

THE Column

NO.1 AUTUMN 2005

Welcome to
The Column



Stowe's Inaugural Arts Festival

Held from Friday 14th to Tuesday 18th October, our first Arts Festival provided a rich and varied programme for Stoics, with a mix of presentations, masterclasses and workshops to provide something for everyone – all just before our half-term break.

The response has been tremendous, the Festival has proved to be exhilarating and instructive, involving many Stoics. See page 3 for just a small flavour of what we all experienced and enjoyed.



Rowing at Stowe

Over the past year Rowing has developed well at Stowe and is generating plenty of enthusiasm within a small group of Stoics.

Mr Righton has joined the School, primarily as a biology teacher but is also a qualified rowing coach, and he has been able to give the right direction to the sport in terms of skills and technique.

After receiving parental permission all pupils receive basic water safety

training and advice that involves being able to capsize a boat and then to be able to return with it to a place of safety. Rowing skills and techniques are honed in the School weights room and the practical skills are learnt in specialised facilities in Milton Keynes where we are able to row three times a week at present.

It is hoped that it will be possible to include both boys and girls in a regatta for novice crews before the end of this year.

I am delighted to introduce our re-launched newsletter, The Column, which replaces The Bulletin. I hope you like the new look and design of this newsletter. Our editorial team (John Bridgwood, Jane Collins and Colin Dudgeon) are responsible for breathing new life into this publication which will reflect many of the exciting activities and developments which are happening at Stowe. There will be contributions from academic departments, sports, drama, music and other areas of the Stowe community will be represented in future issues.

It has been a stimulating and challenging start to the new academic year. Full co-education began with the arrival of twenty-three girls into the Lower School in the Third and Fourth Forms. Lyttelton underwent major refurbishment during the summer break to prepare the House to be the home of the new girls. It was an extremely tight schedule and the girls put up valiantly with the finishing touches being completed during their first few weeks. We are delighted with how well the girls have settled in and are integrating with the rest of the School. In this issue of The Column we introduce Jayne Duckett, who joins us from Millfield as Head of Girls' Games, and she outlines her plans to match the success of the boys at games – now there is a challenge as the boys have set a very high standard at the start of this term.

Our academic results are improving and we have had an excellent set of first TWO reports for the Stoics showing that the new academic measures are now beginning to show results.

There is a sense of optimism and excitement at Stowe, which we will try to share with you in this and future issues of The Column. I hope you enjoy this first issue – and the challenges of our very own Stowe-doku!

With best wishes

Anthony Wallersteiner

ANTHONY WALLERSTEINER
HEADMASTER

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Academic Progress

With the start of a new academic year the Headmaster, Board of Governors and Academic Staff have turned their attention to academic performance at Stowe. Stowe's commitment to a broad education of academic, social, sporting and creative life remains unchanged but the School can do better academically. As a first step, an early Junior School prep has been introduced, supervised in silent classrooms, to allow the Third and Fourth Formers to work better before supper, and a shortened prep time after supper to an hour so that they can relax and socialise longer before bed. The Senior School, with public exams to face, is expected to work more effectively and to meet target grades set by their teachers. The target grades are discussed and agreed between Stoics and their Tutors, enabling Stoics to have a clear understanding of their performance expectations. Parents will be kept informed of their children's efforts and attainments through TWOs and reports.

Academic Staff's constructive comments on their work will help Stoics improve, and good efforts in and out of class will be acknowledged. We look forward to building on our already improving grades with these new measures designed to ensure Stoics and Staff really achieve their best together.

Already this year we are pleased with the improvement in our GCSE results that our boys have achieved, passing 98% of them, 38.3% at A or A*. Fifteen Stoics, including two local boys, achieved 8 or more A grades each. We also saw an improvement in our A Level results with a 2% rise in AB grades. Twelve candidates managed the top score of 3 A grades or better, including two who needed those grades for Oxford and Cambridge Universities, and three local day pupils. Our local pupils did particularly well this year, achieving a 67% A/B rate at A level. Headmaster Dr Anthony Wallersteiner is delighted with the improvements: *"We have been implementing initiatives to encourage our pupils to work both harder and smarter, and it is tremendous to see such a marked effect already. This year's candidates have done extraordinarily well: we're very pleased with them and happy for them."*

First year as an official ECDL Test Centre:



Left – right: Aydar Sarsembayev, Miles Crosby and James Minchin-Mitchell

The European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) is really taking off as a popular qualification at Stowe in its first year as an accredited test centre. ECDL is now available in over 137 countries and was introduced by the British Computer Society (BCS) six years ago. At Stowe we believe that all pupils should have the opportunity to gain a recognised qualification in ICT. While at Stowe it enhances their studies and assists full exploitation of the intranet facilities provided throughout the School – when working on their own and in the classroom. Computer literacy is a fundamental requirement for university

and in today's workplace, let alone tomorrow's. The course is delivered through a mix of teacher led instruction with online training and testing available – even when the pupils are away from School.

The full Licence is only gained after passing 7 modules, with a mark average of 75%. The modules are: Basic Concepts of IT; Using a Computer and Managing Files; Word Processing; Spreadsheets; Databases; Presentations; Information and Communication.

As three of the recent 'graduates' testify, this programme continues to be popular amongst Stoics and staff. We now have ten successful students who have achieved complete ECDL passes: 8 passes by Stoics and 2 by academic staff. We can also report the following results:

BCS Unit 1 Certificates (3 modules): 82 certificates achieved.

BCS Unit 2 Certificates (ECDL + extra synoptic module): 5 certificates achieved.

We have recently undergone our yearly audit from the BCS and achieved an 'A' as

a test centre – a fine achievement as this is very unusual for a test centre in its first year.

But it doesn't stop there, BCS will be launching a new training and certification programme for keyboard skills called 'e-type' in January 2006. They see touch-typing as an essential skill that complements 'ECDL'.

At Stowe we are piloting this qualification with one Fourth Form set. As expressed by the BCS: *"Each desktop computer has the power of a Formula 1 racing car, but is often driven at the speed of a milk float. Would you give someone the keys to a new car but only show them how to use the first two gears? Of course not. Those who type with just two fingers generally achieve 20 words per minute with variable accuracy. However, by learning to touch-type you should be able to double your speed whilst considerably improving accuracy. There is no doubt about it, touch-typing is cool and will put you firmly in the computer fast-lane!"*

Introducing Stowe's Head Girl and Head Boy for 2005/2006:



Emma Lovett, Head Girl, Nugent House

I started at Stowe in September 2004, from Aiglon College in Switzerland. I have led a rather nomadic life, having been born in Dubai, and subsequently lived in Hong Kong, Singapore, UK and then Switzerland. Although such frequent moves can be somewhat disruptive, this 'disadvantage' is more than outweighed by the many cultures and countries that I have experienced, and the many friends I have made in distant places. Having attended more than the average number of schools, both as a day and boarding student, I can honestly say that Stowe provides a wonderful experience, achieving an ideal balance between the academic, extra-curricular and social aspects of school life in such a beautiful location.

One particular passion for me is sport and I play in the first Lacrosse and Tennis teams. I also enjoy helping Nugent play my former sports such as Football and Basketball in inter-house competitions. Another passion is singing and I have contributed to all the School concerts and plays in some way.

I see my primary role as Head Girl at Stowe as providing an important communications link between staff and Stoics, to act as a mentor and role model to the younger pupils, some of whom maybe experiencing boarding school for the first time, and to act as an ambassador

for the School. The latter is particularly important in the local community; we take our local responsibilities very seriously and have an active Community Service programme.

My immediate goals, apart from achieving excellent A level results in Drama and Theatre Studies, French and Sports Science, are to complete a gap year, one part of which I hope will be at an Aids clinic in Africa and the other part to gain work experience in smaller projects in between; then on to University. All of this seems aeons away at the moment and it seems impossible that I only have 7 months left of school life. I know my enthusiasm for life at Stowe will ensure that they are very full and productive.

Hugh Viney, Head Boy, Grenville House

I am currently studying French, Latin and Greek for my A2 levels and wish to continue Classics at a competitive University as it is a subject of great interest and enjoyment to me, and offers many opportunities after further education.

Drama is also a passion of mine and I have recently landed one of the lead roles, ('Marius') in the upcoming Senior Congreve production of 'Les Miserables'. I sing in the School Choir and play guitar in the 'Award Winning' band 'Pigs Will Fly'.

I recently toured South Africa with the

rugby team and I am currently a member of the 1st XV, though my place may not be secure. Last year six of my friends and I organised a charity weekend in order to raise money for Muscular Dystrophy. Our final total exceeded £40,000, possibly a School record.

As Head Boy I hope to be a role model to Stoics and will try to use the influence that I have in this position to encourage pupils to take full advantage of the opportunities that Stowe gives you. I will try my hardest to push Stoics to stretch themselves a little bit further, put in that little bit of extra effort. I will aim to inspire Stoics to achieve their full potential and not succumb to mediocrity.

Stowe is very much moving forward. There has been the introduction of full co-education, better public examination results, and more successful sport teams. The academic focus is shifting considerably. I want to be a part of encouraging these improvements in the School and hopefully I can achieve that in my new position. My appointment as Head Boy means a great deal to me. It is the School that has influenced my opinions and ambitions, and I now have the opportunity to influence the School as best I can. Of all the opportunities Stowe has given me over the last four years this is the best received and I am determined to use it well.

Stowe's Inaugural Arts Festival

We organised a wide programme of activities for Stoics placing an emphasis on participation, enrichment of the existing arts culture and developing the talent within the School. There was something for everyone, with an inspired drama production of Macbeth by our Third and Fourth Forms through to modern dance, art lectures, exhibitions and masterclasses from some of the country's most highly acclaimed professional musicians. Sunday's focus was the impressive Art Exhibition and a magnificent Orchestral Concert given by Stowe's Orchestra and Choir.

In addition to the workshops we held a number of events for the whole School's entertainment with performances by The Comedy Store Players, the Beatalls (tribute band), the Blue Chicken Theatre Company and our own inter-school Battle of the Bands. A truly inspirational and motivating Festival which we hope to build upon to make this an annual event.



Art

The Art Exhibition and Reception provided a marvellous opportunity to display the artwork of Upper School Stoics in the newly restored Marble Saloon.

The quality of the exhibition underlined the excellent examination results that the Art School has achieved at both AS and A2 Level. Graham Crowley, Professor of Painting at the Royal College of Art, was thoroughly impressed commenting that the work suggested a general maturity and sophisticated awareness that is normally to be found in students work at Foundation and Under-Graduate Level. It was also particularly gratifying that each Stoic's work reflected their individual interests, as well as the development of their creative intentions and decision making. This strongly reflects the Art School's philosophy of Art Education which aims to equip students with a strong basis of visual literacy, enabling them to access a broad range of creative visual disciplines from Drawing and Painting to Architecture, Sculpture, Design, Film etc with an awareness of issues relevant to both historical and contemporary practice.

Graham Crowley's Art Lecture later in the Festival allowed Stoics to see how his work has developed over the last 35 years and to appreciate a contextual understanding of the issues faced by painters during this time. Graham was hugely generous in his time for individual Stoics after the lecture. It was heart warming to see our Stoics engrossed in conversation with him.

David Williams, Artist in Residence at Stowe, contributed with an exciting print workshop responding to the environment at Stowe. This was very successful and introduced some students to the medium who do not normally take Art within the curriculum.

Drama

We were pleased to take part in the 3rd National Schools' Shakespeare Festival which involved adapting and presenting on stage a 30 minute version of one of the BBC animated tales scripts. We chose Macbeth and felt it was a great opportunity for some of the newer members of the School to be involved in a drama production. A cast of eighteen Third and Fourth Formers presented their work in Aylesbury on Thursday 13th October, and then again here at Stowe to two packed and appreciative audiences on Friday and Saturday. The production was a stylized interpretation concentrating on the way the

witches in the play dictate and manipulate the action. It also incorporated live music supplied by half of Stowe's band: Rising Angels. The reaction to the Macbeth production from all who have seen it has been extremely positive and all the young people involved should be very proud of their achievements.

Music

For the Music Department the Festival was an opportunity to show off the enormous amount of musical talent there is in the School. The Gala Orchestral Concert on Sunday, given by the Stowe Orchestra joined by the Chapel Choir, put pressure on those involved coming so early in the new term, but the Concert was a huge success and the performances would have been acceptable in a professional concert hall. The concert included Saint-Saens Second Piano Concerto with a Lower Sixth Stoic, Craig Greene, giving an outstanding performance entirely from memory. Orchestra and Choir joined for a thrilling performance of Handel's "Zadok the Priest".

The instrumental masterclasses succeeded in giving us some very accomplished performances by our senior musicians, and we had the opportunity to eavesdrop on how these performances could be improved. Those taking the masterclasses were amongst the very best musicians in the country: Woodwind – Dame Thea King (internationally famous clarinettist); Piano – Michael Dussek (Head of Chamber Music and accompaniment at the Royal Academy of Music); Brass – Paul Archibold (Trumpet Professor at the Royal Academy and Royal College of Music) and Strings – Howard Davis (Senior Professor of Violin at the Royal Academy of Music). Stoics gained much from their expertise and were an inspiration to those who attended as observers.

Our first inter-school Battle of the Bands with competitors from Oundle, Wellington and Harrow gave Stowe's comparatively young Rising Angels a real challenge but they performed most impressively, showing real promise for the future, in an event which was eventually won by Oundle's 10-piece band. A special performance was given by recent Old Stoics, The Wake, who are currently playing the clubs in Oxford and London, arousing serious interest from record producers.

Altogether the Arts Festival proved to be an exhilarating, instructive and enjoyable few days which brought out the best in our musicians.



The Junior Debates

This year's Lower School debating is now well under way with the preliminary round and quarter-finals now complete.

Three Lyttelton girls (Veronica Drysdale, Bobbie Staden and Natalie McDaid) challenged Messrs Mattar, Ayoub and Anson of Cobham in the preliminary round. The girls enthusiastically and successfully proposed the motion that the House endorsed Capital Punishment. Cobham banked on their powers of quick thinking and rebuttal, but the researched content of their speeches lacked the cogency of the Lyttelton trio. Dr. Masters, judging, reported that strong feelings were aroused and a good number of the Floor made contributions.

Then came all four quarter-finals, which ran simultaneously, on Tuesday 4th October: Lyttelton's campaign brought the girls head-to-head with Walpole, the girls once again drawing the lot of proposing the motion – this time, that the House supported the unsolicited photography of celebrities. In the closest contest judge Miss Ford ruled that Walpole stole the Lyttelton impetus, heading the scorebook by the scantest of margins, 23-22. Miss Ford praised both

teams for their clear well-delivered speeches, but in the end it was Alex Wilshaw and Max Daley of Walpole who edged their House home with the quality of their respective First Opposition speech and Summary speech.

Meanwhile Chandos and Grenville were right next door in the Marble Saloon with the Chandos team maintaining that Animal Experimentation was the way forward. This was the contest in which two of the Junior Debating Committee were to lock horns – Robbie Lucie-Smith setting out the Chandos position only to find his and Richard Gordon-Colebrook's strategy on the receiving end of a calculated and devastating broadside from the Grenvillian Miles Crosby. The shadow of this particular speaker will surely hang ominously over many Stowe debates to come. Charlie Toler, a Grenville Third Former, also deserves a mention for his clear, impassioned and undaunted Summary Speech, even if it ran onto the rocks prematurely this time. The result: Grenville won convincingly.

In the Temple Room, Temple (fittingly) had been given the task of supporting Sunday opening. Mr Hirst and Mrs Smith,

adjudicating, praised the clarity and oratorical effort of all the speakers, Tom Haynes as Second Proposer stood out with the thunder of his rhetoric and the barrage of his facts. Nevertheless, it was to be Bruce who held the day, winning mostly by virtue of speaking longer than the short-lasting, flare-like Temple team.

In the fourth of the evening's debates, in the Blue Room, Grafton proposed the motion that the house supported a total ban on smoking in public, Chatham the contesters. Dr Miller, adjudicating, was impressed with the research and planning that had gone into the speeches, although commenting that a more polished delivery would have enhanced their effect even more. In particular Dr Miller praised Abel Smith of Chatham for his spontaneous challenging of the Grafton position, and it was largely Abel Smith who won the day for the Opposers.

So it is that we will now witness Walpole, Grenville, Chatham and Bruce do battle on the night of the semi-finals, Thursday 10th November. Our commiserations to James Minchin-Mitchell, founder member of the Junior Debating Society, who fell victim to Chatham.

Stowe at Home: In the kitchen



In this series we will introduce staff at Stowe who work mostly 'behind the scenes' in the School's daily life, providing a service which we all rely on, and give a little more insight into the activities and the people involved.

Introducing: Geoff Higgins, Catering Manager

How long have you worked at Stowe?

17 years now – I started the same day as Jeremy Nichols, the previous Headmaster.

Where did you work before?

At Gyosei International School, a Japanese school in Milton Keynes, for 4 years managing their contract for catering, laundry and cleaning – all domestic services. An entirely different business culture, and yes – I did take Japanese lessons!

What started your interest in the catering industry?

I did a hotel management course at college, started out as a chef, then moved into management. I left Yorkshire at 19 years old, set off for the distant land of London to work for the BBC for 10 years. Then I decided it was time to move out of the city and came to this area.

What's the range of events you cater for at Stowe?

All School meals, packed lunches, match teas, House dances (sometimes themed), 'At Home' gatherings, Governors' dinners – the whole gamut. Then there are Campaign and Old Stoic events, and for the Commercial Office, their weddings and other receptions – almost anything, I hate saying no! But whatever we do we have to do it properly – that to me is absolutely essential.

How many covers do you serve per day?

Across all meals, around 2,000 per day, but it varies according to the calendar – we may do 200-300 match teas on top of that figure. Our service has grown enormously in the last 10 years.

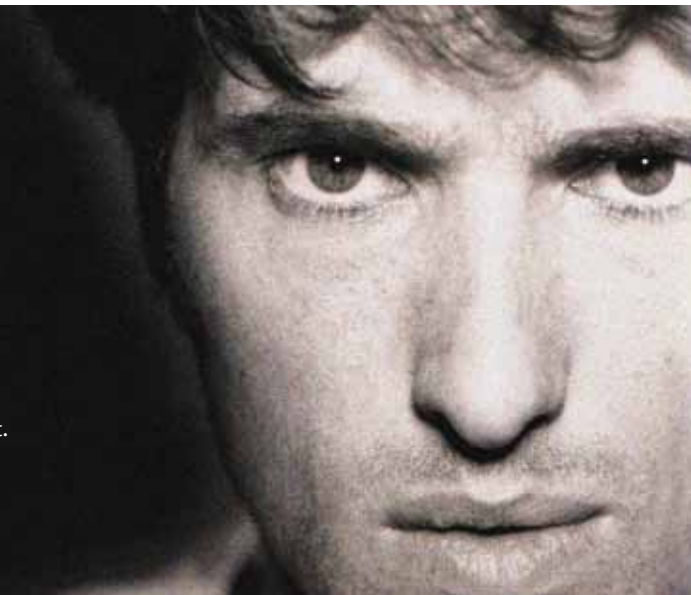
How do you select the menus for Stowe and what do you look for?

I do keep an eye on current trends. Key for me is nutritional content, balance, colour, seasonal variation and cost. What we provide must be manageable on the scale we work with – for staff and the equipment available. Nothing is put on the School menus until I've tried it at home. I love

Literary Society

This year's first event in the Stowe School Literary Society calendar took place on 29th September, when a party of nearly 50 Sixth Formers and staff travelled to the Oxford Playhouse to see the English Touring Theatre's production of Hamlet. This was no ordinary Stowe School theatre trip, however, as the actor receiving such wide acclaim in the press for his performance in the title role was a former Stoic himself, Ed Stoppard.

The response of the Stoics to the performance was universally enthusiastic, even among those in the Lower 6th who were less familiar with the play than the final-year students for whom Hamlet is an A2 English Literature set text. Not surprisingly, the return to Stowe was slightly delayed to allow Stephen Hirst, Ed's former English teacher, and Lionel and Maggie Weston, who had Ed as one of their charges in the days when they ran Walpole House, to go back-stage to say "Good night, sweet prince" to Stowe's favourite Hamlet.



History Department Trip to the Battlefields of the Great War

The History Department is organising a trip for thirty Third Form Stoics to visit the battlefields of the Great War on 19th-21st March 2006, details of which have already appeared on the Stowe website. This supports our study of World War One within the Third Form History curriculum. Particular insight and knowledge will be provided by our guide Col (ret'd) Graeme MacDonald.

We will be inviting Stoics to do some research into their own families and if possible we will visit sites and memorials personal to our students. We invite parents and Old Stoics to let us know of their experiences or relatives who are remembered or buried in the Somme or Ypres areas. Please contact Tony Lewis directly at the School or via tlewis@stowe.co.uk



entertaining and do a lot of recipe testing that way. I've invited my staff to dinner, and then asked them if the food they've just eaten can be cooked at Stowe. This way they experience for themselves how the food should taste and be presented.

Are you able to use organic suppliers?

I choose suppliers very carefully, visit premises, check their inspection records – school catering is a high risk group and our hygiene controls are very strict. I would like to use organic where I can, but availability and reliability in the volume we require, along with price, is still an issue, but I hope these will be resolved one day.

What's your opinion of Jamie Oliver's recent publicity for school food?

I think Jamie's done a brilliant job. He's a great chef, having opened up cooking to Joe Public. His cooking is not complex, it's attainable for inexperienced cooks too.

What has been your biggest challenge?

Having initially started at Stowe with a large number of contract staff, my key target was to bring the workers in-house and build a strong and stable team. I put a great deal of emphasis into team building. I was concerned when we decided to ban canned drinks in packed lunches, substituting flavoured water and juices in bottles with sports caps. It's the right thing to do but I expected complaints – but received no negative feedback whatsoever.

What achievement are you most proud of?

Building-up a well respected Department that can respond to all requests to the high standard required. We have good relationships with both the staff and the pupils. Loyalty and dedication within the team is excellent making my own job that much easier and more enjoyable.

Which chef do you most admire?

Jamie Oliver – as you might have guessed. He's inspiring the younger generation to cook. I have all his cookery books – they are well presented and you can see the end result you are aiming for. Our function menus incorporate a lot of his ideas.

Any fascinating facts to reveal?

We lose 2,000 items of cutlery every year! What happens to it all?

I have been responsible for the provision of over 8 million meals in my time at Stowe.

If you were not in the catering industry, what other career might you have followed?

A PE instructor, definitely, my second love. But when I realised it was essential to pass A Level Biology (not my best subject!), I chose catering instead. I still try to visit the gym 3 times a week – working it around work and family activities.

With a Dining Room and kitchen on different levels and a spiral staircase to negotiate, that must help Geoff keep fit!

Proof of the pudding: weekly School menus are always available on our website: www.stowe.co.uk

Bon Appétit.

Newly-restored Neo-classicism

No-one can leave Stowe without having a vivid memory of the scale, colours and architectural features that make it one of the most magnificent neo-classical buildings ever constructed. Everyone who has lived at Stowe will have had the opportunity to see both the highly decorated and the purely functional sides to the place.

Until the restoration of Stowe House began in 2000, returning pupils would always remark upon the transformation of the gardens since they passed over to the National Trust in 1989. As garden temples began to emerge from the undergrowth, it became obvious that the principal temple, the House, was in need of urgent restoration. The creation of Stowe House Preservation Trust in 1997 and the handing over of the main House to the Trust in 2000 meant that this process could begin to get underway.

So now at the end of Phase 2 of a 6 phase restoration project, visitors to the House are able to marvel at the achievements so far. The original plan for Phase 2 was to restore the central pavilion, the south portico and steps and remove the 60 metal water tanks from the roof surrounding the central dome. However, through the World Monument Fund, a private American donor set a challenge that he would match money raised outside Europe up to \$600,000, which he did. It later transpired that he

had visited Stowe incognito, seen the plans and decided that his money was to go towards the Marble Saloon. This was very exciting news because this was not due to be restored until Phase 6, perhaps 10 years away. As the centre piece to the State Rooms, this is now a real gem to be marvelled at. There are two additions to the Marble Saloon – the hand-blown lanterns, whose design has been taken from an 1805 engraving of the room, and the marble benches, replacing the Victorian wooden ones, with Victorian style radiators underneath to warm the marble up!

In addition to the painstaking restoration work, part of the remit given by the Heritage Lottery Fund, which has funded much of the project, was a requirement for the House to be more open to the public. Interpretation is always important for intellectual access and so a new Interpretation Centre has been created by a heritage consultancy to help bring to life the history of both the House and the Temple-Grenvilles. Michael Bevington, Head of Classics, was an invaluable source of material and knowledge for this process. As well as the chronological account of building the House, the estate and the family, there is a computer-animated evolution of the House as well as a touch screen computer telling you about the restoration of the Marble Saloon. It has been well received by everyone since its opening in July 2005, with a 20% increase in visitors over last summer.

For those of you who have not visited Stowe in a long time, it is well worth a visit at this time. Both the restored parts of the



Marble Saloon | MS: acknowledgement: Jerry Hardman-Jones

House and the Gardens are looking picturesque and make a great day out. For 2006 public opening times and admission prices for the House please look at the website www.shpt.org or telephone 01280 818166 for recorded information. For opening times of the National Trust Gardens www.nationaltrust.org.uk/stowegardens or call 01280 818825.

Anna McEvoy, Visitor Services Manager
Stowe House Preservation Trust
01280 818229.



I suppose that it was entirely appropriate that this, my final expedition with Stoics, should be my most luxurious. Companions on my previous trips will cringe when they hear that we travelled in air-conditioned luxury from venue to venue where running hot and cold water and beds with mattresses were the norm. Not that this detracted from the experience of coming eyeball to eyeball with many of the dangerous wild animals of Africa or the unique adrenalin rush associated with being charged by a white rhino on a walking safari.

In truth this was intended to be a very different type of experience with the aim being to expose ourselves directly to the conservation issues of the moment in a South Africa developing at an accelerating pace. In private reserves and national parks, wilderness schools and marine aquarium, we were given an insight into

the conflicts between urban and rural development, the difference between a biosphere and a national park and the need for bomas and game auctions in preserving genetic diversity and redistribution of stock between reserves. No film or television image can compare with live contact with elephant, buffalo, rhino, cheetah, giraffe, antelope, dolphin or Right's whale. The battlefields of Islandwhana and Rorke's Drift surprise even the most knowledgeable historian. Our most unexpected encounter was with a group of young school children from a rural area close to Amakhala, a private reserve near Port Elizabeth, as they were given their first lesson in conservation and their first sighting of elephant, giraffe and cheetah. Somehow we assumed that everyone who lived in rural Africa would have encountered its endemic wildlife frequently.



Special thanks go to the following, without whose sponsorship and practical assistance this trip would have been less adventurous: Sue Bolton of Travel Counsellors who part sponsored our air fares, Avis South Africa for providing preferential vehicle hire rates and most especially David Peddie of the Sindisa Foundation who was responsible for all our in country arrangements. May I also thank all those Stoics, members of staff and parents who have accompanied me on a wide range of expeditions over the past 20 years.

Dr David James, Housemaster, Cobham



Further details of Travel Counsellors services can be found at: www.travelcounsellors.com or email: sue.boston@travelcounsellors.com

Simon Hewett (Chandos 92)



It is with sadness that we report the sudden death of Simon Hewett, aged 31, on 4th April 2005 in Kuala Lumpur.

Simon was very happy at Stowe and performed well both in the classroom and on the sports field, although his record as a violinist in the School Orchestra was less impressive! He represented the School in most sports and was particularly keen on rugby, cross country and golf. Simon was a talented golfer and played for the 1st VI for 4 years, later captaining the team and playing in the winning Gerald Micklem Trophy team during 1990 and 1991.

After Stowe, Simon attended Oxford Brookes University, graduating in Business Administration and Marketing in 1997. In 2000 Simon ran the London Marathon and joined a company selling specialist software to

football clubs and associations in Europe and the Far East, then became Director of a systems implementation project for the Asian Football Association in Kuala Lumpur.

Utilizing his many contacts in KL, Simon started a new events management and marketing business in 2003. While in KL, Simon played rugby for the Royal Selangor Club and ran the New York Marathon, raising significant funds for charity.

Simon's sudden death was due to heart failure, despite the fact that he had no history of heart problems. Thanksgiving services were held at the Anglican Cathedral in KL on 6th April and at Stowe School Chapel on

19th April. The service at Stowe was attended by some 300 family members (including his Old Stoic siblings Jason and Sarah) and friends, including many Old Stoics and a number of Simon's old masters.

From the many tributes received, it is clear that Simon enriched the lives of many of his friends, helping some to find a new direction, to look at things differently and perhaps to take themselves less seriously.

The charity CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young) actively campaigns for routine heart screenings for young people, particularly for those engaged in sporting activities. More details can be found at www.c-r-y.org.uk

Are you connected?

If so, you can help us do better what we already do well. We are looking to grow our network of volunteers to help Old Stoics feel connected to Stowe. We are confident that the Old Stoic Society is one of the more active alumni societies in the UK. We have over 7000 OS addresses on our database and this number and our connections to Old Stoics are growing every year. The annual dinner is well attended, our various sports societies are thriving; and we were delighted with the tremendous turn-out at the 1950-1965 Reunion in early October.

But there is much more that we would like to do to engage with the broadest possible cross-section of our alumni – geographically, professionally, and chronologically. This is where you come in.

To help stimulate this involvement and to sustain our communication with the community of Old Stoics, we are looking to recruit at least one individual from each year group who will help us stay in touch with their classmates, gather and impart news, and help encourage support for events. All you need is a computer, an email address and a natural curiosity about what your school friends are doing now. The Old Stoic Office will do the rest.

If you would be prepared to be a representative for your year group, please email John Bridgwood, Old Stoic Manager, at oldstoic@stowe.co.uk, or phone him on 01280 818252.

The Pineapple Ball Returns

The Old Stoic Society is preparing plans for a Ball to be held at Stowe on 22nd July, 2006. The Old Stoic Society is keen to encourage further reconnection amongst Old Stoics and is also seeking to recreate the enjoyable atmosphere of past Pineapple Balls at a reasonable cost in the magnificent setting of Stowe. Ticket prices are expected to be in the region of £75 per head and accommodation will be available at Stowe where possible for a modest additional charge.

The Pineapple Club buildings in London have undergone total redevelopment to provide modern facilities for disadvantaged young people and the Ball should provide the opportunity for Old Stoics to reconnect with the School and reinforce the long-established relationship between Stowe and the Pineapple Club.

The Old Stoic Society also wishes to involve an Old Stoic Band or Bands to perform during the evening in July. If you are interested in taking part, or just wish to register your interest in tickets or accommodation, please contact the Old Stoic Office on 01280 818252 or oldstoic@stowe.co.uk. Further details will be issued in due course.

From the Chairman

It has been my privilege to be Chairman of the Old Stoic Society over the last 2 years, a period during which there has been great change within the School. My first role in the summer of 2003 was to thank Jeremy Nichols, on behalf of the Society, for leaving the School with a solid platform on which Anthony Wallersteiner had the opportunity to return Stowe to being one of the great independent schools in the UK.

Dr Wallersteiner has risen to the challenge and as an Old Stoic it is extremely exciting to see the School gripped by a new sense of energy and enthusiasm. There are many interesting initiatives underway of which the most progressive is the introduction of full co-education. Importantly, the Headmaster and Governing Body aim to ensure that the core values of the School are retained. Great store is placed on preparing Stoics for the real world by building their skills of communication, enterprise and imagination, within the boundaries of honesty and integrity.

Being an Old Stoic should be an experience that should remain with you for the rest of your life. To this end we want to broaden the offering of the Society to keep members better informed and more closely linked with the School.

The Society has traditionally been in the vanguard of alumni organisations; however, we realised that in order to develop new initiatives we had to pool our resources and become more closely aligned with the School. Following the appointment of Colin Dudgeon as the new Director of the Campaign for Stowe, the Old Stoic Office, under the management of John Bridgwood, has been seamlessly integrated into the Development Office.

We now aim to broaden the Society offering by restarting the Pineapple Ball, introducing other new events, tangible member benefits and setting up a Business Association. We also hope to improve how we communicate with members about all aspects of the School and the Society; The Column is our first completed joint venture.

These are exciting times for both the School and the Society; however, for the School to succeed it needs the support and encouragement of the Old Stoic community. If you would like to assist the School or Society in anyway then we would love to hear from you. We are looking for Old Stoics who would like to get involved in the Business Association, offer products on advantageous terms to other Old Stoics or be a year group representative.

It would also be great to see you back at the School. The restoration of Stowe House continues and the newly restored Marble Saloon is worth a visit by itself. We look forward to giving you a warm welcome.

Paul Calkin
(Lyttelton 81)

Life after Stowe By Michael Bell

(Cobham 79)



Since leaving Stowe I have to say that the Gods have been kind to me. My first job was at Haras d'Etreham in France, which belonged at the time to the uncle of Gilles de Chambure (Cobham 80).

The next step in my career was to spend three years on a short service commission in the Life Guards, serving at Detmold, Germany and in Northern Ireland. At Detmold we had Chieftain Tanks, but the best fun was had while hunting the Weser Vale Hounds in my spare time!

I was also fortunate to ride out for the leading national hunt trainer, Mrs Mercy Rimell, and I fulfilled one of my lifetime ambitions to ride in a race. I managed to keep my

weight under control and ended up riding in roughly 80 races. I won five including two at Cheltenham on my own horse, Ten Cherries.

Upon leaving the army, Mrs Rimell took me on as an Assistant Trainer and I spent two seasons learning the ropes before moving onto Paul Cole at Whatcombe, near Wantage, to further my knowledge of training racehorses.

In the summer of 1988 I decided it was time to go out on my own as a trainer and, together with my wife Georgina, set about trying to find a suitable yard. We were able to rent Fitzroy House in Newmarket, one of the nicest and, historically, luckiest yards in racing. Three years later we bought Fitzroy House; the yard now has 90 boxes mostly filled with flat racehorses, while some of the bedrooms have been filled with children (three)!

We have managed a steady stream of winners over the years, about 750 to date, and in June we achieved the ultimate win with Motivator at the Epsom Derby – a sight I shall never forget.

Life, as I say, has been pretty good to me, but another Derby winner would be nice!

Marriages

E C Buckley [nee Dixey] (Nugent 98)



Emma to Donnagh Buckley on 30 Jul 05 in Stowe Chapel.

M Gulek (Lyttelton 89)

Mustafa to Catherine Keays on 27 Nov 04 in Ankara, Turkey. Thomas Sermon was Best Man; also present were Bimbo Hart and Jonathan Fish.

R D Hansen-Luke (Temple 88)

Douglas to Stella on 19 Jul 03.

C Hart (Chandos 99)

Charles to Lady Sybilla Isaacs on 9 Jul 05. Peter Mann was Best Man.

J W Hogbin (Bruce 88)



Justin to Joanna Claire Blackburn on 27 Jan 04. In attendance were Mark Hogbin, James Barker, Andrew Saw, Anthony White, Jonathan White, Rupert Wood and Ben Ridley.

C La F Jackson (Walpole 84)



Colin to Emma Milne Home on 8 May 04. Graham Tytherleigh-Strong, Charles Stopford – Chief Usher, Philippa Atkinson, Julian Stocks – Chief Usher; Chris Atkinson, Andrew Stevens – Best Man, Neil La F Jackson, Tom Burrough, Hertford King, James Patrick. In addition, the wedding photographer was Chris Allerton.

T D McEwen (Chatham 90)

Tristan to Paula Place on 15 Jan 05. In attendance were Sholto Vaughn, Tim Scarff, Charles Davies-Gilbert, Stacey Prewitt, Alex McEwen, Melissa Burrough (nee Fuentes), John Burrough, Ben Ridley, Matt Pumfrey, Lorna Struthers, Marcus Jefferson, Angus Marshall-Andrew, Philip Would, William Perei, Duncan Marshall-Andrew, Chris Atkinson, Marcus Atkinson (Best Man) and Julian Keirle.

Miss E G L Thomson (Lyttelton 97)

Emma to Robert Mills (Grafton 93) on 2 Oct 04. OS Guests in attendance were Sam Edenbrough, Arthur Robertson, Nicholas Janson, Matthew Wreford, Mark Chamberlain, Edward Able Smith, Alexander Heath, Arvind David, Christopher Janson, Alexander Troughton, Henrietta Fletcher, Alice Pilcher, Harry Speir, Emma Johnston, Arrabella Jupp, Gary Randal, Shaan Mahrotri, Rupert Jupp, Kate Pearce and Benji Janson.

P M Neufeld (Chandos 79)



Peter to Victoria Mielewska on 16 Jul 05, in Sydney.

A M Parker (Grenville 86)

Angus to Ara Martin on 25 Jun 04 in Madrid.

M W Pumfrey (Chandos 90)

Matthew to Lucy Churchill, on 21 Aug 04. The Stowe contingent of guests included Melissa Burrough (nee Fuentes), Jon Burrough (Usher), Tristan McEwen (Usher), Paul Pumfrey, Matt Pumfrey (Groom), Marcus Atkinson (Best Man), Robert Pumfrey (Usher), Richard Margrave, Marcus Jefferson, Chris Balmer and Phil Would.

D W S Roques (Chatham 84)

David to Louise Katherine Grey on 23 Jul 05. Best Man was Patrick White and Edward Coombs preached at the service. Ben Harris, John Young, James Burkinshaw, Simon Tetlow, Edward Roques and Andrew Campbell were among the guests.

H A Stanton (Walpole 94)

Henry to Federica on 10 Jul 04.

V E Webster [nee Nicholson] (Nugent 91)

Verity to David Webster on 19 Mar 05 at their hotel, Castleton House Hotel in Scotland.

Births

T M Boddy (Nugent 89)

to Thomasina and John, a son Drake on 25 Jun 05.

J J Bush (Bruce 91)

to Jonathan and Annabel, a son Edward Robert Lester, on 26 Mar 05.

W W M Chambré (Grafton 88)

to William and Sarah, a son Edward on 31 Aug 05.

L E Chauveau (Cobham 87)

to Luke and Jo, a son Milo on 7 Jun 05.

A P Cherry (Temple 81)

to Andrew and Rachel, a daughter Annabelle on 20 May 03 and a son, William Andrew on 1 Mar 05.

C S J Cooke [nee Batten] (Nugent 87)

to Caroline and Tristan, a son Sebastian Felix Hamilton on 28 Mar 05, brother to Tatiana.

P D de Marez Oyens (Grafton 91)

to Pieter and Karine, a daughter Feline on 6 Sep 05.

R A B Duff (Grafton 82)

to Roderick and Isabel, a daughter Bridget Phoebe on 2 Jun 05.

M H Ellman-Brown (Lyttelton 86)

to Harvey and Sascha, a son James John on 7 Jun 05.

S V Faure [nee Pollard] (Stanhope 90)

to Sarah and Simon, a daughter Clementine on 12 Apr 05.

E F Hargreaves

[nee Emlyn Williams] (Nugent 93)

to Lizzie and Ben, a son Henry Emlyn Day on 8 Jan 05.

S C Heaton [nee Mounsey] (Stanhope 84)

to Sarah and Nicholas, a son Oliver on 4 Jun 05.

B Hesketh (Temple 88)

to Bryn and Ailsa, a son Thomas Alfie James on 18 Jul 05.

J W Hogbin (Bruce 88)

To Justin and Jo, a daughter Emma Anna Louise on 28 Jan 05.

F Houghton Brown (Temple 83)

to Frank and Sophie, a daughter Jemima Rose on 11 Aug 05.

C La F Jackson (Walpole 84)

to Colin and Emma, a son Wilfred John on 1 Jul 05.

J A Kaldor (Chandos 88)

to Jonathan and Tania, a son William John Christopher on 24 May 05.

B R Lambourne (Grafton 92)

to Ben and Lynne, a daughter Grace Frances on 12 Apr 05.

D J Lewis (Chatham 93)

to David and Jana a daughter Abigail on 9 Aug 03. and also a son Samuel on 25 Aug 05.

C J Lindner (Bruce 78)

to Chris and Rachel, a daughter Charlotte Audrey on 2 May 05.

A E Macintosh (Bruce 89)

to Alastair and Chloe, a son Felix on 19 Jul 05.

S J Maude-Roxby (Cobham 97)

to Simon and Michelle a son Charlie John on 28 Sep 05.

N A Myatt-Taylor

[nee Reith-Hennessy] (Lyttelton 95)

to Nicola and Mark, a son Oliver Edward on 4 May 05, a brother to Paige and Thomas.

Dr P J Newman (Stanhope 80)

to Penny and Andrew, a daughter Matilda on 24 Jan 05, a sister to Millie and Lucy.

O C Nicholson (Chandos 95)

to Oliver and Karen a daughter, Jessica Rose, on 14 June 05.

M R C Opperman (Chatham 81)

to Mark and Rosalind, a daughter Amelia on 4 May 05.

N C Platt (Chatham 90)

to Nicholas and Belinda, a daughter Imogen Celeste on 27th August 2005.

S Polad (Lyttelton 82)

to Shahryar and Alia, Merwan on 06 Jan 05.

E Riojas (Temple 92)

to Eugenio and Alejandra, a son Federico on 12 Jul 05.

E A Ritchie [nee Bekerleg] (Nugent 92)

to Emily and James, a daughter Sarah Campbell on 8 Jul 05.

J M J Royden (Grenville 82)

to John and Maureen, a daughter Coco Josephine on 19 Aug 05.

Z T Said (Temple 92)

to Zeid and Louisa, a son Mazin on 28 Jun 05.

C L Smith (Bruce 87)

to Christopher and Victoria, a son Frederick James on 5 Apr 05.

A M Sorokin (Walpole 99)

to Alexei and Natalia; a son Maxim on 10 Apr 05.

H R Thomas (Chandos 87)

to Huw and Leigh, a daughter Cameron Katharine on 17 Sep 05.

A N van Moppes (Cobham 89)

to Alexander and Clare a daughter Alice Clare on 30 Aug 05.

P D C Vyvyan-Robinson (Grenville 76)

to Peter and Lizzie, a daughter Olivia on 7 May 05.

D H J White (Cobham 87)

to Dominic and Victoria, a son Frederick Anthony Johnstone on 31 Mar 05.

Deaths

T H Barclay (Chandos 41) in 05.

G A T Barton (Grafton 44) on 24 Jun 05.

D M S Baxter (Walpole 46) in 05.

J D Buchanan, MBE, ERD, DL (Grenville/Walpole 35) on 26 Jul 05.

B J Calvert (Grenville 52) on 16 Jul 05.

A D Cathcart-Jones (Walpole 47) on 11 Sep 05.

H D Christie (Chatham 41) on 4 May 05.

R D Colloredo [aka Chetwynd] (Walpole 77) on 24 Sep 05.

A C M Cooke (Chandos 99) in Jul 05.

A C Cowdy (Temple 55) on 27 Aug 05.

Captain J S Dawes, MC (Bruce 42)

on 22 Oct 04.

Captain J P T Dawson (Cobham 38) in 04.

Prince Rainier of Monaco (Chandos 37)

on 6 Apr 05.

A P Dewing, BEM (Chatham 46) on 14 Jul 05.

J M Donner (Grafton 48) on 2 Jun 05.

J N W Dudley (Temple 33) on 14 Jul 05.

Major M E Fletcher, MC (Cobham 36) on 8 Apr 05.

C J W Gauvain (Temple 59) in Jul 05.

H W Gray (Walpole 50) on 02 Jun 05.

M G M Haines, OBE (Chandos 53) on 6 Dec 04.

C R B Hesketh (Chandos 57) on 11 Sep 04.

S F Hewett (Chandos 92) on 3 Apr 05.

D G N Horswell (Chandos 52) on 25 May 05.

D S Howard (Grafton 46) on 1 Apr 05.

J A Kellie (Chatham 45) in 05.

The Rt Hon the Lord Kingsale (Grenville 58) on 15 Sep 05.

P W Loxton (Grafton 58) in 05.

N M P Mackenzie-Charrington (Grenville 64) on 26 Dec 04.

R I Mackintosh, TD (Grenville 35) in Oct 04.

J P McDonagh (Grafton 31) on 5 July 05.

A W Murdoch (Temple 47) on 11 Mar 03.

J G Nicholson (Grafton 37) on 20 Mar 05.

Major M M T Paxton, JP, OBE, TD (Chandos 48) on 24 Oct 04.

W M Peacock, CBE (Grafton 50) on 28 Sep 05

R E Pears (Grafton 35) on 15 Sep 05.

R J Posnett (Cobham 47) on 15 Apr 05.

C E Roddick (Chandos 53) in 05.

J D Russell-Davis (Chandos 31) on 4 Jul 05.

P M Salamon (Grafton 60) on 8 Apr 05.

N D Sconce (Bruce 58) on 20 Oct 04.

J H Shelmerdine, DFC (Grenville 36) on 25 Dec 04.

T F M Sinton (Temple 52) in 05.

M B Stevenson (Grafton 42) in Aug 05.

Dr A K Thould (Cobham 49) on 11 July 05.

W F Tremayne (Cobham 53) on 10 Jan 05.

P J Tremayne (Cobham 45) in Aug 03.

J H D Van Den Bergh (Chandos 51) on 7 Jun 05.

S L Whistler (Chatham 58) on 18 Apr 05.

P F Whitecourt [aka Withof-Keus] (Bruce 35) on 4 Mar 05.

B R Williams (Chatham 56) on 28 Apr 05.

M L B Williams, MBE (Grenville/Walpole 37) in 05.

News

A H Amirsadeghi (Cobham 02)

Amir has just graduated and is currently a Business Developer for JCDecaux who specialise in outdoor advertising.

C E Ancsell (Cobham 82)

Colin was recently appointed Head Teaching Professional at Stoke Park Club's Golf Academy.

D J Baldwin (Lyttelton 84)

Denzil is now Group Operations Director for Augean PLC and he was elected as County Councillor for Cambridgeshire in May 2005.

J Bell-Irving (Chatham 70)

Robin has completed an MA degree in Liberal Arts at Glasgow University. He is now at Strathclyde University studying for a PGDE (Primary) Teaching Course.

A P Beney (Grafton 80)



After 20 years fundraising for the University of Durham and its colleges, Adrian has moved to one of the UK's leading firms of fundraising consultants to the non-profit sector, Iain More Associates. Last year Adrian became the first non-North American to win the Council for Advancement and Support of Education's "Crystal Apple for Outstanding Teaching".

N P Blackwood (Chatham 90)

Nigel is working as a Diplomat, currently in Rangoon. He has had previous postings in Stockholm, Brussels and Madrid.

M O Bowman (Cobham 98)

Mark has qualified as a Solicitor at Field Fisher Waterhouse into their Medical Negligence Department. During the Summer he raised over £1000 for the RSPCA cycling from Cherbourg to Valencia, across the Pyrenees.

C A Boxall (Lyttelton 82)

Christopher has established his own hedge fund boutique, Fundamental Asset Management, investing in UK small and mid capitalisation shares, including those listed on AIM.

Vice Admiral Sir James Burnell-Nugent (Grafton 67)

James is to be promoted Admiral and to be Commander-in-Chief Fleet/Commander Allied Forces North with effect from 15 November. This post carries with it the title of Vice Admiral of the United Kingdom.

R C Carr-Gomm (Cobham 40)

Richard was awarded the Beacon Prize for 'Lifetime achievement in caring for the elderly' in 04 and the 'Prize of Britain' Award for 'Outstanding lifetime devotion to providing help and accommodation for the lonely across Britain and abroad' in 05. The Borough of Southwark has awarded him a Blue Plaque which is placed where he started his work in Bermondsey in 1955.

J J Childs (Lyttelton 95)

Jessie took a first in Modern History at Brasenose College, Oxford, then worked in television as a researcher for historical documentaries. Her first two books, "Henry VIII's Last Victim" and "Defenders of the Faith", will be published by Jonathan Cape next year.

C Clark (Cobham 97)

Chesney is currently a Captain in the army stationed in AlAmarah in Iraq on a four month tour, flying Lynx helicopters. On his return to England in Oct he will start his Apache course.

S P Clegg (Chatham 78)

Simon, as Chief Executive of the British Olympic Association, was one of three UK signatories in Singapore on the International Olympic Committee's host city contract for the 2012 Olympic Games in London. He has been appointed to the board of the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (LOCOG).

R A Cleland (Cobham 84)

Richard founded Cleland & Souchet Ltd, a luxury lifestyle retailers and wine merchants in 1999 and Cleland & Co. Ltd, a luxury property developers in 2004. He is also a Director of Macron Petroleum Ltd - crude oil traders.

M Colston (Grenville 51)



Michael is Chairman of Ewelme Park Farm and he plays host to around 200 students from 10 different schools each year to teach them firsthand about farming, forestry, field sports, and local history.

C S J Cooke [nee Batten] (Nugent 87)

Caroline set up After School Nannies, a specialist London childcare agency, in 2002.

R H F Cox (Temple 48)

Richard was elected to the new Scrutiny Committee of Guernsey's States of Deliberation as well as the Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission in May 2004.

Sir Michael Craig-Cooper (Temple 54)

Sir Michael was appointed Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London in Apr 05.

T A D Crawford (Grenville 92)

Tristan is leading research into future structural design at Airbus UK and in his spare time coaches rowing at Avon County RC.

M C St J Croisdale-Appleby (Bruce 89)

After postings in Senegal, Mauritania, Gambia, Zaire, Nigeria and Dubai, Maycroft is now General Manager for British American Tobacco's joint venture in Libya. If any Old Stoics are visiting or living in Libya he would be delighted to hear from them.

B I De Wynter (Grenville 88)

Ben is currently Resident Director on the National Tour of The West End Production of My Fair Lady.

A S M S Dietz (Chatham 02)

Alexander is studying for an MA in African Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

P J B Dunham (Grenville 79)

Peter exhibited his new line of home furnishing fabrics at Decorex in London. The fabrics will be available in the UK through the Kathryn Ireland Showroom at 69 Lots Rd, London, SW10.

K B G Edwards (Grenville 90)

Kristjan is MD of Tiger Tops, the premier Asian jungle safari lodge and leader in sustainable and environmentally responsible conservation tourism. It is a sister company to Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge, which is run by Marcus Cotton (Chatham 82).

G T Edwards (Chatham 94)

Guy works for the British Council in Budapest.

J R Elwes (Chandos 01)

Jamie has graduated with a First in Economics from Newcastle University.

E P H Farquhar (Chatham 85)



Ed is one of a team of four taking part in the Numis Polar Challenge Charity Expedition, a re-enactment of Scott's final journey to the South Pole. Ed is a director at Numis Securities, where he has worked for nine years. Further details of the expedition can be found at www.numispolarchallenge.com

B G Few Brown (Grafton 77)

Ben won his class (Seaview mermaids) in Cowes week 2005.

J W Fooks (Chatham 89)

John is living in Madagascar and any Old Stoics passing through Antananarivo are welcome to contact him.

A G P Ford (Lyttelton 01)

Toby has gained a First at Oxford University in Biological Sciences.

J M Furse-Roberts (Grafton 95)

James successfully defended his PhD thesis on botanic garden creation and management at the University of Reading.

P H Gartside (Chandos 59)

Peter became a member of the Northern Stock-Exchange in 65 leading into 'The Securities Institute' and having been a member of the combined units for forty years, he has become a 'Fellow of The Securities Institute' (having avoided any exams!).

M D Goodwin (Cobham 58)

Michael is now retired, though fully occupied with voluntary work both as the Vice Chairman of the Unit Management Committee of the Leith Sea Cadet Unit and also The National Trust for Scotland.

J M Gumpel (Chandos 85)

Jon is a director of Brooks Macdonald Plc.

J P Hall (Bruce 58)

John became Master of the Merchant Taylors' Company in July this year.

C R Haslam (LAM)

Chris has published his first novel, "In The Lost Boyhood of Judas".

D A M Hayes (Bruce 99)



After starting out as a commis chef at Rick Stein's restaurant in Padstow, then working as a sous chef in London, Dan now runs his own private chef business. He also works as a food stylist, with the BBC and Waitrose among his clients.

M R Hill (Walpole 57)

Michael retired in April 2003 after 38 years in the shipping and leisure industries. He is now involved in charity and community activities in the Bath and Bristol areas.

A E How (Cobham 70)

Anthony was made Group Financial Director of the Surafti UK Group, one of UK's leading industrial food manufacturers, part of Sudzucker AG.

N C P Humbert (Cobham 85)



Nick was one of several Old Cobhamites from 1985 who attended the OS Society annual dinner at the RAC in May, to commemorate their 20th anniversary of leaving Stowe. He is on the right of the photograph, along with Rod Fuerst, Angus Fairbairn, Jason Meads and Mike Rossiter.

A W V Ireland (Chatham 63)

Adrian believes he is the only Old Stoic living on Ibiza, where he is secretary of the Island Cricket Club. He would warmly welcome any OS who would like to bring out a team to play.

L J R Jack [nee Farr] (Nugent 91)

Laura runs her own painting and upholstery business in Edinburgh.

M J T Jefferson (Walpole 90)

Marcus works in the online team of Ptmarmigan Media, planning, buying and monitoring online advertising campaigns. He previously worked at the Investors Chronicle where he managed both online and press advertising.

R S Kaufman (Bruce 58)

Richard and Penny's B&B have just been appointed a Wolsey Lodge. Old Stoics would be especially welcome. www.wolseylodges.com

G W A Kent (Cobham 52)

George has come out of retirement to start a new Christian Charity called CHIT (Children's Homes in India Trust). Rev Christopher Turner, past Head of Stowe, is one of the trustees.

The homes are in the Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh. Any Old Stoic interested in seeing the real India, with charitable intent, could give George a call on 01225 863124 or visit www.chitonline.co.uk

K N Khurody (Stanhope 85)

Khursheed has just completed her 2nd acting role in "Mr Prime Minister", which will be released later in 2005. Khursheed still continues to teach at the American School of Bombay and runs her own private school, teaching classical ballet and music. She will perform a solo piano recital at the Taj Palace Hotel, Bombay, later in the year.

Sir Richard Kleinwort (Grenville 79)

Richard has been made a Deputy Lieutenant of West Sussex. He also took part in the Great North Run for Leukaemia Research with Brother-in-Law Caspar Shand Kydd (who survived the disease as a child) and with five others they pushed their Father-in-Law, Bill Shand Kydd, around the course.

M A Koebke (Grafton 90)

Martin was part of the opening team of the Emirates Towers Hotel in Dubai (2000). He has worked at the Burj Al Arab for the last 3 years and has recently been promoted to Food and Beverage Manager. The Burj Al Arab has been acknowledged as the best Hotel in the world and the only 7 star.

J R Larsen (Nugent 97)

Jacqui lives in Sydney, Australia, where she works as a photographer specializing in 'sports fishing' photography. Her photographs appear mainly in American and Australian magazines.

Sir Peter Leslie (Chatham 49)

Peter's book "Chapman-Andrews and the Emperor" has been published by Pen and Sword Books.

J B Ley Greaves (Cobham 65)

Bruce underwent a successful liver transplant in November 2003 at the Royal Free Hospital in London, Bruce held a charity day at Sandown Park where he managed to raise about £12,000 towards much needed equipment for the hospital.

A S Lim (Stanhope 93)

Shiamin completed a Masters degree in International Affairs at Columbia University in 2004, and is now a Political Officer at the United Nations Department of Political Affairs in New York, working on the Zimbabwe Emergency Task Force.

D S Loasby (Walpole 02)

David is spending his 3rd year's work placement at Nottingham Trent University with Sirk, who are re-building Wembley Stadium.

C G Longworth (Nugent 88)

Gay Longworth has signed a new 2 book deal with Headline Hodder titled 'The Godmother' out in Oct 06 under the nom de plume Carrie Adams.

The Rt Hon the Lord Lyell of Markyate (Grafton 57)

Sir Nicholas was created a life peer in June 05.

J D Lyon (Cobham 99)

James has qualified in medicine from Barts and The London.

A G MacDonald-Vitale (Bruce 93)

Alex is currently on full time hard language training as an Arabist for posting to Riyadh in October 2006. He is also a volunteer for of the FCO Rapid Deployment Team and was posted to Sharm El-Sheikh after the bombings and New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

A A S Mackay (Temple 74)

Andrew is now Managing Director of International Public Relations Partners.

S J Maude-Roxby (Cobham 97)

Simon works for Gallaher, as Group Marketing Manager for Benson & Hedges.

A C H McCarey (Chatham 96)

Angus has spent 2005 completing the MBA programme at INSEAD, the international business school in Fontainebleau, France.

D D McIntyre (Cobham 55)

Dougal's biography of the Scottish aviator David McIntyre, titled "Prestwick's Pioneer", has been published by Woodfield Publishing.

Commodore R G Melly (Cobham 71)

Dick retired from the Royal Navy in the rank of Rear Admiral in May 05 and took up the appointment of Clerk to the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths in the City of London.

C R P Meyjes (Bruce 50)

Robert has had a book published. It is called 'Abandoned Property', a thriller with a World War II setting. More

information can be accessed via www.robertmeyjes.com

J M Mills (Chandos 74)

Jon is the owner of an art editing and framing business in Provence, Mogliani Editions.

M J O'Neill (Cobham 51)

Michael's name has been included in "Who is Who in Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry".

A D Page (Cobham 43)

Anthony is now an Alderman at Guildford Borough Council.

G J Pendle (Grenville 94)



George's book "Strange Angel: The Otherworldly Life of Rocket Scientist John Whiteside Parsons" was published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson in July of this year.

T D D Philips (Grafton 86)

Dalton has recently taken up the position of CEO for the Brown Thomas Group, a luxury goods retailer based in Dublin.

G L Platt (LAM)

Graham is a Catholic Parish Priest of Oundle and Catholic Chaplain to Oundle School.

R M Potter (LAM)

Roger was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours for his work as Founder and Director, Worldwide Volunteering for Young People.

R J Preston (Bruce 60)



Robin recently organised two events for Old Stoics living in British Columbia. The first in Victoria on September 11th, Robin Preston, Ian Brameld, John Marsden, Graeme Sorley and Simon Twist. The second at the Cheshire Cheese Pub in Vancouver on September 18th. In the photograph are Alasdair Gordon, Michael Doyle, Graem Castell, Peter Mackay, Peter Austin, Jonathan Williams, Thomas Delahooke, Simon Hallam, Peter van Engelen, Christopher Lewis, Robin Preston and Brian Graham.

M P Rader (Temple 97)

Matthew has been appointed Executive Director (CEO) of the Fairmount Park Historic Preservation Trust. The Trust provides building conservation services in Philadelphia's public park system. Anyone can feel free to contact him or stop by while they are in Philadelphia!

M C Raison (Lyttelton 95)



Miranda has joined the fourth series of Spooks (BBC1), playing the new character Jo Portman.

M G Reed (Cobham 88)

Mark is currently on secondment in Sydney, Australia for the Commonwealth Bank, as Head of IT Strategy. He ran the Sydney City to Surf and is also learning to fly helicopters.

S M Robertson (Temple 00)

Sami is to take part in Endurance 2005 involving participation in the Stockholm Marathon, a 9 mile swim and a 3 peak endurance challenge in 24 hours!

A M Sladen (Walpole 69)

Angus believes he is the first Old Stoic parent with a 13 year old daughter (Olivia) at Stowe.

N D Smith (Bruce 93)

After a research fellowship at Princeton University, Nicholas now works at the Oxford University Archives.

S J E Smith (Grafton 80)

Stormont was appointed Managing Director of Domnick Hunter (China) Ltd based in Shanghai in July 2005.

A M Sorokin (Walpole 99)

Alexei is currently in the first year of the MBA degree at Harvard Business School.

H A Stanton (Walpole 94)

Henry started his own internet business in January 2005, selling antiquarian and rare books www.byblos.uk.com

J H Stockwell (Grenville 65)

John is Managing Director of Craigie Stockwell Carpets, which has been commissioned to create a unique carpet for the Kremlin based on Russia's prestigious St George's Cross military medal.

A F Stone (Temple 59)

After 31 years with IBM, Alastair is retired and has moved up from the front range of Colorado to live year round at 9000 ft. He is secretary of the Summit County choral society, still singing G&S after 50 years, and spends the winter on skis working as a Mountain Watch volunteer at Keystone.

Z Trapp (Temple 00)

Zeno has started a film production company, Autumn Pictures, based in New York.

L B Turner (Walpole 85)

Lloyd is the Managing Director of a Corporate Golf and Events business ("Thameside Events") and also owns The Belgian Arms Public House & Restaurant in Holyport, Berkshire.

P D C Vyvyan-Robinson (Grenville 76)

Peter is Chief Executive of TRI-MEX Group Limited, which has operations in 31 countries.

R J Wedgwood (Bruce 82)

Rupert works as an alpine rescue expert in Jasper National Park, Alberta, Canada.

R A White (Cobham 98)

Rob played the innings of the round in the second round of the Cricketer Cup. The Stowe Templars, chasing 260 from 50 overs against Uppingham Rovers, got them in 27.3 overs with Rob scoring an unbeaten 186!

W B Wiggins (LAM)

Bram, Stowe's former Head of Wind and Brass, has received a special medal from the London Symphony Orchestra. This was limited to 250 distinguished members, former members and others who have been associated with the Orchestra.

R C Willcock (Bruce 71)

Roland is Chairman of Turn of the Century Productions, a film production company.

M O L T Wilson (Cobham 92)

Oliver won the B.I.D.A. sponsored Best Artist award at Art London 2004. He is currently working towards a one man show in November 2005 at the Mark Jason Gallery, London.

J B Wintle (Chatham 66)

Random House UK commissioned Justin to write a major biography of the Burmese Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, for publication in 2007. He has finished compiling a revised, two-volume edition of New Makers of Modern Culture, which will be published by Routledge in the autumn of 2006.

C S Wintle (Chatham 62)

In addition to teaching music at King's College London, Christopher founded in 2001, his own publishing house, Plumbago Books and Arts, dedicated to specialist books on music and the arts. He has now produced five books, the first of which, Hans Keller's Jerusalem Diary, won the prestigious Royal Philharmonic Society Book of the Year prize in 2001. In August 2005 he established a new Institute of Musical Studies within the University of London.

A E H Worsley (Grafton 78)

Currently working in Ministry of Defence and deploying to Afghanistan in Nov 05. Planning an expedition to the South Pole in 2008 with Sir Ernest Shackleton's great grandson to celebrate the centenary of the Nimrod expedition.

J F Yeats Brown (Grenville 78)

James is a photographer specialising in children's portraiture. He had a picture selected for exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery in the 2004 Schweppes Photographic Portrait Competition.



Stowe Templars – Cricketer Cup Campaign 2005

For the first time in 20 years (at least) the Templars reached the quarter final stages of the Cricketer Cup, a renowned competition for Old Boys, and probably could have gone further. Having beaten Downside Wanderers and Uppingham Rovers

convincingly, Charterhouse Friars beat us narrowly with it coming down to the last over. There are high hopes that next year we can go even further with a settled core of players.

It was however, encouraging to see that some youngsters were beginning to make their mark and force themselves into the side. The older members are more than happy to see their places taken with a view to building for future years.

The youngsters came out in force

during the Cricket week as well, although with the end of the week coinciding with the First Ashes Test at Lord's some of the usual suspects could not resist going. The Templars are always keen to see new faces, young or old, and should anyone want to get involved with the ten or so fixtures each year they should call Nick Oldridge on 07788 758067. We are all about enjoying cricket and the facilities and surroundings that we have at Stowe.

OS Cross Country

Any Old Stoics interested in the annual race for former pupils of public schools, to be held on Wimbledon Common on 10th December or the race against the School on 18th March, should contact Simon Gardner on 07974 710792 or simon.gardner@serpentine.org.uk



Old Stoic Golfing Society

The Society was drawn to play at Royal Cinque Ports for the Halford Hewitt competition in April, where the team were joined by three new caps: Haydn Brooks, Rob Berntsson and Stuart Healey. After victories in the first two rounds, the team lost narrowly to Whitgift.

In the three Society meetings, Bob Durrant and Mike Anderson won the Spring Foursomes at Woking; while Chris and Nick Luddington continued their domination by winning both the Summer (at the Northamptonshire) and Autumn (at Brancaster) Foursomes. As

usual it was a privilege to play such good courses at weekends; new members are welcome to join us.

The Summer also brought the Society a win in the Senior Cyril Gray competition, where the combined ages of the playing pair must be at least 140 years: Derek Davies and Nigel Stern triumphed over Fettes in the final.

Our main Cyril Gray team lost in the first round, but then progressed to the semi-final of the Plate competition with a revenge victory over Whitgift, before losing to Canford. The team photo shows (from left to right) David

Hadfield, Edwin Silver, David Julius, Richard Wood, Stewart McNair, Duncan Marshall-Andrew, Bob Durrant and Charles Dimpfl.

As usual we have also played a number of enjoyable matches against other former pupils' societies.

Any Old Stoics interested in joining the Society should contact Charles Dimpfl on 020 8963 1173 or thedimpfls@aol.com. The subscription is £25.00 per annum and all handicaps are acceptable; those golfers playing off five or less will be considered for the team events.



Old Stoic Sailing Success

For the third year Stowe entered the Arrow Trophy Sailing Event, held off Cowes, Isle of Wight, over the first weekend of October. Unlike previous years, when boat failure had forced early retirement, the Old Stoics, skippered by Simon Curwen, had a very successful outing. They climbed up the fleet (Sunsail 37's) over a series of 7 races and clinched victory over 11 other boats by a substantial margin in the last race of the second day. Crew were: Geoff Brown, Simon Curwen, Robin Hunter-Coddington, Andrew Kennon, Cameron Ross, Nigel Rossiter, Stephen Spencer, Jeremy Spencer-Cooper. The Old Stoic Sailing Club would very much like to enter a second crew for 2006; so if you are interested please contact Robin Hunter-Coddington, who is presently Club Commodore.



The Stowe Putter

The newly restored South Front of the mansion at Stowe provided a majestic backdrop for the 39th I.A.P.S. Stowe Putter, and the setting together with the sublime weather conditions seemed to inspire the young golfers who achieved excellent scores in the highly contested events. The Junior Putter attracted a field of 30 golfers whilst the senior competition had a capacity field of 108 players representing 40 Preparatory Schools.

Guest of Honour, Jeremy Robinson, attended both competitions and presented the prizes together with Stowe's Headmaster, Dr Anthony Wallersteiner. Jeremy, himself an Old Stoic and former winner of the Stowe Putter in 1979, won a golf scholarship to study in America before going on to win the Brabazon Trophy and represent Britain in the Walker Cup. He declared only a marginal conflict of interests as he watched his son competing in the Junior Putter!

During the competition and practice day, golf clinics were provided by P.G.A. professional Steve Hutchinson, whilst those staying overnight at Stowe were treated to an exhibition from fellow professional Roger Mace.

The honours were spread among several Preparatory Schools although the winners of the team event, the Dragon School, achieved a remarkable score with their top two players amassing 100 Stableford points.

The Stowe Putter continues to enjoy the patronage of Stowe parent Olaf Rogge, and the organising committee extend their sincere thanks to him for his generosity. We would encourage all Preparatory School Headmasters to seek out their budding golfers and get them practising for what promises to be a very special 40th Stowe Putter next summer.

Full details and all the results are posted on our website at: www.stowe.co.uk/news/news/september/putter.html

Colts Rugby



Photography: Roy Ottaway

The Colts A are currently unbeaten and ranked 4th in the country. They have beaten Oakham (12-0), Oundle (21-19), Mill Hill (22-6) and St Edward's (20-5) and drew with Rugby (10-10). They are captained by Henry Corner, who forms the cornerstone of the team at blindside flanker. The Hunter twins complete the back row and all 3 of them have been picked to represent the County team.

The team has improved significantly this term and all of the hard work over the last year has begun to pay off. We have a very strong pack of forwards who have dominated all teams that we have played to date and who provide secure possession, from which the backs can launch their attacks. Billy Jackson-Stops has provided a more abrasive edge to the front row, having moved in from last year's position in the centres and Will Walker has jumped superbly at the front of the line. The team have scored 13 tries so far and the top try scorer is Winston Reynolds, who plays scrum half. The kicking duties have been taken up by Jamie Hirst, who has a very astute tactical brain and who continually gets the team moving forward. One of the revelations of the year has been Jimmy Bruce playing at inside centre. He has provided us with a very solid defensive line and his ability to move the ball has allowed the free running of the back three (Giles Hoare, Max Mackintosh and Will Dunn) to come into their own.

This team made it to the last 16 of the National Daily Mail Vase Competition last year and we have high hopes for them in the future.

Introducing our new Head of Girls' Games: Mrs Jayne Duckett



I moved to Stowe from Millfield School (Somerset) during the summer along with my husband, Graham, a pensions expert working in London, and our 3 children: Emma, Ben and Megan. I had been working at Millfield for 7 years both in the PE Department and as Head of Netball. As a youngster I played lacrosse for club, county and country, culminating in being selected to play for GB in the only side ever to tour. We subsequently got thrashed by Australia, so I won't say anymore.....!

My initial impressions of Stowe are nothing short of excellent; staff and pupils are friendly and welcoming, and the objective seems to be that of wanting to take the School into the premier division as quickly as possible. It is always exciting to be part

of a new culture from the outset, and I am looking forward to our two younger children (ages 11 and 9) entering Stowe, regarding it as a successful co-ed school. I am not only challenged by the prospect of developing the girls' sport into an equal to that of their male counterparts, but dare I say even outdoing them!

The lacrosse squads are already involved in what will be a fantastic and enjoyable season. We organised a very successful Midlands Schools' Lacrosse Tournament on October 8th during which our 1st Team recorded some incredible results. Our season will end with a tour to Australia (the first ever girls' tour), and I am determined that Stowe should fare better than that GB side many years ago!

A good start to the Rugby season:

Team Level	Number of fixtures	Played	Won	Draw	Lost	PF	PA	Tries	Cons	Pens	Drops
1st XV	17	6	3	0	3	86	54	10	3	10	0
2nd XV	14	5	2	0	3	91	52	15	8	0	0
3rd XV	11	6	4	0	2	91	68	16	4	1	0
4th XzV	5	3	0	0	3	10	94	11	0	0	0
U16	15	5	4	1	0	85	40	13	3	4	0
U16 B	12	5	2	0	3	121	86	19	6	0	0
U16 C	7	3	0	0	3	24	69	4	2	0	0
U15	17	8	6	0	2	191	79	34	9	1	0
U15 B	15	6	3	0	3	105	79	16	10	1	0
U15 C	11	6	4	1	1	143	66	25	9	0	0
U14	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
U14 B	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	127	53	28	2	23	947	687	163	17	17	0

The School has never made a better start to a term in my 8 years here at Stowe. Although the casual observer will question such a statement when glancing at the senior results (www.schoolsrugby.co.uk), the hardened fan will recognise that our fixture list now is tougher than it has ever been and that against Oakham, Oundle and St Edwards, all top rugby playing schools, we have been the better side dominating possession and territory, but failing to capitalise on this superiority.

In the past whilst we have competed at senior level on an even footing, our junior teams have found it difficult to live with the bigger schools, but this season our U16 A's remain unbeaten and our U15's have beaten Rugby, Oundle and St Edward's whilst at the same time finding themselves into the third round of the U15 Daily Mail Cup playing some exhilarating rugby. Attracting such good young talent to Stowe is a direct response to the success of its senior sides in recent years and there is hope that this will continue into the future.

It is not just in the performance teams where

we are enjoying success, this season participation has increased where for the first time in 7 years we are putting out 10 teams most Saturdays whereas previously we could only put out 8 teams.

On The Schools' Rugby Website we currently lie 4th with our 3rd team, 6th at Colts A, 8th at U15's A, 11th U15's B and 1st at U15 C level.

Against two schools, Rugby and Mill Hill, we have won all but one of the block fixtures.

After half term both the Seniors and U15's continue their progress in the Daily Mail Cup and if successful have mouth-watering clashes with RGS High Wycombe. It will be interesting to see how the School fares against such opposition and it will act as yet another barometer reading in the rise of rugby at Stowe.

It is also gratifying to learn that last year's Captain, Tom Laws, has signed a professional academy contract with Northampton Saints and that he is making a speedy recovery after injury and we will look out for his progress in the coming months.

Alan Hughes, Rugby Professional



Photography: Roy Ottaway

Midlands Schools' Lacrosse Tournament

The fields looked magnificent, the sun was shining and hundreds of lacrosse players from some of the best schools in the country had arrived at Stowe on October 8th ready to do battle on the lacrosse field.

Play started at 10.00 with Stowe 1st Team playing against Wycombe Abbey, a school which regularly wins this tournament and would not have been worried by the prospect of playing us in the opening game. However, with all the possession in the first few minutes, Stowe scored first and looked every bit their equal. Wycombe took the lead with two excellent goals, but they had underestimated our girls' refusal to accept defeat. The final score was 3-3. Stowe had arrived!

As the matches came and went, Stowe 1st team matched their competitors with fine stickwork, gutsy defending and some breathtaking goals. Although we did not win every game, we went into the last game of the tournament in 2nd place, 2 points behind the leaders, Wycombe Abbey. Individual top class performances from Jo Lee and Liz Turner in defence and Clarissa Knox, Alex Carter and Leo De Ferranti in attack had put us in that unbelievable position. However, let it be known that everyone produced a display worthy of a mention in the ELA Lacrosse magazine. Girls, you should be very proud of your efforts!

The last game of the day was against Malvern Girls College, and we had underestimated their firepower in front of goal. They beat us convincingly, but they were the only school to produce a win against us all day. We held our heads high and scored more goals than any other school...Stowe 1st Lacrosse Team have challenged some of the best, and it won't be too long before one of those trophies comes to Stowe!

STOWE-DOKU

With too good an opportunity to miss, we are delighted to launch the Stowe-doku.

In what seems already to be timeless fashion, we present two puzzles, with differing degrees of difficulty: Easy and Hard.

Most will already know the simple direction: each 3x3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9.

Prizes will be awarded to the first 5 correct entries (for the 'Hard' puzzle only) drawn on 31st March, 2006. Please send or forward your completed grids to Gina Swift, Stowe School, Stowe, Buckingham, MK18 5EH.

Easy

6				9	8		5	7
	2	4		1			6	
8					6	2		
		7	1	4				3
9		2				1		5
3				5	7	6		
		8	5					4
	9			2		3	8	
1	7		8	3				9

Hard

	2		9					
	5				1	3	4	
				3	5			6
			8				9	2
1								7
5	9				2			
3			1	2				
	8	6	4				1	
					3		7	



Roxburgh Society Lunch

The first Roxburgh Society lunch at Stowe, hosted by the Headmaster, was held in July attended by 12 of the Society's founder members including Lord Quinton, who hosted the initial launch of the Society. The Society has been established for those who have left a bequest to Stowe in their will.

The delicious seasonal lunch in the Music Room

was preceded by a lively gathering with drinks in the Gothic Library and followed by entertaining speeches and a sparkling recital.

The Society was honoured to have David Shepherd (Chatham 49) as its special guest speaker. His reminiscences about his time at Stowe under JF Roxburgh were most amusing and enlightening. They contrasted enormously with Pablo Navarro's (Bruce 05) spirited speech about his perceptions of being a Stoic today but they shared a common passion for Stowe and the School.

George Walker (Temple 05) rounded off the lunch by a virtuoso clarinet performance, accompanied on piano by Jonathan Kingston, Assistant Director of Music.

A special personal tour of the almost completed Marble Saloon and South Portico restoration was provided by the new Visitor Services Manager, Anna McEvoy.

A thoroughly enjoyable occasion. We very much look forward to the next one.

RICS Award

Stowe House was announced in October as the winner of this year's coveted RICS Building Conservation Award 2005. The RICS Awards recognise outstanding achievement in the conservation and enhancement of our built and natural environment. The award acknowledges the successful completion of the first and largest of 6 phases of restoration at Stowe House – the North Front and Colonnades, a 700 feet long façade of one of Britain's earliest neoclassical palaces which has been restored to their 18th Century splendour.

The Building Conservation Award recognises the attention given to the construction materials and techniques used, conservation achievements, background research undertaken, and the project's long-term prospects. Phase 1 began in July 2000 and took 2 years to complete. The restoration has been achieved to such a high standard thanks to the Heritage Lottery Fund, who funded 75% of the costs, and the generosity of English Heritage and many individuals and grant-making trusts.

Phase 2 has just been completed (see the item on the Celebration held). There are a further four to follow.

Project Manager for Stowe House Preservation Trust, Bob Sharp, said: "Winning the RICS Award has proved a huge endorsement of the work of the Stowe House Preservation Trust, and what can be achieved with Heritage Lottery funding. Winning the award has given recognition and enhanced status to the first and future phases of this ambitious project."

Celebration time: Completion of Second Phase of the Restoration

Lord Sainsbury hosted a Reception in the Marble Saloon to mark the completion of the restoration of the South Front Central Pavilion and the Marble Saloon. Guests enjoyed guided viewings by the professional team responsible for the recent work, even up to the roof of the Mansion to see at first hand the new lead roof and copper covering of the dome.

Those present included individuals who had contributed to the work either financially or in a professional capacity. Carole Souter, Director of the Heritage Lottery Fund who have generously supported the restoration work on the House since 2000, spoke of the HLF's continued commitment and delight in the quality of the work. Sir Angus Stirling, on behalf of the Stowe House Preservation Trust, thanked all those involved.



Caption competition

Readers are invited to submit a caption for this photograph, which pictures the Headmaster and Chris Atkinson (President of the OS Society) at the Reunion Day on 1st October, a marvellous event attended by about 300 guests. Please email your entry to oldstoic@stowe.co.uk. The closing date is 1st March, 2006, and the winning entry will be announced in next spring's issue of The Column. The prize is a pair of tickets to the Pineapple Ball, which will be held at Stowe next 22nd July.

Events diary:

We provide a selection of dates of interest to members of the Stowe Community, who are welcome to attend these and other events held at Stowe. Contacts for obtaining further information are given below.

10 December 2005	Charity Christmas concert at 7.30 pm in Stowe Chapel
14 December 2005	End of Term
5 January 2006	Beginning of Term
7 February 2006	Stowe Preparatory Schools' Choral Festival
2-4 March 2006	Senior Congreve Production, "Les Miserables"
4 March 2006	Open Morning Lower School (13+ entry)
15-24 March 2006	Stowe Preparatory Schools' Art Exhibition
29 April 2006	Open Morning Lower Sixth (16+ entry)
11 May 2006	Old Stoic Society annual dinner in London
27 May 2006	Speech Day
22 July 2006	Pineapple Ball in the Stowe House state rooms

CONTACTS

School: Jane Collins 01280 818341 jcollins@stowe.co.uk
Old Stoics: John Bridgwood 01280 818252 oldstoic@stowe.co.uk