

the STOLIC

Stowe School 2009/2010

*James Larter in
BBC Young
Musician
of the Year*

Percussion Final

1st XV Reach RBS Daily
Mail Cup Semi-Final

School Rugby taken to new
heights in the 2009-10 season

*Mother Courage
& Her Children*

Senior Congreve 2009 Review

WALPOLE WINS THE COLDSTREAM CUP

*"The weeks leading up to the Coldstream
Cup were the most demanding and
strenuous I have ever experienced"*

Stowe



For all things Porsche.

Breathtaking design, innovative engineering and a virtually limitless number of options to choose from.

Contact us about the Porsche range including our Porsche Approved used cars.

Prepare to be inspired.

Call **01327 438041** or visit www.porsche.co.uk/silverstone



PORSCHE

Porsche Centre Silverstone

Old Tiffield Road
Towcester
Northamptonshire
NN12 6PF
info@porschsilverstone.co.uk

Porsche Centre Silverstone are proud to support Stowe School Cricket Team

Mr James Peppiatt



When I first arrived at Stowe for interview on a bright and crisp February day in 2009 I was struck, like so many others, by the sheer magnificence of the buildings and surrounding grounds. In his Speech Day address this year, the Headmaster spoke of Stowe as ‘an iconic brand...with its numerous temples, grottoes, lakes and cascades that adorn the garden’. And this is, of course, what is conjured up in the minds of most people when you mention Stowe – a quite stunning and privileged environment in which to teach, learn and pursue the myriad of activities on offer in a boarding school of this size and calibre.

But in his address, the Headmaster also spoke of Stowe as ‘a community that pulsates with energy, promise, hope and possibilities’, and it is this side of Stowe that I hope comes across in the 2009-2010 edition of *The Stoic*. For however spectacular the surroundings, any school as a whole is only as successful as the accomplishments of the individuals within it; while this is indeed, architecturally and aesthetically, an exceptional place to live and work, it is the talents and achievements of the pupils and staff that are celebrated and emphasised in these pages. What I hope also comes through, as Isabella and Laura mention on the right, is the sense of community spirit and regard for others that permeates throughout the School: by no means a given in this type of environment, and an ethos that is developed and ingrained only through the altruism and conscious effort of all involved.

And this magazine would not, of course, have been produced without the tireless energy and hard work of so many people. My thanks, firstly, to all members of staff who have put so much time and effort into producing copy and photographs, and putting up with my increasingly terse requests when submissions were (very rarely...) ‘unavoidably delayed’. A huge thank you also to the pupils on the Editorial Team, pictured right – I do hope you enjoyed taking part in the production of this magazine, and I am enormously grateful for all your efforts. I must also thank Tim Scarff, Stowe’s Marketing and Old Stoic Director, whose advice in terms of design and publication has been invaluable. The real heroine of the piece, however, has been Angela Bartlett at MCC Design: it is her creativity and eye for detail, employed over countless hours, which have given this magazine such a professional and polished finish. My heartfelt thanks for your good-natured and patient approach throughout.

Without further ado, then, I hope you enjoy reading *The Stoic* 2009-10, and that it provides you with a greater insight into the rich and vibrant community that is Stowe School.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'James Peppiatt'.

James Peppiatt, Editor

The Editorial Team writes:

All of us on the Editorial Team have immensely enjoyed the opportunity not only to edit, but to produce a ‘new look’ *Stoic* magazine. It has been a combined effort from nine pupils in the Fifth Form to the Upper Sixth, with invaluable guidance from Mr Peppiatt. For the past year, we have all enjoyed working alongside each other, notwithstanding a few minor disagreements along the way...

We hope this *Stoic* reflects all the remarkable aspects of Stowe, including a range of activities from the arts to the sports field. As well as showing both the achievements and talent which the pupils embody, our objective was to portray the sense of community within the School. The idea of ‘giving something back’, which was pursued by this year’s Prefect Body, effectively reflects the School coming together to achieve an aim that has at its heart the community, rather than the individual. Events such as James Larter reaching the finals of the BBC’s *Young Musician of the Year 2010* and the 1st XV appearance in the semi-final of the Daily Mail Cup show what successes can be achieved through not only the dedication of the individual, but also the unified support of both pupils and staff alike.

On behalf of the Editorial Team, we should like to thank Mr Peppiatt and everyone else who has contributed to this year’s *Stoic*. Happy reading!

Isabella Cameron (U6th, Queen’s) and Laura Carey (U6th, Queen’s), on behalf of the Editorial Team



Editorial Team 2009-2010

Left to right: Lucy Milburn, Francesca Lockton, Nicole Banks, Max Sanderson, Daniella Allard, Mr James Peppiatt, Mike Gutkins, Laura Carey, Ed Borland and Isabella Cameron

the STOIC

Stowe School 2009/2010

ON THE COVER...

- BBC YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR** 91
James Larter (Temple) in Percussion Final
- 1ST XV REACH RBS DAILY MAIL CUP SEMI-FINAL** 124-125
School Rugby taken to new heights in the 2009-10 season
- MOTHER COURAGE AND HER CHILDREN** 98-99
Senior Congreve 2009 Review
- WALPOLE WINS THE COLDSTREAM CUP** 114
Mr Last's men achieve success for the second year running



ACADEMIC

- SPEECH DAY** 04-10
- VALETE** 11-15
- FEATURE: ANNIE NICHOLS** 16
- ACADEMIC REPORT** 17
- PREFECTS' REPORT** 18
- FEATURE: 'MOVEMBER'** 19
- CREATIVE WRITING: 'MOTHER OF US ALL'** 20

OLD STOICS

- FROM THE CHAIRMAN / DATA CENSUS UPDATE** 21
- MICHAEL DEELEY'S LIFE IN CULT MOVIES** 22
- I ROWED ACROSS THE ATLANTIC AND THEN CLIMBED EVEREST** 22
- OLD STOIC SPORTS** 23
- AMANDA SEYMOUR'S SAHARAN MARATHON** 24
- WILL KEMBLE-CLARKSON'S MONGOL DERBY** 24
- OS EVENTS REVIEW** 25
- FEATURE: LEAVERS' BALL** 26
- GALLERY: 'STACKED'** 27

HOUSES

- BRUCE** 28-29
- CHANDOS** 30-31
- CHATHAM** 32-33
- COBHAM** 34-35
- GRAFTON** 36-37
- GRENVILLE** 38-39

- LYTTELTON** 40-41
- NUGENT** 42-43
- QUEEN'S** 44-45
- STANHOPE** 46-47
- TEMPLE** 48-49
- WALPOLE** 50-51
- FEATURE: THE NEW ART SCHOOL** 52
- CREATIVE WRITING: 'A TALE OF TWO LOVERS'** 53
- FEATURE: THE DAVID WYNNE COLLECTION** 54
- GALLERY: 'SUBWAY NEW YORK' / 'TOKYO' / 'IMAGE AND TEXT'** 55

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

- DEBATING / THE XX GROUP** 56
- ARS LONGA, VITA BREVIS SOCIETY (ALVB) / THE ANACREON SOCIETY** 57
- THE BIOMEDICAL SOCIETY** 58
- BUSINESS STUDIES / THE CLASSICAL SOCIETY** 59
- GEOGRAPHY** 60
- CURRENT AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS** 61
- LITERARY SOCIETY** 62
- CREATIVE WRITING: 'A TRAGIC ACCIDENT'** 63
- FEATURE: THE BRANSON SCHOLARS** 64
- GALLERY: 'DISCARDED' / 'INTERIOR'** 65



TRIPS AND VISITS



2009 MCELWEE AWARD	66-67
MYLES HENRY AWARD: TANZANIA 2009	68
GAP YEAR SCHOLARSHIPS	69-71
WASHINGTON TRIP	72
FEATURE: BEHIND THE SCENES	73
FEATURE: STOWE IN THE SNOW	74
CREATIVE WRITING: 'ICE TRAP' / 'WINTER'	75
SALMON FISHING IN ALASKA	76
ROME 2010	77
MUSIC TRIP TO BANGKOK	78
FEATURE: STOWE-HARVARD DINNER SPEECH	79-81
THIRD FORM BATTLEFIELDS TOUR	82
STOWE MUSICIANS TAKE ON THE BIG APPLE	83
CALIFORNIA LACROSSE TOUR	84
POLO TOUR	85
SOUTH AFRICA AND MOZAMBIQUE EXPEDITION	86
WARRIORS SOUTH AFRICAN TRIP	87
FEATURE: STOWE ENTERPRISES	88
GALLERY: 'LAYERED'	89

MUSIC

THOUGHTS FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC	90
AN INTERVIEW WITH JAMES LARTER	91
SCHOOL EVENTS	92, 94-95
AN INTERVIEW WITH AUGUSTUS PERKINS-RAY	93
FEATURE: RESTORATION OF THE LIBRARY	96
CREATIVE WRITING: 'ESCAPE FROM THE MOTHERLAND'	97

DRAMA

MOTHER COURAGE AND HER CHILDREN	98-99
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM	100-101
AS DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES	102
A2 DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES	103
GCSE DRAMA	104
UNPLUGGED 2010	105
FEATURE: THE BEATLES AT STOWE	106-107
CREATIVE WRITING: 'ALONE'	108
GALLERY: 'STUDIO SPACE'	109

ACTIVITIES

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD	110-111
STOWE CCF: ARMY, RAF AND NAVAL SECTIONS	112-113
THE COLDSTREAM CUP	114
BEAGLING	115
SERVICE AT STOWE	116-117
CHAPEL	118
CROSSFIRE	119
FEATURE: STOWE SCHOOL, STOWE HOUSE PRESERVATION TRUST AND THE NATIONAL TRUST: PARTNERS IN HERITAGE	120
GALLERY: 'SATURATION' / 'CONTAIN' / 'ORANGE'	121

SPORT

RUGBY	124-130
HOCKEY	131-137
LACROSSE	138-139
CRICKET	140-143
TENNIS	144-147
BASKETBALL	148
NETBALL / FOOTBALL	149
FEATURE: SPORTS DAY	150
ATHLETICS / CROSS-COUNTRY	151
SAILING / ROWING	152
GOLF / POLO / EQUESTRIAN / CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING	153
SQUASH / BADMINTON	154
SWIMMING	155
WATER POLO	156





Stoic singers in full voice on Speech Day

Speech Day



Chairman of Governors, Mr Christopher Honeyman Brown

Chairman of Governors' Speech

My Lords, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen – welcome to Speech Day and a particular welcome to Michael Grade, our guest-of-honour today.

This is an opportunity publicly to thank those who have contributed to making Stowe what it is. First let me thank you all, Stoics and parents, for your continued commitment to a Stowe education. We know that many of you make sacrifices to be here and it is our task to make that sacrifice worthwhile. But without you, there would be no Stowe. To everyone working at Stowe – paid or not, full-time or part-time, in whatever your role – let me say, on behalf of all my colleagues, a heartfelt thank you for your loyalty, your hard work and your passionate commitment to Stowe. And to my colleagues on the Governing

Body, thank you all for your support, your energy and your time, so freely and willingly given.

I would like to pay particular tribute to two governors – Algy Cluff, who has just retired having reached the appointed age, and Sir Edmund Verney, who has served as a governor for 20 years and retires at the end of the year. Thank you both for all you have given to Stowe over the years. I would also like to welcome Joanne Hastie-Smith to the Governing Body. Joanne has joined the Education Committee with responsibility for oversight of our Child Protection regime.

This is another year when we have again been hugely grateful for the generosity that many of you have shown to help us with our development plans, despite the most difficult economic climate many of us have ever experienced. We thank everyone who

has supported us, whether for the School, or the restoration of the Mansion. Through that generosity the David Donaldson Athletics Track was re-opened last September by Lord Coe and former Athletics coach David Donaldson. The Art School is on track to be finished and re-opened in September, thanks principally to the generosity of the Linbury Trust. The generosity of three sets of parents has made it possible for us to start building our equestrian facility down the hill at Home Farm – it will open in January. Another parent is providing equipment to help us convert the old squash courts into a Social Centre, to open later this year. You all know who you are and I thank you all on behalf of the Stowe community for your generosity.

Our next immediate target is to raise the balance of funding we need to build the much needed and long delayed new Music School, building of which could, we hope, commence during the 2011-2012 academic year. We have also now set our sights on revitalising the Design & Technology building in the not too distant future.

Our partnerships with the National Trust and Stowe House Preservation Trust are as warm as they have ever been, a tremendous help as we work together in our mutual plans for the improvement and development of the Stowe Estate and the Mansion. You will all have noticed the overgrown meccano set that has enclosed the East Pavilion – the work is nearing completion and the Library is a particularly spectacular restoration. With its gilded ceiling and new furniture it will be a haven for quiet study for generations of Stoics to come.

And at long last the West Pavilion restoration is getting underway. This £10 million restoration, of the two Pavilions, will bring to an end the restoration of the main Mansion. It is nearly 20 years since we first started thinking about this project and a mere 10 since we started it. That we have been able to complete this part of the restoration so quickly is a testament to the importance of Stowe to very many people.

It is perhaps time to clarify our position on the Golf Course. The Governors realised several years ago that Stowe would not be Stowe, if it were not at Stowe. Yet, back in the early 1990s, the fabric of the main Mansion and in particular the East and West Pavilions, was starting to crumble around our heads. After the Central block was restored, restoration of the two Pavilions was a critical, but unfunded objective. Our detailed negotiations with the National Trust, the World Monuments Fund, Stowe House Preservation Trust and an anonymous major benefactor resulted in external funding to finance the restoration of the structure and exterior of the Pavilions as well as the interior of the Library.

One of the key considerations in those negotiations was the National Trust's aim to restore the Estate to what it looked like at the end of the 18th Century; in particular to restore the Western Garden over which we have a leasehold interest. But this aim was confounded by our current use of the land as a Golf Course. In return for those commitments to fund the Pavilion restoration and the National Trust's agreement to grant an exceptionally long 230 year lease over their Home Farm property, we have agreed to move the Golf Course, provided there is no cost to the School. Home Farm will enable us to create offices, workshops, and residential staff accommodation, subject to planning consents, all of which would be a major boost to our resources. The new Golf Course will be located, again subject to planning consents, to the south of the Bourbon. It will be in a spectacular setting with an amazing panorama and will be built to provide even more of a challenge than our current course. This will enable all our sport – with the exception of games played on the North and South Fronts – to be concentrated to the east of the campus. In due course we plan to build a new and substantial pavilion on the Bourbon for those using the Bourbon pitches and Athletics track, and our golfers. The Golf

Course will only move when we have funding in place, planning consent obtained, and the new course built and given time to settle down.

Our finances are sound. We do though worry about inflation, interest rates and taxation, the triple whammy we all face in coming months. Continued rises in fuel and food costs, staff costs increasing in line with national pay awards, restoration of the normal rate of VAT and increases in utility costs all mount up. We know you face these pressures too, so once again we are determined to do all we can to help repay your commitment to us by minimising the fee increase this year. I will notify you as soon as possible of the position.

We place great emphasis on developing responsible, independently minded young adults. We give individuals the freedom to exercise their own judgements, and to make their own choices as they experiment with life's lessons. This does mean though that sometimes the exercise of that freedom lacks judgement and challenges the parameters we set down. Occasionally one or more Stoics are, through the way they exercise their choices, in such flagrant breach of what represents an acceptable standard that they fall foul of our disciplinary rules. The Governors wholeheartedly support the Headmaster and his team in making sure that the freedom to express themselves is available to all Stoics, yet equally that transgression is met with the firmest of hands when necessary.

Over the last decade we have made extraordinary progress – the restoration of the main Mansion, full co-education, two new boarding houses, four new pitches and another Astroturf, new kitchens, several new classrooms, a rebuilt Art School, the Athletics Track, an increase of some 25% in students, improvements in our internal structures and management and a steady increase in academic performance and university entry.

But there is still more to do.

Training young brains used to be a vocation but nowadays running a school like Stowe, set upon on all sides by regulators, is a daunting task – for both Headmaster and his executive team, and for Governors – and one that demands the highest standards of professionalism. And yet, our vision of academic, cultural and sporting excellence in a civilised community is undaunted, and we continue to make good progress towards that goal. Anthony Wallersteiner, our Headmaster, has been with us now for seven years – although it seems like only yesterday that we invited him to take on the mantle.

Headmaster, your energy and enthusiasm continue unbounded. I would now like to hand over to you, and to say thank you for all you and your team have done this past year, and for your unstinting efforts to deliver the programme of improvement you set out on some seven years ago.

Mr Christopher Honeyman Brown

Pipers play to the Speech Day Attendees





The Headmaster's Speech

The following is an edited version of the Headmaster's Speech:

This annual address will, I promise, be rather shorter this year as we are now officially in an age of austerity and cutbacks. If I detect any dissatisfaction with what I'm about to say, I will comfort myself with Oscar Wilde's words when an audience reacted with hostility on the opening night of one of his plays: the play, he declared, was brilliant; it was the audience that was a dismal failure. It's customary to begin with a joke at the expense of a rival school, but in the spirit of the Clegg-Cameron rapprochement, I shall resist saying that my favourite joke is Radley or even Harrow. After all, in this age of coalitions and unlikely bedfellows, who knows who might be standing next to me on this platform next year.

It has been a year of amazing contrasts, or 'chiaroscuro' for the art cognoscenti. This time last year I could only hint at the contents of the ISI inspection and it wasn't until the summer holidays that I was able to send out the approved version of the report. We were delighted with its overwhelmingly positive conclusion that Stowe "provides its pupils with an exceptional range of opportunities within a unique setting, reflecting its commitment to the pursuit of intellectual, cultural and sporting excellence." This endorsement of a Stowe education was echoed in the Ofsted report which followed. The lead inspector perceptively approved of our "liberal vision of education based on the values of the English Enlightenment" which "continues to shape the School's current aims and objectives. The School's staff,

management and the Governing Body remain committed to organising school activities around the sensitive nurturing of the best and the unique in every child." I congratulate all the staff and the governors on their great success in achieving two outstanding reports and for maintaining the standards of excellence over the course of this year.

We started the academic year with a record number of Stoics, some 760 pupils, and celebrated outstanding exam results achieved by the 2009 leavers. More than 30 Stoics achieved 3 A grades or more at A2 Level and the overwhelming majority were accepted into their first choice universities – with Oxford, Edinburgh, Durham, Bristol, UCL, Imperial and LSE among the favourites.

We have become used to the forest of scaffolding which encases the Library and the Eastern Pavilion (otherwise known as Chandos and Grenville). In the West End, at the heart of the academic area, the Art School is being completely remodelled and refurbished. Both developments are nearing completion and you will not be disappointed when you see how these spaces have been transformed. I must be the only headmaster in the world to be asked for my opinion on the aesthetic merits of 18 or 24 carat gold and whether the mermen and griffin on the Library ceiling should be included in the gilding. I hope you will be pleased with my moderately puritan inclinations and tendency towards classical restraint over baroque bling.

Over the last year the relationship of parents with the Stowe community has deepened with a glittering array of activities organised by committee members of the Stowe Parents' Association: in recent weeks they have enjoyed the hospitality of Philip Mould with a brilliant talk on discovering lost works by the Old Masters and a superb private tour of Blenheim Palace – which must have been something of an architectural disappointment after Stowe.

In growing numbers, and with mounting generosity, parents have also been contributing to the success of the Campaign for Stowe and your gifts, whether modest or large, help us to maintain an edge of excellence which would be impossible to achieve if we relied only on fee income. The chairman has alluded to some of the projects that are in the pipeline: an equestrian centre

at Home Farm, worth a visit if you feel like a 200 yard post-prandial stroll towards Dadford. The first phase of the centre will have stabling for 20 horses and an outdoor manege; the second phase comprises an indoor riding school which will be suitable for indoor arena polo and we are working with the National Trust to reinstate a challenging and extensive cross-country course.

Over the summer the dilapidated squash courts that have been serving as makeshift art studios will be turned into a properly organised social centre, courtesy of Crazy Larry's in London. It will be a massive improvement on the cramped conditions of the Cellar Bar – although I expect that in time many Stoics will look back nostalgically on their Saturday nights in Plug Street.

A new Music School is also being planned to finally make good the promise to Leslie Huggins, Director of Music at Stowe from 1927 to 1952, that Stowe would have a properly constituted building to house practice rooms, a music library, recording studio, classrooms and a recital room. Successive Directors of Music had to make do with shared accommodation in the Roxburgh Hall and a split department with woodwind and brass operating out of The Queen's Temple. While it could be argued that great music, like great art, often comes from suffering, it is hard to imagine anything inspiring emerging from the depths of the Roxy, and the inadequacy of the present facilities has to be seen to be believed. We hope to start work on the Music School in the autumn of 2011 and have set ourselves a challenging target of raising another £2 million in 12 months.

The Roxburgh Hall, with its crumbling asbestos roof, dilapidated foyer, old-fashioned stage and non-existent dressing rooms is also in desperate need of a major overhaul. Also on the masterplan for future development is Design and Technology, one of our most successful departments in terms of results and sheer variety of output, as you will see from the displays of pupil work in the Mansion. Well worth a visit – along with trips to see Creative Textiles in the Adam Building and Art in the Court Studios and Plug Street.

New facilities really do make a difference: the opening of the David Donaldson Athletics Track by double Olympic champion, Sebastian Coe, heralded a vintage year for Stowe sport. Lord Coe

paid tribute to his father's inspirational coaching, admired our green "infinity track" (although I did hear someone mutter that it was the wrong type of green), and observed that the rare and magical ginkgo tree, a male of the species planted more than 200 years ago, provided an excellent landmark to quicken the pace when running the 800m.

Girls' Lacrosse reached new heights when the 1st XII was promoted to the Championship Division in the Schools' national league and Stowe is now ranked as one of the top three co-educational schools for lacrosse in the country. Special mention should go to Danni Allard for being selected to join the England Lacrosse squad this summer. Not to be outdone, the hockey teams enjoyed excellent seasons with the U14, U16 and U18 girls reaching the county finals for the first time ever, with the U16s progressing to the regional finals. The boys responded with a winning season and were awarded their 1st XI hockey ties by Mr Fair, who had just arrived back from Delhi after his brilliant run as England's goalkeeper in the World Cup. Other sports have also delivered superb results: I thoroughly enjoyed watching the extremely talented U18 Basketball team beating Eton 58-48, and they fully deserved to end the season as County Cup Finalists. This term has already seen some outstanding results in athletics, swimming, golf, rowing, tennis and polo. The 1st XI Cricket team have had some memorable wins – including a great victory over Oundle – and earlier this week the U15 team enjoyed a splendid five wicket win against Harrow in the semi-final of the Lord Taverners' Cup.

However, the undisputed sports highlight of the year in terms of endeavour and achievement was the 1st XV reaching the semi-finals of the Daily Mail Cup, a national competition which attracts more than 600 teams. After the team beat Abingdon for a place in the quarter-finals against 2007 champions, Warwick, I appointed myself team psychologist and organised a trip to see Clint Eastwood's latest film, *Invictus*. If Nelson Mandela could use rugby to forge the Rainbow Nation, just think what the 1st XV could do for the morale of the School. The game against Warwick was a close run thing – but we had our very own Francois Pienaar in captain and back-row player Craig Holton who scored the winning try, which was then successfully converted by Ben Roe. The semi-final was held near

Coventry and such was the excitement and *esprit de corps* that we decided to decant the entire School into 17 coaches – a logistical exercise of some complexity which nearly matched the organisation required for the Queen's visit in 2007 and also involved industrial quantities of packed lunches. But Fortune, always a fickle god, deprived us of a place at Twickenham in the Finals. Not even my pre-match discourse on Marcus Aurelius, with RGS Newcastle cast as the Germanic tribes massing for attack on the east bank of the Rhine, prepared the team for the fluctuating vagaries of a game which hinged on a disallowed try and two sin-binning yellow cards. As a Charlton Athletic fan might say, "we woz robbed". My sincere thanks to Alan Hughes and Barney Durrant, and the gallant 1st XV for taking us so far.

I am always astonished by the quality of theatre at Stowe. From the genuinely moving production of Brecht's bleak masterpiece, *Mother Courage*, set in the apocalyptic destruction of the Thirty Years' War but with archetypal themes that lend the play contemporary currency and universal resonance, to the knockabout comedy and exuberance of the Grenville-Stanhope and Queen's-Chatham House plays (coalitions really are all the rage these days). It is good to see Stoics using the stage to explore the full range of expressive drama.

I cannot remember a time when music played a more central role in the life of the School. 88 pupils played at an all-day Festival of Music culminating in the prestigious Mozart Trio Prize which was won by James Larter, our incredibly gifted

Young Musician of the Year Percussion Finalist. The whole School sat in awe as James performed an extraordinary piece for bongos, tom-toms, tambourine and tin cans at last term's School Concert. In the first six weeks of this term alone we have had the Chopin Piano Festival, the Anthony Bolton Composition Competition, a Prep School Choral Festival with 350 pupils joining the Stowe Chapel Choir, a combined concert with Ashfold School, a highly entertaining Stowe 'X-Factor' with some star turns by Genesis and TK, two of this year's Branson Scholars, and Mrs Dawson appearing as Lady Gaga (the Somerset not the Norfolk branch of the Gaga family), not to mention the inspiring Leavers' Concert last Sunday. The sheer diversity of talent is astonishing and it was a particular pleasure for Valerie and me to accompany 12 gifted music scholars for a series of concerts in New York and New Canaan. Their performance in the Cathedral of St John the Divine was transcendent and attracted an appreciative audience. And the music continues with the Jazz Band performing at the Althorp Literary Festival on 12th June, Summer Jazz on the South Front on 27th June and the Luffield Festival, which brings together all the local schools for a Festival of Drama, Music, Singing and Dance on 30th June.

But chiaroscuro requires a darker tonality to enhance the expressiveness of a painting and, at times, it has felt that we have entered one of Caravaggio's more disturbing works. The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse now come as swine flu, snow, soup and...what was the other "s"... ah yes, a *Sun* journalist. Left to themselves



James Larter displays his musical talents to the Speech Day audience

things generally go from bad to worse and our strategy has been to grip each crisis, confront it head on, and keep you informed of what is happening, while outlining how we intend to solve the problem. ‘Keep Calm and Carry On’ has been the guiding principle of the Senior Management Team and I am very grateful for your support and forbearance during these turbulent times.

Earlier this term, we hosted a conference on crisis and media management and I divided schools into those that had a crisis and those that were about to have one. I should have had a third category, reserved for schools like Stowe that operate in multiples. Here’s a topical joke combining ‘Soupgate’ with the unpronounceable Icelandic volcano that left us 140 Stoics and 15 members of staff short at the start of term: “Waiter, Waiter, there’s ash in my soup. Yes sir, that’s because this is a no-fly zone”. It would be really helpful to our overseas pupils if British Airways cabin crews could try to time their strikes to coincide with periods of volcanic activity.

I am reminded of the definition of an iconic brand being a product that is instantly recognisable from a tiny fragment: a curved sliver of a coca-cola bottle, a piece of Lego, the contours of an ipod or a drop of Guinness – all instantly recognisable, consistent and suffused through and through with the same identifying features. The Stowe brand is equally robust, with its iconic architecture such as the Mansion whether viewed from the North or South Front, the Palladian Bridge, the Corinthian Arch and the numerous temples, grottoes, lakes and cascades that adorn the garden. But it also has an ethos and values which are distinctive from other schools. A Stowe education is about much more than the acquisition of skills to pass exams in order to get to the best universities and the most competitive professions: Stoics learn how to generate ideas and think for themselves, rigorously and independently; they learn to appraise and appreciate beauty; they can hold a conversation but know when to listen; they are self-assured – but without the arrogance that often goes hand-in-hand with wealth and privilege. Stowe is a community that pulsates with energy, promise, hope and possibilities.

I am hoping that the Dave New World of our new coalition will allow us to get back to basics in teaching, without the

amorphous, intrusive and over-prescriptive bureaucracy which has the whole school system firmly in its grip. My office is stacked full of directives and briefing papers from Every Child Matters, Personalised Learning, the Independent Safeguarding Authority, Widening Access, the UK Border Agency, the Charity Commission and the Criminal Records Bureau (including five separate checks on me for each school at which I govern).

The coalition government has made a good start with Michael Gove’s offer to give every state primary and secondary school the chance to become an academy and exempting schools rated as outstanding from future Ofsted inspections. Contact Point, a sinister data base which contains the personal details of 11 million children in England and Wales, is also likely to be consigned to the dustbin of history and yesterday I heard that QCA, the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency, is also going to be scrapped.

The government should now make good its commitment to providing “A Rigorous Curriculum and Exam System”. It could start by abolishing questions such as this one which appeared in a GCSE combined science paper: “Why is wireless technology useful?” Answer: “No wiring is required”. It tells you a great deal about education in Britain today that this summer 60,000 British school children will take Media Studies GCSE, a subject that everyone in the media agrees is completely worthless, while the number of pupils studying a modern language at GCSE fell from 547,000 in 2003 to 382,000 in 2008.

I shall leave the subject of Politics with my usual plea for a voucher scheme for all tax payers which can be used to offset

school fees in independent schools, with means tested top up payments to ensure that people in poverty are not excluded. Giving every parent access to a good school does not need a network of schools modelled on American “charter schools” or Swedish “free schools”. Independent schools are recognised by the OECD as the finest in the world and if the coalition government is serious in its ambition to raise standards, roll back the state, give teachers greater freedom and allow parental choice...Clegg and Cameron need look no further than the independent sector with its unshakeable commitment to excellence and breadth of education. A root and branch reform in the way we think about schools in this country is every bit as important as bringing down the deficit.

I now welcome today’s guest-of-honour, Michael Grade. He has been the most influential figure in British television for the last 44 years, holding the most senior programming jobs at London Weekend Television and at the BBC. Michael’s successes include *Eastenders*, *The X-Factor* and *Britain’s Got Talent*. In 1988 he was made chief executive of the newly launched Channel 4, a post he held for nine years, launching the careers of Jonathan Ross, Chris Evans and Jack Dee and bringing shows such as *Cheers*, *Friends* and *ER* to a British audience. He returned to the BBC as Chairman of Governors in 2004 restoring confidence and morale after the criticisms of the Hutton report. He has just relinquished the post of executive chairman of ITV after rescuing the company from financial and creative oblivion. As Michael Grade comes up to award the prizes, it gives me great pleasure to award him his Old Stoic tie.

Dr Anthony Wallersteiner



Mr Michael Grade CBE



Head Boy, James Elliott

Head Boy's Speech

It took me a long time to decide what to speak to you about this morning. It's difficult to avoid talking about Stowe's achievements. It's difficult not to simply encourage you to make the most of your time here. In fact, it is almost impossible to go an entire speech without mentioning, at some point, the phrase 'Stowe ethos.' But I will do my best!

Instead I want to talk about what makes me proud to call myself a Stoic. Although your achievements are celebrated at Stowe, whether they are academic, sporting or creative, your education is so much more than that. Being a Stoic is about creating a balanced, fulfilled and inspired individual. And that's one of the reasons I am so grateful for having been given this position. It's enabled me to meet so many of you and to experience all of those individual reasons why Stowe is such a great place to live. It is your passions, your interests and your diversity that have made this year for me. It is you, the Stoics, who make this school so successful. It is the unique personalities, characters and lives that create the School as a whole. It is these individual efforts that combine, defining what it is to be a Stoic. Whether it is growing moustaches to raise £3000 for charity, supporting the 1st XV on the touchline in the Daily Mail Cup semi-final, or singing to the Stanhope 'X-Factor', there are so many examples of Stoics achieving on behalf of the School. When each of us has accomplished something, the successes of the School become the successes of every single one of us.

One way that I've experienced the achievements of Stoics this year is through the Richard Branson award. The award, now in its 14th year, is particularly special because it is administered and awarded completely by Stoics. The prize was designed to reward the most entrepreneurial student, with entries judged on their risk, originality and financial reward. The prize for this award is extremely generous; the winner receives two weeks' work experience with any of the Virgin sister companies, as well as two return tickets to any world destination. This year the award goes to George-Thomas Svanikier, who has created a successful business selling authentic Ghanaian jewellery to consumers and businesses, both in the UK and Ghana. I was particularly impressed that "GT" somehow managed to persuade the Headmaster to part with £25 for a pair of silver cufflinks, while simply nipping in to collect his birthday chocolate on Monday.

Now, without this sounding like an Oscar's acceptance speech, I do have some people that I should like to thank for all of the successes of this year. The most important people who deserve thanks and congratulations are the Prefects. They saw how easy being a prefect used to be when Icelandic ash meant that their duties revolved around 600 Stoics rather than the usual 750. They do not receive as much credit as they truly deserve and I want to thank them for their support, commitment and friendship over the last year. I also want to thank my Housemaster, Mr Durrant. Without fail, you have been there for me over the last five years. Chandos is a significantly better place because of your efforts and I never thanked you enough for your continued guidance.

I should also like to thank the Headmaster for giving me this opportunity. It has taught me so much, most of it completely intangible and impossible to learn from anywhere else. My sincerest thanks to you.

My matron, Claire Hill-Hall, has also been tremendously supportive throughout the year and has helped me to focus this year by making my life as stress-free as possible. To my Mum, my Dad, and Becky – The only thing that I can say to you is that, this year, my family has been my rock. It would have been extremely difficult for me to have achieved anything

without your support, guidance and love, when I needed it most. And to Rosie – I don't think there could have been anyone better to share this job with. You have been dependable, loyal and trusting, as well as a positive influence on every single thing that I have done.

I firmly believe that I would not have enjoyed my last year at school had I been anywhere else but here. My role as Head Boy has enabled me to see the very best of Stowe and for that reason, I believe that I also owe you, the Stoics, a debt of gratitude.

In previous years I have often sat in your seats and heard Heads of School sound apologetic. This year I am proud that the entire Prefect Body can be confident in the knowledge that we tried as hard as we could to improve the School in any way that we were able.

Personally, I have to admit that my most important regret is that I never quite took advantage of the privileges of this position; I have never grazed my goat on the North Front, I have never smoked a pipe on the South Front steps and, much to my father's disappointment, I have never been able to grow a beard. But that was never really going to happen.

Writing this speech has enabled me to honestly and objectively reflect back on the last year; it is only in the last few months that I have truly been able to appreciate all that Stowe has given me. Stowe has taught me to value everything, both real and abstract, to enjoy the company of every person around me, and to make the most of every opportunity. Be comfortable with who you are, be passionate about what you love, and be proud of the School that you have helped to build.

So, to end my last speech as Head Boy, I would like to carry out my final duty. I believe that it is a real privilege to be able to pass down the Head Boy tie to the next generation. I am extremely proud to be able to hand this tie not only to an old Swanbournian, but also to a fellow Chandosian, James Blackham. I am sure that you will give everything you have to this position and to the School, and you thoroughly deserve this as a reward for all of your efforts; I wish you all the very best for the year to come.

James Elliott (U6th, Chandos)



Head Girl, Rosie Gawthrop

Head Girl's Speech

Mr Grade, Headmaster, Chairman, Governors, Ladies and Gentlemen – on behalf of the School, I am delighted to welcome you to Speech Day.

I first came to Stowe on a bright November morning in 2007, when the then Director of Music led me into the beautifully ornate but equally daunting Music Room and told me, in a rather gruff voice, to 'SING!' I duly sang, after which he rather politely informed my Mother that I *could* sing and so should apply for a Music Scholarship.

Overwhelmed by the surroundings at Stowe I took my place in Nugent House in September 2008 and have never looked back. Although I cried for the first two weeks out of sheer exhaustion and homesickness, I soon ran out of tissues and realised it was time to throw myself in. Stowe is a special place and unsurprisingly welcomed me into a whirlwind of experiences. The School has helped to give me the confidence to realise my full potential as both an academic student and an all-round individual.

What have I learnt from Stowe is that being able to label yourself a Stoic is a privilege, one that I realised fully after going to the Old Stoics' dinner last week. It is a privilege that comes with opportunity, but more importantly responsibility. Each pupil in the School should be aware of how privileged they are to be here and should be conscious of the opportunities available to them, but we must also know that it is our own responsibility to make the most of those opportunities. Author Anthony Robbins said:

"Life is a gift, and it offers us the privilege, opportunity and responsibility to give something back by becoming more".

We as pupils can all just sit in our rooms, attend classes and essentially go through the motions of education. But we have a responsibility to the School, our

long-suffering parents and their bank balances, and most importantly ourselves, not to waste the time we have been given at Stowe. It was with this in mind that James and I, along with the Prefect Body, set ourselves and the School the theme of 'Give Something Back' for the year. The idea was that each Stoic should find something within the School which they felt passionate about, whether it was sport, current affairs or the orchestra, and essentially put something back into this part of Stowe that they individually loved. The initiative has been led by the Senior Prefect team, who have risen to the challenge and all led brilliantly by example; throughout the year we have organised a Junior Disco, complete with ice-cream van and bouncy castle, an eco-week and an un-plugged concert. The charity committee has also played a large part in running a Prep Schools' Sports Day. The Prefects' undying commitment to the School and immense amounts of energy never ceased to amaze me. But most of all their perseverance and willingness to support James and me this year has been their greatest feat. Thank you; I do not say it enough, but I am truly grateful for your dedication and friendship.

Today I have the privilege to announce next year's Head Girl. As a fellow Nugent girl who was also new into the Sixth Form, I know she will do a fantastic job and put everything she has into the role. Lucy Jackson, would you please come up to collect your flowers.

Today I also have the pleasure of presenting the Stoic award. It is an award given to a member of staff for outstanding service to the School, and is particularly special as the vote is taken entirely by the Stoics. The prize is given for energy, commitment and dedication to the School. This year there were two clear leaders with the majority of the votes and it was impossible for James and me to decide who the overall winner should be. Both winners are from two entirely different areas of Stowe, but have contributed in such a way that we question how Stowe will function without either of them. This year's Stoic award goes to Rae Matheson and Mr Townsend.

Finally, I have some thanks to those who have made my time at Stowe so memorable. To Dr Wallersteiner – thank you for giving me this opportunity; I have learnt more than I could have imagined... most of it completely indescribable! To Mrs Duckett, my Housemistress, and my

tutor Mr Bayley – you have both guided me through the past two years with exceptional good humour, and your unfailing honesty and ability in keeping my feet firmly placed on the ground has been invaluable. To all you Stoics – thank you for your support and encouragement. You have made my last ever school year my best yet. And finally to James – I'm not sure there has ever been a Head Boy at Stowe with such a vision for the School. You have been dedicated, loyal and completely dependable, and I honestly couldn't have done it without you!

Now, as this is my last ever official speech as Head Girl, I should just like to draw your attention to an exciting change that can now be seen in the atmosphere here at Stowe. Although the values of Stowe remain the same, there has been a fundamental shift in the behaviour of Stoics towards each other in the past two years. The hierarchical and old-fashioned attitude has evolved into an ethos based around understanding and acceptance. I am proud to say that I have played a part in encouraging this transformation, with the unique perspective this role has given me. I can walk around the School freely and interact with others in every year group. I am not sure what has inspired this change: whether it's the full integration of girls into the School, the changing attitudes of the Sixth Form, or the example set by this year's Peer Support Group (which is entirely pupil run), but it has certainly changed the atmosphere in the School, and has undoubtedly improved every aspect of Stowe life.

And so to conclude, let me say this. You might not realise how much of an opportunity it is going to a school like Stowe, but as I and the other Leavers come to the end of our time here, the reality is that there is no place quite like it. Stowe is a unique school in which to live, work and flourish, and the more you're willing to put in, the bigger the benefits you will receive.

Let us be proud to be part of the diverse and dynamic community that is Stowe.

It seems that as a school we have come a long way in the past two years and I can honestly say I will leave a happy, fulfilled and nurtured pupil, having realised the importance of the small things in life. I am proud to say that Stowe has gifted me a sense of belonging, pride and friendship, along with a strong set of values which will stay with me for the rest of my life.

Rosie Gawthrop (U6th, Nugent)

Valete



Rae Matheson

Every PR company instructs their clients that the Front of House/Receptionist/Telephonist is where a visitor or caller will make an initial judgement about an organisation.

Stowe is no exception and for 24 years Rae has fronted Stowe's reception desk and telephone system with charm, efficiency, tact, discretion and good humour. She knows all the current pupils as well as many from the past, and deals most professionally with their inquiries, requests and even occasional disingenuousness. Rae has served Stowe through three Headmasters and numerous staff and has memories and stories from all their reigns, some of which are best left to post-dinner conviviality. She is also, more often than not, the cheerful face who greets Stoics and staff at airports as they stagger in from abroad, and then expertly and safely drives them back to Stowe. Rae has also chauffeured many of Stowe's guests, winning them over with gentle conversation delivered in a Scottish burr which despite the many years at Stowe has never left her.

Those who have got to know Rae better know also of her passion for four wheels, Grand Prix Circuits, Silverstone Racing Club and her beloved 'Dorothy', a 1937 Morris 8, two-seater tourer (Scot with Dot?) are her chief delights. Few know that she has also raced along Plug Street on a bicycle in competition with matrons after a too-excellent Matrons' supper. Her derring-do also extends to parachuting for charity and hot-air ballooning over the British countryside.

To say she is a Stowe treasure sounds a tad patronising but it is honestly and sincerely thought by many of us, past and present. There is no doubt whatsoever that we will miss her. Her wisdom, knowledge of Stowe ways, gentle conversation and occasional no-nonsense style have meant that, while she is irreplaceable in Stowe's Reception, her place in many of our hearts is secure. Good luck and continued safe driving for many happy and healthy years to come.

Mr Crispin Robinson



Maggie Weston

Maggie came to Stowe with her husband Lionel in 1979. She immersed herself in the lives of Stoics when Lionel was appointed as Housemaster of Walpole. There followed an exciting 13 years when Maggie learned to support both boys and their parents through the ups and downs of teenage life.

She was always ready to welcome boys into the House for birthdays, supper parties and celebrations when Walpole teams were successful, and for those sadder moments of homesickness when a box of tissues, a cup of tea and a piece of cake were required. Successes include making 140 pancakes on Pancake Day, and do-it-yourself pizza nights, at the end of which an industrial cleaner was required. She also recalls organising her first Walpole 'At Home', when she had to enlist the emergency help of the Catering Manager when the food ran out. 13 years later, she felt she had successfully 'cracked it'!

Having originally trained as a primary teacher, Maggie completed a course at Northampton University, which gave her a qualification to work with young people with specific learning difficulties. She has worked in the Skills Department since then, and is now retiring after 12 years. Her key attributes have been her sympathetic approach to those students who experience academic, organisational and emotional challenges. She has always demonstrated a conscientious and caring manner, knowing instinctively when to cajole, reward or counsel. She will be remembered by many pupils with gratitude. Maggie has contributed to the Department as a whole in many ways. She has a good knowledge of the Stowe curriculum, is fantastic at creating resources and will always champion the individual needs of the pupils. On another note she is superb at coaxing us into order and we believe she may secretly be the washing-up fairy!

Stowe has never been a place where there is time to sit and twiddle the thumbs, and being part of such a community has offered Maggie an opportunity to try lots of other activities. She has played chorus roles in staff productions, as well as taking on the role of Wardrobe Mistress. This involvement led to designing and making costumes for several school productions

including *Oliver*, *Les Miserables* and *Roses of Eyam*. She has found this challenging, fun, and a way of getting to know Stoics in a different arena.

Living on site has meant that Maggie has unexpectedly been involved in many interesting moments in the life of Stowe. These include dealing with flooding, volunteering in the kitchens during staff illness, and playing a key role in the community service parties. For the past few years Maggie has revealed a steady hand and a talent for calligraphy, writing the book plates for the prizes awarded on Speech Day.

We will miss Maggie not only as a well-respected colleague in the Skills Development Department but also as a staunch, long-serving and much-loved member of the wider school community. We wish her well in her retirement.

Mrs Sharon Carter



Alan Longworth

Alan Longworth joined Stowe in 1996 to teach Portuguese and was appointed Head of the EAL (English as an Additional Language) Department in 2001.

During his 15 years at Stowe, Alan has made invaluable contributions to the international community, as well as to the wider life of the School.

Under Alan's leadership, the EAL Department has grown and flourished. Starting with seven pupils in 2001, the number of international pupils studying in the Department has increased to over sixty, representing nationalities as diverse as Russian, Chinese, Korean, German, Swiss, Kenyan, Ghanaian and Moldovan. Alan's involvement in the selection and assessment of international pupils has also contributed to the growth of the international community at Stowe. He is responsible for introducing the IELTS Examination to fulfil changing university requirements for international students – to date, through Alan's hard work and flair for teaching the English language, the Department can boast a 100% success rate for pupils meeting their university entrance requirement for IELTS.

Alan has not only contributed to the academic success of the pupils in his care, but he has also been a listening ear for many over the years, and has helped to

ensure that these Stoics become fully integrated into the wider community. Stoics in his department leave with a real gratitude for his genuine interest and unwavering commitment to their needs. Every year, throughout the year, Alan organises outings for the international pupils, culminating in the annual international dinner, where pupils perform musical acts in between courses.

As well as re-establishing rowing as a key sport at Stowe, Alan has also played a valuable part in helping to edit Stowemail. As a keen photographer, he has attended many school events with an eye to capturing the essence of Stowe on film, and many of the photographs in this edition of *The Stoic* are his handiwork. Despite his modesty, there is no doubt that in retirement he will be a sure-fire recruit for Vogue magazine!

Outside Stowe, Alan has the rich and varied range of personal interests commensurate with his status as an erudite and cultured individual. He enjoys travelling to the far corners of the world with his partner Sue, but is also content to walk the local hills and tour the English countryside on his beloved Honda motorbike. Alan will be remembered by his colleagues for his cheerful disposition and willingness to entertain with his witty anecdotes about his travels and travails, and we extend to him our sincere good wishes for a long and happy retirement.

Mrs Julie Johnson



Chris Townsend

CJT leaves Grafton House and Stowe to go to Felsted as Deputy Headmaster.

He leaves behind a house which, perched at the edge of the main school buildings, might go un-noticed if it were not for the fact that Chris has overseen a period of success and has put the House firmly on the map.

Music, academics and sporting excellence have all flourished under Chris' leadership, and he has always been keen to get the best out of every pupil. His knowledge of the pupils is almost encyclopaedic (do all Housemasters know the school numbers of their charges off by heart?) and parents, pupils and teachers alike all know that any communication to him will be answered and followed up post-haste. Chris is also known for being

a bit of a machine. Whether indulging in sports (at which he is effortlessly brilliant, be it coaching, refereeing or playing) or busting miscreants, he does it with an almost mechanical efficiency. But his exterior hides a man who loves a practical joke, and there are many pupils and members of staff out there who have been the butt of his (always good-natured) humour. A devoted family man, Chris somehow managed to balance his time in Grafton with that of his family, leaving some of the pupils to believe that he requires no sleep at all. He inspires deep loyalty in both his pupils and staff alike, and he leaves Grafton a very happy house. He has formed a formidable partnership with Terri Bosman, the Grafton Matron, over his time in the House, and I know that she will feel his loss more than most.

Probably the greatest asset which Chris has as a Housemaster is his patience. He is not known for his short-temper and is always prepared to hear all sides of the story before making a judgement. The boys see him as being very fair, and this is a high accolade coming from the Stoics.

As a Classics teacher, Chris has probably shown the film *Gladiator* to more classes than anyone in the teaching profession. His high intellect allows him to make the subject accessible to students of all ages, and it goes without saying that he will be a great loss to the Department as a whole.

Grafton and Stowe are going to miss Chris, Mel, David and Lydia very much (not forgetting, of course, Lola!) and we wish them all very well for the next chapter in their lives.

Mr Dominic Mochan



Chris Lockwood

Chris came to Stowe in 1992, and has been lead instructor in clay pigeon shooting for nearly twenty years.

During that time, he reckons he has tutored more than 600 Stoics.

When he arrived, the shooting used to take place from the Bourbon Tower ("highly unsafe"), and he immediately oversaw the construction of Stowe's first purpose-built shooting tower. Chris has seen our weekly list go from 25 shooters to 50 as the sport has become ever more popular. As his most memorable moments, he lists the three times Stowe

won the Warwick Challenge (1987, 2008 and 2009) and the one time (1998) we were runners-up to Oundle in the Nationals. He and his wife are moving to Wales, where he runs four game-shoots. He will be sadly missed by all and we wish him well. Bob Spademan, who arrived at the same time as Chris in 1992, will be taking over as lead instructor.

Mr Peter Staples



Louise Carter

Louise arrived at Stowe 10 years ago from Cranbrook School in Tunbridge Wells, where she taught Biology and had been the Examinations Officer.

She quickly established herself in the Biology Department here as a supremely organised and talented teacher, with the knack of being able to communicate effectively with Stoics of all ages and abilities. Louise's lessons are a model of thoughtful planning and lively delivery, and her record of success with examination classes has been exceptional. It is indicative of Louise's pedagogical skills that she has been a regular 'victim' of impromptu observations by visiting governors and inspectors over the years, and there is little doubt that the SMT regard her as first port of call when a dynamic and structured lesson is needed! Before having a family and moving to a part-time contract, Louise was a Sixth Form Tutor attached to Nugent, in charge of Netball and a hockey coach. She has also played for the Buckingham Ladies' Rugby team 'The Swans' and, as a fearless back row player, Louise regularly featured in the sports pages of *The Buckingham Advertiser*. We wish Louise and her family the very best of luck as she begins her new job at Northampton School for Girls, knowing full well that NSG's gain is very much Stowe's loss. Louise's contribution to the success, development and happy working environment of the Stowe Biology Department over the last 10 years is immeasurable.

Mr Rory Akam



Robert Mallonee

Robert (more commonly referred to as 'Ace' or 'Coach Mal') has been working at Stowe since September 2009. He has been

an enthusiastic and dedicated member of the Lacrosse coaching staff, and has produced an excellent set of results for the Girls' 2nd team.

He has created 'team strength' along the way, which culminated in them reaching the semi-finals of the Nationals in March. Ace has been a popular member of the Grenville team and an enthusiastic and knowledgeable member of the PE Department. He is hoping to stay in England for the foreseeable future, working with the Lacrosse squads at Exeter University from September. We will miss him but wish him every success with his new challenge.

Mrs Jayne Duckett

Dara Blume



Dara Blume joined Stowe as a Harvard Fellow in September 2008 and, expecting only to be here for one year, had planned nothing more than making some good friends and chasing one-time popular singer Bruce Springsteen around Europe.

However, she quickly became involved with several maths classes, resulting in her taking on a Third Form class full-time! By the end of the Easter term, she had also taken over Richard Knight's Fourth Form class.

When it became clear that a teacher would be required for the following year, Dara leapt at the opportunity and became a full-time member of Stowe. She also became good friends with Emma Watson, another new member of staff – as a result, her almost unintelligible, strong Brooklyn accent has softened into an unintelligible mixture of Brooklyn and Northern Irish accents.

The second year was a lot busier as Dara moved into Queen's as an Under-Housemistress. She was given a hockey team to coach alongside her full timetable and even with all this extra work, she has always made herself available to help her pupils – I know her classes have hugely appreciated her attention and the time afforded to them.

It is a difficult thing to settle in a new country and yet Dara has proved to be a huge success here, and she will be sorely missed (not least by the staff hockey team – where we're going to find another goalkeeper of her calibre, I'll never know). It has been an absolute pleasure to have

known Dara and we all wish her every success as she moves to London to start work for Morgan Stanley – close enough that she can come up and join the staff for a quiet drink in the Pink Room. She will always be warmly welcomed!

Mr Damian Blewitt



Rod Tait

Rod joined Stowe in September 2005 from Rugby School. Formerly working in finance, Rod had moved into teaching with the single desire to become a Housemaster.

As an all-round schoolmaster, he found himself quickly involved in CCF, Fives and Rowing. Add to this a very young family and a new cottage, and Rod had much to manage at an early stage.

Rod significantly raised the profile of Fives in the School, introducing House competitions and taking trips to the national competitions. He was quickly promoted to running the RAF section within the CCF, where he took Stoics on camps and flying trips.

Within the Physics department, Rod was responsible for producing extremely comprehensive and detailed Schemes of Work for the Third Form, GCSE and A-level courses. His extensive use of the smartboard, applets and animations in his teaching enabled him to adopt a variety of styles in the classroom, which made learning both accessible and enjoyable for the pupils he taught. Whilst juggling all his other commitments, Rod even managed to lower significantly his handicap on the golf course, and always found time for his family. Rod and family have now moved on to Salisbury Cathedral School, where he has been appointed as a Housemaster. We wish Rod good luck and success in his new position.

Mr Steve Malling



Helen Prifti

During the short time that Helen has been a teacher at Stowe, she could not have fitted more into her timetable if she had tried.

Not only has she been a committed and dynamic member of the Modern Languages Department, but she has also

thrown herself into the role of Queen's Under-Housemistress with equal enthusiasm.

As a languages teacher, Helen has inspired her French and Spanish classes with a seemingly limitless wealth of ideas and resources, and has shown herself to be quite the doyenne of the interactive white board, as well as the undisputed queen of the CPS quizmasters! Beyond the confines of the Languages block, Helen has coached the Hockey teams through fair weather and foul and has roughed it with the Duke of Edinburgh team on the moors (Bob Roberts tells us that the destinations are idyllic and climates benign, but we know the truth...), both of which activities have served to endear her further to Stoics.

From all of us in the Languages Department and from her friends in the Common Room, we wish her the very best in her new role as Head of French at the Dragon School in Oxford.

Mr Simon Dobson



Liz Hollick

Liz Hollick arrived at Stowe in September 2008 as both Assistant Housemistress of Nugent and Head of Lacrosse. Her pastoral work in Nugent combined well with her desire to take the Lacrosse programme to another level.

She has advanced our fixture list and consequently our standing in the world of lacrosse, to the extent that we are now in the Championship League for 2010/11. Liz expected and accepted nothing but total concentration and professionalism from the girls, although at the same time her enthusiasm and wit (albeit American!) created a fun atmosphere on the pitch.

Her second year at Stowe saw a shift to a boys' house (Cobham), as the Nugent annexe was converted into staff accommodation. As a Third Form Tutor, I know she has been an important member of Matt Way's team and, perhaps as a result of working with the younger boys, has now decided to pursue a career in teaching juniors. We wish her every success for the future.

Mrs Jayne Duckett



Dominic Rose

With his no-nonsense approach in the classroom combined with a healthy sense of humour, predilection for bad puns, bad jokes and even worse imitations (Darth Vader in Chapel springs to mind), Dominic brought a blast of Yorkshire culture to the somewhat refined Enlightenment halls of Stowe.

Professionally, he shaped the English Department into a more cohesive team while focusing the staff and Stoics on the requirements of exams, but without forgetting the foundations of a broader education and sense of literary exploration established by his predecessors. In Chapel and the Choir, his professional experience and sound musical knowledge bolstered the basses, and hearing his voice singing harmony in Chapel hymn-singing was a delight. Sadly for us, however, his northern roots proved too strong and Dominic leaves Stowe's beauties – artistic, architectural, musical and literary – for the different and welcoming hills of the North. He leaves us for a school closer to his family, and we wish him every success in the future. I hope he recalls his Stoic sojourn with some affection and that, when reading the 18th century poets, he will re-visit us in his mind's eye.

Mr Crispin Robinson



Victoria Hunter Smart

I remember waiting in reception for Tor to arrive one grim November morning in 2008, and taking unwarranted pride in the fact that I guessed correctly which of the visitors she was.

I gave her the 'Chapel Decoration Test', which she passed with flying colours, and that was that! Happily, she settled rapidly into her flat in Stanhope where she has passed her two years here as a Third Form tutor. She has a most cheerful disposition that I have come to appreciate, but this accompanies a real gritty determination to get things right. She has been amazing in Spam Ed lessons, and her talks in Chapel have been brilliant examples of how to teach in that setting, using carefully chosen words in a precisely structured five minute talk (three years reading English at

Cambridge has clearly paid off). Tor has been a great support in all manner of ways, but I suspect that she is perhaps most content with the way that Crossfire has flourished under her leadership. The North Front Pavilion is regularly packed with enthusiastic youngsters drawn by good speakers and excellent brownies but, most of all, by the genuine warmth of the friendly atmosphere that she has fostered. She leaves us to teach English at the Dragon where I'm sure she'll excel, but happily, we are not losing her altogether because she has sorted out my problem. Until Henry Swayne, my assistants had all married the summer they left... Henry let the side down. It is therefore entirely in character that Tor should remedy this failure on my part... by marrying Henry. Score!

The Reverend Robert Jackson



Sarah Ross

Sarah joined the Religious Studies Department in 2007, having just finished her Master's degree at Jesus College, Cambridge.

She had an eventful first year which involved spending an extra three weeks of "holiday" in Spain after a Kafkaesque mix up by the Home Office, as well as taking on the job of Under-Housemistress of Lyttelton after only one term. Sarah immediately threw herself into the teaching job and sought to be an innovative and engaging RS teacher. She has a broad range of interests within the subject and these all manifested themselves in her lessons. She embraced all the new technologies and her pupils were always engaged in podcasting, filming or quiz making. I will miss her forthright approach to things and the way that she was always prepared to have a go at anything.

Having no previous experience, being in a boarding house was an unexpected change of direction for Sarah, and she certainly rose to the occasion quickly, learning as she went along. As a resident tutor, Sarah has helped our youngest pupils settle in quickly, through both her open-door policy and her mad dog Josh. Her hospitality has been legendary, with USA delicacies and Thanksgiving pumpkin pie on the menu. Much of the food was home grown in her veggie patch, and her cakes were enjoyed by staff and pupils

alike. She has been in charge of many trips, and one very popular adventure to the USA. Sarah is willing to go beyond the call of duty and will spend time talking through issues of homesickness or relationship problems. The girls find her approachable, so I know that Sarah will do a superb job at Downe House as a Housemistress, but I do hope that she does not forget her RS roots and her time in Lyttelton! We wish her the best of luck with her new job and her forthcoming marriage to Alex.

Mrs Judy Gracie and Mr Dominic Mochan



Jarret Zafran

Jarret has made an impressive contribution to life at Stowe during his year as Stowe Harvard Fellow. His teaching responsibilities have been divided between Sixth Form American Politics and History in the Third Form.

In Politics he has a strong classroom presence, his preparation and content are superb and he is a popular figure among his students. Teaching History to 13-year-olds has been a new experience for Jarret but his sets have enjoyed his carefully prepared lessons and responded well to his view of History from "Over the Pond".

On the academic front Jarret has also done valiant work this year in supporting those students who have decided to apply to American universities. Commitment, energy and a sense of humour are essential in boarding school life and Jarret has these qualities in abundance. He quickly picked up the reins of the Tennis activity to lead the 1st VI and organise the programme for the term. He showed initiative and creativity in helping out with the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award and in Temple he was fully involved and committed to the House, and the boys will miss his presence. We wish Jarret every success for the future.

Mrs Carol Miller



Matthew Wilson

Freeing himself from the routine of a deskbound job in London, Matt joined us in the Summer term of 2008. Matt has always been fascinated by Stowe, and with its

landscaped gardens and the grandeur of the Mansion's state rooms, how could it not be a source of inspiration to an Art Historian?

Many a Third Former has been guided by Matt through the School grounds and had their eyes opened to the beauty and significance of our temples. Matt has also helped to develop the Visual Education programme, which he has done with passion and enthusiasm. In the classroom, Matt proved himself a talented and committed teacher, and in helping A-level pupils prepare for their exams, he quickly won the confidence of staff and Stoics alike.

Although Matt is a former Rugby Daily Mail Cup winner with RGS High Wycombe and has been involved with rugby, cricket and Service at Stowe, he is first and foremost a man of the arts. In his brief time with us Matt started up a film making society and the "Ars Longa Vita Brevis" Society, in conjunction with Nick Rendall.

Matt was very much at home in the boarding house environment and after a period as a successful academic tutor in Cobham, he applied for the post of Under-Housemaster in Chatham. Matt was appointed in September 2009 and has proven to be outstanding. His enviable qualities of an endless good nature, tolerance and willingness to work hard have endeared him equally to Chathamites, parents, his Head of Department and myself. Matt will be sorely missed at Stowe and we wish him all the very best in his new teaching post at The Harrodian.

Mr John Ing



Olivia Thorogood

Olivia Thorogood arrived at Stowe in September 2009 and has been an enormous asset to a number of different departments during her year.

In Drama she must be commended for her effort and contributions, particularly whilst Chris Walters has been away. She has not only helped out with Third Form lessons but also with House plays and of course Congreve; I know that Nick Bayley has found her help and expertise invaluable. At all other times she has been found assisting in the classroom with Sports Science, coaching both Boys' and

Girls' Hockey and, of course, indulging her true love – out on the cricket pitch or in the nets.

Oli has been a great help with the girls – she coached the Hockey 2nd team during her first term here and developed a special bond with the senior girls, helping them to a successful season. We are all very disappointed that she was unable to stay but wish her all the best in her new position at Brighton.

Mrs Jayne Duckett



Marie Beranger

I remember welcoming Marie on a sunny September day, as Lord Heseltine was walking down the North Front steps. Having just finished her degree in Caen, she was ready to embrace her year as one of the French Assistants.

From the moment she arrived, she was eager to throw herself into teaching AS French students the art of French conversation, as well as looking after our native speakers and helping with some Lower School classes. Soon, Stoics shouting "Bonjour Marie!" could be heard throughout the Modern Languages corridor. Very popular with students and staff alike, Marie soon established herself as a hard-working yet fun Assistant whose contribution to the French Department was immense. Always willing to go the extra mile to make sure her students were well-prepared for the oral examination, Marie has spent many afternoons offering extra lessons and invigilating orals. We all wish her the very best for next year, as she embarks on a course to become a teacher back in France.

Mrs Alice Tearle



Lorenzo Munuera

Lorenzo, like his brother Francisco (our Spanish Assistant two years ago), has been the perfect emblem for Spain.

Always happy, reliable and a gentleman through and through, he spent many hours creating beautiful worksheets for his pupils, ensuring they were well-prepared for their oral examination. With Spanish a thriving language at Stowe, he had plenty to do – so much so, that he will be replaced by two Assistants

next year. Whenever a volunteer was needed to help out in the Department, Lorenzo was the first to offer his help, and for that we are all very grateful. Lorenzo will not only be remembered by the Modern Languages Department – staff in the Weights Room and on the football pitch will also miss his cheerful presence and eagerness to participate in anything that Stowe has to offer.

Mrs Alice Tearle



Camille Delautre

If ever there was an Assistant who made the most of Stowe, Camille would be that Assistant. After a year at Stowe, not much is left of the rather quiet and homely girl who joined us in September.

Instead, a confident and outgoing young lady, ready to embrace life to the full, is returning to France at the end of the month. Camille's relentless energy has been much appreciated in the Department, by staff and pupils alike. Nothing was too much for her and she tackled difficult topics such as the French Resistance with the same gusto as teaching AS students some basic grammar. Camille will be remembered for her willingness to help and her cheerful presence in the Common Room. She leaves behind many friends but she assures me that, like Arnold Schwarzenegger, she will be back.

Mrs Alice Tearle



...life with the Nichols always went at full tilt...

Annie Nichols (1944 – 2009)

When the Nichols family first burst upon Stowe in the late summer of 1989, it was a collective blonde bombshell of an arrival, complemented by the family's madcap spaniel Mr Boffin (immortalised by Mr David Shepherd OBE (OS Chatham '49) in his painting of Jeremy in the East Corridor) and their beloved vintage motor, "The Bent". The Headmaster's energetic support team of a tangle and tumble of curly blonde heads was led by Annie. Sometimes hard to differentiate from her affectionate, welcoming children, she never failed to include them, as they all threw themselves enthusiastically into all aspects of school life.

And life with the Nichols always went at full tilt. Those of us who were in and out of the old Kinloss kitchen will remember well those marvellous, larger-than-life photographs of the family at play – fun, they all screamed. Come and share in the

fun and our huge joy of life – Annie's huge joy of life. In Annie and Jeremy's time Kinloss was the most marvellously welcoming open house to absolutely

"She was a sharing spirit of immense kindness and compassion..."

everyone – not a school event went by when Annie wasn't feeding the 5,000. No number was too large and there was food, drink and a welcome for all. A roast chicken would appear as if by magic, and as one member of staff and frequent guest observed, it was as though chickens were being reared in the Headman's back yard.

For many of us, the highlights were the great parties that happened at Christmas, the tennis and the barbecues in the summer and the fireworks and picnics in

the Elysian Fields. Annie loved her tennis – the first new build at the house in Cornwall was a superb tennis court and multi-purpose tennis hut where friends could be entertained, and yet more young could sleep when the house was full. Annie also loved people, and parties, and good conversation, and guests were usually a jolly mix of family and friends. And the friends often included past or present students and staff and their families too, many of whom became firm friends in themselves. Whenever possible, we played hilariously imaginative homemade party games that were humbling and instructive in equal measure. Teams were

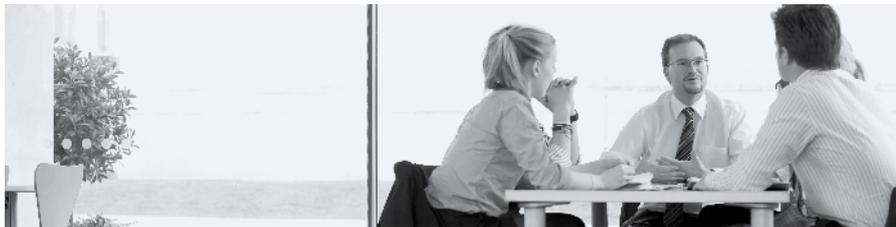
called for, competition was fierce and no room sacred, not even the Headmaster's study or the family bedrooms. There was a frenzied scramble to win, overseen by Annie and Jeremy, who rang the bell to gales of laughter when things looked like getting out of hand. The buzz was terrific.

Annie made firm friends across the board within the wider Stowe community. Her interest in the place and its people was deep and genuine; everyone felt they mattered to her, and they did. She was a sharing spirit of immense kindness and compassion who spread colour and sunshine wherever she went; the room lit up when Annie walked in. And when she wasn't free to talk, she could still find time to flash you an email that would shed fresh light on something and make you laugh. She was the best sounding board ever, and never, ever complained about what she was going through.

She had a strong faith and worked hard for her chosen charities – during her time at Stowe this meant the blind and the NSPCC. She adored the privacy of the family at Bucks Mills where she swam in the sea in the early morning, walked on the beach, and shrimped in the rocks with her beloved children and grandchildren. And she loved to snorkel whenever she could. Theatre, travel, mountains (she ticked off Everest Base Camp and Kilimanjaro), singing, cycling, skiing; Annie was up for it all. For her, life had a capital L; and for those who knew her and had the privilege to call her our friend, life was made infinitely richer through her friendship.

Léonie and Peter Thorogood

Academic Report



With life at Stowe sometimes verging on a Jacobean drama in recent weeks, it is a pleasure to draw back the curtain to view the past year in a more positive light. We continue to improve our results, employ more staff to educate more Stoics, and to renew or create better facilities around the site to enhance our teaching and pupils' learning.

The 2009 results at A-level were 66.6% A/B, thus maintaining the gradual rise at A-level seen in the past few years. Well done to all last year's Upper Sixth and the teaching staff. At GCSE there was also another increase to 35.1% at A*/A, and we are firmly committed to continuing to seek academic improvement in all our public exams. With modules in Science, Maths, Latin and Greek from the Fourth Form upwards, Stoics have greater chances to improve their marks. AS results were also excellent in many cases, which bodes well for the A-levels this summer.

At the beginning of the new academic year it was a pleasure to award new Scholars' ties and pins to those Stoics who achieved outstanding academic results in the summer. 14 Upper Sixth pupils achieved straight A grades in their AS exams; 18 Lower Sixth pupils gained more than six A* grades in GCSEs; 11 pupils gained at least three A* grades in Fourth Form school exams and an A* in Science GCSE modules; and seven pupils achieved at least three A* grades in Third Form exams. The new ties and pins are worn proudly and are a visible sign of how proud we are of academic success.

Despite these improvements, the competition for Oxbridge places is increasingly difficult. Oxbridge colleges are forced to assess more for potential by a return to more formal entrance tests and

examinations. They are also looking harder at GCSE grades, UMS marks at AS and, of course, evidence of wider reading and critical engagement with the subject. In this uncertain atmosphere, we are delighted with the conditional offers of places to Caitlin Gracie (Biochemistry, Lincoln College, Oxford); Gus Perkins-Ray (Choral Scholarship and History of Art, St John's College, Cambridge); Azhar Doszhanova (Mathematics, Peterhouse, Cambridge); and Charlotte Matthews (Classics, Wolfson College, Cambridge). There are currently over 30 Lower Sixth Stoics who are interested in Oxbridge applications in October. Wonderful intellectual and critical support for these Stoics is provided by staff through the Bio-Med Group for scientists, as well as extension classes in English, Maths, Geography and History, to name but a few.

Most Stoics still apply to UK universities and we are pleased at the high percentage who receive offers from the Russell Group as well as the leading Academies of Music, Art and Drama. There can be no doubt, however, that conditional offers are being raised and the number of places reduced, so Stoics will have to work harder to achieve places at desirable universities.

The past year also saw a Curriculum Review. The chief recommendations are the use of Monday afternoons for extension classes for our Oxbridge candidates and those applying to study medicine or veterinary studies. Equally, Thursday afternoons will become the opportunity for Third Form pupils to take part in clubs and 'Gifted and Talented' extension work. We also wish to offer greater choice of languages to the Third Form, with beginner's Russian added to

our provision. The XX Group for Junior Scholar Stoics continues to flourish with an exciting programme of talks, visits and presentations.

We look forward to the re-opening of several academic spaces. The Art School, restored and re-furnished thanks to the generosity of Lord Sainsbury (OS Grenville '46) and The Linbury Trust, will be ready for use in September 2010, with the addition of a new gallery on the ground floor and new interior spaces. The quality of the space and light, signatures of the architect, Rick Mather, will make this one of the finest Art Schools in the country, not just in terms of its outstanding results but also in terms of its facilities. The History of Art Department is re-united with Art. A few Apple Macs, the best IT available for creative purposes, will be installed for pupil use, thanks to the generosity of the Scott-Ichinose Trust.

The second important renewal and restoration is that of the Library, which is reported on elsewhere in *The Stoic*. The Library will be re-established as the academic heart of the School, when the Upper Sixth return to some study periods in the Library to prepare them for university courses. Staff, too, will bring their pupils in for Library-based lessons.

We should not omit to mention the Science Department, where we are renewing one Physics laboratory as the beginning of a rolling programme of updating all the laboratories, dependent on funding. It should also allow disabled access to both Physics and Chemistry lessons, in line with regulations and meeting the needs of all our pupils.

We are also planning for the new Music School which will, for the first time in the history of Stowe, bring the diaspora of musicians to an end – it will attract more outstanding music scholars and further enhance the musical life of the School. Academic and instrumental teaching, rehearsals, practice and storage will be brought together in a signature building, which will act as a symbol of our commitment to improving our provision in terms of teaching and enjoyment of the subjects we offer, all the while respecting the unique Stowe philosophy and environment.

Mr Crispin Robinson
Deputy Headmaster (Academic)

Prefects' Report

This year has been a busy one for the Prefect Body, where new prefects were deservingly brought into the group half-way through the year.

During the disruptions caused by the ash cloud, the number of pupils was reduced from 760 to 600, and it became obvious to many of the Prefects how much easier their duties would have been two or three years ago. The role of a prefect is extremely challenging, with duties lasting three days during the week and weekend duties every fortnight, along with a variety of additional roles ranging from helping with lost property or assisting the Admissions team.

Not only have there been numerous events organised to keep the Prefects occupied, but they have also been making an impact by organising their own schemes. It has been great to see so many prefects embracing our message of 'giving something back' and moving it forward with such pride for Stowe.

One of the new initiatives introduced this year was 'House Visits'. In pairs, the 12 members of the Senior Prefect team have rotated around each of the Boarding Houses. Together with the Head of House, they met and chatted with the Third and Fourth Form, many of whom they would never have spoken to otherwise. This programme seems to have been a great success in its first year, and hopefully it will be carried on in the future. It has created a much stronger relationship between the Prefects and the Lower School, something that many of the younger Stoics had identified as a problem. It has enabled the Prefect Body to learn the names of the younger pupils, and therefore allowed us to have a much more personal approach when doing our duties.

The Prefects who have made their presence felt most within the School are Lucy O'Brien and Tiffany Georgallides who organised and co-ordinated Stowe's first 'Eco-Week' in May. At the time of writing it is ongoing so we have yet to see the results,

but it is already obvious that it has made many Stoics wake up and pay attention to several of the things that we take for granted; for example, 'Saving Food Day' showed just how much food we waste on a daily basis.

Yasmin Hughes and Ollie Childs decided to dedicate themselves to improving social time for the Lower School. During House visits, socials were highlighted as one of the most important issues and we have tried to improve things for the younger years. The Lower School Dance for the Fourth and Fifth Form in May was the first time that they have experienced anything close to the highly anticipated Sixth Form Dances, and it was satisfying to see the difference it made for them, even if only in a small way.

The Prefects as a whole have also tried extremely hard to establish a good line of communication with the Housemasters and Housemistresses. Through a formal dinner each term, the Prefects and Housemasters have joined forces to think of ways in which we can make a difference to the lives of Stoics. It is from this forum that House visits, a junior social committee and improved prefect privileges have emerged. There are also plenty more ideas which, although we were unable to achieve this year, we hope will be carried forward by our replacements.

Overall it has been a thoroughly enjoyable year and we have experienced some great moments that we will always remember. Rosie and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Prefects for their hard work, friendship and integrity over the past year. Without their help it would have been impossible to make this year so successful. Thanks are also due to Mr Wellington, who has made our tasks significantly easier by being an excellent mentor throughout.

James Elliott (U6th, Chandos) and Rosie Gawthrop (U6th, Nugent)



Mo

November

From 1st November 2009, for one month only, Stowe became somewhat hairier...

In a bid to raise £3000 for The Prostate Cancer Charity, 37 members of staff, representing almost every department in the School, vowed to grow moustaches for the entire month. The 'Movember' challenge was on!

The participants certainly rose to the challenge, and even encouraged ex-staff members from across the globe to take part – photographic evidence has confirmed that moustaches were sported as far afield as Brunei, Australia, and Buenos Aires.

All members of the Stowe community were kept up-to-date with the progress of the moustaches, with TWMo reports after one week (distributed at the same time as the pupils' TWOs). This was followed, after two weeks, by a Whose Mo Is It Anyway? quiz – see photographs above...

As the most common cancer in males in the UK, and with over 10,000 men dying each year from the disease, the School was keen to ensure that the serious messages about prostate cancer were not forgotten amongst the fun.

PSHE sessions were geared towards spreading knowledge and understanding of the illness, and brown wristbands were distributed for pupils and staff to wear. These could be passed on to male family members, to encourage awareness.

Movember did not pass without drama: Coach Cowie was discovered using performance enhancing dye, in a bid to make his facial hair appear darker and thicker than it actually was; Mr Robinson and Mr Murray failed to conform to Mo rules, as they refused to shave off their beards; and whilst Rev. Jackson was forced to part with his Mo after repeated pleas from his daughters, Mr Critchley is still sporting his, along with a beard,

well into the summer term. Reports that this is an attempt to get a head start for Movember 2010 are unconfirmed.

On Monday 1st December, the Headmaster announced the Movember winner and runners-up. Worthy contenders for first place were Mr Hayden, Mr Wilson and Mr Peverley, with Coach Cowie being disqualified due to the aforementioned dye discovery. It was the admirable effort of Mr 'Wing Commander' Swayne that was awarded the top spot. A well-deserved award, for a superbly cultivated Mo!

Thanks to the overwhelming support of pupils, parents and staff alike, the total amount raised smashed the target set, prompting this message from The Prostate Cancer Charity:

"Thank you for your kind and very generous donation. Stowe School have been terrific in their fundraising; £4000 is a marvellous figure. Movember has certainly been very successful this year. To date, we have raised over £4 million with donations still rolling in, and it's all thanks to supporters like you. The money will go a long way in helping men affected by prostate cancer."

Mr Phil Arnold

Mr Arnold removes 'Wing Commander' Swayne's admirable effort



Mother of us all

Mother of us all
Time passes by as I think of you,
As I think of what we your children cannot undo.

You the place of our birth,
Our queen, our mother, our beautiful earth.
We have killed and spilt your children's innocent blood,
And through our wrong doings, caused your tears to flood.
We have made you watch as your children are raped,
And now judgement has become our unending fate.
We have stood aside for far too long,
As you cried out in a saddening song.

As you cried out in pain, cried out for help,
cried out for us.
Arise children of the world and stand your ground,
For you are our today and tomorrow.
Fly the skies throughout the world,
And spread the life-changing word.
You will fill the skies with happiness,
And walk the earth with gentleness,
Because you are our future,
And the healers of our world.

Genesis Manney (Branson Scholar
and 4th Form, Stanhope)

Old Stoics



From the Chairman

It has been a very busy year for the Old Stoic Society in terms of reunions – we have organised 12 events, some at Stowe and others as far north as Edinburgh. A small group, led by Jonty Crosse (OS Walpole '76) even managed independently to organise a reunion of Old Stoics living in Bahrain!

The annual dinner was, again, a great success this year with many more younger Old Stoics in attendance than in previous years. This added a lively dynamic to the evening along with a casino after dinner which all vintages seemed to enjoy. In 2011 we plan to move the dinner to later in the year to make way for an evening 'Summer Cocktail Party' – al fresco in London. It will be open to all Old Stoics and we invite you to bring your partner or a guest. We are looking at potential venues now and hope to send you more details later in the year.

Aside from the events and reunions, the Old Stoic office has completed some important work on the Data Census, ensuring that we have up-to-date details on as many Old Stoics as we can. Arising from this, some of you have also kindly offered current Stoics the opportunity of valuable work experience and mentorship – for which I would like to thank you. This is an area we would like to see develop over the coming years, offering existing and leaving Stoics a helping hand as they embark on their chosen careers.

As I mentioned in an email recently, the Society will be producing a new annual publication in February 2011, focusing on Old Stoics and their news. It will be more comprehensive than *The Column* and will include more eclectic feature stories, more news and in-depth obituaries on some of our more remarkable members.

I hope you enjoy the *The Stoic* with its new layout and I look forward to introducing the new Old Stoic publication to you early next year. In the meantime, I wish you all a very pleasant summer and hope to see you at one of our events in the near future.

Remember – if we don't have your contact details, we can't invite you to our events!

Ivo Forde, Chairman (OS Walpole '67)

Data Census Update

The Old Stoic Society would like to thank all the 3,190 Old Stoics, an impressive 40% of those contacted, who completed their Data Census. If you've not yet received your questionnaire please get in touch with the Old Stoic Office. It can still be filled in either online or by post.

Early findings from the data collected are most encouraging. We know the whereabouts of over 8,000 Old Stoics. Of those we can reach 4,571 by email and 7,992 by post.

We have vastly improved the business information we hold and can now confidently and accurately target specific business sectors when sending out invitations to our Business Networking Receptions.

The responses to the open questions on 'what the Society should be doing and what events you would like to see us organise' were very helpful. We appear to be on the right track, but there is room for improvement in some interesting areas... watch this space!

There were over 1,200 indications that an Online Business Network would be beneficial, so the OS Office will start work on developing this immediately. When it's ready we will be in touch with details on how to register.

Finally, a huge 'thank you' to the 801 Old Stoics who indicated that they would be prepared to offer some form of work experience or mentorship to current and leaving Stoics. This is an area the Chairman and Committee would like to see developed further over the coming years. With this support the ball is now well and truly rolling...

Tim Scarff, Marketing and Old Stoic Director (OS Grenville '91)

Galsworthy Print

This painting depicts the 1st XI cricket match against the Old Stoics on Speech Day, 2003. A limited edition of 500 prints have been individually signed and numbered by the artist, Jocelyn Galsworthy. The prints are destined to become collectors' items for enthusiasts of both cricket and 18th century architecture, as well as for those who simply love fine art and Stowe. They are available via the Old Stoic office unframed, in a tube and posted by Special Delivery for £132.50. All proceeds go to the Campaign for Stowe.



Michael Deeley's Life in Cult Movies



Old Stoic and Oscar-winning film producer Michael Deeley (OS Bruce '50) has produced more than 30 movies, including such classics as *The Italian Job*, *The Deer Hunter* and *Blade Runner*. He has made films for Universal, Paramount, Twentieth Century Fox, Warner Brothers, Columbia, United Artists, EMI, HBO, CBS and NBC.

Born in London in 1932, he was educated at Stowe and served as a Second Lieutenant in the British Army. He entered the film industry in 1952 as an assistant editor and is a founding member and Deputy Chairman of The British Screen Advisory Council. Following this amazing career he has recently published a popular account of his adventures in his book *Blade Runners, Deer Hunters and Blowing the Bloody Doors Off* (Published in 2008 by Faber & Faber). He writes:

"When you come right down to it, a producer doesn't really make films: he causes them to be made. In pre-production his function is to shepherd together the crew, the stars, the director and the money. But once film is running through cameras, the power shifts and the producer's job is to move whatever mountains must be moved so that the director can make his days. Directors, be they good, bad, or mediocre, all tend toward the fastidious; and, short of agreeing to shift the Taj Mahal two inches to the left, the producer must deliver.

I never, ever wanted to be a director. And when I embarked on a film career I had no conception of what kind of picture I wanted to produce, either: I was just focused on making pictures. But once I reached a point in my career of having a choice of pictures to make — then it was always about doing something different, not a cross between Blockbuster A and Blockbuster B, as people forever propose when they're pitching in Hollywood ('It's Star Wars meets

Titanic', et cetera). I did make one or two pretty bland films. A nudist film that was one of my earliest efforts has, understandably and thankfully, disappeared, as have a few B-pictures. But above all the intention was to be completely original.

*The simplest way for me to underscore my proposition is to look at the directors with whom I worked. Sam Peckinpah was nobody's idea of an easy way to make a living. Any project undertaken with Nicolas Roeg is bound to be an adventure. Ridley Scott is not 'easy', but as the wise old saying has it, 'Easy-going goes nowhere'. I went in knowing they might be hard work, and I never kidded myself otherwise. Even if they're trouble, they're talented. Cult movies are often works later reckoned to be 'ahead of their time', and I think I can claim to have produced a few of those. *The Italian Job*, nearly forty years after its release, is rooted in the affections of the British public and, as far as that public is concerned, is probably better loved and respected than the two heavyweight contenders of my career — *The Deer Hunter* and *Blade Runner*. I am the first to admit that, while I was in the midst of bringing the city of Turin to a standstill for the purposes of *The Italian Job*, I didn't dare to imagine that the finished picture would become so cherished. At the time, as I recall, I was more concerned with avoiding being lynched by a horde of enraged Italian motorists. But in the long run the effort proved worthwhile."*



I rowed across the Atlantic and then climbed Everest...!

On 4th January at 4:00am I started rowing away from Gomera in the Canary Islands, knowing I would not see land again for well over a month!

I was part of a 12 man crew who had been selected to try and beat the world record of 33 days, rowing unsupported across the Atlantic Ocean. To add a little spice to the adventure I decided to summit Mt Everest from the North side and become the first human to tackle these two extreme conditions on earth simultaneously.

The first four days of the crossing were the hardest; getting used to the change in sleep patterns was incredibly difficult. My body had to readjust to survive on sleeping four times a day for about 50 minutes.

Despite the exhaustion and discomfort it was truly a once-in-a-life time experience. Imagine being on a tiny little rowing boat surrounded by mile long swells; you get the feeling of complete insignificance and you truly see the magic of the ocean. The huge waves would dwarf a five story house and then hours later the ocean would be mirror calm and appear like an ice rink. At night the stars were so bright they would light up all the rowing team and I could make out the tiniest details on the stern pair whilst seated in the bows. I saw more stars on a clear night than I ever imagined existed; their numbers seemed infinite.

The crossing took 38 days: I had lost 25% of my body weight, I had blisters all over my hands and on my behind and my leg muscles had gone into a permanent cramp. Yet, in a matter of weeks, I would be at Everest's base camp preparing to climb to the top of the world...

Everest was very different to the row; the days were less physically demanding and I was able to sleep for hours every night! During the trip I battled with altitude sickness which gave me terrible headaches and a constant feeling of weakness. However, waking up every day to look out of your tent and see Everest in front of you made every pain and discomfort worthwhile. Everest towers above all and looks almost magical; it is known as 'Chomolungma' to Tibetans, which is translated as 'Goddess Mother of the Earth'.



We spent two months building up our camps and waiting for a weather window, during which time we had been sleeping at over 7,000 metres with no oxygen in order to acclimatise. We also suffered various storms; one particularly bad one saw us on top of the North Cole, in winds gusting over 70mph; these winds blew many of our tents away and one of our team had a narrow escape climbing out of one of the tents moments before it blew off the side of the mountain.

We started our summit push from base camp at 5,200 metres. The first few days were spent pushing up to the North Cole at 7,000 metres; these days would normally consist of 6-10 hours walking and climbing and the rest of the time we would frantically drink water to keep ourselves hydrated. Then we would rest and try to prepare for the following day's climbing.

When I left the North Cole on the 23rd May I knew that I would have the hardest days of my life ahead; I climbed up into the death zone at 7,500 metres. At this altitude the human body starts deteriorating as there is so little pressure and as a result very little oxygen; the human body cannot function normally and it will start shutting down to concentrate on your vital organs. It made every few metres of height gain incredibly exhausting and completing the simplest function took 10 times longer than it would at sea level.

There are three main 'steps' on the summit ridge where the technical climbing is at its hardest, the most difficult of which is the third step. This was exhausting to climb; what I could normally scamper up in minutes at sea level became an agonising experience on top of Everest, with every muscle in my body screaming for more oxygen. It was an incredible effort to lift my body up, but inch by inch I clambered, kicked, pulled and heaved my way up. Just before the summit there is a traverse section; I had to walk along a stretch about 12 inches wide with a four kilometre drop down one side. Looking down gave me terrible vertigo and it probably goes down as one of the most terrifying moments of my life.

After three years of planning and over 3,000 miles of rowing, two months climbing, six camps and three false summits (which almost drove me to despair) I was finally standing on top of the world!

I looked down upon everything on Earth; elation does not even come close to describe the supreme emotion I felt. Unfortunately it was a little chilly on top of the world, about -45 degrees and we had 50mph gusting winds, so I did not spend long on the summit and started the climb down towards oxygen filled air, water and safety.

I am on the way to gaining four different world records and I'm the first man to successfully tackle the two extreme conditions on the Earth together, but to me the experiences I have gained and my own sense of achievement are the most important and will live with me for the rest of my days.

As well as looking to break records I have been raising money for the 'Oxford Cancer Centre', part of the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford. It is a unit that is close to my heart as members of my family have been treated by the hospital. If you would like to, please log on to my 'Just Giving' page and donate to this worthy cause: <http://www.justgiving.com/nettles-neverest>.

James Nettleton (OS Cobham '00)

Old Stoic Sports



As part of the new OS Committee Structure which has been in place for over a year now, I have been in charge of Sport and trying to get to grips with the intricacies of the many OS Sports teams and how they operate.

My main aim has been to increase the budget available from the Society, which has been duly agreed to in return for some information on various sports activities and articles/photos for our OS publications. This should mean better funded sports teams who can support their younger members, provide kit and enter all the various tournaments available to old boys' and girls' societies.

The current list of OS Sports includes Golf, Cricket, Tennis, Shooting, Fives, Sailing, Football, Cross-Country Running and, very soon, Lacrosse, but we think there should be more. It's an easy way to stay in touch with your peer groups, have the opportunity to play at many wonderful sporting venues (including returning to Stowe) and, of course, stay active! I have been in touch with the Old Abingdonians regarding putting a Rugby 7s team together (they have a tournament each March) and am looking forward to the first lacrosse match against the 1st XII as part of their pre-season training on Saturday 4th September.

If you would like to get involved (partaking or supporting) or, indeed, organise a team, then please do get in touch with the OS Office.

Hannah Durden (OS Nugent '01)

Coming up...

Old Stoic Reunion Day on Saturday 11th September

Open to all OSs, but specifically for those who left before 1960. Lunch in the State Dining Rooms and another chance to look around the refurbished main house and grounds. Families welcome.

OS 50th Anniversary Reunion on Wednesday 22nd September

A year group lunch for those who left in 1960 with guided House and landscape garden tours.

Summer Cocktail Party, London

A new event for all Old Stoics – not to be missed! Bring your partner or a guest and join this informal, al fresco gathering. Cocktails and canapés from 6.30pm...somewhere with a good view!

OS Annual Dinner & AGM (October 2011)

A traditional black tie affair at the Inner Temple Hall – champagne and three courses with wine will see you through. Tables of 10 or 12 available.

Finally...

Don't forget the new Old Stoic publication due out in February 2011! Keep your news and photos coming in. If you are feeling more adventurous... write and send in an article or story that you think might be of interest.

All enquiries and booking to oldstoic@stowe.co.uk or call the office on 01280 818 349



Amanda Seymour's Saharan Marathon



In February 2010 I ran the Sahara Marathon. It was one of the most amazing, overwhelming experiences – the type that turn your life upside down (in a good way).

Back in October 2009 I was still swearing to myself that I would never ever run a marathon. And I had never even heard of the Western Sahara before. The Sahara Marathon just happened to coincide with my 40th birthday and it seemed like a good way to mark it – with something significant, something challenging and something worthwhile. So, in a moment of weakness, I signed up!

The Sahara Marathon is an international sporting event to show solidarity with the people of the Western Sahara. Most Saharawis live in refugee camps in the harsh desert of south-west Algeria, while many more live in Moroccan-occupied Western Sahara under equally challenging conditions. The Saharawis have been living a life of struggle for the past 35 years but unfortunately their situation is still not widely known about. The Sahara Marathon is an event that is trying to make the world stand up and take notice.

About 30 of us took part in the event from the UK through a charity called Sandblast. We spent a week living with refugee families in their huts and tents and found out all about their life in the desert. Saharawis have so little but are extremely generous people and it was a truly humbling experience.

You can find out more about Saharawis, the Sahara Marathon and Sandblast at www.sandblast-arts.org or at www.saharamarathon.org. I would love to encourage as many people as possible to come out and run with me next year. You don't have to run a full marathon. You can choose to run a half-marathon, 10km or 5km. And you can even walk! Do get in touch if you are interested or if you know anyone else who might be (amanda@c-maw.com).

Amanda Seymour (OS Nugent '88)



Mongol Derby

The longest horse race in the world

Jeremy Pemberton (OS Chatham '96) and I (OS Bruce '96) had been selected to race in "the longest, most dangerous horse race in the world". The 1000km race across Mongolia had been designed using principles of Genghis Khan's ancient postal system; a series of horse stations every 40km across the Mongol empire.

3,500 miles around the world later, we were gathered with an international field of 34 riders in a valley getting prepped for the race.

The course would take us from the mid-east's vast plateaux, across surging rivers and eventually up through mosquito-filled woodlands to the Russian border. We would carry all our kit except food; this would be supplied at the horse stations – a diet rich in sheep intestines and fermented mares' milk.

After a couple of acclimatisation days, we came to be seated on our twitchy steeds under a fluttering start line in the blazing sun. A whistle blew and 26 riders loosened the grip on their reins and leapt forward – 1000km lay between us and glory.

The Mongolian landscape is unique; an expanse that rolls uninterrupted for thousands of miles wrapped in the famous Mongol sky, almost always a piercingly azure blue in which perfectly formed clouds hang just out of reach. It is a magical land through which to travel.

The organiser's warning had been clear – there was no primary emergency care

– so a serious internal or head injury would likely result in death. On day two, after my horse kicked me in the guts, I was left doubled over, wondering about the severity of the injury as my horse (with all my kit) galloped over the hill – I then came to understand what 'unsupported' truly meant.

However, we very quickly grew to love the day-to-day life with the Mongols and their wonderful horses. An incredibly kind, curious and courteous people, they would feed us and help us control the wilder of our new mounts without hesitation. We were later told by the race vets that every time riders left each horse station, the locals would roll around on the floor in laughter at our get-up and the amount of kit (minimal though it was) we carried.

There are far more tales to tell than there is room for here, but highlights were riding into a herd of camels; racing down mountains to escape storms; galloping with wild horses pressed in around us; exchanging songs and making toasts whilst drinking copious amounts of foul-tasting fermented mares' milk; sharing jokes and stories with people who didn't speak a word of English and building a friendship with a horse-owner who followed us the full 1000km and gave us Mongol clothes to ride in for the final leg of the race.

Having journeyed across an ancient land in the manner people have been doing for thousands of years, we finished in 9½ days in 13th place. Mongolia gave us so much to take home.

Will Kemble-Clarkson (OS Bruce '96)

OS Events Review

2009/2010



Scottish Reunion, Dalhousie Castle, Nr. Edinburgh, 17th April

"I had a wonderful time and it was clear that everyone there thoroughly enjoyed it and would be up for the next one! It was lovely to spend time with people who had such affection for the place. Stowe turned out to be the perfect school for me."

David Kerr (OS Lyttelton '80)

40th Anniversary Reunion, 24th April

"My wife and I greatly enjoyed our day at Stowe on Saturday. Wonderful weather, first class company and excellent hospitality made for a great occasion. It was lovely to go back and catch up with old friends, and see the House and gardens so well cared for."

Chris Davis (OS Grenville '69)



Annual Dinner & AGM, 19th May

"Thank you so much for masterminding last night's excellent Old Stoic gathering. It was good to see such a high attendance and the venue worked well. The casino was a nice touch and the free bar was much appreciated – not bad for £55 a head!"

The Headmaster!



Old Stoics in Arts, Media & Entertainment, 16th June

"The large turn-out made the event hugely worthwhile and the way people mingled across the years and the professions was most encouraging. I think a number of people found it really worthwhile."

Ivo Forde (OS Walpole '67)



The Old Stoic Open Golf Tournament for the Bill Edgerley Memorial Cup, 12th June

This year won by Tony Edgerley (OS Chandos '82)



Chatham House Reunion, 12th June

"Please pass on my grateful thanks to all involved in the organisation of a very happy and fun day. It was a 240 mile round trip but it was fun meeting old friends, some of whom I had not seen for more than 56 years! The food and wine were excellent, as were the marquee, tables etc. All very well organised, as was the weather!"

Peter Cooper (OS Chatham '54)



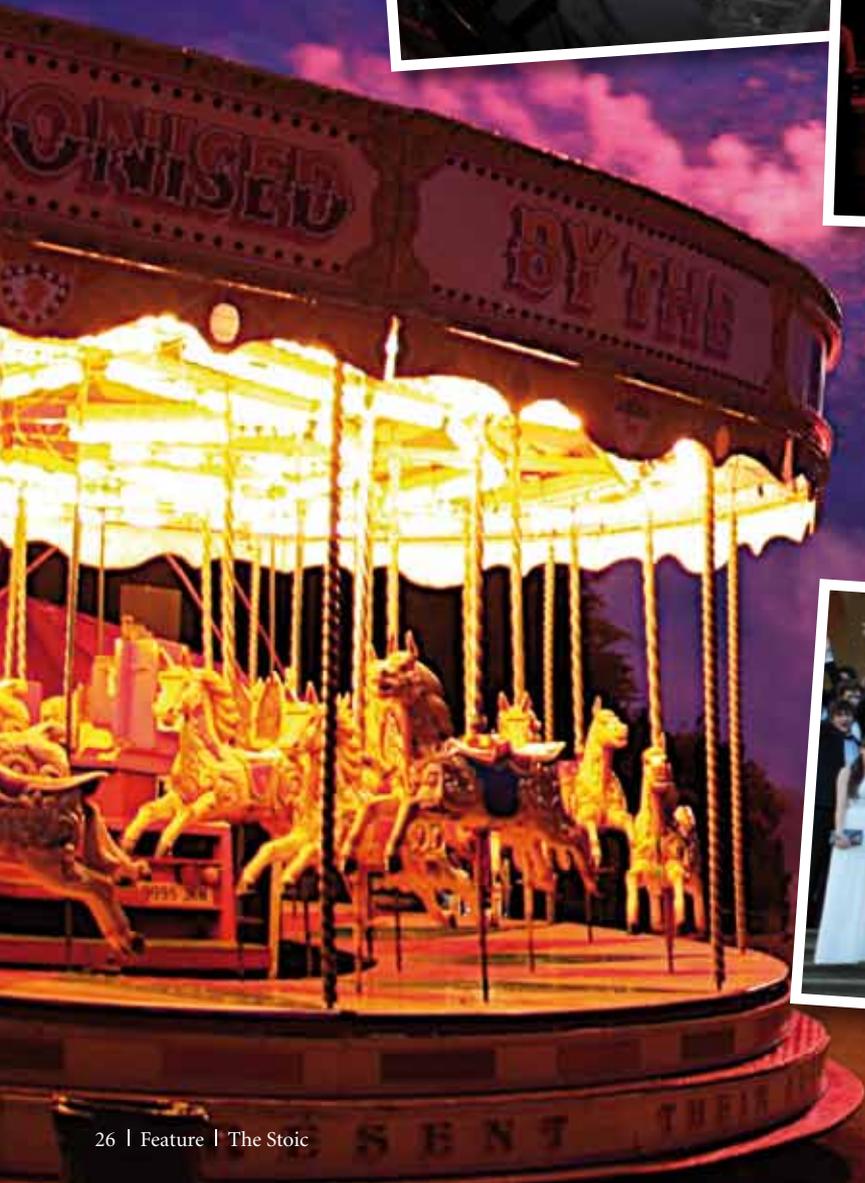
Classic Cars on Speech Day, 29th May

"Many thanks to you for your part in organising the Classic Car bit of Speech Day. It was good fun and a distinct success in spite of the weather!"

Oliver Croom-Johnson (OS Temple '69)



STOWE LEAVERS' BALL, 3 JULY 2010





Stacked: Sam Giles, U6th



Bruce

Housemaster:

Mr Craig Sutton;

Under-Housemaster:

Mr Charlie Barker;

Head of House:

Alexander Bodian;

Prefects:

Luke Rust, Ollie Childs, Craig Holton, Champ Panyarachun

Bruce House is renowned for being one that is a 'Jack of all Trades'. This is exactly as I would like it to be, and when reflecting on the past year it is evident that we can boast some fine talents in the varied arenas of life at Stowe including musical, artistic, theatrical, sporting and academic. There is a strong community ethos and the different year groups have certainly shared a common sense of purpose and pride when doing their utmost for Bruce. Our successes have been greatly welcomed by all and when we have given our best, but not returned with silverware, the efforts are equally appreciated. The fact that the House 'stands alone' physically gives us a strong identity, and the compact but practical nature of the House means there is a lot of interaction between year groups.

Because of this, the Sixth Form in Bruce have a huge role to play in setting the tone and atmosphere in House. This year's Leavers have been a fine group of men, characterised by lively 'banter' (something they have developed into an art form), tremendous joviality and a well-balanced

sense of responsibility towards the younger years. Alex Bodian has proved to be an excellent Head of House and inspired us to very creditable performances in the House singing and Coldstream Cup, on both occasions picking up an individual award for his personal input. Luke Rust, Craig Holton, Ollie Childs, George Baylis, Champ Panyarachun and Ben Curley were the sporting stars who led Bruce to some notable achievements. Folarin Lawal, Alex Middleton, Ben Paton, Pat Barclay and Madhav Dhir added tremendous humour to the mix and Mike Gutkins gave us welcome examples of his outstanding musical talent. As well as these attributes, they have been a motivated and hard-working bunch who are all well on their way to exciting courses at good universities.

I am pleased to say that our strong group of Tutors will remain intact in 2011, and they must take much credit for the continued excellent scores in the TWOs this year. Bruce continues to battle for the top places amongst the other Boys' Houses and finished with the highest 'average attainment' just before the Examinations started. Ann Lake (Bruce Matron) has supported, listened and guided the boys with her usual skill, and continues to be a 'rock' that we all appreciate. Charlie Barker (Under-Housemaster) has encouraged a growing band of followers to make the effort to get to the gym before most of the School is awake and will long be remembered for his performance as a backing dancer to

his mother's (Mandy Dawson) singing, along with Luke, Champ and Ollie, during the 'X -Factor' competition organised by Stanhope House.

Congratulations to the following Bruce boys for winning prizes on Speech Day:

Alex Bodian (Contribution to Stowe); Champ Panyarachun (Service to the Community); Imran Momen (Public Speaking, English, Drama, History); Titus Bridgwood (Latin); Anton Melnikov (German); Kirk Blair (Piano); Liam Forster (Woodwind); Hugo Ellison (Chorister); Ben Paton (Graphics); Matt Corless (Design); Dham Srfuengfung (Art); Craig Holton (Headmaster's Prize); Mike Gutkins (Outstanding Creative, Imaginative or Humanitarian work).

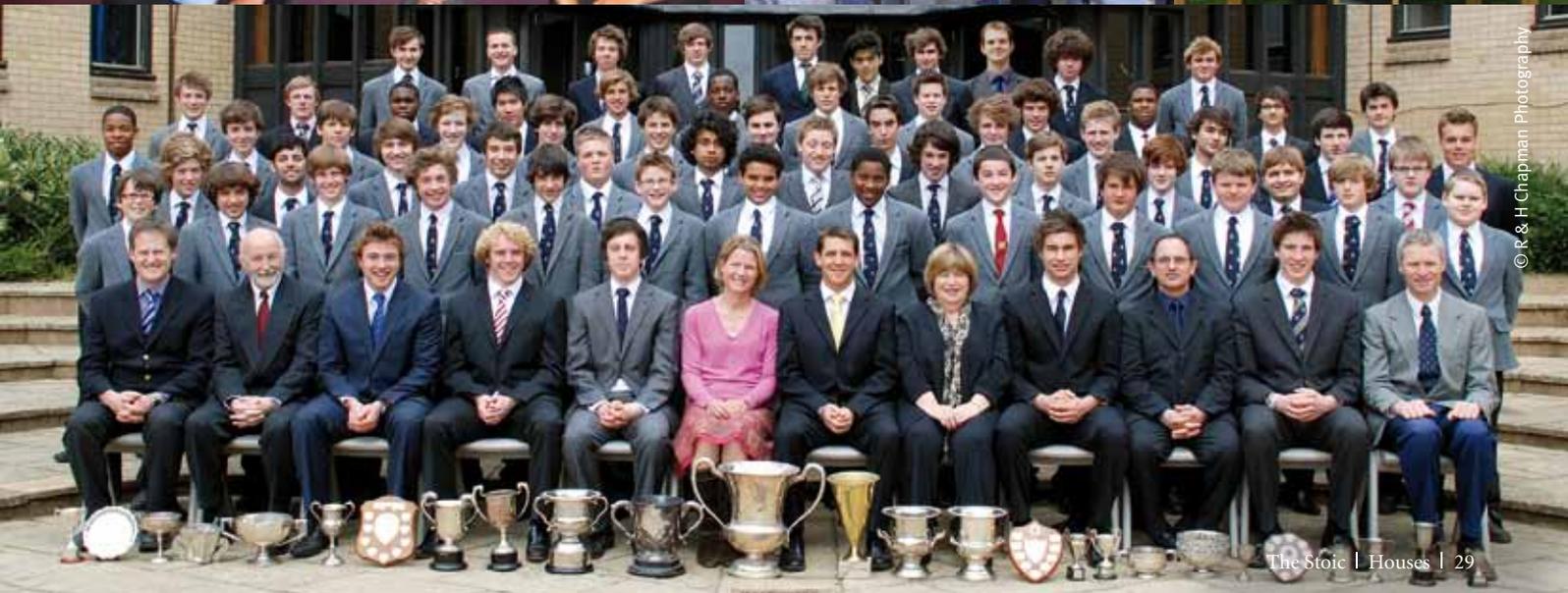
Alex Bodian, Head of House, sums up the year well:

"The House has competed in every competition with full effort from every individual, and has always managed to do so with a huge sense of camaraderie. I firmly believe that this is due to the excellent atmosphere within the House, underpinned by a very switched on Upper Sixth Form, and an excellent Prefect Body. Throughout the year there has been a great balance between work ethic and lads' banter, and this is what has made this year at Stowe so thoroughly enjoyable for all who have had the pleasure of being part of the close-knit family within Bruce."

Mr Craig Sutton



Left: Mr Sutton – dwarfed by the Prefects! Left to right: Tom Wallace in the ever busy Bruce Music Room; the Coldstream Cup Squad; Luke Rust beats another defender; Baylis & Baldwin come up for air!; Senior Rugby winners 2010; Tom Baldwin secures possession; Senior Cricket Shield winners; House BBQ and football match on the Bourbon; the ‘angelic’ Third Form; Leavers 2010; Craig Holton, 1st XV Captain Fantastic!; subways for lunch; Bruce 2010



© R. & H. Chapman Photography

Chandos



© R & H Chapman Photography

Main: Leavers 2010
Top Right: Chandos Boys

Housemaster:
Mr Barney Durrant;
Under-Housemaster:
Mr Nick Rendall;
Head of House:
Thomas Rook;

Prefects:
James Elliott, Cully Curwen



Chandos has had a great year. We started well by coming third in the Inter-House Singing Competition for part-song, singing *All For Love* by Blake. Although our full House song was outstanding, it wasn't quite good enough to achieve a podium finish. The boys involved in the part-song were Tom Gordon-Colebrooke, Max Smith, Henry Rudd, Ed McDonald, James Blackham and Tom Rook. They worked extremely hard, achieving the first podium position for Chandos for the past decade. Special thanks goes to Ed McDonald for organising the harmonies.

Our next victory came in the Inter-House Cross-country match. This is one of Mr Durrant's favourite House competitions because everyone competes. Every individual counts and it ensures we work as a team. The Seniors won their section, leaving Chandos second overall and losing by only one point. Top Junior runners in Chandos were Charlie Lockyer, Edzai Soper-Gwatidzo and Piers Fountaine. Intermediate top runners were Henry Rudd (who came an impressive third) Freddie Clarke and Ed Robinson, despite the fact that he had a chest infection that day! The Seniors were truly excellent, with only four runners not finishing in the top 100. Top runners were Ali Birkby, Matt Lockyer and Andrew Welford. We were particularly pleased with these results because each person was

willing to push themselves for the House, which led to such an impressive overall result.

In Debating this year Chandos has seen double success. In the Senior Debating Competition James Elliott, Cully Curwen, James Blackham and Harry Lester won the day with some inspirational speeches throughout. Thanks must go to those who supported the team for the entirety of the competition. The Junior team consisted of Daniel Capurro, Ed Robinson and Max Smith who ensured that, in Debating at least, Chandos won the double.

In Water Sports Euan Welsh captained the House Sailing team and achieved an impressive second place. We were also extremely impressed that our Third Form went on to win Stowe's first ever Dodge Ball tournament! The event seemed to be a great success and an excellent way for the Third Form to get to know each other.

Academically Chandos has gone from strength to strength this year. The House has regularly won the TWO effort and attainment league tables, as well as topping the merit league for much of the year – even beating all the Girls' Houses...

Chandos has amassed an impressive 17 trophies in its cabinet, but we have also achieved something unprecedented this year. There has been a profound change in

the relationship between the year groups in a way that hasn't been seen before. There is a friendly, supportive and productive relationship between the Upper and Lower School Chandosians that is a significant improvement on our first days at Stowe. There is also a remarkable bond between all Chandos boys and the House Tutors. It is only this year that I have begun to appreciate the work that they do in, around and for the House.

Particular thanks should go to Mr Peratopoulos, Dr Miller, Mr Webster and Under-Housemaster Mr Rendall for all of their efforts. Claire Hill-Hall, the Chandos Matron, has also worked extremely hard to maintain the high standards that she has always insisted upon. My profound gratitude also goes to Mr Durrant, our Housemaster, for his leadership this year. Mr Durrant has led the House to one of its most successful years ever and it has been a pleasure to act as Head of House this year.

I believe that Chandos is so impressive not because of its particular achievements but because of the attitudes of the boys within it. There is a commitment and dedication to the House that is unrivalled in other Houses and I will be extremely proud to call myself an Old Chandosian in just a few weeks from now.

Tom Rook, Head of House

Chandos 2010



© R & H Chapman Photography

Chatham



Chatham 2010

Housemaster:

Mr John Ing;

Under-Housemaster:

Mr Matthew Wilson;

Head of House:

Josh Sainsbury-Bow;

Prefects:

Miles Johnson, Callum Jones,
Jamie Knight, Harry Raikes

This has been another eventful and very enjoyable year in Chatham. We started with a notable success in the Inter-House Singing competition. Walking away from Chapel clutching the cup and a little dazed at the time, on reflection we were made the overall winners for our slick, powerful and above all entertaining rendition of *'Yellow Submarine'* by The Beatles. Although Tom Bacon definitely stole the show with his Bananaman outfit, our performance was further enhanced by the expert drumming of Tom Jenkins and the sublime piano playing of Ben Sutton.

In the same term, Chathamites Jamie Knight, Miles Johnson and Callum Jones contributed hugely to the success of the 1st XV Rugby team and our outstanding cup run. On the subject of rugby, the Senior House Rugby Leagues were masterminded and duly won by the slightly unhinged Toby Clegg – a term that accurately describes his commitment to the House! Commitment was also the by-word for our Coldstream Cup team and we found an outstanding leader in Archie

Voorspuy. He secured second place in the competition, by a single point, the highest position in my time as Housemaster.

A highlight of the Michaelmas term is the Christmas supper in the House Room. This is always a marvellous event and the post-supper entertainment from the boys very much encapsulates the spirit of the House. We will sorely miss Harry Raikes for lots of reasons, but most notably for his bagpipe playing, which has graced this particular occasion for the past four years. I am thankful that we have at least one young Chathamite in the wings, and hopefully he will take on this mantle in the future.

The snow disruptions of the Lent term did not distract from our preparations for our very successful House play. Performed in conjunction with Queen's House, Kevin Reynolds' *The Teen Commandments* was directed by Helen Prifti and Matthew Wilson, and was immense fun for all concerned. Both Becca Dale and Kit Dixon Smith were the outstanding lead actors, and Kit's acting talents have been duly noted – he will be appearing in the Junior Congreve production at the end of the Summer term.

In Junior Debating, the team of Ed Wightman, William Despard and Felix Henderson developed a great deal as the competition progressed. Their confidence "on their feet" and ability to research and formulate an argument was impressive when it came to the final against Chandos. A very close decision ensued and,

although we just missed out, it was an outstanding achievement.

'Runners-up' has been something of a theme for Chatham this year, with the Senior Hockey team just losing to Grenville in the final. It was the same story in the Inter-House Cricket competition, where we lost to Walpole by the narrowest of margins in the last over. Josh Sainsbury Bow captained the side as he has led the House throughout this year, always with a beaming smile on his face, but with fierce resolve and commitment just beneath the surface.

Josh and his team of House prefects and the other Upper Sixth boys have contributed a great deal to the House this year, and I am very grateful for all their hard work and assistance. Guy Thorold distinguished himself by gaining his private pilot's licence, and has spent many an afternoon buzzing the House and plotting triangular routes. The Beagling fraternity in the House has been fortunate to have the leadership and commitment of George MacEwan and Max Pickett, while Albie Mackintosh has been a leading light in the School's Biomed Society. As the year draws to an end and the boys' minds turn to their examinations and revision, it has been very pleasing to note the industrious attitude amongst them all – Guy Merrill has set an excellent example with his studious attitude and his attention to detail as the editor of *'The Brief Chat'*.

Along with all the Leavers, we bid a sad farewell to Matt Wilson, who departs to take up a teaching post at The Harrodian School. Matt has been an outstanding Under-Housemaster and Tutor to the Third Form, and he will be sorely missed. Although disruptions have frustrated us at times this year, it has been eventful and overall definitely enjoyable. With exciting plans afoot to redesign the east entrance to Chatham to include a new Common Room and kitchen, Chatham remains a dynamic and forward-looking House. Long may it continue, and well done to all.

Mr John Ing



Main: Chatham House in full swing. Top to bottom: birthday celebrations; the Coldstream Cup team; The Teen Commandments; bowling practice; Christmas supper; the House Hockey team; Chathamites enjoy the summer sun





Cobham

Housemaster:

Mr Matthew Way;

Under-Housemaster:

Mr Huw Jones;

Head of House:

Ify Ejindu;

Prefects:

Adam Charlesworth, Ronnie Speakman, William Hutchinson, Khalid Abu

Ify Ejindu provides his comments on this year's Upper Sixth:

Khalid Abu – A multi-talented character who contributes a lot to the House in many things. Back in his day he was the Roger Federer of Stowe tennis. He also played football and gave a hundred percent, even though the harsh winter wasn't to his liking. A permanent presence on the sofa during the Football season, he is still mourning Manchester United's loss of the League to Chelsea. Who will ever forget Khalid's 'snake hips' as the conductor at House Singing?

Adam Charlesworth – A science and maths genius that might give Newton a run for his money. Adam goes about his own business quietly, contributing to the House in things such as swimming, water polo and rugby. Adam has led Crossfire (The Christian Union group) with a lot of verve and tried to encourage people to engage in this activity. To everyone's amazement, Adam has been very successful.

Ify Ejindu – A charismatic person, who gives a hundred percent in everything he does. Ify is very passionate about Arsenal and exotic women. He is often referred to as "the Predator" because of his social interactions with the girls. Ify is a lively and happy guy; even when he broke his wrist he still had a smile on his face. A funny moment with Ify was when Arsenal won on penalties against Roma; he took off his shirt and ran round the House and the North Front.

Will Hutchinson – A keen Beagler who has revolutionised Beagling at Stowe. This was

done by his terrific leadership as the head of the Beagles. Will is a nice and "sturdy" guy, liked by everybody. Will has never held a grudge or argued with anyone throughout his time at Stowe; mind you, we will never understand why he wants to get up at 6.00am to clear out the kennels!

Balthazar Mattar – A gifted guy in the musical field with an eccentric personality. Balthazar is a talented musician who composes his own pieces of music and was given the honour of playing for Her Majesty the Queen. Balthazar is a very cheerful character who always has a smile, no matter the circumstance.

Mattheu McBarnett – A quiet character who gets on with his business. I like to refer to him as Cobham's Jimmy Newtron, based on the fact that he is a computer whiz. The annoying thing about this is that when you ask him how he did it, he tells you it's easy or meets you with a shrug. Mattheu is a relaxed character who doesn't let anything (such as prep...) ever get to him.

Ronnie Speakman – An absolute monster in the sports arena, and very passionate about his future career in the Marines. He is a driven individual who reaches his goal no matter what the obstacle. Ronnie's funny moments are priceless. The first incident was during prep. Ronnie stood up in the middle of prep and started doing press-ups. The second incident was when Ronnie gave his biceps names.

Augustus Perkins-Ray – A fantastic musician who has carried Stowe's music on his shoulders. On the academic front Gus is an excellent pupil who doesn't stop working. Gus is a loud character and a very happy one. Gus had the deep voice of a thirty-year-old when he was in the Third Form, which meant that we didn't get away with anything. If we planned something mischievous and Gus repeated it, then you would know what we were planning to do from a mile away!

Angel Kolov – A very relaxed personality who has a very humorous manner and lets nothing get to him. Angel is a very skilled football player, making him a joy to watch

in the House Soccer Leagues. The funny thing about Angel is that he always returns from school holidays four days late and nobody bothers to ask why; probably up to some Mafia-like activities.

Elliot Matthews – A gentle guy who looks at the funny side of everything. He is another relaxed chap that doesn't let anything get to him, apart from *Call of Duty* on his Xbox. Elliot has also played some good football and occasional House rugby.

From the Housemaster:

Readers will be grateful that Ify has taken up most of our allocated word count. However, I should like to add a tribute to the Upper Sixth Leavers. Multi-talented in music, sport and academia, they have left their mark in terms of trophies won but, more importantly, they have left another legacy. Ify's notes to me included this line: 'We, the Upper Sixth, removed the hierarchy system and we treat everybody as equals'. This sentiment demonstrates what the outgoing Upper Sixth have done in terms of the cohesiveness of the community in Cobham, and they are genuinely respected by the House because they are liked.

There are too many individual and House successes to enumerate here, but highlights have included winning House Singing for the second time in the last three years and winning Sport's Day... twice! Both of these are major House events that involve mass participation and are therefore particularly pleasing events to win. Our Third Form deserve a special mention for their numerous successes in House competitions this year and with them, the future looks bright.

I should like to thank the House Prefect team of Ify Ejindu, Adam Charlesworth, Will Hutchinson, Khalid Abu and Ronnie Speakman for their invaluable counsel over bread and cheese on Friday evenings. My thanks also to our dedicated team of Tutors in Peter Staples, Mike Dawson, James Peppiatt and Liz Hollick, who serve the Cobhamites through their care and attention, often well beyond the call of duty. Finally, thanks to the residential team of Huw Jones, Matron and my family, whose cheerful and ever-giving commitment to the House and me is under-valued, but hugely appreciated.

Mr Matthew Way



Left to right: The Third Form display their footballing skills; Ben Nichols and Jo Hartley-Matthew; Ben Roe kicks for glory; House Cricket and Rugby teams; on parade; Sports Day; George Jackman; the Coldstream Cup team; Ed Bensted; the Third Form; Sports Day victors; Ben Roe; Cobham 2010



Left to right: 24 hour football; Rollo Chadd in the water; Dodge Ball champions 2010; snowball fight – Grafton lawn; Third Form Rugby champions; Water Polo champions; day one for the new Third Form; Coldstream Cup 2009; Sixth Form fancy dress; Mrs B, Matron; Grafton 2010



© R & H Chapman Photography



Grafton

Housemaster:
Mr Chris Townsend;

Under-Housemaster:
Mr James Hayden;

Head of House:
Simon Plunket;

Prefects:
Raman Dhaliwal, Charlie Kim,
Tom Osborne, Jonty Scott,
Will Siddeley, Tom Worsdell

Grafton has enjoyed a very successful year in many different areas. Simon Plunket has provided an excellent lead as Head of House, and the new intake has proved to be very strong. We have been hugely competitive in House competitions, and have developed the sense of community throughout the year groups that is so important.

There have been three real highlights this year, the first of which was defending the House Cross-country competition. This is a sign of a House working together, as it is one of the few competitions in which everyone takes part. Sam Shepherd-Barron and Tom Osborne came in first and second, and Sam's run (with a broken collar bone from rugby the day before) was the stuff of legend. Secondly, the House dominated House swimming, in which we also defended the title. In this competition, Sam Strutt was awesome, but so were the Third Formers, with Francis Smiley and Seb Johnson standing out. The final highlight has to be the recent success in winning the Junior Academic Salver. Grafton has become used to winning trophies on the sports pitches, but to be recognised for the efforts of the pupils across the three junior years was something special, and the Tutors (Mr Hayden, Mr Peverley and Mr Hughes) deserve great credit for that.

Other moments that have caught the eye include House football successes at three different age groups. Hugo Kinahan in the

Third Form was a star, while Ben Duckett's goals took the Fourth Form to success. In the Sixth Form, the pairing of Marcus Burns and Alexander Lindsay produced the goods, although they did rely on the excellent goalkeeping of Will Siddeley as well. On the rugby pitch, Ollie Constantine and Charlie Mason were instrumental in taking the Third Form title, with the Fourth and Fifth Forms just edged out in the finals of their tournaments.

However, probably the best moment of the year was the 24 hour Football Marathon. With the entire House pulling together, and raising around £6,000 for Headway in the process, this was an event that all will remember. We were blessed by sunshine for the finish, but it was the long Saturday afternoon in the rain, and the hard hours spent through the night, which made it such a success. The generosity of parents, staff, pupils and other donors was fantastic to witness.

The House remains a team affair, though, and I have been lucky to have a very strong team of Tutors supporting me. Mr Hayden has been an excellent Under-Housemaster, and will move up to become one of the new Assistant Housemasters in September. Mr Hughes and Mr Peverley have already been mentioned for their sterling work with their year groups. In addition, Mr Mochan (and Esther), Mr Young and Mr Critchley have all put in a lot of work in helping the Sixth Formers to achieve their targets, and move on to the next stage of education. However, I have to single out Mrs B as my greatest support. When I first came into the House in 2003, I relied on her entirely. Nothing has changed. No boy who has been through Grafton will leave without learning from her about care, attention to detail, manners, tidiness and, most important of all, being a good person.

Finally, I would like to thank those that are leaving at the end of this year. From the Fifth Form, Dom Curran is emigrating to the USA. From the Lower Sixth, we lose Tom

Wigan and Kitt Smith, who are both completing their A-levels elsewhere. From the Upper Sixth we say goodbye to Marcus Burns (1st team tennis, and seriously talented designer, if a bit lazy at times), Raman Dhaliwal (a good footballer, when not injured, and sharp legal brain in the making), Charles Giafferi (captain of Badminton, and one of the first Stoics to achieve an A* at A-level), Charlie Kim (1st XI hockey, great all-round sportsman, and a really good singer), Alexander Lindsay (a good soccer player, and bright as well), Tom Osborne (captain of Athletics, and very good triathlete), Simon Plunket (a seriously good Head of House, and wonderful artist), Jonty Scott (a fine academic, and persuasive speaker), Sam Shepherd-Barron (1st XV star, superb runner, and 1st XI hockey player), Will Siddeley (a good all-rounder who can act, play tennis, hockey and football), Stuart Wilmot (1st XV rugby player, and very talented in the classroom) and Tom Worsdell (who never lost a water polo match for Grafton and leaves for the world of neuro-science).

I cannot finish this without saying how much I have enjoyed my seven years in Grafton. The place will always be a large part of my life, and that is thanks to the people who have been in the House during this time. It will be a great wrench to leave, and I will follow with great interest the progress of those who stay in the House. Grafton is fortunate to have such a good man as Mr Moffat coming in for September, and I know that the boys will make him, his wife and his daughters very welcome.

To sum up: Grafton is a very warm environment, full of impressive young men (some of whom take longer to prove that they are impressive than others), but all of whom aspire to be better today than they were yesterday. I shall miss them all greatly.

Mr Chris Townsend

Grenville

Housemaster:

Mr Andrew Murphy;

Under-Housemaster:

Mr Henry Swayne;

Head of House:

Jack Ryan;

Prefect:

David Carter

Well, I can only really comment on 2010 as the older and wiser Mr Knight was at the helm for the 2009 section. This has been very much a year of change and I'm pleased to say that the boys have reacted superbly well. Jack Ryan as Head of House has administered the change of Housemaster with seamless ease, and has become a fine leader himself; I'm confidently told one of the all-time greats!

Stowe has certainly thrown up its challenges in our first two terms, but I am pleased to say that we have had wonderful successes – The Seniors winning House Hockey, as well as reaching the final in the Basketball; the Juniors winning Basketball and Water Polo, as well as having our eye on the Tennis as we go to press...fingers crossed.

We have had numerous individual achievements in Swimming, Athletics and Badminton, and representation in the numerous successful School teams this year. The inaugural 'Dads and Lads, Mums and Pads' Cricket and BBQ was a real delight, where we saw the whole House pull together, and our thanks go out to those parents who made the long journey up to Stowe. However, Grenville is not just a super sporty House....

The House play was a rip-roaring success, seeing almost 600 Stoics through the doors over two nights. The inspired decision to link up with Stanhope meant that boys' and girls' tastes were both catered for. Tremendous direction from Nick Rewcastle and the scene-stealing gags of the now legendary Bob (aka Jack Ryan) ensured success from the word go.

Our TWO outings have been great fun and a fabulous way to celebrate the success of our academic attainment and effort. It has been wonderfully pleasing to see the boys rewarded for their endeavours and given the chance to show competitiveness in the academic arena.

I am pleased to welcome such a diverse and talented group of Third Formers, of whom I expect great things. They will, I'm certain, step up and fill the large shoes of those departing Upper Sixth:

Jack Ryan and *David Carter*, the inseparable and irreplaceable pair of upstanding souls;

Ollie Trotter, our 'stand out' sportsman with bat and stick;

James Bevington, whose musical prowess is second to none;

Paul Heerema, our Neptunian Water Polo God;

Nick Rewcastle, thespian to the stars;

Milo McConnell and *Jack Carter*, with their swan-like relaxed natures;

the twin Georges (Garrod and Burke), for outstanding hair and sartorial elegance;

and finally *Charlie Toler*, our resident movie buff and gag merchant.

Grenville 2010



Main: Jack Ryan. Right, top to bottom: Grenville thespians; Grenville volleyball; House Play Director Nick Rewcastle; Grenville athletes scoop medals



We must also say our fond farewells to our Matron, Emma Whitehead, and Under- Housemaster, Henry Swayne, who both depart Grenville at the end of the year. Our thanks and thoughts also go out to Richard Knight, and we wish him all the best in rejoining the Common Room, as a full-time Mathematics teacher. We also remember and pay tribute to Sally Knight, who will be greatly missed by all here at Grenville and the greater Stowe community.

So what does 2010-2011 hold for Grenville? Well, more change, but all positive. The House is having a Gok Wan style makeover.... new furniture throughout, bright and colourful rooms, the opening up of the Aurelian Room, as well as a shiny new Matron and newly created Assistant Housemaster position. If that is not enough, then there is a mini-Murphy taking our number of boys up to a healthy 63 – Fletcher Murphy, born 17th July 2010! I can guarantee that the addition to my own personal family will also benefit our extended family, as I shall wander the House at even more unusual times with a babe in arms. Boys beware....

The future is bright, the future is Orange; Grenville Orange!

Mr Andrew Murphy



Lyttelton

Housemistress:
Mrs Judy Gracie;
Under-Housemistress:
Miss Sarah Ross;
Head of House:
Lilias Wigan;
Prefects:
Yasmin Afshar, Abby Payne

This has been a great year for Lyttelton, a vibrant and happy House. Our Head of House, Lily Wigan, has been outstanding as a leader, on the sports field and academically. She has been ably assisted by Katie Robertson, Lucy Beaty and Sophia Stainow.

The opening of the new Athletics Track gave us our first set of awards, with many gold medals being awarded to the House, and new school records set.

The next House event was the House Singing competition, which was competently led by Kitty Cavendish and the House prefects, with Evie Roxburgh and Pia Hermann providing accompaniment. Lily found some songs, the House was given a vote, and a tune was chosen. The House then exercised its female prerogative to change its mind the day before the performance. Once that decision had been made the girls started to work together. The result was melodic and special thanks go to the girls in the part-song, Kitty Cavendish, Lily Wigan,

Hannah Maxwell, Lara de Keyser, Chessie Hutt, Willa McFadden and Rebecca Elliott, who rehearsed tirelessly.

As half-term approached, the Coldstream Cup training started, ably led by Katie Robertson and Lily Wigan. The other intrepid girls were Chessie Hutt, Charlie Lechmere, Imogen Voorspuy, Charlie Cook, Loochie Trevor and José Brake. This had to be fitted around all the other matches and school events, and the girls rose to the challenge brilliantly. Not only did they break the record for the assault course, but they went on to pick up points in the shooting by beating all the other Houses. They then emerged in immaculate uniform after the lake crossing (with help from many volunteers armed with hairdryers and boot polish), ready to give a faultless dress parade. They were the very well-deserving winners of the girls' section.

On Sunday 29th November the whole House went up to the Queen's Temple to take part in the Cross-country. This is not everyone's favourite event but again the girls decided to give it their best shot, and of the first 20 across the line many were Lyttelton girls. Lily Wigan won the Senior girls' and Charlie Lechmere the Intermediate girls' section, both in fine form.

In the Lent term Lyttelton won the Literary Quiz with our team of Yasmin Afshar, Hazel Shepherd, Willa McFadden and Eliza Hardman-Lea. We then went on to take all three lacrosse trophies; Senior,

Intermediate and Junior. In the Swimming Gala we won the Senior girls trophy, with Chessie Hutt taking three cups, including the Senior Girls Champion Drayson Cup. Clariss Skelton received the breaststroke trophy and Loochie Trevor took the freestyle cup.

While all this activity has been going on, there has been some serious hard work. The number of merits per pupil is impressive. Rebecca Elliott won a travel award to visit South Africa on a Warriors Adventure experience and she had a great time. There has also been plenty of dressing up for Club, Centre and discos, and the pictures will speak for themselves.

The Summer term Sport's Day came about and there were some outstanding performances by Lyttelton individuals. Their wholehearted approach and talent brought the House to first place overall in the girls' section. In individual performances first places were achieved by Charlie Lechmere, Immo Voorspuy, Hannah Maxwell, Georgia Stone, Lydia North, Priscilla Powell, Lily Wigan and Kate Manser.

We would all like to congratulate Miss Ross on her engagement and we will be sorry to see her go, but wish her all the best of luck in her new role as a Housemistress. We also wish our Upper Sixth the greatest of success when they leave, and huge thanks to all members of staff involved with the House for their constant support and enthusiasm.

Mrs Judy Gracie and Lilias Wigan



Lyttelton 2010

© R & H Chapman Photography





Nugent

Housemistress:
Mrs Jayne Duckett;

Under-Housemistress:
Dr Elizabeth Chare;

Head of House:
Julia Bevan;

Prefects:
Rosie Gawthrop, Caitlin Gracie,
Fleur Chenevix-Trench, Cordelia
Evans, Lucy O'Brien

I have to admit that the affection I have for Nugent is generated, of course, by the girls; I enjoy their enthusiasm, commitment and openness, but most of all I am excited by the way they develop as individuals over the course of the two years in the House. As I look back over the last twelve months I am shocked by the amount of individual successes we are able to shout about – especially following the year of 2008/09, which I felt was almost a freak 12 months in terms of silverware!

Michaelmas term

Our part-song group (Rosie Gawthrop, Jodie Mills, Liberty Barrons, Lucinda Finlay, Becca Ingram, Katie Peters, Romy Skinner and Lucy Coe) wowed the judges for the second year in succession and were deserved winners with *Send Me on Our Way*. Since then they have sung at the Christmas concert, our own 'At Home' and with the Harvard 'Din and Tonics'.

Katie Peters led the House Hockey team to a victorious nail-biting final that was eventually decided on penalty flicks. Thanks must go to our brave Goalkeeper, Tavy de Ferranti, who certainly played her part. Cross-country was won for the second year in succession – special

congratulations go to Danni Allard (3rd) and Frances Quartly (4th), but of course the trophy was won because of a superb House effort on the day.

Our talented debating team of Fleur Chenevix Trench, Rosie Gawthrop, Lucy Jackson and captain Caitlin Gracie stormed through to the finals as the only Girls' House. We were then beaten (by James Elliott rather than Chandos, I should say) but Lucy, in particular, left a few boys quaking in their shoes with her very quick and witty comments.

Unlike other years we have a few girls involved in Beagling – special praise must go to Claudia Audley who has become Hunt Secretary as well as full whip, only the third girl in 48 years to be given this status.

Individual sporting success came in the form of our lacrosse players, who were selected as follows:

Bucks County: Georgie Saunders, Danni Allard, Bryony Seekins

Midlands B: Georgie Saunders, Bryony Seekins

Midlands A: Danni Allard (captain), Hetty Hill

National Squad for 2011 World Cup: Danni Allard

Lent term

We started with House Swimming, ably led by Katie Peters and assisted by Elly Parker, Katie Wellington, Lucy O'Brien and Imogen Overton. In what proved to be a very close competition we eventually finished 2nd but came away with individual success in breaststroke (Katie Peters) and backstroke (Elly Parker).

Left, top to bottom: The Coldstream Cup; taking the hurdles on Sports Day; wining and dining; Stowe in the snow; girls on parade; the Hockey team. Right: Nugent singers



On the stage we witnessed ‘show stopping’ performances from Becca Ingram as Mother Courage and Ellie Chadd as Katrin. I was also invited to their A2 performances later on in the term – the talent of our dramatists is outstanding and I will remember the piece by Becca and Winnie for a very long time.

Our Musicians perform on such a regular basis we are often guilty of taking them for granted. The highlight of the term was the Festival of Music and the Mozart Trio Prize and so many of our girls were involved in the different sections throughout the day:

- Cordzie Evans:** trumpet
- Lucy Coe:** voice and flute
- Lizzie Yarnold:** voice
- Rosie Gawthrop:** voice
- Lucinda Finlay:** oboe and flute
- Aimie Rusher:** clarinet

On the academic front we have been leaders with special congratulations going to Caitlin Gracie for her place at Oxford (Lady Margaret Hall) to read Biochemistry. In the modules in January we should also mention that the following achieved 100%: Caitlin Gracie (Biology), Hetty Hill (Geography), Winnie Maganjo (Economics) and Sang Yi (Maths).

Throughout the year Tesco has been complaining of a chocolate shortage as more and more girls receive merits and perform well in their TWOs. The Academic Salver came back to us this year so the money that went on chocolate bars was obviously well spent! The stars along the way were:

- Georgie Saunders (42+)**
- Goosie Anthony (43+)**
- Aimie Rusher (45+)**

- Lucy Coe (46+)**
- Lucy O’Brien (47+)**
- Hetty Hill (50+)**
- Danni Allard (51+)**

Summer term

As a final note – on a cold summer’s day – we went up to the track to experience our first real Sports Day on our new track. Nugent performed well, again under the expertise of Katie Peters (school Athletics Captain). The support was evident and the talent of a number of girls obvious. We walked away with:

- 400m: Georgie Saunders**
- 1500: Danni Allard**
- 100m Hurdles: Katie Peters (as well as top girl athlete)**
- 4 x 100 relay team: Julia Bevan, Georgie Saunders, Katie Peters and Georgie Duthie**

Plus the trophy for the Senior girls’ competition.

Can I finish by thanking my Head of House, Julia Bevan and her prefect team (Becca Ingram, Katie Peters and Georgie Duthie). They have done a fantastic job this year and should take pride in the fact that Nugent has again set benchmarks for others to live up to. We have been fortunate to have a strong group of school prefects (Caitlin Gracie, Fleur Chenevix-Trench, Lucy O’Brien and Cordzie Evans) and of course Rosie Gawthrop as Head Girl. They have all made their mark and created a much better environment for the Stoics, as a result of their teamwork and strong values. I am equally indebted to my team of Liz Chare, Di Olivier and all my Tutors, who keep me sane, support my decisions, make me smile and back me up when I get it wrong! Thank you for your friendship!

Mrs Jayne Duckett





Queen's

Housemistress:
Mrs Jane Hamblett-Jahn;

Under-Housemistresses:
Miss Helen Prifti,
Miss Dara Blume;

Head of House:
Isabella Cameron;

Prefect:
Alicia Birchall

We started on a high in September with girls in all five year groups for the first time. Our Third Form intake are clearly a talented bunch – musically and artistically as well as on the Sport's Field, while last year's Upper Sixth Leavers had set the academic tone having achieved some wonderful A-level results (eight girls achieved three A grades or better and places at universities such as Oxford, Edinburgh, Leeds, Bristol, Warwick and LSE). The Fifth Form returned from the summer break with a spring in their step and made their intentions clear from the off. To date they have banked 24 modules

at 100% and dozens more with A* or A grades, and so we have our fingers firmly crossed that they will perform strongly in this summer's GCSE exams. They were awarded prizes for French, Spanish, Geography, Chemistry, Biology, Maths, Art and Drama on Speech Day, and have won the lion's share of Commendation and Bene prizes over the course of the year. The Upper Sixth have done their bit too and have 23 modules behind them at A* level (90% or more) – not bad considering there are only nine girls in the year! Heloise Kleinwort won the XX Club Salver for her outstanding contribution to the Scholars' Club. She has regularly topped the TWO league table for the Third Form alongside Lily Comyn with the usual crowd of Fifths (Anna Carter, Inca Curwen, Molly Davison, Harriet Goffman, Emily Marchant, Ellie Melville, Jessica Noakes and Tabbi Owen) dominating in their year.





© R & H Chapman Photography

On the sports side, at the beginning of the year there were wins for the Third, Fourth and Sixth Form in the House Soccer, and we beat the other Houses at Junior and Intermediate level on Sport's Day, enabling us to come away as Overall Girls Winners. Queen's won the House Netball in all age groups as well as the Racquetball League and the House Basketball, and held on to the Junior and Intermediate Tennis trophies. Some outstanding sports performances this year have come from Laura Welford and Georgie Leech, who now play County and Regional Academy Hockey. In addition, Louisa Dobbs (U6th) is through to the last 100 of the 'Tall and Talented' sportsmen and women for the 2016 Olympics.

The Junior House play this year, *The Teen Commandments*, was a joint production with Chatham and a great success.

Rebecca Dale and Georgie Leech gave fantastic performances, ably supported by Isabelle Berner, Stephanie Page, Siana Vere-Nicoll, Lily Comyn and Isabel Taylor. The play was co-directed by our own Helen Prifti, Georgia Ellison and Harriet Easdale, who has been accepted into the National Youth Theatre.

Musically, Queen's achieved a respectable 3rd place in the House Singing Competition, singing *Proud* by Heather Small. Many girls from the House have also taken part in Wednesday informal concerts, the "Unplugged" concert, the Music Festival and the Stowe 'X-Factor'. Laura Houghton was lucky enough to participate in a tour to Thailand, where the Strings group performed to an audience of thousands.

The list of achievements is endless, ranging from Isabella Cameron

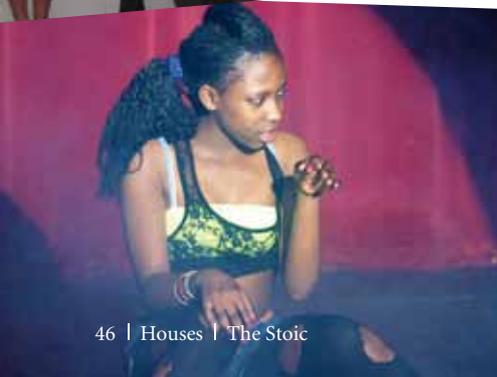
and Robyn Dann winning an Old Stoic Gap Award to Ellie Melville forming part of Stowe's Public Speaking team, which won the Regional Heats of the ESU competition, and Helena Carr-Smith winning a Simon Alper Print Award.

As a House, Queen's has made its mark on the School thanks to the girls' determination and hard work, and a good deal of encouragement and support from the House team and each other. We wish them all success for next year in whatever they are doing, whether they begin their GCSEs, A-levels or even 'gap' years or university. Queen's girls will take with them their close friends, their strong work ethic and warm memories of fun and frolics aplenty!

Mrs Jane Hamblett-Jahn and Isabella Cameron



Main: *The Teen Commandments*. Top, left to right: Third Form girls; entertaining listeners in the Music Room; the Coldstream Cup; Sports Day; Queen's 2010



Stanhope

Housemistress:
Mrs Jenny Nelson;

Under-Housemistresses:
Mrs Julie Johnson,
Miss Victoria Hunter-Smart;

Head of House:
Lydia Wood;

Prefects:
Tiffany Georgallides, Phoebe Avent, Alice Coulson

It didn't take long to settle into our stride this year. With our ever-expanding House, it took a while before the new Third and Lower Sixth Forms would recognise the meaning of bedtime and washing up, but eventually Stanhope continued to fulfil its promise and we won our usual plethora of cups, awards, trophies, Merits, Commendations and Bene prizes.

We have enjoyed the sense of competition and House spirit this year with the arrival of more girls, including superstar netball, hockey and tennis players, as well as swimmers and athletes! Our list of winning successes include Junior basketball, indoor lacrosse, House Netball leagues, Junior House swimming and Senior girls' swimming. At the two Sports Day events held this year there were wins from Mide Afolabi, Lisa Dunkley, Clara Holden, India Cornish, Lydia Wood and Frankie Berchielli Jones. There are too many girls to name individually but we recognise the year-round effort in sport from Ellie Pinnock, Lucy Horan, Clara Holden, Phoebe Avent and Lydia Wood. The Stanhope House spirit is vibrant and there for all to see. Special congratulations to all the girls, who in their inimitable way have

contributed so much to the broader curriculum and activity programme that the School offers.

On the artistic side we have many talented individuals committed to their Drama, Art, Design and Music. Many of the Stanhope premiere musicians, including Chloe Knibbs, Clara Holden, Beth Johnson, Alice Speakman and Coco Anthony, have performed outstandingly well week after week in the numerous concerts that are now part of the Stowe routine. We have, perhaps unsurprisingly, the longest instrumental list of any House, with dramatic talent abounding too. Lucy Milburn, Daisy Coulson and Francesca Lecchini Lee had prominent roles in our joint House play with Grenville, *Whose Line Was it Anyway...?* A week before the first performance, and Mrs Nelson was beginning to wonder if the title would ring true on the night ... However, independence and perseverance is our motto, and persevere we did. We triumphed, even if Stanhope is known as 'lastminute.com' these days!

The Branson Scholars have again made a big impact and we'll miss them greatly. They've inspired us with a natural ability for sport and for their enthusiastic approach to life at Stowe. They were an integral part of the organisation for the first Stanhope 'X-Factor' and Stowe's answer to living the 'fame academy' dream for the night was a huge success. Our artists and designers, Nichola Wagg and Gabby Bennett, continue to fill us with a sense of wonder, and we congratulate them on gaining places at top art colleges for next year. The Stanhope academics have won great accolades too and House Maths stars Azhar, Christina, Wei Wei and

Left, top to bottom: Chloe, Alice, Steph and Liza; posing for the hockey shot; X-Factor Judges; Lydia and Phoebe; May Garden Party; Genesis. Main: At the Rugby

Zizhao, alongside literary expert Philippa Douglas (who has yet to give her lecture on how to win Benes and Commendations on a weekly basis) all do us proud. Our two senior prefects Lydia and Tiffany, on course for top grades in their A2 examinations this summer, excel in every area of school life and have led us through our inaugural two years. At our second Stanhope Garden Party, we got to show off the wealth of musical and dramatic talent that we have in our House; the diverse display of ability and confidence, and the ethos 'have a go and keep going', is what Stanhope is about.

Individualism remains important to us and whilst we like to co-operate within the community, it is our diversity that makes us shine. At the end of this year, sincere thanks go to Lydia Wood, our illustrious Head of House who is off to study Law at King's, and our House prefects, Tiffany, Sophie, Dasha, Daisy, Phoebe, Lucinda, Lucy M and Nichola. We wish our first Upper Sixth Leavers well; we'll miss you but look forward to seeing you again soon. Good luck out there in the real world – one without en suite facilities, temples and Capability Brown landscapes at every turn! To our dedicated staff we say thank you for another year. The dream team: Mrs N, Matron, Mrs Johnson, Papa J and Miss Hunter Smart (we'll miss you so much). To all the Tutors who keep the girls on track by chasing work, and the cleaning team who look after us – a huge thank you! We have survived another year, in times of adversity – volcanic ash, snow, Swine Flu and Gabby's cakes. We can't wait for the next chapter in our wonderful House. Go Stanhope go!

Mrs Jenny Nelson and Lydia Wood

A Farewell to Stanhope

Another year in Stanhope House,
A place of grace and style,
And though we Leavers shed a tear,
We cannot help but smile.

Some people call us geeky,
They push us to the side,
But we know we're superior,
We Stanhope girls have pride.

Our TWOs are plus beridden,
Our merits come in streams,
If you think you can outwit us,
You're living in your dreams.

In swimming we were awesome,
With the Coulson twins on form,
And Ellie Pinnock our Fourth Form fish,
Who took the pool by storm.

In Badminton we won outright,
We smacked that shuttlecock,
Even indoor lacrosse was ours,
It's safe to say – we rock.

In Coldstream we fought tooth and nail,
With vigour, guts and grit.
We did all that we had to do
To make us ever so fit.....

Mrs N, it's been a blast,
But how will you survive,
Without Georgia Goodall's antics,
To keep the House alive?

And Matron who once told me,
It's healthy to rebel,
But abducting her dog Nelly,
Didn't go down all that well.

Goodbye Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum,
(Carla Springer and Tamara)
Pranks and poltegeistry,
Brought the mischief and the drama.

Respect your en suite bathroom,
It's a luxury that's rare,
Enjoy the fact your shower is
Something you don't have to share.

Keep on Matron's good side,
If you want to see a cake again,
For pity's sake keep the kitchens clean,
And wash up now and then.

When it comes to choosing suitors,
Then follow Lisa's lead,
Get with next year's Head Boy to be,
And you're sure to succeed.

When it comes to making pop corn,
Don't leave till it's aflame,
Due to Imo Wallersteiner
Stanhope will never smell the same!

So fare thee well oh Stanhope,
And hold your heads up high,
And do as Mother Nelson bids,
And may our legacy never die.

Lydia Wood, U6th

Stanhope 2010



© R & H Chapman Photography



Temple

Housemaster:
Mr Tony Lewis;

Under-Housemaster:
Mr Tony Chan;

Head of House:
Miles Warden;

Prefect:
Billy Richardson

Houses are rarely defined by one person but the outstanding series of experiences this year have involved James Larter. A coach load of Temple boys and staff made it down to Cardiff to applaud James' superb performance in the BBC's *Young Musician of the Year* competition and the Friday night screening was a major focal point early in May. Noah Issa has also contributed significantly to the House, and it has been engaging to witness his development as a musician. He has transformed from someone who had not performed publicly when he arrived at Stowe at the beginning of the Lower Sixth, to a young man who is now chasing music companies in search of his first break, as well as recording 'promo' videos of his songs. Jacob Dennison has been offered a place in the Choir at Truro Cathedral next year and over Easter he was performing with the Adolphus Choir, which only recruits the best. He has a fantastic voice and amongst all this activity he has every

chance of straight A grades in the A-level examinations in June. Between them James, Noah and Jacob have shown us all the nature of true excellence, and this is something we have sought in other areas too.

The photos illustrate the success of individuals (for example, athletics and cross-country) but also the camaraderie and sense of identity the Temple boys share. From the very first moment and weekend of the Michaelmas term they have enjoyed each others' company (which is easy when the sun shines and it involves Sunday afternoon soccer) but it extends even to the House Cross-country – the event we all love to hate but secretly enjoy! This is one of only two whole school competitions. The other is the House Singing (what a contrast between the two!) which again the boys led and thoroughly enjoyed, with the whole school swinging along to Bob Marley's *Three Little Birds*. They achieved a well-deserved placement in the part-song with a fantastic version of John Lennon's *Imagine* (perhaps not so appropriate for the Chapel).

Billy Richardson has been an iconic figure for the 1st XV, playing at prop, scoring double tries in matches that mattered, and helping Stowe to the semi-final of the Daily Mail Cup. He was also voted Rugby World's 'April Young Player of the Month'

and stars in their team of the season. There has been notable athletics success for the likes of Kalil Ali, Alex Stone and George Jones. County honours have gone to Oscar Page and George Jones in U15 rugby, both having helped a strong Temple team win the Fourth Form Rugby Cup. Having ended the year by winning the Senior Tennis Trophy, the boys have had plenty to celebrate on the sports field.

It was great to see so many parents join us for both our 'At Home' in the first term (Grant Warden is still trying to work out how Charly Bagusat – our resident magician from Munich – managed to play that trick on him!) and the Dads'n Lads cricket, picnic and BBQ in the summer, which strangely the boys were able to win for the first time....until next year.

We are sad to bid farewell to our Upper Sixth and I should like to express my appreciation to a very fine senior team led by Miles Warden as Head of House, and more than ably supported by Will Richardson, Tom Rankin and Tolly Leech. Thank you also to the wider group of the senior boys who have been so helpful in setting a strong example to the rest of the House and to Jarret Zafran who, as Stowe-Harvard fellow, has been attached to Temple as our resident quizmaster. All leave with our heartfelt thanks and best wishes.

Mr Tony Lewis



© R & H Chapman Photography



Main: Temple watches the screening of the *Young Musician of the Year*. Left to right: Fifth Form boys; athletics and cross-country victors; House barbecue; Temple 2010

Walpole



Top to bottom: Tom Benyon; the Coldstream Cup team with Ray; the Third Form; Walpole Cricket team; Nick Brown thumbs up; Santa's little helpers.



Housemaster:
Mr Peter Last;
Under-Housemaster:
Mr Kevin Ryce;
Head of House:
John Gurney

This academic year has yet again been an eventful one in Walpole. As soon as we came back in September, we were fully immersed into the School routine. There were many events throughout that long and cold Michaelmas term, starting with the Coldstream Cup. Walpole, led by John Gurney, won for the second year running and it was the perfect way to start what would prove to be another successful year for all Walpudlians. Soon after that it was House rugby; we managed to reach the semi-final, but were narrowly beaten by Cobham in a close game that went into a gruelling extra-time period. Another success for the athletes of the House was Cross-country. Harry Hawkes came 3rd in the Senior Boys' race and was only beaten by two Upper Sixth boys, so he should be in with a good chance of victory next year. Tom Benyon came 6th in the same race and John Gurney was 9th, to make it three Walpudlians in the top 10. The Intermediate boys also did us proud, with Josh Dickinson coming home in first place to clinch gold, ably supported by Orlando Whitehead in 4th place and Pierre Scrase in 7th. In the Junior race, Gabriel Gleeson was 13th and Tom Abbot-Davies finished 20th.

To round off the Michaelmas term, Nick Brown and Jarvis Prestidge, both members of Walpole Sixth Form, were part of the historic 1st XV that made it to the semi-final of the Daily Mail cup; the furthest any team has gone in Stowe's history.

The Lent term brought with it House hockey, and with the Walpole team missing a player we still managed to win the Hockey Plate, led well by Thomas Benyon and Geordie Wilkes. Walpole reached the semi-final of the Basketball, losing by only two points to the eventual winners, Bruce. This term also saw Walpole winning the brand new Orienteering Cup; Josh Dickinson and Gabriel Gleeson raced away with it, beating second place by a staggering 22 points. House swimming gave Harry Hawkes, Roddy Blackburne and Edward



Pettifer the chance to shine and they did exactly that, picking up a good number of medals between them. It wasn't all sport that Walpole has been successful in this year as Faris Ghazzawi, Afanasi Vorotyntsev, Hector Macpherson and Edmund Lo reached the semi-final of the House Debating – an excellent achievement by all of the boys.

The short Summer term is pretty stressful for the top three years as it is all about exam preparation. Despite this, the Senior Tennis team reached the Inter-House final, narrowly losing out to Temple. The Fifth Formers who do CCF take part in the Tancred Trophy; this year's Walpole team, led by Rowan Brogden, won the event by a country mile, scoring 195 out of a possible 200 points and adding to the House trophy collection. The culmination of the Summer term sport, however, was our defeat of Chatham in the final of the Inter-House cricket competition, an event which we have now won twice in a row. This turned out to be the most exciting final that anyone can remember in the history of House cricket, and we scored the winning runs off the final ball of the match. This leaves us a good chance of two "trebles" next year; the Coldstream Cup and the House cricket. Even one of these would be an amazing achievement.

As a House we have been immensely proud of the achievements of Walpudlians in a wide range of activities. We congratulate those who have passed Music exams and we have also been delighted to see the impressive rowing victories that Pierre Scrase and James Rudkin have been amassing throughout the year. Congratulations also to Jamie Lemos and Faris Ghazzawi, both of whom collected prizes on Speech Day this year. See-Ho Leung, Geordie Wilkes and Alex Robertson have also been appointed prefects for next year – the largest number

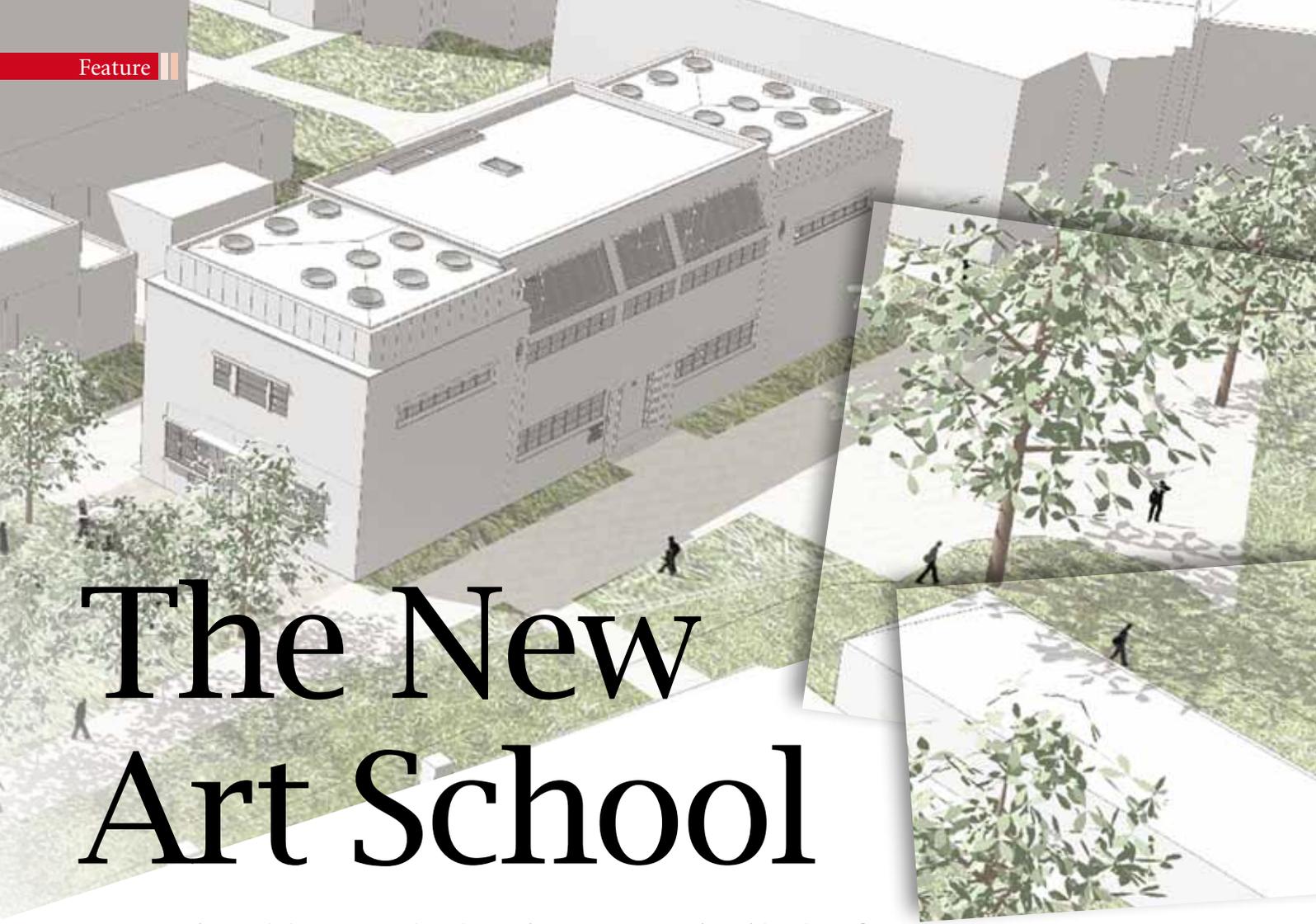
of School prefects Walpole has had for a number of years.

This has been a highly productive year in Walpole and we are all now looking forward to the full House refurbishment, which will see the whole House kitted out with new décor, new carpets and new furniture to replace the current stock, some of which is at least 20 years old! Here's to a bright future next year!

John Gurney, Head of House

I could not run the House without the fantastic support of the House staff. This includes the "obvious" people like our Matron, Terry Sanders, and my Under-Housemaster, Kevin Ryce (who is getting married to the lovely Sarah this summer) and the Tutor team (Richard Pickersgill, Tom Higham, Chris Walters, Isaac Michael, Steve Malling and Simon Dearsley), together with Neil Crossley, who has done a brilliant job helping out with duties. I should also like to thank Steve Grimble, who is linked to Walpole and does his duties by selflessly running the Sixth Form Social Club three nights a week, as well as our superb House Nurse, Heidi Dine. Heidi is one of a very small number of nurses who hold the prestigious Queen's Nurse Award for Services to the Community, and we are really pleased to have her as in the team. Heidi recently married Justin Dine MBE, and we congratulate them both. Finally I should like to thank our wonderful team of cleaning ladies, who wage war against the general slovenliness of 60 teenage boys. They are Wendy, Anna, Sarah, Alison and Charlene, and I am hugely grateful for all that they do for us. Walpole is a strong, friendly and loyal house and the intention is for it to become even stronger in all aspects of school life in the years to come.

Mr Peter Last



The New Art School

We eagerly anticipate moving into the new Art School in time for the start of the Michaelmas term 2010. The building has been completely remodelled and designed on three floors within the shell of the original listed Art School, which commemorated the life and death of Geoffrey Douglas Watson (OS Bruce '29).

Architects Rick Mather Associates have created a wonderfully uplifting, contemporary Art School that enhances and draws upon the vision and design of the original building. It is a remarkably successful and sensitive piece of architecture in common with Mather's renowned extensions of the Ashmolean Museum, the National Royal Maritime Museum and Dulwich Picture Gallery.

The building will provide a refined feeling of space and light in which the Art School can move forward and flourish with excellent studios, a dedicated network of Apple Mac computers, a print workshop, a lecture theatre, display spaces and gallery. It will also house a superb art library, classrooms and research facilities for both Art and Art History. Students in the Upper Sixth will have individual studio areas in which they can appreciate the benefits of seeing their work develop

within a personal space, with light flooding in from the windows above them. The Lower Sixth studio will be a dramatic centrepiece to the whole building; there will be a floor to ceiling height of five metres and a vast expanse of north facing light.

In September the Art School will open with two exhibitions that will run concurrently. We are very excited that the new gallery space and landscaped grass area in front of the Art School will feature bronze sculptures by Lynn Chadwick (1914- 2003), one of Britain's most important modern sculptors whose work gained enormous recognition and took off when he won the International Prize for Sculpture at the Venice Biennale in 1956. We will also be hosting the work of David Tress, 'Chasing the Sublime Light', an exhibition of paintings and exciting large scale drawings following in the

footsteps of Turner and Girtin, on their journeys in search of the sublime in landscape.

Art at Stowe continues to thrive and develop with really outstanding, ambitious work and exemplary examination grades. We will now have a new building that will provide all the opportunities that Stoics could wish for. It will have all the aesthetic and practical qualities of a contemporary studio and gallery where art can be made and displayed: a wonderful learning environment that we are confident will be seen as one of the finest Art Schools in the country. Plans are in place to follow this shortly with a new Music School, building due to commence in 2012, and soon after, a redevelopment of Design Technology.

Mr Brian Johnson

A Tale of Two Lovers

Go back five years or so to where our story starts. Or go back further still to where the problem begins – two star-crossed lovers meet. Josh wants this girl; she can think of nothing worse. Love and fate, however, overwhelm and she succours him for years, their coruscating love keeping a haven in the New World. Journalistic, eager and a little suave she had sought the anticipation of New York, her irksome mother left behind and the promise of independence in her reach. Fate took her seat and watched as ageless Josh pursued his third true love and Antonia lost the race to neat infatuation. The two were thrown together as hand in hand they hastened down the aisle; the promise of her future still glittering in all four captivated eyes. Years they lived together, ever broke, but future pulsing through her vitiated veins. And yet, as natural order will insist, the Big Apple falls off the tree; in time as she grew cold of the city sweat and sweaty slob who slobbered away their life. Home she went to the onerous security of her island: it may be great in name but by no view of hers – she knows she’s always been worth more; if only he’d been worth it too.

In a London townhouse Antonia stands. She stands in her mother’s kitchen now. Outside rain licks its way down the windows, a cat begins to squelch, a drill yells and steam crawls up to purge her as the kettle declares itself ready and she wipes condensation from her sticky face. She’s not bad. Not anymore. Six years ago this kitchen had set the stage for Antonia’s wanton rebel flair as she fled the life she’d always said she hated and found the life she’d learn to loath. She swallows guilty tea as the next stream gushes from her eyes and the admittance of her mother’s reason itches her once more. That southern accent can jangle your nerves with its juvenile nuance and shades of ever hopeless yellow and as her mother once declared, the fairytale was not to last forever.

He’d tried so hard to break that damn British accent. He’d tried so hard to do so many things; perhaps he’d only tried; perhaps he’d never even done that. Love had promised him so much and

told his heart fortune was always on its way; life, however, had another plan. Never lead, always follow, chase if you must. Chasing her had been his greatest win. She’d set him up for life and so long as he stayed faithful she’d adhere, obviously. Obviously not; as his incompetence drove her wild and stony broke he bought that new TV to fill his days. Though didn’t she understand? New York had been his dream too and one they’d build together, love as their foundation. He’d an awful lot to offer, really, if only life would let him prove it. Despondently he raises up his hand; another beer. That’s six and still no way to pay. Honk: a taxi shouts outside. Another yellow cab; a symbol of bright hope and, indeed, New York, but no damn use without the means – the means he’d always lacked and she had loaned, until fed up of his misuse she took them home.

So what have we to learn from this here lovers’ tale? Lovers work like magnets and opposites attract until they find that common ground (a cold ambition neither can quite grasp) and repel across an ocean. It is neither a clash of cultures nor of ways but two dumb drivers powering into one another at the crossroads of ambition. Is a lover no more than the quickest exit you can make? Or the quickest lifeline you can take? Yet easiest to lose it seems, as heartless fate will intervene. Love and fate (parallel or ever crossed?) collide and, as all chemists know, react. Dreams fall short. Lovers disappoint. And irrevocably the two great forces interlink to break a British heart and chip a sassy southern pride. She rages, bitter like the storm, as any young ambition would and boards that trans-Atlantic flight back to reality. He lingers in her mouth like liquorice but a little mouthwash sorts that out as her Darcy lawyer flies right in and her heels flip right back over her head in love. Josh finds his job in time and, finally successful, makes the call to housewife Antonia as she tucks in the children she was far too well-destined to conceive. Love, fate, two very simple persons: tragic.

Augusta Anthony (L6th, Nugent)

The David Wynne Collection

We are delighted that Stowe has been honoured with housing a private collection and archive of sculptures, for the education and delight of Stoics and visitors to the Blue Room in the Mansion.

Currently on show is a selection of the bronze maquettes generously donated to the School, in perpetuity, by David Wynne (OS Grenville '43). The maquettes are the small-scale models of larger sculptures which David has made throughout his long career, and which are now scattered in public and private collections around the world. The smaller sculptures are housed in glass cases while others are free-standing on new plinths placed around the perimeter of the room, the effect of which has transformed the room into a fine sculpture gallery.

David's organic, kinetic and naturalistic forms are demonstrated in the bronze *Circling Birds* and *The Dancers*; set in front of the large windows, these reflect the light and complement the natural world beyond them. Natural light bounces off the polished white Carrara marble figure or *Boulder Carving* in a medium famously utilised by Michelangelo and Bernini in previous centuries. David has reduced the original block, freeing the form inside from its case of rough hewn stone.

David is also famous for animal studies which have helped to make him an international figure, and amongst those on show in either the Blue Room or The Gothic Library are the exhausted *Leopards in the Tree*, *The Charging Bull*, *Elephant*, *A Blue Whale*, *Antelope*, *Deer*,

and *Playful Leopard*. We also exhibit the maquettes for the life-size statues of the Aga Khan's victorious race-horses, while the much-loved bronze *Boy with a Dolphin*, familiar to passers-by on Cheyne Walk, Chelsea, is one of the collection's highlights.

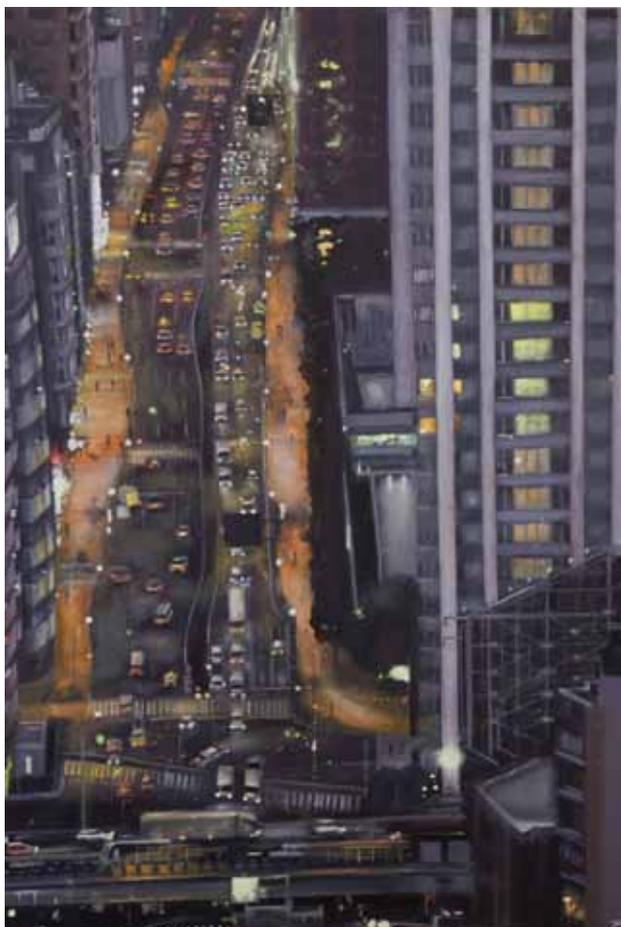
The remaining sculptures include small busts and statues of famous figures: Pele, Sir Thomas Beecham and Fred Perry all feature. Of greatest interest to Stoics are the four maquettes of The Beatles, all of whom were good friends of David Wynne's and whose heads he also modelled. There are advanced plans to commemorate The Beatles' concert at Stowe with a new Wynne sculpture of life-sized figures of the band. When completed, the bronze group will be situated on the empty base outside The Roxburgh Hall, where The Beatles played in 1963.

There are further treasures to be catalogued and exhibited and with the opening of the new Art School, it is hoped that changing exhibitions of the Wynne Collection can be held in the new Gallery. David's sculptures may not currently find favour in some parts of the Art establishment, but Stowe is privileged to have been given these models, which will provide pleasure and education for many years to come.

Mr Crispin Robinson



Subway New York : Heli Carr-Smith, L6th



Tokyo: Phong Vadanyakul, L6th



Image and text: Tabbi Owen, 5th Form



Debating

2009/2010 has been another successful year for Debating and Public Speaking at Stowe.

An impressive array of debating talent was demonstrated in the Michaelmas term by all participants in the Senior Inter-House competitions, who debated issues ranging from the damaging effects of the ‘instant celebrity’ culture to the benefits of single-sex education! Congratulations to the Chandos team (James Blackham, Cully Curwen and James Elliott) for their winning performance in the Senior Inter-House debating final, where they proposed the motion that ‘The Press has too much power’. A high standard of debating was also evident from the Junior Inter-House debating teams. Again, the Chandos team (Max Smith, Ed Robinson and Daniel Capurro) impressed the audience and judges with their excellent oratory skills, winning the Junior Debating title for 2010 and persuading the floor that smoking-related illnesses should not be treated for free on the NHS. Congratulations to the runner-up teams Nugent and Chatham for their strong performance in the finals, and for their contributions to what proved to be a closely-fought competition. Thank you to all participants, supporters and judges for two excellent terms of debating at Stowe.

Stowe has also enjoyed success in the national public speaking competition organised by the English Speaking Union. The Junior Public Speaking team impressed the judges at the inter-schools regional heats in March with an outstanding performance, and proceeded through to the regional final. Congratulations to Imran Momen for two captivating speeches entitled ‘Democracy Is An Illusion’ and ‘We All Have The Right To Protest’, and for winning the audience vote for ‘best speaker’ in the regional final. Daniel Capurro also impressed the judges in his role as ‘Questioner’ and Eloise Melville led proceedings most effectively as the Chairperson. My congratulations go to all those involved in a highly challenging competition.

Mrs Julie Johnson

The XX Group

This year has seen another busy and varied programme for the XX Group. As Stowe’s academic extension society, weekly meetings canvassed a range of mental activities and discussion topics, which led to some thought-provoking XX presentations in the Summer term. Yet, there have also been a number of amusing and stimulating trips for these junior scholars. Opportunities for discovery have included an afternoon at the Ashmolean Museum, a day of workshops at The Old Vic Theatre, an ascent to the top of the Cobham Column and, most deliciously, a day out exploring Raymond Blanc’s Le Manoir aux Quat’ Saisons.

Mr Tony Chan

SOME COMMENTS FROM XX GROUP MEMBERS

We really enjoyed the trip around the National Trust grounds; it was extremely informative, and we were privileged to see things to which the majority of Stoics don’t have access. For example, there are not many who have ascended Lord Cobham’s Column and been inside both the Temple of Concord and Victory and the Temple of Venus, all in one day.

George Jackman (3rd Form, Cobham) and
Heloise Kleinwort (3rd Form, Queen’s)

The best part of our exclusive tour of the Stowe Gardens was going up Cobham’s Column, where we had to walk steadily up a very disorientating spiral staircase. When we were at the top the view was amazing; you could even see Milton Keynes from the large open windows. It was a great thing to have experienced, as hardly any Stoics have the chance to do this while at school here.

Lucy Horan (3rd Form, Stanhope)

The Old Vic was inspirational; really enjoyed it!

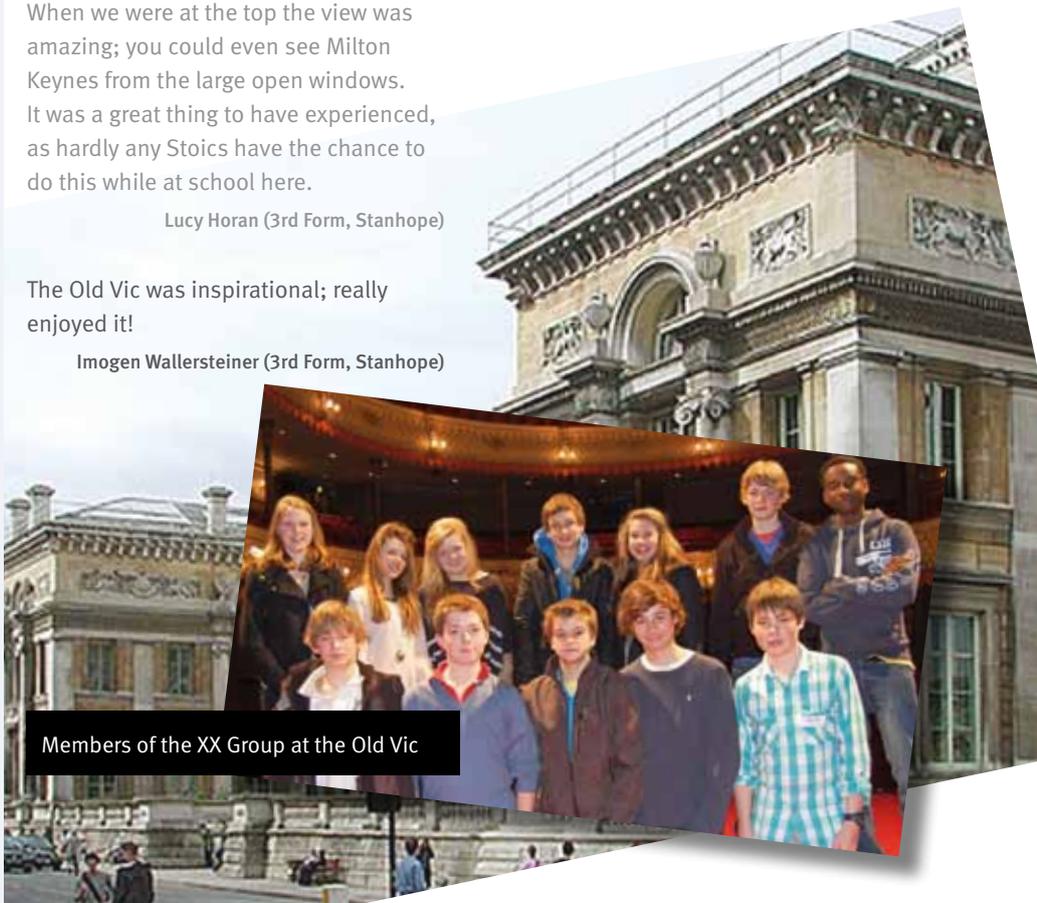
Imogen Wallersteiner (3rd Form, Stanhope)

Our trip to The Old Vic was a wonderful experience. Although drama had never been one of my favourite subjects, I have come to see it in a new light. We looked at everything from marketing to design, and there is a lot more going on behind the scenes than one might think. Overall, I am thrilled that I went on the trip as it has changed my view of drama entirely.

Lily Comyn (3rd Form, Queen’s)

The XX Group were given the privilege of seeing the Ashmolean, an outstanding art and history museum located in Oxford. We had a tour of this magnificent building, which has had an impressive £61 million redevelopment, completed in November 2009. A truly memorable experience!

Toby Wightman (3rd Form, Chatham)



Members of the XX Group at the Old Vic

Ars Longa, Vita Brevis Society (ALVB)

The Ars Longa, Vita Brevis (or 'Art is Long, Life is Short', for those whose Latin is somewhat rusty) Society has had an amazing first year.

Having firmly established itself as one of Stowe's most intellectually challenging yet delightfully diverse societies, ALVB has been envied by many Stoics for the wide range of activities in which it engages; visiting art galleries, watching cult films, discussing cultural issues and criticising just about everything, to name but a few. Run by Mr Rendall and Mr Wilson, the first term saw a select few Stoics, rigorously chosen by Mr Wilson after a gruelling application process, visit a number of local landmarks. These included churches at Wing and Hillesden, which date back to the 12th century, as well as the Ashmolean Art Gallery in Oxford, to view the myriad of Pre-Raphaelite works on display there.

Whenever the weather hasn't been quite so forgiving, ALVB has watched films such as Ingmar Bergman's *Persona*, which received mixed reviews from ALVB members, and 'If...' by Lindsay Anderson. The focus on poetry and literature has been equally prevalent throughout the year, T.S. Eliot's 'The Waste Land' being of particular interest (Mr Rendall was

admirably enthusiastic about visiting Milton Keynes to recite it to members of the public; luckily the Society persuaded him otherwise...).

After a refreshing Christmas break ALVB was ready for another dose of cultural fulfilment; with the church of John Clare, various art films and political discussion on the agenda, the term was packed with excitement. I hesitate to mention that, among these activities, we took a detour to, um, Northampton Shoe Museum. Bizarrely, we did find some of the shoe puns quite entertaining (the 'Life and Sole' exhibition taking first prize). Aside from this minor temporary interest in feet, ALVB had an array of political discussions regarding Stowe's history. Of particular interest were the Kit Kat Club; tracing British prime ministerial history back to Stowe; and examining the social unrest of the 18th century, when Stowe was home to Lord Cobham.

During the final term of the year ALVB has adopted a more relaxed approach to such issues, taking vigorous constitutionals in the grounds to indulge in the poetry of



W.B. Yeats and William Blake, with the consumption of scones and jam as one of the recurring activities. As this year's members of the Society move on, we hope ALVB will maintain its popularity. So if any of you out there fancy learning more about life, the universe and everything, then please feel free to continue the legacy of the likes of Balthazar Mattar, Ed Borland, Gus Perkins-Ray, Katya Edwards, Jonty Scott and Philipa Douglas, and let your minds flourish into a flower of creative beauty (or something like that – apologies for the poetics). Many thanks to Mr Rendall and Mr Wilson for managing ALVB this year, and we wish you all the best for the years to come.

Ed Borland (U6th, Temple)

The Anacreon Society

The Anacreon Society is a 'fine-dining' society, named after the Greek lyric poet, who was notable for his drinking songs and hymns.

The society used to exist at Stowe up into the early 1990s, when the master in charge at that time, Mike Hornby, departed. It was reinstated last year and we have continued its progress this academic year.

The society aims to integrate fine wines, delectable food, and a high quality of social intercourse over an evening – the only catch being that the meal is held in a staff house, and planned, prepared and cooked by members on a rota basis.

The welcomed success of the society could not have been achieved without the kind support of those staff who have allowed their homes (and more appropriately their kitchens...)

to be taken over for an evening. Mrs Gracie, Mr and Mrs Way and Dr and Mrs Wallersteiner were warm and friendly in inviting us into their houses, which played such a key part in creating a relaxed and convivial atmosphere.

All the 2009/10 members (Tiffany Georgallides, Webster Mugavazi, Sophie Wilcox, Thomas Rook, James Elliott, Charles Dedman, Winnie Maganjo, Georgina Saunders, Ed Borland, Max Pickett, Caitlin Gracie and Mr Pickersgill) are confident that the Anacreon Society will continue to thrive at Stowe, and to live up to the high standards of dining and conversation which have been set this year.

Above all, my thanks to all the members (chefs!) who have helped make the Anacreon the wonderful success that it is. Long may it continue!

Mr Richard Pickersgill



The Biomedical Society's annual trip to Oxford

The Biomedical Society

The society aims to provide help for those students applying to competitive universities for science, medicine and veterinary degrees.

The Biomedical Society has been enthusiastically led by our President, Albie Mackintosh and Vice-President, Tom Worsdell.

This year we have hosted a talk on how sex is determined in animals, given by Professor Lovell-Badge, and a talk on stem cell research, given by Dr Charlotte Scott. Professor Robin Lovell-Badge and Dr Charlotte Scott work at the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) and these contacts have been established through Albie Mackintosh, who has carried out several weeks of work experience at the NIMR on stem cells. A group of students also took the opportunity to visit the NIMR when they ran a day for Sixth Form students, interesting them with current research and providing advice to help students get into the top science courses.

We repeated our annual trip to the Medical Sciences Teaching Centre at the University of Oxford in the Michaelmas term. Our day ended with a visit to New College and dinner at the University's graduate centre. Our students were able to view a top university teaching facility at first hand, and gain an idea

of what it would be like to study at a competitive academic institution. This experience, we hope, will have contributed to their motivation to work hard and achieve their potential, so that they gain the grades required for their chosen courses.

Another highlight this year has been the presentations given by the students themselves at our weekly evening meetings, which have included details on how facial reconstruction surgery is carried out and the importance of neurotransmitters in the brain and their effect on ADHD.

Once again, without exception, the students who have contributed to the Biomedical Society have been very successful in gaining offers to read degrees at Oxford, medical schools and a range of science courses at the top-twenty universities. We are proud of their achievements and Roland Johnson and I look forward to guiding a very promising Lower Sixth group through their university applications next year.

Dr Liz Chare

Business Studies

The first stop on the annual Business Studies trip was the National Coal Mining Museum. A trip underground into the dark is always a humbling experience, and the Stoics were shocked to see the conditions that children as young as four or five would have been working in less than 150 years ago.

The miner who took us on the tour had been working ‘in pits’ since he was sixteen and, although obviously passionate about the industry, was able to convey the hardships that miners faced, even as conditions supposedly improved. The tour was completed with the usual photograph of Stoics and staff in full mining gear!

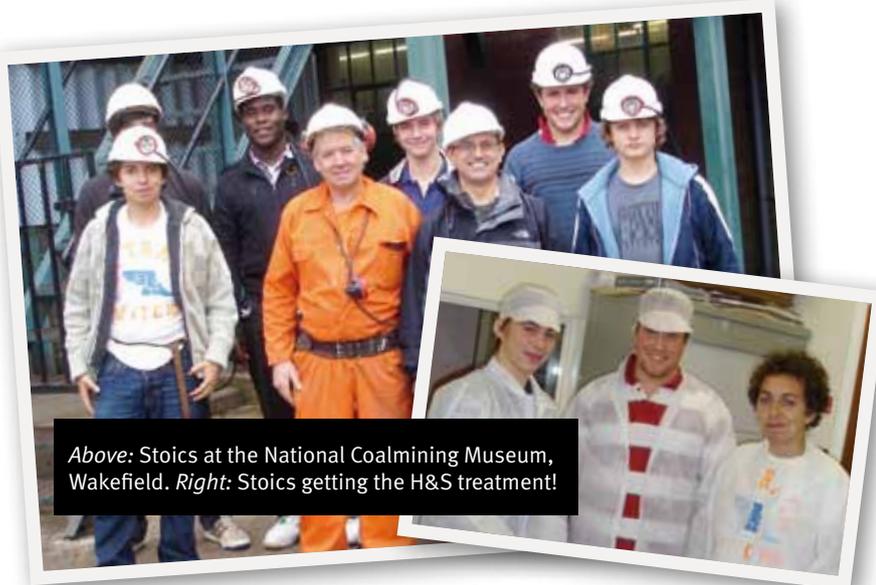
The next stage took us all the way up to Morpeth to the Abbey Well Water Company (again, a traditional stop for the Business Studies Department). Last November, Abbey Well was bought by Coca-Cola, and has been added to their portfolio of soft drink brands. The factory was less cluttered now as many of the lines have been scrapped. Once again, the high tech capital intensive production line (capable of producing 18,000 bottles per hour) impressed the students considerably, and a visit to such a health and safety conscious industry brought home the need for tight regulation and inspection in this type of factory.

The next day consisted of a tour of St James’s Park, the home of Newcastle United Football Club. St James’s Park underwent a huge re-development a few years ago and has obviously suffered disastrously from relegation from the Premier League last year. It was therefore fascinating to see all of the innovative ways they have tried to keep the revenue (last year it was nearly £170 million) up, to cover the huge cost of running a stadium with capacity for over 50,000 people. This was mainly done through hiring out corporate facilities, all of which were equipped to an extremely high standard.

Finally, we are very grateful to Mr Irvine, who put us in contact with his father-in-law’s company, Pipeline Engineering Ltd. The company specialises in making ‘pigs’ – devices that go into huge industrial pipelines (for example, oil and gas) and clean them whilst the pipes are in use. With a turnover this year of over £40 million, the company was a great example of the niche that British firms have been able to carve out for themselves in the manufacturing sector.

This was an excellent trip and we are very grateful to the companies, the guides and the contacts that made it all possible. We look forward to some return visits next year!

Mr Matthew Pitteway



Above: Stoics at the National Coalmining Museum, Wakefield. Right: Stoics getting the H&S treatment!

The Classical Society

In December a dozen Sixth Formers studying Art & Archaeology for Classical Civilisation visited the British Museum.

The main focus was a study of the Elgin Marbles from the Parthenon, complete with a competition for the best drawing on the day.

On 9th February 2010 we were privileged to welcome Dr John MacGinnis, of the Cambridge University McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research. He gave an illustrated talk in the State Music Room on his excavations at Ziyaret Tepe in south-eastern Turkey. Entitled “Archaeology at the Frontiers – Excavating a Provincial Capital of the Assyrian Empire”, it gave a fascinating insight into the world of a cultured but also brutal civilisation. He also introduced the audience to modern principles of archaeology and conservation. His original plan earlier in the year was to fly over to Buckingham from Cambridge but this became impossible given the weather conditions.

Also in February the Sixth Form visited the Oxford Playhouse to see a powerful performance of Euripides’ *Medea*, produced by ‘Northern Broadsides’ from Yorkshire. Tom Palin’s direct and down-to-earth translation kept the dialogue alive and the blues music gave it another link with modern times.

Later in the term we welcomed Cressida Ryan, the Classics outreach officer from Oxford University. She spoke to Sixth Formers on the nature of the hero, especially in Greek epic. Another of her interests was iconography, especially of the Banks’ relief in the North Hall, to help her research on the presentation of Caractacus.

We shall greatly miss Chris Townsend and thank him sincerely for all that has done for the Classics Department at Stowe – we wish him all the best for his future life at Felsted School.

Mr Michael Bevington

Geography



Stowe's Geography Department has had a successful and busy year; we were delighted with our AS results, especially the three students (Nicole Banks, Hetty Hill and George Corner) who were awarded full marks.

The Geography Department's links with local prep and senior schools continues to improve, with us hosting a 'Geography Development Day' in June, where we shared best teaching practice with other schools and discussed the use of ICT within lessons.

Together with the Head of Geography at Westminster School, I now write the Common Entrance Scholarship examination papers and edit the Common Entrance Paper. This has allowed me to update the scholarship papers, providing questions with a more topical focus. The academic year 2009-2010 has been full of departmental achievements, enjoyable lessons and a positive working attitude between staff and students. I look forward to the challenges of 2010-2011.

Miss Branford White, Head of Geography

Fourth Form Field Trip to Water Stratford

Leaving school in our wellies and waterproofs, kitted out for a very wet and cold afternoon, the Fourth Form Geography pupils were driven to Water Stratford to study the River Great Ouse. We arrived and were given various tasks, such as measuring velocity and river depth and width, and standing knee-deep in the river in the freezing rain – luckily Mr Murray's jokes kept us distracted from catching

pneumonia! We also spoke to George Eaton, the farmer of Rectory Farm. With the use of maps and photographs he explained to us how his farm land could be used to save Buckingham from future floods, which we all found fascinating. Despite our wet feet and slightly damp notes, we had a fantastic afternoon out!

Alice Speakman and Chloe Last
(4th Form, Stanhope)

Geography Society

There were two notable meetings for the Geography Society this year. Firstly, Frank Burns from Kimbolton School came and delivered a talk on the history and development of Belize. His presentation covered a wide range of topics, including his own personal experiences of interacting with the native people of Belize, through various charities. This is a country many of the Stoics knew very little about, and it was therefore excellent to broaden our knowledge about the country and its culture.

In the second main meeting of the year, Philip Pitcher (OS Chatham '09), was invited to give a lecture on farming conservation. Philip concentrated on conservation methods, for example how farmers now have to protect habitats on their farms on a much greater scale than

ever before. He also included information about changes to farming, including the use of modern technology and its impact. Philip proved extremely knowledgeable in agricultural practices and we all learnt a lot from him; I hope that someone from our Upper Sixth is willing to give a presentation next year which will inspire budding Lower Sixth Geographers!

Romy Skinner and Julia Bevan (U6th, Nugent)

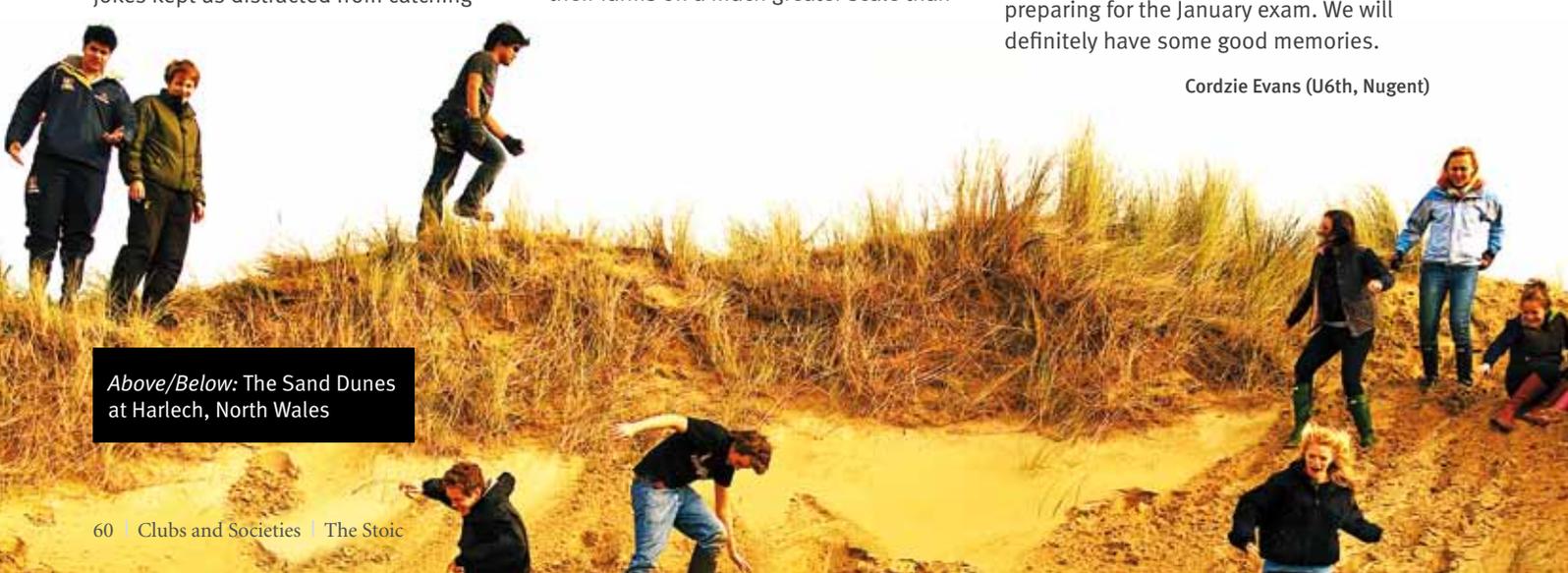
Geography Field Trip to North Wales

After a four hour coach journey, and feeling slightly weary from the Sixth Form Dance on the previous night, we arrived at the field centre in Snowdonia, North Wales. We spent the first evening settling into our (surprisingly....) comfortable accommodation, and the next day headed out to the Harlech sand dunes. Measuring gradients and studying soil temperatures and wind speeds was followed by a spot of 'wellie wanging' on the beach, and even Mr Durrant couldn't resist the opportunity to show off his skills....

We spent the third day at Afon Cynnyd River, where we measured how the river channel changed downstream. Weather miserable – freezing and pouring with rain. Luckily the ice cream stop on the way home put a smile on all our faces!

On the final full day, we spent some time on Criccieth Beach, before indulging in fish and chips in the town of Porthmadog. It was a great way to finish an extremely interesting and varied trip, and we are all very grateful to the Geography Department for helping us in preparing for the January exam. We will definitely have some good memories.

Cordzie Evans (U6th, Nugent)



Above/Below: The Sand Dunes at Harlech, North Wales

Current Affairs and International Relations

This activity encourages Stoics from all year groups and all abilities to explore the world of current affairs and international relations. Often we look at a concept and encourage Stoics to view it in the light of current day issues. For example, we considered the Ethics of War in the week that former Prime Minister Tony Blair gave evidence to the Iraq Enquiry. Some of the other topics that have been considered this year are Allied War Crimes, Weapons of Mass Destruction, The Middle East, Cultural Identity and the Clash of Civilisations, as well as Sexism, Racism and Ageism. It is always fascinating to discover what Stoics are interested in and the level of research that some put into the projects was impressive, particularly in light of their main academic work loading. All them of bring different qualities and experiences to the group and it is a privilege and pleasure to facilitate their discussions.

Mrs Liz Capurro



John Graham

(Upper Sixth, Chandos)

Favourite topic this term: The Middle East/ Israeli-Palestinian conflict

Presenter: Mrs Capurro

What I have gained from being a member of the group: An intellectually stimulating environment to express and hear ideas and views on global affairs.

How it has increased my appetite for exploring more about current affairs and international relations: It led me to browse for interesting information on current affairs and recent history; this was how I stumbled upon American mutilation of Japanese war dead and the wider issue of war crimes committed by the Allies during World War II.

Notes: I look forward to future sessions of current affairs and possibly giving more presentations of my own.



Molly Davison

(Fifth Form, Queen's)

Favourite Topic This Term: Sexism/ Racism/Ageism, etc.

Presenter: Mrs Capurro

What have you gained from being a member of the group: Broadening my knowledge on a regular basis and thoroughly enjoying many interesting and heated discussions!

How it has increased your appetite for exploring more about current affairs and international relations: I came to the group being frankly quite ignorant about current affairs and now read up on each topic every week.

Notes: I am intrigued by each member's knowledge of current affairs which inspires me to find out and learn more. The activity has also helped me to improve my general, background knowledge, assisting me with my debating skills.



Albadr Alhashemi

(Fifth Form, Cobham)

Favourite topic this term: War Crimes by the Allies in World War II

Presenter: John Graham

What I have gained from being a member of the group: It has given me the chance to talk about controversial topics and to express my opinion on them. I enjoyed

discussing topics as it has given me the chance to hear other people's opinions and why they think the way they do. This, in turn, has widened my gaze and increased my appetite to learn more about the topic. I liked John's topic as it emphasised the idea that history is written by the winners and all the 'bad bits' are hidden away.



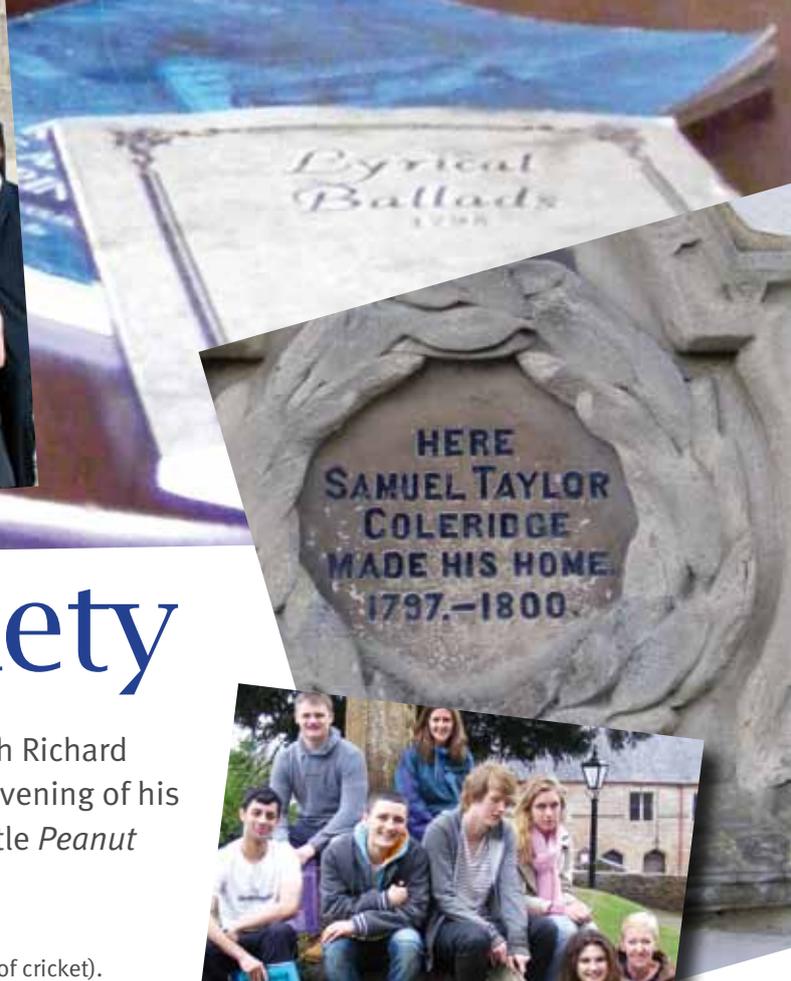
Cordelia Evans

(Upper Sixth, Nugent)

Favourite topic this term: War Crimes by the Allies in World War II

Presenter: John Graham

What I have gained from being a member of the group: It is a great opportunity to discuss important issues with people I would not necessarily spend time with otherwise. I like hearing other people's points of view and it has improved my debating skills. It has definitely increased my appetite for exploring current affairs and international relations, as I like being more informed about what is going on in the world and seeing it from other people's perspectives.



Literary Society

The year's events began at the start of October with Richard O'Brien, Foyle Young Poet of the Year, offering an evening of his whimsically captivating poetry under the bizarre title *Peanut Butter and the Body-Mind Dichotomy*.

Two weeks later, Dr Mike Woolf (Foundation for International Education) gave a paper entitled *The Magic Kingdom: Europe in the American Mind (Hemingway, Fitzgerald and the rest of the Gang)*, considering the idealised perceptions of European characteristic of American writing before World War 1. His talk then considered how American expatriate writers found creative freedom in Europe after the war.

Performance poet Ash Dickinson (a cross between a stand-up comedian, a poet, an actor, and a rapper) came to Stowe in November. His memorable and hilarious topics for poetry included drunken phone calls which we regret the morning after, and lovesick fridges spontaneously composing poetry using magnetic letters.

Next, Natasha Cooper (former Chair of the British Crime Writers' Association) spoke on how to earn a living from crime fiction. An authority who has written over twenty-eight novels, each of which she has researched meticulously (including once negotiating admission to Brixton Prison), she knows how to kill off characters in particularly inventive ways!

At the start of the Spring term, Jonathan Smith, former Writer in Residence at Stowe, spoke about his career as an author, emphasising the importance of reading, criticising one's own work and writing regularly (interspersed with

watching the odd game of cricket). Mr Smith's seminar was accessible, practical and engaging.

In February, we welcomed Mr Steven Thompson back to Lit. Soc. after his retirement from Stowe. With reference to four poems by MacNeice, Hughes, Wordsworth and Hardy, he spoke about issues of personal experience, the importance of imagination and the distinctions between past and present in literature.

Later in February, Ian McMillan recited and improvised some of his poetry, which was by turns humorous, energetic and eccentric. The volume and extent of the applause at the end was testimony to the infectious exuberance that Barnsley Football Club's 'poet laureate' brought to Stowe on a cold winter's evening.

In early March, the Creative Writing Forum offered their annual recital of poetry, prose and drama in the Blue Room. Particular thanks go to the performers (some of whom composed works specifically for the evening) and to Mr Rendall for organising the event.

The April Field Trip was to *Lyrical Ballads* country in Somerset, a day spent dodging showers, walking hills, reading poetry and indulging in cream teas. Among the places visited were Coleridge's Cottage at Nether Stowey and Wordsworth's house at



Top left: The Literary Society's Leavers. Top right to bottom: Members of the Literary Society visit Wordsworth Country

Alfoxden – excellent preparation for the poetry component of the A2 English Literature examination.

On 14th May, the Lit. Soc. Committee became our speakers for the evening. Edward Borland, Tiffany Georgallides and Georgia Horrocks gave short papers: Ed spoke about the "Alice" books of Lewis Carroll, Georgia followed with a discussion of Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, and Tiff concluded the evening with her interpretation of four poems about childhood, spanning a period from the Eighteenth to the Twentieth Century.

The year's events were concluded on the night before Speech Day with a gala dinner involving the Leavers' photograph, a succession of entertainments performed by members and a splendid five-course meal with wine. In the concluding speeches, particular thanks were offered to this year's hard-working Committee, while staff and Stoics exchanged regards and best wishes for the future.

Dr Paul Miller (Chair), Tiffany Georgallides (Committee), Georgia Horrocks (Committee), Ed Borland (Committee)

A Tragic Accident

She smiles. And up in the smooth, dark night sky, the stars glare back.

She knows the voice; even as she glances down to see him. Even as her eyes search furtively through the darkness for the earnest face of Mohammed Menhaden...and glimpse him.

'Will you come?' His smile is so hopeful, so contagious, that affection grips her heart more fiercely and passionately each second that she gazes at him. She raises a shaking finger to her smiling lips.

'Shh...'

It would be a scandal; a disgrace to her family and ancestors. Narinder applies the forbidden rouge to her lips. She works by candlelight, checking her progress in the tiny mildewed mirror. She stares at her reflection. Her lips are red. Blood red. The lipstick goes back into its hiding place: a large crack in the frame of the ceramic sink. She must now find her burka.

Her journey across the landing is nerve-racking. The tired wood groans under her light steps and each creak pierces her heart with fear. On either side of the corridor sleep her Uncle Jammed and her cousins, Akbar and Ali. If she was discovered...

The scarf is not there. It is not in any of the cupboards. It is not even in the store room. Too much time has been wasted. Narinder imagines Mohammed getting tired and leaving. A cold heat prickles her skin. She can't let that happen. She must leave without her burka.

He is still waiting. Her heart rejoices as she slips silently through the window. Her lithe limbs slide easily

through the small opening and within the minute, she is grasping hands with Mohammed. He kisses one palm and then the other.

'Welcome, most beautiful one,' he whispers. Narinder's cheeks burn a deep red and he kisses those too. His fingers comb through her thick, dark hair. 'Let us walk,' he says, and their fingers entwine once more.

It can't be. Her mind works furiously, willing it not to be but even so, she can sense the nature all around her. Hope claws at her throat. Her eyes open by a fraction. The bleary sunlight is streaming through the canopy of trees up above. She turns her head to her side and is met by the tranquil, sleeping face of Mohammed. She gently untangles her fingers from his. She must get home.

Heads turn as she makes her way through the streets. It is almost as if they know what she has done. Uncle Jammed must not leave his room yet. She decides she can plead with Aunty Sonia but Uncle Jammed must not know. Her eyes swivel fervently...searching. Her head pounds with worry. A blue haze seems over everything. Everywhere. The skies are dark. The sun is hiding.

The Girach residence looms into sight and soon, Narinder is inching open the back door. All is silent. No one seems in.

And then she appears! Her hair in frenzy, eyes seemingly magnified and streaking, mouth puckered. Those eyes travel over Narinder's silver bracelets. They widen, shocked by her red lips, her exposed hair.

'No! It's a disgrace! Allah help us!' wails Aunty Sonia. Her hand slaps her breast challengingly. Her slippers slap the ground as she jumps heavily. 'It's a disgrace!' Narinder's ear is suddenly locked in a pincer grip.

There are loud footsteps from everywhere, running. The ground vibrates. Echoes of the coming women. And then they are everywhere. Shouting, throwing insults, shaking their heads. Above the chatter, Aunt Karina cries 'Tell me how she could have done this?' and then she collapses into tears. The chattering crowd parts as Loresha, the neighbour, jostles her way to Narinder. She spits. A loud spit that screams as it splatters on the side of Narinder's face. More wails. More slaps. More cries to Allah.

And then 'Silence!' The noise falls to hushed murmurings and then dies out. It is Cousin Ali. He glares around at the circle of taunting women. He looks at Narinder and his gaze is black.

'Uncle Jammed will see you now.'

Cradling her ear with both hands and trying to hold in the tears that are blurring her vision, Narinder follows Ali. The women's unforgiving eyes follow her. Some are tear-streaked. Some are hard. But all are ruthless.

Her funeral is held a week later.

She fell down the stairs and broke her skull.

A tragic accident.

Michelle Isong (L6th, Nugent)

The Branson Scholars



In February 2009, my wife and I were given the onerous task of travelling to South Africa over half-term, to select this year's Branson Scholars. I'm only half-joking when I say 'onerous' because we were greeted in our hotel room by Mike Thiel, Headmaster of the Dominican Convent School (DCS), with a wad of 70 essays and the news that he would be swinging by at 7.00am the next morning to pick us up.

Jane and I started the business of reading the essays – the pupils had worked hard on writing them and we were determined that we should honour their hard work. Together we read all of them (40 the first night and 30 the second).

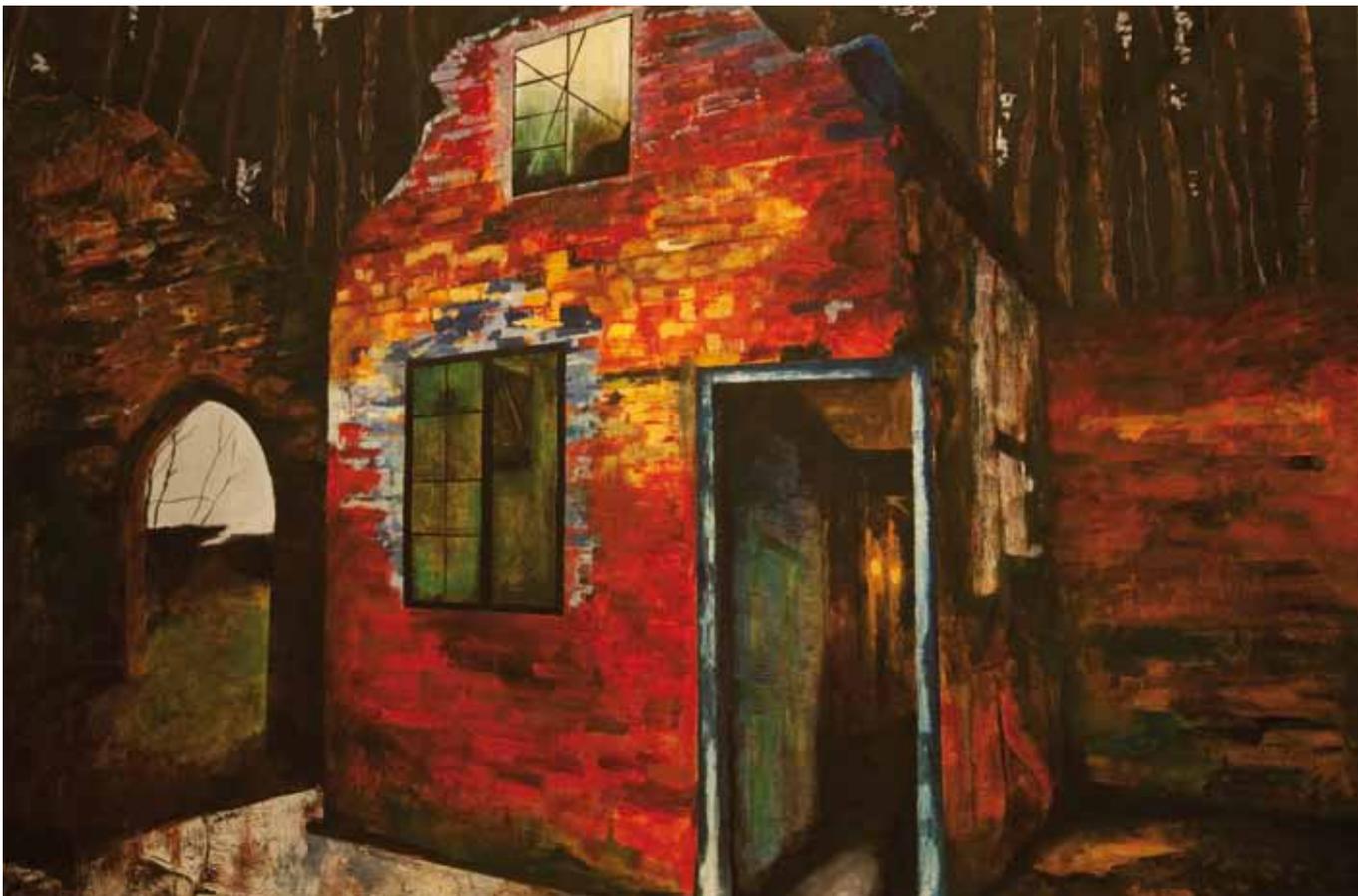
When we arrived at DCS the next morning, it was clear that it was in a pretty run-down area of Johannesburg (the website of a local hotel we had looked at described in detail its extensive security arrangements!). What a school though – a fabulous place bursting with enthusiasm and energy, and the task of whittling 70 down to five suddenly felt overwhelming. We sat in on some of the candidates' lessons and then interviewed them... one at a time, five minutes each was all that we could afford. We were looking principally for individuals who we thought would be able to cope not just with the massive culture shock of becoming Stoics, but with experiencing this different lifestyle whilst thousands of miles from home. We worked out a routine and 70 became 14, which became 10, all of whom had to complete a written test. Out of

that selection process came the five who have just returned from meeting their namesake, Richard Branson himself.

Andiswa, Kabelo, Genesis, Oageng, and Tsakane (Andi, KB, Genesis, Oggie, and TK) have more than lived up to our expectations. They settled in rapidly and have contributed to Stowe life in a big way; indeed, I am still chuckling over some of the acts in the 'X-Factor' in the Roxy, organised by Genesis and TK. Hundreds attended and they raised money not just to buy sports gear for DCS, but for Buckingham Hospital as well.

It is hard to see the five of these pupils as anything other than Stoics, so completely have they become integrated into our lives here – we shall miss them. They have, all of them, been first rate ambassadors for DCS, and I hope they will see themselves as ambassadors for Stowe when they return.

The Reverend Robert Jackson



Discarded: Simon Plunket, U6th



Interior: Katya Edwards, U6th

2009 McElwee Award

Tiffany Georgallides and Lydia Wood (Milan)

It was with huge excitement and anticipation that we set off to our chosen destination – Milan, a city of architectural splendour, amazing art and world renowned for its fashion. Despite the temptations, we were not just two girls heading off for a week’s shopping: fashion was going to take a back seat, as we were going to discover the culture of Milan, and how other countries have influenced its growth as a city.

Arriving in the city centre in the early evening, we were not disappointed. Not only had we escaped the monotonous grey of England, but we had entered a city of excitement and beauty. Sitting in the piazza that evening we could not wait to get out and explore Milan inside out.

During our time in Milan we visited some fantastic sites, too many to go into in detail. However, there were some sites which were particularly amazing, and really gave us the true taste of Milan and its culture. One of the most famous sites in Milan is the Duomo, a huge and splendid cathedral which lies in the city centre. We were lucky (and energetic) enough to get tickets to climb to the top. Not only did we get to see the intricate architectural design close up, but also gained a breath-taking view of the entire city. We could have happily spent the whole day there, but the smell of pizza and the thought of gelati coaxed us down. This is an historic and beautiful heart of the city, which combines a love of art with its heavy Catholic influences.

Another part of Milan which has stayed in both our memories was our evening at the opera, where we saw *Eugene Onegin*; despite being the youngest people there by about 40 years we really enjoyed ourselves, as it gave us a true taste of Italy and showed how this part of their culture has remained central to society.

In terms of art, Milan provided us with an amazing range, from contemporary and modern work by the likes of Damien Hirst to art from the 16th century, such as Caravaggio’s *Basket of Fruit*. It was interesting to see the amount of foreign influence which had come in, although the main pieces are still by Italian artists.

One of the most famous paintings in the city is, of course, Leonardo da Vinci’s *The Last Supper*. We had to book a long time in advance to see this, and there was a great deal of security to make sure no cameras were taken in. It was definitely worth the wait and we were also lucky enough to be in the room with an English tour guide, who talked in detail about the painting and described Dan Brown’s *The da Vinci Code* theory as “just BS...”

Overall our week was incredible. The city and the people were so welcoming and we were constantly in awe of our surroundings. The food was amazing, which is obviously a key part of Italian culture! We tried to enter into every experience Milan had to offer,



even venturing to the race track on one occasion, and nothing was ever a disappointment. We were constantly amazed and surprised by what Milan had in store for us.

This scholarship gave us not only an insight into a whole new culture; it also gave us an incredible feeling of independence and freedom, and it is an experience neither of us will ever forget.

Tiffany Georgallides (U6th, Stanhope) and Lydia Wood (U6th, Stanhope)

Charles Dedman and James Elliott (Paris and Brussels)

Our McElwee travel scholarship allowed us to travel to both Paris and Brussels for a week at the start of July. The objective behind our travels was to further our knowledge of the European political system, by visiting a variety of political institutions and meeting with individuals involved in the political process. We also wanted to take a closer look at French political history, to see how it has helped shape present day politics.

We spent six days in Paris between the 6th and 12th of July, seeing almost all of the major attractions within the city. We started the week by visiting the Palais du Luxembourg which is the home of the French Senate, the equivalent of our House of Lords. The building itself is set in 25 hectares of beautiful parkland that is open to the public, and proved to be very popular during the summer months. That afternoon we also visited the Cathedral of Notre Dame de Paris, which translates as ‘Our Lady of Paris.’ It is widely considered to be one of the finest examples of French gothic architecture in the world, and was in fact one of the first buildings to feature flying buttresses.

Another enjoyable experience was visiting the Eiffel Tower, which was completed in 1889. It stands at a height of 324 metres, and



was designed by Gustave Eiffel to commemorate the centenary of the French Revolution. The views from the top of the Tower were simply amazing, and it was definitely one of the highlights of the trip for both of us.

We designated one day to seeing the Louvre, one of the most visited museums in the world, which contains many works of art that are of particular relevance in illustrating areas of French political history. The museum is so large that if you spent a minute in front of every piece of work within the gallery, then it would take you a year to get round. The most famous aspect of the museum is of course the *Mona Lisa*, which was very interesting to see despite the crowds surrounding it.

The culmination of our political investigations came when we went to Brussels for a tour of the European Parliament followed by a meeting with James Elles, the member of the European Parliament for the South East of England, who has been involved in European politics for 25 years. Seeing the chamber with all of the translation boxes surrounding it really brought home the complications involved in running a European Parliament, where such a large variety of languages exist. The meeting with Mr Elles was extremely informative and he was able to explain in detail to us how the European Parliament functions, and how it contrasts with the UK Parliamentary system. While in Brussels we also visited the Brussels Cathedral, the Grand Place (their 14th century gothic town centre) and the Manneken Pis (or 'Peeing Manikin'), a well known but unusual attraction of the city.

During the remainder of our time in Paris we also had the chance to visit the Musee d'Orsay, Musee de l'Orangerie, the Arc de Triomphe, the Sacré-Coeur and Les Invalides, which houses the tomb of Napoleon Bonaparte.

We should like to take this opportunity to thank the McElwee trustees once again for making this trip possible, as without their funding we would have been unable to enjoy such an interesting and informative week during the summer. The trip was a fantastic experience that allowed us to explore French and European politics and political history, while also allowing us to embrace a new sense of independence and responsibility. We would both like to recommend these travel scholarship to this year's Lower Sixth and urge them to apply for what is really an opportunity not to be missed.

Charles Dedman (U6th, Chandos) and James Elliott (U6th, Chandos)

Georgia Gaydon and Dasha Boyeva (Antwerp and Amsterdam)

For our McElwee Scholarship we chose to visit Antwerp and Amsterdam. Our aim was to look at both of their economies, and compare the two.

First we went to Antwerp. On our first day we visited The Royal Museum of Fine Arts, which houses a collection of paintings, sculptures and drawings from the 14th to 20th centuries, and shows the history of artistic life in the southern Netherlands and Belgium.

While we were in Antwerp we also visited the Aquarium and the Zoo, to see what attracts tourists to Antwerp. The Zoo has developed an international reputation because of its participation in international breeding programmes for threatened species. The Aquarium contains over 250 different species of fish, so is also a key tourist attraction.

Antwerp has been known as the world's greatest diamond centre for over 500 years – 70% of all diamonds are bought and sold in Antwerp. We found out just how important diamonds are for their economy – almost 85% of the world's rough diamonds and about half of the polished diamonds, pass through Antwerp every year, which amounts to about 16 billion US dollars. This is clearly shown by the large amounts of jewellery shops lining Antwerp's streets. We even had the amazing opportunity of seeing a rough diamond polished; the intricacy involved in the polishing alone was incredible.

Amsterdam is very different to Antwerp, as its main industry is tourism. We saw many tourist attractions, like the museums, and we took a canal tour, which is a 'must do' when visiting Amsterdam. The Museum Quarter includes the Rijksmuseum and the Van Gogh Museum, which are both very famous and widely visited, as we experienced from the extensive queues! Holland is also well known for its flowers so we went to see one of the flower markets in Amsterdam, where we discovered that the Dutch have dominated the world flower trade since the 16th century.

In conclusion we think that both cities have one thing in common- trading. Other than that, their economies are quite different.

We strongly recommend this award to anyone contemplating applying for the McElwee scholarship, as we found it an invaluable experience which we will never forget.

Dasha Boyeva (U6th, Stanhope) and Georgia Gaydon (U6th, Stanhope)

Myles Henry Award: Tanzania 2009

This summer we spent a month volunteering at the Buguruni School for the Deaf, in Tanzania. We decided to go to the Buguruni School because of a connection we have with some friends of ours, who are also Stowe parents and Board Members at the School. We had an amazing time and feel very lucky to have been given the chance to visit this great country.

Our trip started with a short layover in Dubai, and after a very long and tiring journey we arrived in Dar es Salaam and went straight to the School, where we were greeted by the teachers and some of the children. We met with the Headmaster and established that we would be teaching English and art on alternate days.

Once settled in we were taken to the Convent where we would be staying, which was a 20 minute walk from the School. The standard of the Convent was higher than we expected, and the nuns were extremely welcoming and accommodating. We met the nuns for dinner each night and also got to know the other guests; this allowed us to meet some of the locals and become accustomed to their culture. The food was surprisingly good and consisted of a variety of beans, rice, potatoes, and fruit. The nuns also invited us to a community church service at the weekend, which was also attended by some of the pupils from the School. Here we got to experience a different and much livelier type of church service.

At first teaching a whole class by ourselves was very daunting, mainly due to the communication barrier, but as our signing progressed it became easier. We had signing lessons every day with one of the few teachers who spoke English. When we weren't teaching we played with the children and kept them entertained for most of the afternoon.

Whilst at the School we were given a four day break to give us a chance to see the rest of the country. We chose to go on safari to Mikumi, in Morogoro. This was an eight hour drive up to the north of Tanzania, but it was definitely worth it. We spent the days camping out in tents on the reserve with Masai tribesmen guarding them to protect us from the animals. However, our truck did get charged by a rogue elephant! It was the experience of a lifetime and we will definitely return.



The trip was an amazing experience that neither of us will ever forget. We got the chance to meet people who really need our help, and people for whom we felt we could actually make a difference. We also learnt the skill of signing, which we are still using now. With the money that we raised, we hope to start a child sponsorship fund. We would particularly like to thank the Myles Henry family for giving us this opportunity.

Abby Payne (U6th, Lyttelton) and Yasmin Afshar (U6th, Lyttelton)

Gap Year

Scholarships



Parent Award: Conor Curtis, Sam Hunter and Hugh Gallie

We set off shortly after New Year from Heathrow to New York, where we spent two days eating super-sized McDonalds and climbing the Empire State Building. From there we flew to Quito via Houston. However, we didn't quite make Quito on the first attempt due to mountain fog, since it lies in a valley high in the Andes. Instead we diverted to Guayaquil, where Continental Airlines put us up for the night in the very swanky Hilton Hotel (normally \$200 per night!)

Eventually we made Quito. Arriving in the morning, we headed to the offices of our organisation, the Yanapuma Foundation. Yanapuma works with indigenous communities throughout Ecuador, helping them to reach levels of sustainable development which prevents loss of habitat and wildlife, while allowing them to achieve a better standard of living. That morning we met all the staff and fellow volunteers, before travelling to our community a few days later.

The bus ride to Tena from Quito was mostly spent hanging over the edges of cliffs, while waterfalls crashed down on the small remaining slivers of road ahead! But we made it, stocked up on food, then took another bus to our small jungle community. Puca Chicta is a village of about 200 people and we lived in what was merely a hollow, concrete house, with one bedroom and a very bare kitchen. Our beds were always damp and our clothes never clean. Thankfully we had a gas cooker and a water hole, though the water was far from drinkable. However, it was a fantastic experience living in such conditions – something we only realised once we'd left all of our moaning behind!

Our volunteer work in Puca Chicta consisted mainly of teaching English to children aged between four and 17. The level of education was low, and so trying to gain their interest was often difficult. Generally about half of every class would be eager to learn, while the other half would just wander off whenever they pleased. We taught for about one to two hours of every day, planned lessons in between and offered some of the older

students extra tuition if they wanted it. While the students didn't achieve a lot by British standards in our six weeks there, for them it was a huge step up in their language. Aside from teaching, we helped with fishing initiatives, socialised with the locals over a few beers and spent weekends in the town of Tena, one of South America's best whitewater rafting spots.

After six weeks we began our travels. In Ecuador we cycled down Volcano Chimborazo, the furthest point from the centre of the earth, shared volcanic baths with tourists and bought Panama hats in Cuenca, while being soaked with water balloons (it was "Carnival"!)

Peru was our famous stop, with a trip up to Machu Picchu, a must for anyone going to South America. We also visited Lake Titicaca, South America's highest navigable lake. The views in these places were breathtaking, but can only really be appreciated when seen firsthand. Once in La Paz, we experienced the infamous 'World's Most Dangerous Road' on a fast, downhill bike ride.

The highlight of the trip for all of us was our tour of the salt flats and surrounding area in Bolivia. The lack of people for a hundred miles around made it a very surreal experience, while the landscape would be better suited to another planet.

From here we had a long bus ride to the Iguazu falls on the border between Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay. Here, over 600 waterfalls cascade in a deafening display, which is often believed to instantly improve anyone's mood.

Our trip came to an end in the tax-free beach resort of Iquique, where we tried the casinos and ran off cliffs to paraglide. After this it was one very long 48 hour bus ride back to Quito from where we flew home, again via New York, arriving back in England on Good Friday.

Conor Curtis (OS Bruce '08), Sam Hunter (OS Bruce '08) and Hugh Gallie (OS Bruce '08)



Left to Right: Verity on her way to work; wrestling with the goats; Verity with her year's provisions on her back!

Gap Year Scholarship Award 2009

I left London in February a week after the massive snow storms all over England, to arrive 28 hours later in Cairns, where it was 49 degrees – quite a shock to someone who was used to the English weather. I then made my way down the east coast from Cairns to Sydney for seven weeks, which was amazing. We saw kangaroos, koalas and many other species of wild life. We even had our food stolen by dingoes whilst camping, and had some nasty surprises in some seriously disgusting hostels.

From Australia we went on to Thailand in early April, where we spent some time in Chiang Mai and the Pai area. Here we stayed with the Karen and the Lamu hill tribes.

These tribal villages are located up in the mountains on the Burmese/Thai border. Speaking an entirely different unwritten language, they are completely set in their traditional rural life.

After a hellish two day journey by boat from Chiang Mai down the Mekong river, we arrived in Luang Prabang, which was incredible. This is a small city, run almost entirely by monks. Every morning at 5.00am, the monks walk down the street singing and praying. There is also a government imposed curfew of 11.30pm all over Laos, in order to let the monks rest, so it is a very peaceful place.

After spending some time travelling in Australia, Thailand and Vietnam, I travelled to Chiang Mai in Thailand to meet the group I would be teaching with in the north. There were five other volunteers and we would all travel to Khun Yuan, a town eight hours north of Chiang Mai, to go to our Karen villages. Within a forty mile radius we all joined a Karen village and

lived with a family whilst teaching in a school.

Having travelled extensively around Thailand, particularly the south islands, the Karen villages were a serious shock. Even having spent three nights in a tribal village, the difference in the living standards between north and south was shocking. My village, Baan Mae Ompai Tai, was situated 1600m up in the mountains, where 30 families are based. The Karen people have their own language, Karen, which is spoken not written, and therefore the children have to speak Karen but learn to write in Thai. As you can imagine, this makes it very difficult to then teach English as a third language. In Thailand the Karen are discriminated against; they would like to be accepted as Karen people, but have been given Thai citizenship. The Karen people here are living well below the poverty line, in wooden huts and earning far less than the average household income of others in Thailand.

The village was surrounded by rice fields and mountains, with no direct road access, only dirt tracks. The people, however, were the friendliest I have met, and invited us into their homes for food as a greeting. Rice is the staple diet, with bamboo and fish from the small stream. It was rice for breakfast, dinner and lunch!

Initially the culture shock made me absolutely hate the village. There are no clocks, just the cockerel in the morning (at 4.30am) and the dark at night at 8.00pm. But the enthusiasm of the children waiting outside my door to go to school always made the mornings easier; we would walk through the mountains together, usually trying to sing a song to lift our spirits.

In my local school I taught boys and girls from age three to 11. They were all so

eager to learn, and much of the day was taken up singing 'Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes' or 'The Wheels on the Bus Go Round and Round'. They were always willing to play games and never stopped having fun. They were the most endearing children and amazing to teach, particularly as my Thai skills were not very good, and they were learning their third language aged only three.

Even though the language barrier was difficult, we really bonded with the people in our village – for me, it was the children who made it so amazing and worthwhile. Sometimes a song would take three days to learn, sometimes they never got it, and on the odd good day they would be singing along within minutes. It was strange to see the appreciation they have for school, willingly getting up and going off early, and having so much fun when they got there. I think what impressed me the most was how grateful the Karen people are, and how proud of their traditions they remain.

It was an incredible experience. I was able to see so many countries and cultures and experience beautiful beaches, crazy parties and scenery you wouldn't even know existed if you never left England. I truly had the best time, and I want to thank the Old Stoics' Gap Year Award for giving me this money; I think I would have struggled to go back up north alone without this incentive. Even though I was able to go to a different party every night and have the best fun going around the world, with no rules and no one to answer to, the best memories I have are from my time with the Karen hill tribe. And without the scholarship, I don't know if I would have experienced that. So thank you.

Verity Waterbury (OS Nugent '08)

Dewar Pilkington Travel Scholarship 2009

In January 2009 I embarked on a six month trip around the world with two good friends from England. After coming dangerously close to missing our connecting flight in Miami we touched down in Cusco, Peru. The first week was spent tackling the Inca trail, situated near Cusco, where we would be working for Ibero-American ministries.

After an exhausting but exhilarating trek we arrived back in Cusco and met up with the family who would be supervising our voluntary work, Ricky and Tracy Olivares, and one-year-old baby Isabella. As it was the summer holidays for the first two months, we spent the mornings playing sports and fun games in San Marcos, a poor area up in the hills with the most fantastic views of a beautiful city. As the ages of the children ranged from three to fifteen years old, I thought playing football would be easy, but could not have been more wrong. At 3,200 feet above sea level the altitude took its toll immediately, leaving us sprawled breathless on the dusty football court.

The friendships we had with the kids were great and we were sad to see them all leave for school again. We were able to supply these children with the equipment necessary for them to get into schools, such as pencils, pens, rulers and workbooks. It was hard work trying to gather all of this and package it for the children, but they loved receiving these gifts, which prepared them so well for school.

In the afternoons time was spent at an orphanage close to our flat. After being shown around the main orphanage we were taken to smaller houses close by, which functioned more as ordinary homes for the orphans, each accommodating between five and six children. I was given four of the older children to look after, Julio, Emerson, Hilda and Anna, who knew a small amount of English. At first I thought this would be a real challenge, as I had only done one year of Spanish. The children, however, were so enthusiastic to learn – I would research topics such as numbers, colours, weather and transport before lessons and after I had tested them, they would test me. This was great fun and I looked forward to every lesson.

Our time spent living by ourselves in Cusco was fantastic. Having to cook, wake



Packaging the equipment to hand out to the kids

up, and keep the flat tidy by ourselves was a challenge but ended up being great fun, made so much better by being in such a small, vibrant city as Cusco. When we had some spare time we were able to go mountain-biking, whitewater rafting and quad-biking. We even caught a local football match, seeing Ciencianos play. They were able to run circles around their opposition, having the advantage of training at this altitude.

We left Cusco by bus, travelling up even higher into Bolivia and down the backbone of South America through Chile to the top of Patagonia. Here, we climbed a live volcano, scaled glaciers and swam in crystal-clear pools. On leaving Patagonia we crossed the Andes, which was one of the most memorable of journeys.

My last week in South America was spent in Buenos Aires; I had heard great things about this city and had been looking forward to it from the start. The people lead an incredibly laidback and fashionable lifestyle, going out to eat late at night, and only reaching the clubs in the early hours of the morning. We indulged in some of the finest steaks in the world, where producers allegedly play their livestock classical music in order to

relax them, increasing the quality of the meat.

After an interesting (but wet) two day stop-over in Australia, we flew up to Bangkok, where we met friends who had come out from university. We spent four weeks hopping from island to island, scuba diving and relaxing on the beaches. We then traveled back to Bangkok and through Cambodia, where we visited the killing fields and S-21, learning of the shocking crimes the Khmer Rouge committed.

Yet another bus drove us across the border into Vietnam, which was by far my favourite country in South East Asia. We travelled up the coast from Ho Chi Minh in the south to Hanoi in the North. We drove for six hours on some incredible mountain roads, scorched by sun in the morning, then hit by torrential downpour in the afternoon, arriving in Da Lat soaked to the bone and shivering.

From here we flew to Hanoi, where we encountered our first real scam in six months of traveling. We were picked up by a fake taxi and taken to the wrong hostel, with a fake name and owner. Luckily my friend had heard of this happening and seen photos of the hostel, so knew it was a fake. Outraged, we told the taxi to take us to the right place and tried to pay half the price. This proposition was met by the five foot taxi driver wielding a foot long knife, screaming at us. Money was promptly thrown at him by the two terrified Aussies travelling with us. We then found the hostel to be fully booked, but were quite pleased with ourselves busting the scam open, and ticking the 'I got threatened with a knife' box before our travels had finished.

Our next stop was Halong Bay, where we spent a night on a junk and two nights on a tiny island right in the centre of the bay, with 12 thatched shacks for us to sleep in, open to the elements. This island also had a small motorboat, so we were able to water-ski around Halong Bay in the sunshine.

We finished our adventures flying back to Bangkok and spending a few days buying presents and relaxing. The whole trip had been a huge success with very few problems along the way, and we felt very privileged to have experienced the trip generally and our time in Cusco specifically.

Jack Leech (OS Bruce '08)

Washington Trip

Capitol Hill

It was very impressive to see the place where Congress meets, and the dome reminded me of St Paul's Cathedral. No building on the Washington skyline is allowed to exceed the combined height of the building and the Statue of Liberty perched on top of the dome, with the exception of the Washington monument. In every official building we visited, we had to pass through metal detectors and x-ray machines under the watchful eyes of armed police. Obviously no one has forgotten 9/11.

White House

Essentially a mansion, we spent about half an hour being guided around the building. Some parts were reserved for the first family and were therefore off limits. Our guide was a secret service agent in a blue suit, which was interesting, since the CIA is meant to be a cloak-and-dagger organisation. After the tour we met some other CIA agents, this time boasting flak jackets and submachine guns. We spent about ten minutes talking to them before having to move on.

Gettysburg Battlefield

The entire site was enormous and was littered with monuments to almost every regiment that took part in the battle. We got to see just how large the battlefield was from the top of an observation tower. Georgia Goodall complained about her feet all the way to the top and upon seeing a wasps' nest, scampered all the way back down. Everyone else enjoyed the view and posed for a group photograph. The battlefield was also the site of General Eisenhower's farm and where he trained America's first tank battalion after World War One.

Arlington Cemetery

A veritable forest of tombstones, occasionally overshadowed by some larger monuments. Arlington's significance to America was roundly summed up by the visitors' notice at the entrance: 'Welcome to Arlington National Cemetery, our nation's most sacred shrine...please remember, these are hallowed grounds'. Another sobering point was seeing the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier; a single marine in

ceremonial dress stood guarding an unmarked tomb while a crowd of tourists watched in complete silence. The complex was so vast that I got lost amongst the winding paths and nearly got locked in!

Congressman Conyers

Everyone was grateful that Congressman Conyers was able to give an hour and a quarter of his time, even as his retinue of aides reminded him of his various deadlines and appointments, including a congressional vote later on in the evening. Everyone was able to ask questions of Mr Conyers, which provided an excellent opportunity to find out more about the American political system. This was just as well since Mr Conyers invited us to have pizza and root beer at his home; an offer that sadly we had to decline, since we had a play to see later on in the evening.

Many thanks indeed to all staff involved, who took the time to organise such a memorable and worthwhile trip.

Johnny Graham (U6th, Chandos)





Behind the Scenes

Like any organisation, the smooth running of Stowe School on the surface is only as good as the operational day-to-day support that takes place behind the scenes.

I hope the facts and figures below will highlight the sheer scale of the work undertaken here at Stowe on a daily and annual basis, and serve to emphasise the extraordinary commitment of all those involved.

Every week, Stowe School consumes:

- 20,000 slices of bread
- 5,000 pints of milk
- 4,000 cups of hot chocolate
- 7,000 glasses of fruit juice
- 300 kilos of bacon and sausages
- 10,000 pieces of fruit
- 2,000 yoghurts
- 250 kilos of baked beans.

This is all part of the 17,500 meals prepared every week, plus 500 sports teas, 300 packed meals, 1,000 rounds of sandwiches and 800 home-made cakes.

All this effort is managed by a team whose length of service to the School belies their youthful good looks. Geoff Higgins, our catering manager, has served the community for 20 years, while both Doug Dallaway, our Head Chef, and John Campbell, a second chef, have each clocked up 24 years in the kitchens.

In case you are wondering, 24 years equates to overseeing the production of over 13 million meals for Stoics. However, the real doyenne of the catering staff is Mary Price, our Common Room Stewardess, with 32 years of service to her credit. During this time, she has looked after the catering needs of four Headmasters, and been a matriarchal figure to hundreds of resident academic staff.

Every week, the catering team also washes 50,000 items of cutlery, 35,000 items of crockery, 25,000 cups and 18,000 trays. Somehow, we manage to lose, over a year, 5,000 cups, 1,000 items of crockery and 4,000 items of cutlery!

Meanwhile, out in the grounds, each mowing machine drives an incredible 4,000 miles every year, while keeping the playing fields in superb condition demands the application of six tonnes of fertiliser annually. The grounds activity alone consumes 671,000 litres of oil and uses 2.6 million kilowatt hours of electricity plus 160,000 litres of fuel. Steve Curley has overseen this task, which requires daily attention throughout the year, for 16 years.

The annual maintenance requires some 1,500 litres of paint per year and the team, working under Frank Byrne, looks after 322 lavatories, 407 washbasins and 295 showers and baths.

The School uses 2,500,000 kilowatt hours of electricity annually, which is equivalent to 532 normal 4 bedroom homes, each using 4,700 kilowatt hours per year. The lights in the Chapel alone cost £2.05 per hour to run and use 20.5 kilowatt hours of power, the same as 13 electrical heaters.

Our annual oil and liquid propane gas consumption is about 834,000 litres. By comparison, a saloon car averaging 40 miles per gallon would cover 7.4 million miles on that amount of fuel, or 14 round trips to the moon and back at a distance of 252,088 miles.

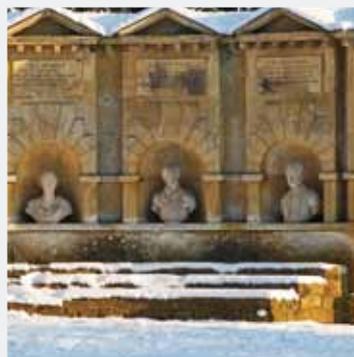
Finally, the School uses approximately 43,800 cubic meters of water per year, which is enough to fill the pool about 70 times over.

There is a serious note behind these statistics and their significance was brought home to us all during the Summer term's 'Eco-Week', during which the Prefect team encouraged us to reduce energy consumption, cut down on waste food and think about the impact that we, as a community, have on the environment. Over the coming year, sustainability and environmental action will assume an increasing importance in planning for the School's future, and it is only by understanding the figures that we can do something about reducing our impact. The old adage that "if you cannot measure it, you cannot manage it" was never more true.

Mr Nick Morris



Stowe in the snow



Ice Trap

Glistening, glacial ballerinas twirled in a constant pirouette. The icicles glowed with pride as the moon rose over the trees, placing the spotlight over them, sending scattered rainbows over their stage.

I stood and marvelled as the bitter air pierced my lungs, and the light show began before my eyes. The beautiful ballerinas gaily fell, spiralling through the air like tears, and shattered on the pavement before me in a glittering finale.

The whispers of winter revolved around my person and caused me to close my eyes, as the gentle flakes scolded my ruddy cheeks.

Winter had come. I could feel it. Excitement rose throughout my body, my ruddy cheeks turning a deeper scarlet, my imagination running wild.

Almost as if a blanket had been pulled over school, even the buildings took on a new persona. They blushed in the darkness, replacing a usually formal façade with an almost excited aura.

Moving forward, an icy puddle cracked beneath me, giving access to a deep ocean below. I stood spell-bound as the waves lapped up over the cracked ice. An arctic scene before my eyes.

Before I took another step, I watched. Spread out before me was a glacier. It had taken hold of the road, and flickered before me, tempting me to cross the treacherous terrain. And I could not be kept from exploring this new kingdom.

So, naivety prevailed and I slid forward. One foot before the other in an almost dance-like fashion. The feeling that I entertained was a mixture of pure contentment and fear as the rest of the glacier that was spread out before me looked almost un-passable. Mountains of snow sat crested with leaves, and pools of ice waited for me to plunge into the depths.

The stars stared down from space, almost as if they knew how my naivety would be my demise. My view became blocked as more of the gentle flakes slid down my face, proceeding to drip down my neck as their life span was cut short.

It was exhilarating. School had opened its doors to imagination and it had come pouring in. My playground of the day had become an empire of the night. The snow beckoned me from the golf course. Twinkling in the night, it developed into a scream; the wind whistled round my body and I could not be kept away.

However, there was much to consider. My thoughts were consumed with thoughts of ecstasy, but fear remained. I may be lost, never returned if I stepped out into the dark. Yet, this chance was one in a million. A star in the midst of space. If not now, then when?

It was asking to be explored. I could sense it. My body tingled, my palms were moist. The snow was my drug, an addiction.

I could hear voices in the night. Fairies of the abyss still smothering me, until I could not breathe through pure excitement. My heart pounded.

It was now. I had to go. I could not keep myself from this fantasy kingdom any longer.

However, just as the stars predicted my demise, my rhythmic footing was out of place, and I fell. Slowly plunging into the ice cold ocean. My thoughts a blur, the waves breaking over the shattered glass.

Lucy Smith (4th Form, Lyttelton)

Winter

As if night had suddenly fallen,
Autumn turned to winter,
Yellow and gold to black and grey,
Sunlight rays to freezing winds.
Streetlights on at four o'clock,
And fires alight by six,
Children coughing, noses running,
Coats buttoned up to the chin.

I stand upon a towering bridge,
Below me a river suffocated by ice,
And in front of me a silent city,
With snow covered trees bent over like old men.

But happiness on faces of skating children,
And excitement in the air,
Toboggans on the snowy hillside,
Glistening misty mornings.

Fires crackle and warm up houses,
Windows illuminated and twinkling,
Gloves and coats hung up on hooks,
Winter shut outside.

Henry Coldstream
(3rd Form, Cobham)

Salmon Fishing in Alaska

In August 2009, a group of 13 of us set off for Anchorage, Alaska, for 10 days of Pacific salmon fishing.

On arrival at Anchorage, we stayed overnight at the Westmark Hotel, and were collected the next morning by the aptly named 'Rusts Float Plane Service', for the 45 minute flight to the fishing lodge.

We landed on the main river, the Yentna, before loading our gear onto the jet boats that would take us to the lodge. After a briefing, we were soon out onto the river with our various guides.

The general routine for the day consisted of getting up at 5.00am, grabbing a cup of freshly brewed coffee, getting our fly-fishing gear into the jet boats and then heading to various fishing holes within 20 minutes of the lodge. At 8.00am, breakfast was brought out to us (a pure treat....), after which we usually moved to another area to winkle out a few salmon. Some of the group would take a break after lunch to catch up on some sleep, while the slightly more 'obsessive' members of the party would stay out on the river to fish. Following a hard afternoon's fishing a camp would be set up, while the guides started the meal. This was an absolute delight – the lodge employed three chefs who, despite being in a remote area of Alaska, produced what can only be described as a gourmet meal every evening. Stuffed to the gills, we would then set out to fish again until sunset.

During our stay at the lodge, the group took the float plane 60 miles up river to Chelatna Lake, and then travelled back to the

lodge in two rafts. En route, we were fortunate enough to spot both black and grizzly bears, as well as the occasional moose. We needed to treat all our encounters with caution, however; at one point, one of the guides had to ward off two grizzlies, that were running down the river toward the group, by shooting a shotgun round into the air.

Fishing on the float trip was primarily for wild rainbow trout. These fish were lying among the rather large king salmon, which were spawning at the time, and the rainbows were feeding off the eggs as they were being laid. To catch the trout, we had to fish with imitation egg flies, which we floated down between the salmon. It was extremely exciting fishing, and you had to be very quick indeed to catch these fussy trout. Occasionally though, the salmon themselves would take the egg fly, which was usually followed by some intense acrobatics, as the salmon leapt clear out of the water. The sight of a 65 pound king salmon sailing through the air is breathtaking, although in this situation, the end result is usually a broken fishing line...

By the end of the trip, each member of the group had caught something in the region of 200 fish. We were all extremely privileged to have spent 10 days in such beautiful and unspoiled surroundings, and my thanks goes to all involved for making this such a memorable excursion.

Mr Michael Righton





Rome 2010



On 25th March, 14 intrepid Art Historians departed for Rome, to discover and experience the myriad of cultural gems that the great city has to offer.

After settling into our hotel, we made for the 17th century church of San Carlo alle Quattro Fontane, built by Borromini in the Baroque style, and which was simply divine (forgive the pun). From here, we took a walk down the road to the church of Sant'Andrea al Quirinale, a more heavily embellished yet small Baroque church by Bernini; the rich array of colours and sculptures we encountered upon entry left us all feeling anxious to see the churches of greater proportions. After a brief but satisfying Italian lunch we ventured to the Pantheon, one of the ancient landmarks on the Roman cityscape. The sheer scale of this magnificent building was sublime; to think about the number of people who have passed through the doors of this ancient temple is enough to unravel one's mind into a pile of philosophical queries and conundrums.

On the second day of the trip we boarded the metro to the Vatican. This is an independent state complete with its own football team composed of cardinals (even the Pope is rumoured to play in goal on occasion...), and houses a staggering range of age-old sculptures and priceless paintings. Although the tourist-saturated one-way system was laborious at times, the climax was worth the wait: the Sistine Chapel and Raphael Stanze provided more than enough cultural nutrition for us. After several gelati we wandered round the corner to bask in the glory of St Peter's

Basilica. As many of us were studying St Peter's as part of our A2 History of Art course, entering this great building was a long-awaited event for us. Upon entry, the words 'How did someone build this?' sprang to mind; as it is the centre of the Roman Catholic Church it was no surprise to see that every square inch of this incredible building was brimming with artistic excellence.

Gradually, we escaped the hysteria of St Peter's and took a leisurely walk through the park to the Villa Borghese, in which sculptures such as Apollo and Daphne by Bernini are contained. For many of us this was the highlight of the trip; the peaceful atmosphere of the gallery, as well as its fascinating contents, was a refreshing change from the hustle and bustle of St Peter's and the Vatican. We reluctantly left the Borghese later that afternoon to feast upon the fine cuisine for which Italy is renowned, before getting a good night's sleep to prepare us for the day ahead.

Feeling exuberant and energetic from the early morning air we made haste for the church of Santa Maria della Vittoria, which contains the *Ecstasy of St Theresa*, a Baroque sculpture by Bernini which epitomises the sumptuousness and cultural charisma of the 17th century. For many of us, observing this work was a sufficient, if not divine, means of expelling the slight inertia we may have felt due to

the early mornings and hot weather. The Palazzo Barberini certainly brought us back to full consciousness. The summer home of Pope Urban VIII, the palace houses *The Allegory of Divine Providence*, a ceiling painting by Pietro da Cortona which is roughly the size of a tennis court. Later that day we visited the Colosseum and the Roman Forum where our tour guide – Malvolio – gave us a thorough and fascinating insight into the history of the area.

On the final day we headed off to a major exhibition of Caravaggio's work. It was very rewarding to study the paintings we had seen in class, and to examine the details we had not previously noticed. The afternoon was spent reclining on park benches in the gentle Roman sunshine, eating numerous flavours of Italian ice cream before heading to the airport.

Reluctantly, we boarded the plane back to Heathrow; the trip as a whole was one of the best I've ever been on. A big thank-you to Mr Wilson and Miss Collins for organising such a wonderful experience, and for putting up with our silly antics.

Ed Borland (U6th, Temple)

Music Trip to Bangkok

Bangkok, Thailand. Not a place you would normally associate with Bach, Purcell, Mozart and Vivaldi. Nevertheless, on March 3rd 2010, nine Stoics and two members of staff left from Heathrow bound for Thailand, to play in the 10th International Arts and Dance Festival.

The flight went to time and we arrived the next day at the magnificent Dusit Thani hotel, where we remained for our entire trip.

Our first performance was part of the opening ceremony of the Festival, which was broadcast on Thai television. We performed two pieces, one by Purcell and one by Vivaldi, on the outdoor stage in Benjasiri Park. The first piece, by Purcell, was performed by the Stowe Strings, and then we were joined by Marco Capella and Edward Kealey for the Vivaldi Double Trumpet Concerto, conducted by Miss Arscott. Both pieces were performed (and well-received) in conditions under which most professional musicians would struggle, Marco and Edward showing great concentration and technique as their trumpets were sliding around their faces!

The second performance included music by Mozart, Vivaldi, Bach and Telemann. Clara Holden gave a beautiful account of Telemann's Viola Concerto and Ed McDonald gave a mesmerizing performance of Bach's Cello Suite No. 1 – such was the intensity

of the performance that you could have heard a pin drop in the stadium. All those involved played superbly, and rose magnificently to the occasion of this impressive event.

The next day the Stoics took a well-deserved break, although I borrowed our percussionist/violinist James Larter to accompany me to the Mahidol University, Bangkok. At the University I conducted a master class for violinists and James gave a quite stunning performance on the snare drum. The facilities of the University were extraordinary, and turned us green with envy – over 260 practice rooms, all with new pianos, not including the teachers' rooms. We were made very welcome by the Dean and even have an invitation for the Stowe Strings to go back and play a concert at the University, sometime in the near future.

The food was fantastic wherever we went and the weather was hot – very hot. In fact considering that the performances were outdoors, the Stoics handled the discomfort with great resolve and good humour throughout. We will all remember some great sights, such as the Grand Palace and the view from the Sky Dome, but the country itself was the real highlight. The history, the Thai Boxing, the warmth of the people and their genuine interest in classical music (and did I mention the food...?) contributed to a wonderful experience for us all.

My thanks to all Stoics and staff who took part, particularly to Debbie Arscott, who proved invaluable on the trip, and to Sarah Searle, for sorting out so many things in the UK.

Mr Daniel Bhattacharya





Musical Entertainment at the Stowe Harvard Dinner

Stowe-Harvard Dinner Speech

Much has been said of the “special relationship” that the UK and the USA have shared over these years. From Roosevelt and Churchill, through Kennedy and Macmillan, to Reagan and Thatcher, Blair, Clinton and Bush, strong historical partnerships between the President and Prime Minister have had an enormous impact on the course of global affairs.

In my year here at Stowe, I cannot even begin to tell the number of times I’ve heard someone describe England and America as “two nations divided by a common language” or gleefully tell me that only 10% of Americans own a passport (for the record, it’s actually 30%). As an ambassador for my country and *de facto* America expert, very few days have gone by without an argument developing about ‘aluminum’ vs. ‘aluminium’, ‘vitamin’ vs.

‘vitamin’, or ‘full stop’ vs. ‘period’. Try as I might, I was also never able to develop a proper British accent. The closest I get is saying things like “ello guv-nah” or pretending to be an old British woman flagging down a waitress to order a cup of tea: “Oooooohhh, helloooo, a cup of tea please?” I know – terrible, right?

But despite incessant questions about my feelings towards these two nations, I have long resisted the opportunity to make any

sort of grand statement regarding cultural differences. As I sat down to prepare this address, however, it seemed that rather than simply bore you with the details of my specific duties and experiences at Stowe, I would also share a few things I have learned about this country and about my own, in my time here.

One little secret I discovered is that contrary to public opinion in this country, Britain has a lot of shared culture. The British public (or

at least one segment of it) sometimes harp on about how things are changing and how culture and tradition is being lost. They might cite the influx of immigrants from Eastern Europe and South Asia, or the Americanization or globalization of their pop culture, as signs that the UK is losing its distinctiveness. I find exactly the opposite. It is remarkable how unified and unique the experiences of Brits can be.

I'll give you a few examples. If I were to use the phrases "one of your five a day" or "health and safety," you'd be hard-pressed to find someone in this country who doesn't make comments or cheeky little jokes using those exact words. Because of the media domination of the BBC, everyone in the country knows the same radio hosts and TV presenters. They all know what happened on 'The X-Factor' last season, and waited with bated breath for Fabio Capello to announce his World Cup team. Every little town has its pubs with a selection of lagers and ales, Walkers Crisps, Nobby's nuts, and maybe even pickled eggs or pork scratchings. Most Brits know the difference between Tikka Masala and Jalfrezi like the back of their hand. In school, everyone who does GCSE English is reading the same novels, plays, and poems, and students who enter Loughborough to read Sports Science arrive with largely the same base level of knowledge. Brits even tend to vacation in the same places: Tenerife, Cornwall, Marbella and the Lake District, creating little expat colonies all throughout Europe.

In the US, you do not find the same uniformity of culture. People don't follow the same sports, watch the same TV programmes, or make the same pop culture jokes. We have very different school experiences, eat different foods, and experience different weather. There might be a shared culture amongst people who grew up in Brooklyn or Kansas, but as a nation we do not celebrate and grieve together.

And yet despite so much shared experience and so much to celebrate together as a nation, British people tend to have a horribly negative self-image. The great British comedian Stephen Fry, in the introduction to the book he wrote while touring America in a black London cab, puts it much better than I can:

'There is one phrase I probably heard more than any other on my travels: 'Only in America!'. If you were to hear a Briton say, 'Tch! Only in Britain, eh?', it would

probably refer to something that was either predictable, miserable, oppressive, dull, bureaucratic, queezy, damp, spoil-sporty or incompetent – or a mixture of all of those. 'Only in America!', on the other hand, always refers to something shocking, amazing, eccentric, wild, weird or unpredictable. Americans are constantly being surprised by their own country. Britons are constantly having their worst fears confirmed about theirs. This seems to be one of the major differences between us.'

Now perhaps the criticism of Americans as jingoistic, willing to plaster their flag all over the place despite a history of persecution, racism, and imperialism, holds some truth – but I like that my nation is self-congratulatory. Occasionally it morphs into an ignorant 'America – love it or leave it' attitude that rejects any criticism, but I firmly believe that my country is a force for good in the world, and so do a majority of Americans.

“People don't follow the same sports, watch the same TV programmes, or make the same pop culture jokes”.

I never understood why the people of a country as beautiful as this one, with a rich history, great culture, and friendly generous people, is not more openly proud of all it has accomplished. I'm not asking Brits to be as effusive and sometimes annoying as Americans are about their country, and God knows nationalism has a very ugly side, but show some pride every once in a while. I know part of the British sensibility is to root for the underdogs and losers, to enjoy complaining about the weather and the 44 year World Cup drought, but it goes beyond comedy and culture now, beyond that kind of superiority that says you should downplay love of country, and it seems that many Brits actually don't realize how special their country is.

The greatest strength and the greatest fault of America is its undying optimism. The whole concept of the American Dream is based on the belief, right or wrong, that all it takes in the US is hard work to achieve your goals, usually material in nature – something akin to the picture of the happy

suburban family with the white picket fence, two cars, and kids playing Little League baseball. In 2009, despite income inequality and a massive recession, one survey showed that 59% of Americans still believed in the American Dream. When asked about the difference between the British and American versions of *The Office*, Ricky Gervais said '[The American characters] are slightly smarter, they've got better teeth and more ambition. But the big difference is that Americans are more optimistic.' If you use that great modern cultural barometer Google, a search for 'pessimism' on Google in the US yields 1.9 million results. Click on 'optimism', and you get 11 million. 'Despair' returns 11.8 million; 'hope' 615 million. Is that rational? Maybe not. But it is American.

I'm not saying Britain should be more like the US, but in some ways whinging about this country has become a national sport, and the complaints are not always founded in the truth. I'll go on record: I love this country.

And (watch this segue) Stowe, in many respects, represents the best that Britain has to offer. I could talk about the beauty of Stowe House and the Stowe Landscape Gardens, but a quick stroll about would do it more justice than my simple words could do. I could tell you about the improvements we have seen in our GCSE and A-Level results, about the Equestrian Centre and new music and arts facilities being constructed. I could tell you about the success of our rugby team, about our student who reached the finals of the Percussion section of the BBC Young Musician of the Year competition, or about our acceptances at Oxford and Cambridge. But I think you'll understand the dynamism and energy of Stowe if I just tell you a bit about my year here, and about the dedication of all our members of staff.

I arrived in September not really knowing what to expect. I bonded with new staff members similarly bewildered by the School, its grounds, its students, and its sheer busyness. I took over two sets of Third Form History and taught them World War I, the American Civil War, and the Holocaust. The learning does not just take place in the classroom, however. At the end of March, Dr Smith, the Head of History, led four members of staff and forty Third Form students on a tour of the World War I Battlefields of the Somme and Ypres. On Tuesday, the entire Third Form listened as a Holocaust survivor shared her experiences, as well as those of her mother. From the



Schlieffen Plan to the Slave Trade to the Warsaw Ghetto, the students were stretched to imagine what life might have been like in the trenches, on a Southern plantation, or in a concentration camp.

I also taught Upper Sixth A-level US Politics with Matt Way and Henry Swayne. Teaching engaged, mature, and intelligent students about conflicting constitutional philosophies, the role of the media in US elections, or the legacy of the civil rights movement enabled me to draw on my own background at Harvard, and hopefully instilled in the students a lifelong habit of remaining aware of what is happening both here and abroad. Matt and Henry encouraged me to keep the students up-to-date with new developments in US politics as they occurred, and we followed the health care debate and the rise of the TEA party movement with great focus.

Outside of the classroom, I had a litany of responsibilities. I helped mentor the students applying to US and Canadian universities, and we had students accepted to Bard, Purdue, McGill, University of Michigan and more, and have dozens of students interested in applying this autumn. I served as Head of Tennis and

coached the Senior Boys' 1st and 2nd teams, including our top player, who is a junior champion in his native Thailand. I served as a member of the Temple House team, doing boarding duties every fortnight and getting to know the boys in another setting. I've had assorted responsibilities with the Duke of Edinburgh programme, on the football pitch, squash courts, and helping prepare some Oxbridge candidates. I've found the time to serve as a backup dancer for a staff rendition of Lady Gaga's "Bad Romance", learned to drive manual on the wrong side of the road, and travelled to Wales, Belgium, France, Spain, Portugal, Morocco, Italy, Austria, and the Czech Republic. And yet, the sum total of what I have done this year is an absolute drop in the bucket compared to the dedication of your average member of staff.

I'll give you just a few examples, using some of the teachers we have here tonight. Tony Chan teaches a full timetable of English classes, serves as Under-Housemaster of Temple, and yet somehow finds the time to know virtually every student at Stowe, and not just to know them, but know them well and trumpet their every accomplishment. Huw Jones, as

the chapel organist, Assistant Director of Music, Under-Housemaster of Cobham and so much more, works hard every day to encourage and develop the incredible musical talents we have at Stowe, and to help manage a department of over 30 members of staff. And Tom Higham who, as a graduate assistant, is not paid much and is not expected to be an absolutely essential member of the Common Room, teaches a ton of ICT lessons, coaches rugby, runs the Stowe Radio programme, and serves weekly duty in Walpole, where he will be Under-Housemaster next year. I could go on and on, but suffice to say this: when people ask me what I like most about Stowe, I don't even have to think for a second. It's the people. Not a single day goes by that I am not absolutely inspired by the generosity, kindness, and dedication of the teachers and support staff at this school.

So to close then, I'd like to thank many of those people that have made my year here so special. Tony, Tony, and the rest of the Temple Crew – I always felt comfortable in the House, and your guidance was a big part of that. David, James, Kevin, and especially Matt Way and Henry Swayne – your help this year was essential, and I thoroughly enjoyed teaching with you and learning from you this year. Alan Murray's teacher support programme was a huge help as well. And Carol Miller – not enough can be said. If I needed anything, anything at all, she was there. She took excellent care of me, and I will miss her dearly.

To my family – for dealing with me over skype and email for a year, and for being okay with not always knowing where in Europe I might be at any given time. Thank you for your support and love as always.

And lastly, to all my friends. Lacrosse coaches, Heads of Departments, and language assistants. Teenagers and middle-agers alike. Travel buddies, drinking buddies, teaching buddies, and football buddies. I know that as I move on, to a new country and a new career, I can't take you with me, and that is the hardest part of this – what is otherwise simply a celebration of a wonderful year at a wonderful school. Thank you so much for your friendship, and I hope we keep in close touch.

Stowe is a wonderful and unique place within a beautiful country, and I hope you support it with your presence, time, money, words and actions, for a long time to come.

Mr Jarret Zafran

Third Form

Battlefields Tour

The opportunity to explore the Somme and Ypres provides the pupils with first hand experience of historical accounts and material studied at Stowe.

At the end of the Spring term 40 Third Form pupils set off on the annual History Department tour to the Battlefields of the Western Front.

Despite having made countless trips to the Western Front I am always struck by some new facet of the experience, and impressed by the fact that the pupils never fail to ask novel and thought-provoking questions. The Stoics were all struck by the contrast between the German and Allied cemeteries, and what really struck them was that this was not just Britain fighting, but Britain and an enormous empire together. Likewise French Algerian graves reinforced the concept of a World at War.

The afternoon at Beaumont Hamel allowed the Stoics to walk through a complex trench system and then to gather in the front line in silence and to reflect on the events of 1 July 1916. We then visited Fromelles on the Auber Ridge to see the sight of the new cemetery under construction, following the recent discovery of large burial pits. This complemented the lecture the Stoics had last term by Mike Senior, in which he gave a detailed account of the Battle of Fromelles.

The trip concluded with the Last Post Ceremony in Ypres and a visit to the cells in Poperinge, from where condemned men were led to be shot at dawn. This was a poignant end to an extremely moving trip, and one I am sure the Stoics will remember for a long time – it certainly deepened their understanding of one of the most tragic yet fascinating events in world history.

Dr David Smith



Stoics explore the trenches of the Western Front





Stowe Musicians take on the Big Apple

Shortly before the start of February half-term, Stowe sent 12 of its best Music Scholars and Exhibitioners on tour to New York and Connecticut for four days.

The trip, which was originally in limbo due to concerns over extreme weather and flight availability, was a massive success, with fabulous performances in St John the Divine Cathedral, New York City, and the Congregational Church, New Canaan.

After arriving at our Upper West Side hotel around midnight, we all enjoyed an inevitably large, fried American breakfast on Friday morning before launching into our exciting but busy itinerary. First stop: Columbus Circle, a shopping hub at the south-west corner of Central Park, where the Stoics were given some free time to explore. The next part of our day was devoted to our highest-profile performance of the tour – the lunchtime concert at St John the Divine – so we hopped on the subway with our instruments in tow, prepared to make a splash. The concert was a smash hit, and our small but appreciative audience grew to around 300 adoring onlookers, by the time the choir concluded with an a cappella arrangement of Glee’s *Don’t Stop Believin’*, composed especially for the tour.

Still euphoric from the concert’s success, the Music Scholars and staff ventured down to Midtown Manhattan for some adventurous sight-seeing. This included an ascent to the top of the awe-inspiring Empire State Building and some

well-earned shopping time at Macy’s, the world’s largest department store. After getting a bite to eat in Times Square, we ended the day with a wonderful performance of Bernstein’s *West Side Story* on Broadway.

Day two began once again with a hearty breakfast before we set off to explore a snow-covered Central Park. After pummelling each other with snowballs, we bid goodbye to the Big Apple and headed north to Connecticut in search of some country air and more music-making. Following a wonderful lunch in downtown New Canaan (and delicious cupcakes to celebrate Lucy Milburn’s 18th!) we headed to the Congregational Church, where Mr Dearsley used to be Director of Music, for a rehearsal and then the afternoon concert. This proved to be another strong performance for the Music Scholars, and afterwards we settled in for some home-cooking from our generous New Canaan host families.

The next morning, Stoics delivered two final performances at the Congregational Church, which included wonderful instrumental solos from George Eatwell and Liam Forster as voluntaries. We then boarded the coach to make our way back to the airport, stopping at an American shopping mall for one last run to



Abercrombie before heading home. As our plane touched down in Heathrow, we all felt exhausted but grateful for an incredibly memorable music tour that may not have happened at all, were it not for the subsiding blizzard. What a relief!

Finally, thanks must go to Dr and Mrs Wallersteiner and Mr (Jeremy) Young for staffing our whirlwind tour, and to Mr Dearsley and Mrs Searle for organising it. And in case any evidence were needed of its musical quality, you can now find podcasts of the tour choir on YouTube, recorded on our return to Stowe – just simply type ‘The Music Scholars of Stowe’ into the YouTube search box!

Mr Huw Jones

California

Lacrosse Tour 2010

After preparing for weeks with extra training sessions, fundraisers and trialling the compulsory protective goggles, a mixed team of Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Formers embarked on the Lacrosse tour to California. First stop – San Francisco.

After some difficulties with the connecting flight and just a few hours sleep, we played our first match against Menlo High. We started off in a commanding position, leading the match in the early stages and (due to conflicting international rules) playing a considerably longer first half than usual. However, jet-lag and the Californian midday sun proved too much, and we finally conceded 6-15. Our next match against California High saw us playing in another standard American stadium on astro turf with professional referees, electric scoreboards and bleachers. Again, our fatigue seemed to defeat us as the game ended 8-18. Despite these two losses, we enjoyed ourselves off the pitch with our host families. Staying with the girls from the opposing team enabled us to get an insight into American family life, and we were spoiled by delicious home cooking and barbecues at sunset on the beautiful Californian beaches.

Later on in the tour we played Carlsbad High School, as we moved down the coast to San Diego. We showed determination and cooperation between all players, joining forces on the defence-attack transition to produce some textbook lacrosse. By now we had grown fully accustomed to the American rules and the high speed of play but some questionable umpiring and a fantastic opposing goalkeeper held us back, with a final score

of 4-9. We completely ran out of steam in our penultimate game against Canyon Crest Academy and, despite leading in the early stages, succumbed 5-13. This match was followed by another barbecue on the nearby beach consisting of pizzas and toasted marshmallows, with an exquisite sunset backdrop.

Prior to the final match against Falcons Lacrosse Club, we were absolutely determined to leave with a win. Everyone was in good spirits and rallied together to create formidable teamwork; seven different Stoics scored, ending the match at an impressive 18-3. The game had flowed perfectly, reflecting the incredible atmosphere on the pitch – it was what we had been waiting for since leaving Heathrow some nine days before.

Throughout the week, we were able to take in some sights between our lacrosse fixtures. We went whale watching in San Diego, kayaking in La Jolla and visited Fashion Valley, where we enjoyed the huge range of shops and delicious food courts for lunch. We also visited the San Diego Zoo and rode the roller-coasters at the Los Angeles Six Flags Adventure Park.

Although the majority of the games did not go our way, we still left California with some unforgettable experiences. The assortment of Stoics from various years unified to create a really special atmosphere and a team which was an absolute pleasure to play in. On behalf of everyone, my thanks goes to Mrs Duckett and Miss Hollick for organising such a demanding tour and for cheering us on throughout. And lastly to our inspirational co-captains, Tash Trevor and Lydia Wood, who provided us with the perfect combination of hard work and fun. All of the lacrosse girls are so grateful for your unmatched partnership this year.

Daniella Allard (L6th, Nugent)

The Girls' Lacross team in action



Polo Tour 2009



Top to bottom: Relaxing on Lake Concordia; the Stoics in their new kit (courtesy of Lycetts Equine Insurance); the Stowe Polo Tour jet!



After more than six months in the planning, the Stowe polo players and staff set off to Argentina.

The players were Charlie Hawkings-Byass, Alex Worth, Alex Robertson and Thomas Gordon-Colebrooke, and we were fortunate to have Mrs Penny Robertson (Alex's mother) to act as our parental 'matron' for the tour.

When we arrived in Buenos Aires, we managed to secure tickets to the final of the Argentine Open, one of the biggest polo tournaments in the world. The game was between La Dolfina and Elerstenia and, as both sides were level at full-time, went into a tense 'sudden death' period. In the end, La Dolfina came out on top and the winning goal was scored by one of international polo's best known players, Adolfo Cambiaso. It was a real privilege to watch the pace and skill of these players, and we were also lucky enough to join in with the post-match party, which proved a great end to a superb occasion.

Following a guided tour of the city on the Sunday, we flew to Concordia in a tiny 16 seater plane, which afforded spectacular views of the country. At Concordia Airport we were met by our hosts for the week, Kiki and Miguel Delia. They are both professional polo players and play in England every summer; consequently, their fluent English meant that we did not have to worry about communication problems here.

We quickly settled into our daily routine at the farm, which was set in a stunning

location in the Argentine countryside, and provided a welcome contrast to the chaos of Buenos Aires. Our routine consisted of morning practice, some relaxation by the pool, lunch, a Spanish lesson, some more pool time, a tactics/ rules lesson and then evening chukkas. With temperatures averaging over 30 degrees centigrade every day, it was quite a punishing schedule, and the boys barely made it past supper each evening before retiring to bed.

Whilst in Concordia, we managed to find time to visit the dam that separates Uruguay and Argentina, and saw the workings of the hydro-electric plant that provides over 60% of Uruguay's electricity and over 10% of Argentina's. The dam has created a vast lake behind it (Lake Concordia) and we spent a very relaxing afternoon on a yacht, going around the lake and swimming to keep cool. We also went into Uruguay for an afternoon, which was a lot less developed than Argentina, and the tight border controls and checks at the border were quite a surprise.

Although this was primarily an intensive polo training tour, our hosts had arranged a few tournaments for us against local sides and other polo farms. The first of these tournaments coincided with the delivery of our tour kit from La Martina, courtesy of Lycetts Equine Insurance. The boys were thrilled with the tops and bags and, despite an inauspicious start, managed to win four of their seven matches – they ended up coming second overall in all three days of tournament play. The last tournament finished on our final evening at the farm, and the boys

collected runner-up shields and commemorative t-shirts, as well as a memento of their stay.

By the end of the trip, the boys had improved hugely in all aspects of their game. They were well-behaved and extremely courteous throughout, and we all had an amazing fortnight at the end of what was a very hectic first term. Congratulations go to Tom Gordon-Colebrooke, who won the most improved player of the tour award.

I would like to thank Penny Robertson for being such a great 'matron' for the boys, and for helping to keep me sane during the odd testing moment. I would also like to thank Piers Plunkett at Lycetts Insurance for sponsoring the tour kit – an extremely generous act that was much appreciated by us all.

Finally, I must thank our tour company, Polo on the Plate. Guy and Charlotte Verdon were absolutely brilliant in dealing with the many questions and queries I raised, both before and during the trip. We were amazingly well looked after, and the quality of the tour was second-to-none. I cannot recommend them highly enough!

Mr Matthew Pitteway



Biology Department

South Africa and Mozambique Expedition 2009

Expedition party: Daniel Carvalheira-Mobaraki, Kieran Hagan, Hannah Jackman, Elena Kasche, Helena Kealey, Jack Simpson, Sally Akam, Rory Akam, David Akam and Ali Akam.

We assembled at Heathrow in early July, eager to get to 'the bush' for encounters with boomslang, bateleur and buffalo, and the chance to wear the dodgy 'safari' gear we'd invested in. Once Virgin Airways' automated check-in had been grappled with, and Kieran had upgraded to business class in search of a seat he could fit in, we were off.

Arriving at the Mdluli Concession to the south west of the Kruger Park many hours later, we spent our first night in the comparative luxury of a game lodge – complete with buffet supper, beer and obligatory tribal dancing. Early next morning we shipped out in open-sided safari trucks to the Operation Wallacea base at Inzikazi Camp. This was a collection of domed tents and a central mess tent 'protected' by a flimsy looking electric fence, to repel the nocturnal (and as it turned out, diurnal) wanderings of elephant, buffalo and the like. A week of game drives, bush craft and biological surveys followed, with a typical day starting

around dawn aboard a freezing safari truck and ending under the stars around the camp fire. Much of the survey work was done on foot and this lent a degree of nervousness to proceedings – especially as the head-high yellow thatching grass made a good job of concealing even the largest animals until they were too close for comfort! Working in a tourist-free concession certainly gave us the feeling we were 'away from it all', and we had memorable encounters with bull elephants, buffalo and a splendid male lion, as well as a host of other mammals, insects, birds and plants. Our tracking and bush craft skills were honed and all the party can now identify a white rhino 'midden' with ease!

The second week began with a numbing 13 hour minibus ride around the edge of Swaziland to Ponta do Ouro on the Mozambique coast. Here, we camped in the dunes beside a deserted beach and most of the party underwent PADI training or gained further dive experience if already qualified. Some reef survey work was carried out and bull shark, manta ray, turtles and dolphins were among the highlights. The sea was fairly cold and pretty rough – so much so that it was possible to become seasick whilst diving! The Stoics stuck to their tasks man (or woman...) fully and all qualified without problem. Most of us agreed that the best bit was getting in and out through the breakers in the RIB – a combination of white water rafting and power boating!

All in all, this was a really successful expedition, with plenty of unforgettable experiences amongst spectacular wildlife and scenery. The Stoics (and staff!) learned a great deal and bonded extremely well as a group. My thanks to everyone for their fundraising exploits, commitment, friendship, good humour and tolerance of my strange bird watching habits! No boomslang (thankfully), but buffalo and bateleur aplenty.

Mr Rory Akam





Warriors

South African Trip



The trip was organised in order to expose us to some of the experiences of those on the international Warriors gap year, which is a physically and mentally demanding seven month programme with an emphasis on developing a positive and dynamic attitude towards life.

Landing in Johannesburg on Sunday 14th February we quickly learned that this trip was not for the faint-hearted. Immediately after meeting our mentors, we were driven to a self-defence class, taught by Juan, the world champion in bare-knuckle fighting... The class lasted about three hours, and involved constantly active routines and gruelling punishments, if the level of enthusiasm dropped. We were taught how to defend ourselves effectively and our physical boundaries were pushed beyond our expectations. We unanimously agreed that our own personal limits exceeded what we thought possible, and that mental tenacity played a huge role in persevering.

On the second day, most of the group had a chance to skydive over the beautiful Limpopo district. Alex bravely volunteered

During the Lent half-term, six Stoics in the Lower Sixth (Daniella Allard, Tom Baldwin, Rebecca Elliott, Alex Stevens, Katie Wellington and David White) embarked on an exhilarating eight day trip to South Africa, accompanied by students from Eton, Tudor Hall and Sherborne.

to be first and we watched in amazement as he landed (safely!) from an 11,000 ft jump. Every student on the programme completed a tandem skydive, which aroused less terror than we had imagined it would. From the Skydive Xtreme centre, we arrived at the Warriors base camp, and were allocated the cabins in which we would be staying.

The rest of the week provided us with a plethora of once-in-a-lifetime activities including riding elephants, extreme caving, abseiling down an 80 metre waterfall and visiting the Family Tree orphanage. We also stayed overnight with the 'real' Warriors at one of their camps

and were introduced to the quirky games and chants of gap year life – leave your sides uncovered by arms at your peril.

Personally, I found the 'Big Swing' in Graskop the most memorable experience of the trip. This involved freefalling backwards at 180 kilometres an hour over one of the world's highest gorge swings, sending your body into a temporary paralysis of fear. One of the main teachings of the Warriors is that participants gain courage through risk-taking; a philosophy that was proved demonstrably true by our elated disposition on the coach journey afterwards.

Not only did these eight days and the Warriors staff provide us with unforgettable experiences that have taught us the value of teamwork and developed our thinking skills, they have also given us a greater sense of self-confidence and an invigorated outlook on life. We are infinitely grateful to the programme sponsor, the Warriors programme and to the School for supporting such a fantastic and enjoyable trip.

Daniella Allard (L6th, Nugent)



Stowe Enterprises

After many years of trading as SSES (Stowe School Educational Services Ltd), we have decided to re-brand and re-launch the business arm of the School.

Stowe Enterprises manages all the events that take place outside of term time, such as corporate days, weddings, Christmas parties, private parties and residential courses. We also look after the School shop and all the sporting facilities when they are not used for school activities. Additionally, the Events Team manage some of the larger school events, such as the Leavers' Ball and Speech Day.

If you are considering organising a corporate event or a private party Becky Armstrong and I would be delighted to hear from you. We can be reached on 01280 818280 or 01280 818282.

Here are some highlights of the last year, and events we look forward to in the near future:

- 19 couples were married in either the State Rooms or the Chapel at Stowe, and all enjoyed wonderful wedding breakfasts prepared by our very own chefs. We are expecting 21 couples to get married during the course of this summer.
- Stowe played host to the Real Madrid summer football camp and Luton Town FC over Easter. This summer we are looking forward to welcoming for the first time Northampton Saints Rugby Club and MK Dons Football Club, as well as Real Madrid and our very own summer camp: The Darren Gough Academy (for details please go to www.stowe.co.uk/sportsacademy).
- Opera DELLA Luna put on a fabulous performance of *The Sorcerer* by Gilbert and Sullivan.
- Red Bull chose the statue of King George and Stowe House as its main backdrop to create a rooftop tea party stunt to promote its competition. In order to create the perfect photograph, the British champion jumped over the statue some 90 times, much to the delight of all the staff.
- Red Bull also chose Stowe as the backdrop to launch their marketing campaign for the cricket season, with Andrew Flintoff and Stuart Broad having a practice day.
- The School will, over the next few months, play host to filming for a Bollywood production and a fashion campaign for *The Mail On Sunday* supplement 'You', as well as several cricket tournaments and summer parties.

Mrs Dommie Gill



Layered: Tom Bacon, U6th



Layered: Liliias Wigan, U6th



Thoughts from the Director of Music

This has been a vital and exciting year for the Music Department. On a clear and cold Saturday in November a weekend of sublime music began: the Stowe School Orchestra took the audience by storm in its rendition of Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture on the South Front Portico, while the most beautiful display of fireworks took place over the lake. We had not anticipated that the Portico would act as an amplifier, not just for the Orchestra but also for the bangs and the booms of the exploding fireworks. Never in the history of orchestral playing has the conductor been watched so carefully; the counterpoint between the very syncopated explosions and the unremitting number of them was a fantastic experience for all concerned.

On the following day we created and founded the Stowe Festival Orchestra. This is a small professional chamber orchestra, drawing largely on our full-time and peripatetic staff, to accompany the concertos performed by our very accomplished Stoics. The concerto soloists all played with style and energy: Balthazar Mattar played the first movement of Kabalevsky's *Violin Concerto*, Lucinda Finlay played the second movement of Mozart's *Flute Concerto in D*, Augustus Perkins-Ray played the first and second movements of Strauss' *Horn Concerto in E-flat major*, and finally James Larter played two movements of Paul Sarcich's *Concerto di Camera for Percussion and Strings*. The two soloists in the Faure *Requiem* were Rosie Gawthrop, who sang

the *Pie Jesu* with extraordinary feeling, and Jacob Dennison, who sang the two large baritone solos, showing himself to be a passionate and engaging performer.

In April, on a beautiful sunny day, we welcomed 12 Prep Schools to Stowe Chapel to sing Evensong. This year we performed an *Introit* by Harris, *Psalm 150* by Armstrong Gibbs and Wood's *O Thou the Central Orb*. The Prep School pupils gathered in the Marble Salon for refreshments, and were introduced to all the staff. They then got down to real singing work in the Chapel. Lunch was, as ever, stunning; Geoff Higgins and his team produced food that Prep School students dream of eating. In the afternoon we brought together the Stowe Chapel Choir and all the Prep Schools, a choir of about 400 singers. The Prep Schools sang facing one another in what is called 'collegiate-style', and the Stowe Chapel Choir sang around them in full surround-sound from the Housemaster Boxes and from the front of the Chapel. The service itself was supported by a large number of parents from local schools, and we were delighted to welcome a number of Prep School Headmasters. The day finished off with a tea party in the Marble Salon.

In many ways this has been a year of almost daily achievements. The Department ran two tours to New York and Bangkok, involving a total of 22 students. Both tours were only two weeks apart and presented a potential organisational nightmare, but Sarah

Searle and Debbie Arscott simply made it all happen, with good humour and careful planning. Augustus Perkins-Ray won a choral scholarship to St John's College, Cambridge, to read History of Art, and then won a place to sing as a lay-clerk in Norwich Cathedral during his gap year. Jacob Dennison also won a place to sing with the much-admired Truro Cathedral Choir as a bass/baritone lay-clerk during his gap year. Elsewhere you can read of James Larter's extraordinary achievement in reaching the televised category finals (percussion) of the BBC's *Young Musician of the Year 2010*, and his offer of a scholarship to the Purcell School for specialist musicians. In addition many of our players took part in the Oxford Music Festival, and several returned with certificates of distinction. Of particular note was Liam Forster winning, at the age of 14, the under 18 class as a solo performer, and beating 16 other competitors. The Music Scholars of Stowe, our premier singing group directed by the Assistant Director of music, Huw Jones, has sung at memorials, given concerts and, at the end of the summer, sang for the Stowe Parents' Association in Blenheim Palace.

We have also had an extraordinary range of professional musicians come and play, talk and interact with our own gifted and talented Stoics. Paul Harris, the former Head of Woodwind and now the leading published authority on instrumental



Left: Fireworks to Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture. Right: Mr Dearsley directs singers in Chapel

pedagogy, came and gave an inspirational talk on what can really be achieved in the practice room. Deian Rowland (our harp teacher and a free-lance player who regularly performs with London's major orchestras) came and performed and introduced Stoics to the beauties of the harp. Gerard McChrystal (our Saxophone specialist, who is professor of Saxophone at Trinity College of Music and the Welsh College of Music and Drama) gave a startling and impassioned concert, demonstrating, among other extraordinary techniques, circular breathing. Just before going to the Welsh National Opera's production of Verdi's *La Traviata*, the dramaturg from the WNO, Simon Rees, came and gave his own detailed insights on the production and his own highly informed thoughts on Verdi's seminal work. Jeremy Young (Head of Keyboard) and Daniel Bhattacharya (Head of Strings) gave a captivating recital of Beethoven and Arvo Part. The Manchester Piano Trio gave a preview of the Chopin *Piano Trio*, before taking part in the International Chopin Festival in Manchester. Finally David Owen Norris, the acclaimed recording artist, concert pianist, broadcaster and composer, gave a concert which sailed the breadth of pianistic repertoire, while being wholly engaging, virtuosic and entertaining.

A musician's life at Stowe is always busy; not only do you have to practise, rehearse and perform, you have to run the length and breadth of Stowe from the Queen's Temple to the Mansion and down to the Roxburgh Hall, daily! Increasingly in the winter months that run is in the snow. It therefore comes as very welcome news that the Governing Body and Headmaster have put the New Music School at the top of the agenda, and have invested significantly in the project, leaving a smaller, but not insubstantial, sum still to be raised. With the current level of enthusiasm and excitement, the Music Department ends the academic year confident that we will soon move in to a custom-built, state of the art building that celebrates the high creative art of music. I hope Leslie Huggins, the founding Director of Music, would be proud.

Mr Simon Dearsley

An interview with: James Larter

BBC's *Young Musician of the Year 2010* Percussion Finalist

James Larter (Fifth Form, Temple) recently reached the percussion final of the BBC's *Young Musician of the Year 2010*. He has also been awarded a scholarship to study at the Purcell School, a specialist music school. Here, Mr Dearsley finds out about his passion for music, and his life at Stowe in general.

Mr Dearsley (SPD): At what stage in your life did music become important?

James Larter (JL): When I was offered a place at the Royal College of Music Junior Department to study percussion in 2005. Percussion fascinated me because of its broadness and its ability to suite almost every genre of music.

SPD: What will be your most memorable musical moment at Stowe and why?

*JL: I have two: playing drums at Cobham Court as a Third Former and playing *The Journey*, my own composition, at the Mozart Trio Prize in 2008. Cobham Court, because of the adrenaline of performing to the whole School, and the Mozart Trio Prize of 2008, because I feel it was the best performance of the piece. The Paul Sarcich Concert da Camera was also very enjoyable.*

SPD: If you had advice for other music scholars, what would it be?

JL: Get involved in lots of groups.

SPD: How did you find combining your work at Stowe with your Saturday scholarship to the Royal College of Music?

JL: At first, I found it challenging, but with the support from the academic staff and Mr Lewis, I managed to catch up with work and prep from Saturdays.

SPD: What aspect of the musical opportunities at Stowe have you enjoyed the most?

JL: The freedom to start your own groups and the abundance of chances to perform in the Wednesday Concerts.

SPD: Has it been difficult finding time for music while having a very busy schedule at school?

JL: Although the Stowe schedule is busy, I usually find time to practise in the Music Room or the Queen's Temple.

SPD: How did you find being part of the category finals of the BBC's *Young Musician of the Year*?

JL: I thought it was an amazing experience, although very nerve-wracking. I hope to reach the category finals again.

SPD: You have been offered a scholarship to study at the Purcell School, a specialist music school in North London. What exactly will that entail?

JL: As with every specialist music school, you still have to do academic work, but the focus will be more on music, performance and general musicality. I will be involved in a lot of groups with amazing musicians and there will be time for a lot of practice as well.

SPD: Do you see music as being part of your future career?

JL: I hope that music will form my future career because I love performing and listening to a variety of different musical genres.



House Singing

Lost proves to be a Winner for Cobham

On Saturday 3rd October 2009 an audience of over 800 gathered in a chilly Chapel to watch the fiercely-fought annual House Singing Competition. In the previous year Nugent had a 'clean sweep', impressively winning the part-song, house-song and overall trophies, so they went into this year's competition very much 'the house to beat'. Nugent once again delivered highly polished performances, but it was Cobham's turn to take the overall trophy with their part-song arrangement of Michael Bubl 's *Lost* and their house-song rendition of Supertramp's *Breakfast in America*, complete with a funky dance routine performed by Khalid Abu!

The part-song trophy was won once again by Nugent, with a moving delivery of *Send Me on My Way* by Rusted Root, arranged by Head Soprano Rosie Gawthrop. Chatham,



however, snatched the house-song trophy with a roof-raising rendition of *Yellow Submarine* by The Beatles, in which they wore their blazers inside out to reveal the mustard-coloured lining, and in which traffic bollards featured to amplify the singing of their best talents!

The competition was adjudicated by Edmund Thompson Jones (OS Grafton '06), a third-year undergraduate and counter-tenor at Worcester College, Oxford. Edmund is also Musical Director of the Oxford-based but internationally-renowned a capella group *Out of the Blue*. The overall standard of singing was certainly the highest in recent years, undoubtedly helped by the visits of Thompson Jones' *Out of the Blue*, and also Yale University's *Spizzwinks*.

A few Houses also created their own memorable arrangements for the part-songs, Chloe Knibbs (Stanhope), Alexander Bodian (Bruce) and Rosie Gawthrop (Nugent) being commended for their compositional talents by the visiting adjudicator.

Mr Huw Jones

Instrumental Day

On Thursday 18th March, we were delighted to welcome Pinewood School to Stowe for our annual Instrumental Day. This year we decided to hold a more intimate day, where we could really focus on the musical talents of one school, enabling them to have a more enhanced experience. The focus of the day was 'Great Film Scores and Stage Shows' and, after the all-important squash and biscuits, we started the full rehearsal. After a warmly received lunch we broke into smaller sections, where we concentrated on individual sectional pieces. After yet more squash and biscuits we were joined by the Stowe Jazz Band and Wind Band, who were

brilliant at helping the youngsters with their parts and also boosting the already full sound. The day finished with a concert, showcasing all of the pieces that had been worked on during rehearsals. The pupils of Pinewood left (after more squash, biscuits and sandwiches!) with a renewed enthusiasm for their instruments.

My thanks go to Sarah Searle (who organised the event), Jenny Nelson (Head of Wind), Matthew Turner (Percussion) and Geoff Higgins and his team, who all helped to make the day as successful as ever.

Miss Debbie Arcscott

Oxford Music Festival 2010

Stowe music was well represented in this year's Oxford Music and Drama Festival.

This competitive event was held in the new purpose-built Music Department of Headington School where, on arrival, instrumentalists were shown to practice rooms in which to prepare and warm up; every room was sound-proofed, light and airy, and with a new piano.

The competition classes were held in a large recital room with wonderful glass front doors which could open onto the garden and, although the facility wasn't used on this cold winter weekend in January, it certainly added to the ambience!

The competition organisation was excellent, with encouraging staff and

adjudicators. Our performers, without exception, played extremely well in all their classes. The Stowe Wind Quintet, Clarinet Quartet and String Ensemble, together with soloists Liam Forster, Henry Coldstream, Heloise Kleinwort and Ed Howes all won awards, doing themselves and Stowe proud. Liam and Ed were both 1st prize winners, with the ensembles being Highly Commended – a terrific achievement. The diverse range and choice of repertoire is important for success in any competition and our contribution this year included works by Mozart, Lefevre, Taffanel, Debussy, Grundman, Scott Joplin and Sarah Watts. Previously, the Stowe Piano Trio were prize winners and we go from strength to strength in this festival. Congratulations to all the above-mentioned performers; we'll definitely be back for more in 2011!

Miss Jennifer Nelson

'The Best Dinner and Jazz yet'

On Saturday 28 November 2009, over 200 Stoics and their families danced the night away at 'The Best Dinner and Jazz yet'!

This year saw a slight change in venue with the Temple Room completely given over to music and dancing. As guests arrived they were greeted with champagne and the wonderful sounds of the Jazz Combo, led by Dave Richmond. Whilst dinner was served, the Chamber Choir, led by Huw Jones, set the atmosphere with their harmonious renditions of popular classics – a fabulous start to the event. After the sumptuous dinner, thanks to Geoff and

his team, the Jazz Band took to the stage. As the first set began, guests stood nervously around the outside of the Temple Room, waiting to see who was brave enough to dance first. But as our professional dancers took to the floor and the wine flowed, more and more people joined in. Guests enjoyed music from *Can't Help Lovin' 'Dat Man* to *Yesterday* and *Mack the Knife*, with my personal highlight being Alex Bodian's brilliant performance of *New York, New York*. A night to remember for performers and guests alike. Tickets are limited so book now for Dinner and Jazz 2011!

Miss Debbie Arcscott

An interview with:

Augustus Perkins-Ray

From singing as a soloist to playing with musical ensembles, Gus Perkins-Ray (U6th, Cobham) has been a major presence on the music scene since he first came to Stowe. He has recently been awarded a Choral Scholarship to St John's College, Cambridge, where he will study History of Art.

Mr Dearsley (SPD): At what stage in your life did music become important?

Augustus Perkins-Ray (APR): I think there has always been a spark of love for music. But when I was about 10, becoming a St Paul's Cathedral chorister meant that music became my life, what I did, and what I loved doing. Things have developed from there, but that was probably the major milestone.

SPD: What will be your most memorable musical moment at Stowe and why?

APR: Heavens, there are so many... I feel most comfortable on the stage, and events like performing at the Old Stoic's Reunion, in Temple, London, and playing the part of Tony in 'The Boyfriend' (including the performance on Speech Day 2009) helped me to spread my wings musically, being the brilliant opportunities which they were. And of course, I'll never forget the Wednesday concerts!

SPD: If you had advice for other music scholars, what would it be?

APR: Keep going. It's a lot of hard work, but ultimately that's partially what you're at Stowe to do and the rewards and fulfillments that you receive as a music scholar can hardly be matched at this age. Also, be creative – it's amazing what you can find as a musician.

SPD: How did you find the transition from Stowe after being a chorister at St Paul's Cathedral?

APR: Well, I wasn't really a 'tourist attraction' after leaving St Paul's. This isn't a bad thing – even though it's exciting, it's overwhelming having BBC cameras and tourists thrust upon you at every available opportunity. With Stowe, the transition fell predominantly where I chose for it to fall. As a music scholar, you are given a huge amount of responsibility, and there's a lot more time and space to inspire and to be inspired.

SPD: What aspect of the musical opportunities at Stowe have you enjoyed the most?

APR: The amount of musical ensembles here is vast. Over the last five years I have been in a Piano Trio, at least four choirs, the Jazz Band, Wind Band, Wind Quintet, Horn Quartet, the Orchestra... So there's always something to do, and I've hardly ever had time to twiddle my thumbs. The range of plays and shows, including rock gigs, that I've been a part of at Stowe have been the most amazing experiences.

SPD: Has it been difficult finding time for music while having a very busy schedule at school?

APR: Unluckily, I'm a complete worrier, and I'm also incredibly disorganised! Music has always been a form of escapism here, particularly in the lower years. There has been nothing more exhilarating than finding myself in a classroom one hour and on a train to Euston the next, on the way to a concert, theatre, or prep school. I seem to have managed to stay on top of everything – work and music – but it all comes down to organisation!

SPD: You have been offered a Choral Scholarship to St John's College, Cambridge, and been given the opportunity to study for a degree in History of Art. What exactly does that entail?

APR: Luckily, I've changed my course from Music, my original intention, to History of Art, which means that I'll be singing in services, tours, live broadcasts and

recordings in the St John's Chapel Choir, around my academic work. So in that sense, I'm getting the most out of my two passions.

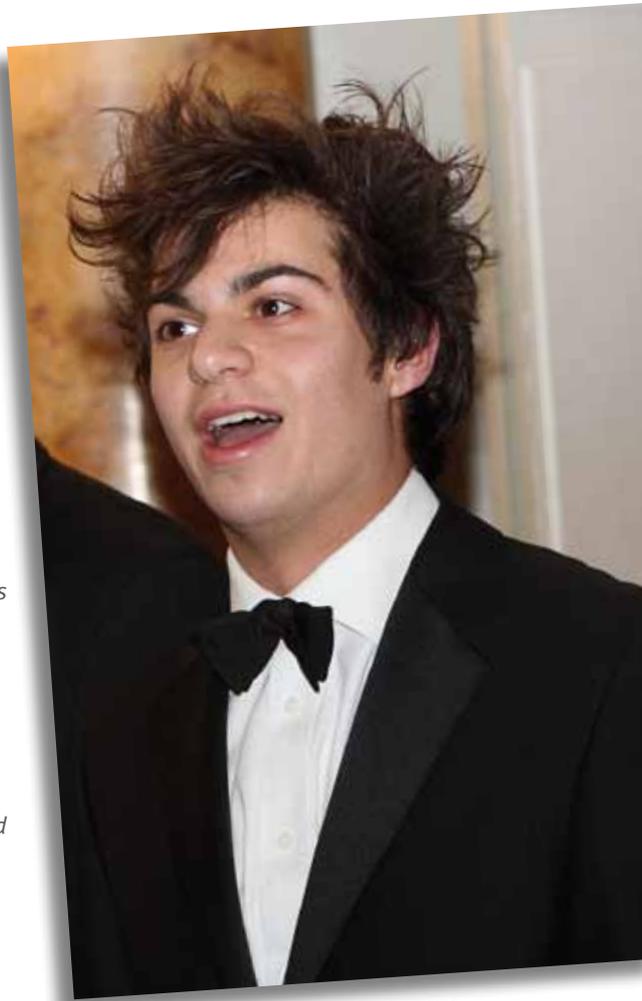
SPD: Do you see music as being part of your future career?

APR: Yes, always in some shape or form. I would like to go into the world of Opera, but it's immensely competitive and you have to work really hard for it. If, on the other hand, I decide to become an art curator or critic, music will still always play an important part in my life. I'm currently looking into music journalism and broadcasting/media too. Many people focus on balancing music with another career alternative – one of my friends has his eyes set on becoming a 'singing plumber' at the moment...

SPD: You are taking a GAP year – will you be doing anything musical?

APR: I'm going to Norwich for a year to make contacts, earn some money, and sing in the Cathedral Choir. Norwich is a brilliant place to be at the moment – it's on track for becoming the winner of the most cultured city in Britain. It's going to be an adventure, a new start on a fresh piece of paper. But it is, of course, a complete continuation of the brilliant past five years – a time that I will never forget.

Mr Dearsley and Augustus Perkins-Ray





Summer Jazz

The finale to this year's musical highlights was Summer Jazz on the South Front with Debbie Arcscott's Jazz Band and Dave Richmond's Jazz Combo. Parents, Stoics and staff packed up their picnics, chilled their champagne and descended on the South Front lawn for an evening of relaxing jazz. The event was organised in conjunction with the Buckingham Rotary Club to raise funds for their nominated charity, which this year was Chiltern and District Air Ambulance.

The Jazz Combo kicked things off in true Stowe style and we were soon swinging to the cool sounds of Cantaloupe Island. Following a short interval, the Jazz Band swung into action and opened with *Take Me Out To The Ball Game*, a traditional Stowe favourite. The audience of over 250 people enjoyed a packed repertoire of Jazz and one or two even dared to dance. What a fantastic way to finish the year!

Mr Martyn Croston

Mozart Trio Prize

We were delighted to have so many of our music students perform in the Mozart Trio Prize this year, throughout all the categories. We were also pleased to have some of the UK's leading musicians adjudicate the event, including Julian Baker, the current Professor of Horn at the Royal College of Music.

The overall winner was James Larter, who won the Senior Percussion category, before going on to win the Mozart Trio Prize later in the day. James has had a busy year, especially with his involvement in the BBCaA special mention must go to Augustus Perkins-Ray, who managed to win in three categories; Senior Brass, Piano and Voice. Gus gave three superb performances of *It was a Lover and his Lass* by Finzi, the second movement of Shostakovich's *Piano Concerto No.2* and *Sonata Movement III* by Hindemith, demonstrating his outstanding versatility as a musician. Lucy Coe also played extremely well, winning the Senior Woodwind category with her rendition of *Hypnosis* by Ian Clarke, and Edward McDonald gave an accomplished performance of Bach's *Prelude from Suite No. 1* to win the Senior Strings category.

The Music Department would like to thank all the Stoics who took part in this event, and the adjudicators who gave the students plenty of encouragement and useful advice on how to improve their musical ability and performance skills.

Mr Martyn Croston



Pupils perform at the Prep Schools Jazz Day

Jazz Day

On Tuesday 9th February we were delighted to welcome Broomwood Hall Upper School and Aldwickbury School for our annual Prep School Jazz Day.

We were extremely lucky that the day was directed by Gerard McChrystal, who is professor of Saxophone at Trinity College of Music and the Welsh College of Music and Drama. After coffee and biscuits, students settled down to the first rehearsal, which was based around popular jazz standards. It wasn't long before the children were following Gerard's lead and swinging and improvising with great enthusiasm and style! After a well-deserved lunch we were treated to a short performance by the Trinity Saxophone Quartet, Astraeus, who amazed us all with their sound and ensemble technique. Following this, the children were delighted to see more people join in the fun in the form of our very own Stowe Jazz Band. They took up places in and around the youngsters and helped them to play some of our pieces that normally would have been very challenging for a group of that age. After a concert run-through and final last minute preparations, the main concert began. We were delighted to see so many parents from the Prep Schools and staff and pupils from Stowe at the concert – it made a huge difference to our guests who each bravely performed their own improvised jazz riffs.

Miss Debbie Arcscott



Christmas Carol Concert

This year's Christmas Concert, held in aid of Helen and Douglas House, encapsulated a delightful mix of traditional carols alongside more light-hearted items, courtesy of Stowe's bigger musical ensembles.

Festival of Music

We were treated to a wonderful day of music on Sunday 28th February 2010. The inaugural Stowe Festival of Music, culminating in the Mozart Trio Prize, included all instrumental and vocal departments.

To spur Stoics on, chocolate prizes were on offer – we all know the way to a musician's heart is through his stomach! The diverse range of performances took place in five different locations around the grounds, including the State Music Room, the Chapel, the Roxburgh Hall and the inspirational setting of the Queen's Temple.

We were also delighted to welcome some of the UK's leading musicians to adjudicate: Patricia Roxburgh, Sheridan Coldstream, Stephen Roberts, Graham Scott, Jo Cole, Ian Mitchell and Julian Baker not only judged each category, but also gave integral feedback on each of the performances heard. We were delighted that Stowe's former Head of Keyboard, Hilary Suckling, returned for the day, able to accompany some of her former students.

The idea of each instrumental category winner going on to perform in the Mozart Trio Prize was a new one and worked wonderfully well this year. A sense of natural impetus and competition was established throughout the day, culminating in five exciting performances adjudicated by Julian Baker, Professor of Horn at the Royal College of Music. Thanks should go to all of those who performed in this busy Festival of Music. The amount of practice and dedicated hard work leading

up to the Festival was obvious, and the high level of performance achieved throughout the day is testament to each individual and their teacher – congratulations to all, but especially these prize winners:

Mozart Trio Prize:

Overall Winner: James Larter
Category Winners: James Larter – Percussion; Gus Perkins-Ray – Brass, Piano and Singing; Edward McDonald – Strings.

Piano Category:

Senior class: Gus Perkins-Ray – 1st Prize
Intermediate class: Kirk Blair – 1st Prize
Junior class: Isabelle Elliott – 1st Prize.

Singing Category:

Senior class: Gus Perkins-Ray – 1st Prize
Rosie Gawthrop and Jacob Dennison – Joint Runners-Up
Intermediate class: Lucy Coe – 1st Prize
Charlotte Bradshaw – Runner-Up
Junior class: Beth Johnson – 1st Prize
Martha Barr and Siana Vere Nicoll – Joint Runners-Up.

Brass and Percussion Category:

Senior Brass: Gus Perkins-Ray – 1st Prize
George Eatwell – Runner-Up
Intermediate Percussion: Guy Turner – 1st Prize;
Oscar Robertson – Runner-Up
Junior Brass: Archie Brogden – 1st Prize
Fergus Jones – Runner-Up.

String Category:

Senior class: Ed McDonald – 1st Prize
Intermediate class: Frank Kilsby – 1st Prize
Junior class: Philippa Douglas – 1st Prize
Rebecca Woods – Runner-Up.

Miss Jennifer Nelson

The concert began with the traditional *Once In Royal David's City*, with the first verse being sung beautifully by Third Former Edward Brook Shanahan (Chatham). Following this, Mr Dearsley took up the orchestral baton with the ever-popular *Sleigh Ride*, followed by *Bugler's Holiday* featuring our Senior Trumpeters, George Eatwell, Teddy Kealey, George Wallace, Marco Capella, Beth Johnson and Cordelia Evans. The evening continued with items from the String Orchestra (directed by Mr Bhattacharya), the Chamber Choir (directed by Mr Jones), the Brass Ensemble (directed by Miss Arscott) and the Choral Society (directed by Mr Dearsley) who were joined by Mrs Dearlsey singing *O Holy Night* – a very touching performance which stunned and moved the entire audience. Also taking to the stage were two of our House Singing Competition winners. Nugent (part-song winners) sang *Send Me On My Way*, which was cleverly arranged by Rosie Gawthrop. Cobham (Overall winners) sang *Lost* which was arranged by our own Mr Jones. The evening was brought to a close by two old favourites, *O Come All Ye Faithful* and *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*, complete with brass, organ and 700 voices. Christmas was well and truly underway!

Miss Debbie Arscott



Restoration of the Library



The newly-restored Library

We have missed being in the Library this year but it has been fascinating watching the progress of the restoration and hearing what has been discovered during the work.

The restoration of the ceiling was undertaken by a team of conservators from Cliveden Conservation, several of whom had previously worked on the restoration of the Marble Salon. Work began with the erection of scaffolding to create a crash deck. Then the damaged ornate plaster ceiling had to be stripped back to its original construction – the team stripped off over 250 layers of paint, which proved an extremely time-consuming operation. A chemical was put on the paint to dissolve it; this was then covered with strips of paper and left to set. Then the strips of paper were peeled off to leave the plaster bare underneath.

Once the paint stripping was complete the actual repairing of the ceiling could begin. Over the years many of the plaster rosettes from the coving around the edge of the ceiling had fallen off and had been replaced by more modern versions. The conservators found three different types of rosette. One of these formed a narrow row through the centre of the room which contributed to the evidence that the room had, at one time in the 1760s, been split

into two – a dining room on the east side and a drawing room on the west side. This fact is confirmed by the *Seeley Guides*, written by a local bookseller, which first came out in 1744 and were revised and updated over the years. The plaster decoration forming the central panel on the east side of the ceiling was the original and was hand-moulded. In 1797, the room was opened up into a library and mahogany bookcases put in. The west side of the ceiling was then literally copied to create a mirror image.

A paint scrape analysis was done showing 11 different schemes of decoration throughout the lifetime of the room. The sixth scheme revealed that parts of the ceiling had been gilded. Research done in the Huntingdon Library in California (where the estate records are kept) revealed evidence which showed that in 1794, 1795 and 1796 three lots of 5,000 gold leaves had been ordered. The conservators estimated that this is exactly the amount of gold leaf it would have taken to gild the library ceiling.

The library floor has been notorious for squeaking floorboards and the bouncing effect you feel when you walk on it. It was therefore necessary to take up the Library floor to make sure that it was structurally secure and that the furrings were in place. It was known that the room had been used as a ballroom in the 1730s so we had always assumed that the floor was sprung. However, when the floorboards were taken up, marks were discovered with the date 1839 chalked on some of the boards, indicating repair work had taken place. It now seems likely that it was the repair work, rather than the floor being sprung, that gave the floor its bouncy quality.

Before joining the library staff I worked as a volunteer for Stowe House Preservation Trust and developed a love of the House in general and the Library in particular. It is therefore especially thrilling for me to know that in September, I will be going back to work in our wonderful newly restored Library.

Mrs Jennie Rudman, Library Assistant

Escape from the Motherland

Segregated.
From civilisation separated,
By the Equator's sweltering line.
Cramped into the Continent's western crevice,
Where existence is all but kind.

We are cannibals.
Putrid, pocket-sized animals
That birth biscuit-boned babies,
Pirouette on tree branches
And give our dogs rabies.

We are starved.
By rotten recollections, we are scarred.
While our leaders recklessly accelerate in deafening metal tombs,
Parade in vulture skin coats
And saunter in crab meat chains,
We pray to our clay-footed deities, so as to have these things.

We are shallow.
The green and blue globe's shadow.
Darkened by thick skin,
The voracity of political sharks,
The fierce blackness of heart,
The seeds of rich sin.

We are packaged and boxed on a boat
Geared towards the Promised Land. London.
Away from spite, strife and perpetually humdrum life.
Where minute pieces of euphoria are eaten
And tall glasses of eternity are drunk.
Where law-makers and breakers groove together
After humming a collection of colourful songs.

I will return with a sense of elation,
Portable memories of their celestial Emperor.
A well-rounded education,
A dainty, pale-skinned mistress.
A seabed of pearls,
Six acres of gold,
A neck asphyxiated by diamonds.
Recipes for their mystical kitchen concoctions,
Sparkling fruit from their farms.
And of course, a lifetime's butchery of wholesome flesh.

I will return in six months. No, a year.
Till then my son, stay safe. Take care.

Khalid Abu (U6th, Cobham)

Ellie Chad as Katrin in *Mother Courage and her Children*





Mother Courage and her Children

It was a deliberate choice to seek out a Senior Congreve production that provided a real contrast with last year's *The Boyfriend*.

There had been a momentary temptation to repeat last year's bubbling success with something similar in style and tone; but it was only momentary. Providing Stoics with as rich and varied a theatrical diet as possible is always a valid aim, so we cast around for a play that would replace last year's light-hearted froth with something grittier and more hard-nosed, and Bertolt Brecht's *Mother Courage and her Children* was our solution.

It is certainly a play with something to say, as it follows one family as they journey through the carnage of the Thirty Years' War, dragging their cart behind them. *Mother Courage* lives off the war, yet paradoxically is determined to keep her children away from being consumed by it. Inevitably however, one by one, that is the fate that overcomes them.

We decided to make the setting less specific to time and place, rather suggesting war in general, with the

costumes – superbly fashioned and weathered out of charity shop cast-offs by Angela Cammish and her team – suggesting a timeless despair. Music too served to set the mood. Alex Bodian and his percussion occupied a raised, caged platform at the heart of the set, and provided the soundtrack of war – cannon and machine-gun fire, thunder, lightning, and (with the assistance of the entire cast) rain, with church bells tolling a temporary lull. Mike Gutkins and his accordion contrasted this with an East European swirl to cover the scene changes, while Simon Dearsley composed and accompanied the haunting songs which punctuated the action, delivered with panache by Nick Rewcastle, Lucy Milburn, Gus Perkins-Ray and Rosie Gawthrop. These packed real emotional punch, without ever wandering into sentimentality.

The large cast created a true feeling of ensemble, visible throughout, and evoked a strong feeling of a people under strain. As the two brothers, Nick Rewcastle and Webster Mugavazi effectively portrayed the mongrel nature of the family with warmth and humour, while Ellie Chadd, playing the dumb daughter Katrin and on stage virtually throughout, showed real

anguish and despair, despite not having a word to say. The Cook and the Chaplain, Alex Stevens and Gus Perkins-Ray, provided a terrific comic double-act, both vying unsuccessfully for *Mother Courage*'s affections. And as the tart with not a lot of heart, Lucy Milburn was almost unrecognisable, and very funny.

However, any production of this play stands or falls on the performance of the main character, and Rebecca Ingram can feel justifiably proud of joining the relatively small band of performers who have tackled the role, and of doing so triumphantly. She skilfully conveyed the range of emotions that she experienced in the play, from bawdy humour to self-deprecating awareness, from anger to the edge of despair, yet never gave way entirely. Somewhat to her own surprise, she also revealed a beautiful singing voice; the lullaby she sang over the body of her daughter was heart-rending.

This year's Senior Congreve gave the cast the opportunity to tackle one of the great plays of world literature, and in my own, somewhat biased view, it was an opportunity that they grabbed whole-heartedly.

Mr Chris Walters

A Midsummer Night's Dream

The script was heavily abridged and at 85 minutes, the play crackled along nicely. It took us from the stuffy, monochrome and formalised court of Duke Theseus and his new love Hippolyta, to the more sinister and threatening woods, where no one was ever quite sure who was watching whom, and who was doing what!

Performed on a very 'RSC at the Courtyard' style 'thrust' stage, which jutted out from the more traditional Roxy stage, the action moved swiftly and seamlessly from one scene to another, thanks to the clever use of stage lighting and the inspired addition of Ivan Green's 'Stowe Series' digital screen prints. The luxurious fairy bower of Titania was superbly created, with the audience looking through a haze-filled gauze curtain, where Titania (looking like something from a David Bowie promotional video from the 1980s) was

The highly talented Junior Congreve company consisted of 32 Third and Fourth Form actors, who made up the cast of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The two directors, Mr Bayley and Mr Walters, promised a new and radical take on this Shakespearean classic.

serenaded by her troupe of punk-rock fairies. There were no Shakespeare songs in this show, but instead we had the sublime singing of great jazz classics 'Blue Moon', 'Summertime' and 'Someone To Watch Over Me', to help create the mood and atmosphere. The pre-recorded musical interjections worked brilliantly throughout and, by way of a small tribute to the complex, troubled and yet equally

magnificent stage performer Michael Jackson, the company took their curtain call to the classic 'Blame It On The Boogie'.

The Friday night audience included over 100 SPA (Stowe Parents' Association) guests who had enjoyed a pre-show reception on the Chatham lawns, and the Saturday night audience was filled with several of the Third Form intake for September 2009, along with members of our current Third Form, parents, friends and colleagues.

It would be unfair to pick out any individual performances as the company spirit, enthusiasm and energy was clear for all to see. However it is comforting to know that, as demonstrated in this production, Stowe drama is clearly prepared to challenge, excite, entertain and educate, all at the same time.

Mr Nick Bayley



A Midsummer Night's Dream –
Harriet Easdale as Hermia,
surrounded by the fairies





AS Drama and Theatre Studies

At AS level, the Practical Assessment presents more rigorous challenges for pupils in comparison to GCSE.

Not only is the overall standard expected to be higher, but pupils must work from a script and devise an original piece of drama, to be performed on the same day: a daunting prospect.

The set text this year was David Hare's *The Permanent Way*, a piece taken from the actual words of various people involved in the privatisation of the British railway system in the early 1990s and the subsequent train disasters at Ladbroke Grove, Potters Bar and Hatfield. The play has been a huge success for the National Theatre, and posed a challenging problem for pupils: how to bring out the theatricality and physicality of a play which relies heavily on words? An additional constraint was for the performances to reflect the ideas, techniques, radical staging and performance theories advocated by Bertolt Brecht.

Chloe Knibbs, Su Ocak, Mickey Portlock and Max Sanderson, as well as Will Assheton, Ellie Rix and Tom Wood, all presented very original dance routines as part of their performance. Helena Cox, Georgia Ellison, Anton Melnikov and Katie Wellington turned superbly from young children playing an innocent game into the cynical, money obsessed rail track engineers and workers; while Nick Brown, Rebecca Down, Alexa Beaty and Ellie Chadd were all utterly convincing and moving as the troubled, grieving parents. Finally, Alex Stevens, Jamie Bailey, Barty Shepherd and Xara Fisher had great fun in satirising the inept civil servants and junior ministers, all desperate to ride on the gravy train (excuse the pun) which was 'privatisation'.

The contrasting devised dramas presented different challenges and opportunities. Once again, pupils had to demonstrate a practical understanding of a particular practitioner, in this case the English playwright, actor and director Steven Berkoff, who advocates a highly physical, caricatured approach to his work on stage.

The resulting performances, all with a leaning towards surreal comedy, were highly entertaining. Three groups based their ideas on adaptations of stories for children: Anton, Georgia, Helena and Katie cleverly dovetailed two fairy tales, *Cinderella* and *Little Red Riding Hood*; Chloe, Max, Mickey and Su had a modern day *Alice in Wonderland* escape her appalling family into an underworld of drugs and depravity; while Tom and Will took the role of a contemporary Jack (of the Beanstalk fame) between them, with Ellie tackling a host of weird and wonderful characters. Jamie, Xara, Barty and Alex took us on a family journey from hell on their trip to the seaside, and Alexa, Nick, Ellie and Rebecca gave us some clever and theatrical insights into the world of shopping, 'where every little helps'.

My congratulations to all Stoics who participated in these performances – they should feel proud and satisfied with all they achieved.

Mr Nick Bayley



A2 Drama and Theatre Studies

At first glance, the requirements for A2 Drama and Theatre Studies are not very different from those at AS level: two performances, one scripted, one devised.

The biggest change is increased freedom – pupils choose their own script extracts to perform, rather than being prescribed a text, and they also select their own theatrical practitioner or styles to follow. The course, therefore, offers all pupils the leeway to express themselves in the way that suits them best for their final performance.

This freedom brings its own stresses, of course. In addition, there is the implicit expectation that these performances should show some development from the previous year; everyone is expected to improve.

It is one mark of this individuality of approach that the five scripted scenes from the class of 2010 occupied four different venues, taking advantage of the many and varied staging opportunities offered by the School site. Rosie Gawthrop, Jodie Mills and Webster Mugavazi used the elegant setting of the State Music Room to great effect in their extract from Sartre's *Huis Clos*. Daisy Coulson, Rebecca Ingram, Callum Jones

and Winnie Maganjo ratcheted up the claustrophobia in the Sixth Form Centre, packing us all, audience, examiner and performers, into the same small space for their farcical look at suburban life in Mike Leigh's *Abigail's Party*. Nick Rewcastle and Nichola Wagg utilised the spiral staircase in the corner of the Dobinson Theatre to add to the atmosphere and setting of their extract from Patrick Marber's *After Miss Julie*, a modern adaptation of the Strindberg classic, while Craig Holton and Will Siddeley used the oppressive atmosphere of the same venue in a different context, playing the two incompetent hitmen in Pinter's comedy of menace, *The Dumb Waiter*. Lucy Milburn and Lizzie Yarnold chose to present their scene from Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler* in the Drama Studio, suggesting a more genteel form of the same dramatic tension.

With the briefest of pauses, it was straight on to the four devised pieces. Two were similar, in that they both adopted a sketch-type format, presenting a series of short scenes linked by a unifying theme.

In the case of Jodie, Rosie and Webster this was a set of scenes concerning 'The Perfect Citizen', while Lucy, Lizzie, Nichola and Nick tackled aspects of the themes of force and abuse of power. In both cases, they could avoid the constraints of a story-line, and demonstrate a range of techniques and approaches influenced by elements of Artuad, Brecht and Berkoff. In contrast, Callum, Craig and Will tackled a comic parody of an Agatha Christie-type murder mystery, playing the three male characters from the game Cluedo, as well as the murder victim, Mr Black. Finally, Daisy, Rebecca and Winnie gave a harrowing and intensely theatrical portrayal of three institutionalised young women, showing the fears and terrors that led to them being there. All those taking part deserve great credit for their commitment and efforts throughout the rehearsal period and we await, with quiet confidence, the results in August.

Mr Nick Bayley





GCSE Drama

For the Practical Assessment of GCSE Drama, Stoics are required to take part in two performances: one in December, when they devise their own original piece of drama and theatre; and the second in May, when they perform an extract from any published play.

The stimulus for the devised pieces this year was the lyrics to *Yesterday* by The Beatles. This could be interpreted in any way the Stoics saw fit, but almost inevitably led to performances which involved the use of various flashback techniques, to reflect upon incidents leading to a dramatic climax. Even if the subject matter was similar in most cases, however, the style and approach varied considerably.

In their piece, Harriet Easdale and Harriet Goffman switched seamlessly between the present, which showed two remarkably well-observed elderly ladies, and the incidents of their younger lives, with Daniel Capurro playing a suitably sinister Angel of Death. In another piece, Imran Momen played a similar role, of a macabre supernatural manipulator, forcing Max Smith and Henry Stockdale to reflect upon Max's previous misdemeanours, and leading to a shockingly violent conclusion. Their clever use of 'in-the-round' staging really helped the audience to become involved in their story.

The approach of two other groups – Charlie Winton and Ben Housson, and Orlando Bevan, Harry Cluff, Willa McFadden and Ed Robinson – was far more comic in tone, the former showing the rise and fall of a star footballer, while

the latter mixed road trip and murder mystery, combining choreographed movement, physical theatre and some clever theatrical tricks to strong effect.

Hannah Maxwell, Lara de Keyser and Léonie Hearson's piece boldly tackled a disturbing story-line, and the last piece by Pat Wadsworth, Georgie Sladen and Gareth Browne had perhaps the most original subject matter, using the origin of the stimulus – the story of The Beatles in general and the death of John Lennon in particular, combining verbatim research with their own original ideas.

For their scripted assessments, two groups performed extracts from Dario Fo's *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*. There was an interesting contrast in approaches: Pat Wadsworth's portrayal of the Maniac was coolly demonic, while Imran Momen's take on the same role was manic and physical. Max Smith, Gareth Browne, Henry Stockdale and Ed Robinson played various comically inept policemen. Two other groups also tackled different scenes from the same play, in their case *Two* by Jim Cartwright. Orlando and Georgie's scene was the more obviously comic, while Charlie and Lara movingly tackled the very end of the play, in which the married landlord and landlady of the pub, where all the action takes place, finally

face up to the tragedy that has blighted their lives.

Ben, Dan, Hannah and Léonie took us on an edited trip through several scenes from Willy Russell's *Blood Brothers*, showing the gulf in class between the boys in questions and their mother. Finally, Harriet E and G presented an astonishingly sophisticated take on a modern classic, Tennessee Williams' *Glass Menagerie*, with performances that would have graced any stage.

Special attention should be given to the contribution by Anna Carter. The majority of Drama students gravitate towards acting as their specialist skill, but Stoics can also be examined on any aspect of theatre design, and Anna chose costume and make-up. For each of the two assessments she had to produce the costumes and make-up for two characters, reinforcing this with a detailed portfolio of preparatory notes and sketches.

At the time of writing, the results of their efforts are not known, but all 18 of them should be proud of their contributions. Special thanks should also go to Mrs Eva Neve, who helped oversee the final preparations of Mr Walters' group when injury forced him away from school.

Mr Chris Walters

The annual *Unplugged* concert at Stowe turned into a serious fund-raiser this time round, when members of the newly formed Corinthian Society decided to do their bit toward the tragic events in Haiti. Upper Sixth Formers Augustus Perkins-Ray, Alex Bodian and Rosie Gawthrop helped to audition over 30 musicians from across all year groups; the finalists were chosen to entertain fellow Stoics, staff and parents with an eclectic range of semi-acoustic rock and pop songs from artists such as Snow Patrol, Regina Spektor, Damien Rice, Jeff Buckley and The Beatles. There were even some original pieces written for the occasion and the two shows, held in the Roxy Theatre, were both sell-outs.

The audience were 'encouraged' to make a donation toward the Haiti Earthquake Fund, and I was delighted that we raised a total of £1,350. The quality of the performances and the audience reaction were superb; we have some extremely talented young people here at Stowe and it was fantastic to see all the performers play with such confidence and skill.

Mr Nick Bayley



Stoics display their musical talent at the *Unplugged* concert



unplugged 2010

Sound Checks:

Location: Roxy, Sunday 7 Feb (PM)

2:00 – 2:10 Hamish Barnes; James Blackham; Freddie Dixon c. 8

2:10 – 2:20 Lucy Coe; Andres Richards c. 6

2:20 – 2:30 Joseph Hearty; Michael Illingworth (if here) c. 4

2:30 – 2:40 Joseph Hearty; Hannah Maxwell; Emma Curley c. 8

2:40 – 2:50 Patrick Wadsworth; Oscar Robertson; James Rose c. 8



The BEATLES AT STOWE

There have been some unusual performances in the relatively short history of rock 'n' roll: Johnny Cash singing *A Boy Named Sue* at San Quentin State Prison, The Sex Pistols playing *God Save The Queen* on a barge outside the Palace of Westminster in the week of Her Majesty's Silver Jubilee, Jimi Hendrix's brilliantly subversive rendition of *The Star-Spangled Banner* as the sun rose on the last day of Woodstock. But perhaps the strangest concert of all took place on Thursday 4th April 1963, when The Beatles came to Stowe.

How did the greatest band in the world come to perform in the Roxburgh Hall? The answer lies with David Moores (OS Grenville '63). A scion of the Littlewoods dynasty and later chairman of Liverpool Football Club, Moores was a frequent habitu  of the Cavern Club and an early fan of The Beatles. By late 1962 The Beatles had overtaken Rory Storm and The Hurricanes and Gerry and the Pacemakers as the pre-eminent band in Liverpool. Audaciously, the seventeen-year-old Moores wrote to the manager of the Beatles, Brian Epstein, expressing his admiration for the band and asking whether they would perform at Stowe. Epstein, always keen to get "his boys" a fresh audience and perhaps recognising the importance of the Moores name in Liverpool, agreed to the proposal and even moved another engagement on 4th April for this booking. The concert was part of a Lent term concert series in the Roxburgh Hall – normally filled by school bands playing cover versions of The Shadows or instrumental skiffle favourites.

That deep Scouse voice counted "Won, two, three, foab..." and my life changed for ever...

It is doubtful that the School authorities knew anything about The Beatles or their *oeuvre* when they agreed to the concert. The usurped Stoic musicians felt some resentment that "a load of schmucks from a town which nobody had ever been to were going to have our slot – and what's more they wanted £100". Epstein, a shrewd businessman, insisted that the agreement with David Moores should be ratified by "a representative of Stowe School over the age of twenty-one years of age...as otherwise the contract is not strictly speaking legal". The details of the contract were settled in two letters that



followed, dated 18th and 20th February 1963: John, Paul, George and Ringo would arrive at Stowe at 4.30pm with a road manager, their own microphones, an amplifier and speakers. Epstein thought it necessary to remind his young correspondent that “there are four Beatles” and added that he had “no doubt that they will be delighted to look around the School and meet some of the boys”.

A small reception party of Stoics had been waiting patiently for over an hour when The Beatles finally arrived. Robin McDonagh (**OS Grafton '65**) remembers carrying Paul McCartney’s Hofner guitar from the van, while other Stoics helped Neil Aspinall, the band’s road manager, to unload amplifiers, drum boxes and John Lennon’s Rickenbacker. Charles Hutchinson (**OS Bruce '63**) showed the quartet around the School: “They were fascinated by the grandeur of the place and, in particular, the boys’ studies and how we lived. Ringo and George were quiet, John passive, but Paul was outgoing, bubbly and forever asking questions”.

By 7.00pm the Roxburgh Hall was packed with Stoics who had gathered for the hastily re-scheduled concert. Incongruous light jazz was piped through the PA system. According to Francis Gilbert (**OS Bruce '63**), the only additional request was for a tray of 24 bottles of Coca-Cola, which he spent the concert opening and dispensing to the band from the wings. From the moment the lights dimmed and the curtains opened, piercing screams erupted from the back of the hall, where the daughters of members of staff stood, jumped and yelled as the Fab Four appeared. Beatlemania had arrived at Stowe.

John Bloomfield (**OS Temple '63**) describes what happened next: “That deep Scouse voice counted “Won, two, three, foah...” and my life changed for ever. A detailed description of the ambience, or any other

complex set of words, could never convey what happened at that instant to me, and I expect several hundred other bewildered people, in that building... Once an outbreak of Beatlemania took over an individual everything, including time itself, ceased to exist... In my ears was the loudest, fastest, clearest noise I had ever heard. In front of me four incandescent singers in tight trousers were all singing something magical in harmony and laughing and dancing, and they hadn’t even got to the end of the first verse yet... The performance became a time warp as everything seemed to slow down, as if in hyperspace.”

The evening ended with The Beatles wolfing down a meal of roast chicken and Spanish wine (photographs of this occasion recently surfaced on *The Antiques Roadshow*). Richard Waterbury (**OS Chatham '64**) remembers a final exchange before they set off for The Green Man Hotel in Syresham: Moores asked if the band would come back next year, to which Ringo replied, “For £100? Not bloody likely!” With a final flourish of public school chivalry redolent of an earlier era, Moores sent The Beatles a Stowe shield which Epstein acknowledged as “a very nice gesture and I know the boys will be thrilled with it”.

The Stowe-Beatles connection did not end there. On 26th January 1964 the acclaimed sculptor, David Wynne (**OS Grenville '43**) arrived in Paris to undertake a modelling of The Beatles in clay, for a bronze which would be exhibited at Arthur Tooth’s Gallery. Wynne had met Epstein for lunch to discuss his idea and, on hearing that the band would be sharing gallery space with luminaries such as Yehudi Menuhin and John Gielgud, Epstein had agreed to this promotion in the band’s artistic status and respectability.

During their time in Paris, Wynne became a trusted member of the

band’s entourage and worked on the sculptures in the rare moments of respite when they were not performing or recording. His drawings and photographs (many taken by The Beatles themselves) provide a unique documentary archive of this extraordinary period in the band’s career. Wynne observed at first-hand their nocturnal existence of writing songs (a piano had been brought in for their residency at the George V), reading the NME, and ordering up Bellini cocktails and fried eggs, toast and coffee at 4.00am. He even educated The Beatles in restaurant etiquette, after they upset the management of a pretentious establishment in the Rue Jacob by ordering whisky and coke with roast beef and boiled potatoes!

As reported elsewhere in this edition of *The Stoic*, David Wynne’s original bronze maquettes of The Beatles are currently on display in the Blue Room in the Mansion. There are also plans afoot to create life-sized sculptures of the band; it is hoped that these will stand on a plinth outside the Roxburgh Hall to inspire the next generation of Stowe musicians, performers and artists. The project is likely to take two years, and will be a fitting tribute to the night The Beatles came to Stowe.

Dr Anthony Wallersteiner

Please contact Colin Dudgeon, Campaign Director, if you would like to support The Beatles at Stowe. The David Wynne limited edition bronze maquettes of John, Paul, George and Ringo are being sold to raise funds for the project.

David Wynne and The Beatles maquettes



Alone

To be alone is an indefinite thought.

For me 'alone' is simply a small word – a far-fetched proposition. Most young women in Afghanistan share my uncertainty about this word. In Afghanistan, it is not acceptable for a young woman to walk in the streets without company. There has never been a day without company or without someone watching over me. I am never alone in our apartment, I have never been to the market alone, never waited alone and never slept alone. If I need to go to the greengrocer I'll take the neighbour's boy along with me.

I suppose I should grow to enjoy and appreciate company if I were given a little privacy. Yet there is always a yearning for seclusion and I have grown to abhor company, for with company comes the feeling of being suffocated by greedy expectant eyes, and the quick chatter of gossip clouds invades the room. We are expected to speak only when spoken to, so I am mute for a large majority of the day, which gives me time to escape to my imagination.

When these moments catch me, I pause and wonder what freedom feels like – how one may relish the simplicity of solitude. Through unadorned imagination I escape to this place. Where the wheat stands tall and salutes the sun, and where heavy-hanging fig trees drop their branches and beat against the soft, sultry wind; where the humming pulse of the sun spins up through your feet and you can almost feel the warmth lifting you upwards so you are levitating above the earth. Not quite flying. Not quite standing.

If you sway on the parched ground, upon the heels of your feet, and tilt your head toward the heavens, you can see a clear sky rippled with milky clouds which stretches ahead; there are a few birds which scatter upon them. The melodic hum of nature surrounds me, and the steady pulse of my heart sounds like a tabla against the stillness of the air. The elongated silhouette of my shadow is skeletal and moves dizzily with the wind. It seems so unfamiliar to see my solitary shadow – it is something that can exist only in the chapters of my imagination.

I sometimes wonder what the word would look like upon a page, or how it would be defined in a dictionary. I once saw a picture of what freedom could have been – it was a photograph of my younger sister with her husband Mansur on her wedding night; three weeks before she was killed. She mocked freedom as it played upon her smile and secrecy shone from beneath her arched brow from her dark, glittering eyes. Mansur, however, quickly discovered this secret; her affair with his brother Fazil was widely known amongst the locals of our town. She was found strangled in their apartment shortly after Mansur was publicly humiliated by his naivety. It was staged to appear as if she had been attacked by a burglar; it was professed as a 'tragic accident' and Mansur cried theatrically in front of the prying news cameras and probing journalists. Yet, for her family, it was a devastating act of brutal murder and jealousy which tore us apart. My mother still keeps the photo tucked inside the folds of her dress, pressed against her beating heart, which is distressed like the photograph.

Freedom, I know, can be felt. I came to this conclusion when I realised I could feel oppression. I feel it in the rooms I sit in during the days, where the mud-caked walls seem almost to crack and buckle because of it. The floor which I sweep at monotonously coughs up dust which settles like an invisible cloak over my clothes, pinning me into my own skin. I'm reminded of this oppression if I fail to clean the apartment efficiently, or drop a plate at meal times, or make a meal which my father doesn't like. The purple-blue bruise on my collar bone, where I was struck hard, acts as a reminder of this oppression, yet as the bruise fades and heals, the oppression does not. Freedom must feel like nothing. To think of walking down a street alone seems almost unnatural. But with freedom there is nothing holding you back.

The only time I can be alone is in my thoughts and in my imagination, where almost anything is possible. I do not know what it is to be alone. So I cannot say I miss it.

Rebecca Down (L6th, Nugent)



Studio Space: Lucy Beatty, U6th



Bronze Qualifying Expedition to Birchover, 28-30 June 2009 (49 Fourth Formers)

Despite being an extremely hot weekend, all eight groups did very well indeed; everyone passed with the exception of one person, who was unable to complete due to a sprained ankle. The groups learnt a huge amount about themselves and the importance of group work in the tough weather conditions. As one member of the expedition commented, *“The Bronze Expedition was very challenging, but due to our group’s high morale and hard work it was a more enjoyable experience than we expected. We are therefore all looking forward to Silver.”*

Mr Richard Pickersgill

Silver/Gold Qualifying Expedition to the Yorkshire Dales, 28 June – 3 July 2009 (36 Fifth and Lower Sixth Formers)

This was another blisteringly hot expedition, notable for Mr Pickersgill hauling a minibus of kit up the M1 fresh from the Peak District Bronze Expedition, and for the groups all getting up at 4.00am each morning! I am delighted to

The Duke of

report that everyone passed, and some of the more memorable quotations from the trip are set out below:

“Go away, I don’t like you. I don’t suck your blood so don’t suck mine!” – Lucy Milburn (to the midges).

“Look! Free range eggs! Are they free?” – Webster Mugavazi

“Start walking or I’ll eat you!” – Philip Pitcher

Three Day Bridging Expedition to Butterton, the Peak District, October 2009 (five participants)

One of the highlights of the trip was the daily morning wake-up call from our unfailingly chipper lacrosse coaches – a shrill *“Wakey, wakey, eggs and bakey!”* Possibly the greatest obstacle to overcome on the trip was Tom conquering his fear of dirt and eating from a spoon that had fallen in a field.

We learnt a lot from the experience, although towards the end of the trip delirium started to set in – according to Rachel, for example, cats looked like cows! As a group, we would like to thank Mr Jones for organising the expedition and Mr Pickersgill for his beautiful singing voice...

Rachel Wong (L6th, Queen’s) and Georgia Ellison (L6th, Queen’s)

Silver/Gold Practice Expedition to Dartmoor, 26-31 March 2010 (54 Fifth and Lower Sixth Formers)

Having set up the tents, the staff somehow convinced us to get up in torrential rain and walk up the nearest hill, which seemed never-ending in the thick fog – and we discovered very quickly what the rest of the week might be like! Over the next four days we covered 80 kilometres, with everything we needed in



Edinburgh Award

our rucksacks. The days followed a set routine: wake up at 6.00am; at least eight hours walking; then back to camp and in sleeping bags by 8.00pm. We experienced all types of weather, but mainly rain and the famous Dartmoor fog! The Gold Awarders were fortunate enough to spend a night out on the moor; being totally self-sufficient and miles from any civilisation was a very strange experience indeed.

On the final day, we set off walking in hail and freezing conditions, then snow – which led to an early finish at midday, much needed showers, a pub meal and an unexpected warm night in the bunk house. I think many of us were surprised and impressed that we had actually made it, and we had a real sense of achievement at the end.

Louis Staden (L6th, Temple) and Poppy Mills (L6th, Lyttelton) (Gold Awarders)

Gold Award Residential Projects

Every Gold Awarder has to undertake a five day, four night residential project. This Easter, Daisy and Alice Coulson showed how amazing an event this can be, by going to Kenya and learning Scuba Diving and Kite-Surfing respectively. Both of these activities provided wonderful opportunities – taking part in the night dives and wreck dives felt like being on the set of 'Finding Nemo'. The Kite-Surfing was also spectacular – it is a sport that is always done in beautiful places and if there is enough wind, you can surf extremely fast!

Daisy and Alice Coulson (U6th, Stanhope)

Thank you!

My huge thanks to those who have made the Award possible at Stowe these last twelve months – all the utterly brilliant Duke of Edinburgh Stoics (too many to

name) and all the unstintingly generous staff (almost too many to name!):

Matthew Pitteway, Richard Pickersgill, Gwilym Jones, Liz Sheard, Matthew Walsh-Woolcott, Tor Hunter-Smart, Jonathan Peverley, Rupert Rowling, Dara Blume, Jarret Zafran, Kim McMahon, Tony Webster, Liz Hollick, Nic Cooper, Katie Lowman, Tom Wright, Sandy Bradfield-Lee, Olivia Thorogood, Mattie Mould, Helen Prifti, Sue Webster, Patricia Bennett, Tom Higham, Tony Chan, Vicki Edwards, Nick Rendall, Brian Wagstaff, Craig Browne, Steve Rogers, Mike Reynolds, Philip Pitcher, David White, our two Mountain Leaders Laura Morle and Simon Rose, our wonderful honorary parents, Lionel and Maggie Weston, and everyone who has covered classes for us.

Mr Bob Roberts



Stowe CCF: Army, RAF and Naval Sections

CCF Army

On 8th February 2010, Major-General Bill Cubitt CBE (OS Temple '76), Major-General Commanding the Household Division, joined us to open the new CCF Headquarters (the Jack Anderson Building). The Contingent is now splendidly housed in a carefully designed facility that serves our purposes ideally. It is named after Stowe's lesser known VC, who was an exact contemporary of Leonard Cheshire and with whom, it is rumoured, he shared a study bedroom in Chatham. Unlike Cheshire, Anderson was to be killed in action a few months after winning his VC. His widow, until her death last year, had sent a wreath every year to be laid at the foot of her husband's memorial on Remembrance Sunday. All this reminds me that the armed forces benefit from a decent number of Old Stoics, who are currently serving at home and on operations in Afghanistan.

Perhaps the highlight of the year for me was our camp at Garelochhead in Scotland. We were able to take a large proportion of the Contingent and, being housed right next door to the Nuclear Submarine Base at Faslane, the Navy Section were able to head out into the Clyde on a single screw motor launch. Meanwhile, the rest of the cadets spilt their time between an adventurous training package and a military programme. It was good to have so many of us in one place, and we were even able to do our bit for the

'special relationship' with our American friends by engaging the US Marine Corps in an impromptu game that vaguely resembled rugby – and I think we might even have prevailed.

In the Lent term, we had our Biennial Inspection, which culminated in a full scale inspection by a senior officer. This year, we were delighted to welcome Air Commodore Les O'Dea. Happily, the Headmaster was able to join us for the day as we took the Air Commodore to see the cadets training on the ground, both at Bicester barracks and Yardley Chase. Fortunately, we got a big 'thumbs up'.

Over the years, I have been delighted to see young people grow into the leadership roles that we have entrusted to them. Recently Chloe Ingold, one of our best ever senior cadets, has just been commissioned into the Intelligence Corps. In terms of the current crop of leavers, I should like to pay tribute to Alex Bodian, Nick Rewcastle and Evan Welsh, who have all showed unflinching commitment and leadership skills in the Army and Navy sections respectively. Well done to you all.

As for my staff, we said goodbye to Rod Tait at Christmas, and Steve Malling is finally hanging up his boots after decades of service. Our US liaison officer, Sarah Ross, is also leaving us, although we have welcomed into the fold James Peppiatt,





Emma Watson, and Ian Findlay Palmer. Thanks also to David Critchley, Nick Rendall, Julie Johnson and Liz Chare, and of course to Ray Dawson and Gerry Foster, who actually make sure things happen. I can do no more than echo the words of Brigadier Baverstock who, on reading the Biennial Inspection report, commented: "The Contingent's success is due in no small part to the dedication and professionalism of the staff". And as I hand over the reins to John Ing at the end of this term, I can do no more than say AMEN to that.

Major the Reverend Robert Jackson L/RACHd

RAF Section

The RAF section has had a varied year led by our NCO Riley Curtis. In the Michaelmas term students had three opportunities to fly motor-powered gliders at VGS Abingdon. The field weekend involved a trip to RAF Brize Norton where our visit focused on how the RAF base is protected with the use of the police dogs. The highlight of the trip was having a tour of the inside of one of the enormous C-17 transport aircraft, which are capable of carrying helicopters.

In the Lent term our field weekend involved an exercise with the RAF Police, where the cadets learnt the basics as to how an RAF base should be protected. All RAF cadets coped very well, contending with the elements and sleeping in their sleeping bags in a building with just three walls on a cold March night!

In the Summer term we were lucky to be paid a visit by an army Lynx helicopter, where some of the cadets were able to enjoy a short flight around the grounds of Stowe. To see the helicopter

take off and land on the Cricket Pavilion was an awesome sight! The highlight of the Summer term was a visit to RAF Duxford to watch an air display.

My thanks to all those involved for making this such a successful and memorable year.

Flt Officer Liz Chare

Royal Naval Section

The section has had a varied and active year. Just after last year's *Stoic* went to press, we went down to RNAS Yeovilton where six cadets each had a 45 minute flight in a Grob trainer. We continued to sail and kayak here at the School until October, and the winter months were enlivened by a day with the Royal Marines at CTC Lympstone. In March we returned to Portsmouth, where the new recruits visited *HMS Collingwood* and the old hands trained afloat in the yacht *Amaryllis* and the motor vessels *Black Swan* and *Blue Swan*. June saw a tri-service camp at Garelochhead, in which parties of RN cadets explored the Scottish lochs onboard the motor vessel *Strathallan*. Stoics have taken advantage of the courses offered by the RN, attending the Minesweeping Day in December and gaining Powerboat Level 2 at Easter, while there will be a Stoic on the Ocean Diving and Kayaking courses in the summer. Our programme has been dependent on the contribution of key personnel, and I should like to thank our senior cadets, LS Leyland, PO Lewis, and PO Welsh, our visiting AI CPO Stone, our kayaking Instructor Sub-Lt. Tremain, *Strathallan's* skipper Lt. Caves, and my colleague Miss Ross, to whom we wish all the best as she moves onto her next appointment.

Lt D J Critchley CCF RNR





Walpole: winners of the Coldstream Cup for the second year running



The Coldstream Cup

After joining the School in September 2008, it was quite a shock to the system to be taking part in such a prestigious competition as the Coldstream Cup as soon as November.

The Coldstream Cup consists of a number of testing and demanding activities, all to be performed within set time constraints.

First came the obstacle course, in which we had to balance our way across beams, dive through mud, throw ourselves over an eight-foot wall and crawl through a concrete tunnel. We had no more than five minutes to recover after completing this, before we began the dreaded four-mile run. This involved a river crossing (with a heavy log held above our heads...) and an icy lake swim, which finished next to the shooting range. Shivering and teeth chattering from the swim, we were then required to fire five rounds each at targets which come up and down at five-second intervals. Lastly came the drill and inspection, led by a Coldstream Guards Warrant Officer, who was certainly not afraid to speak his mind. Walpole, ably led by Freddie Forester and Johnny Wale, won the 2008 competition, and it became apparent to me just how competitive the Coldstream Cup is.

I returned for my final year at Stowe in 2009 and, having lost four of the eight members of the previous team, found myself not only as Captain but having training sessions at 6.00am, 'carbo-loading,' boot polishing and doing army drills during my social time. After a second and final go at one of the biggest House competition of the School

year, we awaited the results at the presentation in the Marble Hall. More than 100 people coming to attention as the Coldstream Guards officer appeared in the doorway sent shivers down my back. As Reverend Jackson started to read out the top three Houses, you could have heard a pin drop. We weren't third...or second... was it possible? No words can explain the overwhelming pleasure and relief I had as Head of House and Captain when Walpole were announced winners.

The weeks leading up to the Coldstream Cup were the most demanding and strenuous I have ever experienced in my life, but I can honestly say it was all worth it. I learnt not only a great deal about myself and leadership qualities, but also about the other members of the team, who ranged from Fourth Form to Upper Sixth and formed together into a tight-knit unit. The Winners' Dinner was fabulous and the speeches entertaining, even for the shattered Fourth Formers. This is just one of many experiences I will miss when I leave Stowe next year and it will take a lot to make me forget what it felt like to 'hit the wall' just 600 metres from the finishing line. A truly fantastic experience, and I am grateful to Reverend Jackson, Mr Dawson and all the other members of staff who make this such a successful event.

John Gurney (U6th, Walpole)

Beagling

The 2009/10 hunting season began with a successful trip to Northumberland in the Michaelmas half-term.

This put the hounds in good stead for the remainder of the season, and was followed by a trip to both Cumbria and Yorkshire that proved equally enjoyable and gave us the opportunity to experience trail hunting in some very different country.

We had a slightly delayed start after returning from the Christmas holidays, due to the snow and frozen ground. However, we persevered and were soon rewarded with some great scent, which culminated in a fantastic day at Preston Capes. The damp conditions and persistency of the hounds provided us with an afternoon's rabbit hunting, which will not be forgotten for a long time to come.

This season has seen Stowe Beagles host two joint meets, first with Radley College and second with Old Berkley Beagles. Both resulted in memorable days with the hounds running well together.

As the season began to draw to a close we held our Hunt Ball in the main mansion at Stowe, which has always been a good fund-raiser for the pack. A great evening was had by all, which was only made by possible by the efforts of the Hunt Chairman and Secretary, Alistair Magee

and Chris Coad, who organised the event. Our end-of-season dinner took place at The Saracen's Head in Towcester, with Old Stoic and present huntsman of the West Norfolk Fox Hounds, Charles Carter, being the guest speaker for the evening. Again, it proved to be another entertaining and enjoyable occasion.

On 16th May we held our biggest fund-raiser of the year, the Stowe Beagles Hunter Trials. This was kindly organised by the Stragman family of Gawcott, who have been long-term supporters of the pack. It proved to be a very successful day with a record number of entries. Olivia Leyland won the Stoic Award for the best competing Stoic, after being placed second overall.

We can now look forward to the Puppy Show on 12th June where the recent additions to the pack will be under the scrutiny of judges Ian Mckie and Martin Letts of the College Valley and North Northumberland Foxhounds. The mastership will also be handed over to the new joint masters Edward Birch-Reynardson and Henry South, who we hope will have as much enjoyment and success in the coming season as we have.

Michael Leyland (U6th, Walpole)



Top to bottom: The Crew at Crockwell; joint Meet with the Old Berkley Beagles at Claydon House; Olivia with her second prize



Main: Allotment. *Right:* Community Service Christmas party; Stowe Tours; wardrobe; Nature Reserve; Let's Play



S@S



Service at Stowe (S@S) is a re-launch of the School's community service programme. Stowe has a strong heritage of serving the wider community, from the time of founding Headmaster JF Roxburgh to, more recently, Bob Drayson.

The re-launch is a bid to build on this heritage and to engage with the local community, which includes a range of projects that sees Stoics trying new things, meeting new people and taking Stowe out to the wider world. Indeed, we hope that we can foster in Stoics a lifelong culture of 'looking over the parapet' at life beyond their own horizons, and this is reflected in the many charity ventures that they themselves generate during the academic year. They are too numerous to list here, but Stoics are quick to rally to a cause that is close to their heart, and they come up with many weird and wonderful ways of making money. In order not to stifle this impulsive creativity, we do not have an official 'School Charity' – simply a **Charity Committee** to steer and advise. As a result, I am sure that the School raises far more money for various causes than it otherwise would. It is also the case that the 'Service' activities of many Stoics will go unmentioned below, be this helping with the sound system in Chapel, assisting with Swimming Meets or leading re-cycling and eco initiatives. However, here is a taste of some of the things we have been up to:

The Veg Patchers are a merry gang of green-fingered Stoics under the leadership of George Irvine, who have developed an allotment from scratch at Home Farm. Stowe has a **Nature Reserve** next to the Oxford Water and a group led by the Biology Department have been working to develop a nature trail in the area for visits by local schoolchildren.

One of our aims has been to develop our links with the **National Trust** at Stowe. Joint projects this year have included a **Stowe Tours** group that has run tours of Stowe for Brownie groups and local people. We have also produced a joint

Community Newsletter for distribution by Stoics to our neighbours in Dadford and Chackmore. The **National Trust Projects** team have cleared and improved the area behind Grafton and Walpole, appropriately the hinterland between the School and National Trust land. For all this we have to thank Susan Le of the National Trust, for her willingness to assist with the School's projects.

Many Stoics now have new qualifications having successfully completed **First Aid** and **Lifesaving** courses, led by our Medical Centre and Stewart Cowie respectively.

The **Pineapple Club** has led our re-engagement with the Stowe Club in London, a youth club that was originally established by the School. We have even had a **Puppetry Club** which has staged shows for local children. **Stowe Radio** is our new radio station, broadcasting a weekly half-hour programme of school news and music. The re-birth of the Stowe Library has inspired the idea of supporting libraries in schools without our sort of facilities. The **Utithi School Library** in Kenya is the first one on our radar.

Angela Cammish's energy and enthusiasm has ensured a successful **Stowe Wardrobe** group has supported many productions this year in a vital but often unheralded role. The School continues to support **Let's Play**, a charity for disabled children established by Cobham House and which Katy Weston (daughter of Lionel and Maggie) helps run in Banbury.

The **Peer Support Group** is a group of volunteer Stoics trained by Pete Last, to support their fellow pupils throughout the academic year. We also established a **Peer Mentoring Team**, who assist younger Stoics on a Monday afternoon. This might involve simply helping to tidy a desk and



organise files, or providing advice on school life in general. I know that several Stoics have appreciated this help and guidance.

The **Community Visits** group meet with elderly local residents, who enjoy the weekly visits from Stoics – in return, pupils benefit from cups of tea, biscuits and many a war story!

The **Christmas Tea Party** is a highlight both for the School and over 150 elderly local residents. Simon Dearsley and his musicians put on a superb concert, following which Geoff Higgins, his team and the ever wonderful Mary produce a tea worthy of the regal Stoic surroundings. Once the Headmaster has called Bingo everyone makes their way home, having enjoyed a tremendous afternoon.

My thanks to all Stoics and staff who give so much of their time and effort to make S@S such a successful venture, and I look forward to the enterprise going from strength to strength in the future.

Mr Matthew Way

Chapel



Chapel was full of Stoics and their families as we welcomed Bishop James Johnson into our midst, in order to confirm 42 Stoics.

Bishop James was a wonderful reminder of the widespread nature of the Anglican Communion, and also of Britain's colonial past – he is a St Helenian and indeed was Bishop of St Helena (and Ascension and Tristan da Cunha) for six years. After the Service, it was good to meet so many people and happily, contrary to the Met Office's best guess, we had good weather. This service marked the culmination of a preparation course during which time we encourage the Stoics to think deeply about Jesus Christ and the Church that bears his name. I have to say that this year, as with last year, some Stoics decided that they did not want to get confirmed. Whilst this is a little disappointing, I am actually very pleased that they had decided not to do so, because they felt they could not (for now, at least) promise to 'submit to Christ as Lord' – they had made a decision, which is what the course is meant to prepare them to do.

Confirmation is not the only time that Chapel has been full of people from beyond our community. Unusually, we've had three thanksgiving services as well. A service that celebrated the life of Sally Knight, Richard's wife, was attended by a mix of Stoics and friends. Likewise, a service for Peter Longhurst, a former member of the Common Room, was well-attended by many Old Stoics who owed Peter an awful lot. Lastly, the Chapel was packed for the Thanksgiving service for Annie Nichols – I was struck by the sheer

number of people who attended, especially since Annie had, in a sense, only ever been the wife of Jeremy.

I note that last year, I was commenting on the inaugural Spam Lectures. This year, I have to report that the Chaplaincy's input into the timetable has been trimmed, and whilst Spam Ed continues in the Upper Sixth, it has been replaced by PSHE in the Fourth and Fifth Forms. We move on... and so does Tor Hunter Smart, who has been my assistant for the past two years. I remember with contentment the Address we did together for the Lenten Addresses in March. This year, unusually, we had a travelling theatre company – 'Roughshod', who are a part of the 'Riding Lights Theatre Company' in York. This meant that whilst the evening addresses contained some first rate drama, there was no keynote speaker, so we took care of these ourselves with Tony Chan, Pete Last, Roland Johnson, and Mark Blew doing the other two nights. Great fun... and the well-attended evenings were powerful events... drama is a most potent means of communication!

Finally, given that I am giving up running the CCF this term, I am going to be focusing more on how we, as a Christian school, undertake our responsibility to 'love our neighbours as ourselves'. Already, we do a great deal, and it is good to see boarding houses raising money for excellent causes. Watching Matt Way set up Service@Stowe has also inspired me, and I hope to be encouraging Stoics to roll up their sleeves and get stuck in. Watch this space!

The Reverend Robert Jackson

Crossfire

We've had an excellent time at Crossfire this year, discovering more about the Lord Jesus and how his life and death impacts on our lives today. Crossfire is a great opportunity for Stoics, whatever they believe, to look into what being a Christian is all about.

Each week we've had around 50 Stoics and each term we've looked at a different theme. It's given everyone the chance to think about the big questions of life and what really matters outside of a busy school day.

Michaelmas: The Lord's Prayer

I wonder how many times we've said the Lord's Prayer – every Sunday in Chapel for how long? But do we know what it all means? Doesn't it seem a bit out-of-date and irrelevant? This term we looked at what the Lord's Prayer means for us in the 21st Century: God himself wants each of us to get to know him personally through this extraordinary prayer.

Lent: Jesus and James Bond

You might be wondering what on earth these two have in common. Well this term, using some familiar 007 titles – 'The World Is Not Enough', 'The Spy Who Loved Me', 'Tomorrow Never Dies' – we discovered more about Jesus Christ and his promises: Who is he? Why did he come to earth? Did he really rise from the dead? And how does all that affect me...?

Summer: True Life

What's life all about? And what's the best way to live it? How can we have 'life to the max'? It might have surprised some, but we've seen that Jesus promises that life as a Christian is true life. It brings true love, true happiness and true peace. This term we've seen it's the only way to have life to the full.

What's gone on each week?

This year we've moved to the North Front Cricket Pavilion and it's been a great venue for Crossfire's relaxed atmosphere, open to everyone. We meet at 8.40pm



every Friday, with plenty of time for chatting over brownies, donuts and coke before and after the talk.

We always start with a Sixth Former interviewing our visiting speaker, followed by a short talk based around the Bible. At the end there's a chance to ask any questions, as well as plenty of time to hang out, eat brownies and chat.

Stoics often comment on the friendly and welcoming atmosphere as soon as you walk in the door, regardless of what year or House you're in – it's a great place to spend a Friday evening!

Miss Tor Hunter Smart

We asked three of our U6th leavers what they thought about Crossfire...

"Crossfire is one of my favourite times of the week... I enjoy the talks as they are thorough but clear and allow time to reflect and think.... I would really recommend Crossfire as a great time to meet with friends and discover the word of the Bible. I think that even if you don't think much of it, go along. It's definitely worth a try!"

James Bevington (U6th, Grenville)

"Crossfire, to me, can be summed up with 'the three Fs': Friends, Food and Faith! I've been coming to Crossfire since Third Form and it's got better and better. My highlight of this year has to be the Lent Addresses, when the Drama Company 'Riding Lights' came to Stowe. The way in which they acted out their own personal testimonies was such a clever way to do it, and they certainly engaged the audience!"

Lucy Milburn (U6th, Stanhope)

"Crossfire is a great way to enjoy Friday evening – I've been every Friday for three years and each time has been excellent. There's no better way to learn about the good news of Jesus Christ than with some food, some friends and some great speakers."

Adam Charlesworth (U6th, Cobham)

Stowe School, Stowe House Preservation Trust and the National Trust: Partners in Heritage



Restoration work on the Mansion

There are, no doubt, some who think that little ever changes at Stowe but anyone who looks outside the immediate confines of the Estate should see it differently. In fact, we have been changing the way that we manage this unique environment for some considerable time.

The handing of the Landscape Gardens to the National Trust in 1989 and the formation of the Stowe House Preservation Trust (SHPT) in 1997 marked the first steps in an enlightened approach to safeguarding, improving and managing the heritage of the unique environment that we are all privileged to share.

It is impossible to miss the signs of SHPT's restoration work on the Mansion over the last 10 years. By the time you read this edition of *The Stoic*, the East Pavilion should have emerged from the scaffolding that has enveloped it for the past year. Inside, the State Library ceiling has been painstakingly restored in a project that is worthy of the highest accolades for its attention to detail and aesthetics. Gone are the green nets to catch falling plaster and the rather bland surface finish (the culmination of successive layers of paint on top of the original schemes). In their place, the ceiling is now finished in a scheme believed to represent that used when the Library was first opened for this

purpose in the 1790s. Faced with evidence of a significant amount of gilding in certain parts of the ceiling the restoration team, with input from many experts in the field, arrived at the decision to gild the architectural elements and borders of the ceiling. The amount of gold leaf required corresponded almost exactly to the amounts purchased around 1795.

Soon the process of restoration will begin on the Western Pavilion so that, by the end of the 2010/2011 Academic Year, the whole South Front will look pristine. That will be particularly timely as the finished work will then complement major changes in the National Trust's approach to the Gardens. For, while the Mansion is undergoing the £7 million transformation of the latest phases of work, the National Trust have started work on a new visitor reception area to the south of the Estate at the New Inn, once the coaching inn from which visitors arrived in the 18th century.

The new Stowe project will transform the way that Stowe is used and enjoyed by people. Approaching the Estate from the south, visitors will see the Mansion resplendent in its position as the grandest temple in the landscape, the newly restored South Front presenting a dazzling view when seen from across the lake.

It is particularly fitting that the National Trust's work on visitor reception and interpretation will be accompanied by a new reception and interpretation centre in the Mansion. For long the Achilles' heel of the presentation of Stowe House to the public, the interpretation facilities will be completely updated by a purpose built

centre in the undercroft that formerly housed the Cellar Bar. The chance to create a new social space that will house all the Sixth Form and double up for daytime use means that the Cellar Bar, one of the unseen architectural features of the Mansion, can become the showcase for displays relating to the history of the House. Told in a way that relates the changing fortunes of the Temple-Grenville family, the approach will complement the story presented by the National Trust at New Inn.

Meanwhile, the National Trust's day-to-day work of caring for the Landscape Gardens goes on, from trimming and replanting through to restoration of the Garden Temples. The latest to benefit from this process is the Grotto, where large quantities of tufa (a variety of limestone) have been replaced, bringing the Grotto back to a suitable condition for visitors to see close up.

All this work is supported by a great deal of administrative effort that is worthy of an article in its own right, but is best summarised as a true partnership between Stowe School, SHPT and the National Trust. Our joint aim is to make the most of the unique environment that we are privileged to share so that we conserve, present and sustain it for future generations. Things may change at Stowe but one constant is our responsibility to care for the place and, as far as we are able, to show to the public that we are responsibly managing one of the Nation's greatest historic sites.

Mr Nick Morris



Saturation: Hugh Stanley, L6th



Contain: Lucy Jackson, L6th



Orange, Lucy Jackson, L6th



stowe

sport



Rugby: 1st XV



© R & H Chapman Photography

Played 20; Won 15;
Lost 3; Drew 2

Cheltenham race into an 11-5 lead, but with only seven minutes remaining the forwards ground their way over the line. After that, history was made; Ben Roe slotted the conversion to take the side further in the Cup than any previous Stowe 1st team has ever gone.

After Christmas we had the first of three epic fixtures. In the last 16 of the Cup we had drawn Abingdon at home. Trailing 7-0 as we approached the end of the first half, Jamie Knight scored in the corner and then talisman Billy Richardson crashed over twice in the second half to give us a 15-7 lead. Abingdon pulled a try back and, in one heart-stopping moment, it looked like they had scored an interception try. Fortunately, a knock on by their scrum-half prevented this and, in front of a packed North Front, we made it to the quarter-finals. Following this performance, Billy earned the title of 'School Player of the Month' in *Rugby World* magazine, and he has also secured a summer trial with premiership club Bath.

Our next match was against the 2008 Cup winners, Warwick. Again the atmosphere on the North Front was electric; Warwick had brought their whole Sixth Form to

This season resulted in two new records for the School. It was the year in which we both achieved more wins than in any previous one and made it to the semi-finals of the Daily Mail Cup, the furthest we have ever progressed in Stowe's history. Both records are a testament to the skill, team spirit and, most importantly, positive attitude shown throughout the two terms.

Having performed well in a festival at Reigate Grammar School, the season got under way to a modest start. The results in the first three matches were a win against Bloxham, although we lost to both Oakham and Mill Hill. However, the turning point came against Oundle; the

match was played in terrible conditions and we achieved a draw, with seconds remaining. The next five matches saw the team play some of its best rugby, notching up 47 points in consecutive matches against Loughborough and Dauntsey's, together with well-contested victories against St John's, Trent and Pangbourne.

Next on the fixture list was the 5th round of the Daily Mail Cup, against Bishop Wordsworth's. Following a poor first half, the team rallied against the elements to achieve a narrow 6-5 victory. Wins against Uppingham and Bedford Modern put the boys in a confident frame of mind for their next round in the Daily Mail Cup, against Cheltenham. Poor conditions saw



support, although they proved no match for the massed ranks of Stoics cheering on their heroes. Ben Roe kicked three monumental penalties, bringing us to 12-9 down with 15 minutes remaining. When Skipper Craig Holton sliced open the Warwick defence to score under the posts, Warwick wilted. Final score: 16-12 to Stowe.

The semi-final at Broadstreet in Coventry, against Newcastle Grammar, will be a day none of the players or rugby staff will ever forget, and it will be remembered as one of Stowe's finest hours; the sight of the whole School massed on the slopes surrounding the pitch and giving the team a standing ovation before the game was all the inspiration the players could have asked for. Unfortunately, a place in the final was to prove beyond our reach – having received no yellow cards all season, we collected two in the first half, which proved costly. Of course, defeat at this stage of the competition was a bitter pill to swallow, but the journey to this point was tremendous, exhilarating and riveting for all concerned. It galvanised a School, delighted the Headmaster, enthused spectators and reconnected us with many Old Stoics, thanks to Tony Chan's memorable podcasts. A truly enthralling adventure for us all.

We lose the majority of the side this year: Baylis, Richardson, Skelton, Carter, Johnson, Prestidge, Rust, Speakman, Knight, Jones, Curley, Shepherd-Barron, Ryan and Leech, along with their captain, Craig Holton. To write about them all

would require a separate magazine, but I think it only fair I mention the skipper. Under his leadership these boys became trail blazers, taking the School to new boundaries on the rugby field. History can be read, studied and written by all, but made only by few. Craig Holton blossomed as a captain and individual, tentative at first but authoritative and talismanic at the end. He proved a Martin Johnson like figure at the start of matches, towering over opposing captains, winning that psychological battle from the outset. He learnt to work with and manage officials, he became our right hand man on the field, and counselled wisely off it. Stowe gave to this young man and he gave back in aces.

The legacy these boys leave is enormous. The future tenants of the 1st XV shirts have an enormous task ahead, but the inspiration this team has given the years below will stand the School in good stead for further tests to come.

A huge thank you to Barney Durrant who coached a formidable pack, bringing out the best from young men who didn't, ultimately, receive the acclaim, academy status or representative honours that perhaps their efforts deserved. The only gratitude that I would seek personally is that they all continue to play a game that has provided them with some of life's lessons and memories they will cherish forever.

A pleasure working with you all.

Mr Alan Hughes





2nd XV

Played 13; Won 9; Lost 4

Our first match was against a highly regarded Oakham side where Stowe looked tired and flat for the first half (13-0 down by the break), but then sprang into life once Geordie Wilkes pounced for a converted try. A second try left us only a point behind but our pressure could not force that final score – Stowe walked away 13-12 but knew that Oakham had been lucky. Our next two matches against Bloxham (24-7) and Mill Hill (37-12) proved more successful. In the forwards, Ify Ejindu and Tom Mason caused havoc against the opposition front row, which allowed the other forwards to drive in attack or turn over ball while defending; this was to become a recurring theme throughout the season. In the backs, Oliver Trotter marshalled the line well, and Sam Shepherd-Barron proved his worth through some ferocious tackling. Isi Madojemu, once he tasted try scoring, could not stop, and proved himself to be a strong attacking runner.

Following a heavy loss to Oundle (36-0), Stowe regrouped well to win the next six matches. Will Cowley was introduced to the side, George Iggulden took the left wing position as his own with his searing pace (although at times he forgot to take the ball with him...), while Ben Sutton ably performed the role of captain.

Two matches stood out in particular. The first was against Loughborough. Although we were the better side, we were unable to

break their line, and eventually gave away an interception try. In the second half, Ejindu scored in the corner, but frustration was creeping in as Stowe fought to redress the 7-5 deficit. In the final minute of play, a penalty was awarded to Stowe within kicking distance. With no recognised kicker, Geordie Wilkes took the kick and struck cleanly and true, to win the game 8-7.

The second match was away against Trent, and this match was breathless. Nick Du Bois opened the scoring and after Yvon Skelton added a second to make the score 10-7, we knew this was going to be an epic match. Opportunities came and went for both sides and, with the return of John Gurney, the forwards continued to show their power and strength. Andy Welford destroyed any midfield attack Trent attempted, while Tolly Leech created space for all those around him. The final score was a thoroughly deserved 25-12 and was possibly our finest display of the season.

All players deserve recognition and congratulations for their efforts. If next year we can play with the team spirit that was seen in these games, then it should be a successful season.

Player of the Season: Ben Sutton
Most Improved Player: Harry Hawkes

Mr Damian Blewitt

3rd XV

Played 10; Won 2; Lost 7; Drew 1

The 3rd XV gave a spirited performance in the first game of the season at Oakham – it was a very tight affair with both sides locked at 0-0 at half-time. Prideaux and Worsdell crossed over for second half tries with one converted by Staden, although Oakham managed to convert both their tries to pinch the game 14-12.

Following a fairly decisive loss to Bloxham, the first home fixture of the season was against Mill Hill. Great forward pressure resulted in a converted try for Corner but a strong second half performance from Mill Hill saw them lead 12-7, with very little time to go. In the dying seconds Kim made a half break which was well supported by Bache. Somehow the ball ended up in the hands of Lawal; the Mill Hill players were bouncing off him in the tackle and, just as it looked like he had been tackled short of the try line, Lawal managed to ground the ball just over the line to level the scores. Staden then had a tricky kick, four metres wide of the left upright. He made no mistake as the ball bisected the uprights, and Stowe snatched victory from the jaws of defeat, by 14 points to 12.

The highlight of the season was the performance against Pangbourne. In the first minute of the game Pangbourne knocked on from Barter's high kick-off and from the ensuing scrum Minney picked up at No.8 and sliced through the Pangbourne defence to score under the posts. Great driving play from the forwards, particularly the second row pairing of Worth and Prideaux, then enabled Berner to give the backs quick ruck ball. Slick hands from Barter and a great interchange with Kim and Voorspuy opened up the Pangbourne defence, to allow Voorspuy to score the first of his hat-trick of tries. Pangbourne put up a much better fight in the second half, but it was not enough to stop them conceding two further tries.

This was an encouraging season, in which the players made significant improvements throughout. My congratulations to all involved, particularly those who went on to play at 2nd XV level, and I hope members of this team will continue to enjoying playing for years to come.

Mr Isaac Michael

Hittites

If one concerns oneself merely with the statistical data, this year's Hittite record is consistent, if not terribly edifying. BUT, as with all results, they only tell half the story. A score line can't tell you if the match was closely contested or a walk over; it can't tell you about the spirit in which the game was played; and it certainly can't convey the fleshly thwack that resounded round the Bourbon when Fred Vere Nicoll stood his ground against an American opponent who was charging like a plains buffalo with its tail on fire.

Let me explain – I think it was the match against St Edward's, and the aforementioned ex-colonial had just rampaged 60 yards and was feeling good – very vocally so. He decided a repeat performance would be fun and so when he caught a high kick a couple of minutes

Played 6; Won 0; Lost 6

later, he set off. Fred just stood there, the picture of serenity, and when contact came, it was like his opponent had run into a brick wall. The poor lad from St Edward's was laid out and had to be helped to the touch line, where he became a pained spectator. This was a typical match – closely fought and narrowly lost by the odd try in seven. Ben Hackett, the most reluctant wing three quarter in history, gave his all. Andrew Gordon-Colebrooke succumbed to insistent pressure and played in the pack, where he gave every impression of having a fun time, while Tom Wallace, in his first ever season playing rugby, just got stuck in.

Highlight... probably the game against Marlborough College, where we were up against their 5th XV, who were coached

by their Chaplain. We played on the 1st XV pitch and a fair crowd of enthusiastic supporters sang *Shine, Jesus Shine* and other sacred tunes to encourage their lads. A close match in the first half saw the opposition pull away in the final quarter, although this was a very spirited performance from the Stoics against a competent team, many of whom had refused to play for any of the higher teams because they enjoyed each other's company. The other reason this was a highlight was that Marlborough has a new staff room containing a bar with hand-pulled London Pride and buckets of freshly fried chips. Given that our match there was a tester to see if Marlborough is a viable fixture, I have absolutely no hesitation in saying a resounding YES!

The Reverend Robert Jackson

Colts A

Played 12; Won 6; Lost 6

After the heights of last season's heroics against Warwick in the Daily Mail Cup, the Colts A team had some tough times this season. However, they showed massive character to turn around what could have been a disaster, and finished the season with three wins from three.

The team made a promising start, but picked up a few knocks and injuries which would affect our performance later on down the line. Following an impressive win against Bloxham, things started to slip when captain Cameron Roberts was injured for five weeks, and the Colts suffered several very narrow defeats. This was a chance for a few of the other senior players to shine, and the likes of Hugo Barran, Jeronimo Villar, Ed Bethell and Will Prideaux all filled their shirts during those hard weeks, when the team really had their backs against the wall. Red hot competition for the 9 and 10 jerseys kept the half backs playing well, and Oliver Clarke, Oliver Plunket, Charlie Winton and Ben Nichols all played prominent roles in key games. With three wins and six losses racked up, the boys sat down and focused



on the games to come. They set three targets: one – win every game; two – concede a maximum of one try per match; and three – think clearly under pressure. With renewed leadership from Cameron Roberts, and full focus on the game plans, they went after these targets against Uppingham, Akeley Wood and Bedford Modern. The results? Stowe 7, Uppingham 0; Stowe 17, Akeley Wood 5; Stowe 18, Bedford Modern 0.

Tries conceded per match: 0.33.

What a finish. To turn the season around and meet their targets in this way reflects the tremendous character shown by this team; it was a great end to a hard season.

Honorable mentions go to James Barnett, Archie Nesbitt, Hugo Barran, Ben Rimell, Ben Nichols and Tom Baylis, with county caps awarded to Ben Nichols (Oxfordshire) and Charlie Winton (East Midlands). Player of the Year for this season: Henry Rudd.

Mr Charlie Barker



© R & H Chapman Photography

Colts C

Played 6; Won 3; Lost 3

The Colts C team are to be commended for the commitment and talent which they displayed throughout this season, allowing them to contend with some of the big rugby schools on the U16 circuit. They began with a decisive away win against Oakham, captained by Orlando Bevan, the first of our two courageous leaders. Spurred on by this success, the team trained hard and developed both their set piece play and their ability to move the ball quickly and fluently down the line.

Following two challenging encounters against Marlborough and Oundle the team produced a fine win over St Edward's, with tries from James Rudkin and Ed Robinson making the difference against a powerful opposition side. A special mention should go to Guy Dixon-Smith who displayed real courage in this game, suffering a broken ankle as a consequence of a try-saving tackle.

The high point of the season came with the final match – a thriller between the Colts C team and an aggressive Bedford Modern side. Despite strength and creativity in the forwards, superb tackling (especially from Theo Gregson and Ben Wackett) and a solid defensive line, Stowe were trailing at the half-time whistle. A grinding second half found the teams with only a score between them when, only minutes from time, Ed Robinson stole the ball at the base of a defensive Bedford Modern scrum and scored the try of the season. At 12-12, Ed Pettifer converted from wide to close the match 14-12 to Stowe. All that anyone needs to know about the sheer passion and determination of this year's Colts C side was encapsulated in that one win.

The Colts C team should be proud of themselves this year, as they have been a credit to themselves and the School. It has been inspiring to see a participation team displaying such cohesion and team spirit throughout the whole season – certainly next year's Colts C team will have something to live up to. While the final ranking of 7th out of 12 teams nationally reflects the statistics of the season, the team's sense of purpose and determination ranks up there with the best. Well done to all who contributed.

Mr James Peppiatt and Mr Roland Johnson

Colts B

Played 12; Won 9; Lost 3

This was certainly the most successful Colts B team that has represented Stowe School for many years. They ended up finishing sixth in the country in the National Schools U16 B performance league; a fantastic achievement when you consider the schools that finished above them, including Millfield, RGS Guilford and Bedford. The Stowe side ended up with a 75% win percentage, one of the best results in the whole School.

Their season started in fine form, beating Oakham 17-7 with a very strong forward display. This set the tone for the rest of the season, with the Stowe pack dominating most opposition through both power and strength and an excellent fitness level. This was our focus throughout the season, as we were sure that with a higher level of endurance than the opposition, we would be able to run most teams off the field. Bloxham were next and posed very little threat to the Stowe line, losing 67-3 in the end.

The most disappointing result of the year was against Mill Hill, when the team were slow to start and found themselves behind by three tries at half-time. A spirited fight-back was cut short in the second half, but it was not enough to avoid defeat both in this game and against Oundle a week later.

Mr Phil Arnold

A very committed and arduous training week followed and the change was evident as Stowe beat Haberdashers' Aske's School in very difficult conditions. Once again the pack shone, with particular mention going to Henry Murray, Frank Kilsby and Arthur Hobhouse. Loughborough were the next team to be vanquished in a fantastic display of running rugby, orchestrated by Charlie Winton at fly half.

Ousedale and St Edward's were both defeated easily, with Orlando Bevan and Hugo Barran scoring some excellent tries in both games. The team then faced Pangbourne, a traditionally brutal fixture, and the forwards dominated once again, winning 46-8. Cokethorpe fell next, this time on the North Front, but Uppingham proved to be one game too many in a busy week, with Stowe losing 22-10. This left the team with one final match, again on the North Front pitch, against Bedford Modern School. It was a fitting end to a brilliant season, with Stowe running out winners 15-3.

Player of the season was Henry Murray and the Most Improved Player was Hugo Pickett. My congratulations and thanks to all those who put in so much effort to make this such a successful season.

Junior Colts A

Played 15; Won 13; Lost 2

The Junior Colts A team had an outstanding season, and the side's success was due primarily to the superb attitude of the year group; they refused to be overawed by any occasion and consistently displayed great courage and steely determination on the pitch.

This 'never say die' attitude was epitomised by the narrow win over Oundle. Trailing 5-0 at half time, Stowe were able to overturn the deficit with a well-taken try early in the second half. Despite throwing everything at the Stowe defensive line, Oundle were unable to break through and the team held on to win the match 7-5.

As the term progressed the team gained confidence and this was certainly displayed in the more expansive style of the rugby played. Strong forward play gave the backs an opportunity to cut loose and the 40 points or greater margins of victory against Bloxham, St Edward's, Bedford Modern and Loughborough Grammar is testament to this.

The final points tally was a staggering 392 points scored with only 103 conceded, and it would be unfair to ignore some of the key performers who contributed to this. The team was blessed with an inspirational captain in Oscar Page and a potent finisher in George Jones, who scored 27 tries. Ben Duckett and Jake Ollie also deserve a special mention, as they both proved a constant threat in attack.

They were a tremendous team to work with and we shall follow their progress through the School with interest. Who knows – they may even surpass the success of this year's 1st XV....

Mr James Hayden and Mr Craig Sutton

Junior Colts B

Played 13; Won 11; Lost 2

Tom Wright and I had a fantastic season with this excellent team, who worked tirelessly from the start to the end of term and always did their very best. Will Jones captained the team for most of the season, and led them fantastically well at all times. It is no exaggeration to say that Will is probably the best captain I have ever worked with in many years of coaching rugby at this level.

While all the team played exceptionally well, Dominic Smith and Freddie Dixon deserve a special mention as our top try-scorers in the forwards and backs respectively, with Dominic scoring four tries and Freddie seven. In terms of conversions, Harry Allhusen and Nick Paine came top, with six conversions each.

It is a testament to this team's success that they came first in the Under 15B 'All-Comers' Team League, out of 103 schools registered. My thanks go to all the players who did their utmost to make this season so successful and memorable, and I wish them the greatest of success for their matches in the year ahead.

Mr Ray Dawson



Junior Colts C

Played 9; Won 5; Lost 3; Drew 1

The Junior Colts C team had a bit of a roller-coaster ride this season; it started off with losing one of our most promising forwards, Will Jackson, when he broke his arm on the first day of practice. Despite this we won our opening games, but met our match against Oundle and Uppingham, who proved too much for the Stowe players.

The strongest point of our attack came in the form of our captain and flanker, Adam Parker, who courageously led the way on the field, allowing no one to get past him and putting in fantastic tackles on boys twice his size. In defence, Kit Dixon-Smith and Nathan Charlesworth were stalwarts, tackling hard throughout the season to prevent the opposition from breaking through the back line. The forwards are also to be commended for their hard work and effort; Fyodor Vorotyntsev, William Hawke, Harry Roberts and Charlie Samuelson all played well in the front row, while Josh Caine and Guy Turner provided strength and power as the locks. Credit also goes to wingers Will Watson and Elliot O'Brien, both of whom scored an impressive number of points. The greatest try of the season, however, came from William Drinkwater playing at fullback, in a close game against Mill Hill. He received the ball following a high kick from Mill Hill and managed to skip through a few tackles, before chipping over his opposite number to collect on the bounce and go over the line for a sensational try.

My thanks and congratulations to all those who played in this spirited and exuberant side, and I wish them every success in next year's fixtures.

Mr Mark Blew

Yearlings A

Played 9; Won 9; Lost 0

Undefeated seasons are a terrific achievement, particularly so when the term was interrupted by weather, causing breaks in the momentum; to pick up where the team left off is a credit not only to their skills but their mental strength too.

Noteable victories came against Uppingham, Oundle, Stamford and Mill Hill. It is also worth noting that out of the 16 matches played by all teams in this year group against these four schools they lost only three, an indication of the strength lower down.

The forwards have improved significantly. They brought a competitive edge to their game and against Stamford in particular, their close quarter defence was outstanding. Alex Stone warmed to the idea of playing in the back row, bringing his undoubted footballing ability to this position. The front row of Edzai Soper- Gwatidzo, Jasper Upton and Charlie Mason delivered some harsh lessons on scrummaging technique, to some illustrious opponents. At No. 8 Max



Marston stole ball at will, and Kurabe Makiura tackled anything that moved. Francis Smiley made the intriguing switch from wing to lock with some zest and Fergus Edwards and Alec Pultr have both made significant strides forward.

The backs all posed a threat with ball in hand. James Hill was a strong scrumhalf, who just needs to work on his passing to have an all-round game. Harry Dixon Smith had the potential to break the line and his centres free. Drew Todd had some sublime skills, and impressed with each game. Ollie Constantine provided the thrust and cutting edge in midfield, whilst on the wings Will Chathamra and Harry Cornett brought pace and strength respectively. George Jackman at fullback never shirked a tackle, and often danced his way through defenders.

What perhaps impressed me most with this team was their no surrender attitude, culminating in only 17 points being scored against them, and preventing six teams scoring any points at all.

A promising year group, and I shall watch their Daily Mail Cup exploits with interest.

Mr Alan Hughes

Yearlings C

Played 6; Won 4; Lost 2

Our Lent term this year was very cold, and consequently we only managed to get in six matches.

We started very well, winning our first four games and not conceding a single point. We won 45-0 at home to QES Barnet, then 19-0 at home to Oundle (they did not like that!) Our next match was another win at home, 36-0 against Stamford. Our first away game was at Mill Hill, whom we defeated 21-0. A total of 121 points for Stowe – fantastic.

On 13th March we played away at Uppingham; sadly we lost 5-17.

King Edward's School, Stratford-Upon-Avon was our final game. Our C team put up a great fight against their B team, but went down 31-24 in the end.

This has been a great C team I have enjoyed working with them very much. Many thanks to Rollo Chadd, who was voted in as captain. Alex Long is my "Tip for the Top" in the pack, and Archie Grossart has huge potential in the backs. The following also played their part: Cameron Power, Christopher Parsonson, Olly Wright, Charlie Lockyer, Toby Wightman, Ed Selby-Lowndes, Ben Robinson, Henry Cox, Toby Cole, Guy Ritches, Will Scrase, Alex Fitzjohn and Jack Vesty. Well done everyone.

Mr Tom Highham

Yearlings B

Played 7; Won 4; Lost 3

Stowe Yearlings B endured a season of horrendous playing conditions. With games cancelled due to the weather, the team did not have as much opportunity to wear the blue and yellow shirt as they would have liked; despite this, several players produced games worthy of a shot at playing in the Junior Colts A team next year. The Yearlings B produced some big wins, beating Mill Hill 34-0 and The Leys 29-7. Consistency came from players in various positions, imposing themselves on every single game they played in. Hugo Hiley was one of the 'standout' players of the season, and when combined with centres Hugo Kinahan and Tom Burke, the team possessed a great deal of firepower in their back line. Two forwards who

originally started their season in the Yearlings C team, Freddie Ulman and Jonathan Dann, were outstanding in their commitment and desire to drive the team forward. Hugo Ellison was exemplary in his attitude to every single game, often being the individual to make the thumping tackle, and always working his socks off in the scrum. Fergus Jones, another front row forward, was fearless in his efforts to overcome all opposition.

A great first season for the Yearlings Bs, showing the dedication required to work on their game and the determination to put things right. I wish them every success in the matches to come.

Mr Tom Highham



Mr Ray Dawson

Boys' Hockey

1st XI

Played 12;
Won 7; Lost 5

The desire for success in this team was highlighted in the first game against Stamford. The team were 3-1 down at half-time and were facing defeat, but they did not panic and the talk at half-time was positive. The boys showed great character to come back to win 4-3, with stand out performances from Sam Shepherd-Barron, Ollie Trotter and Henry Rudd. Ollie and Sam were important players throughout the season and Ollie deservedly won player of the season. The team's success was also built on a strong attacking, short corner routine. If it wasn't Billy Richardson striking off the top, it was the options around the penalty spot which led to Charlie Kim, Ali Birkby and Archie Voorspuy getting their name on the score sheet numerous times. Archie was to finish as top goal scorer for the team, with 10 goals in the season.

While it was disappointing to lose matches, they provided important learning experiences for the team; they realised that if they were not to be overwhelmed, they had to perform at a high level of physical intensity. This was highlighted in the last game of the season against Kimbolton, where at half-time the team were feeling the effects of House hockey and were not quite performing at the right level, reflected in the half-time score of 1-1. But the boys managed to step up when required and finished up winning the match; a great testament to their determination and desire to achieve.



The best result of the year was a victory against Magdalen College School, Oxford, which Stowe won 5-3. A fantastic hat-trick for Sam Shepherd-Barron and another brace for Archie Voorspuy led the way to victory. This game was also built on solid defence and the emergence of Tom Benyon, who throughout the season became a vital part of the team and won the Most Improved Player of the season.

Overall the team played and trained with intensity and desire. The success of the 1st XV Rugby team has definitely ingrained a winning ethos in the School, and this has become apparent in the Hockey term. The boys who are leaving have committed their all to the team, and I hope they continue to play in the future; they will be hard to replace in terms of skill, humour and sheer presence. I am, however, hopeful that the boys in the Lower Sixth and Fifth Form will step up and take Stowe hockey another step forward. A big thank you must go to Mr Pickersgill, who looked after the boys when I was away in India. His great commitment to hockey in the School has influenced every player in the squad, and he led the team to many victories.

Mr James Fair

2nd XI

Played 8; Won 3; Lost 5

2nd XI Hockey at Stowe this year conjured up memories of the Lions' tour of New Zealand in 2005. The midweek team, coached by canny Scot McGeechan (Murphy) were all-conquering, whereas the weekend main events of English coach Woodward (Lewis) were found sadly lacking! Both Lions' coaches were knighted; let's hope the same happens for Murphy and Lewis.

The 2nd XI were a team of fighters and, although not necessarily playing the most beautiful hockey in the world, ground out some great results by being direct and turning defence into attack with devastating effect. Notable wins against Bloxham, Mill Hill and a trouncing of Bedford Modern were all well-earned and duly celebrated.

With the potent striking power of Nic Du Bois de Montule, goals were easy to come

by. He was ably assisted by the commanding Cameron Cox, who gelled the midfield and defence together and acted as a fulcrum, switching play around the field. Toby Clegg was stupendous in defence, with his marauding runs and last ditch tackles. Harry Raikes was the stand out captain, whose sure-footedness and menacing strikes from the short corners saw his team home to victory. But you can't win anything if you leak goals, and

thankfully we had two fantastic goalkeepers in the form of Miles McConnell and Rupert Leyland; the former very much the old pro training up the new man to take over his mantle next year.

A great topsy-turvy season all round. Back to basics in the early season training, and the welcome addition of some young blood, will make the 2nd XI the team to beat next year!

Mr Andrew Murphy



3rd XI

As usual, the 3rd XI Hockey team was constantly struggling to maintain a semblance of squad stability, with so many players being promoted to the 2nd XI or “borrowed”, often at very late notice. I take my hat off to the numerous Colts players who stepped into the breach, some of whom had not played hockey in anger since the Third Form. James Bevington was a tireless servant of the team, both as our best player by far but also as captain of an ever-changing squad; he never had the same team from one week to the next, but led by example and must have covered several kilometres across the season. I should like to express my thanks to those boys who did turn out week in and week out and to those who acted as replacements at short notice, if only for one game. Boys who played this year for the 3rd XI include: Sam Anderson, Andrew Atkins, Jonty Scott, Rupert Leyland, Will Cowley, Tom Bacon, Sam Ballantine, Harry Bell, George Low, Harry Hawkes, Will Siddeley, Hamish Barnes, Jamie Cockbill, Toby Clegg and Jamie Knight, plus numerous Fifth Formers whose names I have not written down! My heartfelt thanks to all involved.

Mr Peter Last

Colts B

The Colts B squad was a big group of keen sportsmen who trained well during the season and transformed themselves into a competitive hockey team as they improved individually. The team was built on solid defence and goalkeeping, together with lightning pace and strength up front. The defence included some solid goalkeeping by Jack Palmer, who had his best performance vs Haberdashers’ Aske’s, and stoic defending from Hereema, Benyon and Smith. The attacking force of Roberts, Nichols, Clarke and Nesbitt caused many problems in the season for the opposition, with Clarke’s pace on the wing setting up Roberts to slot the ball in the net in many matches. Roberts was to finish top goal scorer in the team, and went on to feature in the Colts A team along with Nichols and Clarke, who both continued to impress. A big thank-you to Miss Blume, Miss Thorogood and Mr Way for developing this group into a team who have the ability to keep representing the School in future years.

Mr James Fair

Colts A

Played 8; Won 2; Lost 4; Drew 2

A ‘satisfactory’ season for the Colts A; satisfactory, in the sense that the boys played throughout with commitment, focus and enjoyment, and improved both as a team and individuals. Some results did not go our way (an Abingdon loss and an MCS draw stand out) though some did (1-1 away at Uppingham and a convincing 4-1 defeat of Stamford, to name two). Those deserving of mention are Captain Rob Hill for his commitment to the cause, and for galvanising others around him; both he and James Barnett in defence formed the mainstay of the team. James and Rob made their debuts for the Colts A team in reward for some strong

performances. Sam Tottenham won the Most Improved Player award – he was consistently the best tackler in the team and, certainly after the first couple of matches, always looked composed on the ball. Thanks from coaches Swayne and Way for a very enjoyable term, and particularly for every time the ball was transferred from Barran on the left via Hill in the centre of midfield to Paine, who would pick it up on the right flank, driving towards goal. Hopefully this group will continue to work hard in the Lower Sixth, and fight for places amongst the first team next season.

Mr Henry Swayne



Junior Colts A

This promising Junior Colts side had a mixed season, beating the weaker sides convincingly and struggling against the more organised and skilful hockey teams. Their season started with a strong win against Stamford, 7-2, with Ben Duckett scoring a first half hat-trick and eventually netting five goals in the game. Jake Olley controlled the game well, scoring one goal himself and setting up Kit Dixon-Smith for the other. Strong performances were also evident from Nick Paine and Henry Woodward. Stowe's next game was against Mill Hill, winning 6-0 and with Duckett scoring all six of them. It was an excellent team display, beginning with the increasingly confident Angus Craven in goal, through Louis Forsyth and Robbie Henriques in defence and a superb man of the match performance by Will Jones in midfield. I can safely say that everyone was quietly relieved when the away game at Wisbech was cancelled due to the cold weather. With this and the Exeat, Stowe came up against a very well-organised RGS High Wycombe side, with little match preparation. Man of the match Craven was unlucky to be beaten for the winning RGS goal by a deflection off his own player's stick. Stowe then won their next game in convincing style, beating Haberdashers' Aske's 7-3, Duckett scoring a further four goals. Abingdon were their next opponents; in a traditionally difficult game Stowe lost 5-3, in a rather tired performance.

Junior Colts B

The JCBs had a great season, finishing unbeaten. This was largely due to the defence of Harry Martin, Tristan Phipps, Will Plant, Orlando Whitehead and goalkeeper James Drax, who all had a fantastic season. Thanks also to Will Drinkwater and Robbie Henriques, who did a good job in defence in the few games they played. Most of the matches were low-scoring, with the team winning four games and drawing the rest. The best performance was a 2-1 win against Bloxham, in which the boys played some of their best hockey. Oliver Findlay was the surprise package in midfield; He was ably supported by Jack Chaplin and Merlin Rothschild. Team Captain Russell White took the centre forward role, and he was well-supported by the wingers during the course of the season.

It was a great effort to go the season unbeaten and I'm sure that, with further development, several of these players will be knocking on the A team's door.

Mr James Knott

Junior Colts C

The Junior Colts C team had a fantastic season last term; with very enthusiastic and skilled individuals they finished the season undefeated. This is a brilliant achievement as many of the opposing sides were extremely tough competitors. Each boy worked hard for this great result and their skills improved with every training session. Stand out results include a great 5-0 victory against Uppingham and 9-0 against Bloxham. A special mention must go to their excellent goalkeeper Freddy Fitzherbert, who conceded only three goals over the whole season. George Jones and Oliver Jackson must also be mentioned for their consistent excellence in every game. Hugo Brooks should also be commended for his sporting attitude to every opposing team. Well done lads – it was a great season.

Miss Mattie Mould

Played 11; Won 7; Lost 4

Half-term could not have come soon enough and the JCAs returned in emphatic style, beating Akeley Wood 9-0, with Duckett claiming another four goals. Their next game was against a strong Uppingham side on the day of the Daily Mail Cup semi-final, where minds were elsewhere and the boys lost 7-0. An away win against Shiplake, 5-2, restored the side's confidence and took them into a tricky fixture against MCS Oxford. This was probably the closest game they had all season, losing 1-0, but with a chance to even the scores right up until the last few seconds. Against Bloxham Duckett was on scoring form again, claiming five goals and contributing to a 10-1 victory. The season ended on a high, with a very pleasing 7-2 win over Kimbolton, and Duckett adding a further four goals to his tally. This left him with a record 31 goals in the season, the Golden Stick award and the Player of the Season award. Other notable mentions must go to Angus Craven, Louis Forsyth, Nick Paine, Jake Olley, Liam Gough, Kit Dixon-Smith and Will Jones.

Mr Phil Arnold





© R & H Chapman Photography

Yearlings A

Played 12; Won 7; Lost 3; Drew 2

The Yearlings A Hockey team got off to a flying start with a big 8-0 win over Loughborough Grammar School and with wins over RGS High Wycombe, Stamford and Mill Hill. The dedication and positive mental approach from the players meant that even after some slip-ups in the middle of the term we finished strongly, with draws against very strong Oundle and Perse sides. The 'never-say-die' attitude was highlighted against Oundle, when with two minutes to go the team were 2-0 down; a penalty stroke from Todd and a last minute equaliser from Jackman rescued the game.

During the Michelmas term the boys qualified into the regional round of the U14 National Tournament, after finishing 2nd in Buckinghamshire. The Tournament was played in the Lent term and involved the boys playing five games in an afternoon, which resulted in two wins, two losses and one draw. Stand out performances on the day came from George Jackman for his skills and energy on the pitch, and Alfie Hardman for some strong goalkeeping. This experience of playing against some of the best teams in the south will hopefully benefit the team in the future.

Overall there have been many very strong performances this term, and the whole team deserve to take credit for this hugely successful season. Special mentions must go to Drew Todd, James Hill, Harry Dixon-Smith and Ben Robinson, for their tireless midfield work. There were many strong contenders for the Most Improved Player award, but it was Jack Vestey who ultimately gained that title. Well done to all the team, and thanks to Mr Mochan and Mr Fair for their help this term.

Mr Richard Pickersgill



© R & H Chapman Photography



© R & H Chapman Photography

Yearlings C

The Yearlings C team have had limited games in the season, but when they did play, they performed with great effort. The team have been built on solid defence from Upton and Noest, and the skills and pace of Clover and Walker-Payne in midfield and upfront. A highlight of the season was a 4-1 victory against Mill Hill. At half-time the team were drawing 0-0, and had been outplayed against a decent opposition. However, after half-time the boys stepped up and played some fantastic hockey to win. Credit must go to Barnes in goal and Clover and Grossart for scoring the goals in the game, to lead the team to victory. There have been various occasions on which players have moved up to the B team, which is a credit to the squad and their commitment. Many thanks to Mr Peverley and Miss Prifti, who have worked very hard with this group and helped them progress.

Mr James Fair

Yearlings B

The Yearlings B team have trained well and have shown huge improvements over the course of the term. They had a very strong start, with Alex Stone scoring 13 goals in three games, which included a 6-0 victory over RGS High Wycombe and an 8-1 victory over Stamford. The stand out game was a victory against The Leys, in which Alex Stone scored a hat-trick and Tom Noest and Jonathan Dann defended with great effort, to secure the 4-2 victory. This game was played at a high skill level, and is a good reflection of the hard work that the boys have put in during the season. Many thanks to Mr Knott for his coaching this term, and leading the boys to a successful season.

Mr James Fair

Girls' Hockey

1st XI

Played 19; Won 5;
Lost 11; Drew 3

The Girls' 1st XI had a hard season with results not going their way. Despite this, they finished third in the county tournament and were North Bucks winners. The North Bucks tournament was the stand out day for the team as they played with great commitment, moved the ball on at pace and won and converted their short corners. Louisa Dobbs and Zara Nichols were clinical in their finishing and scored all of the team's goals in the tournament, beating Aylesbury, Royal Latin and Akeley Wood. However, it was Clarissa Pugh who picked up the Player of the Tournament Award, for her outstanding work rate and skills. Clarissa's intensity in defence and reverse stick cross, which led to the winning goal, was vital to the team's success on that day. Clarissa and Zara will play an important part next season, in leading a team that is young and full of potential. Looch Trevor, Charlotte Cook and Imogen Voorspuy all made debuts for the 1st XI, and proved that they have the ability to play next season.

A major strength of the team was defence, with captain Phoebe Avent and Katie Peters forming a strong partnership as central defenders. The number of tackles made in the season was outstanding, and the players' desire to put their bodies on the line to stop the opposition scoring was second to none. This resulted in various bruises on hands and cuts on knees (especially for Phoebe) but they never came off the pitch and kept on battling



© R & H Chapman Photography

away. Katie was voted Player of the Season, narrowly edging out Phoebe and Louisa. The defence were well-supported by Alice Coulson who made some good saves, with the most memorable moment being a double save against Sir William Borlaise in the County Cup. After making the initial block, Alice dived head first at the ball, stopping a clear-cut goal.

One area in which the team struggled was in the attacking third, and a couple of results could have gone in the team's favour if there had been a little bit more composure in the opposition circle. This will be a key area for next season, and it is vital that the team can find a goal scorer and have a strong short corner routine. If this happens, the team will have a positive season. Zara and Louisa were often the key to many good attacking moves, and possess some good skills that can unlock a defence.

Overall the team were committed to training and matches. Abby Payne and Clarissa Pugh were voted Most Improved Players of the season. I hope that the players leaving this year will continue to enjoy playing hockey after leaving Stowe. A big thank you must go to Mr Nash who took the team for the time that I was away, and supported the girls fantastically.

Mr James Fair

2nd XI

Played 11; Won 3; Lost 3; Drew 5

This year's 2nd XI have played with a lot of heart, and at times great teamwork. The team was originally led fantastically well by Caitlin Gracie, but after she was forced to retire, Imogen Voorspuy showed great maturity and stepped up to the role very well. The girls achieved great 2-1 victories over both Wellingborough and Princethorpe, as well as battling hard for many draws. Most Improved Player this season was Lottie Phillips, who was commanding in defence, and grew in confidence as the season

progressed. Best player was shared by Charlotte Cook, who was instrumental in both attack and defence, and captain Imogen Voorspuy, who controlled the midfield fantastically well. Overall the team has much to be proud of this season; they worked hard and showed great passion for the sport.

U16 XI

The 2nd XI also contained many players who would play in the U16s regional tournament. Having qualified through the North Bucks round, the girls faced a sterner test at Bucks. In this round, having one won and lost one, they went into the last game needing a win to qualify ahead of Doctor Challenor's. The game looked like it was heading for a draw until a great cross by Pinny Stuart-Mills was converted by Imogen Voorspuy. This result

meant that Stowe qualified for the Regional tournament.

The regional tournament involved playing six games at Wellington College against other County winners. The team started slowly and recorded two losses, but bounced back to finish on a positive, drawing the next and then winning the last two matches. Charlie Lechmere finished top goal scorer on the day, with four goals. Looch Trevor was Player of the Tournament, as she played with great energy and skill. The team did themselves proud in this tournament, as they gave their all to get a victory. Important lessons were learnt during the day, and this will help the girls continue to develop.

Miss Olivia Thorogood



© R & H Chapman Photography



© R & H Chapman Photography



3rd XI

The Girls' 3rd XI played in a positive manner, always had a great approach to training and matches and, regardless of the score, were always buoyant and encouraging of each other. Throughout the season Yasmin Hughes was the stand out player, and this was backed up by performances from Kitty Cavendish and Georgia Criticos. The most improved players on the team were Poppy Mills and Augusta Anthony, who worked hard at their skills and became strong players by the end of the season. The team were a great group to coach, and I hope they continue to play some hockey in the future.

Miss Sandie Bradfield

U15A

Played 10; Won 9; Lost 1

This was a wonderful season for the Girls' U15A Hockey team, which came so close to being an unbeaten one. But for a forgettable afternoon at Bloxham, during which valuable lessons were nonetheless learnt, it was almost perfect!

It has been a delight to see this very talented group of girls develop as hockey players and as a team – their progress is exciting for the future of Girls' hockey at Stowe! Particular mention should be made for joint players of the season, Captain Georgie Leech and Charlie Lechmere, as well as for Most Improved Player Georgia Stone, who had a great season in goal. Laura Welford and Rebecca Dale also deserve mentions for their consistently strong performances in midfield. Ellie Pinnock and Steph Robinson led the way in the goal scoring charts, as they were both able to finish off good attacking play with deft finishes in front of the goal. Various members of the team were involved in the U16 county success, where they reached the regional rounds, and hopefully this will be repeated next year.

It was also pleasing to see the girls' talents recognised outside of school as Georgie, Laura and Charlotte all went on to make selection for Bucks JAC squads and JRPC squads. The girls will be involved throughout the summer in a bid to represent the region.

Overall this winning team have been great fun and a pleasure to coach throughout the term.

Mr Henry Swayne



U14A

Played 10; Won 7; Lost 3

The U14A Hockey team are a talented group of girls who worked hard together to achieve an extremely successful winning season. Their most notable performances were in the first half of term with wins against Pangbourne (5-0), Bloxham (5-2) and Tudor Hall (3-1). They beat Aylesbury High School 8-0 to become the North Bucks Champions, and only narrowly missed out to Dr Challoner's for a place in the regional finals. The captain of the team, Olivia Hunter, was pivotal at CM and the top goal scorer was Alice Hughes at CF with a total of 13 goals, consisting of three hat-tricks! Lucy Horan scored 10 goals over the season, dominating the right wing. India Cornish developed a great finishing touch on the left post, while Maddie Wackett and Lydia North were influential in midfield. They were supported by a strong defence that included Clara Holden, Heloise Kleinwort, Megan Duckett, Charlotte Berrill and Rebecca Raeburn, with Rebecca Wild developing her confidence and performance as goalkeeper. The Players of the Season were Clara Holden and Lucy Horan, whose levels of play and commitment were outstanding. This is a team to watch for the future!

Mrs Sarah Sutton

U15B

The U15 B team have had some good performances this term. They have really improved their passing, and have worked on using more space in their play. Ellie Holt and Sophie Rushton have led the goal scoring charts, and Rachel Buckley-Taylor has had a great term in goal. Player of the Season is Ella-May Sangster, who has contributed well in offence, as well as being a great leader of the team.

The girls were committed and gave their all during the season.

Miss Sandie Bradfield



U14B

Despite the fact that the Girls' U14B team did not have the opportunity to play many games, their spirits never weakened and they always looked forward to our fixtures. The most improved player of the season from the U14B team is Shona Drummond. Shona had never played hockey before and started off as goalkeeper; she proved a worthy keeper but wanted desperately to play out field, which she did excellently in our last match! Iona Palmer-Baunack

must also be mentioned because her confidence has grown on the pitch, and will only improve from here. The Player of the Season was Lily Comyn. Lily is a fearless defender and always aware of her positioning on the field, and that of her fellow defenders. But to the whole U14B team, well done! Thank you for a great season girls – I wish you much luck in the future!

Miss Sandie Bradfield



Lacrosse

1st Team

Played 14; Won 12;
Lost 1; Drew 1

The Stowe lacrosse tradition continues to improve as the years progress. Led by Lydia Wood and Tash Trevor, the team started strongly in September and never looked back. Hosting the Midland Schools Tournament in October, Stowe proved themselves among their peers by winning four out of their five matches. Additionally, we had six girls and three reserves on the

Buckinghamshire County team: Lydia Wood (captain), José Brake, Danni Allard, Rebecca Elliott, Georgie Saunders, Bryony Seekins, Hetty Hill, Zara Nichols and Chess Hutt. From there, we have had seven girls chosen to represent the Midland's team in the Junior Territorials Tournament: Danni Allard, Rebecca Elliott, José Brake, Hetty Hill, Bryony Seekins, Octavia de Ferranti, and Georgie Saunders.

We spent the Lent term, fraught with hindering snowfall, preparing for the National Schools Tournament in March. Stowe met traditional lacrosse schools head on, for respectable and competitive contests with matches against

St Swithun's (3-3), Wycombe Abbey (L 7-8) and Moreton Hall (W 8-6). The hard work paid off at the Nationals, where their play on the first day of the two day competition placed them in the Championship Division, Section 1, playing against the top lacrosse schools in the country: Berkhamsted, Putney High, Lady Eleanor Hollis, Godolphin, Queen Anne's and North London Collegiate School. And while they came up short in terms of wins, their intensity, competition, and skills never wavered in the tournament. The girls should be intensely proud of their accomplishment, remembering the standard is now set even higher for next year.

While all are commended for considerable teamwork on both sides of the field, there are notable contributors to our success this year. England U21 player Danni Allard boasted 53 goals and 13 assists, with Hetty Hill, Zara Nichols, Georgie Saunders and Bryony Seekins providing support on the attacking end. In defence, José Brake, Emily Beatty, Lexie Beaty and Octavia Trevor finalized the unit, led by Lydia Wood and Tash Trevor. Special recognition goes to goalie Josephine Chung, for a tremendous year in the cage and with 60 saves to her name.

The Lacrosse 1st team finishes a fantastic year, and I am confident that they will go on to achieve further notable victories in the future.

Miss Elizabeth Hollick



2nd Team

Played 30; Won 18;
Lost 9; Drew 3

The Lacrosse 2nd team had an amazing year. They started off a little slowly, but at the Midland Schools Tournament in October, the girls found their stride and were undefeated for the rest of the Michaelmas term. Captains Lucy Beaty and

Lily Wigan set exemplary leadership examples, to which the team positively responded throughout the entire year. Lucy led the offence with 25 points and Lily led the defence, which gave up very few goals in the last half of the term. Lara de Keyser and Tash Robson were key players as well.

The Lent term snow forced the team to miss practice time and games. Despite missed playing time, their performance in the National Schools Tournament never showed it. They made it to the semi-finals before losing 1-2 against Queen Anne's.

By the end of the season, Imogen Voorspuys led the scoring for the Stoics with 18 points. Charlotte Cook, Lara de Keyser, and Harriet Goffman all scored over 10 points as well. It was a great season and everybody did a fantastic job. Well done!

Mr Robert Mallonee



Junior Lacrosse A

Played 11; Won 7; Lost 1; Drew 4

The team spent the season focusing on settled attack play, the finer points of low defence in the critical scoring area, and honing their fundamental skills. These skills were rewarded by victories against St Helen & St Katharine, Rendcomb, Oakham and Malvern St James. And despite a loss against Moreton Hall, they were well-prepared heading to the National Schools Tournament.

During the tournament, the girls played exceptionally well and tied for second in their bracket. Unfortunately their goal total fell short in a tiebreaker, and they were unable to move on to the semi-finals. Afterwards, the season concluded with a tough loss to Cheltenham Ladies College, but a great win against Downe House.

Georgie Leech and Annie Hutt dominated the attack throughout the season, with 11 and nine goals respectively. Becca Dale made a huge contribution with her seven assists on goal. Repeated Woman of the Match honoree Charlie Lechmere was an unstoppable force in the midfield, while Ellie Holt and Tamara Rowan-Hamilton led the defence, denying scoring opportunities and regaining possession at critical moments. Goalies Rachel Buckley-Taylor and Georgie Stone each earned over 48% save averages.

In the end the Stoics, led by Captain Carla Springer, proved once again that Stowe is a force to be reckoned with on the lacrosse field and, most importantly, ended the season as better lacrosse players than when it began.

Mrs Kim McMahon



Yearlings Lacrosse

It was obvious, as far back as September, that our U14 lacrosse players were going to become a special group. They played with a competitive enthusiasm from day one and, although it was an uphill struggle to challenge schools that had been playing since the girls were eleven years old, they were always determined to rise to the challenge. The Midlands Schools Tournament produced a win against Malvern, a draw with Bedford and a narrow loss against St Helen & St Katharine. Not bad for a group of girls who had only been playing for two months.

After a slow start in January because of the snow, both the A and B squads began to increase their skill level and tactical awareness. With some convincing victories over Pipers Corner and Swanbourne for the B team and Rendcomb, Malvern and Cheltenham for the A team, the season's stats started to look healthy! Six girls were selected to take part in the U15 National Lacrosse Tournament in London – Lucy Horan, Megan Duckett, Charlotte Berrill, Alice Hughes, Heloise Kleinwort and Katkin Farr. The girls featured in most of the matches and did not seem affected by playing for the year above.

Top goal-scorers for this year group were Megan Duckett and Lucy Horan, with 15 goals each.

Top defenders were Katkin Farr and Heloise Kleinwort.

Junior colours are awarded to Lucy Horan, Charlotte Berrill, Megan Duckett, Katkin Farr, and Heloise Kleinwort.

Mrs Jayne Duckett



Cricket

1st XI

Played 24; Won 13;
Lost 6; Drew 5



The 1st XI Cricket team were delighted to be sponsored by Towcester Porsche this season

The 1st XI season started brightly with two games before term began – a winning draw against Malvern College and a comprehensive victory against local rivals Bloxham. The highlight of the Malvern game was 151 not out from Ben Duckett who, together with Josh Sainsbury-Bow batting at number 10, was responsible for setting up Stowe's first innings score of 260. Malvern fell 60 short, with seven wickets down.

Next was Abingdon, where a poor start with far too many wides was largely responsible for Abingdon reaching 230 in their 50 overs. Losing both openers early meant Stowe was always behind, despite 40s from Birkby and Duckett and two very good innings of 51 from Ben Curley and 61 from Jake Olley, both not out. In the end, Stowe fell just short of their target by nine runs.

The following Saturday was away against Uppingham, and Stowe won the toss on a greenish wicket that assisted the seam bowlers. Josh Sainsbury-Bow and John Gurney took full advantage by taking five wickets between them (Gurney, in particular, was very unlucky not to get a five wicket haul). Uppingham were bowled out for 193. Unfortunately, both openers fell early again and Birkby was run out for 0, which effectively ruled out the run chase within the first six overs. However, Duckett

and Olley repaired the damage with a fine 70 run partnership – Ben Duckett finishing with 70 gutsy runs to secure the draw.

Our next game was against Oundle, who have a particularly strong side this year and were unbeaten going into this match. Stowe opted to bat first but again both openers failed, although a fine 100 run partnership between Birkby (69) and Duckett (51) got the innings back on track. Useful contributions from Olley, skipper Gurney and most importantly Henry Rudd (with a quick-fire 28) meant Stowe got up to a respectable 193.

Once again an excellent opening burst from Sainsbury-Bow and Gurney put the Oundle batsmen under enormous pressure, with Sainsbury-Bow the one to reap the rewards of dismissing their two best batsmen before tea. After tea it was an inspired spell from Will Berner that sealed Oundle's fate. In seven overs he took five for 25, including two double wicket maidens. Oundle battled hard into the nineties, but the reintroduction of Sainsbury-Bow was enough to mop up the tail. Stowe won by a hundred run margin to record their first win over Oundle (outside of 20/20 cricket) for over 20 years.

After half-term the team really clicked into gear. There were solid draws against Bedford and St Edward's and then they managed to chase down 240 against

Oakham, thanks to 70 from opener Ben Sutton and a quick-fire 81 (off 60 balls) from Ben Duckett. There was also a win over Carey Grammar School from Melbourne, Australia and a tie with Woodridge College from Port Elizabeth, South Africa. Stand-in skipper Alastair Birkby scored a century and took three wickets for 25 runs in that game.

During the last week of term Stowe crushed Wellingborough and Radley by eight wickets. John Gurney took six for 30 against Wellingborough and Josh Sainsbury-Bow blew away Radley's top order (including three England players) to set up the victory. The pair of Duckett (55 not out) and Birkby (45 not out) scored yet another century partnership to seal the game.

On the last two days of term Stowe hosted Kimbolton, Warwick and Yarra Valley from Melbourne, Australia for a festival of 20/20 cricket. After comfortable wins over Kimbolton and Warwick, Stowe had already qualified for the final. Complacent and perhaps tired after a lot of cricket, Stowe lost to Yarra Valley by nine wickets in the first match of the final day, which meant Stowe had to play them again in the final. After a much better bowling effort Stowe managed to restrict Yarra to 129. The pitch was now wearing and Stowe found it hard going. They kept up with the run rate but lost wickets at regular intervals. Stowe went into the last over needing two runs but were nine wickets down. James MacDonald hit the second ball of the over for four, and the large crowd went wild.

It was a fitting end to a very good season. Thanks to all the lads for their hard work throughout the year – although not unbeaten, there were some incredible victories over very strong opposition, and the team should be proud of what they have achieved this summer.

Mr James Knott



© R & H Chapman Photography

2nd XI

Played 9; Won 5; Lost 4

The 2nd XI had a winning season and have enjoyed their cricket, under the steady leadership of Miles Johnson. Our wins have been punctuated by good all-round performances in the field, and at least one of the main batsmen getting a significant number of runs. This was certainly the case against Abingdon in our first game of the season, when Billy Richardson got a magnificent 115 on the North Front. Abingdon were chasing well until Teddy Kealey's left-arm spin picked up two decisive wickets. A comprehensive victory

over Reading Blue Coat saw Miles Johnson and Archie Hood in the runs and Ify Ejindu as economical as ever, with his laconically delivered 'bullets'; he managed to pick up three for 18, with Andrew Welford taking two for 11.

Another 20/20 win over The Oratory confirmed the boys' taste for this form of the game; it was a win built on the back of a superb 94 from Oliver Trotter and a surprise pinch-hitting 46 from perennial number 11 Tom Prideaux. Perhaps the best bowling and fielding performance of the season came at Uppingham, where Tom Prideaux confirmed how much he has improved this year with an excellent display, taking two wickets for 20 runs. Despite restricting Uppingham to 150 from 30 overs on a good track and quick outfield, we fell short with the batting, with no one quite managing a

match-winning innings. Our win against Bedford Modern featured bowling of three for 11 from Tom Prideaux and two for 15 from Ronnie Speakman, restricting Bedford Modern to 93.

Our losses to Rugby and Oundle, whilst disappointing, were ones in which the team stepped up to the challenge, and we were simply beaten by two good sides whose top order batsmen we failed to dislodge. The team have improved their consistency in the field in terms of bowling and fielding, and when the batsmen have fired we have been a hard team to suppress. The good humour of the side and their respect for the opposition have been key features of the term, and it was gratifying that staff from our opposition schools have commented on what a pleasant bunch they are.

Mr Matthew Way

Colts A

Played 7; Won 5; Lost 2

It was fitting that the last term this great bunch of boys had together before they reach the Seniors next year was their most successful so far at Stowe. Galling though it was to lose against Rugby on the last ball of the match, winning five out of seven matches in the sunny Summer term of 2010 was a terrific (and perhaps surprising) achievement. Without the services for most of the season of Henry Rudd and Ben Paine, who were playing for the 1st XI, it was all the more pleasing for coaches Swayne and Michael to watch significant improvements take place, both in individuals and the team as a whole.

Particular highlights include the famous victory over Uppingham on the North Front by 32 runs, with James Barnett's five wicket haul, and Hugo Barran's bowling to rip out their last two batsmen. A convincing six wicket win over a strong Bedford side the following week was also gratifying; it was a victory which incorporated accurate bowling, sharp fielding and an impressively mature run chase from the two Bens, Paine and Nichols.

Other highlights include Guy Dixon-Smith's consistent performances as opening batsman, Ed Wightman's sustained excellence with the new ball, and Ed 'catching practice' Pettifer's stroke play in the middle order. The end of season Award's Evening saw Dixon-Smith chosen as Most Improved Player, captain Barran the Player of the Season and the Players' Player, and the Champagne Moment award given to Pettifer – for finally holding onto a high catch against Rugby...

Mr Henry Swayne



Colts B

The Colts B team really enjoyed their brief season. The positive attitude of the Stoics and the aggressive stroke play of some of the batsmen led to some captivating matches, with the Uppingham game being particularly exciting. Stowe scored 203 runs in thirty overs, which proved just too much for Uppingham to chase down. The game was not secure until the last over, which had a number of parents (as well as a nervous coach) on the edge of their seats. The positive attitude displayed by the top order paid off in subsequent matches as well, later leading to a fine win over Bedford.

The side was very well led by Captain Ollie Plunket, who contributed some important runs and turned into a useful bowler. He was aided by some excellent spin bowling from Barnaby Curran, who starred in the victory against Uppingham. Special mention should go to William Prideaux, whose explosive batting and average of over 50 runs often proved the difference between Stowe and the opposition.

Mr James Hayden



Junior Colts A

Played 10; Won 4; Lost 5; Drew 1

A very mixed season by the Junior Colts A team has seen the highs of getting to the regional final of the Lord's Taverners' competition, and the lows of losing out in a number of key Saturday fixtures. The season started with two very impressive batting performances by Liam Gough, scoring 67 not out against Abingdon and 104 not out against MCS Oxford. Unfortunately for him, these were Liam's last and only contributions to the 2010 season, as he was ruled out through a knee injury. Other notable performances in the Saturday fixtures included Harry Allhusen scoring 54 against Uppingham, and Oscar Page picking up 5 for 16 runs in an unbelievable match against Oundle. In this game, Stowe were 57 all out and Oundle only just won, despite being 45 for 9 following an outstanding catch by Captain Henry Woodward at short mid-off.

The real highlights came in the Lord's Taverners' National U15 competition. Stowe beat MCS Oxford in the first round, with Ben Duckett and Liam Gough putting on 156 for the second wicket, and Woodward taking four wickets for four runs. The next round saw Stowe travel to Harrow, who Stowe managed to bowl out for 173. On a good batting strip, Stowe knocked off the target in 33 overs, thanks to a superb century partnership between Russell White (60) and Ben Duckett (55). The regional final took place at Wellington College in overcast and wet conditions. This suited Stowe's bowlers, who bowled Wellington out for 133, with James Hill finishing up with five wickets for 22 runs and Woodward also picking up another four wickets. Unfortunately for Stowe, the 28 runs they gave away in wides proved too many, and after Woodward and White were out, Stowe fell 15 runs short. A fantastic effort in the tournament, and the furthest a Stowe side has ever got in this competition.

Squad included: White, Woodward, Duckett, Allhusen, Martin, Forsyth, Page, Drinkwater, Consett, Constant, Gough, Chaplin, Carrelet, Palling, Phipps, Jones, Hill, Jackman, Newman, Dixon-Smith & Fitzherbert.

Mr Phil Arnold

Junior Colts B

Played 10; Won 8; Lost 2

The Junior Colts B team had a successful start to the term, and have won four of the six games played so far. The team's strength is in their bowling; however, they have made progress with the bat, which has given them confidence against opposition teams. At the time of writing, Tristan Phipps was leading wicket-taker and James Drax leading run-scorer, in a competitive race to see who will pick up the prize for most runs and wickets. The chasing pack includes Oscar Robertson and Christophe Carrolet with the bat and Harry Roberts with the ball.

The highlights of the season so far include bowling Rugby out for 82, in a game which saw William Hawke pick up a hat-trick and Phipps pick up a double wicket maiden. The batsmen were well led by Harry Cockbill, and Freddie Fitzherbert knocked the runs off convincingly. The best performance so far was against Oundle, as the team chased down 143 with James Drax taking a triple wicket maiden.

The team have been a pleasure to coach this term, as they are always looking to improve their game and practise with a desire to win each match. Each player has improved throughout, and it has been pleasing to see certain JCB players move up and play for the JCA team.

Mr James Fair

Junior Colts C Yearlings B

Played 5; Won 2; Lost 3

The Junior Colts C team are a keen bunch of cricketers, who have a great desire to play the game. The boys have been well led by Josh Dickinson, William Hawke and Ed Howes, all of whom have also played for the Junior Colts B team. They have been backed up by Merlin Rothschild, Lucas Worsdell and Will Plant. The team picked up their most memorable victory with a great performance against The Oratory, in which the boys batted and bowled very well. Hopefully they will continue to enjoy their cricket and keep improving over the second half of term, to get some more victories.

Mr James Fair

Played 11; Won 7; Lost 4

The Yearlings B team has improved tremendously over the term, thanks mainly to the very enthusiastic and committed players involved. Captained by Max Robinson, the team have slowly found their feet with fielding positions, batting strategy and bowling attack. They came up against some very tough opposition early on, including Abingdon and Rugby, but after learning from these matches the players posted fantastic performances against Bedford, Uppingham, St Edward's and Oakham (a victory which saw a nail-biting finish to the season). On the batting side, excellent performances have come from Piers Fountaine, Max Robinson, Henry Wheeler and Toby Wightman, but special mention must go to Charlie Wentworth-

Stanley and Tom Noest, who have been outstanding batsmen all season.

In the bowling attack, openers Ed Selby Lownder and Harry Matthews have been excellent all year, as well as leading wicket taker Harry Rees. Also contributing to the bowling has been Mike Hill, Piers Fountaine, Toby Wightman and Charlie Wentworth-Stanley, all of whom have improved a great deal since the start of the season. Also worthy of mention is the overall good play and commitment in the field by Jack Vestey and wicket-keeper Henry Wheeler, both contributing huge amounts over the term. Overall, an excellent season, with massive improvement from the players.

Fielder of the Year: Jack Vestey (runner-up Henry Wheeler)

Bowler of the Year: Harry Rees, 26 wickets (runner-up Harry Matthews, 12 wickets)

Batsman of the Year: Tom Noest, 52 runs (runner-up Charlie Wentworth-Stanley, 48 runs).

Mr Charlie Barker

Yearlings A

Played 7; Won 6; Lost 1

The Yearlings A side have won six out of their first seven games. Their only loss came after an uncharacteristic performance against the Oratory School, where the side failed to bat or bowl with any conviction. For the rest of the games, the team has put in some fantastic performances, based on supporting each other with the ball and bat. Good partnerships (like the 100 plus one against Abingdon by Hill and Dixon-Smith) and some tight bowling, backed up by excellent fielding, have seen victories against the likes of Oundle, Rugby and Uppingham. The team is led by George Jackman, who is proving to be an inspirational leader and sets high standards, especially with his fielding. George's vice-captain, Arthur Newman, has batted and bowled well so far this year, and looks to be a fine player. Competition for places is tight and it has been great to see the emergence of players such as Alfie Hardman, Freddie Ulmann, Sam Whitbread and Hugo Kinahan. I hope that the rest of the season can be as successful as the first half of term has been.

Mr Dominic Mochan



Yearlings C

Played 7; Won 5; Lost 2

An impressive and pleasant season – reflecting the bright weather which blessed most matches – and there have been many instances of enchanting cricket from the genial opposition and from Stowe. The team recovered from early losses against Abingdon and Uppingham to prevail in a series of wins over Oratory, Kingham Hill, Oundle, Rugby and Bedford.

Particular highlights have included: Bertie Grossart's steadfast half-century to rescue the innings at Abingdon; Jonathan Dann's match-winning boundary to sink Kingham Hill with four balls to play; five wickets taken through fine and fierce in-swing by

Thomas Burke against Oundle; Chris Parsonson's glory-laden stewardship of the last wicket partnership to defeat Bedford; and the team's luminous effort in the field to dismiss Oratory for 60.

This well-balanced team has enjoyed much success with both leather and willow, and the progress of the team and of the individuals is laudable. Yet, cricket is a game of character, and in this regard, the team has been splendidly led by Henry Cox to play with nothing other than considerable good-nature and vivacity.

Team players: T. Burke, E. Cecil, C. Clover, H. Cox (Capt.), J. Dann, H. Ellison, A. Grossart, B. Grossart, M. Hill, S. Johnson, F. Jones, J. Macmillan, T. Mills, J. Montgomery, H. Morgan, M. Owen, C. Parsonson, H. Pettifer, P. Ratanamangcla, J. Vestey, J. Walker-Payne.

Mr Tony Chan



Boys' Tennis

1st VI

Played 7; Won 3; Lost 3; Drew 1

Due to the volcanic ash cloud delaying the return of some of our key players, the 1st VI got off to a shaky start, losing to Oakham. They quickly bounced back with a win against Cokethorpe, and fought to draw against a tough Uppingham side. The boys easily dispatched Akeley Wood and Bloxham, but suffered a disappointing 5-4 loss to St Edward's. Anchored by the undefeated first pair of Saktip (Champ) Panyarachun and Hamish Edwards, the 1st VI also consisted of second pair David Carter and Nicolas Du Bois de Montule and four boys who alternated at third pair: Marcus Burns, Thomas Benyon, Youvir Assomull, and Miles Warden. All of the boys improved their doubles strategy immensely over the course of the season, although many still have to strengthen their mental game and serves. Nicolas Du Bois de Montule returns next year to lead a slightly less experienced 1st VI, though one with great potential. As for the Upper Sixth Form boys, hopefully they've enjoyed their time on the court, and will continue to play for the rest of their lives.



Mr Jarret Zafran

© R & H Chapman Photography

2nd VI

Played 5; Won 2; Lost 3

A very devoted set of tennis players, the 2nd VI always seemed to enjoy their time on court this year. The first pair alternated between Marcus Burns / Youvir Assomull and Thomas Benyon / Miles Warden, and both teams played admirably. Filling in at second pair, and often at first pair when one of the teams was incomplete, were the committed twosome of Francis Rowlands and James Dale. Both players are hard workers and can improve their consistency and serves to become solid first team players this next year. Finally, a mixture of See-Ho Leung, Harry Lester, Daniel Robinson and William Siddeley formed the third pair (and sometimes second) for the 2nd VI. Leung and Robinson can also improve upon their serves and consistency in the off-season and should emerge as solid players for next year. The boys started off with three straight losses to Oakham, Uppingham, and Abingdon, but finished strong with commanding 9-0 and 8-1 wins against Bloxham and St Edward's respectively.

Mr Jarret Zafran



© R & H Chapman Photography

Colts A

Played 5; Won 3; Lost 2

An eager and enthusiastic group of Fifth Form boys gathered to compete for places in the Colts' teams this year. With the known strengths of Arthur Hobhouse and Roddy Blackburne quickly claiming the first pair, we were always sure of giving all competitor schools a good test. Two 'new boys' to the tennis scene emerged as the second pair. Imran Momen and Tom Baylis went on to prove a tough partnership, and won the vast majority of their sets when injury and other commitments allowed them to play for the team. Max Dodd-Noble and Freddie Benyon played as third pair, where they managed to wear their opposition down with characteristic chirpiness and continual chatter, and often producing quite unexpected phases of play. Our long away trips to Oakham and Uppingham saw our only defeats, where slow starts and early season rustiness cost us the chance of victory. Once on home turf, on the Bourbon Astro, we proved unbeatable as we dominated the matches against St Edward's, Abingdon and Cokethorpe.

Mr Craig Sutton



© R & H Chapman Photography



Colts B

Played 3; Won 2; Lost 1

The B team won two out of their three matches, again proving far stronger at home than when playing away. Victories over St Edward's and Abingdon demonstrated our strength in numbers throughout the season, with eight players contributing to the team. Titus Edwards (who also played for the A team) proved to be a very solid leader and, when paired with Ed Robinson, proved too strong for the opposition, winning all their sets. Hubie Leese and Alex Heerema are extremely consistent and when they add a little more power to their game, will become good senior players. Felix Henderson, Sam Tottenham, Rowan Brogden and Archie Walters also gave their best efforts to make this a very positive season.

Training sessions were conducted in a very pleasant atmosphere, being competitive, but full of good-natured banter!

Mr Craig Sutton

Junior Colts A

Played 5; Won 3; Lost 1; Drew 1

The A team has produced some encouraging results so far this term. The pairings have moved around a little but usually Nick Paine and Elliot O'Brien have been the first pair, Harry Warden and Bertie Hayward second pair, and Angus Merrell and Orlando Whitehead third pair. Their wins have come against Akeley Wood, Cokethorpe and St Edward's, where they won a tight match 5-4. Their only loss was to Uppingham where they went down 5-4, but this match summed up their season. In the first set, where concentration levels were high, the team has often got off to a flying start, being at least 2-1 up. This has then been followed by a set where we appear over confident, and often find ourselves dropping sets. However, more often than not the team recovered well to claim victory. This was particularly evident against Abingdon, where we played on clay and needed to win the last sets. The third pair had lost



every set so far that day and, as Abingdon believed the game to be safely in the bag, they moved the final set to Astro to accommodate other demands on the clay courts. Much to Abingdon's annoyance the third pair turned their fortunes around and, with the second also winning, we came away drawing a match that had seemed well beyond them.

Mr Alan Hughes

Yearlings

The U14 Boys' teams have enjoyed a highly successful season this year, with some very promising talent for future years. The season started with a match against Stowe's nemesis – Uppingham. However, after only two weeks' training, the Yearlings A team stormed to a gallant victory. The Yearlings B team were, in turn, only narrowly defeated. This strong start developed into a thrilling season in which both the Yearlings A and B teams recorded strong victories over schools such as Abingdon, Akeley Wood and The Royal Latin Grammar School. Such was the strength of our first two A team pairs (Toby Cole/Fergus Edwards and William de Boinville/Hugo Hiley) that they were selected to play at U15 level against St Edward's School. Both pairs won their matches.

The Yearlings B team showed strength in depth, drawing on eight players over the course of the season. These were Archie Brogden, Guy Riches, Tom Forde, Jasper Upton, Henry Coldstream, Kalil Ali, Hoagy Pollen and Rory Knight.

Mr Roland Johnson

Junior Colts B

Played 4; Won 3; Lost 1

The B team recorded wins against St Edward's (5-4), The Royal Latin (6-3) and Uppingham (8-1); their only loss to date has been against Abingdon, where we went down 6-3. The pairings have moved around a lot as some of the boys have been unavailable for a variety of reasons. Jack Barham, Arthur Lonsdale, Ollie Findlay, Sadiq Abbagana, Antonio Muñoz-Ballester, Kit Dixon-Smith and Robbie Henriques have formed the backbone of the squad, all contributing valuable sets at one time or another to give the team a winning edge and an inner confidence. Second service and a volleying game are the areas many of the players need to work on in order to make the step up to the A team, although Ollie Findlay and Antonio Muñoz-Ballester



have done that already on the odd occasion. I hope they can keep this positive momentum going.

Mr Alan Hughes





Girls' Tennis

1st VI

Played 7; Won 5; Lost 2

This season, often in glorious sunshine, the 1st and 2nd VI Girls' tennis teams have enjoyed some extremely competitive fixtures. Although it took a little while for the pairs to become fully established, due to the disruption caused by volcanic ash, they were soon under way with an enthusiastic, committed approach, both at training and in matches. The girls have developed their tactical awareness and improved their shot selection, receiving additional expert weekly coaching from John Skinner.

The 1st VI, captained by Lucy Beaty who partnered with Isabella Cameron, made an impressive start by winning their first

match against Wellingborough; in the same week, they beat Bloxham 7-2. They also enjoyed wins over Cokethorpe (10-2) and Northampton High School (7-2). Uppingham and Downe House proved too strong for us this year, although the first half of term ended extremely positively with a confident 8-1 defeat over St Edward's, with Lydia Wood and Phoebe Avent having a memorable match to come back from 0-3 down against their first pair to win 7-6 on a tie break! Amidst the busy exam period the girls had the opportunity to play mixed doubles against Bloxham, and still have three more fixtures to look forward to.

Mrs Sarah Sutton

2nd VI

Played 4; Won 2; Lost 2

The 2nd VI had some very exciting encounters! With Alexa Beaty and Zara Nichols as first pair, they beat Bloxham 6-3, followed by two closely contested matches against Uppingham (3-6) and Downe House (4-5). However, they bounced back to beat St Edward's 5-4, with a particularly closely fought final set where, at 4-4 overall, Hetty Hill and Octavia de Ferranti were 5-5 against their own pair. In a creditable performance they managed to hold their nerve to win 7-5. Charlotte Cooke and Imogen Voorspuys, as U16s, played as a regular pair in this team, which bodes well for the future.

With a strong cohort of Lower Sixth in the squad and a development group at U16 level, Senior Girls' Tennis can look forward to continued success next year.

Senior colours are awarded to Daniella Allard and Pia Herrmann.

Mrs Sarah Sutton



© R & H Chapman Photography



© R & H Chapman Photography

Colts

Played 9; Won 6; Lost 3

Tennis was very popular amongst the U15 girls, with 21 listed to play. It took some time for pairs to form and teams to settle, especially given that at the start of term a number of girls were trapped overseas by volcanic ash, and others could not make training sessions due to their involvement in Junior Congreve. Nevertheless, on Saturday 24th April, the combined team of four pairs selected to play in our first match produced an 11-5 victory against Wellingborough. The best tennis for the season was produced at Uppingham. We fielded three teams and had a great tussle; unfortunately both the A and B teams went down 4-5. The C team, however, began their two match season with a 6-3 win. In all, victories were recorded over Wellingborough, Bloxham, Uppingham (Cs only), Cokethorpe, St Edward's and Rugby. Losses were suffered against Uppingham (As and Bs), Northampton and Downe House.

At the end of the season the A Team pairs were Bella Wallersteiner and Charlie Lechmere, Georgie Leech and Becca Dale, and Laura Wellford and Nel Lewis. All of the girls contributed to the team. Bella was our most effective from the back of the court, and Charlie showed the best all-round doubles play, with good movement and a keenness to finish points at the net. Georgie finished the season



strongly, improving in all areas. Becca got the best from her partners through excellent encouragement, and Laura and Nel always made the opposition earn every point.

Other players who contributed to some excellent tennis this year were Lucy Smith, Eléonore Du Bois de Montule, Harriet

Comyn, Honor Turner, Annie Hutt, Sophie Merrell, Isabelle Berner, Stephanie Robinson, Genevieve Bacon, Sophie Gordon-Cumming, Ellie Pinnock, Tamara Rowan-Hamilton, Ella-May Sangster, Ellie Holt and Sophie Rushton. My thanks to all concerned.

Mr Keith Oatley

Yearlings A

Played 6; Won 6; Lost 0

With only one match left of the season the U14 girls have enjoyed an unbeaten record so far, producing excellent wins over Bloxham, St Edward's, Uppingham, Northampton, Downe House and Rugby. They have won 38 sets and lost only 16, with their first pair of Megan Duckett and Charlotte Berrill dropping only one set all term! They have played with maturity and nerves of steel to overcome some strong pairs along the way and have been well-supported by their second pair of Alice Hughes and Maddie Wackett. There have been a number of girls who have partnered Lucy Horan for the third pair

– Lydia North, Ella Markham and Katkin Farr, and they have all contributed to the team's success. It has been a joy to see their tactical awareness improve over the season and a delight to see so many points won as a pair at the net.

Junior colours this year go to Megan Duckett, Charlotte Berrill, Alice Hughes and Maddie Wackett.

Mrs Jayne Duckett

Yearlings B

Played 5; Won 4; Lost 1

The U14 B team have also enjoyed a successful season, producing some excellent wins over Wellingborough, Bloxham and St Edward's. The team has comprised of Imo Wallersteiner (captain), Katkin Farr, Lily Comyn, Bella Kelly, Izzy Taylor, India Cornish and Ella Markham, and over the course of the matches played so far they have won 33 sets and lost only 21.

Mrs Jayne Duckett



Basketball

For the first time Stowe entered three teams in the County Cup competition.

The U16 girls played Lord Grey School in the first round. The nucleus of the team was Third Formers and they almost pulled off a shock result against Lord Grey. The girls, to their credit, have continued to attend training on Monday evenings.

The U18s had a great season which began with a trip to Wellington College for an Independent Schools Tournament. Stowe defeated Eton and Pangbourne to reach the semi-final, but lost narrowly to Winchester College. Over the course of the season the team had many successes, defeating Oakham 82-35, Uppingham 70-44, Pangbourne 83-31 and Eton 48-38.

The most exciting game of the season was the game against Bradfield. The game looked to be slipping away so a time-out was called by Stowe, who had possession

with 18 seconds remaining and five points adrift. Kostic, Gurney and Du Bois were brought back on with the knowledge that the team had to score three points quickly to have any chance of winning the game. Du Bois was unable to find a good shot so he pumped the ball to Kostic who hit a '3'. Stowe had to press full court in an attempt to turn the ball over. Great pressure from Kim, Gurney, Warden and Panyarachun forced Bradfield to throw long and Du Bois intercepted, drove to the 3-point line and with one second remaining 'swished' his 3-pointer to win the game on the buzzer. The Stowe players were jubilant and understandably so.

In the County Cup, Stowe beat local rivals The Royal Latin School 26-24. The team then travelled to Walton High for the

semi-final. After an awesome display in the first quarter the team did not look back and ran out comfortable winners 78-4. In the final, the team played Dr Challoner's. On the day Challoner's were worthy winners 56-42.

This was the climax to an excellent season and the team was inspired by captain John Gurney. The players have been a really close unit and a joy to coach. It is encouraging that the nucleus of the squad return next season so the intention is to build on what we have achieved this season.

Mr Isaac Michael

Netball

The 1st VII Netball team (Caitlin Gracie, Louisa Dobbs, Phoebe Avent, Isabella Cameron, Georgina Drummond, Lisa Dunkley and Yemurai Soper-Gwatidzo) has enjoyed a successful, winning season with notable victories against Bloxham (29-18), Cokethorpe (32-16) and Northampton High School (19-17), as well as particularly strong performances against St Edward's, Oxford (21-29) and Downe House (22-25).

They significantly improved their individual skills whilst developing into a cohesive team with a competitive spirit. A workshop from Karen Atkinson, the England Netball captain, further enhanced their knowledge of attacking and defending strategies, inspiring the girls with her expertise and international credentials.

Whilst maintaining an excellent level of play on court at WA, Caitlin was able to drive the team with continued encouragement and support, proving to be an outstanding captain. Louisa, the vice-captain at GA, was also an extremely confident, influential player, providing a positive presence on the court. Caitlin and Louisa were jointly awarded 'Players of the

Season', and the 'Most Improved Player' of the team was given to Phoebe, who showed great game-awareness and became a very dynamic Centre. Iszy became more tactically astute at GK, positioning herself to work with Georgina at GD and denying the opposition access to the circle to make invaluable interceptions. We will miss the Upper VI, who have put Stowe Netball in a strong position; however, they leave Georgina, Lisa and Yemurai to take it forward in 2011.

The 2nd VII also had a winning season, with impressive performances against Cokethorpe, Pangbourne, Downe House, Akeley Wood and Oakham. The 'Player of the Season' was Georgia Goodall and the 'Most Improved Player' went to Molly Davison.

The 3rd VII team, led by Abigail Payne, had a bigger fixture list this year, giving them the opportunity to play a good standard of competitive netball. The U14s played two matches, against the Royal Latin and Akeley Wood, winning both convincingly.

Senior Netball Colours were awarded to Caitlin Gracie, Louisa Dobbs, Phoebe Avent and Isabella Cameron.

Special Junior Awards went to Genesis Manney, Tsakane Sambo and Molly Davison.

Inter-House Competitions were all won by Queen's.

Mrs Sarah Sutton



Top to bottom: Catlin Gracie decision making; 1st team practice with Karen Atkinson; Georgina Drummond intercepting against Downe House

Football

Despite severe disruption to the fixtures due to the wintry weather, this has been another season of real progress for the 1st XI. As usual, the team demonstrated a willingness to get stuck in when necessary (for example, in the bruising encounter with St Clare's College...), but also a capacity to learn as they went along. Their ability to remain disciplined was impressive, as was their encouragement of each other. By the end they were comfortable on the ball and quite happy to play some short, sharp stuff. Perhaps the highlight of the season was the hard-fought 3 - 3 draw with a very strong Buckingham University side. We are also enjoying the fact that increasingly, various

Old Stoic teams are proving to be stiff opposition, and it is always good to welcome the Old Boys back.

Tolly Leech proved to be both an excellent midfield player and dependable captain, and Ollie Trotter was top goal scorer with five goals.

Away from competitive matches, football continues to attract a large number of pupils to afternoon sessions and these are played with enthusiasm and spirit. With the completion of two dedicated pitches, the sport will undoubtedly continue to thrive here at Stowe.

Mr Alan Murray

Grafton 24 hour Football Marathon

Grafton House played a 24 hour football marathon to raise money for the Brain Injury charity 'Headway'. This was inspired by

Stefan Rogge's ongoing recovery from the injury he suffered in March 2009, when he fell from his horse playing polo. A variety of matches were played including games against the girls, parents and staff. The 24 hours began in rain on the Saturday afternoon, progressed through darkness on the Shop Courts (especially when the lights cut out!), then moved indoors for the night shift, before finishing back on the Bourbon in glorious sunshine. It was great to see the various year groups emerge, somewhat bleary-eyed, into the morning sunlight to slog around the pitch once more, with the Third Form taking the bragging rights over the Fourth Form, but the Fourth Form taking the honours against the Fifth Form.

The final part of the marathon saw teams of Fifth Form, Lower Sixth, Upper Sixth and staff do battle for the Rogge Cup, with the Lower Sixth team edging out the staff in golden goal extra-time, in front of a couple of hundred spectators. At the same time, the Upper Sixth defeated the Fifth Form to take the Irgens plate. Around £6,000 has been raised for the charity, which is tribute to the efforts of all the pupils, parents and supporters. The idea is for the Rogge Cup to become an annual event, but whether it will come at the end of another 24 hour marathon only time will tell!

Mr Chris Townsend





Sports Day

Sunday 20th September 2009 was a very important day for Stowe.

It felt strange to launch into the new Michaelmas term thinking immediately of House teams for Sports Day, but with construction work on the new Athletics Track needing to take place during the warmth of spring and summer, it was unavoidable. It turned out, however, to be a magnificent day, with bright sunshine, over 600 parents and Old Stoics spectating, and even a flypast by a Vulcan bomber.

The 'David Donaldson Athletics Track' – named in honour of the Master in Charge of Athletics during the Sport's heyday at Stowe in the 1960s – boasts being the only green track of its kind in the country. It provides an exceptional standard of facilities and equipment, with eight lanes, a water-jump and a hammer cage all included.

Competition throughout the afternoon was intense – on both track and field. New school records were set by Octavia Trevor (200m, 30.68 seconds) and Priscilla Powell (Junior Girls Shot Putt, 9.67m). Events culminated with the 4 x 100m relay races, won as follows:

Junior Girls: Queen's; **Intermediate Girls:** Queen's;
Senior Girls: Stanhope; **Junior Boys:** Cobham;
Intermediate Boys: Chandos; **Senior Boys:** Cobham

House trophies were awarded to Queen's and Cobham, as the top performing Houses overall. The top-performing individual athletes were:

Junior Girls: Heloise Kleinwort (100m and 200m) and Clara Holden (Long Jump and High Jump)

Intermediate Girls: Annie Hutt (Long Jump and High Jump) and Octavia Trevor (200m)

Senior Girls: Midi Afolabi (100m and 200m) and Louisa Dobbs (High Jump and Triple Jump)

Junior Boys: George Jackman (100m, Long Jump, High Jump) and Drew Todd (400m and 800m)

Intermediate Boys: George Jones (100m and 200m), Henry Rudd (400m and 800m) and Rob Downer-McGlone (Long Jump and Triple Jump)

Senior Boys: Ronnie Speakman (100m) and Sam Shepherd-Barron (800m and Long Jump).

Along with David Donaldson and Simon Clegg (OS Chatham '78), and Chef de Mission of the British Olympic Team in Beijing in 2008), it was a particular honour to welcome Sebastian Coe, KBE, to perform the opening ceremony during the afternoon. Many of us will remember vividly the drama, elation and pride that his victory in the 1500m final at Moscow in 1980 produced. Nearly 30 years on, we celebrate Lord Coe's phenomenal achievement in winning the bid for London 2012 and now leading the organisation of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. There could have been no-one better to welcome as our Guest of Honour. In his speech, Lord Coe paid tribute to all those at Stowe and far beyond who coach and develop young athletic talent. As he admired the way that the new track blends into the landscape gardens, he joked that this must be the world's first 'Infinity Athletics Track'!

None of this would have happened, of course, without the great generosity of nearly 40 donors – Old Stoics and parents. Every one of them gave generously within their means and some of their names now appear on our board of Principal Benefactors, to be hung in the Ante-Library from September.

And so – with the skill and expertise on hand of Neil Crossley, the new Athletics coach, the quality of facilities now available to Stoics, and our capacity once again to host major athletics fixtures at the School, the future of Athletics at Stowe has surely been secured.

Mr Colin Dudgeon



Athletics

We were able to show off our new track in the Summer term when we hosted a number of matches for the first time in many years, including an exciting and competitive prep school competition.



Visiting senior schools included Oakham, Cheltenham, Uppingham and Dr Challoner's Grammar School, providing some superb competition for our athletes. The coaching provided by our resident expert Mr Neil Crossley, a Great Britain Decathlete, saw the standard of performance in the technical events improve dramatically during the season, and through his input the future certainly looks bright. On the track the pupils trained hard and timings improved steadily, with a number of new records being set in the girls' events. The Junior Boys and Girls teams were the most successful, displaying tremendous natural ability and great potential. Heloise Kleinwort remained undefeated in the 75m hurdles and Drew Todd produced the performance of the season, when he equalled the 48 year old Junior Boys 400m school record of 55.4 seconds, whilst competing in the County Championships. At the same meeting, Louis Hitchcock (long jump), Alex Miarli (100m hurdles), Caspar Dickinson (3000m) and Priscilla Powell (shot putt) all won their events.

Mr Mike Dawson

Cross-country

The Cross-country team have had a good season with some notable team and individual performances.

The term did not get off to the best of starts with the races at Harrow and the Knole cancelled due to the snow. Fortunately the Chiltern League went ahead so our Intermediate team were able to continue their good form of last term. Strong running by both Josh and Caspar Dickinson at Shuttleworth helped the team secure second place overall for the season, behind St Albans, in their 18 team division. Individually Caspar and Josh finished the season equal in third place, beaten only by two runners from the winning team. Caspar would appear later in the season racing the overall winner when both were selected to run the UKA Inter-County Championship and World Championship trials. The televised race proved a great show case for the Chiltern League; the overall champion went on to claim the UK title and for those watching a fine run by Caspar saw him move steadily through the field of 300 to finish 80th.

The team then headed off to the biggest Inter-School race of the year, the King Henry Relays in Coventry. A strong run from team captain Tom Osborne on the penultimate leg helped us to close in 32nd place, in a field of 50 entries. This bodes well for the future as five of our six runners were Intermediates and at the finish they were sandwiched between the Senior teams from Uppingham and St Edward's in 31st and 33rd place respectively.

The Wellington relays brought together some of the best teams from the south

of England. Ed Robinson and Josiah Hartley Matthew both put in strong runs to help the team finish behind Southend and Abingdon but ahead of 14 other teams, including the likes of Harrow, Winchester, Wellington and St Edward's.

A new arrangement for the Bucks Schools event saw 700 runners from across the county descend upon Stowe for the first ever Wednesday afternoon championship race. Louis Hitchcock and Harry Dixon Smith ran well for the Third Form, as did David White in the Seniors, but as ever it was our Intermediates who performed best. Caspar Dickinson in 7th and brother Josh in 12th both made the top 12 to qualify for the County Schools squad. With only eight from the 12 allowed to run in the English Schools Championships, Caspar was our sole representative. Starting near the back of the pen in the joint Fourth and Fifth Form race, Caspar steadily moved through the field of more than 350 runners to finish in 208th place and first home for the Buckinghamshire team in his age group.

The Tortoise relays in Oxford always provide some top quality racing around Christ Church Meadow and this year was no exception, with three of the top five schools in England all turning out in a race containing 15 teams. My thanks to all those involved both in this event and the year as a whole, and I look forward to further achievements next year.

Mr Tony McDavid





Sailing

Many Stoics have sailed this summer, with large numbers on Tuesdays. We have often used the Toppers on Stowe's Eleven Acre Lake, as well as the fleet of 420s at Great Moor. It is encouraging to see many making progress in helming and racing.

The Sailing team has been ably led by Euan Welsh, supported by Freddie Vere Nicoll, the only members left from last year. At the Midlands British Schools Dinghy Racing Association Regatta, the Stowe team sailed competently among the 19 teams present, but only half the planned races were completed before the wind died. In a home match, Bloxham squeezed ahead of Stowe by a single point in the final race; Euan Welsh, the Stowe captain, came first in two of the three races. At the BSDRA Eastern Regatta at Rutland Water, the Stowe team sailed confidently among the ten participating schools.

Thanks again to Mr Critchley and Mr Jones for their invaluable help in taking sessions and providing the rescue boat cover.

Team from: Euan Welsh (captain), Freddie Vere Nicoll, Paul Heerema, Cordelia Evans, Charlie Barnes, Lucy Jackson, Ed Robinson, James Bevington, Felix Grant-Rennick, Rupert Leyland, Rose McKie, Florence Bagwell.

Sailing Housematches (nine teams competing): 1st Chatham, 2nd Chandos, 3rd Grenville, 4th Temple, 5th Nugent.

Helmsman's Tankard and Colours: Freddie Vere Nicoll.

Mr Michael Bevington

Rowing

In terms of achievement, this was by far the best year we have ever had, with our J16s being the main focus of our efforts.

Pierre Scrase was part of a Northampton School for Boys/ Stowe Composite Quad, which raced at Oxford, Cambridge, Eton and Nottingham during the course of the year. Notable achievements were to take 1st place at Cambridge Junior Sculling Head, and 1st place at the Ball Cup in the J16 2X. The crew also took part in the National Schools Championships at Nottingham in May, only to miss the final cut in the qualifiers by one second.

James Rudkin has been the star of the squad this year with ever-improving results in the J16 Single Sculls. James was invited to participate along with the 'Giants' programme at Leander Club at Henley, and has spent many weekends and days during his holidays training with this squad. During the season James took 1st at Evesham Junior Head, 1st at Cambridge in the J16 1X, represented the 'Eastern Region' as the Junior 16 Single Sculler and came 3rd in the National Regional Finals at Nottingham. This was all followed by James taking part in the J18 Single Sculls

at the highly competitive Wallingford Regatta. Not only did James make the final, but he came a creditable 5th overall. James then went on to come second in the J16 1X Final at the National Schools Regatta at Nottingham. This is a magnificent result, and the first time a pupil from Stowe has won a medal at a National Schools event.

Other notable achievements during the year were the Juniors. Racing at Cambridge, the J14 Coxed Quad of Marston, Brogden, Jones and Scrase managed 3rd place, with Scrase and Desmond coming 4th in the J14 Double Scull. Max Marston took 1st place in the J14 1X at the Ball Cup. Max also took part in the Regional Championships in a Composite Double Scull with King's Canterbury, achieving 7th place overall. In the Women's J18 Double Sculls, Lucy O'Brien and Philippa Douglas managed 4th. Theo Vicat and Riley Curtis took 2nd place at Cambridge Junior Head.

A special thanks to Jonathan Peverley, Magnus Bashaarat and Dr Chare for their support this year, not to mention Andrew Rudkin, whose help was invaluable. Hopefully, with an injection of new staff next year, we will be able to move onwards and upwards.

Mr Michael Righton



Golf

The opportunity to master the skills of this noble game is afforded to all Stoics during their careers here. Whether it be the striking of a crisp 7 iron, or the execution of a deliberate power fade, every pupil has the chance to use the School course and also to sign up for regular golf tuition. Girls have joined the daily throng on the 6th tee in a way not witnessed before, and one or two of them have been close to selection for the School team. Ben Robinson – a single-figure handicap Third Former – has caught the eye this year; he has played No. 1 for the School throughout the season and, in over eight matches, he has only been beaten once. Josh

Sainsbury-Bow (captain) led a team of five to the Micklem at Woking, where Stowe has such an impressive record, and it was good to see Jack Palmer and Will Berner (next year's captain) showing such promise for the future. Our traditional opponents have generally been stronger than us this year but prospects ahead are good. Fixtures this season have again taken us to many splendid golf courses: these include Frilford Heath (for Radley & Cheltenham College), Little Aston (for Shrewsbury), Woburn (for Bedford), Northants County Course (for Uppingham) and Broadway (for Monmouth & Bromsgrove). Golf team players are amongst the most fortunate members of the School: non-golfing Stoic readers of this article do not know what they are missing!

Mr Richard Knight



Members of the Clay Pigeon Shooting team

Clay Pigeon Shooting

Captain: Alex Robertson (U6th, Walpole)

Shooting is now a very well-attended activity at Stowe. From 23 shooters only four years ago, we now boast just over 50 regulars.

The Shooting Team this year has been very much in a state of transition. At the end of last summer, we lost half a dozen of our leading shooters, which left the cupboard bare. This has meant that a very young team has had to take centre stage (possibly before time) and bravely compete against older, more experienced guns from other schools.

Our strength at present lies very much in the Third and Fourth Forms, which means we have real potential for the future. William Hawke, Alex Levett-Scrivener and Henry Plant (all Fourth Form) have shot very well against boys two or three years older than themselves.

In the Warwick Challenge (13th March), we came 11th out of 16 schools. At the Nationals, held in High Wycombe (1st May), the A team again came 11th out of 16 schools, but it was the B team that caught the eye here – they did remarkably well to finish third in their own competition.

Shooters who have represented the School this year, with top guns first:

William Hawke (4th Form), Alex Levett-Scrivener (4th Form), Henry Plant (4th Form), Theo Vorotyntsev (4th Form), David Gourlay (L6th), Adam Minney (L6th), Tom ter Haar (4th Form), Freddie Rowan-Hamilton (5th Form), Alex Robertson (L6th), Johnnie Huddart (4th Form), Sam Anderson (L6th), Oliver Mould (3rd Form), Jamie Lemos (4th Form), Fred Vere Nicoll (L6th), Hector Macpherson (L6th) and – for the girls – Harriet Lewis (U6th), Georgia Gaydon (U6th) and Cordelia Evans (U6th).

Finally, it is with great sadness that we say goodbye to our lead instructor, Mr Chris Lockwood, who is leaving us this summer after nearly 20 years at Stowe. We wish him the very best for the future.

Mr Peter Staples

Polo

This year we have tried to build on the successes of the past season, and the players can be justifiably proud – all teams have shown a vast improvement throughout the year.

In the Intermediate National Arena Tournament, Stowe entered two teams and finished a well-earned third and fifth respectively. We also entered a girls' team for the first time, who finished a very impressive third in their first ever tournament. In the Senior Tournament, the A team achieved second place (losing narrowly to Rugby in the final).

At the start of this year's summer season, Stowe had a reputation to live up to, and we didn't want to disappoint. Our first

matches were forced into the arena due to poor weather conditions, but resulted in wins against Rugby for both the A and B teams. Our second match was against Eton, at Guards Polo Club, and this was always going to be one of our toughest games. Eton fielded a strong team and took an early lead which proved impossible to overcome, despite some great play in the third chukka. In our final match we played against Uppingham and, despite the two teams being evenly matched on handicap, Stowe finished as the victors, 10 goals to nil.

For the rest of the season, we look forward to fixtures against Radley, Bloxham, Wellington and Harrow, as well as the Senior and Intermediate summer tournaments.

I hope that a rematch against Eton will also give us the opportunity to regain our honour....My congratulations and heartfelt thanks to all those who made this such an enjoyable and successful season so far.

Mr Matthew Pitteway

Equestrian

Quite a number of Stoics chose riding lessons as an activity this year, and we were able to take three groups to local stables twice a week. It was great to take so many enthusiastic Stoics each week, and good to see them all make excellent progress.

The Equestrian team has also been in action, although this year our cross-country season suffered due to the bad weather, and several competitions had to be postponed. When we did compete, a number of Stoics had notable successes. Daisy Leyland won the trophy for

highest placed Stoic at the Stowe Beagles Hunter Trials, and the Stowe team comprising Julia Bevan, Lauren Bell, Morgan Smith and Alexa Beaty came second at the Inter-Schools Cross-Country competition at Huntingdon. Rebecca White was also first (individual) at the Gawcott Inter-Schools Cross-Country event.

Many thanks to all Stoics and their parents for the time and effort which they put into all the competitions and training.

Mrs Elena Hughes



Badminton

Michaelmas 2009 was the most successful term for the Girls' Badminton team for a long time; all team members played with strength and commitment in every match, which resulted in them finishing the season as undefeated champions – an unprecedented performance here at Stowe.

My thanks go not just to the whole team but to Nichola Wagg in particular, for undertaking her role as captain with such dedication. I wish you all every success in Autumn 2010.

The boys found winning a more difficult task this season, although they had some very close matches. Over the term, they learnt that playing as a team needs real focus and consistency, both in practice and preparation. As captain this year, Charles Giafferi has had to manage a mixture of ages, with many younger players becoming involved. Together the whole team has worked to develop their tactical play, but suffered from a lack of experience; as a result, victory remained elusive. However, the last match against Bloxham presented an excellent way to conclude the season – a resounding win for both boys' teams. Congratulations to all the boys and we look forward to greater representation from the junior players, along with the Sixth Formers, in next year's boys' team.

Colours were awarded to Nichola Wagg and Charles Giafferi as the 2009 captains, as well as to Josh Sainsbury-Bow, who has been a dedicated and supportive player for the last two seasons.

The captains for 2010 are James MacDonald and Masha Konovalova, both of whom have shown enormous dedication and talent throughout the season.

Sincere thanks also goes to Mrs Browne, Mr Dobson and Mr Webster for their tireless commitment and ability to remain 'good-humoured' throughout the term.

Mrs Kim McMahon

Squash

This term has been a highly successful squash season for Stowe. For the first time in a number of years, the School has been in a position to field three separate squash teams – two at Senior level and a newly-created Third Form team.

The combined results of the Stowe Senior Squash sides totalled five wins and three losses. Stowe's players demonstrated dedication and skill throughout the season. Josh Sainsbury-Bow captained the team for a second successive year, with Hugh Stanley, James Saunders, Daniel Robinson and Francis Rowlands completing the Senior 1st V. Highlights of the season included convincing home wins against Oundle and Bedford 1st teams. Stowe's squash nemesis remains in the form of Rugby – a difficult match away from home gave the team a real challenge, providing a target for next season.

The Senior 2nd V played two matches, delivering heavy defeats to both

Berkhamsted and Bloxham 1st teams. This team consisted of Hamish Edwards, Madhav Dhir, James MacDonald, Jack Chaplin (a real accomplishment for a Fourth Form pupil) and Charles Giafferi.

The Third Form squad was captained by Sam Whitbread, who led the team to a thrilling 3-2 victory over Oundle in their first ever match at secondary school level. The squad consisted of Sam Whitbread, Henry Wheeler, Will de Boinville, Harry Rees, Jamie Milne, Ben Robinson, Tom Forde and Max Robinson. Congratulations to all who represented the School this season.

Mr Roland Johnson



Swimming

Senior Boys: Won 8; Lost 1; **Senior Girls:** Won 5; Lost 3; **Intermediate Boys:** Won 6; Lost 3; **Junior Boys:** Won 3; Lost 0; **Junior Girls:** Won 1; Lost 2

We returned in January to 'Snow at Stowe', which gave us a great opportunity to get straight into the House swimming. This was going to be a three-horse race at Senior boys' level. Sam Strutt was able to win both freestyle events and the backstroke to get the ball rolling. James Blackham, Senior Boys' captain, was able to take the butterfly, breaststroke and individual medley, giving him enough points to lift the Senior Boys' Cup. Will Jackson, U16 captain, was outstanding in setting new records in backstroke, and powered to victory to win the Intermediate category. Ellie Pinnock, Inter-Girls' captain, replicated Will's achievement and blew the field away, showing that she was in a different class to anyone else. The Junior Boys' captain, Francis Smiley, was technically brilliant in every discipline, winning everything to take the Junior title. Lucy Horan, a very good breaststroke swimmer and all-rounder, literally left everyone in her wake.

Overall Grafton House was the dominant force in the water when it came down to the relays, and were able to take both Senior and Junior titles. Only Will Jackson's Bruce House could scupper an Intermediate title. Grafton were able to lift the overall House cup once again, and a haul of 23 cups delighted their Housemaster Chris Townsend. Lyttelton ran away with the Senior House Cup, and Stanhope took the Intermediate and Junior awards.

County Championships

Competition continued for the swimmers at the County Championships, held at Amersham Baths. Gold came to our rocket-boy Sam Strutt in the 50m freestyle, which laid down the gauntlet for everyone else in the team. Silver went to Francis Smiley in the 50m butterfly, but only by a whisker. James Blackham's senior butterfly and Will Jackson's backstroke received bronze awards for their efforts. Senior boys then won the freestyle relay, setting a new record for this event.

During the Summer term 16 schools turned up for the Stowe Relays. Senior boys David White, Harry Hawkes, James Blackham and Sam Strutt fought hard, and won the Merritt Cup in a photo finish with Bedford, Cheltenham and Bromsgrove Schools. The boys won the title by the narrowest of margins. They went on to

win 3rd place in the Medley, which is still a good achievement. Senior girls gained 3rd place in the freestyle relay, to the great delight of Coach Cowie. The Junior boys did exactly the same.

The School performed well in the Bath and Otter Cup this year back at Crystal Palace. The boys broke the record in the medley relay with a young team (Will Jackson, James Blackham, Francis Smiley and Sam Strutt).

The Bromsgrove relays and the Dean House relays saw the Stowe girls coming into form. A good unit containing Ellie Parker, Katie Peters, Francesca Hutt, Ellie Pinnock and Katie Wellington produced good bronze medals in these meets, and I'm sure that next year they will be able to capture silver or gold. The Senior boys' team lost one match – they were just pipped by one point against Bedford School in the four-way competition against Abingdon, Bedford and Marlborough. This was a good performance, considering all the boys will be back next year and will be fitter, stronger and more technically adept. All that remains is to thank parents, staff and pupils for their continuing support and the ever-helpful Matrons, who have kindly acted as officials. Well done to my captains this year.

Mr Stewart Cowie

Records Broken This Season

Junior Boys 50m Freestyle: Francis Smiley

Junior Boys 50m Breaststroke: Guy Riches

Junior Boys 50m Butterfly: Francis Smiley

Junior Boys 100 I.M.: Francis Smiley

Inter Boys 50m Backstroke: Will Jackson

Inter Boys 100m Backstroke: Will Jackson

Inter Girls 50m Backstroke: Ellie Pinnock

Inter Girls 100 I.M.: Ellie Pinnock

Senior Boys 200m Freestyle: Anders Palmer



Water Polo

Senior Team: Won 8; Lost 0; Junior Team: Won 4; Lost 0

Senior Team

After the success of last season the team were determined and prepared to do battle once again. Simon Plunket took charge and was prepared to run a tight ship of Senior water polo players. Their fitness, skill and spacial awareness proved advantageous in all their matches this season, making them the most successful water polo team to date. We were able to train a lot harder with this talented team, who produced good attacking play. We won our eight matches comfortably, with some really high scores (particularly against Oundle, whom we beat 14-2).

There were two highlights of the season at Senior level. The first was beating our old nemesis Warwick School for the first time ever, and the second was reaching the final of the English Schools Water Polo tournament, in the first year of taking part. Goals, goals and more goals came from the likes of our wingers Sam Strutt and Harry Hawkes. Sam (the Kraken) scored 50 goals away in a single season, surpassing

Jonathan Wales' record by over 16 goals. Strength at the centre-back position was also key this year; this came in the form of Will Richardson who was able to stop everything that tried to pass him, earning him the nickname 'The Brick Wall'. Tom Newman, our other centre-back, was slightly more agile and was able to counter- attack as well as defend. There was a place to fill in the goalie position so James Blackham stepped in; this proved to be a perfect choice as his quick reactions and reflexes allowed him to deflect anything which came his way.

The first Old Stoic match took place on Speech Day, and saw teams contest for the Shepherd-Barron Shield, kindly donated by the Shepherd-Barron family. The School were able to win 9-2 over the Old Stoics. The Old Stoics fought hard in the first quarter and Sam Morris, swimming captain 2008, scored two goals.

Many thanks to parents and the School for great support this season.

Junior Team

The Junior team was led by Edward Pettifer at the centre-forward position; he was able to make good, strong, nimble moves, which could cut the defence of any opposition. He worked with a dynamic duo of Ollie Plunket and James Drax on the wing. When the wings got tired there was always 'Rambo' (aka Ollie Constantine), with a shot on him that would clock 80 miles an hour. Special mention should also go to Barney Curran, who was outstanding in goal. In the English Schools Championships the Junior team went through to the semi-finals, which was a great achievement. Well done to all the players, and good luck for next season.

Mr Stewart Cowie

Welcome to Stoke Park



5 Star Hotel and Two AA Rosette Restaurant
49 luxury bedrooms and suites
27 Hole 1908 Championship Golf Course
8 Meeting and Private Entertaining Rooms
State-of-the-art Spa and Gymnasium
Superb Tennis Courts inc. Grass and Indoor
Only 35 minutes from Central London and 7 miles from Heathrow

Memberships - Conferences - Golf Days - Spa Days - Weddings



Please contact 01753 717171 or email info@stokepark.com
Stoke Park . Park Road . Stoke Poges . Bucks SL2 4PG
www.stokepark.com

Owned and managed by Old Stoics!



Governing Body

Christopher Honeyman Brown (OS)
John Arkwright (OS)
Nicholas Berry
Jonathan Bewes (OS)
Admiral Sir James Burnell Nugent (OS)
David Cheyne (OS)
Juliet Colman
Simon Creedy Smith (OS)
The Rev'd Jonathan Fletcher
Ivo Forde (OS)
Prof Sarah Gurr
Joanne Hastie-Smith
Robert Lankester
George Magan
Christopher Tate (OS)
Air Vice-Marshal Marten van der Veen
Mrs Susan van der Veen
Sir Edmund Verney
Christopher Wightman (OS)
Headmaster: Dr Anthony Wallersteiner



Stowe School
Stowe
Buckingham
MK18 5EH
United Kingdom
Telephone: +44 (0) 1280 818000
e-mail: enquiries@stowe.co.uk
www stowe.co.uk

Registered Charity No. 310639