though the School was in sight, there was still quite a way to go before the finish ... Coming up to the final bend the ground became extremely muddy. Every time you lifted your feet up they felt heavier and heavier ...

Mark Hunter

... My feet were killing me by now, and because it had been raining again the mud was much softer and deeper. I had cramp and a stitch. I tried to keep on going. At the driveway Mr. Green was shouting "Sprint – sprint!" And it was there I knew I wouldn't be last ...

James Young



Opposing the motion of the waves

Poems from Form 1

LAVA

*Hot rock, getting hotter and hotter,
Slowly melting, bubbling and boiling.
Suddenly a bang!
The lava has erupted.
It slowly runs down the mountain,
Faster and faster,
Eating everything in its path –
Eating villages,
Killing hundreds of people.
Then the lava clashes with the sea
And it starts to die down,
Turning back into rock.*

Lee Whelehan

THE BEACH

*I went to the beach
Not so long ago –
Sandy beach, a calm sea,
A bluey-green water.
Sharks swimming,
Ships, boats out at sea.
Men swimming and snorkelling.
Dolphins jumping.
I love the beach,
It is paradise.*

Simon Cully

THE SEA

*I went to the sea not so long ago,
My sister, brother, and my dog Joe.
We looked at the waves so tall,
To see them form
A gigantic wall.
We looked at the cliffs
With the sea crashing in on them.*

*I look and think of another country
Across that sea,
A country that is big, called America.
But we are separated
By a bluish, whitish liquid
Called the sea.*

John Kelly

BLACK MAGIC

*Slowly the darkness came upon me.
Then it went cold,
As if a whole parade of ghouls were pushing by.
There was an old cottage where a witch lived,
With a river running by.
The witches danced among the trees
With their cloaks making a big breeze.
They chanted spells round a ouja board,
I felt the evil force.
The demons came and took me away,
Black magic spells saved the day.*

Lee Casson

GINGER

*He is a light-coloured haired hamster
With short stumped feet.
He walks around in his cage
Biting the bars
Trying to get out.
He sleeps by the wheel,
Not in his bed.*

*When he comes out
He stuffs his pouch.
Once he hid in a mattress
And we cut it open to get him out.*

James Young

In Defence of Zoos

Fady Dona opposing the motion in the Vanbrugh-Swift inter-House debate

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen –

For many people zoos are simply a pleasant place to go for a Sunday outing – a place where the casual stroller can be amused by the almost human antics of chimpanzees, chilled by a boa constrictor, or awed by the great majesty of a lion crossing a simulated African wild. But what most visitors fail to realise is that at a *modern* zoo more varieties of animals can be observed at closer range than on any trek to the most untamed regions of the globe.

I'm afraid our opponents' concepts of zoos are quite out of date. To listen to them you'd think that zoos are places where miserable animals are kept in dark little cages – places not very different to Victorian menageries or amusement institutions. The truth is that zoos, like everything else, have changed and moved with the times.

As the population of the world rapidly increases, more and more of the Earth's resources are being used to satisfy human needs – and, in turn, more and more animals are threatened, forced out of their natural habitats, and sometimes brought to extinction. Naturally, zoos provide havens for nearly all endangered species – and for some near-extinct animals they are a last refuge.

Zoos play a crucial role in spreading concern for the conservation of wild-life: without them far fewer people would be aware of these creatures, fewer still would be knowledgeable about the trouble of some – and the sheer desperation of others. I doubt if the opposition know just how serious the situation is – and I have here some facts from the U.S. National Academy of Sciences . . . If we take a typical patch of rain-forest just four miles square this contains as many as 400 species of birds, 150 kinds of butterfly, 100 different types of reptile, and 85 different types of mammal – the numbers of insects are so great that no-one has yet been able to count them. Sadly, by the time we have finished this debate, another 22 hectares – not 4 square miles, but 22 hectares – of tropical rain forest will have been destroyed. Where will all the creatures go to ensure their survival? Obviously, zoos are one of the major solutions to this problem – yet still the opposition would have us believe that zoos have outlived their usefulness! What nonsense!

As zoos have moved with the times breeding and conservation have been deemed more important than entertainment. Conservation is now the order of the day. Everywhere the main aim now is to conserve species, to halt the decline in wildlife, reverse it, and re-stock the wild with captive-bred animals. To be able to achieve this it is believed that the most natural setting possible will encourage natural behaviour – which will in turn

encourage the animals to reproduce. Let us therefore examine the care and efforts that are taken to ensure that these animals do feel 'at home'. The opposition would probably feel inclined to tell us that animals do *not* feel comfortable in zoos and that they lead a life of misery there. Well, they are wrong again! With the help of technology, modern zoos have created vast enclosures where varying conditions of temperature, humidity, soil and vegetation reproduce habitats ranging from rain forest to deserts. Day and night have been reversed so that owls, bats and other nocturnal creatures can be observed in action during the day. For example, the technology that has gone into making penguins feel at home in San Diego is remarkable: the air is cooled at minus 2.2°C and passes through filters that remove most of the bacteria which could be harmful to the birds. The exhibition covers 500 square metres and *each day* 5000 kilograms of crushed ice are blown over the floor to create a suitable surface for the birds. The 560,000 litres of water in the pool are completely filtered away every 39 minutes, keeping the water clear in spite of the Penguins' best efforts to cloud it! The lighting mimics the Antarctic cycle so that in the middle of the San Diego summer the lights inside are as low as they would be down south. At a cost of \$7 million I think the penguin enclosure is worth every cent because 'Sea World' – as it is called – bred the first Emperor Penguins to hatch in captivity. Indeed, with efforts of this kind, it is surely not surprising that the 'International Inventory Species System' quotes that in 1985 out of 69,000 registered mammals and birds, 48,000 were bred in captivity – that is more than two-thirds! 48,000! Surely some of these animals must be happy?!

Cynics may say that captivity is still captivity – that no matter how you pretty it up, a gaol is still a gaol. They are right, but they miss an important point by insisting on talking about captivity. Zoos are the only hope for many species. Inevitably they are captive. They have to be. But if an animal can go through its normal behavioural cycle as a result of zoos' efforts, then it is leading as normal a life as possible. The zoo is therefore serving a very useful purpose.

In my view, zoos have not outlived their usefulness, because there is simply no substitute for what they offer. Critics argue that zoos do not contrast well with the spectacular wildlife films that can be seen on television. I think the opposite is true: wildlife films surely enhance the appreciation people have of good zoos. They know what an animal is capable of, and value it as much – if not more – in a zoo.

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen: I beg to oppose.



Left: The room outside the royal throne room at Knossos. Below: View from the ancient guardroom. Centre right: An ancient store room at Knossos with original storage jars.



Left: A reconstruction of original frescoes and decorations which are in the Heraklion Museum. Above: Redevelopment (by the Italians) of the ancient site at Phaestos.

Classical Studies trip to Crete

Our group met at Gatwick on the 13th of April at about 9.30 a.m. In England we had a beautiful sunny day, exactly what we were expecting in Crete but we were not to be so lucky. We left Gatwick a little late and arrived in Heraklion at about twenty to five (Greek time is two hours ahead). The sun was shining as we drove for an hour to our hotel (Hermes) in Agios Nicalaos one of three or four large towns on the island.

The hotel itself was excellent with good food and large spacious rooms. It struck us how friendly and helpful the Cretan staff were.

Our first day was devoted to the vicinity of Heraklion, including the Minoan palace at Knossos and the archeological museum in Heraklion itself. The palace at Knossos is probably the best remaining piece of Minoan architecture and was excavated by Sir Arthur Evans in the 1930s. He partially restored the site and although excellent in most places, our guide Konstantine explained that there were some mistakes. However, the whole group was fascinated by the palace, Konstantine seemed particularly proud of the flushing lavatories and the sewage system.

After lunch in Heraklion we met at the museum as the weather was beginning to cloud over. The museum contained many relics discovered at Knossos and other sites on the island. We spent an interesting hour and a half being shown around by Konstantine, looking at many discoveries ranging from the famous disc of Phaestos to bronze spear heads and small coracle boats. We also saw a model of the Knossos palace which illustrated how awesome it must have been.

That evening we explored the town of Agios Nikolaos, discovering our favourite haunt – a disco called Bora Bora, more than one person was rather taken by the waitress there!

The next day was our longest trip when we really saw Cretan culture. We visited the plateau of Lasithi where the fog was so thick that we couldn't see anything and two pleasant little villages called Kritsa and Elounda. All Cretan villages seemed to bear a striking resemblance to each other – all the buildings up and down the roadside were plaster walled and had flat roofs. Every other building housed a shop, almost all of which sold T-shirts, sweat shirts and rugs at extremely cheap prices.

We returned to the Hotel Hermes by about 6.00p.m. and another night was spent 'on the town'.

On our third full day we visited the Minoan village of Gournia. Although parts of some of the stone walls had been rebuilt, the site was only partially excavated and the foundations of other buildings could be seen on the surrounding hills. After this very interesting site we went on to visit one or two more Cretan towns, Irapetra and a lunch stop in Sitia. In the afternoon we visited the monastery at Toplou which was very beautiful. I'm sure that I could live in it very comfortably. It was constructed in the 14th/15th centuries and the stone courtyard is

ringed by a series of wooden balconies and staircases. In the tiny church there was a large painting based on a Greek Orthodox prayer which fascinated us all.

Lastly that day we visited the famous palm forest and swam in the sea. For a brief spell the sky was clear blue and the sun shone but by the time we returned to Aghios Nikolaos it was raining again. We were due to transfer to the Hotel Orion at Rethymnon the next day so there were various farewell celebrations that night.

We left at eight on Sunday morning to visit the village of Fodele (legendary birthplace of El Greco who in fact came from Heraklion) and the Arkadi monastery. This was a lot plainer than that of Toplou, the buildings were very much the same as those in the nearby village. Here we all tried some Greek yoghurt with very sweet honey. That afternoon we arrived at the Hotel Orion which wasn't quite up to the standard of the Hermes. The afternoon was free and spent swimming and exploring by most people. On Monday we visited a small village called Omalos where we stopped for a drink on our way to the Samaria gorge. The Gorge itself was an amazing sight, lined with mountains on either side. Konstantine told us of his ambition to hang-glide the length of it! We had lunch in the town of Chania (second largest on the island) and then in the afternoon we went to see the British and Commonwealth cemetery where the war dead from WWII are buried. Justin Price knew of a relative killed in Crete but we could find no mention of him in the register.

We spent the evening near the hotel or on the beach.

On our last full day we visited the temple of Gortys, Roman capital not only of Crete but of North Africa. In one place you could see how the Greek law which had been inscribed onto a wall had been used by the Romans in other building work. Odd stones with inscriptions appeared here and there in other areas of the site. From here we went to visit our second Minoan palace, Phaestos. This again was fascinating, at first it looked rather flat but when Konstantine explained what everything was the place seemed to come to life. The palace was perhaps the best appreciated Minoan site on the island – it was a fine piece of architecture and although smaller than Knossos it shared many of its features, the food magazines being an especially fine example. Finally we visited Matala Bay where, having explored the caves, many of us took advantage of the sunshine and hired pedalo boats and spent an hour on the water. That evening we had time to visit the town of Rethymnon before packing in preparation for the return journey.

The next day we drove to Heraklion airport to find that our flight was delayed by an hour so we didn't arrive in Gatwick until about eight p.m.

The trip itself was a great experience enjoyed by all of us and it just remains to thank everyone who made the trip possible, especially the Headmaster and Mr. Fenton.

E.C. Casey

SKIING

The annual skiing holiday hardly merits a place in the school magazine these days in that it is more of an annual fixture than a special occasion. Nevertheless each trip is special in its own way and deserves some kind of permanent record.

There were two trips this season, a junior one for those in the fourth form and below over New Year and a second chance for those in the fourth to go with the fifth and sixth at Easter. Both trips had their share of misfortune but in their way were two of the most successful holidays of their kind that can be remembered.

In the Christmas holiday we suffered the skiers nightmare – no snow. It was both strange and bitterly disappointing to arrive at a resort that several of us knew well to see not the beautiful white mountain that is so familiar but a brown and rather depressing looking hill (it really did look half the size). However, the disappointment was relatively short lived when we learned that Winter Adventure Holidays had already made plans to bus us each day to the nearest glacier – about two hours down the mountain and up the next to the resort of Les Deux Alpes. Once there (and it was a bore setting off at 6a.m.) we started praying that it wouldn't snow. The weather was glorious and it seemed that we could almost touch the sun. Why a few thousand feet in 93,000,000 miles should make so much difference is a question for the science papers not a skiing report. Apart from the occasional case of sunburn – in spite of precautions I'm pleased to say rather than because of an all too frequent disbelief that there is a risk amongst so much snow and ice, all went well. Piers Pether insisted on allowing his nose to bleed as he reached 2,600m each morning but didn't allow the loss of blood to impede him in any way.

Only Adam Bryan had skied a glacier before (funnily enough at Deux Alpes the previous Easter) so it was a new experience for all of us and a most exhilarating one it was too, even though it could never match the beauty and interest of the more intimate slopes at Chamrousse.

There wasn't much time for night life by the time that we got back – not that anyone had much energy left anyway. We did manage a disco on New Year's Eve and as usual the Cokethorpe brigade made a favourable impression with the locals.

The Easter (senior) trip began with even more anxiety in that the ferry dispute in both P&O and French Sealink had just begun to have an effect and there were news items telling of twenty four hour delays which filled us with dismay. Nevertheless we set off in good heart only to arrive in Dover to find that it was true and there was an estimated delay of a day. The effect of that news on the party was, needless to say, quite devastating but I am pleased to be able to say that when it came to frayed tempers and lack of patience it was not the Cokethorpe contingent but some of the so-called adults in the party who let themselves down. In fact, the worst part about the wait was not that we had to wait but the disappointment as

we arrived in Dover and the fact that no-one could tell us just when we would be sailing.

Just before setting off for a very pleasant Sunday lunch in Dover we learnt that the backlog would be cleared by 5.00pm and that we would be off then. The comforting news also came through from the resort that the day we had missed had been totally unskiable due to a blizzard but that the weather had cleared up and there was a metre or so of new snow.

When we arrived the conditions were found to be as favourable as we had been promised – brilliant sunshine and the most beautiful of new snow. Having been fitted with skis we all took to the slopes as quickly as we possibly could. We had two days of perfect skiing before it started snowing again although not hard and so were still all able to ski.

The highlight of the off piste entertainment was the shared birthday party for Julian Haywood and WHCD. We had a little money due to each of us through the insurance for the time lost in Dover and so pooled it for a slap up fondue and all enjoyed a very memorable evening.

For the rest of the week we enjoyed mixed weather with more snow to improve the skiing and a reasonable amount of sunshine towards the end of the week. The skiing stars were not so much, perhaps, those of us who were trying to improve our technique on two skis but those who made an attempt to master the spectacular ski surfing, notably Jonathan Shearing and in particular Michael ('SAS') Gauntlett.

On the last full day there was a race, dominated of course by the French children but Haydn Mellowship and (dare I say it?) I managed to get a bronze award in the giant slalom. Unfortunately it was in this event that Nick Inge fell and tore the ligaments in one of his knees.

Somehow it seems that if we hadn't had the problems that we did it might not have been such an interesting season's skiing. I must express my thanks to those who came, and pass on the comment that was repeated to me by several others on the trips that they had seldom come across such a pleasant party of schoolboys. The staff involved also deserve a very sincere vote of thanks. Phil Randall and Helen Rowarth who came on the senior trip and especially Warwick Daniels and Nick Inge who gave up time and money to come on both of the holidays.

I can't really end the report of the year's skiing without mentioning the sessions at Gloucester ski centre during term time. The new slope was a great addition to the facilities and the instruction by the various members of staff – especially Carole who seems to have become a Cokethorpe favourite – has given several generations of Cokethorpe skiers an unfair advantage over others who turn up on the slopes as complete beginners.

E.J.F.

Bikes & Dykes



EASTER CYCLING TRIP TO HOLLAND

Up market travel companies would have called it "Images of Holland", a 6 day panorama of quiet sandy beaches, tulip fields in full April bloom, immaculately kept Dutch barns reflected in the dykes and Gouda shops stacked to the ceiling with the famous cheeses. Actually we were on a cycle trip run by The International Youth Hostel Organisation and masterminded by TJJ. A ferry taking us from Harwich to Hook-of-Holland before cycling and driving a circuit through Den Haag, Harlem, Amsterdam, Utrecht, Gouda and Rotterdam. A few customised extras added the finishing touches. Mr. Scriven kindly lent us a trailer enabling the boys to take their own bicycles, the minibus acted as baggage carrier and back-up vehicle for legs and bicycles suffering from fatigue, and we had our own bi-lingual guide waiting in Amsterdam to show us round the sights – Otto Bekouw. We had a preview of Amsterdam at Madurodam, a model showing the city's airport, docks and waterways. The detailed models, interspersed by tulips induced many to use up their film on the first morning in Holland.

Although the route was less than 170 miles, 103 of them pedalled, it was a trip taking in a vast variety of landscapes from the North Sea sand-dune coastline, where Oldham 1 swam in the cold waves, through flat green pastures and round to Rotterdam's glass-plated state-of-the-art architecture. With the emphasis on cycling there was no time for Amsterdam's Rembrandts nor a lift up to the top of Rotterdam's 600 feet Euromast.

A 31 mile morning ride from Noordwyk to the Hostel in Vondel Park Amsterdam (only later did Bekouw tell us about the infamous Vondel Park Murderer) gave us an afternoon dodging Amsterdam's trams and admiring the flower market. As the sun went down over the gabled

town houses we cruised Amsterdam's waterways – The Emperor's, Prince's and Gentlemen's Canals, and the River Amstel – passing a house just a metre wide, a houseboat providing a home for 300 stray cats and an unusual view of L'Hotel Europa, evening suited diners above the waterlevel, below water-line chefs preparing their expensive specialities. Roof-top braces for hoisting up furniture into the tall waterside houses reassured us that Amsterdam is unique despite Laura Ashley, MacDonalds and Ajax supporters chanting "Here we go, Here we go" through the city centre. Breakfasts reminded us that we were in Holland too. Salami, Edam cheese or chocolate flake sandwiches providing the calories for the miles on the cycle tracks.

Cycling on routes reserved exclusively for bicycles or in cycle lanes running alongside main roads is both safer and more popular than cycling in Britain. Time and time again fit Dutch cyclists passed our blowing convoy or jogged along the trails. Active and health conscious the Dutch also take great pride in their urban environment, only Amsterdam revealed the dirt and graffiti we associate with towns and cities.

Our final night was spent in Rotterdam but most people bought their souvenirs surrounded by Gouda's windmills and dykes, purchasing cheeses and miniature clogs decorated with Delft blue patterns. Initially Rotterdam's vast port and Central park's begonias and hyacinths were tempting but proved too much for tired legs. We had run out of time and energy though everyone knew that Holland had plenty left to offer us.

M.E.





Doorways, Archways
& Alleyways

Photos by Jonathan North



OF PEGS AND HOLES

*"The best laid schemes o' mice an' men
Gang aft a-gley . . ."*

It was in 1972, the year I began teaching, that my wife and I visited some friends in Coventry. He was the Headmaster-designate of a brand new school in Coventry, a Community school, probably the first of its kind in an inner city. The building was impressive and well thought out with virtually every modern amenity. We were taken with special pride to one room, not particularly large but impressive, we were told, because of the array of specially made boards covering the walls. Boards covered all over with holes; other boards filled with a variety of square and round pegs with numbers or letters inscribed on them. The system was enthusiastically described to us. Each hole on a board represented a class period on a particular day and was waiting to be filled by a teacher who, if the system worked properly, could not be assigned another class at that time. Rooms and subjects were allotted in the same manner until the whole infallible timetable was ready for day one – when the human factors would come into the picture!

Of course there is nothing intrinsically wrong with a system to work out a timetable – indeed I have a sample block of a similar system in my study, though I hope never to have to resort to it. But I suspect that what I saw in Coventry was the first symptom of an attitude in much of modern society which now mitigates against the notion of individuality.

I attend morning prayers or its equivalent on five mornings a week and I often find myself looking around and marvelling at the variety and diversity of our students. There are the tall and the short, the well-built and the very slim, the dark and the light. Looking more closely reveals the happy, the worried, the sullen, the cheerful, the bored. What one can never observe is what is going on inside – the anxiety, the ambition, the memories, the hopes and the fears. Yet they are all there in some measure in every pupil, all 170 or so assembled in the front hall.

When I was training to be a teacher I remember a lecture on education given by a retired Chemistry teacher in which he explained his philosophy of teaching. "True education", he said "rarely takes place". Not the sort of statement to encourage young, willing teachers in the making. Experience, though, tells me that there was some truth in his statement. It is too easy to treat a school like a factory and pupils as units to be processed through to G.C.S.E. level or 'A' level, as appropriate, and for little real education to take place at all.

The retired Chemistry teacher went on to say that in his whole teaching career he could look back on very few lessons when 'true education' had taken place. I well remember a discussion lesson with a fifth form on the

subject of attitudes and standards in which an auction had taken place to put relative values on those items. The lesson went well but what made it memorable was a comment from a boy as he left the class in which he made it clear that he had been made to think and had enjoyed the experience. For me that was education. I tried the same lesson with other groups but not with the same result, but that shouldn't have been a surprise to me as I was dealing with a different group of individuals. This is, of course, the constant challenge faced by the teacher who cares about the students who submit themselves day after day for 'education'.

Faced with a class of thirteen pupils the teacher is looking at thirteen very different 'horses to lead to water', some of whom may be willing to drink and others will stubbornly abstain. The skill is in getting all of them to at least take a sip from time to time, and those who desire to drink deep and long are never discouraged. One of the greatest arguments for a small school is that it is easier to treat each pupil as an individual, and that is certainly true – but I do worry that the national trend is towards uniformity as opposed to individualism. One of the most striking things in the field of education is that any sweeping statement can – and will – be immediately countered in almost any common room in the land. 'Do you remember so-and-so, well he certainly doesn't fit what the 'educational specialist' says'. And neither should he, for he is unique and cannot be generalised.

How does this high sounding philosophy translate into classroom practice? The answer to that is in the hands of the teachers as they assess the capabilities of each pupil and stretch him to achieve his true potential, as they make allowances for those with difficulties, as they recognise the one with flair and exploit it to the advantage of the pupil, as they coax the one who always seems to be struggling, as they are sympathetic to individual needs of correction or encouragement. Am I talking about Superman or Superwoman? Yes and no, for there is something of both those characters in all teachers, and, of course, as each pupil is an individual most certainly each teacher is also. Thus we have individuals teaching individuals, with the result that a rich tapestry is woven during a pupil's stay in school.

Almost above all else, I suppose, teachers are realists – but I hope that the realism is always tinged with a certain amount of idealism. Too much idealism often results in frustration, but not enough must lead to a dull and boring routine. Of course our experience at the moment is anything but dull and routine. G.C.S.E. has thrown us all into new areas, coursework, assessment, a multitude of

forms and paperwork, confusing communications from examination boards. What is it all for? For better education, I hear you say. But does it take into account the individual and the multiplicity of his (or her) needs – or is the system forcing teachers into a mould with pupils rapidly following them? Are we trying to force the peg called ‘X’ into some kind of preordained hole designated by an unseen face somewhere in the corridors of Whitehall? What if the peg does not quite fit or the hole is too small or too big?

Over the years I have learnt that the most precious commodity on the face of this earth is a human being. Gold, platinum or any precious metal or stone can be replaced by digging some more out of the ground. A life entrusted to us is irreplaceable and the way we treat that life leaves its mark for as long as that person lives. My plea

is that there will always be room for the individual, – that economics does not dictate everything being done in bulk, that pressure of time never means that an individual is dismissed out of hand, and, above all, that the potential within each pupil is realised.

In a school there must naturally be some compromise between the ideal and the practical in order for the whole to function in anything other than chaos. Likewise, we must of course work within the system in operation – but all the time resisting the temptation to treat everyone the same. That would be the easy way out but conscience would not allow most of us to pursue that path. We must go on striving to fit each peg into the hole it is meant for, whatever the cost and however long it takes.

M.C.

*Andrew Teague,
Director of Music at Christ Church Cathedral School,
writes about this year's*

INTER-HOUSE MUSIC COMPETITION

When I set out from home on the evening of 24th March to pay my first visit to Cokethorpe for the purpose of adjudicating the finals of the inter-house music competition, I must admit that I didn't know what to expect. At the end of the evening I came away feeling genuinely impressed, and having thoroughly enjoyed myself.

Music competitions are a curious phenomenon. Whilst in some areas there are usually clear winners, this is not always so, and an adjudicator's opinion need not please everybody; those who followed the finals of the recent 'Young Musician of the Year' on television will attest to that. How does one compare the relative merits of a Flute, a French Horn, and a Piano? Ultimately of course one has to look way beyond mere technical ability, and as far as most competitions are concerned, at whatever level, the ability of the performer to communicate his or her enjoyment of the music to the listener is vitally important, even if there may be a few technical imperfections. It was this quality of enjoyment which came across so strongly in so many of the Cokethorpe performances – especially in the singing sections, both solo and in ensemble. In the solo singing section Kevin Copinger with his performance of Gilbert and Sullivan narrowly pipped James Hubbard to the post precisely because he really looked and sounded as if he was enjoying himself.

In the solo instrumental section the problem of comparing different instruments rather presented itself, although in the event there was no real difficulty in deciding that Richard Oldham should come out top with his rendition of Joplin's 'Maple Leaf Rag' because his playing was so confident and enjoyable. Joplin's music proved a winner in the next class too where we were treated to a rhythmic and vigorous performance of the

'Ragtime Dance' played by James Horada with a very nimble left hand. No music competition would be complete without at least 2 performances of Für Elise (or failing that the Moonlight which luckily we were spared on this occasion) and it was to the credit of James Hubbard and James Young that both of their performances were somewhat wide of the composer's original intentions, which at least made for variety, even if it did not score many marks. It was a great pleasure to see Simon Jewell have a go at Bach's 'Sleepers Awake' on his organ, even though I seem to remember it was a bit on the loud side, and might have roused even J.S.B. himself!

There was certainly a lot of variety in the Instrumental ensemble section and I enjoyed this class immensely. Everybody did very creditably, and although there was much to commend in the Chauvinists performance of 'Come on everybody' the prize had to go to Horada and Karbasi for their performance of Beetle Blues. The inter house Group Singing class seemed to bring out the competitive spirit as much as anything during the evening. I enjoyed the Swift House Prefects group singing 'My bonny lies over the ocean' (in spite of some difficulty keeping straight faces), but the Queen Anne Junior Choir's performance of 'Swinging Samson', coming as it did at the end of a really good evening, stole the show for me and, I think, for everybody else. It was both polished and stylish, and especial credit had to go to James Horada for his part in preparing the boys for this.

Special credit should also go to Mr. Gordon whose administrative skill was very much to the fore in the organising of the evening, and my thanks to him for inviting me to come to Cokethorpe, where I hope the music continues to flourish.

Soccer



1st XI v. Douai in very muddy conditions. Sitinas comes close with a header, Kabbara and Blackwell look on.

1ST XI SOCCER REPORT

With the departure of such sporting talents as Endeley, J. Shorrock and Okeke from last year's team, the prospects this year seemed rather bleak. After the result of our first match, however, the reluctant mood surrounding the team immediately evaporated.

We played superb football, simple in its creation but devastating in its effect. Kingham Hill were severely thrashed 8-2, with goals coming from strikers El Hawrani (2) and Sitinas (1), mid-fielders A. Shorrock (2) and McLoughlin (1) and also from defenders Smith and Wariebi (1 goal each). As well as being a cornerstone on which we all intended to build, this victory gained us much needed self-confidence.

In some cases, the effect was possibly over-effective. Taking on the mighty Wellington College demands a team which, although confident in its ability, realises that the opposition is of an equal, if not a higher, standard. On the day, however, complacency on the part of some players, served to handicap the team as a whole, and we were beaten 0-2.

Lessons had obviously been learnt from the Wellington game because the team's attitude at R.G.S. Worcester was just perfect. Worcester's strikers were over-powered by a solid Cokethorpe defence, as newly-capped full backs Orebiyi and Casey demonstrated their determination and pace. Central defenders Smith and Wariebi were the backbone of the team, leading by example here as on many occasions; they held the formula to our 0-7 victory over Worcester, though success must especially be credited to the nimble work of McLoughlin and A. Shorrock. As well as scoring five goals between them, this talented pair created the chances for our sharp strikers El Hawrani and Sitinas, to score a goal each. Their show of skills and control of the ball impressed and delighted the large crowd at Worcester.

Just as we had developed in form, came one of our less enjoyed games – the away match at Henry Box. We went down in the first half, and did not equalise, through a header from El Hawrani, until the dying minute of the game. The foul weather did nothing to inspire us in search of victory and it was a relief when the final whistle was blown.

Our next fixture was with Clifton College. Last year the coach broke down on the way to Bristol and thus on our arrival could only manage a 30 minute game. The unthinkable seemed to be happening again this year, when just outside Oxford the driver reported a broken exhaust. Luckily a replacement took only 15 minutes to arrive and we soon made up for the lost time. Clifton fielded a well organised side which knew how to exploit their flat and wide pitch. But for some brilliant goal-keeping by our young Fourth Form keeper Nasser, the opening minutes would have seen us go at least 6 goals down. Fortunately, we got to grips with the situation and were rewarded with a goal by A. Shorrock. After half-time the game looked as though it was going to be another hard fought victory, but in a swift attack a Clifton striker was fouled by Smith, giving them a penalty which they comfortably put away. Thus both sides had to be contented with a 1-1 score.

At Wycliffe we were put against a team composed of robust rugby players, and with their physique and skill they dominated us throughout. The score was only kept to a 4-0 defeat by some good saves by Nasser. However, most members of the team would be the first to admit that on this occasion we had an off-day, due to a rapid succession of matches with hardly any break between them; thus, taking on a team in such good physical condition was rather ambitious.

Matches against Leighton Park are always shattering, and this year's was no exception. After going 0-2 down

through some instability at the back, we were reinforced with some substitution at half-time and immediately came back with a rare goal from Blackwell. By then, the game's pace had hotted up as the ball was banged from one end to the other. The equaliser eventually came when McLoughlin, oozing in quality, threaded his way through Park's defence until he was hacked down in the box, where a penalty was awarded. He stepped up confidently to place the ball well beyond Leighton Park's keeper.

Our last home game was against the Oratory. The team's performance was by far the worst ever. With mock exams taking place, the commitment on the field was minimal. By half-time we were 0-6 down. After an angry lecture by Mr. Gentry, the second half saw a vast improvement. It was ironic that our best goal of the Season was scored in this game, when Sitinas' explosive pace sprang Oratory's defensive trap. He ran down the wing, aware of Shorrock's positioning in the middle, and served him a low cross, which was sent racketing into the top corner of Oratory's goal.

Looking to redeem ourselves from such a humiliating defeat we took on Douai (away) for the last game of the season. Although the pitch was waterlogged, the game was at times fast and furious. Playing without McLoughlin, Shorrock dominated the mid-field and scored the winner with a long range volley. It was a fitting way to end a season which had seen us destroy teams like Kingham and Worcester, but suffer equally a devastating defeat such as the one by the Oratory.

On several occasions during the Season Kitching, Hadeed and Mumford-Smith made appearances. Viewing their promising performances, the structure of next year's team shows some potential. Finally, I would like to thank Mr. Gentry and Mr. James for their coaching of both the 1st and 2nd's, and on behalf of the team, thanks to our loyal supporters who were present at both our worst and best moments.

A.M. Wariebi

UNDER 15 SOCCER

Only one victory as an Under 14 team suggested that this year's Under 15s were in for a tough time. Oliver had arrived but Martyr's broken leg put him out for the season though he attempted a comeback. If the team were to succeed they needed to accept their limitations – everyone was one footed and no one took command in the aerial battles – they needed to play to a disciplined system.

After the first game a bewildered Kingham Hill coach said, "We should have won 8-0." Kingham's midfield had dominated the match but pierced our hard-tackling defence just once, goals on rare excursions into their half from Horn and Bowerman robbed Kingham of a victory their skill deserved but gave Cokethorpe a result warranted by sheer determination. Our second game stunned Farmoor. After an 11-1 victory last year they arrived expecting a hatfull of goals but a swift forty yard triangle between Birch and Horn produced a goal putting them one-nil down until the last ten minutes, even then our only attack of the second half almost produced a winner from Vernon. As the soccer writers say "the bubble burst" against Worcester RGS, Worcestershire's Opening Batsman Tim Curtis awarding many a goal to the home side.

The away defeat at Clifton faded into insignificance compared to the traumatic journey. Not only did the coach break down for the second consecutive year we also had to put a group onto a train in rush-hour Bristol to meet the Headmaster for a Greek play in London.

Then Wycliffe were well and truly "Birched"; his hat-trick was memorable but a forty yard pass from Kitching to Horn and a cross met by Birch's flying header was just a foot away from being the goal of the season. However, it was ominous that the defence conceded three, even though the attack scored seven, and Leighton Park breeched it five times to give them an unexpected win in the next game. Unfortunately Horn's direct pace was missed and Oliver took over the captaincy. He went on to play a captain's role in a thrilling victory over a very good Douai side. Once again Ruff was sound in goal though their goalkeeper scored with a clearance, Tonks stepped up a level to marshal the defence, Barry dwarfed their forwards (and the referee), up front Bowerman and Vernon had outstanding games while in the quagmire of midfield Hodgetts had the game of his life.

All in all it was a season of considerable improvement for the Under 15s. Many were responsible for the success, not least of all those players who never made the team but made practices very competitive indeed. N.I.'s enthusiasm to add a touch of sophistication to the longball game and A.R.A.S.'s willingness to help with selecting the right team almost produced a winning season. Kitching, Bowerman, Birch and Cooper must also be congratulated on the way in which they switched positions to help a team plagued by injuries.

M.E.



Bowerman misses a crucial early chance against Leighton Park.

Wood and Man

*"The Lords-and-Ladies dressed for masquerade
In green silk domino discreetly hooded,
Hurry towards the nut-trees' colonnade,
Philandering where privacy's well-wooded . . ." **

INVESTIGATION INTO AN ENGLISH WOODLAND

by Michael Pye

Approaches to 6th Form Biology, in common with most of our academic subjects, have changed much over the last few years and more emphasis is now being put on the inter-action between organisms rather than studying each in isolation. Indeed, our text-book is actually called Biology: A Functional Approach.

In view of the greater diversity of fauna and flora, all ecological studies are naturally best done in the late spring or early summer, and during May this year the Lower 6th Biology set were asked to evaluate the effect of trampling through our broad-leaved woodland behind the school. In writing up this piece of practical work they were asked to take account of such ecological concepts as ecosystem, niche, carrying capacity, environmental resistance, types of competition, key species and the principles of succession.†

An ecosystem is a self-perpetuating community that does not require human interference for its survival. It consists of a community of organisms which interact with themselves and with non-living constituents of the environment.

Our study was conducted within a mixed woodland ecosystem and its aim was to assess diversity of species; it was also to find the effect key species had on minor species after trampling had taken place.

From the results it was hoped to find key species and discover how they had adapted to a given set of conditions. It was hoped that a specific plant would show its own particular niche from its abundance in a particular area. (A niche is any area that a specific plant has been able to fill by perfectly fitting the requirements of the area and adapting to certain specific conditions).

The technique used was percentage-cover quadrating. This method was used to discover the effect of trampling on a path. We wished to discover what plants were able to adapt to this particular set of conditions and how they were better suited.

A transect line was made from one side of the path to the other and it was divided into eight stations. At each of these stations we placed the quadrat. So having placed the quadrat at the first station we then listed every single species of plant found within it. Having done this we estimated how great a percentage of cover within the quadrat was occupied by each species. From this we would find where each species was in greatest number and we would discover which species did better in each

quadrat, hence discovering its niche. By plotting their results on a graph, we would find out what effect the abiotic factor of trampling had on each individual species.

Where conditions may have suited a particular species rather well over a couple of quadrats, it might be found that the percentage cover remains the same and does not rise above a particular level. This might suggest that in this area the ecosystem is relatively stable and has reached its "carrying capacity" for these specific species.

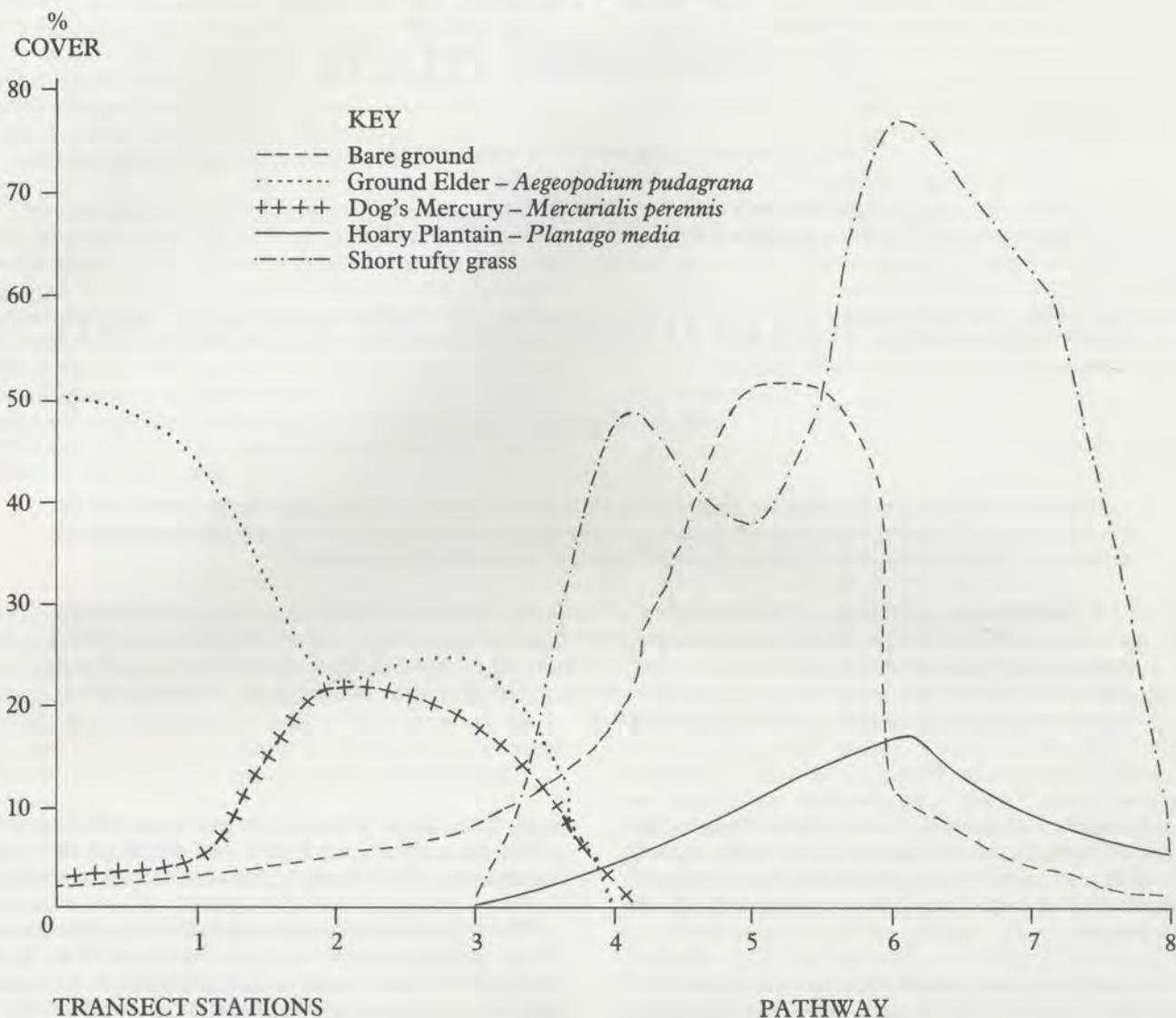
It may be found that conditions of the soil seem perfect to support a certain species but this is however not found in this area. This could be due to environmental resistance, that is there could be excessive amounts of a parasite that specifically attacks this species or a lack of shelter, something not necessarily obvious but would make a seemingly suitable site for a species very unsuitable.

It will be noticed from samples that no weak or poor examples of any species were found, they were healthy plants. This will be due to intraspecific competition (i.e. that which is between two or more individuals (of the same species.) This is in contrast to interspecific competition which takes place between two different species. When this occurs it is due to a changing niche (i.e. where conditions overlap for two plants.) Eventually one will become dominant through the process of succession. This is where a particular plant has become so well adapted to a set of conditions that it has changed them and these changes allow another species to move in because it is better adapted to these new conditions. This process happens over and over again in a cycle until a climax

* *From The Land by V. Sackville-West.*

† *Introduction by W.H.C.D.*

GRAPH OF KEY SPECIES



LESS SUNLIGHT MORE SUNLIGHT

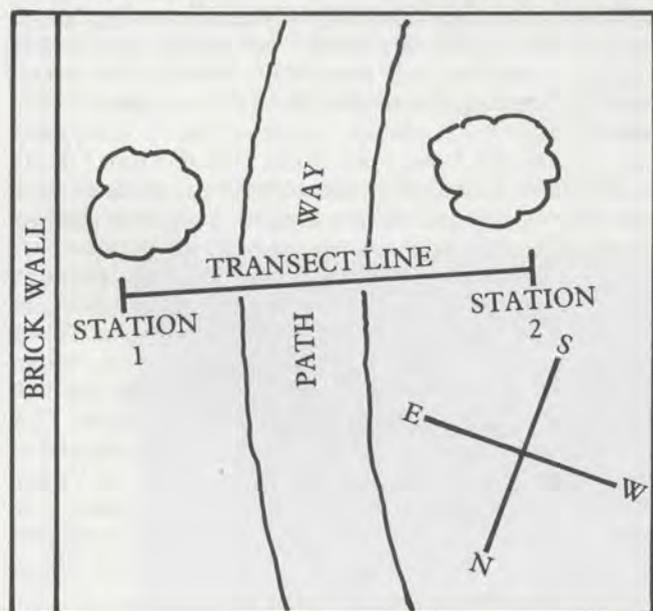


Fig. 1.0

community is reached. This is where succession stops, where a key set of species occupy their own niches and the conditions remain the same. There are species that are naturally occurring for a particular area. For England this is oak woodland. The reason England is not covered with oak woodland now is through the biotic factor of human interference. Man has changed conditions and introduced foreign species. If man's influence was removed then much of England would return to its natural conditions of a climax community within one to two thousand years.

Returning to the experiment conducted, the transect line covered a variety of conditions. The biotic factor remained the same as far as could be found in the areas on each side of the path, but abiotic factors were different. The main one of these was sunlight: it varied in amounts on each side of the path, because of an introduced and man-made biotic factor of a brick wall. This cut out sunlight in the morning from the first transect to the fourth transect.

This meant that there was a slight variation in balance of species from one side of the path to the other, although all other conditions were very similar.

Fig. 1.0 is a very basic diagram of the area the study was carried out in. It can now be seen how sunlight could be a factor in determining where a species would grow.

It was found from the results that as one got closer to the path the diversity of species was very greatly reduced, until in the centre of the path there was only bare ground. This showed therefore that the biotic factor of trampling greatly reduced diversity of species and made a great deal of difference to the distribution thereof.

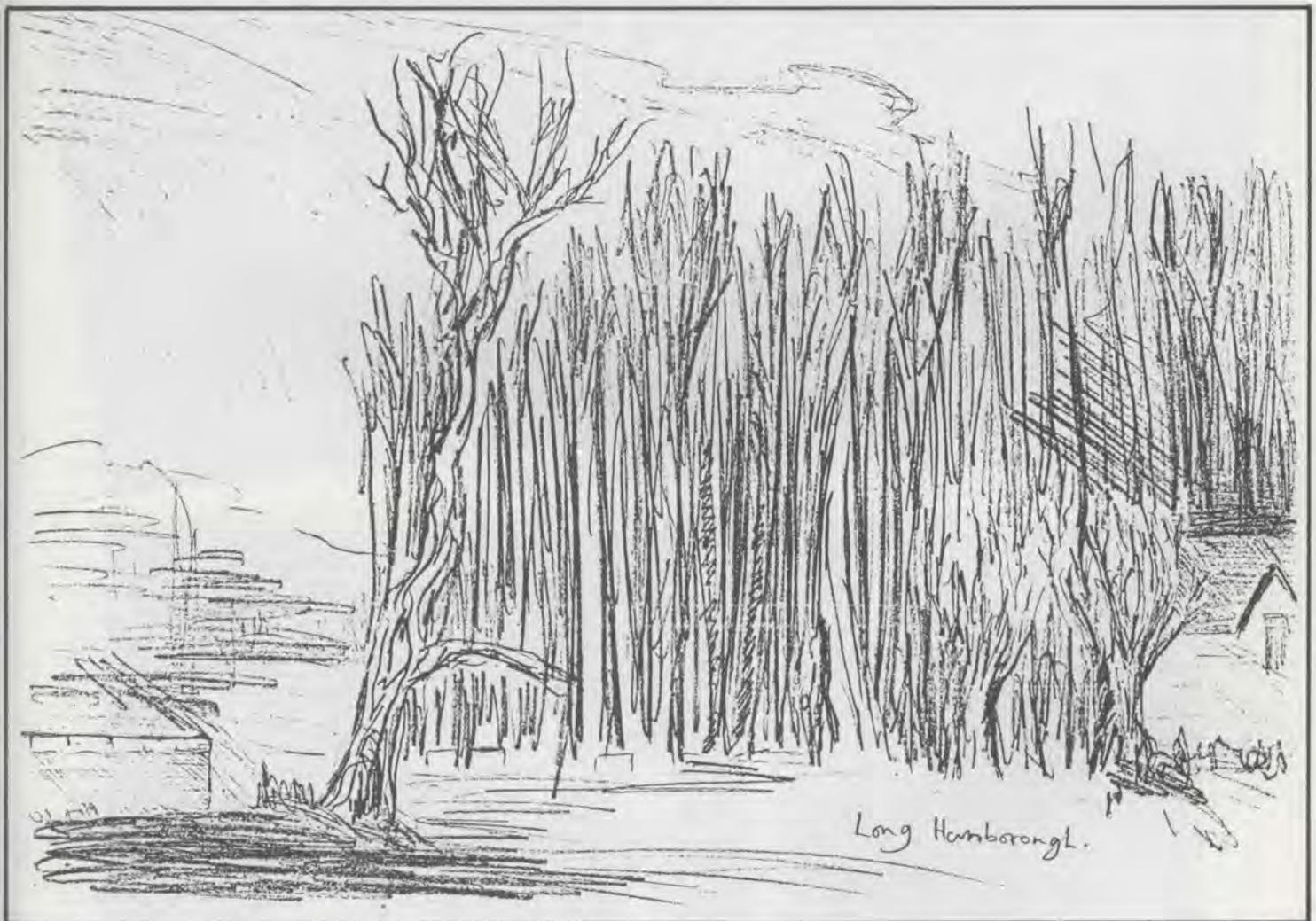
From these results of key species we can draw two or three conclusions. We can see that Ground Elder is in greater abundance to the left of the path, suggesting that it could prefer shady areas rather than direct sunlight. We also notice that short tufty grass, which has found its own niche on either side of the path, has done better on the right hand side of the path because it could have found more sunlight there. An interesting species is Hoary Plantain, which is only found very close to the pathway, because it has adapted to survive in the "trampling zone". It has little or no competition and so has been successful at taking advantage of certain biotic factors. My final point from the graph is that of Dog's Mercury, which is a plant that is only found in relatively well-established and old

woodlands. This would suggest the area in which we carried out our study was quite a stable and mature ecosystem, but not yet at a stage of climax community.

Philosophically speaking, I feel man must soon take a close look at his priorities and the world in which he lives. Over his existence he has changed the world drastically to suit his own needs. He has introduced unnatural biotic features which would not otherwise exist. Through these he has also changed the abiotic environment such as pH of soils, the type of light entering the atmosphere through breakdown of the ozone layer, radiation levels – and so on.

Without exception his interference reduces diversity of species and so reduces stability of that ecosystem and through many thoughtless acts he has destroyed some ecosystems forever. What is more worrying is the destruction of the tropical rain forests which are the source of the greatest variation of species; if this destruction goes on and this ecosystem is made unstable then the stability of the whole biosphere is in danger of being irreparably damaged and *Homo sapiens* may come to an untimely end through his own carelessness.

M.R. Pye



Pencil sketch by N.M. Pineo



Antigone



Creon



Tiresias, Haemon & The Messenger



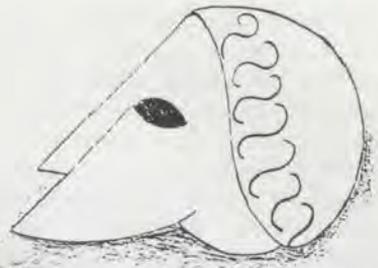
The Guards . . .



. . . and the Chorus

THE SCHOOL PLAY

ANTIGONE



The last stage direction of the second scene of *Antigone* reads as follows:

He hurries out. The CHORUS now sing an ode in praise of mankind, and his great intelligence.

The would-be producer/director may spot a number of challenges here: how to sing (better not); how (in that case) to speak chorally; how to appear to be praising mankind (a bit nebulous?); how to convey a decent regard for man's intelligence without undue smugness . . . In practice the problems were simple: which way to face and where (in some cases) to stick the crib-sheet; and the insurmountable obstacle lurked behind the first three words – 'he hurries out.' Not in Greek sandals made from inner soles and secured with strips of crepe bandage he doesn't.

I had thought that it would be more difficult to create a dramatic illusion in the open air, without benefit of lighting, sound and stage effects. My feeling is that, helped by music, choral speech, costumes and the courtyard setting, a distinctive atmosphere was at least fitfully present – not Athenian maybe, yet removed from lunch queues, laundry fumes, tuckshop trade and sanatorium visits.

Mr. Gordon's compositions in the Dorian mode – a trumpet fanfare, and two short pieces for clarinets – were beautifully judged, and spoke of things remote and solemn. The musicians were led by Yasdan Karbasi, with Kevin Copinger giving the measure on a single drum. Peter Scriven and Oliver May supported. Our lone trumpeter, Richard Oldham, overcame his natural hesitancy, and the problem of being in two places (almost) at once, to blow true and haunting notes. Thus were

summoned in their turn the unhappy daughters of Oedipus, the wise ones of Thebes, and Creon their king.

The Theban elders were led, with characteristic verve, by the Headmaster (which, inevitably, made the other elders younger). His decision, taken as director of the Chorus once it was clear that numbers, confidence, memory and time were all defaulting, was surely right. The Chorus had, in consequence, more responsive vigour and a better rhythm; but it became possible for weaker brethren to shelter behind the stronger voices, and this was evident in performance. One who emphatically did not do so, but spoke out boldly and fluently, was John Ruff.

Mention should be made here of Robert Martyr, Chorus Leader or Spokesman, whose task it was to bridge the contrasting styles of chorus and individual characters. His rather deadpan, earnest delivery seemed appropriate, but his voice was sometimes lost behind his mask. His deep-rooted pessimism made him something of a Theban Eeyore.

The Chorus looked, I thought, very well in their costumes which, though not uniform, conferred an appropriate homogeneity and were elegant, dignified and becoming – epithets not often attached to male youth of 15 years. Best of all, though, alas, not all could boast one, were the splendid masks, made by Mrs. Zimehl. They were based upon an original Greek tragic actor's mask, and fashioned from clay. After many hours' work a sudden cut in the power supply destroyed the majority while they were being fired; but the survivors were most effective, much admired and remain as mementos of a classical debut.

At a school as small as Cokethorpe, all plays are likely to involve co-option as well as co-operation. Especially was this true of *Antigone*, which was chosen to widen the experience and understanding of the fourth year Classical Studies sets as much as to divert passers-by. The Chorus was, in truth, largely co-opted; and most individual roles were played by students of Greek Civilization. But there were some plucky performances, some promising ones, and two of rare merit on the day. An amateur (I do not use the word in its best sense) director must be grateful to the boy who learns fast, works hard and speaks clearly. I was, to Nicholas Bingham, who played Antigone. In fact, with more thorough direction, he might have given an outstanding performance. As it was, he was more memorable where verse-speaking, rather than acting, was paramount, in those exchanges with the Chorus shortly before Antigone is led out to her death; but he conveys, what true actors convey, the sense that he enjoys occupying the stage. Adam Bryan, as Ismene, Antigone's sister, supported well, but was both a little rapid in delivery and too softly-spoken for the great outdoors. Like her sister, Ismene rehearsed very reliably and earns the director's gratitude accordingly. That is true, too, of Sean O'Farrell, who played Haemon, Creon's youngest son. He gave thought to his lines and delivered them intelligently; however, he too lacked the voice to carry passion to the dining-hall and back – whereas Nolan-Lee Perry had the passion and lacked the lines! Creon, king of Thebes, is the major role in the play, with twice as many lines as the eponymous heroine. Perry needed another week to settle the major speeches, firm up his confidence and organise his breathing. He has hardly spoken on stage before, and gave some idea of what he might achieve in, for example, his exchanges with Tiresias. He could, I think, be a powerful presence on stage in the future.

Cokethorpe playgoers will recall that Justin Price is an actor of note. By agreement this year he took on a modest role, that of the bucolic Guard, which he performed as

usual with flair, engaging the attention of the audience as one accustomed so to do. Commanding the attention of spectators is commendable: conquering their disbelief is remarkable; and that was achieved by two members of the cast: by James Jeffs (once) as the prophet Tiresias, and by David Hart (once) as the Messenger. The Messenger believed in what he had seen: his voice was unsteady with emotion; his fear, his doubt, his horror were real. Likewise the growing anger and contempt of blind Tiresias compelled the eye and ear of Chorus, King and audience alike. This, in both cases, was acting of a high order.

Neil Jervis, regally costumed as Eurydice, was more hard-pressed to stand than to deliver, but did both competently. Tiresias's boy, Simon Cully, had only to stand (or sit), but rehearsed so assiduously that he was often present when his master was not, which showed great dedication.

There was no backstage, I suppose, but there was help as always from Jenny Russell and Mary Knipe; and from Sue Ridding in the San., with make-up and coiffure for the ladies.

On re-reading these paragraphs, I sense that I have described the parts, yet given no impression of the whole. Maybe that was the weakness of this production – that it lacked a notion of what *Antigone* was really about; maybe it is simply that from where I stand, waiting to prompt to the end, eyes down as often as not – even averted – the play in performance is no more than the sum of its lines. Yet I am left with the consolation that this year, as in each year before, some boys have performed better than one believed they would: they have excelled themselves. That must be a justification for putting on plays, as for arranging any other activity in which our boys participate.

C.J.N.



The Orchestra

A Career for Me . . .

MODERN-DAY PIG FARMING

by Nicholas Horn



Left: *Learning who is boss.* Right: *The entrance to the farm, showing the sides of the fattening houses and the farrowing houses in the distance.*

Nowadays pigs are no longer kept by the dozen for the farmer's and village worker's own consumption. They are kept in hundreds. Some smaller pig farmers may keep only 40-60 pigs, but the majority of herds range from 100-1000 sows in one farm. Most pig farmers will have between 200-500 sows – although 500 sows is a lot of pigs!

There are two ways of farming pigs. The first, and possibly the most common way, is the inside herd. This is when all the pigs are in numbers manageable by one person. This is often the safest way because the pigs are not exposed to so many diseases as those kept outside. However, the disadvantage with the inside herd is that if it is affected by any disease, it will spread much more quickly.

The second way of farming pigs is on an outdoor farm where all the pigs are in fields. This works on about 15 sows to an acre of land. All housing is done in pig arcs where the sows are bedded down in straw, and about 5 sows can fit in each bedding arc. Then there is the farrowing arc which holds one or two sows. This type of pig farming is much more open, but it is a long job moving sows from one field to another, because whereas in the inside herds you just get the sow out of a pen and drive her to another through passages, the outside sows are penned in with electric wire and even when the power is off the sows will not cross it! A fence can be left down all day and not one sow will cross it. (It has been said that perhaps one sow in a year will venture across the wire.)

For the feeding of the breeding sows it is essential that they have a well-balanced diet. There are a large number of feed concentrates for pigs to be mixed with other feed concentrates. Some examples of feed concentrates are: fish meal, meat and bone meal, protein foods of vegetable origin, soya bean meal, peas and beans, carbohydrate foods, barley meal, ground wheat, maize meal, flaked maize, oats, wheat offals, bran, wheat feed or middlings, and swill. One thing to remember when feeding swill is that there must not be any straight cooked meats, because in this form it acts in a poisonous way. (When dried and mixed it forms a protein meal).

One good way to mix the concentrates for inside sows is to use soya, fish meals, sow minerals, wheat, barley and soya oil. For the herd of 300 sows or so, one day's mix for the herd is 150kg of soya, 25kg of fish meal, 25kg of sow minerals, 200kg wheat, 590kg of barley and 10kg of soya oil. This mixture makes one ton of sow food which will last 300 sows a day.

For outdoor pigs the mix will be very similar, but it will be in compressed cube form, because if the food was fed on the ground in the wet it would get trampled in by the sows. In cube form it does not get trampled so easily.

When it comes to feeding sows in the farrowing house, because they will lose a certain amount of their body weight suckling the pigs, this weight loss has to be replaced in their food. However, as each sow is different in



The serving yard: pools for sows on the left.



Fattening house seen from the seed tower.

her own body weight and the number of piglets in her litter, the amount of food each sow may need will vary greatly. It is impossible to have a fixed average amount.

For feeding fattening pigs the food is almost the same as the sow feed, but in different quantities. Out-door fattening is not very successful because the pigs run off all their fat with vigorous exercise, so this is mostly done indoors.

When choosing a pig for breeding purposes the farmer will often know by the health and size of the animal at birth whether she will be good for breeding purposes. A good pig should have fourteen evenly-spaced teats, a fairly long back and a suitable pelvis wide enough for farrowing purposes. When a breeding gilt* is six months old it is a good idea to put her in an open field with grass and suitable running space. It is when a gilt is about eight months old that she will show signs of her first heat period. It is at this time that a young boar (it must be a young boar because older boars are much bigger and heavier than the younger ones, and could cause some damage to the gilt) may be introduced. He must be watched, though, because as he is young he could try to serve all of them and cause damage to the gilts not ready to stand him. Once a sow or gilt has been served she should be kept in a separate pen so that she can be kept watch over to make sure whether or not she has conceived.

The gestation period of a pig is 115 days but this is as variable any other gestation period. Sows have been known to farrow before they even get into the farrowing houses. It is when this happens that the sow can become very nasty indeed, because she is going through the labour pains and will be very jumpy. When a thing like this happens it is always best to take the piglets straight to the farrowing house, and put them under one of the heat lamps. Keep a stick handy at all times, too, because the sow could turn on the handler at any time. On the whole, though, sows are generally quiet and usually farrow on time or only a few days before. It is always best to move the sows into the farrowing house a week before they are due to farrow.

The average litter size is between ten and fourteen piglets, but it can be more or less. Some sows only have three and some can have up to twenty. (Twenty is very unusual, but not unheard of.) Ninety percent of pigs will farrow with no complications, but sometimes during farrowing old sows will start to pant very fast. This is a sign of her having a mild heart-attack, and it is caused by her having no power to push the babies out because of her age, and very possibly because of the litter size. This is one occasion when the farmer will have to assist the sow. He will probably have to pull all the litter out with his own hands.

Although pigs are a lot smaller than cattle they can be far more dangerous. Pigs are very powerful animals. They can crush people between gates and walls without knowing it. Their shoulder-muscles are very strong indeed. They can break crates and lift gates off their hinges, and two boars fighting can knock down brick walls. From my own work with pigs I have seen the damage they do to each other and the strength of them. I have seen people (and have myself) been pinned up against a wall by a pig, unbeknown to the pig itself, and it is not pleasant. It has been said by vets and farm workers that they fear a boar or a sow with piglets far more than any bull. On the whole, though, boars are very friendly because if there is a nasty one on the farm he will be sold because he cannot be used safely. When working with boars the boar must always know who is boss. Once that is established then all will (or should be) all right.

With the Common Market, making a good living from pigs is a very up and down process. This is because pigs can be worth (to the farmer) anything between 10p-50p for every pound they weigh. In a good month pigs weighing 100-110 lbs which are porkers could be worth £50-£55. Cutters are 150-165 lbs and are worth between £75-£82.50. Bacon pigs are 190-210 lbs and are worth £85-£105. The heavier the pig the longer it has to stay on the farm, and the more it costs to feed it that little bit extra food each week added to its diet.

On the whole pig-farming and management is an enjoyable but very busy job for all concerned.

*Gilts = a female pig before she has had a litter.



Daniel Essen (front left) with fellow competitors

RIFLE SHOOTING

The year has seen some changes in the Rifle Club. At the start of the Lent Term, Derek Thomson handed over the running of the Club to John Hereford. Derek, who had 'reigned' for some two decades, left the Club in good shape with an impressive range of weaponry including four excellent Anschutz .22 rifles, as well as a BSA suitable for the very small boys. John has since added another BSA, and we now have a range of rifles to suit boys (and girls!) of all sizes. The emphasis this year has been to get boys to treat shooting seriously, with proper use of sling, correct firing position and so on, although not so seriously as to take away the enjoyment. Many boys have shot during the year, although pressure of other sports and activities has prevented some from doing so regularly. We hope that next year it will be possible to reconcile the clashes so that we can maintain at least one regular team to shoot in 'postal' matches with other clubs and schools – these have the advantage that you shoot on your own range in your own time, but they still require the dedication of regular practice. Special mention must be made of the top scorers of the year – Stead with two 97s and a 96, Nasser with a 95, and Hubbard with a 95 shot without any previous 'sighters'! The Inter-House competition (teams of 3, best 2 to count) was won by Vanbrugh (Prosser 93, Bowerman 92), Prosser also winning the individual competition.

Finally, mention should also be made of air-rifle shooting. Boys may bring their own air weapons back to school for use (and *only* for this purpose) on the school range under proper supervision. A number of boys have shot with air rifles during the year, and, if interest becomes sufficient, we will try to form a team for these also. However, the school does not have air weapons of its own, and so boys would be expected to use their own or borrowed weapons.

J.N.H.

THE LONDON TO BRIGHTON CYCLE RIDE

Driving along the Berkshire country lanes at 4.30 a.m. in a bumpy old 1952 Bedford 'bus (kindly loaned by the local Scouts) was the start of my London to Brighton cycle ride! Even though all my equipment was ready I had been up since 3.30 a.m., and I made sure I was in good time to catch the 'bus at the end of our road.

After picking up other enthusiastic cyclists on the way to London, we arrived at Clapham Common at 6.45. There we joined the many thousands of other cyclists and got our entry form stamped. By 7.30 we were through the gates and on the road. The variety of fancy dress kept us greatly amused during the 6½ hours it took us to cycle to Brighton. This included stopping at the various "water holes" every 19 miles, including our own hospitality van which was loaded with fruit, drinks, chocolate and packets of crisps. The lesson learned from this was to ensure you had large pockets!

Our team of 11 riders soon split up, although we continually met up on route. The spirit and enthusiasm from the 30,000 people who took part in the 56-mile ride made it all worth while. The final cycle along the promenade at the finish, with enthusiastic crowds cheering and clapping, brought my ride to a nice end. Plans are already in motion for a repeat next year. But with padded cycling shorts!

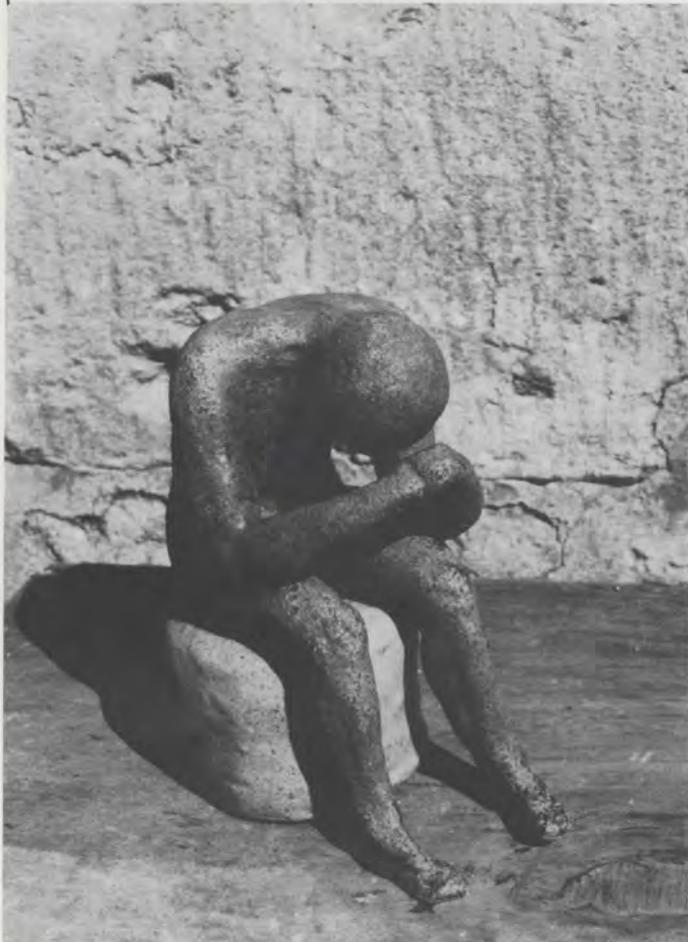
D. Essen



'That fox!' (see p.65)

*Right: 'Tin Men'
by Alexei Berwitz*

*Below: 'Depression'
Stoneware sculpture by James Horada
(with some preliminary sketches)*



EXHIBITION VISITS

During the Summer term I visited several art galleries and exhibitions in and around Oxford. I saw the works of John Piper, Roy Lichtenstein and Richard Hamilton, all of whom have left their distinctive mark on art this century.

The John Piper exhibition was at the Oxfordshire County Museum at Woodstock. Here was displayed sketches and photographs which form part of the collection used to make up the Shell Guide of Oxfordshire in 1938. Piper's Oxfordshire is basically a series of photographs and sketches that capture the beauty and scenery of rural Oxfordshire. They show the everyday events that are easily forgotten: this can be seen in his photographs of the Thame Show and the Harvest Festival in Charlbury. His work has a haunting quality to it; this is captured in his picture of a scarecrow – here Piper has brought out the evil image of this towering creation. Piper also displays an effective, simplistic way of sketching, but on closer study you soon realise that these simple sketches are far more complex than you imagine, and his use of colour and limited ink work show every detail of his chosen subject. This is most obvious in his sketches of carvings at Hook Norton and his sketch of a print at Laknor (1952). Just by studying this exhibition I realised why John Piper established himself as one of Britain's leading artists. His work shows a capacity to take obvious scenes and, by his use of light, colour and texture, to transform them and make bold statements.

My next visit was to the Museum of Modern Art in Oxford. Work belonging to Hamilton and Lichtenstein was on display. Richard Hamilton had his exhibition of four rooms; these consisted of an 'H' block cell, operating room, and two untitled rooms based on a futuristic way of life. I felt that the most moving were the operating theatre and the cell. The theatre consisted simply of an operating table, a screen, and in the place of a large operating light was a television with a constant picture of Mrs. Thatcher. To my mind this presented an image of a state where everyone is dominated and brain-washed by Thatcherism. The room also had a lingering clinical smell – this created an atmosphere which was both uncomfortable and haunting.

The 'H' block cell was a simple layout and basically consisted of a mattress and four walls painted to resemble faeces. There are also several paintings and photographs of Bobby Sands. The paintings are very moving and capture the real complexity of Hamilton's art, for they show his skill in portraying the grim reality of life. He is able to use his paints to create a dream-like image, but in the middle of such an image is a clear picture of the person or face which draws one back to reality. One can almost feel the isolation and pain associated with the cell.

Lichtenstein was totally different and his display of pop art was most enjoyable. In particular, he showed an alternative way of looking at objects. His technique of collage and strong blocks of colour and shape turned an ordinary still-life into an amazing puzzle of colours and images, and can almost be compared to the techniques of the Cubists. This way of painting is best seen in 'Still Life with Green Vase' (1972) and 'Red Tree' (1979). Roy Lichtenstein has certainly developed a style which is now a source of inspiration for other contemporary artists.

E.F.M. Smith

CERAMICS

Since Mrs. Zimehl joined us the popularity of ceramics has increased enormously. Mrs. B. Worthington, who retired at the end of last year, was the pioneer of ceramics at Cokethorpe, and the work produced under her guidance was most impressive. However, with no disrespect to Mrs. Worthington, it cannot be denied that the quality of pieces executed under Mrs. Zimehl's expert guidance is even more impressive.

Mrs. Zimehl's liking for modern art and contemporary methods are reflected in the pottery produced in the last two terms – for example, Edward Smith's complex 'Teapot', Neil Pineo's abstract 'Garbage Dump', and my own 'Tree Man' and 'Tin Men'. On the other hand, there are some good conventional pieces as well – Ivan Selormey's collection of figures, for example, which are all quite excellent indeed. Last year's 4th Form ceramics set deserve to be mentioned as well, particularly Yazdan Karbasi and Philip Lenehan for their perseverance and diligence.

The ceramics department is being helped by the woodwork department next door. Thanks to Mr. Lawry's 5th Form set last year sliding doors have been fitted in the wall separating the studio and the kiln room. I must say, however, that the kiln itself needs to be replaced. Its mechanics do not function properly and it is far too small for some of the work now being undertaken.

While firing the first ever GCSE ceramics pieces, the thermostat did not operate accurately and a few pieces were therefore damaged in firing. A lot of mending and re-mending had to be carried out before the assessments.

The number of people doing ceramics for their GCSE and 'A' level has increased – showing that pottery is now being taken just as seriously as any other subject. Already different types of clays are being used, an exciting change from the usual earthenware and stoneware clays used so far. In the near future we hope to do some metalwork and use plastics.

A.T. Berwitz



Scrapboard by J.B. Price



Blindfold stripping and assembling of weapons



Rigging emergency shelters under direction of Cpl. Orebiyi



Cdt. Wingrove and section prepare an evening meal



Footsore after the first day!



The view from the campsite

THE ARMY CADET FORCE

This has been yet another busy year for the School detachment. The strength at present is 4 Corporals, 6 Lance Corporals and 33 Cadets, and competition to gain subject passes at each Star Grade continues to be fierce. The Detachment has the largest number of Cadets within Somme Company and plays a vital role in almost every Battalion competition.

Training has been varied this year and has included preparing an evening meal, the blind-fold stripping and assembling of weapons (which was quite hilarious), and rigging emergency shelters (a much more serious affair). The MVS classroom was used for the First Aid training.

The Detachment has taken part in several weekend exercises. On Exercise Cotswold Way we rested overnight at a fruit farm which had its own reservoir, and in spite of the weather it was a good weekend.

The Battalion Athletics were held at Cokethorpe School on Sunday 1st May. The Company were represented mainly by the School Detachment and, very much to their credit, the Company won the Cup. The following is a brief results report:

Cdt Hughes	Won Discus and Long Jump in his Class
Cpl Hawrani	Won the 100m and High Jump
Cpl Orebiyi	Won 200m and Shot
Cpl Perry	Won 400m and Long Jump
Cdt Ford	Won 800m and 1500m in his Class
Cdt May	Won the High Jump
Cpl Gauntlett	Won the discus.

All the above were selected to represent the Battalion in the South East Region Athletics Championships. Cpl Orebiyi, Cpl Perry and Cdt Martyr represented the SE Region in the National Championships on 25 June at Colchester Stadium. Very well done to all of them.

During the Summer term the Detachment participated in a .22 Shooting Competition called the Hamptune Cup. There are three practices and the Cdts fire in teams of five. The first shoot was quite good; however, there is much room for improvement. I must congratulate Cdt Boyland on his fine result of gaining a Penny Certificate. This is awarded very rarely and only to the Cdt Firer who fires five rounds at 30m and his shots can be completely covered by a new penny. Now that is good shooting.

Over the weekend 21/23 May a small party of Cadets spent the weekend in Wales. The object of the weekend was to exercise the Two Star cadets in campcraft and navigation. We were very fortunate indeed to be offered Mr. Evans' (Mark's father) Hill Farm. The farm is near Aberystwyth and extends to about 3000 acres and includes some very spectacular views. For anyone with an O/S map number 135 the base camp was at Grid reference 771879.

We arrived at about tea-time on Saturday 21st and met the shepherd, Mr. John Jones and his wife. They were very helpful in suggesting both camp site and walking route. After a brief introduction to the 10-man ration pack the cadets arranged their evening meal. The weather was excellent and the evening ended with the usual bonfire accompanied by beef burgers and hot dogs (I really still can't believe boys can eat quite so much!)



Dealing with a broken arm

Sunday dawned with the promise of yet another good day and after some prodding the cadets crawled from their sleeping bags and ran down to the lake to wash – it is amazing just how little water one needs to wash! – then into a good breakfast of pineapple juice, cereal, milk and sugar, sausages, eggs and bacon.

We set off in the van to our drop off point and started the walk at 0900 hours from Eistaddfa Gurig (just off the A44). Then followed a two hour long climb up Plumlumon Fawr and at the trig point on top the wind was so strong that Mr. Lawry and I led the two teams down the other side by a slightly easier route.

After lunch the teams set off again to complete their walk through this lovely part of Wales. In all, the cadets walked approximately 15 miles. I was very impressed with their navigation skills and I congratulate them upon that.

We returned to School on Monday, arriving back at about midday. The stores were cleaned, checked and returned within 15 minutes – another excellent performance. As a final feather in their cap, some of the cadets attended rowing training during the games period – very well done, and the end to a very successful weekend.

J.W.S.



Lt. Lawry, glass of Tieguanyin in hand, relaxes in Officers' Mess

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SCHEME

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme is a broadly-based programme of activity voluntarily undertaken by the participants largely in their own time. The scheme challenges all young people between the ages of fourteen and twenty-five to help others, learn new skills, experience adventure, and make new friends. You can develop present interests or try out something new. Whatever you choose to do will give fun, enjoyment and satisfaction. The scheme is not competitive and anyone with the determination needed can succeed – some people even do so with a disability of some kind or other.

There are three awards: the Bronze for those over fourteen, Silver for those over fifteen, and Gold for those over sixteen. You can either progress through them all, or start where you wish.

There are four different sections which have to be completed: skills, physical recreation, community service, and an expedition. In each of these you have to achieve a certain standard, and the sections naturally get harder depending on the award.

All new entrants to the scheme are issued with a record book to record their progress. In the 4th Form there are about sixteen of us doing the scheme; there are also about fifteen boys in the 3rd Form doing it.

When I first joined the scheme I already had in mind what I was going to do for the skills and physical recreations sections. For my skills section I decided to do aircraft recognition, and for this I had to visit two air shows and learn to recognise forty out of fifty aircraft. I am being assessed in this by ex-Flight Lt. Oliver, and I go to see him about once a month so that he can assess my folder of work. In the folder I have got photographs of aeroplanes and also some notes about each one. The best thing I have done so far is a trip round Brize Norton when I was shown the main buildings and what is in them – control tower, radar room, etc.

The next section – physical recreation – is my favourite because I enjoy sport very much. For this I chose weightlifting, and I am assessed here at school by Mr. F. Knipe who is an international referee, and also UK Masters champion. I have now been lifting for just under two years and at one point became the South Midlands champion in the 52kg class; and because of that I qualified for the British Championships in which I came in 9th position.

For our community service Mr. Nightingale took a group of us to an old lady's house to dig her garden. This we did once a week, but it seemed a never-ending task because after a week the weeds had grown back again!

The fourth and final section is the expedition, for which our outward bound training will be invaluable. Some of the group are thinking of walking, but I hope to go cycling with some friends round Oxfordshire.

Now that I have almost finished, overall I feel that the Duke of Edinburgh's scheme is a lot of fun and a most

enjoyable activity. I have even been asked to assess a 3rd Former in his aircraft recognition, since that is what I have nearly finished myself. I recommend the scheme to everyone.

C. Horn

THIRD FORM OUTWARD BOUND CAMP

How would you spend your weekend? The third form outward-bounders went on a hike of between twenty and twenty-five miles (depending on how well you read your map). We were divided into four groups of either four or five boys. Most of the packing took place on Saturday afternoon, Mr. Watts' classroom was filled with an assortment of mats, rucksacks and sleeping bags of all colours, shapes and sizes which must have made any remaining lessons quite difficult.

At around 8:30 on Sunday morning everyone arrived, half asleep but enthusiastic. Once the bus was loaded we sped off down the drive to arrive several conversations later in the car park of Burbury Castle. Having put on our backpacks and posed once or twice for the camera groups, we set off at ten minute intervals for the walk.

The first part of the walk was down the Ridgeway to Avebury where Mr. Daniels was waiting. We had a short rest, filled our water bottles, posed for a few more photos and were off again. Following Mr. Watts' directions and with the occasional pause to chat to passers by we soon arrived at Windmill Hill where there is a long barrow. We had to make our way up to a small village called Berwick Bassett. It was between Windmill Hill and Berwick Bassett that one group found that the field through which they thought that the footpath led had been ploughed but, with the help of some skilful mapwork they managed to find their way to the village.

It was between here and Winterbourne Bassett that our feet began to ache and from there to Clyffe Pypard that the walk began to seem endless but we fought on as it was only a further three miles to the campsite at Little Park Farm. Singing as we went we were soon there and could set up camp and brew a well earned "cuppa". The first group arrived at least an hour before anyone else and so were quite at home by the time the last ones arrived and we could start our fry-up. By that time we had all covered at least eighteen miles with the prospect of only another five in the morning, so we were all quite satisfied. Having sat round the camp fire for a while and eaten all that we could everyone decided to turn in.

The following day after breakfast everything had to be re-packed before setting off on the last short leg of the journey, either through the village of Wootton Bassett or cross country to where the bus would be waiting. Feet began to ache again within a hundred yards of leaving the camp but an hour and forty minutes after leaving the site the last group climbed onto the 'bus and we set off back to school.

General opinion was that it had been a very successful and enjoyable camp thanks in particular to the organisation of Mr. Watts and Mr. Daniels.

P.J. Scriven

Debating Retrospect

INTER-HOUSE COMPETITION

Judging a debate is no easy task and it seems to me now that the only one which is more difficult is to write an accurate account of a very successful season's debates at the end of that season. I will, however, attempt to give a flavour of what we heard through the house competition and the prize debates.

With the introduction of the fourth house the competition was able to run on a knock-out basis and so the season began on the 26th January with the first semi-final between Harcourt and Swift. Jonathan North for Harcourt proposed that "This house believes that we live in an age of the media hero where true heroism is dead". He began well and made some excellent points, but paid the penalty for his informality in that he strayed somewhat from his theme and thus allowed his speech to become disjointed. Angus Morrison answered well and in a very polished manner, but he did employ that one technique from junior debating that really should be abolished – reading a dictionary definition of part of the motion. However, he spoke clearly and well, and although it was obvious that he was using his notes, he was using them not reading them.

Justin Price, seconding the motion, spoke very well and with authority, but his points could really have been used to support either side of the debate – looking back at my notes I see that I wrote "very convincing, but of what?". Michael Pye's speech was much in the same vein. He made very good points but they were not really in support of his opposition to the motion. Eventually it was Richard Pye who pinpointed, from the floor, the difficulty in the debate which was that everyone on both sides of the house seemed to have a very similar opinion, and thus the debate was centred on very narrow questions of definition. Other notable speakers from the floor were Gardiner, Wariebi, Hart (Maiden speech), Copinger (Maiden) and Robertson. In the end the judges were unanimous that although the tone had been rather more that of a discussion where there was a general consensus of opinion, the Swift speakers had made rather more of the debate than those from Harcourt, and therefore it was Swift who went through to the final.

The second semi-final was between Daniel Jones and Kevin Copinger for Vanbrugh and Adule Wariebi and James Wingrove for Queen Anne. I felt that the general quality was slightly lower in this debate, but then there was perhaps a little less experience amongst the competitors. The motion was that "This house believes that poverty cannot be solved by gimmickry" – an allusion to the recent national Comic Relief Day. Wariebi opened the debate with a speech which contained many very good points, although he did seem to be rather dependent on his notes. The main thrust of his argument was that gimmickry was not the *solution* to poverty. Once again there was a slight circularity of argument in that the opposition countered by saying that there *was* no real solution, but that there was a certain amount of relief that could be gained by such events as Comic Relief. Again,

therefore, although there was a degree of disagreement, each side did not really have an incompatible point of view but a different interpretation of the motion. Jones read his speech, I felt; his summing up, however, demonstrated an ability to think on his feet. James Wingrove made a good start in seconding the motion and made sensible use of the postcards on which he had written his notes. However, his argument was not consistent and I felt that he shot himself in the foot a couple of times. Kevin Copinger had some good points to make which he did in a clear and confident manner, but he didn't really back up or follow on from what had been said by his partner. Debaters really must work as a team if they are to be convincing.

Once again it was the comments from the floor of the house which added considerably to the quality of the debate. There were many speeches, most of which brought up a new and relevant point. I must single out Karbasi, who not only put a very sensible question, but continued to pursue his idea when given what he clearly thought was an unsatisfactory answer. Dillon Abeywardene also spoke well and with feeling.

Both summaries from the main speakers were better than I have heard in the past, striking just the right balance between answering points that had been raised from the Floor and introducing one or two new ideas to drive home the argument. For only the second time in my experience at Cokethorpe, the judges were divided as to who should be declared to have won, but in the end, by a very narrow margin, it was Vanbrugh.

The motion for the final between Swift and Vanbrugh was that "This House believes that zoos have outlived their usefulness" proposed by Robert Martyr and James Hubbard for Vanbrugh, and opposed by Fady Dona and Richard Pye. This evening certainly lived up to what we should expect of a debating final and the general quality of research and speeches from both sides and from the floor was very high. It was fascinating to see the two Pye brothers locked in a furious battle of words, Michael perhaps coming out on top but only just. (Richard must, however, have the prize for the most unlikely invention of the debating season. Whether or not such a thing as an "electro-ejaculator" exists, it sounds very frightening!) The one fly in the ointment of the debate was again one of definition – one side using as support for the argument that zoos could still be useful, the excellent examples of the huge "theme parks" and wildlife parks that are springing up especially in the U.S.A., whilst the other side argued that these institutions are not zoos and cannot be called such.

Once again there were many very good comments from the floor. It seems unfair to single out some and not others, but for me the most enlivening contributions were those from Justin Etkin, Cordell Hadeed, Nicholas Bingham and Dilan Abeywardene.

The job of the adjudicators was not so difficult on this occasion. The marks for all four main speakers were very high but victory went to Swift, by a healthy margin. On the Vanbrugh side, though, it is only fair to single out James Hubbard who made a very good contribution despite the fact that he is only in the third form.

"You, the Jury"

(SENIOR CULLEN DEBATE)

The Summer Term sees the two big prize debates, the Senior Cullen, and the Richard Early debate for juniors. For a change, the Cullen debate this year took the form of "You, the Jury", with a panel of twelve boys from all levels of the School, and Mr. Snow and I acting as observers and offering the very occasional piece of guidance. On trial was Mrs. Thatcher, prosecuted by Angus Morrison and defended by Michael Pye. The overall motion (or charge) was that "This House deplores many of the policies of the present Government, and feels that the concentration of power in the hands of one person has gone too far". Mrs. Thatcher's record was examined on each of seven issues ranging from privatisation and unemployment to poll-tax and the health service, and the way in which she actually runs the government. Both advocates spoke clearly and supported their arguments with evidence which was the

result of much detailed research. Michael Pye, in particular, had made a great effort to find usable statistics. Each side had been encouraged to produce witnesses to support their case. Sam Smith was called by Angus Morrison and he managed not only to add something to the Prosecution's case but also to cope fairly well with the cross-examination from Pye. Adrian Mumford-Smith was not very much at ease when attempting to answer the 'friendly' questions from Michael Pye, but he did get into his stride when he was cross-examined by Morrison. He was certainly quite sure of his ground and his opinion, and the whole court was left in no doubt as to what he felt about the issues being discussed. In a way it was a pity that each side only called one witness, for this stage of the debate was without doubt a most entertaining interlude!

What happened in the Jury Room

Unfortunately for most of the audience, the deliberations of the Jury were behind closed doors. Perhaps on some future occasion it might be possible to rig up closed-circuit television, for the debate that occurred in the library after the trial was as interesting as the trial itself. The Jury had to decide whether the Defence or Prosecution had put the more persuasive case, and, in the first instance, to try to reach a unanimous decision; if they could not do so they could bring in a majority verdict of not less than 8-4. A quick initial vote gave a 7-5 majority on the overall motion (after which things were never so close again), and so the jurors began to address themselves more closely to the advocacy of the two counsel on each separate count on the indictment. They were so serious about the job they had been given to do that each point made was very carefully discussed. The discussion was led by Richard Pye, Simon Pedoe and Vincent Kehoe, although I think every member of the Jury made a contribution at some stage. Interestingly enough, where the cross-examination procedure was concerned, while to observers in the court it seemed that Angus Morrison definitely lost the initiative in his questioning of Mumford-Smith, to many members of the Jury it did not appear this way: they thought that the 'hostile' witness was being deliberately awkward – and so they were sympathetic to, rather than critical of, Morrison on this score. Such are the perceptions of jurors!

All too soon the time that had been allowed to the Jury was up and a final decision was still far from having been reached. By this time three successive votes had been taken on the overall motion and they were all very close.

However, as the Jury had not been offered a room for the night in a select hotel, we had to make do with a majority verdict on each of the seven counts. This was where the complexity of the Jury system (as it very possibly is for any adult Jury in a court of law) began to become apparent. For one thing, though a majority found in favour of the Prosecution on six of the seven counts, it was by no means the same group of people who were persuaded by Pye or Morrison on each issue. (The different permutations would make a lengthy study in themselves!) The majorities on individual counts were usually 8-4 or 7-5, but in one case it was 11-1 in Morrison's favour – and in this instance the person who held out was Richard Pye, who on this issue honestly felt that Michael had made the better case, although he voted against him on several other counts! The case for and against Education drew a definite 6-6 vote and was therefore 'Not Proven'.

On returning to the court the Foreman of the Jury, Robertson, rather hastily delivered a series of 'Guilty' verdicts and declared Morrison the winner. In fact, although there was a definite majority for Morrison on individual counts, on the full motion itself it was clear that the Jury had not reached a conclusive unanimous decision: given this dichotomy, if Robertson had waited to be guided in his task, probably the outcome would have been an overall verdict of 'Not Proven'. One thing is certain, however, and that is that we all had an insight that evening into the vagaries of the Jury system – and perhaps the experience may not be without some future value particularly to those who acted as the jurors.

THE JURY: S.R. Pedoe, V.P.M. Kehoe, E.C.J. Casey, N.M. Chowdhury, S.A. Robertson (Foreman), N.W. Horn, M. Ellerton, K.M. de C. Copinger, R. Martyr, R.L. Pye, J.E. Wingrove, N.J. Bingham.

THE POND CLUB

The Junior Debate

The last debate of the year was the Richard Early debate for Junior Boys. It was, once again, on the traditional lines and again of a very high standard. The motion was that "This House would prefer to live in the town than the country", proposed by David Hart and Justin Etkin, and opposed by James Hubbard and Piers Pether. The motion lent itself very well to a good-natured contrast of the different activities that are available in the two different places. Whilst it seems that Piers Pether cannot live without the chance to go shooting, David Hart would have us believe that an available library is of similar vital importance to him. Justin Etkin stood out as a speaker who did not depend heavily on his notes, and if he got a little confused at times it did not really matter, since he was genuinely speaking to us. James Hubbard had learnt some tricks from his appearance for Vanbrugh and he did deliver quite a polished speech, although much of it seemed to be read to us. David Hart made the same mistake of reading his speech.

It did not take the panel of judges (headed by MC) very long to reach their decision, and we were able to slip quietly back into the Corinthian Room to hear ten minutes or so of a supplementary debate which was absolutely fascinating. I genuinely think that it could have continued all evening. It is the nature of a prize debate that the main speakers are competing as a private team for the prize, but there were so many excellent comments from the floor that in some ways Hart and Etkin were simply the representatives of many people when they collected their prizes. I cannot list all those who spoke from the floor, but will mention Conor Byrne as one of the youngest and also Michael Read who made the last, in what was quite a long series of contributions.

I can't really end this piece without pointing out that a report like this can in no way recapture the atmosphere and general feel of the way in which the five debates were run. Credit must go to Mr. Cranham who puts a great deal of time and effort into preparing the main speakers, not in what they are going to say but in how they should set about organising themselves and where they might find useful information. A great deal of credit must also go to the speakers from the floor who often make the whole event come alive. This year we really have seen some lively debates.

E.J.F.

This last year has been a fairly pleasing one up at the pond, although there have been quite a few problems, mainly due to foxes which have carried off a number of pigeons, ducks, some bantams and a goose. The pigeons started off with twelve but by the end of the Spring Term we had only two. Luckily, they proved to be male and female, and they have now risen back to their original number. The ducks were not so badly affected by the fox – only three were taken, but one was sitting on a dozen eggs. The eggs were rushed to James Whittenbury's incubator but only one hatched.

Now to the geese. Mr. Goldsmith finds that the geese are his favourite birds in the pond area and always greet him and his visitors with savage attacks. Gilbert, who is the smallest of the three, is the female and in the Summer of 1987 laid her first clutch of eggs but did not sit. In November Stan, who was the biggest goose and who always led the procession, was taken by a big dog fox. This finished all. Even the Headmaster was annoyed now. So every night two members of the club stayed out with shotguns and a lamp to get the fox. That term three foxes were shot, two by Mr. Daniels.

A new chicken run has been built and houses twelve Warren chickens. Four members are in charge of this – they are Charles Whitwell, Mark Evans, Nick Horn and Timothy Noest.

One member who should be mentioned is David Hart. He has on his own built up his chicken numbers from four to fourteen. This is good going. Along with James Needham he has also reared two Jackdaw chicks whose mother was shot by a 'stray' gun. James Needham gave his Jackdaw to Mrs. Keeling when she came with her menagerie, but David Hart's still remains with its 101 different names.

Tim Gibbons, James Whittenbury, James Needham and myself have started up another run for laying birds of all kinds. Gilbert the goose has been sitting on an egg which proved to be infertile, but one gosling hatched from others that were taken to the incubator, so we are now back to three geese.

The rabbits took over the place for the Spring Term but have now been let out to run wild. Matthew Murgatroyd sees to all the rabbit welfare.

Due to the keenness of all concerned the future of the pond area looks promising.

T.M. Wilder



*Claw study by
N.M. Pineo*



Coming off the river after the Carmel regatta.



The Schools' Head of the River race.

Rowing



Queen Anne IV in the Inter-House regatta

BOAT CLUB REPORT

The cross country runs in the early part of the Lent Term are generally treated by the oarsmen as the start of training for their own sport. However, for the rowers physical fitness does not cease after the Cross Country is over – on the contrary, it desperately needs to be sustained and increased by the use of weights, gym circuits and various strenuous exercises on the ergo machine. During the Lent Term the weather is not always appropriate for rowing, either on the river or the lake; hence more time is spent on fitness, preparing for the following term.

Cokethorpe Boat Club mainly concentrates on races consisting of a distance of about 700-1000 metres – though a point is made each year of entering into a Head race. This year it was the Schools' Head of the River race at Putney which is $3\frac{3}{4}$ miles long. This also enables us to compete against some of the very large schools such as St. Paul's Westminster, Emanuel and Radley. This year the two top crews which were entered were the Junior Crew (P. Jones, J. Stockdale, N. Bailey, J. Pether and Cox P. Pether) rowing in 'Eric'; and the more Senior Crew (consisting of M. Kentish, J. Horada, S. Jewell, T. Gardiner and cox C. Alderton) rowing in the 'Tim Jenner', both being Fine Shells. (Unfortunately this crew is rather too heavy for this boat and we are hoping to obtain a Janosek fibre-glass four next year.)

Both crews rowed up to the start but because there were so many boats on the river the process was slightly chaotic, and to make things worse the weather turned against us. The wind, rain and hail were so bad that they made very rough waves. However, in spite of the appalling conditions, both crews rowed with excitement and agility and obtained good, well-deserved times.

The first regatta of the summer term was at Carmel College, Wallingford. This took place on a fine Sunday and was probably the most successful regatta of the whole season. One of the first events was by James Pether in the single scull. This was very exciting, but unfortunately he

was just beaten by a canvas. The Junior Four rowed well and defeated the Carmel crew, thus qualifying for the semi-finals; alas, they did not progress any further and were beaten in the semi-finals.

The Gardiner Four competed against Westminster School. This race was very close and exciting and the Cokethorpe crew came out top, so to follow on and row against King's School, Wimbledon, in the semi-final. Once again, our crew won and qualified for the finals, where we lost to St. George's.

The coxed pair (J. Horada, S. Jewell and cox C. Alderton) also competed and won against the Carmel pair, but lost in the finals to the Pangbourne pair.

The second regatta was the Ball Cup held at Nottingham, and to travel there by Land-Rover for two hours, compete against other crews and lose was slightly disappointing.

The third regatta was the Birmingham Regatta where the Junior 16 four rowed in a four-laned race against Cheltenham College, Shiplake and St. Edwards. This race was an extremely fast one, and was actually the fastest time ever recorded in that age group in that stretch of water. We came third in the final positioning, with Shiplake first and Cheltenham behind us in fourth place. Although this was not a win, we were very pleased with our efforts.

The fourth regatta was at Bridgnorth, and although neither the Junior 15 nor the Junior 16 four defeated any crews, the Junior 13 scullers competed and Simon Lancaster brought home some silver.

The last regatta was Iron Bridge, but sadly there was a lack of transport and only the Junior 13 scullers competed.

In the inter-House rowing matches things were slightly different this year, because for the first time there were

four Houses taking part. The victors in the various events were:

Junior Sculls	J. Pether (QA)
Senior Sculls	C.G. Turner (SW)
Junior IV	Queen Anne
Senior IV	Swift

The overall winners were Queen Anne, although they beat Swift by only two points. As a new House Vanbrugh is not yet in possession of many rowers and therefore didn't do terribly well, but no doubt they will make their mark in the House rowing in due course.

The rowers this year have not won much silver, but they have beaten a number of crews and gained a large amount of experience, skill and enjoyment during the last two seasons. I would like to thank the many people who have supported us during the races, and say a special thank you to Mr. Daniels and Mr. Fenton who gave us their time and experience while coaching us.

J.J. Horada



One of the many junior scullers

ATHLETICS

This summer many boys enjoyed a varied and interesting athletics programme, culminating in Sports Day on the last morning of term.

The true reflection of athletic ability and achievement will never be realised because of the involvement of boys in either cricket or rowing. However, all boys had a chance during P.E. lessons to work on their basic techniques and record times and distances for the Inter-House Standards Competition. This year Queen Anne won the competition, closely followed by Harcourt who were some way ahead of Vanbrugh and Swift. Exact scores are as follows:-

1st	=	Queen Anne	169 pts
2nd	=	Harcourt	159 pts
3rd	=	Vanbrugh	113 pts
4th	=	Swift	110 pts

In June four boys competed at the Oxfordshire County Athletic Championships at Iffley Road, Oxford and despite the lack of real opportunity to practise they acquitted themselves very well. Michael Orebiyi (QA) competed in the U20 100m and 200m, coming joint 1st and 4th respectively; Keith McLoughhlin (H) although an U17 boy, competed in the U20 200m and Triple Jump and came 6th and 2nd, respectively. Henry Kitching (QA) and Michael Ford (V) both ran in the U17 2000m steeplechase and came 1st and 2nd in an event they had never tried before. This was a very good achievement by all the boys involved and a credit to the reputation of Cokethorpe. We clearly have a great deal of raw talent which could achieve so much if boys could spend all summer competing in athletics.

Sports Day was split into two sections, the field events which were held on the Thursday before the end of term and the track events held on the last Saturday. Along with the more senior boys it was felt important to involve the lower school in Sports Day. Consequently, the school was

split into three age groups. The field events were duly completed with Adule Wareibi (QA) beating the U20 shot putt record with a throw of 12.72m. Again Queen Anne and Harcourt were the two leading Houses, reflecting their strength found in the standards competition. The track event Finals were seen by several enthusiastic parents and although no records were broken several boys produced excellent performances. The eventual winners were Queen Anne who therefore completed the "Athletics Double".

C.M.

Overall Athletics results:-

1st	=	Queen Anne	111 pts
2nd	=	Harcourt	105 pts
3rd	=	Vanbrugh	96 pts
	=	Swift	96 pts

Davie Cup Winner – J. Blackwell (V)
(Senior Boys 1500m)

Howland Cup Winner – A. Wariebi (QA)
(Senior Boys 400m)

Individual Age Group Champions:

Junior:	1st	Harcourt
Forms 1/2	2nd	Swift
	3rd	Vanbrugh
	4th	Queen Anne
Intermediates:	1st	Swift
Years 3/4	2nd	Queen Anne
	3rd	Vanbrugh
	4th	Harcourt
Seniors:	1st	Harcourt
Years 5/6	2nd	Queen Anne
	3rd	Vanbrugh
	4th	Swift

1ST XI CRICKET REPORT

The beginning of the cricket season is usually the signal for the Heavens to open and for Cokethorpe to be in danger of floating away. However, 1988 broke the mould, for the start of term was dry and we were even able to complete a full trial match on the last Saturday in April in glorious sunshine. This seemed too good to be true, so when the first Nomad match, planned for 1st May was washed out "grey-beard weather forecasters" nodded sagely concluding that we were now for it much as usual. This would have been a great pity for one of the early talking points was whether the Captain of Cricket, S.J. Smith, already with 763 runs to his credit, could exceed J. Tomlinson's long-standing XI career record total of 1,147? 384 runs to score in 12 matches worked out tidily at 32 runs per innings, but if two or three matches were to be washed out, then the required rate would quickly leap to over forty, and Sam might struggle to attain his goal.

Before that drama could unfold we had to consider the possible strengths and weaknesses of the XI for the coming season. With the unexpected departure of S. Johnson at Christmas the batting had been substantially weakened, so the first task was to find a new opening partner for Smith. M. Howe was too valuable at number three to be moved so Roscoe, who had yet to score a run for the XI, won the nomination. This proved to be a happy choice for in ten innings he batted for 7 hours 59 minutes, sharing in seven opening stands of over thirty, and if he was very much the junior (almost sleeping) partner, he did what he was asked to do admirably. After Howe the batting had a fragile appearance although Kitching seemed to have some ability while Wariebi and Bowerman might strike the ball hard from time to time. The bowling was even more worrying for who was to follow in the well-worn steps of strike bowlers Wankling (45 wickets in 1984), Akande (31 wickets in 1985), Spicer (32 wickets in 1986) and Reeve (43 wickets in 1987)? It appeared likely that our attack would revolve around three Fourth Forms seam bowlers, Bowerman, Hadeed and Kitching, supported by Orebiyi and Wariebi if their actions could be ironed out, with the spin (if any?) in the hands of the Captain himself. It seemed unlikely that this combination would have opposing sides quaking in their boots but only time would tell.

The XI's fortunes in the first half of the term were finely balanced. Two matches were won, two lost and one drawn – a better record than might have been expected from such a very young and inexperienced side. Against Abingdon Smith made 43 of the first 60 runs, but when he was out Kitching struck the ball lustily, scoring 45 at a run a minute and the XI declared at 128-8. Bowerman bowled encouragingly at one end throughout the Abingdon innings taking 5-40, but although Hadeed commanded respect, Kitching and Orebiyi were both nervous and rather wild so Abingdon escaped with 107-9. Shiplake proved to be far too strong for us this year, although in their innings Blackwell enjoyed some success with the

ball. When we batted two wickets fell quickly but Smith and Kitching once again defended soundly bringing up the fifty. 50-2 became 61-9 after a shattering middle-order batting collapse and the game looked as good as over. In fact McLoughlin and Blackwell then dropped anchor, batting with great courage and good sense for over half an hour, our last wicket falling with less than two overs left. Fortune smiled on us in the next match against Stowe for Bowerman bowled with real pace (12-3-5-25) putting the visitors out for 79. Another patient effort from Smith, 36 not out in an hour and a half, with useful support from Roscoe, Howe and Bowerman, each of whom reached double figures, gave the XI victory by 5 wickets with half an hour to spare. However, the frailty of the batting was again exposed against Rendcomb when an encouraging 50-1 became 74 all out three quarters of an hour later. Our opponents needed only an hour to knock off the required runs and thanks to some dropped catches, and an injury to Bowerman which was to put him out of the next match, were able to do so without loss. Hadeed and Orebiyi opened the bowling against Dean Close but both strayed in length and direction and it was not until Smith and Blackwell began to spin the ball that wickets started to tumble. Smith finished with 5-25 in a little over nine overs while Blackwell took 2-19 in eleven. Once again, Smith applied himself to knocking off the runs, this time making 72 before being third out at 131. He received fine support from Roscoe (15 in an opening stand of 35), Howe (21 in a stand of 48 for the second wicket) and Kitching who scored 17 not out to see the XI home by 7 wickets.

During the examination period, matches were necessarily sparse although the standard of the XI's cricket was encouragingly high. Against Oratory Smith and Roscoe both got into their forties, adding 66 for the first wicket, Howe, Kitching and Horn chipped in nicely and the XI declared at 161-8. Oratory were only interested in saving the game and although Bowerman took 4-24 the support bowling lacked penetration and stumps were drawn at 56-6. The Radley match was ruined by heavy rain, although Bowerman took four more wickets in conditions which made it hard for him even to stand up. Kingham Hill put the XI in on a wet wicket and bowled us out for a paltry 87. This would have been far worse had it not been for an excellent fighting 34 from Howe and another brave last-wicket stand involving that man Blackwell. Kingham progressed steadily (thanks to some dropped catches), but Hadeed and Bowerman bowled tightly, Wariebi produced a final dramatic over and the game was drawn with Kingham reeling at 80-9.

With the bulk of G.C.S.E. and A Level exams over the XI drew two fine games at Pangbourne and Malvern, lost to a strong P.J.G.'s XI, but finished damply – rained off at Bloxham. At Pangbourne, Smith was dropped off the first ball of the match and went on to make 56. Kitching hit a hectic 28 in 24 minutes, which Blackwell, now promoted to number 7, made a spectacular 22, including a sweetly-timed pulled six deep into the woods. After the declaration

FOUR STALWARTS OF THE XI IN ACTION



Top row: *S.J. Smith (the record breaker), H.R.G. Kitching (opening his shoulders)*
 Bottom row: *C.C.M. Hadeed and M.R. Bowerman (hostile opening bowlers)*

Hadeed was the pick of the bowlers taking 4-46, but apart from a late burst by Lowe, who took 2-2, the other bowlers lacked penetration and Pangbourne finished with 113-8. On the next day at Malvern Hadeed was quickly among the wickets once again, and the home side was soon staggering at 4-2. Some superb clean hitting from the stockily built number 4 (92 in seventy minutes) and some indifferent bowling and fielding by the XI as they came under pressure changed the picture, Malvern declaring at 175-6 after only 29 overs. However, when the XI passed the hundred with only one wicket down and reached 125 for the loss of only two wickets, a sensational victory looked distinctly possible. At that point five wickets fell for a paltry eight runs, and it was left to Blackwell once again to bat out time which he did most capably. Smith (65), Howe (19), Roscoe (13) and Kitching (10) had all played well nonetheless, and this was an excellent game of cricket enjoyed by all. After the battering they had taken at Malvern the XI's bowlers seemed to have regained their composure when P.J.G.'s XI slumped to 41-4, but thanks to an undefeated stand of 165 in 81 minutes by old boys Macleod and Shelley, P.J.G. was able to declare at an impressive 206-4. Now came the burning question – could Smith score the eleven runs he still needed to break the

record in this innings, or would everything depend upon the final match of the season? Against some fiery bowling (bad luck for Roscoe, Howe and Kitching) Sam achieved his goal amidst great applause from both sides before falling to a Mr. Gentry swinger for 20. Wariebi now appropriately took over the role of senior partner and Price, Blackwell, Horn and Hadeed all reached double figures in the XI's total of 114. As it was, it was just as well that Captain Sam had passed the milestone in the penultimate match, for heavy rain fell on Bloxham on Wednesday, 29th June and XI's final fixture was washed away in consequence.

Finally, a few words of thanks must go to the various Masters who helped to coach cricket over and above their other duties, to our Groundsman, Martin Walker, who worked hard to produce good wickets without his favourite mower, to Sister and the Matrons for keeping the XI fit and presentable, to the kitchen staff for preparing main meals early, main meals late and assorted teas into the bargain, and to A.J. Ogilvy, that vital cog in the machinery, a most accurate and dependable scorer.

P.J.G.

SUMMARY OF MATCHES PLAYED

XI: Played 11, Won 2, Drawn 6, Lost 3

Wed. 4th May v Abingdon 3rd XI (Away). XI 128-8 dec. (Kitching 45, Smith 43), Abingdon 107-9 (Bowerman 5-40).
 Wed. 11th May v Shiplake 1st XI (Away). Shiplake 154-6 dec. (Blackwell 3-7), XI 79 (Smith 28).
 Sat. 14th May v Stowe 3rd XI (Home). Stowe 79 (Bowerman 5-25, Orebiyi 3-19), XI 80-5 (Smith 36*).
 Wed. 18th May v Rendcomb 1st XI (Home). XI 74 (Smith 25), Rendcomb 77-0.
 Sat. 21st May v Dean Close 2nd XI (Home). Dean Close 132 (Smith 5-25), XI 135-3 (Smith 72, Howe 21).
 Wed. 1st June v Oratory 2nd XI (Home). XI 161-8 dec. (Roscoe 49, Smith 42, Howe 22), Oratory 56-6 (Bowerman 4-24).
 Sat. 4th June v Radley U16 B. (Away) Radley 121-5 (Bowerman 4-66) – match abandoned.
 Sat. 11th June v Kingham Hill 1st XI (Away). XI 87 (Howe 34), Kingham Hill 80-9 (Hadeed 4-43).
 Wed. 22nd June v Pangbourne 'A' XI (Away). XI 153-9 dec. (Smith 56, Kitching 28, Blackwell 22), Pangbourne 113-8 (Hadeed 4-46).
 Thurs. 23rd June v Malvern Senior Colts (Away). Malvern 175-6 dec. XI 142-7 (Smith 65).
 Sat. 25th June v P.J.G.'s XI (Home). P.J.G.'s XI 206-4 dec. XI 114 (Smith 20).

XI AVERAGES

BATTING (Qualification 5 innings)

	Inns	N.O.	H.S.	Runs	Avge.
S.J. Smith	10	1	72	394	43.78
Blackwell	8	3	22	72	14.40
Kitching	10	1	45	127	14.11
Howe	9	0	34	125	13.89
Roscoe	10	0	49	119	11.90

BOWLING (Qualification 6 wickets)

	Overs	Mdns.	Wkts.	Runs	Avge.
S.J. Smith	17.1	3	6	64	10.67
Blackwell	38.1	6	9	115	12.78
Bowerman	127	24	26	349	13.42
Hadeed	82	10	17	259	15.24
Orebiyi	49.3	7	6	186	31.00

COLOURS

XI: S.J. Smith, M.G.W. Howe, M.R. Bowerman
 XXII: A.M. Wariebi, A.J.F. Blackwell, D.A. Roscoe,
 H.R.G. Kitching, C.C. Hadeed, M.O. Orebiyi

HOUSE MATCHES

Semi-Finals: Harcourt 87 (Smith 29, Roscoe 4-2, Wariebi 4-32), Queen Anne 90-4 (Roscoe 25*, Shorrock 3-19).
 Swift 137-6 inns. closed (Howe 32, Ellerton 30, Hadeed 29*, M. Pye 24, Abeywardene 4-49), Vanbrugh 64 (Hadeed 4-22, Bowerman 3-31).

Final: Swift 53 (Wariebi 4-10, Kitchin 3-4), Queen Anne 57-9 (R. Pye 4-6, Hadeed 3-16).

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

Semi-Finals: Vanbrugh 35-2, Queen Anne 39-1
 Harcourt 49-1 (Smith 24*, Shorrock 21), Swift 46-4 (Howe 20).
 3rd place play off: Swift 52-1 (Howe 39), Vanbrugh 37-4.
 Final: Harcourt 39-3, Queen Anne 32-2.

NOMADS TERM MATCHES

Sun. 15th May v Blenheim Park C.C. (Home). Nomads 175-5 dec. (McKenzie 77*, Howe 29, Green 25*), Blenheim 105-9 (Macleod 4-51).
 Sun. 5th June v Ducklington C.C. (Home). Nomads 202-7 dec. (Tomlinson 97, Spicer 54), Ducklington 97 (Macleod 7-57, Hadeed 3-17).
 Sun. 12th June v Oxford Downs Strollers C.C. (Away). Nomads 192-7 dec. (Luxmoore 76, McKenzie 37, Howe 34*), Strollers 131-7 (Macleod 3-40).

COLTS CAPTAINS – A COURAGEOUS QUARTET



C.M. Horn (U15 A)



J.B. Price (U15 B)



D. Abeywardene (U14 A)



R.L. Pye (U14 B)

UNDER 15 CRICKET

Although the 'A' Team lost all seven matches due to Bowerman, Kitching and Hadeed playing for the 1st XI, Richard Pye's 'B' Team won two games and drew another.

Off-spinner Reynolds devastated Kingham Hill with 5 for 11 as the opposition were skittled for 21. Barry, who only learnt to play cricket this season, hit the winning runs for a 6 wicket victory.

At Rendcomb it was Nos. 10 and 11 – Reynolds and Barry – who survived a traumatic final three overs to maintain the 'B' Team's unbeaten record.

The batting performance of the season came from Price who scored 86 as the 'B' Team scored 145 for 2 off 25 overs to beat Rendcomb by 8 wickets.

M.E.

UNDER 14A CRICKET

This was one of the more successful seasons for the Under 14A side, even though we only won one of our matches. We lost three matches and drew the remaining five, with one match a victim of the weather. We were led by the very experienced Abeywardene, who was one of the leading figures of the team with bat and ball.

We began with a crushing 10-wicket victory over St. Hugh's, with Abeywardene and Oldham sharing the wickets. This gave us a great deal of confidence and our next match was a close draw against Stowe. We bowled them out for 82 but could only reply with 62-7 ourselves; Arnold-Roberts was 15 not out and Smith batted very well in our innings.

Our next match against Rendcomb was a most exciting game. Rendcomb, at one point 70-0, were eventually bowled out for 104 and we batted consistently to make 102. Abeywardene batted beautifully for 49- a real Captain's innings.

We let ourselves down for the only time this season by losing to Oratory by 50 runs, having bowled them out for 78. Our next match against Radley was ruined by the rain but we had time to bowl them out for 95. Another exciting match was the one against Shiplake, which saw the opposition squeezing home by 4 wickets chasing our score of 95-7 (Prosser 28, Brown 24 not out).

In the match against Kingham Hill we finished 12 short of their total with 5 wickets down, Abeywardene and Whittenbury surviving some hostile bowling to earn a comfortable draw. In the Magdalen match the opposition batted twenty minutes too long in scoring 149, giving us an escape route for another draw. In our total of 82-8 Fisher in particular batted very well. Finally, another long innings by Whittenbury following on from his 28 against Magdalen secured yet another draw against a powerful Pangbourne eleven, as we totalled 72-8 in reply to Pangbourne's 126-5.

Everyone in the side contributed well at some point during the season. Abeywardene was the obvious winner of the U14 'player of the season' award, and Oldham should be mentioned for taking a great number of wickets. Smith, Vernon and Whittenbury also played very well. Paul Taylor also deserves praise for bravely returning to active sport after breaking his leg in the winter term and doing so well.

R.A. Prosser

Prosser is to be congratulated on playing for the 1st XI against Malvern. It will be interesting to see how many of his team mates follow him into the senior side.

P.J.R.R.

UNDER 14 B CRICKET

We have had many stars in this year's team, both from boys already in the School and from new boys. The team consisted of Hubbard (Capt.), Fisher (Vice-Capt.), Searson, Bingham, Shannon, Jeffs, Sharp, Gibbons, Marsden, Chui and Kamali. We travelled all over the south of England, playing a total of five matches of which we won 1: drew 2: and lost 2.

Many players in the team should be worth watching in the future, particularly M. Searson who batted well and took a total of 18 wickets. J. Hubbard took 11 wickets. Sharp, Chui and Fisher all gave good performances, and although Kamali only bowled a few overs he did take some useful wickets.

We played St. Hugh's, Oratory, Kingham Hill, Rendcomb and Pinewood, of which only one game was at home. Overall it was a good team effort, and hopefully we shall play again next year and enjoy the same success.

J. Hubbard



U15 middle practice

NOMADS TOUR

The tour began on Monday July 11th, a week after the end of the summer term.

The touring party met as usual at the 'White Swan' at Henley-in-Arden. Members of the party present were P.J. Green (Captain), Nicholas Smith and Jonathon Reeve (Old Boys), and 1st IX players Howe, Bowerman and Roscoe. After lunch the party drove to the Norfolk Hotel in Birmingham. After booking in there were games of pool in the hotel's Worcester Room. During the course of the afternoon Michael Spicer (old boy) and Julian Blackwell arrived at the hotel. The evening was spent at the Duck Inn and was rounded off with a take-away.

On the Tuesday morning the party descended with Smith wearing a rather colourful pair of shorts and after breakfast, the now traditional game of football was played on the back lawn. During lunch at the Duck the party was joined by Michael de Wegmarn and old boys James Shelley and Hugh Scott. Also joining us was Nicholas Brownsey, one of P.J. Green's relations.

The first match was played against Tanworth. P.J.G. won the toss and elected to bat. After a good start with Smith and Brownsey, Smith fell and Spicer had a brief stay at the wicket. When Brownsey fell the Nomads were 87-5, but we managed to scrape through with brave efforts from the Captain and Shelley with Reeve coming in and hitting the spinners for several boundaries before he was run out. The end score was 128 with Brownsey 30. The bowling was opened by Scott and Spicer and soon Tanworth were in trouble. The weather began to worsen and the sides came off on several occasions when the downpour became too great. In between showers Smith and Brownsey came on to bowl spin. Eventually the teams had to give into the rain with Tanworth 55-7 and Scott taking 4-17.

On Wednesday we were joined by old boys Stuart Macleod and James Tomlinson, with his Australian friend Peter MacLeod for our second match against Harbourne. After a terribly wet night and morning the weather took a change for the better. P.J. Green won the toss again and once more elected to bat. After the quick fall of Tomlinson, P. Macleod and Brownsey put on some runs with Macleod making his fifty. Then S. MacLeod came in. He started rather slowly and seemed very uncertain, but gradually gained confidence and he and Spicer finished with a flourish, Spicer hitting three fours and a six in consecutive balls. S. MacLeod made 77 not out and the Nomads finished at 224-6.

The Harbourne innings started very dubiously with an ambitious shout for L.B.W. from Shelley being given out by their umpire. Harbourne laboured with Brownsey taking 5-44, but with a brave innings from one of their players Harbourne at the end struggled through and were able to hold on with 170-8. The evening was spent either losing money to a very selfish fruit machine or by reminiscing with old Nomad photographs supplied by the captain.

Our third match on Thursday was against Lapworth and we were joined by Graham Balmer and P. Randall. On arriving at Lapworth the weather was not good, but after forty minutes and a pint in the club's bar, thankfully the drizzle stopped and the Nomads went out to bat with a 35 over limitation to each side. We lost our openers for few runs but Spicer and Howe both hit tremendous scores, Spicer getting 79 and Howe 90 not out. When the Nomads came out to field the temperature was so low that most people were wearing up to two or three jumpers. Balmer, the opening bowler, bowled well but the Lapworth openers stayed in scoring slowly. Then Shelley struck and wickets fell steadily with Lapworth failing to make the 204-run target, thus giving the Nomads victory.

The final match on Friday was against Rowington. With a rather depleted side the Nomads lost the toss and were put in to bat. The wicket was unpredictable to say the least but Howe and Randall gave a good start before Randall was caught behind. Howe and Brownsey raised the run rate with Howe making 33. Shelley and Smith battled on, the latter scoring 50, to give the Nomads a respectable score. P.J. Green batted well but ran out of partners with the score at 124. Spicer and Reeve opened the Nomads bowling. Bowerman replaced Reeve but Rowington knocked off the runs making 127 without loss. After a friendly chat in the local pub the team made their way home.

In a week of changeable weather we lost only two hours of play. A word must also be said for our friendly supporter Andy Roberts, a friend of N. Brownsey, who came to every match we played. There were many good performances and I personally gained good experience playing with such talented players.

D.A. Roscoe

NOMADS TOUR MATCHES

Tues. 12th July v Tanworth-in-Arden C.C. Nomads 128 (N. Brownsey 30); Tanworth 55-7 (H. Scott 4-17).

Wed. 13th July v Harborne C.C. Nomads 224-6 dec. (S. Macleod 77*, P. McLeod 58, M. Spicer 37, N. Brownsey 27); Harborne 170-8 (N. Brownsey 5-44, J. Shelley 3-36).

Thurs. 14th July v Lapworth C.C. (35 overs per side match) Nomads 204-5 innings closed (M. Howe 90*, M. Spicer 79); Lapworth C.C. 125-9 innings closed (M. Spicer 3-18).

Friday 15th July v Rowington C.C. Nomads 124 (N. Smith 50, M. Howe 33); Rowington 127-0.

WINE-TASTING TRIP TO FRANCE



13.7.88

Leaving Montmort today after a very interesting stay in Champagne country. Having eaten in a Spanish restaurant in Ramsgate we have had two nights on excellent French food including Escargot, Sweetbreads, Salmon in Champagne and a fantastic selection of Hors D'Oeuvres. During the day yesterday we visited the caves of Moet and Chandon and had a sample, then went into Rheims to see the cathedral. On the way back from Rheims we visited the cellars of Taittenger before having a picnic lunch (at tea time!) overlooking the vineyards. Today we journey slowly to Beaune.

E.J.F.



14.7.88

Picnicked in the sun on the way to Beaune. Hotel slightly disappointing but beautiful village and food. Tasted five white and twelve red Burgundies yesterday at Chateau Meursault after a picnic in the vineyards. In the afternoon we looked round Beaune before dinner and then went back to Mersault for a huge street party to celebrate Bastille Day. A fairly late start this morning heading for Alsace.

S. Jewell

17.7.88

We had an interesting trip yesterday, especially along the R. Doubs between Besancon and Colmar. Most of us tried the local dishes of onion tarte and choucroute (cabbage with pork, ham and spicy sausages), and Price at last got his frog's legs. This morning we drove to a wine cave and tasted five local wines, and bought samples and presents before leaving for the Ardennes.

C. Alderton

18.7.88

A rather drizzly drive through the Ardennes, but scenery still looking lovely. Arrived at Charleville in pouring rain; however, boys seemed in good spirits and enjoyed the TV's, fridges etc. in their rooms. A good meal out, but possibly even greater pleasure from fishing the live crabs and lobsters in the restaurant!

W.H.C.D.



Pencil sketch by S. Jewell

OLD BOYS' NEWS

- RICHARD BANHAM**
left 1983 Leading a hectic life in the Army and is currently stationed at Wellington Barracks. In his mother's words "joining Christopher Robin and Alice".
- PAUL NORMAN**
left 1985 Called in to School last year – he is currently working as a Supervisor for Regency Film Services.
- JAMES DILLON-GODFRAY**
left 1982 Who wrote to us in April would like any "Old Boys" from his era to know that (in his words) "he did not end up running a pub or such like", but over the past 4 years has been training as an Aeronautical Engineer with British Aerospace and is now in the Sales Department selling Executive Jets. "Should there be any old boys with the odd 4 million to spend, I could do them a very nice little 8 seater that would take them to Barbados for the weekend".
- NICHOLAS TAYLOR**
left 1975 After working as an Engineer in the USA and West Germany, he now lives in Gothenburg where he is a Design Consultant for Volvo Cars.
- DAVID RAYNES**
left 1969 Presently working in Somerset in Horticulture.
- RICHARD MAISEY**
1959-1962 Working as Local Government Officer for Warwickshire Local Authority.
- MARK GIRLING**
left 1977 Has been working for British Airways for 8 years, currently located in Ealing, dealing with Travel Agency Training.
- JULIAN RUSS**
left 1987 Currently training to be Bank Manager at local branch of Barclays Bank
- JEREMY NG**
left 1987 Studying in Malaysia at Damanscara College.
- BEN GOAD**
left 1985 Working for Hedges & Butler Wine Merchants, but has currently taken a year off to go to Australia.
- DEREK DeSOUZA**
left 1976 Who signs himself "Old Boy and getting Older" – joined Metropolitan Police last year.
- JEREMY HARRISON**
left 1965 Now Lt. Col. J.R. Harrison, MBE, RE currently serving in 26 Engineer Regiment in Germany.
- ALASTAIR PICTON-WARLOW**
left 1985 Working as a Sales Representative for Wine Merchants I.D.V. (U.K.) Ltd. in Sevenoaks, Kent.
- SIMON ASHBY**
left 1979 Is South of England Area Manager for indoor Cricket.
- HUGH SCOTT**
left 1977 Married Sue on 7th May 1988. Stuart Macleod was Best Man.
- GEOFFREY SUTTON**
left 1964 Between 1973-80 took a degree in Finno-Ugrian languages at the University of Uppsala in Sweden. Currently Editor for marine publishers, Charter International Publishers, based in Castle Acre in Norfolk.
- PHILIP VAUGHAN-FOWLER**
left 1976 Recently left for the U.S.A., with his wife Emma to work for 6 months.
- JOHN BODENHAM**
left 1975 Married Katie on 16th April, 1988.
- ROBERT ADAMS & JONATHAN SMITH**
left 1979 Recently sent Matron a postcard from Australia where they are currently taking time off.
- ROD MCKENZIE**
left 1977 Can be heard every morning on Radio 1 News and in recent weeks seems to hold a regular spot on Simon Mayo's Breakfast Show.

JEREMY ABBOTT

*After leaving Cokethorpe J.W. Abbot (Harcourt, 1981-85) joined the Royal Navy, and in April this year he passed out from the Britannia Royal Naval College at Dartmouth as a Midshipman. Mention of his graduation and posting on H.M.S. Bristol appeared in a May edition of the *Witney Gazette*, and we thank his parents not only for the loan of this photograph of Jeremy, but also for a fuller description of his time at Dartmouth and the day of the passing out ceremony.*

"After successfully passing a three day Admiralty Selection Board, Jeremy entered Dartmouth in January 1987 as a Midshipman on a medium-term 18 year Commission for training as a Seaman Officer. Training encompasses both academic and professional subjects. The first six weeks were busy with very vigorous physical activities, including a three day survival course on Dartmoor.

At Dartmouth Jeremy carried on with the interests he had developed at Cokethorpe and became a regular member of the College rugby team. He also acted in the College dramatic society in a production of 'An Inspector Calls'. Unfortunately his other sporting love, cricket, was curtailed as the cricket season coincided with his second term which was spent at sea on H.M.S. Eurydus, one of the Dartmouth Training Squadron frigates on a two month training voyage to Bermuda and up the eastern seaboard of the USA calling at Virginia, Newport, Bath and up to Canada, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland.

The final two terms concentrated on academic subjects like Marine Engineering and Navigation, culminating in the passing out parade in April this year.

He has now joined the destroyer H.M.S. Bristol for approximately 18 months to complete his training in all aspects of seamanship and leadership. At the end of this year he will take his professional exams and if he passes them will be promoted to Sub Lieutenant. He has just returned to Portsmouth after a ten week voyage to within the Arctic Circle, during which the ship visited ports in Norway, Sweden, Finland and Germany.

Jeremy passed out in April this year after four terms at Dartmouth Royal Training College. The Passing-out Parade is always taken by a member of the Royal Family and we were fortunate in that Jeremy's was taken by the Queen accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh. This was the first time she had taken the parade since Prince Andrew passed out of the College eight years ago and she presented new colours to the college during the ceremony.

My husband and I, with Jeremy's grandparents, went down to Dartmouth for the passing out, a splendid naval ceremonial occasion attended by a large crowd and



accompanied by the Band of the Royal Marines. It was a lovely sunny day which really showed off the College, with its commanding position over the beautiful Dart Estuary at its best. The ceremony lasted two hours with the dedication of the new colours and speeches by the Captain of HMS Britannia and the Queen who spoke of the importance of the Royal Navy to this island. We felt very proud and privileged to be a part of it.

On the following two days, as part of the celebrations, we attended a cocktail party at the College and on the last night of term, a ball. This was a very grand affair with all the Naval Officers in the Dress Uniforms and the Quarterdeck (or Main Hall) of H.M.S. Britannia decked out as a ship's deck with three masts and full rigging.

As parents we are very pleased that Jeremy decided to join the Royal Navy and found the passing out ceremonies to be a very moving experience. Standards required to get into the Royal Naval College at Dartmouth and into the Royal Navy as an Officer are high and we are certain that the quality of education Jeremy received at Cokethorpe and the opportunities for personal development during his time at the School were largely instrumental in preparing him for a naval career."

— *Envoi* —

On a lighter note we close this year's edition of The Peacock with an item compiled from answers to a recent 'House Record Update' form, the existence of which no doubt illustrates the scrupulous attention to detail on the part of the Housemaster concerned, in order to ensure that no achievement – however important or trivial – is overlooked for his end-of-term reports!

Name: A.N. Other (and others)

Summer Term

HOUSE RECORD UPDATE

Fill in all relevant details of achievement and involvement under the following headings:-

<i>Rugby – House/School/Colours:</i>	Broke leg.
<i>Football – House/School/Colours:</i>	Reserve on one occasion for team.
<i>Rowing – House/School/Colours:</i>	Not in regatta. Have not rowed yet.
<i>Cricket – House/School/Colours:</i>	–
<i>Cross Country – House/School/Colours:</i>	Came 103rd
<i>Positions of responsibility:</i>	In charge of geese. (Leader of 3 Territories).
<i>Debating:</i>	I have been to two debates this term.
<i>Effective Speaking:</i>	I am taking it on Monday 13th June.
<i>Declamations:</i>	Went for auditions.
<i>Mastermind:</i>	–
<i>House Play:</i>	Made brochure.
<i>School Play:</i>	Yes, a Guard.
<i>ACF achievements:</i>	–
<i>Outward Bound achievements:</i>	I did the First Aid last year. I have now left Outward Bound.
<i>House Music Competition:</i>	I sang 'Jerusalem'.
<i>French Play:</i>	I was Head Butler. (P.S. I still am.)
<i>Any other School or House activities you feel are relevant:</i>	I was a good Bell-ringer last term. Took time off school to go riding. Keeping ferrets. Getting a cockerel now as House mascot. I am now back on games. I have been confirmed. I have shown Prep School Headmasters round the School.



*Pencil sketches
by
N.M. Pineo*

and A. Ogilvy

