



Cokethorpe
SCHOOL

THE OCELLUS

The termly newsletter of the School

From the Headmaster

Churchill must be one of the most quoted people in the English language. His wartime speeches are particularly famous, not least his tribute to the pilots of the Battle of Britain – 'Never in the field of human conflict has so much been owed by so many to so few'. This year, 70 years after that fateful battle, the few are again being remembered and honoured. The anniversary is made all the more poignant at a time when British forces are once again in conflict, and almost every week we read stories of great heroism and of the death of young warriors. Our attitude to these reports has been more uncertain than that of our 1940 counterparts, because the cause for which they are fighting is less clear, less assured. Of course that's not a new sentiment. Back in 1917 Wilfred Owen wrote '*Dulce et Decorum est pro patria mori*' – how sweet and noble a thing it is to die for one's country – and called it 'the old lie'.

Wars are rarely morally unambiguous, and any conflict will have its detractors, not least among conscientious pacifists. But that doesn't stop us from admiring courage, or from showing respect for those who die selflessly to protect others. Churchill was echoing Shakespeare, of course, and his *Henry V* at Agincourt, 'We few, we happy few, we band of brothers'. Amidst the moral morass of war we find qualities that we would be happy to see in our children as they grow up: bravery, loyalty, the abiding experience of comradeship, an instinct to cover the back of friends, the ability to face and overcome hardship...

On a lighter note, my favourite Churchill quote comes from his spat with the first ever female MP, Nancy Astor, who told him, 'Sir, if you were my husband I would put poison in your coffee'. To which he replied, 'Madam, if you were my wife I would drink it!'



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Prize Giving Awards

Year Prizes for Academic Excellence:

Year 7	Nancy Battersby Thomas Christensen
Year 8	Kathryn Jenkins Bethany Mulloy
Year 9	Alexandra Didcock Molly Williamson
Year 10	Luciana DiMascio Alexander Shuttleworth

Year Prizes for Progress:

Year 8	Thomas Amor Toyah Overton
Year 9	Edward Blackburn Daisy Wilcox
Year 10	Oliver Lloyd Yinan Wang
Year 11	Jack Cully Elliot Kratt

GCSE Prizes for Academic Excellence:

Art	Letitia Cookson
Biology	Gregory Muller
Business Studies	Elizabeth Hardie
Chemistry	Laura McKenney
DT (GP)	Victoria O'Shea
DT (RM)	Louis Taylor
Drama	William Lewis
English Lang	Felicity Mason
English Lit	Jack Bennett
French	Jacob Booty
Geography	Letitia Cookson
History	Charlotte Swan
ICT	William Bishop
Mathematics	Alexander Bryson
Music	Marianne Pearson
Philosophy	Alexander Bryson
PE	Oliver Parsons
Physics	Alexander Bryson
Psychology	Letitia Cookson
Spanish	Jacob Booty
Textiles	Felicity Mason

Front Cover:

Ben Tracey (Year 7, Vanbrugh) performing his own cyborg robot dance to *Invaders Must Die* by The Prodigy in the Uniformity Dance Show.

Senior School Prize Giving

To mark the end of the academic year Senior School Prize Giving was held on Friday 9 July. Pupils, parents and staff took their seats in the marquee where they were addressed by speakers including the Head of School, William Lawson, and the new Chairman of Governors, Sir John Allison. This year's guest speaker was Sister Frances Dominica OBE, the founder of Helen and Douglas House Hospices, who gave an inspirational account of her life's work.

Following a final address by the Headmaster, an assortment of lavish picnics were enjoyed in the sunshine on the Mansion Lawn. Guests later made their way to the Upper Quad to watch a dazzling performance by pupils and staff of one of Shakespeare's early comedies, *Love's Labour's Lost*.

Year 11 End of Term Event

Over 80 current pupils, along with a number of new pupils joining the Sixth Form in September, celebrated the end of their GCSEs on 24 June with a James Bond inspired social. All were 'dressed to thrill' in their evening attire! Housemasters, Year 11 tutors and other



Philosophy Café

This term's café, led by Mr Mann, addressed the topical question 'Was the 2010 election result fair?'. His argument focused on the injustice of the current 'first past the post' electoral system which benefits the two main parties. The mood of the café was towards change to bring about a more proportionate distribution of seats. With a referendum on electoral reform on the political agenda, the café may get its wish.



staff members joined the group in the Dining Hall for canapés and drinks before heading to The Shed where a DJ, former member of staff Philip Wilson, provided music for the rest of the evening. It was an enjoyable end to what has been a busy exam period.



Trip to Rutherford Laboratory

'On 28 April, nine of Cokethorpe's physicists from Year 11 were given a guided tour of Rutherford Science Park's internationally renowned research centre. The trip was incredibly informative, centring on ISIS, the neutron and muon source used for all areas of industrial, biomedical and physics studies. The group also toured the working sites of the Vulcan and Astra lasers and met with experimental physicists who outlined the research into particle physics undertaken there.'

The Rutherford staff also offered pupils the opportunity to apply for work experience placements at the site over the summer holidays. The trip was a fantastic success and the School looks forward to next year's physicists enjoying the same opportunity.'

Gabriel Gavin, Queen Anne

Trip to Paris

In June a group of Modern Language pupils enjoyed four days in the wonderful city of Paris, where they got the opportunity to practice their French and experience a true taste of Parisian culture. They visited a number galleries, filled with some of the greatest art work ever created, and famous landmarks and monuments such as the Eiffel Tower.



Psychology Conference

In June Psychology students attended a conference at the Headington Hill Campus at Oxford Brookes University. The day began with a series of talks by Brookes PhD researchers and final year students. There was then the opportunity to join small group sessions on topics such as 'How do we know what babies know' by Professor Westerman, 'Measuring mood and psychological disorders' by Dr Anna Scarna and 'Physical Attraction' by Dr Mark Burgess. The final speaker of the day was Dr Simon Green, chief examiner for AQA, who offered a wealth of tips for Sixth Form students as they embark on their A2 qualification.



Geography Trip to Malham Tarn

The Year 10 geographers spent a weekend up in the Yorkshire Dales National Park in April. They used their time collecting data for their GCSE controlled assessment and looking at the effect tourism has had on Malham Tarn and its surrounds. The weather was kind to the geographers, showing the landscape at its most spectacular. They also compared U-shaped valleys caused by glaciation with V-shaped valleys caused by water, walked across the top of the famous limestone pavement and saw an ox-bow lake that most have only ever seen in text books. It was a rewarding field trip that brought geographical concepts to life.



Foreign Office Film

Sergei Kundik (Year 7, Feilden), originally born in Russia, has made a short film which is to be used by the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office. They had launched a competition earlier in the year as a run-up to the 2012 Olympics, aimed at capturing the spirit and culture of Britain. Sergei's entry entitled 'Life in an English School', details his experience at Cokethorpe and explores what it is like to attend an independent school. Sergei was visited at Cokethorpe during the Summer Term to record a short introduction to his film in the School's grounds.



Lunchtime Lecture: Vehicle Sound Design

Dr Rebecca Cain, a lecturer at Warwick University, gave a talk at Cokethorpe during the Summer Term. Dr Cain works in the laboratory that helps Jaguar and Land Rover develop the noises that their cars make. She introduced the concept of relating the sound made by popular cars to emotions that customers often attribute to them. She described how her laboratories are used and what the future may hold for the rumble of a Harley or the throaty sound of a V8 in the age of the electric engine. It was exciting to hear that there may be a time when customers can choose the sound their cars make.

Prize Giving Continued

Lower Sixth Prizes for Academic Excellence:

Art	Blaise Dyer
Biology	Annabel Hunter
Business Studies	Toby Raban
Chemistry	Philip Quadri
English	Zoë Cantley
French	Caroline Jenkins
Geography	Richard Stevens
History	Alison Roberts
Law	Joel Gascoyne
Mathematics	Luke Withey
Music	Frederick Miles
Philosophy	Zoë Cantley
Photography	Katy Bennett
Physics	Philip Quadri
Politics	Olivia Henshall
Psychology	Joel Gascoyne
Spanish	Caroline Jenkins
Sports Studies	Sunny Ricketts

Upper Sixth Prizes for Academic Excellence:

Art	Louise Ford
Biology	William Lawson
Business Studies	Guy Biggs
Chemistry	William Wallace
DT	David Needham
English Lit	Jordan Gillies
Film Studies	Thomas De Vos
French	Elice Willett
Geography	Louise Ford
History	Ben Saugman
Law	Robert Uren
Mathematics	Nuo Shi Chen
Photography	James Amer
Physics	William Wallace
Politics	Emma Sydenham
Psychology	Edward Church
Spanish	Elice Willett
Sports Studies	Suzanna Russell

Open Awards:

The Cranham Prize	Jordan Gillies
Lancia Fulvia Prize	George Lawson
Stephen Cookson Memorial	Louis Allen
Gordon Dennis Memorial	Hannah Jones
The Grove Prize	Emily Sayers
Sonia Tollady Memorial	Jessica Wulff
Kate Perritt	Rebecca Fellows
Martin Browne Memorial	Rory Gratwohl
The Sparks Clark Award	Louis Allen
Daniel Sumpter Sportsman of the Year	Paul Tyrer
Boggis Rosebowl Sportswoman of the Year	Suzanna Russell
Richard Reah Prize	Harbinda Bhella
Headmaster's Prize	William Lawson

Junior Maths Challenge

Gold Award Winner and Best in School:
Constantin Patt

Gold Award Winners:
James Staples, Nicholas Caddy,
Ellen Garbutt, Bethany Mulloy

Silver Award Winners:
Thomas Christensen, Nadiya Rashid,
Oliver Cookson, Charlie Tobin

Bronze Award Winners:
Nancy Battersby, Emma King,
Fraser Logue, Toby Watts-Lay,
Ian Ware, Matthew Brown,
Joe Bulman, Melanie Severn,
Harry Foster, Redford Curtis,
Sam Moffatt, Samuel Menon

Oxfordshire Youth Parliament

The election for Cokethorpe's representative in the Oxfordshire Youth Parliament (OYP) took place during May. Congratulations to Gabriel Gavin (Year 11, Queen Anne) who won the election with 25% of the vote.

Racing Green Lion

Ice-cold limejuice seeped into my mouth
And the refreshing fizz danced in my throat
Then I was engulfed

The car sat in front of me,
Dormant for now,
But a raging green volcano was stirring
What terrible rage could possess such
a machine?
Just looking at it makes my heart crash
and bang
And my head whirl

Waves of nausea surged as the
realisation came to me
That I was going to be strapped to a
monster
I can't hear anything

Suddenly I find myself trapped
In a wild beast...
The room shook as the lion awakened
A deafening noise
Warning everyone
The racing green animal was ready

I gently pressed on the throttle
And engaged first gear
Slowly, we crept out of the cave
I am not scared now
Just aware of the next two hours,
Man and machine are as one

I may have even smiled as we
screamed out of the pit lane
I tightly gripped the wheel, and warmed
the tyres
Trees and grass flew past

And now we are in position
We are ready
Adrenaline floods my veins
As the lights go green.

Daniel Pye (Year 8, Vanbrugh)

Design Technology Project

This term in Design and Technology Year 8 pupils made canoe paddles. Taking inspiration from tribal art they designed the blade and in May tested the success of their projects. In teams they took part in a regatta at the Cokethorpe Boat House. Each team paddled a cata-canoe, quickly discovering that communication and team work were as important as paddle design when navigating the course. The paddles proved successful with many teams building up considerable speed.



Writing Competition

Congratulations to Amy Watson (Lower Sixth, Feilden), for winning the aged 11–16 category of the Deddington Writing Competition with her short story entitled, *The Green Balloon*. Daniel Pye and Fraser Logue (both Year 8, Vanbrugh) and Heidi Lawson (Year 7, Gascoigne) were also all short-listed with their short stories and poems on the given theme of 'Green'.



English Literary Recitals

The English Department continued its programme of recitals this term. In May Miss Ringham's Year 10 class led a discussion asking 'Should animals have the same rights as humans?' Pupils grappled with philosophical questions such as the concept of value and worth and debated the merits of animal testing and hunting. Later in the term Miss White held a presentation titled 'Seamus Heaney – One Man and His Bog'. The audience listened to a number of Heaney's poems and explored some interesting photos of 'The Tollund Man' and 'The Grauballe Man'; both examples of the peat preserved corpses of whom Heaney was so fond.

Trip to BMW Factory

In June Year 10 Design and Technology pupils visited the BMW plant in Cowley – the production site of the Mini. They received a guided tour of the museum where they saw examples of some early models of the car, including the one owned by Michael Caine's daughter, which was given to her on the set of *The Italian Job* movie.

Following this, pupils were shown around the factory floor. They saw where all the body panels are pressed and cut, where the engine is lifted into the bodywork, where the assembly of the dashboards and seats take place and the final testing and checking stations. The whole group expressed their wonder at this phenomenally impressive and complex factory, not least in learning that the current rate of production is around 800 cars a day! The huge robots were also of great interest and received a lot of attention.

IGCSE English

Following the end of year examinations, Year 9 English pupils began their introduction to the internationally recognised qualification the 'International General Certificate of Secondary Education' (IGCSE). Pupils took part in a workshop on dual narratives expressed through photography. They then carried out micro-observation in groups and performed drama to express that duality.



Cambridge Open Day

As accessing higher education becomes increasingly competitive it is critical that pupils develop an informed strategy for their Sixth Form and university aspirations. To this end, eight Year 11 pupils attended a two-day residential course at Queens' College, Cambridge. Pupils tasted undergraduate life by staying in the rooms in Cripps Court and attended a lecture in the Fitzpatrick Hall. Admissions tutor Dr Andrew Thompson de-bunked the common elitist myths and, with their futures in mind, pupils spoke directly to heads of departments for their respective subjects. Pupils returned to School feeling prepared for next year's application process.

THE SIXTH FORM

Prefects' Dinner

Coming towards the end of the academic year, the Prefects' Dinner celebrates the hard work and support that all prefects have given to the School, particularly during their final year at Cokethorpe. Formal occasions such as these often bring out the best in the School's pupils and this was no exception, with some good speeches, a great amount of reminiscing and humour, coupled with an excellent atmosphere. The quiz brought a competitive element to the evening and students gave members of staff present a run for their money. The way in which the prefects have worked



as a team has been a credit to them. All are off to pastures new and the School is very grateful for everything that they have done.



Sixth Form Ball

The Cokethorpe Parents' Association kindly organised this year's Sixth Form Ball, which was held in the marquee on the School grounds following Prize Giving. Lots of happy Sixth Formers, all of whom rose to the occasion and looked elegant and fetching, enjoyed the evening immensely and deemed the evening 'The best night of their lives'. Other comments included 'Wow, this is just sooooo fabulous', 'Awesome' and 'I don't want it to end'. The fireworks were a real spectacle, writing out 'Class of 2010' and displaying a peacock as a wonderful finale. Mr Mullin and his band provided the music and had everyone up dancing. Thank you to the catering team who produced the fabulous food. Many parents have since thanked the CPA for giving their children the best end to their time at Cokethorpe.



General Studies

You might think that, as a liberal and tolerant nation, free speech is one of the great values of our state. Free we might be, but licence to say anything we do not have. Quite who decides this, and with what conditions, is important. It's a philosophical matter that Dr Nigel Warburton examined with the Sixth Form in a recent General Studies talk. By no means were the issues settled, but it was clear that the freedom to speak, and the responsibility with which it comes, does include what is said on Facebook, in a text message, during an angry conversation, and in a video on YouTube. So we at least learned that we must speak carefully.

Finance and Budgeting

As part of their preparation for life beyond Cokethorpe, Upper Sixth students were visited by Suzanne Head, a member of NatWest's money management team, to discuss various issues relating to financial independence at university. Students were given practical tips on budgeting, and took part in interactive sessions designed to make them think about the day-to-day living expenses they will encounter when at university. She introduced students to the existence of student accounts and was able to respond to some common misconceptions about the way a credit card should be used! It was a very useful session for all involved.



Sixth Form Responsibilities

The School is pleased to announce the new Sixth Form students with responsibilities for the academic year 2010–2011:

Head of School

Caroline Jenkins

Deputy Heads of School

Nicholas Baboolal
Rebecca Savins

Heads of Houses

Feilden	Zoë Cantley
Gascoigne	Georgina Toumazou
Harcourt	Luke Withey
Queen Anne	Caroline Jenkins
Swift	Nicholas Baboolal
Vanbrugh	To Be Announced

Prefects

Alexander Da Silva Isdrio
Blaise Dyer
Luke Hewens
Amy Hewes
Annabel Hunter
Gorgia Lisi
Toby Raban
George Miller
Justine Morris
Sunny Ricketts
James Silver
Amy Watson
Huw Williams
Jacob Wilson

Business Sponsorship

The successful students selected for the Business Sponsorship Scheme, and the companies offering sponsorship for 2010–2011, are listed below:

M G Alden Ltd:	Charles Elder
Carmelite Chambers:	Jack Cully
Darke and Taylor:	Tom Donovan-Brady
Frances and Lewis International Ltd:	Laura McKenney

Sixth Form Ball

To view and purchase photos of the Sixth Form Ball please go to www.capturemyevent.co.uk. Under 'galleries' click on 'client albums' and select 'Cokethorpe School Leavers Ball'. User ID: Harcourt, Password: Swift.

Philosophy Café

Staff members that have kindly played 'devil's advocate' for previous Philosophy Cafés, and the subjects of their discussions, include:

Mr Schofield	Banning Books
Mr Mann	Euthanasia
Mr Maskery	Drugs in Sport
Mr White	International Aid
Mr Kennard	Meat Eating
Mr Schofield	Democracy
Mr Uglow	Facebook

THE ARTS

Greek Mythological Creatures

There are a large number of mythological creatures that feature in Ancient Greek legends, these include:

Athos
Calydonian Boar
Centaur
Charybdis
Cyclopes
Delphi
Dryad
Echidna
Empousa
Enceladus
Fates
Furies
Geryon
Gigantes
Gorgons
Griffins
Hecatonchires
Hippalectryon
Hydra
Lamia
Immortals
Mares of Diomedes
Medusa
Mermaid
Minotaur
Nemean Lion
Nymphs
Oceanid
Ophiotauros
Orthrus
Pegasus
Phoenix
Polyphemus
Python
Satyr
Scylla
Silenus
Siren
Sphinx
Spectre
Stheno
Stymphalian Birds
Talos
Triton
Typhon

Love's Labour's Lost Cast List

Biron	Louis Allen
Rosaline	Madeleine Allardice
Ferdinand	Guy De Vos
Princess of France	Lucy Grout
Dumain	Miles Beirouti
Longavalle	Brian Clarke
Costard	Thomas De Vos
Moth	Daniel McCall
Jacquenetta	Rosie Turner
Armado	George Lawson
Boyet	Mr Williams
Dull	Mr Walwyn
Mercade	Mr Lawson
Katherine	Mrs Hooper
Maria	Miss Ringham
Music	Mr Heaney

Year 7: The Witches

The Year 7 production of *The Witches* was a glorious romp into the world of bald heads, blue teeth, mice, and dog droppings! The Roald Dahl script was embellished and delivered in a contemporary way through 'Witch Watch', a news bulletin warning of the danger that witches present. Some hilarious moments meant that cast and audience enjoyed themselves immensely. Having worked hard to present a magical show with some fabulous individual characterisation and ensembles, the pupils were terrifying and humorous in equal measure.



GCSE: Blue Remembered Hills

Year 10 GCSE Drama pupils have taken several assessments this year including the presentation of extracts from Dennis Potter's classic play *Blue Remembered Hills*. Set in the West Country during a summer's afternoon in 1943, the play tells the story of a group of seven-year-old children whose innocent games begin to adopt a sinister tone that ultimately ends in tragedy.

Year 8: Mythipedia

Mythipedia was a culmination of a year's hard work exploring the possibilities of physical theatre and the wide scope of the imagination. Adapted from original scripts by the pupils, four short plays covered classical tales from Ancient Greece with irreverent humour and minimal props. The cast worked hard to create the sounds, sets and atmosphere using complex tableaux and mime to great effect. Memorable characters included the superstar Theseus, flying Perseus, tetchy Poseidon, street-wise Nymphs, the dim-witted Cyclops family and a cheerleading Chorus.



Love's Labour's Lost

The final performance of the year took place on Prize Giving day in the Upper Quad. A combined pupil and staff production, *Love's Labour's Lost* was an hilarious interpretation of one of Shakespeare's lesser-known plays. The cast's ability to bring the verse to life and grapple with the complex wordplay was outstanding. Dressed in Mrs Mace's fantastic costumes, Louis Allen's Biron and Madeleine Allardice's Rosaline were energetic and sincere in their portrait of the bickering lovers. Guy De Vos and Lucy Grout performed with an authority that belied their years and were

supported by Miles Beirouti and Brian Clarke as the impetuous students Dumain and Longavalle. The rustic comics, Costard, Moth and Jacquenetta (Thomas De Vos, Daniel McCall and Rosie Turner) were superbly anarchic and magnificently led by George Lawson as the ludicrous Armado. Mr Williams provided a flamboyant Boyet, Mr Walwyn a Geordie Dull, and Mr Lawson a cameo as Mercade. Mrs Hooper and Miss Ringham perhaps stole the show with their grotesque interpretations of Katherine and Maria. Mr Heaney's music throughout completed the experience.



THE ARTS

Lower Sixth: A Clockwork Orange

The Lower Sixth Theatre Studies students performed their ensemble piece as part of their AS Level assessment in front of examiners on 27 May. *A Clockwork Orange* may have seemed a risky choice – robbery, gang violence, murder and rape being the order of the day – however, it certainly paid off. All but one cast member played a multitude of roles, changing costumes in front of the audience in true Brechtian style. Edd Bird played the charismatic anti-hero Alex with the right amount of arrogance and menace, yet he also brought humour and charm to the role. Zoë Cantley was not only a terrifying Droog, but played a variety of diverse roles including the ethereal Doctor Branom. James Metcalfe played his six roles proficiently, his Old Woman being one of the most memorable; James's

comic timing and portrayal of the mad, cat-loving pensioner raised plenty of uncomfortable laughs, as did his effeminate, euphoric Hospital Orderly. The Chaplain, played by Luke Saunders, struggled to set Alex on the path to righteousness and find the answers to questions such as 'What does God want?' Guy De Vos made a convincing Mother, shuffling around in housecoat and hair-rollers, oblivious to her son's dreadful misdemeanours. His portrayal of Doctor Brodsky was weighty and authoritative and his inept policeman was portrayed excellently. Alexander Lawson also played six roles, including the eccentric probation officer Deltoid and the academically challenged Dim. Meanwhile Peter Small's lighting design was stunning, adding the right mood and providing brilliant contrasts.



Upper Sixth: Long Grove Asylum

Upper Sixth Theatre Studies candidates presented *Long Grove Asylum – Lost Lives* during April. This original devised drama was based on research about the disturbing incarceration of women in mental institutions in the 1950s. Set in Long Grove Asylum, the stories of three patients were told through a variety of techniques and styles. The audience learnt about their tragic pasts and the appalling treatment they were subjected to. Nancy Jones (Brontë Coppock-Cudd) was admitted at the age of 16 due to a 'nervous disposition', Ethel Jenkins (Jessica O'Brien) was incarcerated by her husband when she attempted to escape a life of domestic violence, while Barbara Marling (Olivia Plummer) was one of many women committed to

institutions suffering from typhoid. These women, deemed unfit to return to society, were forced to live out the rest of their days inside asylums. The staff (Chloë Pickford and Sian Keegan) had little training or understanding of mental health issues and kept the patients 'gentle and submissive' through heavy sedation, electro-convulsive therapy and brutal lobotomies. The accompanying soundtrack took the audience through the 1950s to the late 1980s, when many of these institutions were finally closed. Despite the gravity of the subject matter, there were some comic moments with sharply choreographed rituals of 'medication time' and an excellent 'tooth brushing' scene. This was a deeply moving and powerful piece of theatre.



A Clockwork Orange Cast List

Alex	Edd Bird
Pete	Guy De Vos
Mother	
Policeman 2	
Dr Brodsky	
Warder	
Prisoner	
George	Zoë Cantley
Young Woman	
Dr Branom	
Prisoner	
Pete's Wife	
Finch	James Metcalfe
Drunk	
Father	
Old Woman	
Orderly	
Prisoner	
Lucky	Luke Saunders
Teacher	
Policeman 1	
Chaplain	
F Alexander	
Dim	Alexander Lawson
Deltoid	
Prisoner	
Warder	
Baldy	
Joe	
Lighting Design and Operation	Peter Small

Long Grove Asylum Cast List

Nancy Jones	Brontë Coppock-Cudd
Nurse Gould	Sian Keegan
Ethel Jenkins	Jessica O'Brien
Nurse Cartwright	Chloë Pickford
Barbara Marling	Olivia Plummer

Future Drama Productions

The Man Who Came to Dinner
30 November and 1 December

'Christmas in the Stanley household isn't quite what they expected when the infamous Sheridan Whiteside – critic, lecturer, radio personality and friend to the rich and famous – finds himself confined to a wheelchair in their house. With a cast of wonderful characters, this 1930's comedy classic is a must-see for all the family.'

All Senior School pupils are welcome to audition for this production, these will be held in the Michaelmas Term.

Please contact the Box Office for tickets.

THE ARTS

Art Students' 'New' Chairs

Following an appeal in the last issue of *The Ocellus*, the Art Department would like to thank Mr and Mrs Sturgess, grandparents of Gracie and Ashlin Karslake (Years 1 and 7, Swift), for the donation of a number of chairs which will be used by the A Level Art students to help further their creativity during lessons.

Music Examinations 2009–2010

Advanced Certificate

Brontë Coppock-Cudd Voice Dist

Grade 8

Emily Sayers Clarinet Merit
Robert Wishart Sax

Grade 6

William Draper Jazz Sax Merit
Elliot Kratt Drum Kit Merit
Ben Woodard Jazz Sax Merit

Grade 5

Nancy Battersby Piano
William Hankins Violin
Myles Osborn-Banton Voice Merit
Oliver Parker Trumpet
Katherine Woolley Flute Merit

Grade 4

Kathryn Jenkins Voice Merit
Fraser Logue Voice Dist
Connie Manning Clarinet Merit
Daniel Page Voice Dist
Isaac Staff Cello
Katherine Woolley Oboe

Grade 3

Harry Fellows Guitar
Jessie Grimwade Flute Merit
Alex Haywood Piano
Harry Steel Trumpet Merit
Charlie Tobin Jazz Sax Merit

Grade 2

Christie Batty Guitar Merit
Cate de Buriatte Moglia Voice
Jake de Buriatte Moglia Guitar
Toby Cole Guitar Pass
Christian Ettinger Guitar Merit
Eloise Fraser-Paterson Oboe Merit
Eloise Fraser-Paterson Piano
Aidan King Guitar Dist
Sergei Kundik Jazz Sax Merit
Henry Leonard-Taylor Clarinet
Connie Manning Voice Dist
Henry Plumridge Guitar

Grade 1

Joe Ciampoli-Messiou Guitar Pass
Julian Davies Guitar Pass
Josie Dennis Piano Merit
Sophie Drake Flute Merit
Henry Ettinger Guitar Pass
Timothy Knight Piano Merit
Pip Sayers Piano Dist

Art and Photography Exhibition

The Art and Photography Exhibition took place in the new Art Department building this term. The custom-made rotating wall opened up into one large exhibition space and guests had the opportunity to purchase prints of all the work on display. Over 40 were sold, the most sought-after being Elliot Kratt's (Year 11 Gascoigne), 'Fish'. £400 was raised and donated to Katharine House Hospice.



Cokethorpe Plinth Exhibit

The Cokethorpe Plinth displayed the work of George Barnicoat (Year 11, Harcourt) for the duration of the Summer Term. George, a keen kayaker, drew inspiration from the sport, in particular the Devizes to Westminster race. With the help of Mr Johnson, George worked on the project in his own time, finding the boat in three parts in the DT storage shed and then repairing the front section with a range of materials. After painting it George then designed the artwork using CAD (Computer-Aided Design) and CAM (Computer-Aided Manufacturing).

Ashmolean's Schools Programme

Five Cokethorpe pupils were selected to feature in promotional literature for the Ashmolean Museum, which underwent redevelopment last year. Amy Williams and Huw Williams (Year 10 and Lower Sixth, Swift), Henry Grimwade and Jessie Grimwade (Years 7 and 9, Gascoigne) and Lucy Grout (Lower Sixth, Feilden) are pictured in the museum's *Schools Programme* for secondary and early years aged children.



Music Recitals

Year 10 Music pupils, Lucy Furneaux and Jamie Unwin (Harcourt), James Ellacott (Feilden), Nicholas Gonnella (Queen Anne), Daniel McCall and Harry Fellows (Vanbrugh) and Hanna Young (Swift)

performed in a Music Recital in May as part of their GCSE course. Not only were their performances heard by peers, teachers and parents, it was also recorded for assessment purposes.



THE ARTS

Uniformity

Pupils, parents, friends and staff packed out The Shed on Thursday 1 July to witness an amazing visual feast of dance. The pupils had choreographed the routines themselves, tirelessly practising in their free time, and demonstrating a diversity of unquestionable talent. From classical disciplines such as ballet, tap, modern and jazz, to more contemporary forms such as street dancing, an array of styles all featured in this hour-long inaugural performance. Routines from the Lent Term production of *If You Go Down To The Woods Today...* were also performed, due to popular demand, along with a large group dance of Michael Jackson's *Thriller*. Seventeen members of staff, all dressed to impress and full of Latin spirit, also wowed the audience with a fantastic Cha Cha Cha.



Opening Act at Music Festivals

On Saturday 3 July William Lawson's band, Mojo Pins, were given the opportunity to open the Cornbury Music Festival after having won a Battle of the Bands competition two months earlier. William, Head of School, (Upper Sixth, Gascoigne) said 'as soon as I saw the stage I knew we would be in for a great experience. And so it proved; as we kicked-off our thirty minute set, people immediately flocked over and seemed to enjoy what we had to offer. The buzz of playing on the stage and the excitement of meeting artists I idolise, such as David Gray, are things I will never forget.'

William and his band later played their second festival of the month, after BBC Radio 2 DJ Bob Harris invited them to open the 'Bob Harris Presents...' stage at the Truck Festival in Steventon.



Mayday Madrigals

For the fourth year running Mr Henderson and the Madrigalists sung to the whole School from the balcony above the Mansion House entrance. As pupils stood waiting for the start, the birds sang and a general hush descended, with all eyes looking up to the choir. This year they performed three classic Madrigals – *Good Morrow*, *Fair Ladies of the May*, *Faire Phillis*, finishing with a very challenging number by the early 17th Century composer Thomas Tomkins, *See, See the Shepherd's Queen*.

Despite a gusty breeze the Madrigalists' wonderful melodies carried down to their audience, captivating them for the full ten minutes. It was an excellent effort from a group of singers, which is clearly improving with every performance.



Uniformity: Audience Feedback

'Thank you so much for such a great dance show. It was fabulous.'

'I didn't want the show to end.'

'A brilliant way to showcase Cokethorpe's talented pupils and the staff as well!'

'Most enjoyable, when is it going on tour?'

'The individuals and groups had obviously put in so much effort to create their pieces, and the bigger choreographed items were thrilling. The Panics' dance blew me away, again, and the staff Cha Cha Cha almost stole the show with their slick and stylish steps; that was until Señorita Mills and Mr Mullin came on. How do you move like that?'

'Peter's lighting work set the stage beautifully for each number and was executed in a most sensitive way. Peter is becoming quite an artist with his use of colour and shadow.'

'I am quite amazed at how much talent the School has for putting on an event of this kind. We are all looking forward to seeing next year's offering and have the date in the diary already.'

You Don't Love Me Yet

Mr Heaney was invited to take part in an event at the Modern Art Oxford on 28 May. *You Don't Love Me Yet* was a travelling project for which Swedish artist Johanna Billing invited local bands and musicians to perform their own rendition of the 80's pop song. Mr Heaney was the penultimate act of the evening and was later asked to talk about the composer of the song.

Cornbury Music Festival

Acts at this year's Cornbury Music Festival included:

David Gray
Squeeze
Noisettes
Buddy Guy
Jackson Browne
The Feeling
Newton Faulkner
Reef
The Blockheads
Imelda May
Candi Staton
Kathryn Tickell
Fisherman's Friend
The Raghu Dixit Project
Candi Staton

Sports Representatives

Area, county and national representatives for 2009–2010:

Athletics:

Alexandra Cross *
Frederick Curtis **
Jackson Curtis *
Redford Curtis **
George Lane *
Shona Stanley *
Richard Stevens *
Jacob Wilson **

Clay Pigeon Shooting:

Matthew Barkham **
Ethan Bosse **
Andrew Fiedorowicz **
Jordan Gillies **
George Kerr **
James Nettelford **
Charles Von Hoven **
Morgan Wigham **

Cricket:

Philip Allen *
Jack Bennett *
Jack Biggs *
Jason Cardy
Charles Dyde
William Parsons
Mark Rogers
Cameron Spilsbury

Cross Country:

George Miller *
Shona Stanley *

Hockey:

Oliver Armstrong *
Jack Biggs *
Elisha Evans *
Gabriella Evans *
Lydia Farrell *
Charlotte Ferryman *
Jenna Gordon *
Camilla Herbert *
Sunny Ricketts *
Beth Stanley *
Shona Stanley *
Amy Williams *

Judo:

Alice Bird *

Karate:

Lydia McCall **
Daniel McCall **

Kayaking:

George Barnicoat **
Jack Bennett **
Elliot Kratt **
Philip Marmon **
Gregory Muller **
Issac Staff **
Louis Taylor **

Netball:

Sarah Cuddy Watts *
Holly Keylock *
Charlotte Mobbs *
Alyce McNaughton *
Suzanna Russell *
Louise Tyrer *

Rugby:

Joshua Atkins *
Andrew Berry **
Edward Church **
Christopher Clare *

Kayaking

Cokethorpe put in another formidable performance at this year's Devizes to Westminster race. Former pupils Tim Muller and Fred Reif (both 2009, Vanbrugh) won the Junior Doubles class for the third year running, completing the 125 gruelling miles over 4 days, in 15 hours 39 minutes. Former pupil Callum Staff (2009, Gascoigne), partnered by a member of the Devizes Canoe Club, came fifth and George Barnicoat (Year 11, Harcourt) and Louis Allen (Year 10, Harcourt) came ninth with a time of 18 hours 32 minutes. Louis Taylor (Year 11, Feilden) and Philip Marmon (Year 11, Swift) came 16th and Elliott Kratt (Year 11, Gascoigne) and Isaac Staff (Year 10, Gascoigne) came 21st, with Jack Bennett (Year 11, Feilden) and Gregory Muller (Year 11, Vanbrugh) coming a very respectable 27th.

These positions combined meant that Cokethorpe finished an excellent first overall in the team standings, out of 73 finishing pairs (77 starting).



Sports Awards Dinner

The first whole School Sports Awards Dinner took place on the evening of Friday 28 May. In the company of guest speaker Mr Peter Rhoades-Brown, Oxford United's Community Football Officer, nearly 100 pupils and staff enjoyed a wonderful meal followed by the presentation of nineteen awards to this year's outstanding sports performers. Over seventy pupils have also represented the School this year at county level or beyond and this goes hand in hand with national wins in clays and kayaking, successes in regional hockey and county rugby triumphs at U18 and U15 levels.



Clay Pigeon Shooting

The British Schools' Clay Pigeon Shooting Championships were this year held in Buckinghamshire and attracted over 300 competitors from all over the UK. Cokethorpe were under considerable pressure to retain the trophy, however, three months of intensive practice paid off as, after an extraordinarily consistent performance from every team member, Cokethorpe again took the title by a considerable margin. At an individual level, Cokethorpe's George Kerr (Year 12, Feilden) took second high gun, with Jordan Gillies (Upper Sixth, Feilden) fourth and Andrew Fiedorowicz (Year 9, Vanbrugh) and Matthew Barkham (Year 10, Feilden) tying for fifth.

Amongst 32 teams from schools and cadets, 1st place for Cokethorpe was particularly gratifying, as they again beat some of the best shooting schools in the UK including Millfield, Warwick, Stowe, Harrow, Bloxham, Rugby, KES, Rendcomb College and The Oratory.



Karate

Congratulations to Daniel McCall (Year 10, Vanbrugh) on his recent success at the International Open Karate Championships. Daniel achieved Bronze in the team event and also came runner up in the individual U17 competition. He had been on target to take Gold right up until 7 seconds from the end of the bout, when the other competitor equalised and then scored first in a sudden death play-off. The winner is fighting in Brazil for England later this year, indicating the weight of Daniel's achievement. At the end of the tournament Daniel was asked by the head coach to fight for England in Romania this September.



Athletics

A team of five girls and six boys competed against Stowe School and Akeley Wood School in May. The boys, Jackson Curtis, George Miller and George Lane (all Lower Sixth, Harcourt), Jacob Wilson (Lower Sixth, Gascoigne), Richard Stevens (Lower Sixth, Swift) and Danny Burford (Lower Sixth, Feilden), won ten of their thirteen events, placing them first overall. Meanwhile the girls, Sophie Fisher (Year 11, Feilden), Chloë Pickford, Shona Stanley and Lydia Farrell (Years 13, 12 and 11, all Vanbrugh) and Rachel Wood

(Year 11, Gascoigne) won six events placing them second. All the athletes deserve praise for conducting themselves in such an outstanding manner. Also in athletics this term the School was proud to have three of its pupils, Frederick Curtis, Redford Curtis and Jacob Wilson, selected to represent Oxfordshire at the English Schools' Athletic Championships. Selection was highly competitive and only 25 athletes were chosen from within each county. Jacob Wilson has also been given the honour of captaining Oxfordshire.



Rounders

2010 has been a very successful year for Cokethorpe's rounders teams, with the School producing some of their best results to date. The seniors won a large proportion of their fixtures, while the U15s, led by Hope Boyd (Queen Anne), had another successful season, winning all but one fixture. The U14s had notable successes including wins against Pangbourne and Headington; Lydia McCall (Vanbrugh) proved to be not only an excellent captain, but a strong competitor. The U13s improved significantly and racked up impressive wins against The Dragon, Cranford House and Bloxham.

It was the U12 team, and their captain Megan Bird (Harcourt), however, who was crowned team of the season for their string of successes. In their match against Bloxham, Cokethorpe fielded tightly and batted outstandingly, smashing balls to all corners of the grounds to win 35–16.



Cricket

Cokethorpe have enjoyed a successful season with the School winning over 60% of their matches. The 1st XI produced their best performance against South Oxford Amateurs, with Philip Allen (Gascoigne) making an impressive unbeaten century and Billy Webb (Gascoigne) scoring 90. Both boys also took three wickets to secure a victory.

The U15 side struggled to make an impact this year with a small group of players. However, the U14 side certainly showed its talent and potential for the future with strong wins over Bloxham School and Pangbourne College.

The Lower School players also enjoyed a very successful season: the U13s lost only twice, one occasion being in the County Cup semi-final. The U12s also conceded just two matches, again one of which was in the County Cup, this time in the final against a formidable Abingdon team.

Sports Representatives Cont

Rugby:

Redford Curtis *
Rory Gratwohl *
Mark Jones *
Jonathan Morris *
George Murrin *
Joshua Poole *
Matthew Taylor *
Julian Watkins **
Thomas Wells *
Jacob Wilson *

Soccer:

Ryan Oliver
George Stone *

Tennis:

Caleb Dyer *
Ruby Grant *

* County Honours

** National Honours

Cricket Colours

Full Colours:

Philip Allen; Paul Tyrer; Robert Uren;
Billy Webb

Half Colours:

Harminder Bhella; George Glew

Sports Awards

Kayaking:

Most Improved	Louis Allen
Kayaker of the Year	George Barnicoat

Clays:

Most Improved	Ethan Bosse
Top Gun	George Kerr

Cricket:

Most Improved	Billy Webb
Cricketer of the Year	Philip Allen

Soccer:

Most Improved	Alex Cade
Players' Player	Jack Morton
Coach's Player	Billy Webb

Netball:

Most Improved	Sunny Ricketts
Players' Player	Suzy Russell
Coach's Player	Alyce McNaughton

Hockey:

Most Improved	Carys Protheroe
Players' Player	Shona Stanley
Coach's Player	Chloë Pickford

Rugby:

Significant Contribution	Edward Church
Players' Player	Andy Berry
Coach's Player	Mark Jones

GB Pony Eventing Team

Congratulations to Alfie Bradstock (Year 11, Gascoigne) who has been selected for the GB pony eventing team which will compete at the European Championships from 27 July–1 August.

THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

Prize Giving Awards

Academic Prize Winners:

RR	Henry Birchenough
1RS	Josy Brown
2LO	Sammy Elek
3JD	Tara Devine
4MM	Toby Brown
4RO	Austin Bowsher
5HL	Samuel Bird
5MC	Madeline Pound
6GM	Benjamin Foster
6MO	Eloise Fraser-Paterson

Pupil of the Year:

RR	Tabitha Howard
1RS	Harvey Gould
2LO	Rosa Birchenough
3JD	Francesca Brown
4MM	Antonia Haar
4RO	Annabel Clarke
5HL	India Hurford-Jones
5MC	Maisie Coolman
6GM	Thomas Smith
6MO	Keely Harding

End of Year Award for Effort:

RR	Ben Orton
1RS	Hester Beer
2LO	Emelia Wardle
3JD	Michael Ogilvie
4MM	Ruby Plumridge
4RO	Michaela Logue
5HL	Millie Hulewicz
5MC	Yukiko Nishikawa
6GM	Oliver Cook
6MO	Jordan Smith

Cup Winners:

Julie Stormont Art Cup:
William Alden

Claire Hooper Drama Cup:
Richard Turner

Louise Bridge French Cup:
Jessica Williams

Improvement and Progress Shield:
Michael Hook

Music Cup:
Jamie Langford

Sports Cups:
Elisha Evans
Joseph Wilde

Junior School Cup:
Jessica Williams

Sponsored Walk Update

A cheque for £1,400 was presented to each of this year's sponsored walk charities – The Footsteps Foundation and the Thomley Activity Centre – during an assembly in April. With the addition of gift aid, the final total raised by the Junior School amounts to £4,000.

Junior School Prize Giving

Junior School Prize Giving began with a poignant and charming performance of *The Magic Hummingbird* by the Pre-prep. Mrs Mace's costumes looked amazing and the children sang and acted beautifully, having memorised many difficult songs and words. Years 3 to 5 then performed extracts from *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, where they transported the audience to Willy Wonka's factory, including the nut

room full of dancing squirrels and the chocolate room with its special chocolate river. After the interval Year 6 performed *Hamlet – What Was The Question?* The children acted to a very high standard and the audience laughed all the way through, even though the play ended in tragedy. The day concluded with an awards ceremony where the children's achievements throughout the year were formally recognised.



Tea on the Lawn

On a glorious afternoon in June parents enjoyed afternoon tea as they listened to the Junior School Choir. Sat in the beautiful setting of the Mansion Lawn the Choir performed twelve songs, including complicated four-part rounds such as *Great Day* and *Simple Melody*.



Teddy Bears' Picnic

The sun shone as the Pre-prep children and a selection of their favourite teddy bears swapped the School Dining Hall for the Mansion Lawn to enjoy their lunch on Tuesday 22 June. Under the shade of the trees they ate a delicious picnic of sandwiches, fruit and cakes.



Hill End

Year 6 visited Hill End Field Studies Centre in Farmoor. In the morning the children studied differing grassland habitats and how plant communities adapt to different management regimes. The afternoon focused on cooperation and teamwork-based skills and the children took part in group tasks which promoted communication and good listening skills over competition.



Sulgrave Manor

During May Year 3 visited Sulgrave Manor, a manor house of Shakespeare's time which was home to the ancestors of George Washington. The children dressed in Tudor costume and took an authentic packed lunch to add to the excitement of the day. They saw the rooms as they would have looked in the 16th Century and wrote their name using the Tudor alphabet.

THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

Summer Fair

Once again the Junior School Summer Fair proved a resounding success. The children came to School in non-uniform carrying a delicious array of tantalising cakes and biscuits, which were sold throughout the morning. In the afternoon the children set up their imaginative stalls which they had designed, made and tested in Design and Technology lessons. As well as stalls there were go-karts, a huge bouncy obstacle course and a musical marquee where several of the School's talented musicians performed to the guests while they enjoyed afternoon tea.

A handsome profit of £2,066.47 was achieved, which was proudly presented to Sobell House Hospice and The Nasio Trust during an assembly in June.



Field Work Focus Week

This year saw the Junior School's first Field Work Focus Week, where children from all classes were given the opportunity to learn new geographical and scientific skills outside the classroom. Highlights included Year 4 and Year 6 going off-site to study the differing land uses of the local area, whilst others used the School's fabulous grounds, pond and nature trail.



Milestone Museum

'On 19 May 4MM and 4RO dressed up as evacuees and jumped on the bus to go on our trip to the Milestone Museum. I was wearing a red, orange and green top and a grey skirt. When we arrived we were split into four groups. Kate, a girl who worked there, gave us each an acoustic wand and with our group we set off round the museum. The museum was made so that it looked like you were in the 1940s. After lunch we had a talk from a land girl who had caught rats, picked sprouts, milked the cows, fed the animals and cut the crops. Other facts I learnt were that each person had 60 coupons per year and women used the mens' trousers while they were at war and made them into skirts. I think it was one of my favourite trips.'

Antonia Haar, Year 4 Queen Anne



The Living Rainforest

Year 2 went to The Living Rainforest in Newbury this term as part of their Science and Geography topic. The children went on the 'edible forest' tour and learned all about the foods that grow in the rainforest such as avocado, bananas, vanilla, cinnamon, ginger and breadfruit. They also saw native rainforest creatures like marmosets, toucans, reptiles and agoutis.

Year 6 Family Day and BBQ

'The Year 6 Family Day was a lot of fun. It was organised by Mrs Priestly-Smith and Mrs Grime. The rounders game was very competitive, but one team shone through, winning all their matches. After the excitement of the rounders, everyone enjoyed the great food that was on offer and then finished the day with a game of football.'

Benjamin Foster, Year 6 Vanbrugh



Summer Fair Stalls

Ice lolly stall
Guess the number of sweets in the jar
Lucky ducks
Hoopla
Face painting
Guess the teacher
Stick it on!
Pick a stick, pick a prize
Ping pong
Estimate the pasta
Treasure map
Shoot the army men
Make a sweetie necklace
Let's make mini monsters
Hit the can and toy
Nerfastic
Pig racing
Throw the banana
Teddytastic
Sweety shoots
Car and marble mania
Look the looks
Pick a nail
Biscuit baker
Guess that music
How many sweets?
Shoot 'em dead
Rugby shoot-out
Shoot the hoop
Hairspray
Trick kart
Welly wanging
Soldier attack
Terrific table tennis target
Funky faces
Smack it!
Sugar rush
Creamy dream
Whack it!
Knock 'em down
Bail out!
Teddy bears' picnic raffle
Tombola
Teas and coffees
Popcorn
Guess the number of balloons in the Mini
Home produce/handicrafts
DVDs, CDs and computer games
Bouncy obstacle course
Cake stall
Go-kart course

Volcano Eruptions

During Field Work Focus Week Year 6 designed and created volcanos. Using the knowledge they had acquired in Geography lessons, they demonstrated their understanding of mountains and how volcanoes are formed. They then put into practice the scientific principle of reversible and irreversible changes and set about putting the various substances into the magma chambers! The younger children watched in anticipation as each Year 6 group proceeded to explode their volcano in turn. It was an impressive and exciting display!

THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

Junior School Writers

The Junior School was delighted to receive copies of the book *Mini Treasures* and see the Mini Sagas written by the School's Gifted and Talented Writers in print.

The Junior School was also proud to learn that India Hurford-Jones (Year 5, Swift), Tara Devine (Year 3, Queen Anne) and Arthur Blake (Year 6, Gascoigne) had been short-listed in the Deddington Children's Writing Competition for their poems on the theme 'Green'. Congratulations to Tara who was named runner-up in the age 5-7 poetry category. A number of Senior School pupils also entered the competition; please turn to page 4 for more details.

Trip to the Kitchen Garden

During June Year 3 strolled down to the School's Kitchen Garden to sample its delights. The children thoroughly enjoyed taking a tour around the wonderfully tendered areas and tasting the delicious fruits on offer, especially the strawberries! They were fascinated by the array of vegetables growing there and listened intently as they were told about the different varieties, then eagerly answered questions and posed them in return. They were extremely interested in learning that they may get the opportunity to do some gardening there one day.

Horrible Science

On 30 June Years 3 to 6 went to the New Theatre in Oxford to see a fantastic production of *Horrible Science*, presented by the Birmingham Stage Company. It was in fact the stunning science of everything! From microscopic microbes, blood, bones and body bits, shocking electricity and fatal forces. The children were enthralled throughout and the 3D glasses added to the excitement. Not only was this an enjoyable experience, the children consolidated scientific concepts as well as learning new ones!

Land Girls

The Year 4 children were pleased to welcome two former Land Girls, Yvonne Godfrey and Joyce Pimm into School on 18 June. Yvonne and Marjorie had been stationed at Cokethorpe, then known as Cokethorpe Park, during the Second World War. The ladies explained how they had lived in the attics of the Mansion House and talked to the children about their war-time experiences. For further details of the talk turn to page 22.



Great Western Steam Museum

'We visited the Great Western Steam Museum in Swindon to find out more about Isambard Kingdom Brunel. We saw lots of trains, learnt how to change old fashioned signals and actually walked under a real train! Then we had a ride on a small train and dressed as Victorians. We realised that life was very hard in those days – children had to write on blackboards and they had wooden things over their fingers to stop them fidgeting!'

Tom Orton, Tilly Hurford-Jones
Jossy Brown and David Haar, Year 1



Mexicolore Workshop

'On 16 June the Aztecs came forward in time for Year 6, bringing with them Aztec clothing, Gods, food, warriors, artefacts and images of their daily lives. We learned a lot about the things the Aztecs did, such as sacrifices to the Gods and harvesting floating gardens. We enjoyed chanting and dancing to the Sun and Earth Gods and playing and listening to a range of Mexican instruments. I think there will be many bags packed for Mexico this summer following an inspiring and colourful experience.'

Jessica Williams (Year 6, Vanbrugh)

River and Rowing Museum Trip

Following on from Field Work Focus Week, Year 5 visited the River and Rowing Museum in Henley. The children enjoyed a guided walk up to the lock whilst discussing various geographical features and then carried out related experiments in the teaching lab.



Visit to Farmer Gow's

On 28 April Reception had a fun, hands-on experience at Farmer Gow's. They stroked the animals, took the goats for a walk and collected eggs from the chickens. Other highlights were a trailer ride around the farm, climbing on hay bales and playing in tunnels.



Year 6 Trip to Wales

Year 6 children spent an energetic and enjoyable week in Wales during May this term. For many it was the first time that they had stayed away from home and their parents. They had a wonderful time and were given the opportunity to take part in a whole host of exhilarating activities such as fencing, raft-building, rock-climbing, zip wires, caving, rowing and swimming.



Football Training Session

On 25 June Peter Rhoades-Brown, Oxford United's Community Football Development Officer, came to Cokethorpe to undertake an intensive training session with the undefeated Junior School 1st XI. They developed their passing skills and ball control and then played small-sided games. The children worked very hard and impressed Peter with their levels of ability.



THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

Equestrian Event

The newly-formed Cokethorpe Junior School Equestrian Team, consisting of Charlotte Bury, Verity Smith and Luke Smith (all Year 5), LuisaMae Lisi (Year 6) and Isabella Smith, took part in their first inter-schools event at Gainfield Farm in June. The team did fantastically well coming third out of seven school teams. Thank you to Mrs Bury for organising the Cokethorpe team.



Sports Day and Mini Olympics

This year's Junior School Sports Day and Mini Olympics saw the Pre-prep take part in events that demonstrated the skills they had been developing during the year, while Years 3 to 6 competed in the 100m, 150m, 300m, 600m, high jump, throwing and finally the relays. There were some outstanding performances from Elisha Evans, Oonaugh Ryley, Thomas Smith and

Alastair Grime (all Year 6, Swift), Sam Sweet and Alex Epelle (both Year 6, Queen Anne), William Alden and Joseph Wilde (both Year 6, Harcourt), Louisa Mattinson (Year 5, Harcourt), Annabel Clarke (Year 4, Feilden) and Frankie Brown (Year 3, Vanbrugh). The Burfitt Award for outstanding athletic achievement was awarded to Joseph Wilde and Sam Sweet.



Rounders

The Junior girls have made significant progress with their rounders this term and are now beginning to display skills and tactics one would expect from more senior players. They have competed in a number of competitive games achieving some significant victories; in particular wins against The Manor, Akeley Wood and Hatherop Castle.

Inter-House Rounders

In June six teams from Years 4 to 8 competed for the prestigious Junior Inter-House rounders cup. The depth of talent is strong in the Junior School and the competition was fiercely fought. All eyes were on last year's winners Gascoigne, however, it was Harcourt who took the title, knocking Gascoigne into the second spot.



Cricket

The U9s had a very successful season winning all except one game comfortably. Every boy in Year 3 and 4 represented the School in at least two matches and notable results included a 76 run victory over Chandlings and a 67 run victory against Abingdon Prep.

The U11s had an equally successful season; a result of excellent team spirit and great self-belief. A real understanding of how to run between the wickets allowed the batsmen to put tremendous pressure on all their opponents and this was complemented by commitment, teamwork and genuine skill on the field. It was only a strong Chandlings team who prevented the boys from going unbeaten and obtaining a 100% record.

Equestrian Event Placings

Individual results for members of the Cokethorpe team are listed below:

Class 1 (19 entries)

Rider	Points	Place
Isabella Smith	120	12th

Class 2 (27 entries)

Rider	Points	Place
Verity Smith	164	2nd
LuisaMae Lisi	160	6th
Charlotte Bury	151	10th
Luke Smith	151	11th

Class 3 (20 entries)

Rider	Points	Place
LuisaMae Lisi	153	8th
Verity Smith	137	11th
Luke Smith	114	18th

Inter-House Rounders

1st:	Harcourt
2nd:	Gascoigne
3rd:	Vanbrugh
4th:	Swift
5th:	Feilden
6th:	Queen Anne

Sports Fixture Results

U11A Cricket

New College School	W
Chandlings School	L
St Edward's School, Cheltenham	W
Akeley Wood School	W

U9A Cricket

Chandlings School	W
Abingdon Prep School	W

U11A Rounders

Akeley Wood School	W
Sibford School	W

U10 Rounders

Hatherop Castle School	W
The Manor Preparatory School	W

U9 Rounders

Chandlings School	W
Hatherop Castle School	W
The Manor Preparatory School	L

Pre-Prep Mini Olympics

The Pre-prep took part in the following activities as part of their Mini Olympics:

- Sprint
- Aim and Throw
- Agility Obstacle Course
- Aim and Roll
- Football Dribble
- Bean Bag Shuttle Relay
- Long Throw
- Rugby Ball Relay
- Sack Race

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Students achieving their Duke of Edinburgh's Awards this term are:

Bronze Award:

Olivia Abdolrazaghi
Madeleine Allardice
Matthew Barkham
Isabel Berger
Joe Bernard
Ethan Bosse
Luci DiMascio
Alice Duffield
James Ellacott
Gabriella Evans
Harry Fellows
Christian Field
Lucy Furneaux
Claire Hudson
Elliot Jones
Thomas Lonergan
Dominic Lucey
Ben Porter Goff
Lulu Revell
Alexander Shuttleworth
Amy Williams
Hanna Young
Peter Zinovieff

Silver Award:

Alexander Bryson
Lloyd Cadman
Letitia Cookson
Declan Duffy
Amy Gaertner
Gabriel Gavin
Jack Hammond
Timothy Knight
Lissi Mason
Laura McKenney
Alyce McNaughton
Harry Milligan
Marianne Pearson
Joshua Relph
Oliver Ronaldson
Georgia Smith
Charlotte Swan
Rachel Wood
Benjamin Woodard

Gold Award:

Paris Banerjee
Joel Gascoyne
Huw Williams
James Woolley

Greenpower Team

Members of the 2009–2010 Greenpower Go-Kart team are:

Frederick Orme
Laurence Lodge
Sergei Kundik
Nicholas Caddy
Kieran Husband
Charles Von Hoven
Thomas Deabill
Harry Foster
Gino Lisi
Matthew Brown

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

This has been a very busy term for pupils participating in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Having completed their skill, volunteering and physical sections, Bronze and Silver Award participants attended practice and assessment expeditions, while Gold Award participants undertook their final outing during July. Expeditions have taken place in the Cotswolds, Chiltern



Hills, Forest of Dean, and on Exmoor and Dartmoor. Students have shown a wealth of motivation and determination throughout and a number of pupils successfully demonstrated the requisite skills to be passed by their assessors.

It was not only pupils who were put through their paces for the Duke of Edinburgh's programme; during the Easter holidays Mrs Holmes, Mrs Brown, Mr Forsey and Mr Hayne began training for their Walking Group Leadership Award. The course in the Black Mountains of Wales, consisted of classroom-based lessons and outdoor activities including using maps, understanding weather systems and preparing for environmental hazards. This award will allow Cokethorpe's Duke of Edinburgh's Award to continue to evolve.



Greenpower Final Race

After a hectic week of last minute adjustments and painting, the Greenpower Go-Kart, named Cokethorpe Racing's Mark 1, was ready for its most important race to date. Sure enough the team all made it to School for 6.00am bright-eyed, bushy-tailed and raring to go. After arriving at Castle Combe Race Circuit all karts, around 22 in total, lined up to face the marshal's strict checklist of rules and regulations. Much to everyone's relief Cokethorpe passed, once a couple of minor tweaks had been made, and then it was time to head to the starting line to prepare for push off. With the School's kart lined-up next to the others, there was no doubt that aesthetically it was one of the best.

The first row pulled away, followed by the second and then the third, before the Cokethorpe kart, with Frederick Orme (Year 8, Vanbrugh) in the hot seat, pulled away on the fourth. And pull away it did! (With much rapture and relief from the rest of the team behind the spectators' fence.) The first seven laps were fast-paced and Frederick successfully overtook a number of other cars; it was a splendid feeling for all the team. Unfortunately the jubilation was short-lived, however, as after 35 minutes

the car began to slow and eventually ground to a stop on the side of the track, smoke bellowing from the rear. After investigation it was apparent that the motor had burnt out and was beyond repair. Although there was a natural feeling of disappointment amongst the team, it had been a successful and exhilarating day and the team knew that with a few minor adjustments to the Go-Kart, and some important lessons learnt, they would be ready to compete again next year.

Mr Forsey would like to thank all parents who not only showed their support as spectators, but who also had a hand in the construction of the kart over the past few years; to Mrs Brown, Mr Johnson and to Mr Carter, the previous DT Technician, and of course to the team themselves.





CEW Activities

Curriculum Enrichment Week took place in the last week of the Summer Term, during which pupils in the Senior School took part in over sixty on and off-site activities including:

- Archery
- Army Flying Museum
- Basketball
- Blenheim Palace and Gardens
- Bletchley Park
- Cabinet War Rooms and London Eye
- Cadbury's World
- Candle and Bathbomb Making
- Canoe Adventure
- Canoe Explorer
- Caving in the Forest of Dean
- Clay Pigeon Shooting
- Cockroaches to Pigs Dissection Course
- Cotswold Falconry
- Cotswold Wildlife Park
- Cowes Week
- Cycling Route
- Dance Workshop
- Emirates and Wembley Stadiums
- Enginuity
- Film Making Workshop
- Fly Fishing
- Forensics Science Day
- Glass Painting
- Gliding
- Go Kart Racing
- Gold Duke of Edinburgh
- Golf Day at Lyneham
- Graffiti to Jazz
- Heritage Motor Centre
- Horse Riding
- Kitchen Garden
- London Dungeons
- Longleat Safari
- National Space Centre
- Oxford Castle Unlocked
- Physics Power Nerd Workshop
- Poker Tournament
- Polo for Beginners
- Pop Art Canvas
- Riding at Talland Equitation
- Rock Climbing
- Rocket Design
- Sailing
- SeaLife Centre
- Shakespeare Performance Rehearsals
- Sixth Form Hiking
- Sixth Form Head for Heights
- Sixth Form UCAS
- Ski and Skating Sampler
- Spanish Trip to Tarragona
- Sports Tour Training
- Stop Motion Animation
- Tennis: Mixed Doubles Tournament
- Thorpe Park
- Track Cycling Taster Day
- Tree Adventure
- Volleyball
- Walking with Wolves
- Yoga Workshop

THE HOUSES

Inter-House Tug of War

Competition was stiff as each of the Houses battled it out. The afternoon was full of enthusiasm and the pupils showed a great deal of support for each other. Feilden proved they had the competitive edge both in technique and strength to overcome the strong challenges from other Houses.

Vanbrugh Barbecue

'Once again this term we had our House barbecue and the weather was splendid, even with a breeze flowing through the school. The evening was brilliant and both the staff and pupils had a great time, with Alexander Lowe and Nicholas Lucey cooking for the evening.'

Guy De Vos, Lower Sixth

Inter-House Results

Rounders:

- 1st: Queen Anne
- 2nd: Gascoigne
- 3rd: Swift
- 4th: Vanbrugh
- 5th: Harcourt
- 6th: Feilden

Athletics:

- 1st: Gascoigne
- 2nd: Queen Anne
- 3rd: Harcourt
- 4th: Swift
- 5th: Vanbrugh
- 6th: Feilden

Cricket:

- 1st: Feilden
- 2nd: Swift
- 3rd: Gascoigne
- 4th: Queen Anne
- 5th: Vanbrugh
- 6th: Harcourt

New Housemasters

From September, Vanbrugh and Gascoigne Houses will have new Housemasters. Mr Walwyn (Drama) will replace Mrs Pratley as the Head of Vanbrugh, while new member of staff Mr Sheer (History) will succeed Mr Maskery as Head of Gascoigne.

In addition, Mrs Pratley will take-up the post of Housemistress of the newly formed Lower House, which will consist of Year 7 and Year 8 pupils. The change to the House system will reinforce and support the School's pastoral system.

Inter-House DT Competition

In May members of each House competed in the School's first Inter-House Design and Technology competition. The first challenge was to assemble a standard set of parts to make a small four-wheeled battery-powered buggy. Next the teams, and an equally enthusiastic crowd, witnessed the final of the Cokethorpe Grand Prix. Based on points awarded for both bodywork design and their position over the finish line, Feilden was awarded first place followed by Vanbrugh.



Inter-House Quiz

House teams were challenged this term in the Inter-House Quiz. Chaired by Mr Fenton and assisted by Mr Williams and Mark Berry (Lower Sixth, Feilden), the event drew sizeable audiences keen to cheer for their House. Diverse questions tested all ages and the competition was even, with the final between Vanbrugh and Queen Anne a real nailbiter. Guy De Vos (Lower Sixth), Timothy Knight (Year 11), Fraser Logue (Year 8) and Ian Ware (Year 7) retained the trophy for Vanbrugh.



Inter-House Swimming Gala

After the success of last year's inaugural Inter-House Swimming Gala, this one had a lot to live up to. It did not disappoint with some strong performances in all strokes including the most challenging of them all – butterfly. Harcourt were victorious and took their first House win of the term.

Inter-House Cricket

Congratulations to Feilden, the winners of the Inter-House Cricket competition for the second year running. All the Houses competed to a high standard.



Inter-House Athletics

On the track Jacob Wilson (Lower Sixth, Gascoigne) won the senior boys' 100m, with a time of 10.9 seconds and Shona Stanley (Lower Sixth, Vanbrugh) set a new record of 14.34 seconds. Erika Davies (Year 7, Queen Anne) landed a School record running the 1,500m in 6.05 minutes. On the field Redford Curtis (Year 8, Harcourt) broke his brother's record in the javelin, throwing 40.08m and George Lane (Lower Sixth, Harcourt) topped the shot putt record throwing 12.89m. The Burfitt Award for Outstanding Individual Performance went to Alexandra Cross (Year 7, Gascoigne), who set new records in her 100m and 200m races and the high jump.



WIDER COMMUNITY

BBC Radio 4 Any Questions

Cokethorpe School hosted the BBC Radio 4 programme *Any Questions?* on Friday 7 May. The new Dining Hall looked magnificent for the occasion, with a stage set up in front of the fireplace, around which 250 guests from Cokethorpe and the local community were seated.

Jonathan Dimbleby chaired the live debate, with the panellists consisting of the former Lord Chancellor, Lord Falconer; Michael Portillo, former Conservative cabinet minister; Liberal Democrat peer Baroness Shirley Williams and Associate Editor of *The Times* Daniel Finkelstein. That week's programme was particularly significant given the events of the previous 24 hours, which had seen the General Election result in a hung parliament.



St George's Day Parade

The Sea Scouts continued to use Cokethorpe as their base for training and meetings this term, culminating in the Oxfordshire Sea Scout St George's Day Parade being held at School in April. The Scouts marched from the Upper Quad to the Mansion, where they were met by the Cokethorpe Choir who sang as part of the celebrations.



Young Farmers' Ball

The Young Farmers' Summer Ball took place at Cokethorpe on Saturday 10 July. The event was held in the marquee which had been used for Prize Giving the day before. The School received wonderful feedback from the Young Farmers who were thoroughly impressed with Cokethorpe and appreciative of being given use of the marquee.



Sporting Events

Cokethorpe's fantastic facilities were well utilised by the wider community again this term. The School was delighted to play host to a number of sporting events at the highest level including Elite Rugby training sessions; the Rover Oxford National Hockey Festival; the England and Wales Cricket Board's U15 Cricket Cup; the West Oxfordshire U17 Cricket Championships and the U13 Lady Taverners' Cricket Tournament. In addition, the The Downs Cricket Club used the Ducklington pitch as their home ground on alternate Saturdays.

Local MPs

Witney candidates in the 2010 General Election were:

Conservative	David Cameron
Green	Stuart Macdonald
Independent	Aaron Barschak
Independent	Johnnie Cook
Independent	Paul Wesson
Labour	Joe Goldberg
Liberal Democrat	Dawn Barnes
Monster Raving Loony	Howling Laud Hope
UKIP	Count Nikolai Tolstoy
Wessex Regionalist	Colin Bex

Saint George

Saint George is one of the most venerated saints in the Catholic, Anglican, Eastern Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox churches. As such, a large number of Patronages of Saint George exist throughout the world:

Belgium
Brazil
Bulgaria
Canada
England
Georgia
India
Italy
Lebanon
Malta
Ossetia
Palestine
Portugal
Serbia
Spain
United States

St George is also the patron saint of Scouting. On St George's Day Scouts choose to take part in a parade and a special church service, in which they renew their Scout Promise.

NFYFC

The National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs (NFYFC) is one of the largest rural youth organisations in the UK. It heads a nationwide body of 662 Young Farmers' Clubs (YFCs) dedicated to supporting young people in agriculture and the countryside. Led by young people, for young people, YFCs provide their 25,000 members with an opportunity to develop skills, work with their local community, travel abroad, take part in a competitions programme and enjoy a dynamic social life.

ARCH

75 representatives from ARCH held their AGM at Cokethorpe this term. The group, which promotes reading in Oxfordshire, used the School's Corinthian Room and rose garden.

FUNDRAISING

Merlin

Merlin specialises in rebuilding shattered health services and saving lives in times of crisis. The organisation works in the world's most difficult and dangerous environments: in countries ravaged by civil war, blighted by drought, devastated by earthquakes and landslides. Their teams of doctors, nurses and public health specialists stay in place even after the emergency is over to ensure lasting health care services are rebuilt. As a doctor, off on a truly global adventure, Dr Fabes felt it was important to help a charity that delivered such medical aid worldwide. For more information about Dr Fabes's journey, visit www.cyclingthe6.com.

Lands End to John O'Groats

Well done to Mr Forsey who spent two weeks at the end of July cycling the infamous route from Lands End to John O'Groats. He undertook the arduous 874 mile journey in aid of Cancer Research and managed to raise over £1,200 to help solve the issues associated with leukaemia in particular.

Merlin

During the Summer Term, pupils from Year 8 took part in fundraising initiatives to support the medical emergency relief charity, Merlin. Feilden pupils sold ice lollies during breaks and lunchtimes, raising £206 to add to the £117 that thirteen Harcourt pupils had raised when they undertook a 'silent day'. To accompany these events, Dr Steve Fabes, who was taking a break from cycling the length of six continents, visited to talk about his experiences as well as about Merlin, which his cycle ride is also raising money for. His journey will take him through over 50 countries, cycling more than 50,000 miles and is estimated to take five years to complete.



World Challenge Concert

James Ellacott (Year 10, Feilden) arranged a charity concert in The Shed on Friday 2 July. He invited the Wantage Youth Brass Band, the Scholar Cantorum and the Jazz Band to take part and it was a great success, altogether raising £754.20 in aid of World Challenge. James is one of the 24 pupils that are planning to go to India next summer for a World Challenge expedition. They will spend two weeks trekking in the Indian Himalayas followed by five days working in an HIV orphanage. The pupils involved must raise £2,500 to be able to do this and part of the challenge is to achieve this goal without parental support.



COKETHORPE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Forthcoming CPA Events

Sunday 26 September 2010
Car Treasure Hunt
Wednesday 6 October 2010
Annual General Meeting
Saturday 16 October 2010
Murder Mystery Evening
Friday 5 November 2010
Fireworks and Bonfire Extravaganza

CPA Coffee Mornings also take place every Tuesday throughout the Michaelmas Term in the Coffee Shop from 8.30am – 9.30am.

England Football Shirt Raffle

After selling raffle tickets for the opportunity to win a signed England football shirt over the past few months, the CPA drew the winning ticket at the end of the Summer Term. From the hundreds sold, the winning ticket belonged to none other than Morgan Wigham (Upper Sixth, Vanbrugh). A total of £993.00 was raised which has been divided between the CPA and the Cokethorpe sports tours.

Pirate Treasure Hunt

Over 50 Junior School children and their siblings, friends and parents took part in the CPA's Pirate Treasure Hunt in April. The children dressed up in some magnificent pirate costumes as they followed clues around the School grounds, solving puzzles at each location. After discovering where 'X' marked the spot they encountered a bloodcurdling pirate, who made them walk the plank to reach the treasure. There were plenty of drinks and refreshments including pirate gingerbread men and a barbecue. Mrs Cook awarded prizes for the best costumes to Harry Furlong (Reception, Gascoigne) and Alexander Reid (Year 5, Queen Anne).



Classic Car Show

On Sunday 20 June the sun shone and the School grounds looked magnificent for the 150 people who came to Cokethorpe to admire the wide range of classic cars on display and talk to their owners. 34 fathers and 7 children also competed for the high gun in the clay pigeon shooting; James Hook won the competition with nineteen out of a possible twenty clays. Delicious cakes and cream teas were a-plenty and the children had boundless energy as they played on the bouncy castle, jousted and, to cap it all off, took part in a rounders match. It was a quintessentially English fun family day out, which parents and children alike enjoyed.



NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Cokethorpe iPhone App

The School launched its new Cokethorpe 'App' this term. It is understood that this is the first of its kind developed specifically for a school in the UK and it's already proving popular amongst the School's forward-thinking community. Apart from an enjoyable development, the intent is to help people keep up-to-date whilst on the move, and serve as an extension to the School's website.



IAPS

Cokethorpe is delighted to announce that the Head of Junior School, Mrs Cook, became the latest member elected to the Independent Association of Prep Schools (IAPS) this term. Just as membership of HMC is considered the benchmark of excellence for independent senior schools, IAPS is a kitemark of quality for preparatory schools.

Aerial Pictures of School

Some aerial pictures of the School were commissioned during June. With the new Dining Hall and Sixth Form Centre now complete and no major building works planned for the immediate future, it was the perfect time to record and preserve images of the School and grounds as they look today. They also illustrate Cokethorpe's beautiful grounds.

Twitter Profile

Cokethorpe can now be found on Twitter. From his profile, 'HMCokethorpe', the Headmaster posts 'tweets' in the form of news and notices from the School, comments on activities and thoughts on educational matters. Those who use Twitter can 'follow' the Headmaster, however tweets are also available on the home page of the School website.



Changes to Pastoral System

From September a number of changes within Cokethorpe's pastoral care system will come into effect. As well as the creation of a new Lower House, which will consist of Years 7 and 8 and be led by Mrs Pratley, the School will re-name its year groups. Pupils in Lower House will be known as Lower First and Upper First, current Year 9 will become Third Form, followed by Fourth Form, Fifth Form and then Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth.

Past Tweets

17 June 2010

'Pleased to have received a healthy slice of cheesecake from a parent this morning – baking a perfect cheesecake is both an art and a science.'

13 May 2010

'I am delighted to have been invited to join the main committee of SHMIS; one of six Heads from over 100 member schools. Good for Cokethorpe!'

VISITORS

Manor Prep School

In June the School was delighted to welcome 98 children from The Manor Preparatory School. The girls in Years 4 and 5 visited Cokethorpe to watch a performance of Roald Dahl's *The Witches*, performed by Year 7 pupils. In keeping with the theme of the play, the girls first had fun making witches hats, assisted by Sixth Formers.

Open Evening

The Summer Term Open Evening welcomed lots of families joining the School in September, as well as those for whom it was their first visit. Guests

saw the School in action and pupils and staff were keen to demonstrate their work and show guests around. One of the highlights at open events is always the opportunity to try various activities such as science with Mr van Zyl.

Transfer Day

New pupils starting at Cokethorpe in September spent the day at School in June meeting their classmates, teachers, and familiarising themselves with their new surroundings. The day concluded with a tug-of-war competition, spurred on by Sixth Formers.



Visitor Statistics

- 173 children visited Cokethorpe to look around the School and meet The Headmaster during the academic year 2009–2010
- There will be 101 pupils starting School in September who are new to Cokethorpe
- 104 families visited Cokethorpe's main Open Day in October 2009
- Almost all new families request their prospectus via the School's website; approximately 1,680 prospectuses were used in the last academic year

Open Days

The next Open Day will take place on Saturday 9 October, from 9.30am to 12 noon. The Headmaster's Addresses will be at 10.30am and 11.30am.

Prospective parents interested in entry at any age are warmly invited to attend.

Turning Back the Pages

Below are some news items chosen from past issues of *The Bell Tower* and *The Peacock*.

10 Years Ago

- Members of Year 9 competed in the National Poetry Slam held at the Cheltenham Everyman's Theatre. The competition was filmed by the sponsor Telewest. Two Cokethorpe pupils made it through to the final
- The Junior Department launched two collections for their modern day harvest. The children collected art materials for the activity room of Martin House in Yorkshire – a respite care centre for seriously ill children and their families. The second collection involved collecting all types of foreign currency to aid the children of Guatemala City Dump

25 Years Ago

- Miss Grace Hamblin OBE, who for many years was secretary to Sir Winston Churchill, came to talk to a Third Form History set. After Sir Winston's death Miss Hamblin became the first Administrator of Chartwell when it was handed over to the National Trust
- The project to replace the entire roof of the Mansion House began in May. The total estimated cost of the whole project was £250,000, of which English Heritage contributed nearly 40%. The wooden framework of the roof has altered very little since its construction in 1709. Close inspection of some of this material shows that a lot of the wood used in the original roof was second-hand even in 1700

30 Years Ago

- As part of the General Studies programme Lady Antonia Fraser gave a talk entitled 'A biographer in search of a subject'. When asked 'If you had been alive in Charles II's time do you think you would have been attracted to him?' she answered 'I am quite sure I would and hope he would have been attracted to me. With all those other ladies around it would have been dreadful to have been left out!'

35 Years Ago

- The Canoe Club organised a long-distance paddle which raised £190 and enabled them to purchase four canoes and equipment necessary to start the club off

45 Years Ago

- The metric system was introduced in athletics. The adoption of the system resulted in the creation of a series of new School records which were steadily improved upon throughout the season

The History of Computing

The first computer arrived at Cokethorpe in 1983 courtesy of Nicholas Berg (1980, Queen Anne), who brought a Nascom computer kit (pictured below left), and assembled it in the Physics laboratory. Such was the interest in computers that a Computer Club was soon established. There was one computer – a Commodore PET (pictured below middle); with 4k of RAM, a built-in 9" screen and a built-in cassette drive for storage, it was considered state of the art at the time. In 1984 the club welcomed two BBC Model B computers (pictured below right). They were described as 'highly advanced with a total of 64k memory, of which 25k (approximately enough to contain 4,000 words) is used for programming. The BBC has 16 colours, a four channel music synthesiser and high resolution graphics. Each BBC computer has a

disc drive and video output; one a black and white television which is used for programming and the other a large colour monitor which is used for showing programmes to classes'. Four more BBC Model Bs were ordered the following year and thereafter computing became an academic subject, offered as a Fourth Form 'O' Level option. In 1986 word processing was introduced and the Bursar reported: 'On the home front the Bursary is now sporting a computer that not only produces the bills faster than my secretary (if that is possible), but also provides information that is helpful in the general administration of the School'. A wish for a modem was expressed in 1987 which would enable pupils 'to talk to the rest of the world, a facility that will be particularly useful for GCSE. The computer world at Cokethorpe will then be more than just enjoyable!'



Land Girls at Cokethorpe

The Women's Land Army was started in 1939; with war seen as imminent the government realised the need for more food to be grown in Britain and with six million men away at war, women were encouraged to go and work on farms. Cokethorpe housed various so called land girls from 1939 who worked on local farms and at Ditchley Park near Woodstock. Two such land girls, Yvonne Godfrey and Joyce Pimm came to Cokethorpe to talk to Year 4 about their experiences this term. Yvonne had been billeted at Cokethorpe and this was her first time back in over 60 years! She was delighted to see her old bedroom – now a Junior School classroom – and she and Joyce, who had been billeted nearby, gave the children in Year 4 an insight into their experiences.



Additions to the Archive

The School has been fortunate in acquiring an antique Staffordshire four piece blue and white tureen which is thought to date from 1835. Clearly recognisable, Cokethorpe Park is depicted on the saucer of the tureen and the words 'Cokethorpe Park Oxfordshire' are written on the bottom of the saucer.

A large leather-bound bible, measuring 18.5" by 12.5" has also recently been unearthed. The bible, which has over 1600 pages and dates back to 1822, belonged to the Cokethorpe Chapel.

Thank you to Mark Girling (1977, Harcourt) for donating a copy of the 1974 whole School photograph to the Cokethorpe Archives. This had been one of the years which were missing.



THE COKETHORPE SOCIETY

Society Cricket and Hockey

This year's Old Boys' 20/20 cricket match took place alongside the inaugural Old Girls' hockey match on 18 June. Despite the Old Girls putting in a strong performance their opposition, the current 1st VI, took the lead winning 7-1. Meanwhile the Old Boys and the Cokethorpe Cavaliers, made up of current staff, agreed to call it a 'Cokethorpe draw' after rain interrupted play. Both matches finished in time for all four teams, together with those who had been cheering on from the side-lines, to retire to the Coffee Shop to watch the England v Algeria World Cup match on a large screen, while enjoying a barbecue and drinks. The event was most successful and one that the Society plans to repeat next year, with the Old Girls' hockey becoming a regular fixture in the Society calendar.



News and Achievements

Since leaving Cokethorpe in 2009 to pursue a career in music, the Society was delighted to learn that Toby Pugh (Harcourt) has signed a record deal with A&M records, Universal and is currently recording material ready for 2011.

Paul Derow (1996, Queen Anne) undertook his latest fundraising challenge in April, running the gruelling London Marathon. Paul completed the course in 4 hours 17 minutes, a whole 20 minutes quicker than his personal best, and in doing so raised money for the Multiple Sclerosis National Therapy Centres.

Based on his first year exam results and his performance in front of an academic panel, Tim Muller (2009, Vanbrugh), who is reading Medicine at UCL, was one of four to be awarded a prestigious 'Overall Year 1 prize' for his outstanding performance. He was also awarded first prize in the Fluids, Nutrition and Metabolism module.

Having been crowned Miss Oxford earlier this year, Camilla Chia (2005, Queen Anne), is currently competing for the title of Miss England. As *The Ocellus*

goes to print Camilla is one of 60 national finalists taking part in the two-day final at the Hilton in Birmingham from 31 August to 1 September.

Congratulations to two former Cokethorpe pupils who got married this summer. Tom Happé (2003, Swift) and his wife Gemma married on 17 July while Matthew Barber (1999, Harcourt) and Dr Katie Scott celebrated their wedding on 3 July.

The Society sends its congratulations to Professor David Macdonald, former Cokethorpe governor and esteemed academic and biologist, for his appointment as Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the Queen's 2010 Birthday Honours.

After catching up with old friends at the Cokethorpe reunion last year, Laura Francis (2002, Harcourt) travelled to Russia during August to visit Taisia Sharipova (1999, Swift) and Dasha Stenioushkina (2000, Swift) who both live in Moscow. Laura enjoyed exploring the city and catching up on memories from their school days at Cokethorpe.



Society Committee Members

Chairman: Tony Baker (1964)
Treasurer: Tony Baker (1964)
Secretary: Simon Lancaster (1992)
Committee: Charlie Bartlett (2008)
Hannah Brown (2008)
Warwick Daniels (Current Staff)
Peter Green (Former Staff)
Mike Hilder (1967)
Robin Hilder (2008)
Adam Hopcroft (2008)
Izzy Landon (2009)
Thomas Shellard (2008)
James Whittenbury (1992)
David Wood (1965)
Philip Vaughan-Fowler (1976)

Society AGM 2010

This took place on Wednesday 19 May in the Foundation Office accompanied by a buffet and drinks.

Forthcoming Society Events

2010 Leavers' Reunion Dinner

The Cokethorpe Society will host a Reunion Dinner for 2010 leavers on Friday 7 January 2011. Formal invitations have been issued and those wishing to attend should RSVP to the Foundation Office.

Travel Bursary Awards

The Cokethorpe Society conducted interviews for the applicants of the 2010 Travel Bursary this term. Two awards were made to Upper Sixth students about to undertake their gap years: Morgan Wigham (Vanbrugh) who will volunteer as a teaching assistant at a primary school and orphanage in Nairobi and Rebecca Fellows (Vanbrugh) who is going to work in a bear sanctuary in Cambodia, before hoping to read Veterinary Medicine.

Visits From Former Pupils

Amongst those to pass through the doors of their old school this term were Cordell Hadeed (1989, Swift) and Guido Bouvy (1965). Four former pupils, Amy Minch (2008, Vanbrugh), Simon Jess (2003, Swift), Emily Landon (2008, Harcourt) and Izzy Landon (2009, Harcourt), also spent two weeks at Cokethorpe in July helping with the School's Summer Activity Weeks.

Death Announcement

It is with great sadness that the Society reports the death of former pupil Nigel Samuelson (1962, Queen Anne) who passed away on 9 April 2010, aged 65.

Society Contact Details

Email: society@cokethorpe.org
Telephone: 01993 892339

Ave Atque Valet

Miss M E Bastin (Music)

Despite spending a relatively short time at Cokethorpe, Miss Bastin has enjoyed her time immensely and will miss the School. She leaves to take up a post as Assistant Director of Music at Pangbourne College.

Mrs J P Freeston (Photography)

Mrs Freeston started at Cokethorpe in 2001 and leaves to begin an internship at Sotheby's, the renowned fine art auction house in London. Mrs Freeston will miss the pupils and staff a great deal.

Mrs J W Rees (Junior School)

Mrs Rees, who joined the School in 2005, says 'I shall miss many things about Cokethorpe, not least the buzz I got each morning as I came up the drive and thought, wow, I work here!' She will take with her many good memories and wishes Cokethorpe the best for the future.

Mrs J D Ryan (Modern Languages)

After seven years at Cokethorpe, Mrs Ryan leaves having seen the School change dramatically. Mrs Ryan says Cokethorpe 'is a great school and I will leave with lots of good memories. I will miss the lovely setting, the staff and of course the pupils'.



Staff News

Service Awards

Several members of staff were presented with ties or scarves during the Summer Term to mark their service to Cokethorpe School. Mrs Boland, Mrs Walton, Mrs Haste, Mrs Pratley, Mrs Timms, Mr Timms, Mrs Landon, Mrs Legg, Miss Ogilvie, Mrs Rushton, Ms Simpson, Mr Warner and Mrs Edeson received these gifts for 10 years of service and Mr Bowsher for an impressive 25 years.

Hole in One

Congratulations to Mrs Martindale who scored a hole in one during June on the sixth hole at Witney Lakes – a fantastic achievement for a golfer!

A E Uglow (Deputy Head of Sixth Form)

Whilst excited about his new adventure, Mr Uglow admits to being rather sad to leave Cokethorpe. He has thoroughly enjoyed teaching, and, more recently, the opportunity to take the Upper Sixth through their final year. He will take many memories with him including the trips to Lesotho, Washington and Ypres. Talking about the time Mr Uglow has been at Cokethorpe, he says 'the School has developed in numerous ways and I'm certain that its future is very bright'.

D H Williams (Director of Studies)

Mr Williams leaves Cokethorpe after six years as Director of Studies to become Headmaster of Arnold Lodge School in Leamington Spa. With children still in the School his association with Cokethorpe remains and he is looking forward to being on the other side of the table at Parents' Evenings. He will miss colleagues and pupils alike and has relished all that this great school offers.

Sausage Williams

Sausage is delighted with his promotion to Headmaster's Dog, but hopes there will still be a succession of friends at his new school. He will particularly miss Andy and Geoff in the Maintenance Department, his Year 7 lunchtime visitors and the occasional dropped apple core.



Radio Appearance

In May Mr Mullin (Music) was invited onto the Phil Mercer Breakfast Show to review the day's papers. The main topics of discussion were the death of Lena Horne, civil rights activist and one of America's first black singers to appear on television, and how one might spend that week's Euro Millions prize of £45 million. Mr Mullin said that he would give some to the Music Department!

Baby News

Congratulations to Mrs Edeson (History) and her husband on the birth of their third son. Laurence was born on 8 May 2010, weighing 8lb 10oz.

Open Morning

Saturday 9 October: 9.30am – 12 noon

Prospective parents interested in entry at any age are warmly invited to attend. All departments will be open, and there will be refreshments and activities.

For personal visits at other times, for a tour, discussion with the Registrar, Head of Junior School if appropriate, and to meet the Headmaster, please contact the Admissions Secretary, Mrs C Bowerman (01993 703921 or admissions@cokethorpe.org).

Contact Information

Headmaster

Email correspondence with Mr Ettinger (dje@cokethorpe.org) is particularly welcomed during the Headmaster 'Live' hour (8.00–9.00pm, on the first Monday of each month during term time). At other times please contact the Headmaster's Secretary, Mrs P Timms (hmsec@cokethorpe.org or 01993 892325).

Senior Academic Staff

Second Master: K Walton
kw@cokethorpe.org
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