



Cokethorpe  
SCHOOL

# THE OCELLUS

The termly newsletter of our school

## From The Headmaster



With the second edition of the Ocellus in mind, I recently browsed through a second-hand bookshop looking for old school magazines to see what other headmasters had written in their Forewords. The bookshop is one of those ramshackle affairs with boxes of magazines strategically placed to catch the visitor in the shins as he or she gets lost in that wonderful, musty world of old books.

After sorting through several boxes of The Illustrated London News without a whiff of a school magazine – and I was not in pursuit of plagiarism but carrying out genuine research – I came across a pile of odds and ends, and yes, a collection of old school journals. Some were from a school called St Mark's, but any forewords had vanished with the covers except for one of a gowned headmaster, complete with mortar board and bushy moustache who encouraged St Mark's to "carry on the good work." Not much inspiration there!

To my delight I eventually found ten school magazines from the 1920s, and it was fascinating to read most of the forewords before I ran out of time.

After my extensive research I can now say with all confidence -carry on the excellent work Cokethorpe!



# ROUND UP

Contents	Page
From the Headmaster	1
Round up	2
Academic	3
The Sixth Form	4
News	5
The Arts	6
Sport	7
AOB	8
Adventures and Expeditions	8
Visitors	9
Fundraising for Charity	9
The Junior School	10-11
The Cokethorpe Society	12
From the Archives	12
The Parents' Association	13
The Wider Community	14
The School Church	14
Development	15
Tail Feathers	16

## Holiday Projects

### Christmas 2005

Costume department begun – footings, base, steelwork erected, shell up

Five year electrical test on all the appliances in the School

### Lent Half Term

Costume department finished – fittings, electrics, water, fire alarm system, racking & shelving, doors & emergency lighting

Drum room upgraded

LRC walkway netted

Nature trail prepared

Six classrooms painted

Drama studio refurbished

Men's cloakroom facilities improved

Various ongoing maintenance tasks

First phase of shrub planting

Preparation for 'Plant a tree'

**Front Cover:** Careers Convention

## The Cuckoo Clock

The whole of the Junior School had speaking parts and period costumes in this adaptation of Mrs Molesworth's 'The Cuckoo Clock'; a charming story set in Victorian times. A young girl arrives at a strange old house, where all about her seems dark and ancient; including her Great-aunts and the servants.



She encounters a cuckoo who gives her the means of escape into a fantastic landscape.

This was the first Junior School production in The Shed, with its unique staging opportunities, lighting and wonderful acoustics, and it proved to be an exciting and magical event for all involved.



## From the Oxford Times.....

**Damian Ettinger, headmaster of Cokethorpe School, Witney, reflects on the responsibilities an individual has to the community at large**

**I**n between writing end-of-term reports and completing the mountain of paperwork that has accumulated over the busy run-up to Christmas, there is time to take reflect. It is a good moment to take an objective view of the school, to look back over this academic term — from the arrival of new faces, to the magic of last week's House Advent Services — to consider the achievements and disappointments, and to look to the future.

Schools talk of the vital importance of a child's happiness; and at Cokethorpe we see this as meaning that emotional stability and well-being are at the root of good progress and successful fulfilment of potential. When we speak of the development of the whole person, we are offering a vision of wholeness as a vital preparation for a rounded life.

We are implying a distinction between making a living (earning, getting gainful employment) and a life, in its fullest sense. We are distinguishing also between getting a good job and, what is more important, doing a good job.

The latter involves working constructively with others, giving a lead, being honest and dependable, persevering, overcoming disappointments, planning well, and so on. Such qualities and attitudes must be learned both in the home and in the community of the school.

There needs to be a balance between the individual and the community. An individual's talents need to be discovered, developed and used. Individual excellence should be encouraged but competitiveness has to be balanced with a quality of care and encouragement of all.

Talents and success brings responsibilities towards others. Freedom has to be balanced by a sense of belonging together. Pupils should take due satisfaction in their own successes, but equally rejoice in the successes of others and help build up the confidence of those who need it.

Schools can go too far in stressing the importance of individualism, while others go too far in stressing the overriding requirements of the community: the one extreme breeds irresponsible self-centredness, the other bland mediocrity.

There needs to be a balance between freedom and discipline. This applies within academic disciplines as much as in the school community at large.

Indeed, freedom and discipline are mutually opposed, but ultimately mutual pre-conditions.

**Finding the balance . . .**

anything that is important to know. Education must have plenty of room for those bigger questions that need complex answers. Young people must learn how to ask the awkward questions in a cogently argued fashion, if they are to retain and hand on a civilised measure of true freedom.

We should teach young people how to develop a capacity for judgement, evaluation and discrimination, to recognise political waffle and hollow soundbite language when they come across it.

A balance between the intellectual, spiritual, moral, emotional, psychological, social and physical will never be perfectly realised in a community of imperfect people, each with a unique combination of talents.

Yet, it must be an ideal to be striven for and reviewed and corrected and expressed in limitless ways.

This is how I believe we best prepare Cokethorpe pupils for the complexities and balances of their lives, now and in the future.

**The inter-house relay race**

The heights of mathematics, science, literature or music can be reached only on the basis of mastery of the essential disciplines. In the academic life, freedom comes from consistent effort, fidelity to one's subject, correct and accurate communication.

Our young charges are not well-served if we easily bypass true freedom, which comes from obedience, or let them think there are shortcuts to a proper understanding of

**Cokethorpe School, Witney**  
 OX29 7PU  
 Tel: 01993 703921  
 E-mail: admin@cokethorpe.org.uk  
 Web: www.cokethorpe.org.uk



**Stop press:** The second module results have just been published, and again there were 13 A\* grades.

## A Level Theatre Studies

Two plays were presented by the Theatre Studies students - *The Trial* by Franz Kafka (see The Arts page) and *Mercury Fur* by Philip Ridley.

## Mercury Fur

The horrors of annihilation and breakdown of society were captured in a brilliantly self-devised adaptation of Philip Ridley's stage play, *Mercury Fur*, by the A2 Theatre Studies students. Shocking and pessimistic, set in a post-apocalyptic era, the play courted with controversy that was not intended to sit comfortably with its audience but to encourage debate about a world in turmoil.

With recognisable characters that have been put through extreme circumstances trying to preserve some semblance of life as it was, the performance, which also used audio-visual technology, was a testament of the maturity of the six actors: Ernie Simpson, Oliver Nieburg, David Vermeulen, Ben Mallett, Raza Ali and Ryan Kellock. *Mrs Khoo*

## GCSE Biology

The Year 10 Biology Group studying Triple Science took their first modules in January, having started the GCSE course in September, and they were rewarded with superb grades - 13 A\* grades out of 16. Although the Science department does expect the very highest grades from its pupils in the modular science courses, these results exceeded expectations.



## Mock Trial

The A Level Law and psychology students went to Oxford Crown Court to observe barristers in action. They were fascinated by the time-consuming process of extracting evidence. They then went to Oxford Town Hall to use the old court room and carried out a mini trial based on a theft case. All students

had a role to play and entered into the spirit of the legal process.

James Cull played the part of the defendant in the dock on trial for stealing ladies lingerie from a department store. The prosecuting team won the case. There were some fine examples of advocacy from our potential barristers.

## Scholars

For entry to Year 7 in September 2006

### Academic

Teague Bond	Brightwalton PS
Ethan Bosse	St Nicolas PS
Zoe Mace	Cokethorpe
Saman Ridha	Cokethorpe
Lewis Williams	Deddington PS

### Art

Gabriella Evans	European School
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### Sport

Henry Logan	Chandlings Manor
Joshua Poole	Longworth PS
Thomas Wells	Wantage CE PS

**Drama and Music - Assessments will be held in the Summer Term**

For entry to Year 9 in September 2006

### Academic

Sam Ryan	Cokethorpe
Luke Withey	Cokethorpe
Caroline Jenkins	Cokethorpe
Alison Roberts	Prior Park

### Drama

Alex Lawson	St Hugh's
Luke Saunders	Cokethorpe

### Music

Paul Berry	Josca's
Ross McKee	Cokethorpe

### Sport

Daniel Burford	Josca's
Shona Stanley	Cokethorpe
Jacob Wilson	Cokethorpe

### All Rounder

Huw Williams	Cokethorpe
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## Recommendations

### Individuals

Year 7	Alfie Bradstock
Year 8	Sam Ryan
Year 9	Elice Willett
Year 10	Simon Atkinson
Year 11	Megan Hope
Lower VI	Erica Jennison
Upper VI	Raza Ali
<b>Best overall</b>	Elice Willett
<b>Best House</b>	Gascoigne

## Mathematics Challenge

### Gold:

Jerry Jin 78 (Best in School)
Rebecca Herd 72

### Silver:

Simon Jones 70
Ben Neal 66
Tim Muller 64
Thomas Mcloone 61
Jay Amin 60
Charlie Bennett 59
Nick Freeston 58

### Bronze:

Tom Spicer 57
James Winkley 56
Jessica Williamson 55
Amy Minch 53
Tom Le Coyte 52
James Wood 50
Isobel Landon 49
Elspeth Saunders 47
Jessica O'Shea 46

# THE SIXTH FORM

## New Words

An Assembly by Mr Williams that attracted interest this term was on words new to the Oxford English Dictionary. The following is a list of the new word felt best to represent the zeitgeist over the last hundred years. Pupils were challenged to consider what the entry for 2006 will be.

- 1905 peace economy
- 1906 tyrannosaurus
- 1907 Boy Scout
- 1908 Dow Jones
- 1909 jazz
- 1910 wimmin
- 1911 flight-path
- 1912 rinky-dink
- 1913 migrant labor
- 1914 crossword
- 1915 trench fever
- 1916 blimp
- 1917 triple vaccine
- 1918 D-day
- 1919 white collar (adjective)
- 1920 new poor
- 1921 quantum energy
- 1922 yobbo
- 1923 environmentalism
- 1924 nuclear family
- 1925 blind date
- 1926 haute cuisine
- 1927 national lottery
- 1928 boogie-woogie
- 1929 Wall Street Crash
- 1930 Intelligence Service
- 1931 Filofax
- 1932 brown shirt: a Nazi
- 1933 supermarket
- 1934 supernova
- 1935 boondoggle: a trivial undertaking
- 1936 bingo
- 1937 spam
- 1938 private eye
- 1939 tickety-boo
- 1940 Jim Crow: a rooftop spotter of enemy aircraft.
- 1941 daisy-chainer
- 1942 zoot suit
- 1943 Laundromat
- 1944 boot camp
- 1945 cold war
- 1946 Gulag
- 1947 pop single
- 1948 cappuccino
- 1949 aromatherapy
- 1950 McCarthyism
- 1951 fast food
- 1952 spycatcher
- 1953 UFO
- 1954 double helix
- 1955 tikka
- 1956 tax-and-spend
- 1957 the Pill
- 1958 sex kitten
- 1959 Barbie
- 1960 rave (noun)
- 1961 game show
- 1962 bossa nova

*continued*



## Oxbridge

The Master of St Catherine's College, Oxford, Professor Roger Ainsworth, talked to a group of Oxbridge hopefuls.

## United Nations Forum

In March the Sixth Form took part in a United Nations conference in Oxford. Over 100 countries were represented and the Cokethorpe team took the courageous step to represent Iraq.



Jenny Tohill and Tim Hatzis completed a considerable amount of research including learning several Arabic phrases in order to accurately represent their country.

On the day they took part in a series of debates on such issues as global warming and tuberculosis. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day, which so inspired Jenny that she is hoping to take part in the two day follow-up conference at Durham University.

## A Level Subjects

The Sixth Form offers a number of new and diverse subjects that can be started without the need for GCSE first, including Psychology, Law and the highly successful Photography.

## The Role of Head Girl

When I was asked to write about being Head of School, it suddenly dawned on me just how quickly this year has gone.

I can still recall how honoured and excited I was when Mr Ettinger approached me. As the new school year approached, these feelings turned into anxiety, not because I had to speak in front of the whole school but because I was the first female in the role - rightly or wrongly, I felt an added weight of responsibility to the girls of Cokethorpe.

Would I be able to meet the high standards set by previous Heads of School? Initially I found it a challenge to fit my new duties in with an increased academic workload but with the support of Luke Ryan and the other prefects things soon fell into place. The team has remained positive, enthusiastic and supportive throughout the year even when exams and coursework placed additional pressure on their time.

Looking back, the structure I needed to meet the challenges of the role has helped me manage my academic workload. I have undoubtedly benefited from being Head of School and would hope the school agrees. *Helen Davey.*



# THE HOUSES

## Inter-House Cross Country

The Senior School inter-house cross country competition was again run as a relay race, with the addition of a Year 11/ Sixth Form team-member, which helped make the race even more competitive.



## Inter-House Drama

Harcourt was the winner of this keenly contested competition, with Alex Mayhew from Vanbrugh as the individual



winner. Harcourt's production - "The Willow Pattern" by Judith Johnson - is described as "A traditional story in which Knoon pursues her love for Chang against her parents wishes. The play touched on a number of controversial issues including the role of the patriarch in modern culture, responsibility for one's own actions, honour killings, retribution, inter-generation tensions and arranged marriages."



## Vanbrugh House Tree Planting

On a cold March day a group of Vanbrugh House members braved the biting winds and sleet to plant a Western Red Cedar by the entrance to the Chapel.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme initiative to plant trees in the School



grounds was met with excitement as members of Vanbrugh were keen to have a tree planted in their name that would grow, flourish and stand tall for many years to come. The Thuja Plicata tree is renowned for 'its natural beauty and its outstanding physical properties', and it was felt that this was an apt tree for Vanbrugh House.

Although the tree was small, with the care and attention that will be bestowed upon it, Vanbrugh House's Western Red Cedar will stand proudly in the grounds of Cokethorpe School for 100 years or more. The Western Red Cedar also symbolises everything that is anticipated of each Vanbrugh student – to flourish, to stand tall and to have left a significant mark on Cokethorpe School!

## New Words continued

- 1963 machine-washable
- 1964 disco
- 1965 nanny state
- 1966 center fold
- 1967 sleaze
- 1968 Klingon
- 1969 moonwalk
- 1970 Third World
- 1971 gonzo
- 1972 dole queue
- 1973 deconstruct
- 1974 baby boomer
- 1975 refusenik
- 1976 Thatcherite
- 1977 makeover
- 1978 me generation
- 1979 nouvelle cuisine
- 1980 Reaganomics
- 1981 street cred
- 1982 Valspeak: short for 'Valley Speak'
- 1983 theme pub
- 1984 body-popping
- 1985 Prozac
- 1986 to multitask
- 1987 smiley
- 1988 vogueing
- 1989 luvvly jubbly
- 1990 smackdown
- 1991 hotdesking
- 1992 popstastic
- 1993 fashionista
- 1994 dotcom
- 1995 ladette
- 1996 alcopop
- 1997 blamestorming
- 1998 text message
- 1999 ASBO
- 2000 speed dating
- 2001 war on terror
- 2002 SARS
- 2003 freedom fries: an alternative term for 'French fries', chosen by some Americans as a critique of the French protest against the invasion of Iraq.
- 2004 podcasting
- 2005 su doku
- 2006 ??

## Inter House Cross Country

Year group winners	
Sixth Form/Year 11	Vanbrugh
Year 10	Swift
Year 9	Swift
Year 8	Harcourt
Year 7	Gascoigne

Overall winners      Swift

# THE ARTS

## The Plastic Arts

Plastic Arts are those visual arts that involve the use of materials that can be moulded or modulated in some way, often in 3-dimensions. Examples are clay, paint and plaster. Arts that can be said to be Plastic Arts are therefore Painting, Sculpture, Drawing, etc.

The plastic arts may refer to:

- Architecture
- Ceramics
- Land art
- Metalworking
- Paper art
- The use of Plastics within the arts or as an artform itself.
- Sculpture
- Textile art
- Woodworking

Materials that can be carved or shaped, such as stone or wood, concrete or steel are also included in this definition since, with appropriate tools, such materials are also capable of modulation.

This use of the term "plastic" in the arts should not be confused with Piet Mondrian's use, nor with the movement he termed, in French and English, "Neoplasticism."

## Lunchtime Recitals

### GCSE Music Candidates

A range of solo and ensemble pieces by:

*Patricia Birmingham*  
*Felicity Denham*  
*Charlie Krol*  
*Maria Waghorn*  
*James Winkley*

### The Music Scholars

Solo performances ranging from a Mozart Divertimento to a bluesy *Great Balls of Fire* by:

*Duncan Bruce*  
*Jack Frith Powell*  
*Dominic Hagues*  
*Toby Pugh*  
*Emily Sayers*

**Head Chorister** Alexander Sayers

## Drama

*Experiences on being in the cast of the AS Level production of 'The Trial'.*

At the beginning of the Michaelmas term, we started rehearsing for an AS production of Steven Berkoff's adaptation of Franz Kafka's novel 'The Trial'.

The Trial concerns Joseph K, a bank clerk, who is arrested one morning. Before he can catch his breath he is transported into a maddening world of

paper work, disordered order, fear, rules, and procedure and all he is left with is a disorientating sense of helplessness.

The rehearsals were challenging and hard. There were last minute changes, manic lighting re-plotting, and stressful last moment re-organising.

Stepping out into the brightly lit stage, we could not have been more together, focused, and determined. We were a pack, we were comrades and above all, we were friends. *James Cull*



## Music

The major event in the Music Department was the Epiphanytide Concert, the first showcase for Cokethorpe's new range of ensembles.

## Textiles

The Art Department has seen the exciting introduction of textiles into its already varied itinerary. Our specialist textiles teacher Miss Collis has started to weave her influence with the introduction of textiles as a separate GCSE, and plans are afoot to extend this to A Level. GCSE students have produced some outstanding textile pieces for their coursework, including a peacock.

## Art

The Young Enterprise company Masque organised an impressive Art Exhibition during the January Open Evening, with many local artists (including staff and pupils) displaying their talented work.





## Canoeing

Cokethorpe has once again dominated the junior marathon kayak racing in the Waterside and the Thameside Series during the Lent Term. Tim Pearse and Phil Pearse are an unstoppable force winning the shield for the Waterside K2 Junior Men's, gaining first place in each of the four races. Both the Schools' Shield and the Junior Shield went to the Cokethorpe School team which included Tim Pearse, Phil Pearse, Tim Muller, Fred Reif, Lena Beardsell, Ellie Frearson, Ed Brooks and Dominic

Cannon. Lena gained second place in each of the first three races. Ellie and Ed won Thameside I junior mixed and Dom and coach, Ollie Harding, won Thameside II junior/veteran.

Congratulations to Lena Beardsell for being selected for the National Junior Squad of kayak sprinters.

Four of the team (Tim, Phil, Tim and Ed) are being prepared physically and mentally for the gruelling 125 mile, four day Devizes to Westminster race scheduled for the Easter Weekend.



## Matches Played

In the Lent Term a record number of matches were played - over 180 rugby, soccer, netball and cross country school matches, 200 including House matches.

## Equestrian Successes

The Cokethorpe School Equestrian Team, the Cokethorpe Chasers, goes from strength to strength, and we hope to report some successes next term.

In the meantime William Goodhew in Year 9 is firmly on the path towards winning a place in the Junior European eventing team to represent Britain.



## Pride of Place

All netball and soccer teams have shown determination and improvement but pride of place goes to the younger teams in both sports.



## County/National Honours

### Rugby

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

### Soccer

Reading FC	James Amer
Chelsea FC	Jordan Tabor
County	Ryan Trill

### Tennis

Nationally	Benedict Calnan ranked fourth
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### Hockey

Abigail Berger
Isabelle Evans
Isobel Landon
Shona Stanley

### Canoeing

GB National	Lena Beardsell Squad
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## Colours awarded

### Full Colours

Netball:	Lucy Happé Helen Davey
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Soccer:	Luke Ryan Ernie Simpson
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### Half Colours

Netball:	Megan Hope
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Soccer:	Raza Ali
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## Captains for 2006

### Soccer

Captain	Brin Gleeson
Vice Captains	Rubehn Enjily Ollie Berger

### Netball

Captain	Megan Hope
Vice captain	Fay Davidson

## AOB

AOB is our activities hour at the end of each day.

## AOB Competition

How many words can you find that contain the letters AOB (in any order)?

There are two sections:

1. Words up to 6 letters long (chocolate to the winner)
2. Words with an unlimited number of letters (a bottle of wine to the winner)

Replies to the editor please at [registrar@cokethorpe.org](mailto:registrar@cokethorpe.org) by Friday 26 May.

## Clay Pigeon Shooting

In the Western Region Clay Pigeon Shooting Championships James Nettlefold came 1st equal in the Under 14 section, 6th overall and 4th in the father and son competition. George Millin was 7th overall and 3rd in the father and son section. Overall the team came 6th out of 11 teams.



## Handbags

Twenty girls from year seven have spent their Friday afternoon AOB time in the handbag-making club. We spent the first few lessons looking at hundreds of types of bags and sketching our ideas,



then buying fabric and things to decorate them with. We all kept a scrapbook of our ideas and samples of materials. Most of the bags were hand-sewn but some of the bigger ones were done with a machine. What was really lovely was how different everyone's bags were, and how different they looked with beading, flowers and other decorations.

On the last session Mr Maskery and Mr Williams came to judge the bags. The best effort prize went to Georgia Hodge and the best overall prizes went to Tish Cookson and Jess Green.

*by Sophia May and Jess Wulff*

# ADVENTURES AND EXPEDITIONS

## Army Cadet Training

### Weekend training in the Lent Term:

- training and skills competitions
- day's shooting at the Otmoor range
- assault courses
- first aid and drill

### Field Weekend - June

- skills of leadership
- signals and radio operation
- shooting
- observation
- escape and evasion

### Two Week Summer Camp

- tactical exercises
- adventure training
- flight in a military helicopter

### D-Day celebrations - Normandy

- four official parades

## Geography Field Trip - Year 12

We enthusiastically descended on Buxton in Derbyshire. On the second



day we were wrapped up warm on the lower course of Grinds Brook in the Peak District national park. I think most of us relished being in the British wilderness. We investigated the characteristics of a river at different points on its course. Grinds brook led us to the top of a snow-roofed plateau and a frozen river source and we returned 5 hours later after seeing some phenomenal scenery - a truly memorable and vitally informative trip. *Timotheos Hatzis*

## ACF – Cokethorpe Detachment

The Cokethorpe Detachment of the ACF has had a change of direction during the Lent term. Under the leadership of Lt Lowe and under the blanket of darkness on Friday afternoons, the Cokethorpe grounds have been transformed into an arena of orienteering and escape and evasion exercises. With a contingent of Officer Cadets from Shrivenham acting as the enemy, our cadets have practiced their skills of stealth and observation in bases throughout the grounds such as Walton's Quad, Marchbank Meadows and Daniel's Dip which lie on either side of Fenton Way, formally known as the exit driveway.





# VISITORS

## Open Evening

Our experimental Open Evening attracted more visitors than previous Lent Term Open Mornings, with many enthusiastic comments about the



magical and theatrical atmosphere. It certainly showed the School in a different light and judging by the influx of pupils from other schools at the end of the school day the timing appealed to many.



## Careers Convention

The Careers Convention took place on the first day of Spring. With 44 Stands in the Sports Hall and two talks in The Shed, students from Years 9-12 had plenty of opportunity to explore career ideas and investigate courses. In the Sports Hall the atmosphere was buzzing, with a wide variety of businesses represented. Many thanks to all.



## Visiting Speakers

### February

Nigel Jones  
*'Swimmers into Cleanness Leaping'*

Colonel Michael Hickey  
*'The Gallipoli Expedition'*

Janice Hadlow  
*'The BBC and its role in public service broadcasting'*

### March

Professor Anthony Slin  
*'Masterpieces of the 20th Century'*

Professor John Knight, St Edmund's Hall  
*'China: The Next Economic Superpower?'*

# FUNDRAISING FOR CHARITY

## Junior School

The Young Mencap Awards were recently launched in recognition of



young people's efforts in helping others understand learning disability. Zoë Mace is the winner of the first Young Mencap Award.

## Senior School

This term Year 9 have been looking at disability. After an awareness seminar students organised an awareness day. Some used crutches whilst others imitated periods of blindness. The impact on the students was remarkable

and it was their determination that came to the fore, evoking far more than sympathy. The rest of the school community also participated well.

Next term there will be the Year 7 sponsored sleep-out for homelessness and a further Year 9 Disability Day culminating in a mini paralympics.

## Marie Curie Cancer Care

For the past 4 years, pupils at Cokethorpe have taken part in the 'Daffodil Campaign' raising money for Marie Curie Cancer Care. This year the collection was organised by Mark Thompson (year 10)



## Marie Curie Cancer Care

Established in 1948 – the same year as the NHS – Marie Curie Cancer Care is now one of the UK's largest charities.

it provides care to around 25,000 people with cancer every year, along with support for their families.

Its services are free of charge to patients and their families, which means that in 2006-07, it will need to raise more than £100 million.

Financially, around 70 per cent of the charity's income comes from the generous support of thousands of individuals, membership organisations and businesses, with the balance coming from the NHS.

The daffodil is the emblem of Marie Curie Cancer Care. Every March we run the Great Daffodil Appeal, with street collections and other fundraising events nationwide.

# THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

## The Junior School Council

### Gascoigne

Jordan Cross and Issac Staff

### Queen Anne

Saman Ridha and Louis Wallen

### Harcourt

Lucy Furneaux and Zoe Mace

### Swift

Dominic Lucey and Amy Williams

### Vanbrugh

Harry Fellows and Rory Pickford

### Feilden

Freddie Harding and Alfie Turner



## Prizewinners for the term

1JR	Matthew Jobling
2WF	Jamie Langford
3RO	David Mallett
4MM	Jason Cardy
4LO	Harry Blake
5GMHJ	Joshua McKenney
5MOC	Elizabeth Ferrier
6JD	Matthew Taylor
6HL	Charlotte Ferryman

## The Eagle

The Eagle  
King of birds  
Never fails to catch its prey.  
Claws like daggers plunging,  
Magnificent wings like  
A swift boomerang  
Gliding through the dark sky.

When this beast is hungry,  
Any creature beware.  
As he soars in the air  
And then aims for the prey.  
Suddenly he swoops down,  
His hunger like a starved slave.  
In a few seconds he's a spear  
Of war approaching its victim,  
Then it's over.  
His beak piercing its prey,  
Devouring it slowly  
He flies on proud,  
After all he is the King of Birds.

GT Svanikier 6JD

## Lunchtime Recital

Junior School pupils performed at their own Lunchtime Recital in The Shed.



## Meet the Trees

Pupils enjoyed a visit from The Harcourt Arboretum Education Programme.



## Declamation Evening

Nearly 50 Junior School Pupils took part in our Declamation Competition. They had been selected for their clear delivery and expression, and performed with real professionalism on the night. The evening began with Aisha Simon reading The Charge Of The Light Brigade by Tennyson with great clarity and fervour, and Freddie Harding adopting a fantastic accent to deliver Leaving Home by Gervaise Phinn.

We were amazed at the children's ability to learn their poems by heart, especially Jabberwocky the nonsense poem by

Lewis Carroll. The audience were also charmed by AA Milne's The King's Breakfast by Year 5 pupils complete with a costumed cow! The poems written by the children themselves showed an amazing use of language. The evening was rounded off by a range of French poems in excellent accents!

The task of the judges (Mr Walton, Mrs Dent and Mrs du Feu) was extremely difficult but after much deliberation they concluded that the competition's overall winners were GT Svanikier reciting his own poem The Eagle, and Dominic Lucey performing Roald Dahl's The Crocodile. Both were just brilliant!



# THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

## Soccer



The under 9s have had a fantastic season, remaining unbeaten. They have won 8 and drawn 2, winning the Hatherop Castle tournament in style. Cameron Hughes has captained the team well, he has been backed up with superb performances from Charlie

### Individual Achievements

Congratulations to champion swimmers Finn Dawkins, Harry Austin and Keiran



### World Book Day

The Junior School pupils spent the day dressed up as their favourite fictional characters. There were some wonderful costumes and a huge amount of effort had been made by children and parents.



## Cross Country



Dunmall, Ollie Cookson, Henry Plumridge, Christian Ettinger, Harry Austin, Harry Blake and Jason Cardy. Overall there was a great goal difference of 33 goals scored and 9 conceded. This team has massive potential for the future.

Husband, and the current World Champion at Pooh Sticks Harry Norton-Shaw.



### Trips and Visitors

Trips included the Corinium Museum and the Windmill Theatre (Year 4), and Witney Hospital (Year 6). Visitors included Mexicolore (Aztec History - Year 6) and Arty-Fact Theatre Company.

## Term Dates for 2006-2007

### Michaelmas Term 2006

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

### Lent Term 2007

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

### Summer Term 2007

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

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## World Book Day - Winners

1JR	Ruby Plumridge
2WAF	Class Prize
3RO	Cate de Buriatte-Moglia
4MM	George Hooper
4LO	Beth Stanley
5MOC	Jessie Grimwade Polly Chilton-Murphy
5GMHJ	Josh McKenney
6JD	Oswin Hughes
6HL	Izzy Berger

# THE COKETHORPE SOCIETY

## The Committee

Chairman: James Whittenbury  
([james@whittenbury5064.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:james@whittenbury5064.freeserve.co.uk))  
Treasurer: Tony Baker  
Secretary: Simon Lancaster  
Warwick Daniels  
Peter Green  
Mike Hilder  
Alex Whittenbury

## Cokethorpe Cufflinks

The School's Young Enterprise company, Masque, has commissioned some Cokethorpe cuff-links – extremely attractive gold peacocks on a black background. Cost £15. email [masque\\_YE@yahoogroups.com](mailto:masque_YE@yahoogroups.com)

## Cokethorpe Wine

The School has commissioned a limited edition of its own label wine from the Chiltern Valley Vineyard, which was founded by former Cokethorpe pupil David Ealand. Please contact the Headmaster's Secretary for details. ([pbt@cokethorpe.org](mailto:pbt@cokethorpe.org))

[www.chilternvalley.co.uk](http://www.chilternvalley.co.uk)

**AGM:** The AGM was held in early March at The Bell in Ducklington. This is a vital part of the Society's life and it was a very enjoyable event. Recently it has been asked what the Society is for: originally it was set up to be a continuing link between former pupils and the School, so as to be able to offer help if it was needed at any point. This includes purchasing the Chapel for the School, and various refurbishments thereafter.

**Chapel Organ:** It was decided at this year's AGM to make funds available for the purchase of a suitable organ for the Church. (See School Church.)

**Membership:** I would encourage all former pupils, and current pupils as they leave, to join. Furthermore I would encourage former pupils to update their details on the website so that they can receive details of future events. The School generously supports our events and I would like to see numbers grow both with players and spectators. They are for all to come and see the changes to the school and catch up with alumni.



**Football:** The Annual football match was held in March. The turn-out was not up to the usual standard but an Old Old Pupils side competed against the Young Old Pupils, the older side managing to run away with a comfortable win.

**Future Events:** A cricket match against a staff and pupils team will be played in the summer term. This will be an increased event with the new Astro turf tennis courts being made available so families can play, socialise and see the School. Please log onto the former pupils link of the School website.

*The Chairman*

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

### Alex

"My school days were very enjoyable - I was a bit daunted when I first arrived, having been at an all girls school for 12 years it was a bit of a shock being the only girl in my year. However, I got over this quite quickly and had a great time. I am still great friends with the majority of my class and see them on a regular basis."

### James

'School Days, the best days of your life.' They certainly were for making friends, and many are still my best friends (and godparents to our children). Cokethorpe was very different in our era. The facilities are now first rate - Astro turf pitches, and tennis courts (24 of them). Oh to be there now!! It was predominantly boarding when I arrived in 1986, with around 130 pupils. The camaraderie and competition was huge. Everybody ran the Cross Country - the headmaster, David Goldsmith, thought it was Character Building. When we see our old friends it is as though it was only yesterday. Wonderful days."

### Recent Archives

James Whittenbury and Alexandra Mavroleon are the first Cokethorpe married couple. They were married in 2001 at St Michaels Church, Blewbury in Oxfordshire. Alex was a pupil at the

school from 1992 to 1994 and James from 1986 to 1992. They did not actually meet at school however, but James's younger brother, William, was in Alex's class and house, Harcourt. They have 2 children, Tom (3) and Emma (10 mths).



# THE COKETHORPE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

## Events

After the hectic first term, the Lent term seems quiet in comparison. Behind the scenes, however, the committee has been preparing for the summer term.

### The Talent Show

We shall hit the Summer term running, or singing or dancing, with the very

popular Talent Show - T3. This year promises to be even better with considerable attention to the sound and lighting systems. Once again, the competition will be judged by exceptionally talented judges who will award prizes in four categories: band, song and dance, solo and duet as well as one overall winner of the evening.



**The Peacock Ball:** Preparations are well under way with help from the sixth form leavers in choosing the theme and decoration. The fabulous six piece band, Manhattan nights, will play until 1.30am while Lynch Caterers will serve a four course dinner plus coffee.

**Fireworks Evening:** On Friday, 3 November we hope to hold our first ever Fireworks display set to music. This relies on a PA or sound system that

the CPA would like to lease on a yearly basis for the school's Music and Drama departments as well as CPA events.

**Wine Bluff:** Watch for more details of our 'Wine Bluff' evening being planned for the beginning of the new academic year, where new parents have a chance to mix with the 'Old Timers' in the lively and fun atmosphere of a 'Wine Bluff' – tasty (wine and food), interesting and very entertaining.



## Purpose

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

## Committee

Chairman: Diana Cannon  
([dianacannon@miltonhouse.fsworld.co.uk](mailto:dianacannon@miltonhouse.fsworld.co.uk))  
Vice Chairman: Ruth Wigham  
Secretary: Sally Harding  
([sharding@ocvc.ac.uk](mailto:sharding@ocvc.ac.uk))  
Treasurer: David Highton

Damian Ettinger Sue Furneaux  
Valerie Krol Gina Lodowski  
Peter Lodowski Linda Mace  
Siobhan Sargent Jane Stevens  
Mark Stewart Caroline Taylor  
Jonathan Taylor

## Forthcoming Events

Open Evening Wednesday 3 May  
Talent Contest Saturday 6 May  
The Peacock Ball Saturday 8 July  
Wine Bluff Friday 30 September  
Fireworks Evening Friday 3 November  
(and the Cokethorpe Cookbook!)

## Cokethorpe Cookbook

The cookbook is ongoing, but very slowly. Every family is asked to submit at least one favourite recipe to be included in the book. This will produce a varied and tempting collection of Cokethorpe Recipes that would help to raise money for the many possible, extra-curricular projects of the school.

## The Peacock Ball

The Peacock Ball, the pinnacle of the Parents' Association calendar, is set in the picturesque grounds in front of the Mansion House, giving a perfect photo opportunity for groups of friends or individuals to be captured by our professional photographer, Mark Bassett. Tickets may be booked as tables (eight or ten) or as couples that will be matched to similar year groups.

# THE WIDER COMMUNITY

## The History of Scouting

Lord Robert Baden-Powell of Gilwell (1857-1941) was a decorated soldier, talented artist, actor and free-thinker. Best known during his military career for his spirited defense of a small South African township during the Boer War, he was propelled to extraordinary fame as the Founder of Scouting. He had been impressed during the siege at how boys had used their initiative under pressure. In 1907 he held an experimental camp on Brownsea Island, Poole, Dorset. He brought together 20 boys from diverse backgrounds and put them into camp under his leadership. The whole world now knows the results of that camp. Scouting for Boys was published in 1908 in six fortnightly parts at 4d a copy. Sales of the book were enormous and boys soon formed themselves into Scout Patrols. What was intended as a training aid for existing organizations became the handbook of a new and, ultimately, worldwide Movement. B-P's great understanding of young people obviously touched a fundamental chord both in this country and others.

## Oliver!

A magnificent production of *Oliver!* by the local Stagecoach company took place in The Shed during half-term. A number of Cokethorpe pupils took part and many others from other schools, and audiences from the local community totalled 600. The director, Robin Martin-Oliver, has become a most welcome professional judge for School productions.



## Ultimate Frisbee

The heats of the National Universities Ultimate Frisbee Championships were held at the School in March. Cokethorpe hosted the finals last year but protocol

dictates that the finals should be held in the North of England this year. This year's organisers presented Cokethorpe with a signed copy of the sport's history, in recognition of the School's continued support for the event.



# THE SCHOOL CHURCH

## The Wyvern Organ - Technical Data

### General:

Three 61 note manuals, 32 note radiating concave pedalboard.  
Three expression pedals.  
6 general pistons & cancel.  
6 pistons & cancel to Great & Pedal, 6 pistons & cancel to Swell.  
6 pistons & cancel to Choir.  
6 Piston memories.  
Setter piston.  
General cancel piston.  
Reeds off piston.  
Midi switches On/Off Pedal Great Swell & Choir  
Audio: Toc II 6 x 50 watt, 11 speakers.  
Toc III 8 x 50 watt, 13 speakers.

### Dimensions:

Width 143cm.  
Height 120cm.  
Depth 70cm.  
Depth inc. pedalboard 98cm.  
Total weight 205kgs

## Easter Message from the Chaplain

The Lent Term is always quite busy for the church. We have 'Shrove Tuesday', Ash Wednesday and of course the big decision as to what to give up or indeed take on for Lent.

We start our Confirmation classes and prepare ourselves for the Episcopal visit of Bishop Colin, this year, on the 21st May. I always find the confirmation service at St Mary's very moving and humbling. The confirmations, some 12 students this year, convince me that some of the message about the relevance of our faith in Christ is hopefully getting through. *Roy Turner*

## New Organ

The Cokethorpe Society has made the magnificent decision to buy an organ for the School Church. This is described by the manufacturers as:

"A truly versatile organ with a choice of floating Positive or Choir that can be played on any manual and pedalboard. Detailed recordings have been made of

individual stops taken from renowned pipe organs. Analysis of the sampled stops have enabled us to faithfully store the nature and timbre of the original in the organ memory. Powerful memories and dramatically faster processors allow swift data processing, creating a degree of realism hitherto thought impossible. Although the voicing is unashamedly British, an in built personal controller incorporates voicing tools that allow the organist to change the sound character to suit personal preferences. It can be set up as three different organs – in addition to the romantic specification, it can also be set up with French or Baroque alternatives."



# DEVELOPMENT



## Tree Planting

Although the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme Nature Trail is not part of the School's official Development Plan, it is having such an impact on the site that it deserves mention. The project is going



well with 116 trees planted this term. Bird boxes have been designed and made by the pupils and will be fixed to specific trees next term. The pond is still in the planning stages and awaiting funds to start. The meadow land is growing and wild plants are to be planted over Easter. The wildlife viewing sheds are also in the planning stages.

The woodland trail is in its very early stages but will progress dramatically next term with the summer growth.

## Fiftieth Anniversary Celebrations

There will be a series of reunion dinners, concerts, lectures, fireworks, sporting and other events throughout the year. These will be principally at the School, to make full use of the beautiful grounds and facilities, with the possibility of regional get-togethers.

## Astroturf Pitches

The Astroturf pitches - Aston and Harcourt - have been completed on schedule ready for the Summer Term. One pitch will be used for summer hockey-coaching and the other for tennis (twelve magnificent courts).



## The Future

Despite an extensive search a suitable site for the Junior School has not been found, so relocation is now unlikely, at least in the foreseeable future. Improving and extending the Sixth Form facilities cannot however wait, and revised plans are being drawn up for temporary facilities in the first instance (by September, subject to planning permission) and for permanent facilities thereafter.



## Development Priorities

The Sixth Form  
The Junior School  
The Arts  
Sporting Facilities

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## Completed

The Arts (stage 1) – The Shed  
Sporting facilities (stage 1) – Astroturf pitches  
Sporting facilities (stage 2)  
– enhancement of subsidiary sports (wall-climbing, clay-pigeon shooting, paddling)

## Revised Priorities

The Sixth Form  
The Arts (stage 2)  
Reallocation of space  
The Junior School relocation

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## Astroturf Pitches Statistics

Fence - 3240 m of line wire

Perimeter drains - 540 m

Lateral drains - 1800 m

Stone - 10900 tons

Sand - 350 tons

Pitch and central area - 13700 sq.m.

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## Woodland Protection

For further information about woodlands, both national and local, the following websites might be of interest:

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk)

[www.fwag.org.uk](http://www.fwag.org.uk)

[www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

[www.english-nature.org.uk](http://www.english-nature.org.uk)

[www.forestry.gov.uk](http://www.forestry.gov.uk)

[www.ccw.gov.uk](http://www.ccw.gov.uk)

[www.ancient-tree-forum.org.uk](http://www.ancient-tree-forum.org.uk)

[www.treecouncil.org.uk](http://www.treecouncil.org.uk)

## Vale



## Geoff Collins

Geoff came to Cokethorpe for a term in January and we say goodbye to him now, with many grateful thanks for tiding us over so well in the DT department. Geoff's background is in state education, starting in the East end of London in 1967 and teaching most recently at Rickmansworth School where he was Head of DT for 12 years. He has failed to retire several times, and is planning not to do so again!

## Ave Atque Vale



## Andrew Purdie

Andrew arrived in February to teach Mathematics, leaving behind the New Zealand summer and trading it for the end of the English winter. He grew up on a deer farm, went to boarding school and then university in the South Island. He taught for two years in New Zealand and a further two years in England, travelling during the holidays. He takes a keen interest in all sports, mainly rugby, but also enjoys cricket and golf.

## Arthur Edeson

We congratulate Mrs Sophie Edeson and her husband Ruben on the recent arrival of Arthur Caspar.

## Mark Shingleton

Mark came to Cokethorpe in January as Head of Business Studies and Queen Anne Housemaster, having previously been at a Catholic sixth form college in West London for 8 years. As Head of Division he was responsible for 13 tutor groups and 250 students. He has been appointed Head of Sixth Form from September, an appointment that will enable him to build on his experience of working with 16-19 year olds.

Since arriving at Cokethorpe Mark has been particularly impressed with the quality of relationships which exist between staff and students and with the energy and dynamism of students and staff alike. Indeed, the opportunities available to students at Cokethorpe are



## Ollie Harding

Ollie joined us this term as Head of Boats. As well as coaching our paddlers to continued success he runs his own design business, combining this with his interests of kayaking and running.



ones which he is sure are the envy of many other schools.

Mark is married with two children under four who take a lot of his time and energy, but he still finds the time to go running several times a week, which he describes as his main indulgence.



## Open Evening Wednesday 3 May 4.00pm to 7.00pm

Prospective parents interested in entry at any age are warmly invited to attend, particularly those interested in entry to the Sixth Form or the Junior School.

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

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

For personal visits at other times, for a tour, discussion with the Registrar and to meet the Headmaster, please contact The Admissions Secretary, Karen Herbert (01993 703921 or [admin@cokethorpe.org](mailto:admin@cokethorpe.org)).

## Photographs

Copies of most photographs printed in this newsletter are available from the Registrar ([registrar@cokethorpe.org](mailto:registrar@cokethorpe.org)).

The photographs on the Parents' Association page were taken by Mark Bassett.

## Contacts

### Headmaster

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

[dje@cokethorpe.org](mailto:dje@cokethorpe.org)

At other times please contact The Headmaster's Secretary: 01993 892325 or [pbt@cokethorpe.org](mailto:pbt@cokethorpe.org).

### Senior Staff

Second Master K Walton

[kw@cokethorpe.org](mailto:kw@cokethorpe.org)

Director of Studies D H Williams

[dhw@cokethorpe.org](mailto:dhw@cokethorpe.org)

**Housemasters and Housemistresses**  
Feilden

Miss P S M Townsend

[psmt@cokethorpe.org](mailto:psmt@cokethorpe.org)

Gascoigne

C Maskery

[cm@cokethorpe.org](mailto:cm@cokethorpe.org)

Harcourt

G J Rees

[gjr@cokethorpe.org](mailto:gjr@cokethorpe.org)

Queen Anne

M C Shingleton

[mcs@cokethorpe.org](mailto:mcs@cokethorpe.org)

Swift

Mrs C I Phillips

[cip@cokethorpe.org](mailto:cip@cokethorpe.org)

Vanbrugh

Mrs J L Pratley

[jlp@cokethorpe.org](mailto:jlp@cokethorpe.org)

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[www.cokethorpe.org.uk](http://www.cokethorpe.org.uk)

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