



Cokethorpe
SCHOOL

THE OCELLUS

The termly newsletter of our school

From The Headmaster



It is both a pleasure and a delight to be writing an introductory piece for this newsletter.

The approach and style of our new publication is quite distinctive and I hope you will find time to browse all pages; on purpose the entries are bite-size and there are plenty of photographs to complement the text.

Whether you are current or former parents, pupils or staff, or otherwise connected with the School I believe you will find news and views that are of interest to you. In order to indulge my own passion for information we have also included some facts on matters of general interest as well as some that are specific to Cokethorpe.

Perhaps I should end by explaining the unusual name of the newsletter; the word ocellus (pronounced 'oh, sell-us') refers to the eye in the tail feathers of a peacock. There are many stories that speak of the magical properties of peacock feathers, so it seemed fitting to use this beautiful part of the bird's plumage as the working title. These magical properties have clearly worked on us and the name has stuck - a case of tar and feathers?

With all good wishes for the New Year.



ROUND UP

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Summer Holiday Projects

Girls' Changing Rooms: These have been completely renovated. They were decorated and refitted with new benches and pegs and a secure area for the Sixth Form. New changing and showering facilities were also created for the female staff.

Medical Centre: The new Medical Centre has enabled the old medical room to be converted into an office for the Registrar.

The Sixth Form Centre: A partition wall was removed to create two large social areas, with complete re-decoration and carpeting and the purchase of new furniture and a pool table.

Music Computer Suite: At one end of the top floor of Vanbrugh three small rooms were knocked into one to create a new classroom with a music computer suite.

Science Laboratory: A new science lab has been installed in a ground floor classroom in Vanbrugh, and a Maths classroom relocated to the first floor.

Art Department: Restructuring has created a teaching area for Textiles, with a separate area for Photography now in the former costume store.

School Kitchen: A complete refit and renovation has also included extending into the Registrar's former office to create staff facilities, a storage area and an office.

Climbing Wall: This has been refurbished to create a three sided wall.

Information: New booklets have been published (The Arts, Sport and AOB, the Development Plan Summary and The Blue Book), the Website has been improved and the Blue Board installed.

Prize Giving

The summer garden party atmosphere of the last day of term - open-air Shakespeare, picnics on the lawn complete with candelabra - was rounded off with a superb prize giving ceremony. Proud parents and gratified grandparents applauded, along with the talented teachers and a delighted

Headmaster, as their charges gained just rewards for the year's hard work. As always, the rewards given to the few reflected well on the efforts of the many. The guest speaker, Professor John Wood, regaled the audience with tales of scientific derring-do leaving all with a sense of aspiration for the future.



Medical Centre

A new medical centre has been created in the old boiler room under the Bell Tower.



The Medical Centre bears little resemblance to the Sick Bay of the 1950's!

The Website

The updated and improved website now includes examination timetables and a former pupils contact form, and has a link to the Blue Board for parents to see notices as they appear in School.

The Blue Board

This screen under the Bell Tower displays information about School activities, with a Stop Press space and a frame scrolling through national headlines.

Kitchen and Dining

The refurbishment of the kitchen enables the catering staff to provide a broader range of meals. On warmer days pupils



enjoy the option of an outdoor lunch in the new seating area.

The Climbing Wall



Scholars' Evening

An evening of welcome to the newly appointed scholars was held this term. Duncan Bruce, Year 7 Music Scholar, welcomed parents, scholars and guests with a clarinet recital. The Headmaster and Director of Studies spoke about the



Strickland Scholars - Erica Jennison (2005) and Elspeth Saunders (2006)

rôle of scholars in the school, particularly the idea that those at Cokethorpe are proud to be excellent and to celebrate excellence. The Strickland Scholar, Erica Jennison, underlined these ideas and the Clarke Scholar, Marianne Pearson, recited a Shakespearean sonnet. Scholars' ties having been awarded earlier in the day, the evening rounded off with a celebratory buffet.

Named Scholarships

These are awarded for particularly outstanding ability.

Visit to the Old Bailey

The Sixth Form law students visited the Central Criminal Courts in London, the most famous court in the world. They watched part of a murder trial, observing the dilemmas of the jury and the presentation of expert medical evidence.



Year 7 Drama Awards

There was an enthusiastic response from pupils keen to compete for the first of these prestigious awards.

The audition process was not easy, with applicants required to learn two speeches or one speech and a song. The pupils rose to the occasion magnificently - some even presenting speeches they had written themselves. The panel of the Headmaster, Mr Henderson, Mrs Hooper and Mrs Heatley, a professional actress, had an extremely difficult task, but after much thought and discussion the award was made to Sarah Richardson.



Poetry

To celebrate National Poetry Day all Senior School pupils were invited to write a poem. The theme this year was "Poetry to send into Space" with the rationale of writing about things that we appreciate or that are disappearing in the modern world; a beacon of hope or despair. There were over 170 entries

and the standard was very high. The judging caused some heated though positive debate. The names of all entries were then attached to helium balloons and sent off over the Oxfordshire countryside with the hope that some will be returned with the incentive of Champagne prizes.

Scholars

Year 13

Richard Broadhead	Helen Davey
Lucy Happé	Jonathan Lodowski
Ewan McFarlane	Oliver Nieburg
Luke Ryan	Emma Tolson

Year 12

Lena Beardsell	Oliver Berger
James Cull	Fay Davidson
Kate Ferrier	Peter Gardon
Dominic Hagues	Tim Hatzis
Erica Jennison (Strickland)	
Henry Swailes	Jennifer Tohill
Victoria Tuck	Deon Yip

Year 11

Marc Johnson	Alya Gutnokova
Amy Minch	David Wells

Year 10

Simon Atkinson	Charles Bennett
Jack Frith-Powell	Jake Geekie
Joshua Happé	Isobel Landon
Christopher Lord	Jordan Tabor
Ryan Traill	

Year 9

Jamie Amer	Christopher Clare
Louise Ford (Goldsmith)	
Helena Jennison	William Lawson
Jack Morton	Chloe Pickford
Olivia Plummer	Toby Pugh
Antonia Purdie	Emily Sayers
Paul Tyrer	Billy Webb

Year 8

Jackson Curtis	Oliver Godwin
Caroline Jenkins	Rose Parker
Sam Ryan	Richard Stevens
Luke Withey	

Year 7

William Bishop	Jacob Booty
Alfie Bradstock	Duncan Bruce
Letitia Cookson	Amy Gaertner
Marianne Pearson (Clarke)	
Sarah Richardson	Louis Taylor

Recommendations

Individuals

Year 7	Alex Lord
Year 8	Francesca Ellis
Year 9	Helena Jennison
Year 10	Simon Atkinson
Year 11	Jessica Williamson
Lower VI	Kate Ferrier
Upper VI	Tim Pearse

Best overall Simon Atkinson

Best House Gascoigne

(Winners are those with the highest number of recommendations. In the event of a tie, both the number of negative referrals and attendance are taken into account. In Year 8 the highest total was shared equally by three people.)

Poetry Winners

Year 7	Sarah Richardson
Year 8	James Graham
Year 9	Jessica O'Brien
Year 10	Chris Hambleton
Year 11	Jessica Williamson
Sixth Form	James Cull

THE SIXTH FORM

Destinations of Leavers

Louise Abband	Kingston
Christopher Allan	Chester
Christopher Allen	Keele
Carole Andrews	Portsmouth
Timothy Bennett	Bath
Paul Berryman	Bournemouth
James Binning	H A University College
Toby Brown	Reading
Alistair Buchan	Manchester
Emma Cooper	Gap year
Alice Cropper	Oxbridge
Tariq Deir	Bournemouth
Mathew Dodds	Bath
James Duffy	Portsmouth
Tom Francis	Chester
Bella Gibbins	Bristol
James Gottfried	Keele
Rolf Groenwold	Liverpool
Christopher Harling	Manchester
Robin Heasman	Shrewsbury
Alice Holland	Gap year
Felicity Hook	Gap year
Liam Hope	Brunel
Alice Jess	Swansea
Scott Jezzard	Sheffield Hallam
Kaz Jones	Gap year
Lucy Kelly	Keele
Misa Klimes	Gap year
Jenny Krol	Sheffield Hallam
Ian Ma	Imperial
Tadayuki Matsushima	Tokyo University
Charles McGlashan	Gap year
Kieran McGurk	Keele
Ben Minch	Lancaster
Murray Mitchell	Bournemouth
Mohammed Nadeem	Portsmouth
Mohammed Nawaz	Coventry
Edward Nieburg	Gap year
Oliver Oswin	Nottingham Trent
Alan Patrick	Manchester
Chistian Perkins	Gap year
Zion Pool	Oxford Brookes
Samantha Rae	Gap year
Matthew Rant	Plymouth
Sebastian Russell	Royal Holloway
Hilary Salmon	Central School of Speech and Drama
Alex Shorey	Keele
Rhys Simpson	Portsmouth
John Skeen	Bournemouth
Sophia Staves	Nottingham
Matthew Thomas	Lancaster
James Thompson	Stafford
Emma Wilding	Sussex
Joshua Wilson	Gap year

Responsibilities

Head of School	Helen Davey
Deputy Head of School	Luke Ryan
Head of Feilden	Raza Ali
Head of Gascoigne	Lucy Happé
Head of Harcourt	Joe Siman
Head of Queen Anne	Olivia Colson
Head of Swift	Ewan MacFarlane
Head of Vanbrugh	Emma Tolson
Student Counsellor	Marianne LeCoyte
Sixth Form Prefect	Ryan Keylock
School Prefects	Alastair Gottfried Ernie Simpson David Vermeulen

A Level Results

A Level results day is one that most Sixth Formers view with anxiety. In August their efforts were duly rewarded. All who are continuing to university are doing so at their first-choice institution, and 67% of the exams taken were at grades A to C, both excellent statistics, but the drive for continual improvement in academic standards continues.



Sixth Form Life

It was delightful to return in September to a Sixth Form that was considerably larger than before.

The Sixth Form at Cokethorpe is a community built on a combination of academic and pastoral activities. This year all the Lower Sixth have embarked on The Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award Scheme. There are already a number of students in the Upper Sixth on their way to gold. The Young Enterprise Scheme was so over subscribed that two very competitive companies 'Gifted' and 'Masque' were formed. (Industrial espionage is alive and well.) Socially it was a hectic term including a Christmas meal at 'Browns' and a shopping spree to London. The Sixth Form have also formed a committee to organise this Summer's end of year celebration at The Randolph Hotel, Oxford.



Gap Year

Last year's Head of School, Misa Klimes, writes from India: 'The weather in Chennai is surprisingly grim. Rain can be the measure of life, which it has become for some people as there have been large floods, literally displacing thousands of people, a lot of them the poorest. Life here has urgency that one does not see back in the UK. This

is not to say India is a backward, third world country - far from it, as it is undergoing an economic boom. The anxiety on peoples' faces in the morning rush and the scheming drivers of rickshaws make Chennai a compelling environment - on the one hand, aggravating and difficult to navigate round, on the other very exciting. Indians are lovely people, very warm and welcoming to strangers. Christmas seems big here too and all of the English people I know have gone back home, so my Christmas will be a surreal experience away from the family.'

Sixth Form Responsibilities

All students are now expected to be involved in community work within the School. Projects include 'Reading Buddies', assisting with Junior School games and supervising the little ones' homework.



THE HOUSES

The Houses

There has been an increasing number of inter-house activities and competitions over the last three years, enhancing House identity and producing high quality performances across the board.

Music Competition

Choirs, music ensembles and soloists rehearsed in secret huddles around the School. Well done to all, especially the winners, Queen Anne.

Remembrance Day

On 11 November, the School held a Remembrance Service in the upper quadrangle. There were over 720 people present to greet the Witney and Standlake British Legion dignitaries, Standard Bearer, School Chaplain, representatives from the police and fire service, all escorted by the School's ACF Detachment. Old veterans and people affected by The Second World War took part in a minute's silence.



The Crawford Relay

On 21 October, the third running of The Crawford Relay took place amid high expectations. The defending champions Swift were beaten into second place by Vanbrugh who won the race in a new record time. Narrowly beaten into third place was Gascoigne but all the runners showed tremendous spirit in this 12 pupil per House team event. (See front page.)



Diary and Dairy Milk

Staff nominate pupils to bring their work to show the Headmaster at break times (with prizes for excellence). A glance at the HM's diary reveals that Swift has received the most chocolate to date.

Vanbrugh House Day Out

Members of the House took part in a day at Longridge, enjoying canoeing, Dragon Boat racing and picnics in the glorious warm sunshine.



House Competitions

2002-2003

Summer 2003
Cricket Feilden

2003-2004

Michaelmas 2003
Most Recommendations Gascoigne
Senior Rugby Harcourt
Senior Hockey Vanbrugh
The Crawford Relay Gascoigne

Lent 2004

Most Recommendations Gascoigne
Junior School Soccer Gascoigne
Senior Soccer Queen Anne
Senior Netball Vanbrugh
House Drama Vanbrugh
Senior Cross Country Harcourt

Summer 2004

Most Recommendations Gascoigne
House Music Queen Anne

2004-2005

Michaelmas 2004
Most Recommendations Queen Anne
Junior School Rugby Gascoigne
Senior Rugby Vanbrugh
Junior School Hockey Vanbrugh
Senior Hockey Gascoigne
The Crawford Relay Swift

Lent 2005

Most Recommendations Feilden
Junior School Soccer Swift
Senior Soccer Gascoigne
Junior School Netball Vanbrugh
Senior Netball Queen Anne
House Drama Swift
Senior Cross Country Swift
Junior Cross Country Swift
Clays Queen Anne

Summer 2005

Most Recommendations Gascoigne
Senior Cricket Feilden
Photography Swift
Tennis Swift
Athletics Gascoigne

2005-2006

Michaelmas 2005
Most Recommendations Gascoigne
Junior School Rugby Gascoigne
Senior Rugby Swift
Junior School Hockey Swift
Senior Hockey Gascoigne
House Music Queen Anne
The Crawford Relay Vanbrugh

THE ARTS

The Shakespeare Plays

These form one of literature's greatest legacies. Divided into comedies, histories and tragedies, Shakespeare's plays have spawned thousands of performances, adaptations and films. From famous tragedies like Macbeth and King Lear to tragic love stories such as Romeo and Juliet to epic historic plays like Antony and Cleopatra, they enlighten, sadden, teach and, most important of all, entertain.

Comedies

All's Well That Ends Well
As You Like It
The Comedy of Errors
Cymbeline
Love's Labours Lost
Measure for Measure
The Merry Wives of Windsor
The Merchant of Venice
A Midsummer Night's Dream
Much Ado About Nothing
Pericles, Prince of Tyre
Taming of the Shrew
The Tempest
Troilus and Cressida
Twelfth Night
Two Gentlemen of Verona
Winter's Tale

Histories

Henry IV, Part I
Henry IV, Part II
Henry V
Henry VI, Part I
Henry VI, Part II
Henry VI, Part III
Henry VIII
King John
Richard II
Richard III

Tragedies

Antony and Cleopatra
Coriolanus
Hamlet
Julius Caesar
King Lear
Macbeth
Othello
Romeo and Juliet
Timon of Athens
Titus Andronicus

Lunchtime Recitals

29 September	Songs and Arias (Mr Henderson and Miss Anderson)
12 October	Songs and pieces by sixth formers (Lena Beardsell, Lucy Jezzard and Marius Kynaston-Pearson)
18 October	The Alvin Roy Quartet
3 November	Electric Violin Recital (Mr Heaney)
21 November	Junior School (Years 5 and 6)
2 December	Piano Recital (Tom Gentry)
5 December	Organ Recital (Mr Harker)

Drama

National Schools' Shakespeare Festival Cokethorpe was proud to be a part of this National Festival for the first time. The whole of the GCSE drama group of twenty five pupils was used to stage a production of *Richard III*, which was presented at the Chipping Norton Theatre in October. The production was

jointly directed by Mr Theodorou and Mrs Hooper and was the theatrical highlight of the evening.

A Christmas Carol

Performed in The Shed for the first time, with its versatile lighting and the wonderful Dickensian costumes, this was a memorable production.



Music

Lunchtime Recitals

The Department of Music has presented five lunchtime recitals this term. Pupils hurried from the Dining Hall to The Shed to hear a range of performances from pupils and staff and from visiting musicians. The first recital was given by Mr Henderson and Miss Anderson, who sang a selection of songs and Arias, and concluded with a duet from *Guys & Dolls*. Having introduced the concept it was then time to hand over to some of the sixth form musicians for the second recital. Lena Beardsell, Lucy Jezzard and Marius Kynaston-Pearson performed a mixed programme of songs with flute and piano pieces. The third recital was given by the jazz musician Alvin Roy, who was visiting the School to adjudicate the inter-house music

competition. Mr Roy and his quartet gave a full programme of jazz standards. Next, Mr Heaney gave a fascinating presentation of some well known violin pieces in a fresh light using his electric violin. The Junior School gave a recital in November, and the term concluded with two more recitals at the start of December. The first was from Tom Gentry, son of Mrs Gentry the School piano teacher, who presented a programme of piano music including Beethoven's C minor sonata, op.10 along with some Schubert and Rachmaninov. To finish, Mr Harker gave an organ recital in the Chapel in the last week of term, testing the temporary organ to its limits. On that note, the musicality of the six House Advent Services was significantly enhanced by this. (Organ Appeal Fund?)



Girls' Hockey

The commitment by the whole squad of 26 was most commendable, especially training on grass whilst playing matches on Astro turf. The results (played 8, won 3, lost 4, drew 1) does not do justice to the excellent play throughout the season (with 3 matches unfortunately cancelled by the opposition). The School's own Astro Pitches are eagerly awaited.



Tennis



Ben Calnan is currently ranked fourth in his age group in the UK; his photograph was chosen for the front of the current Lawn Tennis Association brochure.

Rugby

Cokethorpe boys dominate the Under 13 County team.



Riding

A Cokethorpe School team of Vicky Tuck, Chloe Pickford and Alfie Bradstock (The Cokethorpe Chasers) was formed to compete at an Eventer Challenge in Northants hosted by Bloxham School. They entered the Open Class (3ft-3ft3in), involving showjumping and a very challenging cross-country course. All competing schools were represented by four team members, with the best three scores counting, but as the Cokethorpe Chasers had only three team members there was no room for any errors. All three riders and horses performed brilliantly to win the event by a land-slide. Hopefully this is the shape of things to come for the Cokethorpe Chasers.



Canoeing

The Club is now recognised as the strongest school canoeing club in the UK having achieved a remarkable clean sweep in the 2005 Devizes to Westminster Ultra-marathon. Whilst the Club's Sixth Form paddlers race at a competitive junior level, with Lena Beardsell in the GB squad, the Year 10 group provide the depth for future years.

ACF Clay Pigeon Shooting

Cokethorpe boys came 1st and 2nd in the County from over 300 competitors.

County/National Honours

Rugby

Under 16	Tom Biggs Christopher Lord Thomas Shellard David Wells (now up to regional level selection)
Under 14	Joshua Atkins Christopher Clare Christopher Constantine Ahlexi Enjily Laurie Gibson Jonathan Morris
Under 13	Guy De Vos Curtis Jackson Richard Stevens Julian Watkins Huw Williams

Soccer

Reading FC	James Amer
Chelsea FC	Jordan Tabor
Under 15	Ryan Traill

Tennis

Nationally	Benedict Calnan
ranked fourth	

Hockey

Abigail Berger Isabelle Evans Isobel Landon Shona Stanley
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Canoeing

GB National Squad	Lena Beardsell
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Colours awarded

Full Colours

Hockey:	Lucy Happé Helen Davey Emma Tolson Olivia Colson
Rugby:	Luke Ryan Richard Broadhead

Half Colours

Hockey:	Kate Ferrier Fay Davidson
Rugby:	Tom Biggs Tom Shellard Henry Swailes

Names of Rugby Teams

Terriers	Year 7	ages 11-12
Foals	Year 8	ages 12-13
Yearlings	Year 9	ages 13-14
Junior Colts	Year 10	ages 14-15
Colts	Years 11-13	ages 15-19
1st XV	Years 11-13	ages 15-19

Carnations

Carnations in the School colours of blue and gold are awarded to members of any First Team winning a match.

From the Headmaster's introduction to the AOB booklet

'At Cokethorpe School, we aim to provide extensive opportunities for the broadest possible range of Arts, Sport and extra-curricular activities. Pupils are encouraged to develop their skills and talents. Often unsuspected gifts are discovered, enabling boys and girls to develop aspects of their characters that cannot be brought out in the classroom, but which are good in themselves and integral to life in a balanced community.'

'In addition to the teaching of sport, music, drama and art there are many School clubs and societies, extending the work of every academic department, and encouraging interests as diverse as Amnesty International, debating, the knowledge of wine and desktop publishing. This extensive range of activities takes place principally in the last hour of the school day and, as the last but by no means least item on the day's agenda, which gathers together all the remaining items not covered elsewhere, it has become known as AOB.'

Formula Schools Challenge



In June the Cokethorpe Racing Team took part in the Challenge at Silverstone. This involved the making and designing of an electric powered racing car, including a PowerPoint presentation at Williams F1. Unfortunately the success in the theory was not followed up in the race, but hopes are high for next year.

Young Enterprise



'Masque' has commissioned some Cokethorpe cuff-links – extremely attractive gold peacocks on a black background.

(Masque_YE@yahoo.com)

Nature Trail

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme pupils have embarked on an exciting project to create an Educational Nature Trail in the School grounds.

Journalism Society

This new society produces 'The Bell Tower', a collection of news about the pupils, written by the pupils for the pupils. It reflects the busy but varied lives they lead, mostly at Cokethorpe School, but occasionally elsewhere.

ACF

With the appointment of Lt Lowe, the ACF goes from strength to strength, ably assisted by 2Lt Phillips.



ADVENTURES AND EXPEDITIONS

World Challenge

Team Challenge is an exhilarating and demanding 4-week expedition to an exciting worldwide destination, preceded by 15-20 months of team-building and skills development. It is one of the most powerful and awe-inspiring experiences in which a young person can participate. As well as teaching skills and encouraging responsibility, it improves confidence and self-esteem and actively helps secure university places and impress future employers.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Award is widely recognised in education and by employers. The benefits to young people include developing self-confidence and self-reliance; gaining a sense of achievement and responsibility; discovering new skills, interests and talents and developing leadership skills and abilities. They also discover opportunities; make new friends; experience teamwork, problem-solving and decision-making; increase their motivation; enhance self-esteem and develop communication skills. They will also have fun!

Peru



After weeks of tough training and fund-raising the World Challenge Team spent 4 weeks in Northern Peru. This involved trekking at an altitude of 3000m, a project in the local community and a trip up the Amazon.

Spain

For more pictures about the Spanish exchange see www.wereallinit.piczo



Belgium

In November 36 pupils travelled to Leuven as guests of the British School of Brussels. The U14 girls played 5 hockey matches, winning 4. The Yearlings rugby side played in an 8 team tournament against U15 sides and won 7 out of 8 matches to finish in a creditable third place (losing only to the actual winners).

Woodlands, South Wales

In October the Year 7 pupils took part in a three day expedition. The outdoor activities included canoeing, caving and gorging, with team-building activities in the evenings. The trip was very energetic and great fun, and Year 7 came back an even more confident and happy group.



VISITORS

Open Morning



In October a record number of families attended the Open Morning. Parents were shown round by pupils and there were many musical, sporting and other activities (as well as the ever-popular Spanish cafe) to help them get to know the School, and what it has to offer.

General Studies

The Sixth Form General Studies programme included a number of talks and lectures from a range of prestigious visiting speakers, and in particular an inspirational talk on God's Golden Acre.



Prep School Heads

The Headmaster invited the Heads of a number of important local schools to visit us in November.



Visiting Speakers

September

Dr Martin Holmes, St Hugh's College, Oxford
'Britain's Coup 1990 - Re-thinking Thatcher's downfall 15 years on'

October

Professor Peter Atkins, Lincoln College, Oxford
'The Ten Greatest Ideas in Science'

November

Lord Truscott of St James's
'Inside Putin's Russia'

Russell Lawson, retired law academic
'Land: The Fourth Inalienable'

Dr John Levy, Director, Friends of Israel
'Israel and the Arab World'

December

Heather Reynolds, Founder
'God's Golden Acre'
www.godsgoldenacre.nl

FUNDRAISING FOR CHARITY

Junior School

Operation Christmas Child



The Junior School collected 120 boxes for this appeal, for children in poor or war-torn countries. They have been sent to Eastern Europe and Africa. A special mention to Mrs Daphne Smith, a friend of Cokethorpe School, who knitted 40 woollen hats to go inside the boxes.

Senior School

The term was full of exciting initiatives to raise awareness as well as money. The School supports the National Children's Homes and has a disaster fund to assist

those in need. There have also been several high profile appeals that the pupils wished to support, and over 300 pupils helped organise activities during the term; the other year groups will have their opportunity in subsequent terms.

Triathlon Charity Day

In November Cokethorpe hosted a local charity day, to raise funds for a new 'Play and Activity' Area by Ducklington County Primary School. Twenty local firms entered teams of four competing in three disciplines - Clay Pigeon Shooting, Archery and Golf. In excess of £2000 was raised, and the Cokethorpe team came a creditable third.



National Children's Homes

During the term a series of seminars have been held with speakers from the Charity. These dealt with the underprivileged (Year 8) and the homeless (Year 7). Year 8 collected tinned foods to be sent to hostels over the Christmas period - there were over 100 cans to deliver to centres in Reading and Oxford. Year 7 are planning a sponsored sleep-out towards the end of January.

Disaster Appeal

This became the quest of the Year 10. Each tutor group organised a fun activity to raise money, such as rock climbing, silences, bike rides, shoe shining, leg waxing, and a cake sale. It was a tremendous day of fun, and raised over £500 with some sponsor money still to be collected.

Children in Need

The Sixth Form organised a huge cake sale for this popular appeal, and raised over £150. This entitled a group of 16 to attend the concert at RAF Brize Norton.

THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

The Junior School Council

Gascoigne

Joseph Pigott and Toby Morter

Queen Anne

Saman Ridha and Louis Wallen

Harcourt

George-Thomas Svanikier and Edward Grant

Swift

Dominic Lucey and Isabel Berger

Vanbrugh

Harry Fellows and Joe Bernard

Feilden

Alfie Turner and Freddie Harding

Prizewinners for the term

Individuals

1JR	Emily Green
2WF	Jordan Smith
3RO	Rory Atkins
4MM	Harry Norton-Shaw
4LO	George Grime
5GMHJ	Dylan Rafferty-Scott
5MOC	James Gobbi
6JD	George-Thomas Svanikier
6HL	Saman Ridha

Best House Vanbrugh

Pinocchio

"Pinocchio" is a classic of children's literature and Italy's second most read book after Manzoni's "The Betrothed." It was written by Tuscan writer Carlo Lorenzini under the pen name of C. Collodi and was first published in Rome in 1881. All the children of the world are familiar with this little hero, the naughty wooden puppet who walks and talks - and whose nose grows longer and longer every time he tells a lie.

Nativity Plays

St. Francis of Assisi in 1223 originated the crib of today by laicizing a hitherto ecclesiastical custom, henceforward extra-liturgical and popular. The presence of ox and ass is due to a misinterpretation of Isaias 1:3 and Habacuc 3:2 ("Itala" version), though they appear in the unique fourth-century "Nativity" discovered in the St. Sebastian catacombs in 1877. The ass on which Balaam rode in the Reims mystery won for the feast the title Festum Asinorum (Ducange, op. cit., s.v. Festum).

Sport

It has been a busy Hockey term for the girls and Rugby term for the boys. The girls' inter-house Hockey match was

particularly memorable for the standard of play and sheer determination despite the rain.



Shakespeare Week

October 17 brought Shakespeare Appreciation Week to Cokethorpe Junior School. Throughout the classes the stories of Shakespeare's plays were read and watched. Members of staff read aloud their own favourite speeches, but the highlight of everyone's week were the workshops given by *Shakespeare 4 Kidz*, in which the children had the chance to retell *Macbeth* or *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, with costumes and actions as well as some of Shakespeare's original text. The imaginative props, colour-coded costumes, amended language and a rapid pace made Shakespeare understandable to all.

Trip to Stratford: 'When we arrived in Stratford, we walked to William Shakespeare's birthplace and walked on the floor he once walked on. Then Mr O'Connor took us to the gift shop. We also visited Anne Hathaway's cottage and Mary Arden's house. We watched a Harris hawk being flown which I really enjoyed.' *Joel Wilson (Year 5).*



Christmas Productions



Every pupil in the Junior School had a part in one of the captivating productions, Pinocchio and a Nativity Play for Years 1 to 3 and *The Cuckoo Clock* (see next issue) for Years 4 to 6.

Fire Brigade

Years 1 and 2 had a most exciting visit from the Oxfordshire Fire Brigade, who allowed the children to explore the fire engine, try on the helmets and use the hose-pipes.



THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

Anti Bullying Week

An anti-bullying week in September started with an assembly reminding the children of the following:

- What is bullying (name-calling, physical abuse, items taken, being left out, being picked on because of appearance)
- What is not bullying (friends can fall out at times, this is not always bullying!)
- What bullies may look like, using the 'Mr Men' books by Roger Hargreaves to show that 'Bullies' can be any age, shape or size, male or female.
- What to do if bullied
- What to do if someone else appears to be being bullied

The children were reminded of their responsibilities as part of the School's positive approach to behaviour, with all members of the community having a part to play by identifying, highlighting and informing the staff of any behaviour thought of as bullying. The children designed a badge to wear as part of the



campaign to remind everyone to keep bullying out of the School, and, if it should occur, to deal with it properly.

Boiler Suits

The arrival of boiler suits was the cause of much excitement. Worn with boots or outdoor shoes they enable the children to play on the field and enjoy the luxury of this space for longer than ever before. The Year 5 and 6 pupils are still able to



play football or play on the tennis courts whilst the amateur rambles are free to roam. It has worked like a dream.

Chipping Norton Theatre

Years 1, 2 and 3 thoroughly enjoyed the performance of 'Puss in Boots'. They soon joined in with chants of "Look behind you" and "Oh yes you can", and a good time was had by one and all.

Term Dates for 2006-2007

Michaelmas Term 2006

Inset Days	4 and 5 September
Start of Term	Wednesday 6 September
Half Term	Monday 23 October - Friday 27 October
End of Term	Wednesday 13 December

Lent Term 2007

Start of Term	Monday 8 January
Half Term	Monday 12 February - Friday 16 February
End of Term	Friday 30 March

Summer Term 2007

Start of Term	Monday 23 April
Half Term	Monday 28 May - Friday 1 June
End of Term	Friday 13 July

THE SCHOOL CHURCH

Advent Services

'The night opened with a roaring fire, mulled wine, mince pies and a feast of



festive carols. Then, a procession of parents walked down to the church. As they waited, the chapel was plunged into darkness while from the front came the melodious sound of Brontë's unaccompanied voice. After this breathtaking performance, the whole congregation joined in, filling the church with a warm Christmas feel. As the congregation moved out of the church, they were met by heavy snowfall. It was a truly deep, crisp and meaningful night.' *Marius Kynaston-Pearson (Swift Year 12).*

Junior School Assemblies

The emphasis for the term's assemblies was 'Safety' and 'Recycling.' Guest speakers talked about personal safety (PC Lowe), focusing on how to react if children lose their parents etc. Fire safety centred on Bonfire night and the Firework Code. A recycling assembly highlighted the amount of rubbish that can be recycled but which currently is not. It was followed by a Year 6 audit of rubbish, and an assembly talking of their findings and how it can lead to greater awareness from both pupils and staff. One implementation has been the supplying of recycling boxes for each class in the Junior School.



Christenings, Confirmations and Marriages

Christenings:

Grace Ettinger
Freddie Nicholson
George and Kate Hooper

Confirmations: 25 May 2005

Charlotte Wenman
Francesca Elliis
Jacob Wilson
George Simon
James Winkley
Daisy Chilton-Murphy
Olivia Poole
Gemma Bruce
Richard Cashmore
Shona Stanley
Iwan Wiff
Tiffany Bryant

Marriages:

Oliver and Rachel Walker - 26 June 2004
Bryoni Florey and Luciano Filja - 23 July
(Reception held in grounds)
Jo and Steve Iles - 4 September

THE COKETHORPE SOCIETY

The Committee

Chairman: James Whittenbury
(james@whittenbury5064.freemove.co.uk)
Treasurer: Tony Baker
Secretary: Simon Lancaster
Warwick Daniels
Peter Green

Cokethorpe Wine

The award-winning Chiltern Valley vineyard in Hambleden was established by a former pupil, David Ealand. David was one of the very original former pupils in fact, and a guest at the recent 'Veterans' Dinner'; this has led to the School commissioning a limited edition of its own label wine. Please contact the Headmaster's Secretary for details. (pbt@cokethorpe.org)

www.chilternvalley.co.uk

The Old Boys

The Former Pupils' Society has had two events in the last 6 months.

The Cricket match began with a Pimm's reception courtesy of the School. The 'Younger' Old Boys (YOBS?) batted first but the 'Older' Old Boys struggled to get near their total. For the Rugby match, the two sides were chosen on the day to try and achieve two fairly balanced sides. However it worked out to be OOBs v. YOBS. It was a keenly contested match, with the YOBS winning a fine victory. It is hoped that both events will grow in the future, with the addition of a football match, to have greater numbers both playing and spectating.



The Not-so-old Old Girls

Not to be outdone, the first 'Old Girls' Netball Match will take place shortly.

The Older Old Boys

The original pupils were invited to a Veterans' 50th Anniversary Reunion in October. There were almost no records of the early years, but by due diligence an initial list of 90 names grew to 296 of which 110 addresses were found and invitations sent, though alas half were returned as out-of-date. Of those contactable a magnificent 27 'boys' - older men in reality- attended, most for the first time since leaving the hallowed establishment some 50 years ago. It was a most memorable occasion.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

History

On 23 September 1955 the Reverend Dr. Charles Kenneth Francis Brown MA. B.Litt. D.Phil.fr.Hist.Soc. started the school as Cokethorpe Park, following on from his successful start-up of Milton Abbey School. However it was not until some two years later that the school was finally recognised by the Ministry of Education, thus the official founding is dated 1957.

1957	Founded as a boarding school for boys aged 13-18
1963	Became a Charitable Trust
1983	Elected to SHMIS
1992	Introduction of girls
1994	Junior Department founded
1994/2002	Numbers increased from 194 to 547
2001	Completion of the LRC
2002	Acquisition of leasehold increasing site to 130 acres
2003	Boarding ceased
2003	Completion of library/last side of upper quad
2005	Completion of The Shed Pupil numbers exceeded 600

Photographic records

Very many thanks to Martin Lockwood (1955) for his invaluable CD of photographs from the 1950s up to and including the Veterans' Reunion Dinner in October, and for his success in locating so many of the original pupils. (An updated contact lists is now available to all.)



Cokethorpe Park Rugby Team 1958

Front: Miller, Golsorkhi, Palmer, Mowbray (with ball) Golby, Williams (Capt.) Lumb, Clarke, Franks

Back: Palizi 1, Palizi 2, Collins, Haslall, Lusa

Official History

An official history of the School is under discussion, in the hope that it can be published in the Fiftieth Anniversary Year.



Ferrydoun Sariffian



Unknown



In the Dormitory 1958



Cadet over river 1958

THE COKETHORPE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Events

In one of its busiest terms ever, the Parents' Association raised well over £5,000. The CPA funds go towards



special projects for the School and, unless superseded by a more important project, it is currently working towards a substantial contribution to the new cricket pavilion.

The Peacock Ball: Last summer's ball proved to be a fabulous evening with perfect weather.

Wine and Cheese Party: This set the scene for a relaxed meeting where some of the new parents of the School had a chance to meet other parents.

Fireworks Evening: This was a spectacular success with parents, teachers and pupils enjoying fireworks, a pig roast and mulled wine and the very popular funfair.



Auction of Promises: A very big thank you to all those who donated such a wonderful range of promises. Although the attendance was less than we had hoped, the auction was great fun and a financial success.

Open Days

The CPA helps at many School events such as Open Days, providing coffee and parental information.



Parent Power

Parents concerned about the speed limit outside the School are encouraged to write urging further reductions to: Mr R Grant, Area Engineer, Oxfordshire County Council, Northern Area Office, Ron Groves House, 23 Oxford Road, Kidlington, Oxon, OX5 2BP.

Cokethorpe Cookbook

The CPA are planning to publish a book of favourite recipes provided by parents, staff and friends of the School. These will range from the plain and simple to the truly exotic, and will include anecdotes and pupils' artwork. Please contact Sally Harding with your recipes, and any history to go with them.

Forthcoming Events

Open Evening	Tuesday 17 January
AGM	Wednesday 18 January
Talent Contest	April/May
The Peacock Ball	Saturday 8 July (and the Cokethorpe Cookbook!)

Purpose

The Cokethorpe Parents' Association organises social events which sometimes have an element of fund-raising for specific projects - ancillary both to the academic provision and to the major development projects outlined in The School Development Plan.

Committee

Chairman:	Diana Cannon (dianacannon@miltonhouse.fsworld.co.uk)
Vice Chairman:	Mark Booty
Secretary:	Sally Harding (sharding@ocvc.ac.uk)
Treasurer:	David Highton

Damian Ettinger	Sue Furneaux
Gina Lodowski	Peter Lodowski
Linda Mace	Mark Stewart
Caroline Taylor	Jonathan Taylor
Ruth Wigham	Rachel Workman
Michelle Chilton-Murphy	

Cheesecake

Pastry

125g plain flour	125g butter, diced
40g caster sugar	1 egg yolk
1 tbsp grated lemon zest	

Filling

900g curd cheese	350g caster sugar
40g plain flour	3 egg yolks
150ml double cream	5 eggs
30ml grated orange zest	
45ml grated lemon zest	
Icing sugar to dust	

1. First make pastry. Sift the flour into a bowl, rub in the butter and stir in the sugar and zest. Add the egg yolk and work together to form dough. Knead lightly, wrap in cling film and chill for 30 minutes.

2. Roll out half the pastry and use it to line the base of a 25cm spring tin. Prick lightly with a fork and bake at 220C/Gas Mark 7 for 10-15 minutes, until golden brown. Cool. Roll the remaining pastry into a strip the depth and circumference of the tin. Arrange along the inside, pressing gently on to the pastry base.

3. Beat together the cheese, sugar and flour. Beat in the orange and lemon zests and the egg yolks. Gradually beat in the eggs, one at a time and then the cream.

4. Pour the mixture into the pastry case and bake for 15 minutes. Reduce the heat to 110C/Gas Mark ¼ and cook for a further 1.25 – 1.5 hours until set. Test by inserting skewer into the centre of the mix – it should come out clean. Cool in the tin, and chill, preferably overnight.

5. Remove carefully from the tin and dust with icing sugar.

THE WIDER COMMUNITY

External Events 2005

March	Ultimate Frisbee UK Universities qualifying competition. 250 students.
March	Girl Guide Leaders International Seminar. 50 leaders
March	Old Boys' Soccer Match and social
April	Windrush Valley Rotary Club Dinner. 60 guests.
April	Ultimate Frisbee UK Universities Finals. 250 students.
May	St John Ambulance National Training Day. 350 delegates.
June	Old Boys' Cricket Match and social
July	Witney Jazz Festival 250 visitors
July	Activity Weeks 140 children
July	Wedding 250 guests
August	Girl Guides International Convention. 750 guides and staff.
August	Activity Plus Holidays 150 children
August	Windrush Valley Rotary Club Charity fund-raising dinner. 75 guests.
August	Oxfordshire Cricket Board County Cricket Summer School. 50 players.
September	Charity Concert (Mind) Audience of 150
September	Local Churches Golf and Social day. 75 people.
October	Triathlon Charity Day 22 teams from local businesses
October	Old Boys' Rugby Match and social

Contact: Warwick Daniels - Director of
External Affairs, Cokethorpe School
whcd@cokethorpe.org

Witney Jazz Festival

The inaugural Witney Jazz Festival was held in July in the grounds of the School. There were three main bands, Dr Teeth and his Big Band, The National Youth Jazz Orchestra and The Lady Sings the Blues who played and sang for most of the day and into the night. Some people

made a whole day of it and brought elaborate picnics whilst others were content to use the bar facilities that were laid on. The jazz was much appreciated and it is hoped that this will become an annual festival with increasing support over the years.



International Guiders' Camp

Since the days of the Land Army during The Second World War, Cokethorpe has rarely seen such a large contingent of 'ladies' descend upon her. In early August 750 Girl Guides from a broad

Summer Activity Weeks

Activity weeks for 140 Cokethorpe and other pupils are held for two weeks each summer. These are organised by Cokethorpe staff with the help of the ever-popular former students and have



section of Commonwealth Countries, Russia and the Far East arrived for the 'International Guiders Camp'. They were involved in a host of activities and there was a buzz of excitement for the whole of their time here. Organization was exceptional and they left as discretely as they arrived, with only a few squares of faded grass bearing witness to their stay.



become an essential feature for many families. A range of exciting outdoor activities are offered in the grounds and the Water Park, including archery, clay pigeon shooting, canoeing, sailing and water-skiing. Plans for the summer of 2006 are well in hand and as soon as details are supplied a quick response is urged as places are quickly taken up.

Church Golf

Towards the end of the summer holiday the Ducklington Vicar, Bob Edy, with parishioners from a wide group of Oxfordshire Churches spent a lazy summer's day at the School, enjoying the nine hole course and a fine picnic.

Summary

Over the course of the last year over 3000 people from the wider community have visited the School. The School's over-riding aim is to provide a highly valuable and approachable local amenity.

THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2005 - 2010

Headmaster 'Out and About'

Following the publication of the 'Summary of the Development Plan 2005-2010', the Headmaster continued the programme of parental consultations by holding discussion meetings throughout the School's catchment area. These were well supported (apart from one) and the discussion generated was extremely supportive of the development plans and priorities. They will become a regular feature.

The Shed

The conversion of the former Maintenance Shed to a performing arts area has created an immensely versatile facility for drama, music, lectures and even exams.



Astro Pitches



Work at last started on the astro pitches during half-term. There will be two hockey pitches, each of them divisible into 12 tennis courts. Weather permitting, they will be ready for tennis during the Summer Term.

The Future

Consultation and market research were vitally important ingredients in the writing of The Development Plan, and they will continue to be as it is implemented and updated. The overall strategic objectives will remain constant but flexibility may be needed to reconsider the timing or scale of the various projects or the order in which they are implemented.

Development Priorities

- The Sixth Form
- The Junior School
- The Arts
- Sporting Facilities

Timing Priorities

- The Arts (stage 1) – The Shed
- Sporting facilities (stage 1) – Astro-pitches
- Junior School – relocation
- The Sixth Form – social and study facilities
- Sporting facilities (stage 2) – enhancement of subsidiary sports (wall-climbing, clay-pigeon shooting, paddling)
- The Arts (stage 2) – arts hub in Mansion House
- Reallocation of space – to enhance specific departments
- The Arts (stage 3) – development of community arts projects

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Friends of Cokethorpe School

The School's Fiftieth Anniversary in 2007 will provide a most welcome opportunity for all friends of the School to meet together – to unite or reunite – and to celebrate the School's progress and success. A committee of friends is being formed to coordinate the celebrations, with representatives from parents, staff, pupils past and present, Governors and members of the local community.

Programme of Events

There will be a series of reunion dinners, concerts, lectures, fireworks, sporting and other events throughout the year. These will be principally at the School, to make full use of the beautiful



grounds and facilities, with the possibility of regional get-togethers. Own label champagne is likely to be added to the wine which has already been commissioned.



Sports Tour

One of the events being planned for the year is a World Tour, with a group of girls and boys taking part in a series of hockey, netball, rugby and football games in New Zealand, Australia and Singapore.



Peacocks

There are two wild species of peafowl, the Indian and the Javan, the Indian being most common in this country. A brief description of the plumage of the Indian Peafowl follows:

Male: The head and neck are metallic green, and the back is bronze. The upper tail coverts, which are small feathers covering larger feathers which form a long and beautiful train, are green with numerous large ocelli, or eyelike spots, each *ocellus* ringed with blue and bronze. When closed the thighs and wings are buff, and the flight and tail feathers are cinnamon brown. Full plumage, including the train, is not attained until the third year. The train is molted in the late summer and is not fully replaced before the end of winter.

Female: The head is chestnut, the mantle green, and the back is brown, indistinctly mottled with buff. The throat and forepart of the neck are white. The breast is brownish black, fringed with green; the wing coverts are coarsely mottled with buff and black.

Vale

Five valued members of staff left the School at the end of term. We wish them every success and hope they will all return to see us before long.



Angus Nicolson

When Angus left at the end of term he was (just) entitled to a tie for 10 years' service, having arrived in January 1996. He rose from assistant DT teacher to Head of Department and then also Queen Anne Housemaster, also finding time to get married to Becky and contribute enormously to rugby and sailing. He moves to the Dragon School as Head of Department, leaving a large void. We congratulate him and Becky on the very recent arrival of their second son, Rory, a brother for Freddie.



David Coulson

David came to Cokethorpe in 2001 to teach Geography, having recently completed his PGCE at Reading University and after holding management positions in publishing and consumer research. Circumstances enabled a welcome switch to the Business Studies department which he has headed since 2003. He leaves education to become the National Junior Coach for the British Canoe Union.

Dolly McLaughlin

Dolly came to Cokethorpe in 2000 to teach Mathematics and Science in the Learning Support Department, having previously taught at A.S. Neill's Summerhill School in Suffolk, and left at the end of term, having already begun the post, part-time, of School Counsellor at The Cherwell School. Dolly will also be working very part-time for The Oxford Centre of Buddhist Studies as it moves towards gaining associative membership to Oxford University.

Grant Smith

Grant came to Cokethorpe in 2004 from Australia via Leeds Girls' High School. An opportunity arose with Kamuzu Academy in Malawi (the 'Eton of Africa'), and it proved too good to turn down. He enjoyed living here (except the winters and the Ashes), he 'loved how easy it is to travel to so many different places, the history, the Cotswolds and the pupils and staff at Cokethorpe' and was sad to leave so much earlier than intended.

Alison Render

Alison joined Cokethorpe as a lab technician (and part-time photographer) in January 2003. She leaves to return to industry as a micro-biologist at a veterinary vaccine company.

Ave Atque Vale

We welcome Oliver Harding (Head of Boats), Mark Shingleton (Head of Business Studies and Queen Anne Housemaster) and Julia Neame (Learning Support).

Open Evening Tuesday 17 January 4.00pm to 7.00pm

Prospective parents interested in entry at any age are warmly invited to attend, particularly those interested in entry to year 7 and the Sixth Form and, in the Junior School, Years 1 and 2.

All departments will be open, and there will be refreshments and activities.

Headmaster's address:
4.30pm, 5.30pm and 6.30pm

Current parents are also most welcome, and if they know of anyone who would like an invitation please contact the Admissions Secretary (01993 703921 or admin@cokethorpe.org).

Admissions Dates

Assessment and Activities Day Year 7 entry
Saturday 21 January

Entry and Scholarships for Year 9
Week beginning 13 March

Entry to Junior School
Thursday 9 March

Contacts

Headmaster

The Headmaster particularly welcomes email correspondence during the Headmaster 'Live' hour between 8.00 and 9.00pm on the first Monday of every month during term time.

dje@cokethorpe.org

At other times please contact The Headmaster's Secretary: 01993 892325 or pbt@cokethorpe.org.

Senior Staff

Second Master K Walton
kw@cokethorpe.org
Director of Studies D H Williams
dhw@cokethorpe.org

Housemasters and Housemistresses

Feilden Miss P S M Townsend
psmt@cokethorpe.org
Gascoigne C Maskery
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Harcourt G J Rees
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Swift Mrs C I Phillips
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