

THE Column

ISSUE 2 2006

In 1868 Disraeli wrote to Queen Victoria that "the flag waves again over Stowe which one never expected" after the second Duke of Buckingham's bankruptcy. A few days ago, we all rejoiced in seeing the Union flag fluttering over the newly restored Corinthian Arch to mark Her Majesty the Queen's 80th birthday.

Schools, like many institutions, have cyclical patterns and I am delighted to say that Stowe seems to be enjoying something of a renaissance. After one of the largest renovation projects in Europe, the North and South Fronts look resplendent in the Spring sunshine. I cannot think of a better view in England than the vista which presents itself when you stand on the South Front Loggia and gaze over the gently sloping lawn with Stoic cricketers contesting an inter-house match, golfers teeing off on the 6th hole, the beagles being exercised between the two Vanbrugh lake temples and, beyond the

Ha-Ha, sheep and heifers grazing in a Poussinesque landscape.

There is an atmosphere of hushed expectation as the hoardings go up outside the Chapel to demarcate the area where the new girls' boarding house is to be built. The designs are ready, contracts signed and the bulldozers will be moving in next week to demolish Wisteria Cottage (fortunately the girls have been relocated to the refurbished 1 Home Park house). Having welcomed twenty-four new girls into the 3rd and 4th Forms in September, we are now well and truly on our way to becoming a fully co-educational School.

We are determined that each and every Stoic reaches his or her academic potential. Heads of Departments have been instrumental in delivering revised schemes of work, using ICT imaginatively to enhance the way pupils learn, target-setting for examination year groups and implementing teaching strategies

Welcome to The Column



which differentiate between the very able and those who require more support.

We were delighted to hear that Lavinia Spurr, Jack Randall, Georgina Newman and Max Kirchoff were successful in their Oxbridge applications and we are confident that this year's Upper Sixth will fulfil our high expectations when the A-level results are published in August.

This edition of *The Column* reflects the kaleidoscopic variety of activities offered at Stowe education.

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An outstanding performance: Senior Congreve's *Les Misérables* (school edition)

Les Misérables is probably the people's favourite musical. It was very encouraging as a Director to realise that our version lived up to the expectations of appreciative and knowledgeable audiences. The standing ovation on Saturday evening was instantaneous and made all the rehearsing and preparation worthwhile. All four performances were well received (even the Dress Rehearsal turned out to be a full house!) it was very encouraging for the pupils to realise their production was having such an impact.

As in all theatre productions, and certainly with a project of this stature, the teamwork involved was one of the critical factors in the success. Jonathan Kingston, Hilary Ford and Mark Edwards were all superb in their commitment to all the

rehearsals and performances. I know how much the pupils were grateful for having so many dedicated staff to turn to for help with their most testing pieces of recitative and harmonies.

This teamwork extended to other colleagues and pupils because without costumes, a set, lighting and sound, front of house and box office, makeup and many other facets involved in the production we would never have been able to provide such a 'professional' production. We have an excellent photographic record of the show which I hope you will be able to access via our website at: www.stowe.co.uk/news/news/05-06/summer/les_miserables.html and re-live, like me, some of the poignant and emotional highlights.

Lionel Weston, Director

Photos: Roy Ottaway



"Stowe's performance rivaled the London productions."



"The finest school production of any work that we have ever seen."



"Your front of house team did you proud."



◀ continued from page 1

Music goes from strength to strength with the orchestra tackling an increasingly challenging classical repertoire; the Chapel Choir sang a spiritually charged Evensong in the sublime setting of Christchurch Cathedral, Oxford and there cannot be many schools in the country that can stage an end of term 'Last Night of the Proms' concert with a programme ranging from Allegri's Miserere to Madonna's Like a Prayer. The finale of one thousand voices singing the words of the Dambusters' March followed by Jerusalem could be heard in the neighbouring village of Dadford! We are already in the midst of preparing for next term's Arts Festival which we hope will have a literary flavour as well as the usual mixture of drama, dance, song, and magic.

A new spirit of competitiveness suffuses sport at Stowe. Our athletes represent both County and National teams and it is a measure of our new-found confidence that last season's cricket 1st XI remained unbeaten in regular school fixtures and our lacrosse teams had their most successful season ever. The Stowe Academy is comprised of our most successful athletes who are

selected for their dedication, team work and agility. They are given advice on diet, exercise, sports psychology and motivation so that they can focus on fulfilling their considerable potential. There are always new opportunities for sporting prowess to flourish at Stowe and I have been delighted with the recent success of the rejuvenated rowing club which competed in its first regatta at Evesham in late April. We have also bucked the trend by positively encouraging field sports and our beagle pack is widely acknowledged to be one of the best in the country. Anyone driving over the Oxford Water in the early evening will be rewarded with the sight of a dozen or so Stoics fly-fishing in the restocked lakes.

The most recent web edition of the Good Schools Guide comments positively on the "unspoiled, un-arrogant behaviour of the pupils". More importantly, this esteemed publication reports on "blissfully happy children". I cannot think of a better endorsement than that.

Anthony Wallersteiner
ANTHONY WALLERSTEINER
HEADMASTER



Stowe receives £30,000 Wolfson Grant

We are delighted to have been awarded a grant of £30,000 from the Wolfson Education Trust (a Trust that supports educational excellence) to fund a project to equip the Science Department with a mobile suite of laptops and datalogging equipment. Now whole classes can monitor experiments electronically, allowing pupils to develop a true understanding of what is going on in experiments and reactions. The equipment enables laptops to connect wirelessly to a wide range of scientific sensors as well as the School's network.

Stowe's interest in the use of ICT in Science teaching was sparked off 8 years ago when the Chemistry Department was at the centre of a national project set up by the Nuffield Foundation. This led to the wide spread use of ICT by science teachers to enhance classroom delivery, much work being centred around the use of data projectors and interactive whiteboards. This development put in

place extensive resources on the network for pupils to use when they worked on their own away from the classroom. The Wolfson project compliments these initiatives as it facilitates pupil use of ICT in class and completes the overall picture of how ICT is used to great effect at all levels of scientific study.

The award is further recognition of the ground breaking work that goes on in our Science Department. There is a clear vision of how ICT can be best used to enhance the delivery of science education and the software that has come out of collaborative work with Stowe's scientists is now used both nationally and internationally. Projects involving Stowe staff have led them to presenting at national conferences as well as working with overseas scientists. Stowe has led the way for a number of years in the area of science education, this recent project and the support from the Wolfson Foundation helps to keep us at the forefront.



Sir Peter Hall visits Stowe

On Friday 24 February 2006, Stowe's Literary Society was privileged to be host to Sir Peter Hall, probably the most eminent of all theatrical directors working in this country since the Second World War. Sir Peter founded the Royal Shakespeare Company, brought the National Theatre to the South Bank, and was Artistic Director at Covent Garden and Glynedebourne.

The evening began with a reception in the Gothic Library, where Lower Sixth students of English Literature and Theatre Studies had the opportunity to meet the man who had first brought to the theatre several of the texts that they encounter on their A-Level courses. Sir Peter was soon encircled by young admirers asking questions.

Sir Peter began his talk by observing that credibility rather than truth is the essential quality of theatre, a play or opera being an act of imagination between performers and audience. Having remarked on the distinguishing features of the language and speech-rhythms of such modern playwrights as Edward Albee, Harold Pinter and Tennessee Williams, he concluded his talk with advice on the speaking of Shakespearean blank verse. He then fielded questions for fully half an hour, his observations on the role of the director being particularly valuable.

The evening ended with dinner in the Blue Room. This time, it was students from the Upper Sixth who had the opportunity to approach the great man and to engage him in conversation. Leading actors and actresses from Stowe's production of Les Misérables (school edition) were prominent participators in conversation at table. Sir Peter, who had earlier expressed his intention to depart by 10.00pm stayed on, with characteristic generosity, for an extra half hour, ensuring that so many of those who wanted the opportunity to speak to him were not disappointed.

For years to come, this memorable evening will be recalled as an exceptional event in Stowe's cultural calendar. Our sincere thanks go to Sir Peter for honouring us with his presence and for offering us the benefit of knowledge, experience and wisdom deriving from a triumphant career spanning over fifty years in the theatre.

Spiritual & Moral Education or SPAM-Ed as it's now known

Rabbi Jonathan Sachs, the Britain's Chief Rabbi, recently wrote:

There's a moment in the Bible that's long fascinated me. When Moses addressed the Israelites as they were about to leave Egypt after two centuries of exile and slavery, he didn't speak about freedom, or about the land flowing with milk and honey. Instead he spoke about the duty of parents to educate their children. Why? Because to defend a country you need an army; but to defend a civilisation, you need education.

In the midst of league table mania, it's often too easy to forget this, the ultimate purpose of education, and so this is why Spiritual and Moral Education has been on my mind for a number of years. I have, over my thirteen years of working in schools, established in my mind several topics that I feel ought to be covered and yet belong to no area of the curriculum. Some of these I have already managed to squeeze into the ubiquitous General RS syllabus, but there are others that have not been so readily identified as being to do with religion. Being offered the opportunity of a clean sheet of paper and a lesson a week with the Fourth, Fifth and Upper Sixth was a dream, and I have drawn up schemes that scratch the itches that I feel need scratching.

A highly beneficial by-product of this move on the part of the School has been to separate General RS from Certificated RS, the latter of which is an academic subject of great stature, but which frustratingly finds itself confused with the former and consequently dismissed as a lightweight subject by those who ought to know better. Finally, by introducing SPAM-Ed, Stowe becomes one of the first schools in the country to formally acknowledge through the timetable the fact that School Inspectors now assess schools for the manner in which they educate their pupils 'Spiritually, Morally, Socially, and Culturally'.

What do we cover?

In the Fourth Form, we look at relationships – marriage, divorce, virginity, homosexuality, pornography etc. – I am determined that sex is seen principally as a part of a relationship and not as an isolated physical act. We then take a look at death, global peacekeeping and the role of the UN, secular religions such as humanism, materialism, consumerism, and maybe even nihilism.

In the Fifth Form, the year during which they turn 16, we ask why they are at school in the first place... what's the point of education? Then, we take a look at the interface between Science and Religion. This is followed by a look at global issues and in particular, environmental issues and international justice. We end the year by studying the media, and how it plays a large part, not just in reflecting our values, but actually fashioning them in the first place.

Finally, in the Upper Sixth, we look at the two big questions... 'Who am I?' and 'What am I here for?'... and how they have been answered in the West over the past 2500. Along the way, we discover just how much of what has gone before resonates with today's experiences. What can we learn from the great thinkers whose writings have helped forge today's culture?

The lessons are generally discussion based... I am aware that very often, the pupils are in a position to learn from each other and not just from me... and I'm just getting the hang of video streaming and the use of IT to make things even more interesting!

Oh, and why SPAM-Ed? Well to initialise 'Spiritual and Moral' and then to study it with the Chaplain might just get me locked up, and to reverse the order... M & S... is just too sad to contemplate. So, SPiritual And Moral Education it is!

Robert Jackson, Chaplain

Stowe's Laptop Scheme

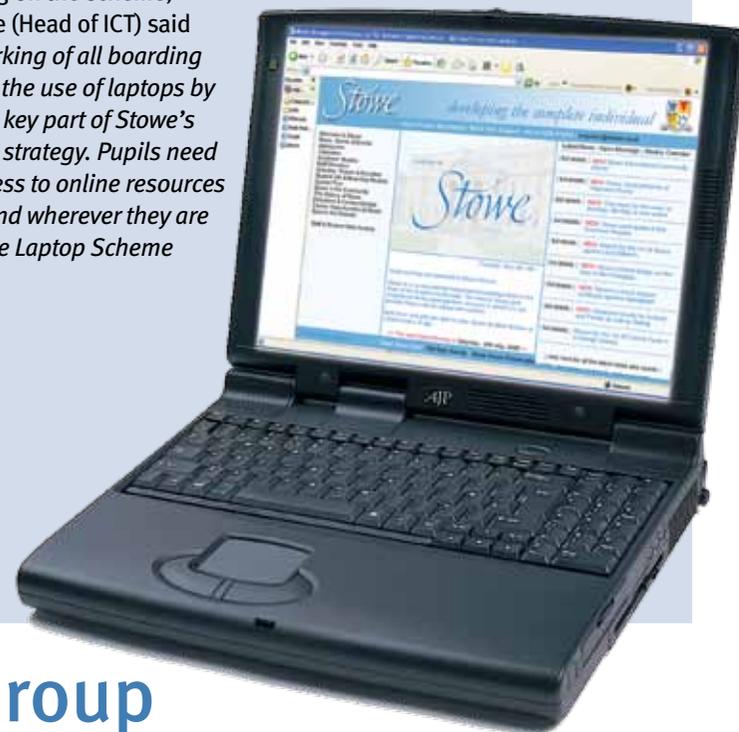
This is now the second year of Stowe's laptop scheme, with an encouraging uptake – over 50% of all new pupils opted to purchase through the scheme. This really helps enrich the educational experience as they come preloaded with software used at Stowe, including Microsoft Office and many subject specific software packages. They are also preconfigured to help Stoics make the most of the extensive range of educational resources now available on the School's network.

The Scheme laptops are fully supported by the ICT Department and pupils are even lent a laptop if theirs has to be sent away for repair. The package also includes a 3-year extended warranty, accidental damage insurance and built in wireless configured to work on the wireless network that is currently expanding in the academic zone.

Commenting on the scheme, James Tearle (Head of ICT) said *"The networking of all boarding houses and the use of laptops by pupils are a key part of Stowe's educational strategy. Pupils need to have access to online resources whenever and wherever they are working. The Laptop Scheme*

enables just that and I'm delighted with the success of the Scheme as it enables the ICT Department to fully support pupils with these laptops. The laptops are very good value with everything that is included as the School is able to pass on the benefits of bulk purchase and volume licensing and makes no money at all out of the Scheme. They really do make a very big difference and the damage insurance has proved very useful too!"

With the continuing expansion of using IT within the curriculum all pupils should have a laptop to enable them to get full benefit of all the resources available whatever subjects they are studying. Parents wishing to purchase though the Scheme can contact Stowe's chosen partner 'First Technology' directly on **01844 215100** or ask the Admissions Office to send them a copy of the Scheme brochure.



XX Group

Last term saw the re-introduction of the XX Group – a name long associated at Stowe with the academically most able students in the Lower School. With this 're-launch' we will be providing a full and challenging extra-curricular programme for the Academic Scholars and other nominated Stoics in the 3rd and 4th Forms, by introducing them to off-syllabus areas, and giving them freedom to investigate further on their own. Meeting most weeks, the Stoics have enjoyed presentations on subjects as diverse as logic problem solving, Picasso's Guernica, DNA fingerprinting and the effect of gender

on language. This Summer term sees a debate on Apartheid, a case-study on Chaos Theory, and a discussion of how we define our own 'normality', along with many other topics. In addition to these presentations are weekly prize-problems, a termly outing, and small group meetings to discuss academic progress and targets. The current group have taken up the challenge with such great enthusiasm that we feel sure that successive years of our brightest junior Stoics will continue to exploit this new venture with the same keenness, contributing to the burgeoning academic focus across the School.

100% in AS Geography

Julian Nesbitt and Tom Stanton both got 100% on their AS Physical Geography module. This continues the trend from last year when two girls got 100% in the same exam.

Dominic Heath got 100% in a very demanding A2 essay paper, a first for a Stoic in this particular module.

Creative Writing Forum 2006

In March the Creative Writing Forum held its annual recitations. This year's programme was particularly well balanced, with contributors from the Fourth, Fifth, Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth Forms.

The menu was appetisingly varied: seven short stories (or parts of longer prose works) were performed, together with a total of seven poems, or collections of shorter poems. Drama was the only major genre not represented this year (a hint for next year's participants?).

Jonathan Wale (Walpole) and Charlotte Matthews (Lyttelton) were the youngest contributors, Jonathan with a sensitive, engaging poem about 'watching history walk by' over Stowe's Oxford Bridge, and Charlotte with an amusing, tense short story exploring the thoughts and feelings of a girl inquisitive about the contents of her room-mate's diary. Charlotte's reading of her work was particularly accomplished.

The Fifth Form contributions were all short stories. Tim Field (Bruce) offered a painful tale about a little girl coming to recognise the horrifying truth about her father. Humphrey Wood (Chandos) told of an everyday tragedy in suburbia, the re-possession of a family's home, while Conor Curtis (Bruce) chose a similar suburban setting for a very different story of murderous marital tension.

Catriona Beadel (Nugent) represented the Lower Sixth. Her disturbing poem, 'Arbeit Macht Frei', was a vivid precursor for those on the annual Stowe School Pitt Society trip to Eastern Europe, which takes in the Auschwitz/Birkenau extermination-camp, the subject of Catriona's poem.

From the Upper Sixth, Charles Reynolds (Bruce) treated the audience to another of his wryly humorous, macabre tales, read by Lavinia Spurr (Nugent). Charles's story, 'Crossing the Line', had won the 2005 Gavin Maxwell Senior Prize for

Fiction. Lavinia also performed her own work, a poem entitled 'Bridges', commenting on the distance between people with images of painful division.

Edmund Jones (Grafton) and Edward Cowan (Bruce) offered two very 'English' short stories involving an amusing treatment of social events that go disastrously wrong. Edmund chose a christening and Edward a village fete. Both performers showed their versatility as actors in their ability to switch between dramatic voices while performing their readings. Edmund's story was the first instalment of a planned trilogy, 'Hatched, Matched, Despatched' (presumably parallel scenes of a christening, a marriage and a funeral), while Edward's tale, 'Edwin Seeks Revenge', was the sequel to the short story that he read at last year's recitations. If you were not present to hear Edward's reading, then you may never know how topiary can be an effective means of revenge!

Edmund Jones also offered a range of poetry: a selection of his Shakespearian limericks, a satirical poem in dramatic monologue form ('Building Bridges', winner of the 2005 Roxburgh Senior Prize for Poetry), a gently nostalgic idyll and a witty, thought-provoking portrait of a food fight on Remembrance Day.

The evening concluded with a chance for the audience to chat to the writer/performers. As a result of the evening's readings, Charlotte Matthews was awarded a Bene as the most promising newcomer. Edward Cowan won the 2006 Hayward Prize for Reading. The 2006 Harding Prize for Reading went to Edmund Jones. Finally, the congratulations and thanks of all present went to Mr. Steven Thompson (Chairman of the Creative Writing Forum) for continuing to foster such a high standard of literary talent at Stowe.

Classics visit to Greece

A party of 13 made up of Fifth and Sixth Formers studying Classics set off on 24 March for a packed tour of Southern Greece. The visit took in 18 sites and 2 museums in 7 busy days.

The highlights were many, but the 3 most striking Classical sites had to be Olympia, home to the original Olympic games, and sanctuary to the Greek god Zeus, Delphi, home to the famous Oracle, and sanctuary to the god Apollo, seen as the sun set over the Corinthian Gulf; and the Acropolis, a sanctuary to Athene, patron goddess of Athens, looking across the sprawling Greek capital city.

Other highlights were the Souvlaki (Pork kebabs) that were on offer everywhere, James Randall-Coath and his Greek dancing, the wonderfully efficient and clean Metro system (built for the Olympic games), Charlie Margesson winning the final race in the Pythian stadium at Delphi, the acoustics in an empty theatre at Epidavros (mind you, it was 8.30 in the morning) and a sunset meal looking out on the Aegean, beside the Temple of Poseidon at Cape Sounion. We were also in Napflion for the Independence Day parades of 25 March, where we were able to enjoy watching many Greeks in national dress, and lots of nationalistic flag waving.

We saw history unfolding before us, from the Bronze age citadel of Mycenae (and the supposed tomb of Agamemnon), to the Classical splendour of Periclean Athens, the Hellenistic influence of the athletics stadium at Nemea, Roman influence on Athenian sites, a Byzantine church at Osios Lucas, Venetian architecture at Napflion, and the modernisation and improvements to Athens for the recent games. All were bound together by the intense pride felt by the Greeks in everything that their country has to offer, and their desire to show it off to everyone who shows an interest.

We also got to see such treasures as the helmet of Miltiades (victorious Athenian general at Marathon), the bronze statue of Poseidon (or Zeus) in throwing pose, the death mask of Agamemnon (made in gold, and found by the infamous archaeologist Schliemann), those of the Caryatids that have not been shipped to England – a bit of a sore point here with the Greeks, and Elgin is not too popular there either – and vases decorated by the Greek masters including Exekias.

All took the opportunity to partake in the culture, and learn about a history that was religious, military, patriotic, artistic, theatrical, athletic, political, mathematical and philosophical. The names of Pericles, Themistocles, Plato, Aristotle, Praxiteles, Pheidias, Heracles and Euripides were all heard in normal conversation, and I hope that all those who went will return to Greece when they get the opportunity, to investigate further.

Chris Townsend, Classics Teacher

Stowe wins the prizes

Thames Valley Young Musician Competition

The competition was held in the Silk Hall at Radley College. Craig Greene was one of 13 competitors, all of Grade 8+ standard, seven of whom were pianists, and all playing at an extremely high level creating a demanding competitive environment. In the first round all the competitors played one item of their own choice. Craig chose the piano, played the Mendelssohn Variations Serieuses, and was one of 5 selected for the final. In this, each had to play a 20-30 minutes programme, including the piece performed in the 1st round. Craig added the Bach toccata in E minor to the Mendelssohn performance. We are delighted to report that Craig won 1st prize, the Constance Bishop Memorial prize, (of £100) and the opportunity to play a recital in Abingdon later this year. Many congratulations to Craig.

Design and Technology Tournament

The Rotary Club Design and Technology Tournament 2006 at Aylesbury saw Stowe's best results ever. This result is especially noteworthy because we were up against some stiff competition. The task involved



designing an arm to allow picking up and manipulating a radioactive tennis ball from a safe distance. The competition is similar to Scrap Heap Challenge – but on a smaller scale.

1st Prize, Advanced: Advanced Team 2: James Bradshaw, Rory Brabant, Mia Sparrow, Chloe Dorrington.

2nd Prize, Advanced: Advanced Team 1: Hamish Ritchie, Anika Nixdorf, Olivia Pendered.

3rd Prize, Intermediate: Stephen Percy, Miles Crosby, Sam Hunter, Richard Gordon Coldbrook.

Intermediate Team 2 were invited to participate in the Advanced section due to the effectiveness of their solution: Monty Lewis, Freddie Prendergast, Natalie McDaid, Mark Goodenough.





Photo kindly taken by a London Bobby

An Observance for Commonwealth Day 2006

The Observance Service was held at Westminster Abbey on 13 March. Among the celebrated guests were the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall. Four Stoics Lavinia Spurr, Alice Wiggett, Charlotte Matthews and Harry Burke were accompanied by Mr. Longworth, along with 1,000 other young people, diplomats and dignitaries representing the Commonwealth.

A steel band introduced the procession of flags of the Commonwealth countries which began the service. The wonderfully colourful display of costumes created a powerful contrast to the dramatic interior of the Abbey.

The Commonwealth Challenge for this year – ‘Health and Vitality’ – was explored through personal testimonies and words from sporting heroes, such as Ade Adepitan MBE, the Olympic wheelchair athlete, and various religious representatives. It is particularly compelling when delegates from Christianity, Islam, Baha’ism and Sikhism, amongst others, unite to deliver one message. Personal stories of combating disease and overcoming disability were inspiring and demonstrated what can be achieved through perseverance and teamwork. These accounts presented the exact marked characteristics of what we must

strive for to achieve the Commonwealth aim, summed up in six affirmations that rest upon values and principles that are endorsed by the traditions of all the representative countries, values and principles that sustain the Commonwealth and nourish its distinctive character.

Patricia Rozario, the world renowned opera singer, sang a moving piece by Sergei Rachmaninoff that represented the need to speak up to be heard in the world. The Westminster Boys Choir represented the voice of youth within the Commonwealth. The highlight of the entertainment was definitely the Bromley Valley Jets Gymnastics Team. They performed fantastic feats of agility and strength. One of the most daring was to throw a gymnast into a back-flip and then catch her precariously, without protection from the hard stone floor of the Abbey. They exemplified the health and vitality that can be achieved through sport and showed what can be achieved if we understand and adhere to the Commonwealth challenge; and that, after all, was the underlying intent of the service.

In all, it was a fascinating, fun and stimulating day, giving us a better insight into the workings of the Commonwealth and the reasons for its existence in the 21st Century.

Drama team visit Maids Moreton First School

Nick Bayley, Head of Drama, and four Nugent girls, Cressida Bonas, Emily Ansell, Olivia Collins and Amber Wyles went to Maids Moreton First School on 15 March to run a movement/dance session for the 4-7 year olds at the school who were taking part in a multi-cultural week, focusing on Africa. They created a jungle setting and encouraged the youngsters to become animals searching for food and water. The Stowe girls were active in their help and encouragement, working with a small group to create a sequence which was then performed to others. The Stoics were sensitive and caring towards the little ones and were a

credit to themselves and the School. This kind of community liaison is vital, particularly in small village schools who do not have access to visiting professional companies who can help produce this kind of creative work.



Prep School Choral Day

In 1994 the first Stowe Choral Day was held with around 300 choristers plus the Stowe Chapel Choir. What made this event special is that it was not conducted by one person but the conductors and organists came from the ranks of the visiting Music Directors of the Prep Schools themselves, supported by the Stowe music staff.

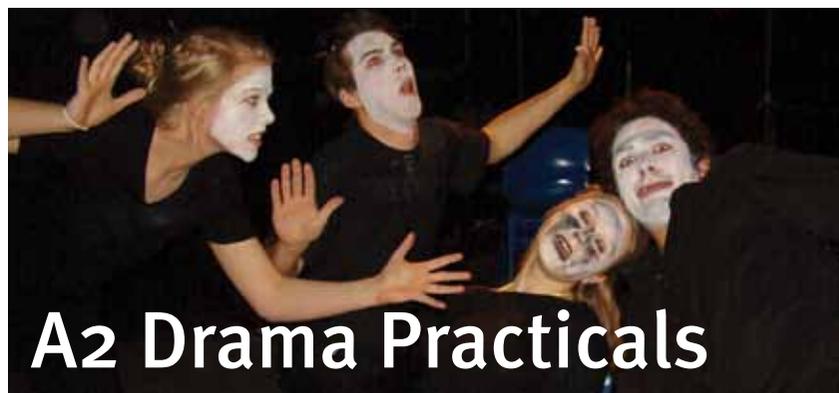
It was a traditional Choral Evensong, with challenging music. The canticles were Bairstow in D, Smith Responses, the introit was Pitoni’s ‘*Cantate Domino*’ and the anthem ‘*Blessed be the God and Father*’ by S.S.Wesley. It was a huge success and though the music may change every year the format of the day has not, with hour long rehearsals interspersed with breaks followed by Evensong. In February 2006 there were 630 choristers taking part from 25 schools, some of these had come from as far away as Yorkshire.

Anyone who visits Stowe knows that it is a very special place with its eighteenth century Palladian buildings, with its own grounds of 750 acres there is plenty of space for the young choristers to burn off energy. The format of the Service is that of the 1662

Prayer Book. Every year they are challenged musically and yet when they all come together it works and the sound is inspiring. This year’s anthem was Harwood’s ‘*O how glorious*’ which has long sinuous vocal lines and very little in the way of a ‘catchy’ tune and yet it worked and every chorister felt a great sense of achievement after its performance. The setting of the canticles was Stanford in A which needs two choirs and they coped with this brilliantly.

Enjoyed by so many schools, the Stowe Prep. School Choral Day has become their Choral Day as they make their contribution by singing, conducting, playing and choosing the music. The catering staff cope brilliantly as the School doubles in number and lunch and supper have to be found for everyone. The Tuck Shop is of course popular with the young choristers and the grounds are enjoyed but at the end of the day there is nothing that can compare with the sound of 800 voices singing some of the great music of the English Cathedral repertoire and long may this event continue.

John Cooper Green,
Director of Music at Stowe



A2 Drama Practicals

On 8 and 9 March the twenty A2 Drama and Theatre studies students took part in their major practical exam. Each Stoic had to perform three contrasting roles in a choice of scene or extract from a pre-1900 play, a post 1900 play and one that they had devised themselves.

As always we had a fine eclectic mix of material ranging from the standards like Chekhov, Ibsen, Wilde and Shakespeare to the more contemporary such as Albee, Russell, Godber and Ayckbourn. The pieces were imaginatively staged in the Dobinson Theatre and the new Studio, as well as on location around the School. One piece ‘*Three Men in a Boat*’ was to be performed down by

the lake but due to poor weather the Stoics re-located to the swimming pool. Here they proceeded to promenade from changing room to pool side including a brief spell rowing from the deep end to the shallow! We also had an ‘*Importance of Being Earnest*’ in the Music Room.

Many of the devised scenes were heavily influenced by the theories and practices of Berholt Brecht. The material was challenging and contemporary. We had a piece about the 100th soldier to be killed in Iraq and a piece about the rise in the cult of celebrities!

All Stoics involved showed a real commitment to their work and we await some excellent results in the summer.

From the Chairman

I am delighted and honoured to have taken over from Paul Calkin as Chairman of the Old Stoic Society on the 11th May following our AGM. I would like to pay tribute to Paul for his 3 years of Chairmanship, during which he has devoted a great deal of time and energy to taking the Society forward.

In my personal and professional life in I have remained in touch with many Old Stoics since leaving Stowe in 1969. Recently I have also been a Stowe parent (my son Harry left Cobham in 2004) and this brings me to the theme of this article: the Old Stoic Society and the School are undergoing a period of positive change.

Paul and I have been working for some months with the Committee to develop a broader vision for the Old Stoic Society making it more meaningful to Old Stoics and to be able to offer greatly improved networking and other benefits.

Those of you living in the UK will have received our expanded Programme of Events for 2006 and you will see that we are developing a much wider choice of activities for Old Stoics both at national and international level.

We are presently planning a number of specialist networking groups to bring Old Stoics together in business and leisure interests. Old Stoics generally appreciate and enjoy each others company and we would like to encourage strong personal networking in the future. We would welcome any ideas on this subject.

We are also investigating offering a range of member benefits where Old Stoics might offer other members discounts or added value in providing services or business opportunities. A number of people have come forward with suggestions for member benefits and we are seeking to develop this.

The Old Stoic Society is your Society and our challenge is to encourage you to fully engage with the Society and the School and benefit from its membership. Please feel free to contact John Bridgwood or me with any thoughts you may have regarding the aims of the Society and how it might help you.

Finally, I urge you to take part in some of our new events and activities which I hope and believe you will find most enjoyable.

John Arkwright (Cobham 69)



Life after Stowe, by Simon Clegg, CBE (Chatham 78)

Joining the Army would have been a natural step for me after having been Stowe CCF's Senior Under Officer; the Regular Commissions Board had other ideas! Following a two year spell as a trainee quantity surveyor and time as a TA private soldier in the Parachute Regiment, I eventually made it to Sandhurst in 1980.

On commissioning I was posted to Germany and joined a unit which had dominated Army skiing for decades. Over the next 7 years I balanced my service commitments, including an operational tour in Northern Ireland and overseas tours in Kenya, Falkland Islands, Cyprus, Hong Kong, Australia, Brunei and Malaysia, with my sporting aspirations. After four successful winter seasons winning major trophies I was seconded for 12 months to manage the British Biathlon team (cross country skiing and shooting) in 1984-5 and then the national development squads in 1985-88. I attended the 1988 Olympic Winter Games in Calgary, again on secondment from the Army and after managing Team GB's sole ski jumper, Eddie 'The Eagle' Edwards, I was invited to join the British Olympic

Association as its Assistant General Secretary.

There I took on various roles before becoming the BOA's Chief Executive in 1997. I have managed British athletes at the last 11 Olympic and Olympic Winter Games, including the highly successful team in Sydney.

My first project on becoming Chief Executive was, together with a small team, to conceive and develop an Olympic bid for London which I had to sell to both the Government and Ken Livingstone before handing the project over to Barbara Cassani and subsequently to Sebastian Coe. Remaining on the board of the bid committee, I was one of 3 UK signatories, together with the President of the IOC, on the London host city contract. I continue as a main board director on the London Organising Committee and am now focused on delivering Team GB to 4th place in the 2012 medal table, a somewhat ambitious target!

My family association with Stowe is a long and happy one; my father and 2 brothers are also Old Stoics, and my son Toby followed us into Chatham last autumn.

Photo: Matt Libbury



David Fingleton (Chatham 59)

David Fingleton (Chatham 59) died on February 18th, 2006, in the London Clinic at the age of 64.

Always set on becoming a barrister, a profession that suited his quick intelligence and his extrovert character, he practiced for a while at the bar, dealing in criminal cases, and was later appointed a stipendiary magistrate. Ill-health compelled him to retire early, but gave him more time to concentrate on his many other interests.

David wrote for leading national magazines and newspapers on food, wine and music, and particularly on opera, which was the art form that gave him the greatest pleasure. His style was lively

and left the reader in no doubt about his likes and dislikes. He also wrote a biography of the soprano, Kiri Te Kanawa, and did a series on his favourite operas on the BBC World Service. Where food was concerned, he was both gourmet and gourmand, and the rich meals he described in loving detail in a column in the Spectator shocked some of his more puritanical readers.

His combative nature and his lifelong interests were already in evidence during his time at Stowe. As a Jew, though never a practicing one, he was occasionally subjected to some disagreeable name-calling, but gave his persecutors in return an articulate verbal lashing they did not easily forget. He and his study-mate would compensate for the dreadful school food of those days by importing a stock of such delicacies as Plumrose tinned Pâté at the start of each term, and the aroma of their percolated Blue Danube coffee perfumed the air of Chatham House on Sunday mornings. David's love of opera was fostered by the infectious enthusiasm of his housemaster, Alasdair Macdonald, for the

operas of Verdi and by a memorable visit to Oxford with the Music Society for a performance of Aida, with the great Constance Shacklock as Amneris. He also helped to found the Gramophone Society, now no doubt time-expired, whilst at Stowe.

David arrived at Stowe having suffered a dislocated hip in a schoolboy prank at his prep school. This put an end to any sporting activity and left him lame for the rest of his life. But he thrived as one of Bill McElwee's history students and won an exhibition to University College, Oxford, where he read modern history.

David had a gift for friendship and his wide circle of friends included many young people to whom he gave unstinting help and encouragement as they embarked on their careers. He is survived by his wife, the writer Clare Colvin, sister Elizabeth and brother John (Chatham 66) who, in his memory, have donated to Stowe his 20-Volume New Groves Dictionary of Music and Musicians.

David Blow (Chatham 59)

The Pineapple Ball, 1951 vintage

Now that the Old Stoic Society is reviving the Pineapple Ball, to be held on Saturday, 22nd July, a look at how the Ball used to be makes a fascinating comparison. With thanks to Michael Sandwith (Walpole 40), who acted as Treasurer for the 1951 Ball, for the following notes:

The Ball was held on Wednesday, 10th January, at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane. Tickets were 2 guineas each, including dinner, and 650 guests attended. The after-dinner cabaret was performed by Kenneth Horne (later of the radio show 'Round the Horne' fame) and Richard Murdoch. Music was provided by Tommy Kinsman and his Band, and an eightsome reel was danced at 1.00 a.m.

The proceeds from the sale of programmes by 8 boys from the Stowe Club for Boys (the 'Pineapple Club'), the sale of pineapples and a tombola raised £600 for the Club.

The pineapples in question, which at that time of food rationing were a rare and exotic fruit, were donated by a dozen or so local fruit traders and sold at the Ball for ten shillings each.

The tombola prize list reflected the time, with items including a brace of pheasants donated by the Lord Huntingfield (Old Stoic); 2 boxes of 50 cigarettes donated by Harrods; 6 pairs of silk stockings donated by Etam Ltd.; and a selection of whiskies and liqueurs donated by Mr Denis Rowlatt and the other Old Stoics of Calcutta!

Pineapple Ball 2006 promises to be another vintage year

The Ball will commence with a champagne reception at 7.30pm, with dinner at 8.30pm. After dinner there will be dancing to the Rough Diamonds, led by Oliver Croom-Johnson (Temple 69) and the Chance Discotheque until 2.00am. Tickets cost £85.00 and profits will go towards the Stowe Club that still provides facilities and support for underprivileged children in the Harrow Road area of London. Accommodation at Stowe School is available at additional cost. All members of the Stowe community – Old Stoics, parents and staff – are welcome to attend.

Please contact the Old Stoic Office for further details and bookings.

Marriages

C D Bird (Lyttelton 78)
Christopher to Victoria Harrison on 17 Jun 06.

G S Tetlow (Temple 84)
Simon to Katherine Shiffner on 17 Dec 05.

Mrs J D Waddell [nee Miller] (Stanhope 84)
Jane to Adam Waddell on 24 Jun 04.

M J Bartlett (Temple 85)
Michael to Anna Pare on 10 Sept 05. Caspar Shand Kydd was Best Man.

P R A Shackleton (Walpole 87)
Paul to Lisa in Jan 04.

Mrs S V Noton [nee Flynn] (Nugent 89)
Selina to Stuart Noton on 4 Mar 06.

A T Talbot Rice (Cobham 89)



Alexander to Annabel on 25 June 05.

C D R Wolseley Brinton (Lyttelton 89)
Charles to Emily in Sep 02.

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



Laura to James Jack in Apr 03.

C A Mahood (Grenville 93)
Christian to Sarah-Jane Bond on 3 Dec 05.

Mrs H S Atkinson [nee Bolland] (Lyttelton 96)
Henrietta to Ryan Atkinson on 21 May 05.

Mrs D Devi Talukdar [nee Devi] (Lyttelton 97)



Durga to Ranjit on 14 Jan 06. Pictured with Durga are Ariane von Boch, Karina Friesen and Georgina Rolt. Kassim Lawal also attended.

Mrs A V Salt [nee Macfarlane] (Lyttelton 97)
Alice to Tom Salt on 10 Sep 05. In attendance were Jane Collingwood, Kate Copper, Kate Pearce and Emma Johnston.

Births

P B Calkin (Lyttelton 81)
to Paul and Nicole, a son Jasper on 19 Apr 06.

G S Jackson (Grenville 81)
to Giles and Lucy, a daughter Jemima May on 7 Mar 05.

R G Verdon-Roe (Bruce 83)
to Bobby and Sophia, a daughter Olympia on 18 Apr 06.

N J Hughes (Grafton 85)
to Nick and Cindy, a son Edward Louis Osborne on 13 Jul 04.

S M W Simpson (Walpole 86)
to Mark and Sue, a daughter Eleanor Roase Helen on 30 Dec 05.

P H Saville (Chandos 87)
to Paul and Simone, a son William Artur Maciel on 6 Dec 05.

P R A Shackleton (Walpole 87)
to Paul and Lisa, a daughter Daisy in Sep 04.

Mrs E J Willcox [nee Lascelles] (Nugent 87)
to Jane and Mark, a daughter Kiki Isabella on 17 Mar 05.

R B Pumfrey (Chandos 88)
to Rob and Helen [nee Mills] (Stanhope 85), a son Peter Frederick on 18 Oct 05.

Mrs V Aylward [nee Sayers] (Stanhope 89)
to Victoria and Stuart, a son Maximilian Jeremy on 24 Oct 05.

Mrs S A E Heath [nee Pearce] (Stanhope 89)
to Sarah and Dominic, a son Henry on 22 Dec 04.

C D R Wolseley Brinton (Lyttelton 89)
to Charles and Emily, sons William in Feb 04 and Archie in Dec 05.

G A Irvine (Grenville 90)
to George and Victoria, a daughter Silvia Rose on 26 Apr 06, sister to Archie and Arthur.

T D McEwen (Chatham 90)
to Tristan and Paula, a son Max on 24 Jan 06.

M W Pumfrey (Chandos 90)
to Matt and Lucy, a son Jack William Arthur on 25 Jan 06.

Mrs A Christodoulou [nee Klat] (Nugent 91)
to Angela and Stelios, a daughter Sophia on 24 Jun 05, a sister for Athos.

Mrs L J R Jack [nee Farr] (Nugent 91)
to Laura and James, a son Robert Cameron on 12 Feb 04.

Deaths

Mrs R Shahani (former staff)
on 5 Feb 06.

O E Craster, TD, MA, FSA (Cobham 34)
on 29 Jan 06.

I Earle, TD (Chatham 34) on 1 Mar 06.

I H Nicholson (Grafton 35) on 9 Feb 06.

Dr D A Barker (Walpole 36)
on 12 Oct 05.

W M G Brown (Grafton 36) on 2 Jan 06.

J M Icke (Cobham 37) on 14 Apr 05.

Sir Henry Yellowlees, KCB, FRCP, FRCS (Chatham 37) on 22 Mar 06.

D R Barbour (Cobham 38)
on 30 Dec 05.

Dr R C Roxburgh, MA, MD, FRCP (Walpole 38) on 21 Nov 05.

Dr R H Hansell (Walpole 39)
on 6 Dec 05.

N R T Hay (Bruce 39) on 1 Oct 05.

Sqdn Ldr J P Bentley (Cobham 40)
on 18 Mar 06.

Dr G M Scott, MC, MB (Grafton 41)
on 22 Mar 06.

P P Bagshawe (Grenville 46)
on 25 Jun 05.

D I Hird (Chatham 47) on 12 May 05.

G P Tobin (Grenville 47) on 2 Apr 06.

Lord Headfort (Chandos 50)
on 21 Oct 05.

M S Turnbull (Bruce 50) on 2 Jan 06.

Dr H J Lloyd (Temple 51) on 4 Feb 06.

E Luddington (Cobham 53) in Apr 06.

D M Fingleton (Chatham 59)
on 18 Feb 06.

J F M Monkhouse (Cobham 64)
on 24 Nov 05.

Dr I A R Jenkins, BS, MRCS (Bruce 68)
on 5 Feb 06.

W G Ashcroft (Cobham 71)
on 19 Mar 06.

P D Jeffreys (Chandos 79) in Apr 05.

News

P T Hancock (former staff)

Peter has been retired from the Chaplaincy since 1994, but still keeps his hand in with the occasional service.

W E H Vernon (former staff)

William and his wife, Emma, are very happy at St Ronan's Prep School, where William has been Headmaster since 2003. They are both enjoying overseeing the School's development and resurgence as a leading Prep School in the South East.

A G Bowie (Temple 25)

We believe that Gordon is the sole remaining Old Stoic from the original 99 that first came to Stowe with JF in 1923. If there are any other living 99ers out there, please let the OS Office know! Gordon was in the Indian army and retired during the partition, when Pakistan came into being. He has 3 daughters and 1 OS grandson, Andrew Hardie (Chandos 85).

G B Holt (Chandos 30)

Geoffrey is living in Sydney, Australia, and thoroughly enjoys his active life, despite being in his 90's! He is going to celebrate his 94th Birthday with 20 friends on a cruise to New Zealand.

F P D de Bourg (Grenville 40)

Francis is living in Switzerland and works as a travel guide.

D B Eaglesfield (Temple 42)

After writing 'The Bugatti Book' some years ago, Barry is now writing 'Bugatti Peripherals'. He is a past owner of 4 Bugattis.

J L T Smith (Cobham 47)

John has scored a literary double with 2 articles in the 'Hounds Magazine' and the 'Heythrop Hack' (the magazine of the famous Heythrop Hunt). The articles describe his hunting experiences over the past 65 years. A former newspaper journalist and PR man, John was the Master/Huntsman of the Staffordshire Beagles in the 1950's.

R H F Cox (Temple 48)

In January 2005 Richard was re-elected to the Guernsey States, as an Alderney Representative. He is also a member of the Advisory Council of CARE International UK.

J F Walker (Chatham 48)

Julian is a Director of the British Development Group, a consortium of companies involved in the reconstruction of Kurdish Northern Iraq.

F D A Levitt (Chandos 54)

David is due to retire in May 2006 after over 30 years as a founding partner in Levitt Bernstein – a multi disciplinary architectural practice, employing over 100 members of staff.

J B Hamer (Grenville 55)

John is involved in raising awareness and funds for the Motor Neurone Disease Association, whose head office is David Niven House, named after the Old Stoic who suffered from MND.

A D G Oldrey (Walpole 55)

David has recently retired from office as the Deputy Senior Steward of The Jockey Club and President of the Thoroughbred Breeders Association. In October 1995, 3 consecutive foals, bred from one of David's mares, each won a race on consecutive days in England. This is thought to be the first time this has happened since racing started.

D M H Reece (Walpole 55)

Donald retired as a vicar in 2004.

J L Tate (Bruce 55)

After a varied career in industry, mainly in property and consultancy, Jeremy has retired to the Algae.

L E Bentall (Chatham 57)

After selling Bentalls plc 3 years ago, Edward has been keeping himself busy. He is on the parish council, a Senior Steward for the NGRC and still provides advice to local charities.

J A Sutton (Temple 57)

In 1997, James retired from Westland Helicopters as an Engine Installation Design Engineer for the EM 101 Helicopter.

R K B Hankinson (Walpole 58)

Richard lives in the USA and has recently retired from his 'desk job' as Editor of Princeton University Journal 'Pop. Index'. He is now coaching Princeton University's women's squash team.

A J Beatty (Cobham 59)

Angus worked with the IT company, ICL, for many years and is now a freelance Programme Planning Consultant helping blue chip companies with large IT projects.

H P B Edwards (Grafton 59)

Henry was a founding director of Anglia Farmers, the country's largest farmers' purchasing group. He is currently Chairman of the Norfolk Game Conservancy Committee.

R M H Griffiths (Grenville 59)

Mark was awarded the Louis Prangey Award (Founders' Medal) by the Federation Internationale des Ingenieurs Conseils.

R A C Thompson (Grafton 60)

Robert retired as the Managing Director of Bulrush Horticulture in 2000, but remains a non-executive Director.

A D G Shillington (Chatham 61)

Anthony works part-time as Development Director of the Trinity Foundation for Christianity and Culture and is Chairman of the BACAB (Buckingham Area Community Advice Bureau) Foundation.

J D Goodwin (Chatham 62)

John has just completed 40 years with The Investment Bank UBS and on his retirement he plans to resume his education (in affectionate tribute to former teachers such as Brian Stephan, Jo Bain, Bill McElwee and Simon Stuart). He married Joanna (nee Bell, one of the first girls at Stowe) in 1986.

J Cunningham-Reid (Cobham 63)

After 30 years in the advertising, public relations and music business, John changed career in 2001 and now works as a counsellor and psychotherapist, specialising in the treatment of addictive disorders.

S Channing-Williams (Chandos 64)

Simon produced 'The Constant Gardener', nominated for both the Oscars and the Baftas.

C R S Manson (Cobham 67)

Chris now lives in South West France and is happy to assist any Old Stoics who wish to have advice on homes, rentals or holidays in the area. His advice would be totally unbiased, although any MG owner may also be offered a glass of wine! Contact Chris on christophermanson@yahoo.com.

N P Thomas (Bruce 68)

Neil has spent the past 20 years as a Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon and now specialises exclusively in knee surgery. He is a past President of the British Association for Surgery of the Knee (BASK) and is currently President of the European Society of Sports Traumatology Knee Surgery and Arthroscopy (ESSKA). Nigel Rossiter (Cobham 81) has recently joined Neil at the NHS unit as a trauma surgeon.

N Downing (Lyttelton 69)

Nigel represented Great Britain in the Triathlon World Championships in Hawaii last October.

D F McDonough (Cobham 71)

David is a Trustee of Cancer Backup and on the Executive Committee of the Royal Hospital Chelsea Appeal (along with fellow OS, Sir Michael Craig-Cooper).

J S Sutcliffe (Chandos 71)

In 2003 James was part of a successful international tender to build and operate a new deep sea container terminal at Gdansk in Poland. He led a buyout of PD Ports Ltd (the UK's second largest port at Middlesbrough) and floated the company the London Stock Exchange in December 2004. James is also still running the old family firm John Sutcliffe & Son, now in its 143rd year of family ownership, operating as a shipping agent and stevedore at Grimsby and Immingham docks.

G C M Fenwick (Walpole 74)

George opened a second antique shop during 2005. He now has one in Broadway and another in Chipping Camden, selling 17th, 18th and early 19th century furniture and accessories.

M R Samuelson (Chatham 74)

Since leaving the University of East Anglia, Mark has spent the last 25 years in various aspects of the media and has recently left Sky's History Channel. He is currently 'resting' prior to considering his future as a cheesemaker and picture restorer.

S M Springer (Chandos 74)

Shaun is CEO of Napier Scott Executive Search, specialising in headhunting within the front office sector of financial services.

N P Staheyeff (Cobham 75)

Nick has been appointed CFO of eBay's European business, based in Bern, Switzerland.

R D Austin (Cobham 76)

Robin is a member of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, Canada.

J W H Fitzherbert (Bruce 76)

Julian attended a family gathering of Fitzherberts from around the world in June 2005, which was held at the ancestral home, Swynnerton Hall, Staffordshire. 150 Fitzherberts gathered from all around the world, including the USA, New Zealand and Australia.

C R Shackleton (Chandos 76)

Charles makes furniture in Bridgewater, Vermont, USA. Any passing Old Stoics are welcome to visit – more details from www.shackletonthomas.com.

J W Morton (Bruce 77)

Bill competed in his Alfa Romeo GTV at the Historic Sports Car Club for 70's roadsports and came 2nd in his class with wins at Cadwell Park and Snetterton and 2nd place at Donnington, Oulton Park and Thruxton. He continues with his organic farm business in Warwickshire.

B E Nereli (Chatham 77)

Ben is Medical Director of the East Kent Partnership Trust.

D M Bevan (Chatham 78)

Mark is a Senior Client Partner at Coutts and Co.

S P Clegg (Chatham 78)

Simon, who is Chief Executive of the British Olympic Association, was made a CBE in the New Year Honours for his part in the successful London Olympics bid team.

E St J Hall (Walpole 78)

Edward is currently working for Strutt and Parker estate agents, based in Newbury.

M S Turner (Chandos 78)

Mike worked in industry in Operations Management (UK and Australia) for 15 years, then with Accenture for 5 years around the Asia Pacific region. He now operates as an independent consultant offering strategic supply chain management services under the trading name of Turnaround Industries Pty Limited, based in Tasmania.

J J O Cameron (Lyttelton 79)

Jamie founded a specialist Merchant Bank 2 years ago – Climate Change Capital – and this has grown from 3 members of staff to 60. The company raises capital in clean energy and the emerging carbon market, to offer hope of a positive financial response to climate change.

H D Gregson-Williams (Chatham 80)

Harry continues to compose film scores in Hollywood. His recent credits include 'The Chronicle of Narnia', 'Kingdom of Heaven' and 'Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason'; he is currently working on 'Shrek 3'.

G S Jackson (Grenville 81)

In May 2005 Giles set up a horse crematorium in Cirencester. The famous racehorse, Best Mate, was cremated there.

I A Keith (Chandos 81)

Ian sailed across the Atlantic on the tall ship 'Tenacious' as

part of a sabbatical away from General Practice. He still enjoys playing hockey, recently in the same team as James Larcombe. James Barratt (Temple 77) worked at the same practice but has now rejoined the RAMC.

H P Ogden (Walpole 81)

Harry crewed the first British boat in its class at the Laser World Masters sailing championships in Brazil, last October.

R Vohora (Cobham 81)

Ricky lives in Tanzania and is in the wheat importing business.

C F Birtles (Temple 83)

Charles is an Associate Director at the Winchester office of estate agents John D Wood. Jon Dakin (Grafton 83) also works there.

A E C Briant (Bruce 84)

Andrew is the Managing Director of Compass Underwriting, now entering its 11th year. He is also Secretary of the Lloyd's of London Shotgun Club and was recently elected as Chairman of the Lloyd's of London Rifle Club. Andrew won the National Rifle Association silver medal plus 3 bars in the 2005 Imperial Meeting at Bisley. Andrew stood as a Conservative Councillor in the local London elections.

J G da Silva (Stanhope 84)

Jo spent 7 months last year as Senior Shelter Co-ordinator for UNHCR in Sri Lanka, where she assisted in responding to the shelter needs of those displaced by the tsunami. Jo is a structural engineer and her employer Arup, for whom she is an Associate Director, granted her leave of absence to take on the role.

C K Williamson (Chatham 84)

Craig recently started a new property investment business in Australia, Blue Chip Financial Solutions.

N J Hughes (Grafton 85)

Nick's design group, Kugel, celebrated its 10th anniversary in November 2005.

G V Inglis-Jones (Walpole 85)

Giles stood as the Conservative candidate for Ashfield in the 2005 general election and was appointed Head of Human Resources for the Conservative Party in January this year.

M Eyre (Chandos 86)

Matthew is a Chartered Surveyor and Managing Director of the family property business in Sheffield.

R J Hopkinson-Woolley (Chandos 87)

Richard has been a partner in the leading real estate practice at Berwin Leighton Paisner LLP in the city of London since August 2003 and counts a number of Old Stoics amongst his clients.

J S R Nicholl (Cobham 87)

Bas is currently working in the USA as an assistant trainer (horse racing) for D. Wayne Lukas.

R M Page (Grafton 87)

Matthew is an airline pilot working for British Airways. He is based at Heathrow and flies Boeing 777's longhaul.

L F S Chianese (Chandos 88)

Luciano is working in Rome as a freelance food and arts translator.

L J Harris (Cobham 91)

Lee, a self-proclaimed guitar legend at Stowe and organiser of many a rock concert at the Roxy, now manages The Blockheads (the late Ian Dury's band). He also plays guitar with them on occasion and has his own blues band – The Luc Warm Band – which comprises members of The Blockheads and Alabama 3. You can catch up with him at www.theblockheads.com.

E C Hornby (Stanhope 91)

Emma is a lecturer in the music department of Goldsmiths College (University of London).

W L C Morris (Walpole 91)

Will is a Project Manager for Cornish Homes in Truro.

A T Mustard (Grafton 93)

Alexander won the Animal Portraits section of the 2005 Wildlife Photographer of the Year Competition, organised by the National History Museum and BBC Wildlife Magazine, for his photograph of a snapper shoal in the Red Sea. His first book, 'The Art of Diving', was published in March by Ultimate Sports Publications.

J W A Jones (Grenville 94)

Ashley has left the Royal Gurkha Rifles after 7 years and now works for property company Jones Lang LaSalle in London.

M T Newnham (Temple 95)

Matthew is working as a lawyer, specialising in employment law at Birketts solicitors in Norwich.

Y A Ahmad (Grenville 97)

Yusu's biography of Sonia Gandhi, 'Triumph of Will', has been published in India by Tara Press. He is Chairman, Department of Policy Planning and Coordination, of the political party UPCC and contributes regularly to the media on political issues and current affairs.

G A C Rolt (Lyttelton 97)

Georgie is currently specialising in musculo-skeletal physiotherapy at the Mayday Hospital in Croydon. In 2006 she competed in the London Marathon for the 3rd time!

R M Brinks (Lyttelton 98)

Lindi is studying for a PhD in History of Art at the University of Goettingen, Germany.

K D R Byfield (Grafton 98)

Kristjan's property business continues to go from strength to strength. After branching into investments, his company has been involved with some exciting projects, including a chain of hotels in Spain and 750 new flats in East London.

N M S Kirkwood (Bruce 98)

Nicholas has started a shoe design business and won the Emerging Talent Award at the 2005 Footwear News awards in New York. Visit www.nicholaskirkwood.com for more information.

J A Townsend (Bruce 98)

Joe has been awarded a PhD in Chemistry by Cambridge University.

C G G Howard (Grafton 99)

Charlie has been commissioned in the Irish Guards.

S R Davis (Chandos 00)

Stephen is the Sales Manager for a surf clothing company, Finisterre, on the north coast of Cornwall.

A P B Gaston (Temple 00)

Alasdair graduated from the University of St Andrews with a Masters degree in History. He is currently based in New York, working for UBS Investment Bank.

J M Kayll (Walpole 00)

James has been commissioned in the Light Dragoons.

J W Mann (Temple 00)

Jack has been commissioned in the Blues and Royals (Royal Horse Guards and 1st Dragoons).

R Strecker (Walpole 00)

Roman completed the LLB at Bucerius Law School, Hamburg, Germany in October 2004. He is currently studying for his first state law exams.

A E J Wilson (Chatham 01)

Following a degree in Spanish at Bristol University, Alex is now working as a Time Buyer for Mindshare International in London, a media company.

M T F Riley (Bruce 02)

Malcolm is working with children for a Christian organisation.

H M Schindhelm (Chatham 02)

Moritz was awarded a first class degree in finance and accounting from Exeter University last year and is now studying for a Masters degree in finance at Goettingen University, Germany.

Stowe gathering in Germany

Oliver Wall (Chandos 50) has offered to organise a social gathering for Old Stoics and Stowe parents (current and former) living in Germany. His suggested location is the Munich area, which he hopes will be convenient for most. Anyone interested in taking part can contact Oliver on oliver.wall@gmx.org or +49 89 609 5593.

Old Chandosians – London dinner for years 1980-1995

A dinner is planned in London in the autumn this year for those in Chandos between 1980 and 1995, the years during which John Dobinson was Housemaster. The dinner will be attended by both John and Jill and it is hoped that every year of John's housemastership will be fully represented. The venue and date have yet to be finalised, but expressions of interest are requested now please to ensure that the right venue is chosen for the number expected. London has been chosen over Stowe as it is more convenient for those coming from across the country.

To date support has been had from the following years: 1980, 1981, 1983, 1984, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989 and 1990. It is hoped to find at least one representative from each year to drum up support from their peer group with the help of the Old Stoic Office. Those who just pre-dated John's housemastership, but who would also like to attend (and I am aware of a few from 1979) are also welcome to come along.

If you are interested in attending, please ensure that the OS Office has your latest contact details, including an email address if at all possible, or drop an email to me at hoppo@blplaw.com.

Richard Hopkinson-Woolley (Chandos 87)

Geographical Reunions

Thanks to all those who have expressed an interest in a reunion held in their region of the UK; the OS Office will be in touch once all the responses have been collated. If anyone else is still considering the idea, please bear in mind that the OS Office is happy to provide contact details and to help organise such events.

Wine-Tasting

The Old Stoic Society is planning to hold a Wine-Tasting evening in London in November. We are considering using this evening as the occasion on which the OS Society will choose which wines will bear its own name and be used at future OS events. Everyone present will have a vote, although the final arbiters will be: the Headmaster, Chris Atkinson (President of the Society), and Geoff Higgins (Catering Manager at Stowe).

We would like as many Old Stoics and Stowe parents to enjoy the evening as possible – please indicate your interest by emailing winetasting@stowe.co.uk, by July 31st. Further information will be sent to all participants thereafter.



Old Stoic Cricketers flourish with Northants and England U19

Graeme White and Mark Nelson (both Bruce 05) played for England in the ICC Under 19 World Cup in Sri Lanka in February. The England team had an excellent run, reaching the semi-finals, when they were beaten by India. Graeme White bowled very well throughout the competition: 10 wickets at an average of 24 with 8 catches (the second highest economy score in the entire tournament). Mark Nelson scored 245 runs in 8 innings and took 8 wickets at an average of 30, with 5 catches.

They were both part of the Northants County Cricket Club Academy last season, during

which Graeme won the Denis Compton Award for the second year running, an award given to the most promising young player at each of the first class counties.

This season Graeme has been promoted to the full Northants CCC squad, where he joins Rob White (Cobham 98) – no relation.

Meanwhile Mark has been joined at the Academy by Stoic Ben Howgego (Grafton Upper 6th), so Stowe's influence at Northants CCC looks set to continue!

Photos: Pete Norton

James Jones in the Varsity Match

James (Walpole 99) played number eight for Oxford in last year's varsity rugby match against Cambridge, the first OS rugby blue for 40 years. Previously he was a member of London Irish and Henley Hawks and he has also represented English Students.



Marilyn Okoro in the Commonwealth Games

Marilyn (Lyttelton 02) won the 800m bronze medal for Great Britain at the World University Games in August last year and went on to represent England at the Melbourne Commonwealth Games, where she reached the final, finishing seventh. Marilyn is also in the final year of her degree course

in French and Politics at the University of Bath. The photo shows Marilyn with her coach George Harrison (centre) and Stowe's Head of Boys' Sport, Alan Hughes (left). It was taken at the international schools cross country race held at Stowe during the Easter holidays.

Also at the Commonwealth Games was Mike Rossiter (Cobham 85), who is the Chief Medical Officer for England Hockey and was team doctor for both the men's and women's team in Melbourne. The women won the bronze medal and the men came fourth.

7s National Tournament

Stowe's Senior Sevens reached the final 16 schools in this year's National Tournament at Rosslyn Park, with a very successful and enjoyable campaign capping off a very demanding 7s season. The Senior team won their group of 5 teams, beating Sevenoaks, Taunton, Royal Latin and Paignton. Having been behind in two of these matches with under a minute to play, the Stoics determination and character was tested to the full, but their nerve held and speedster Rory Brabant managed to show the opposition a clean pair off heels to score in the final seconds on both occasions.

This meant we were to play the winners of the group next to us, St. Paul's, London. Again Stowe were behind with a minute to go and this time we did enough to draw at the end of regulation time. The rules decreed that the team who scored next would win. This time it was the outstanding player of the season and top try scorer, George Coote (25 tries in 20 matches) who ran the length of the pitch to put Stowe through to the last 16 teams. This is a feat Stowe has now managed on four occasions in the last seven years – a very impressive record, with 130 of the best rugby teams in the country taking part. A match up against a fierce The Oratory side was our challenge. Unfortunately the ball just didn't bounce for us and we lost narrowly.

In other tournaments the Stoics managed to beat the following teams – Bryanston, Solihull, Loughborough (twice), Berkhamstead, Pangbourne, Rugby. A great performance this season, in the 20 matches we have scored 73 tries.

Cricket – excellent beginnings

Ben Howgego's 1st XI has made an excellent start to the season, winning five and drawing three of their first eight fixtures. With Graeme White and Mark Nelson now on the county staff at Northamptonshire, this was expected to be a season of rebuilding, but the squad has gelled quickly, and all the side have contributed to the success. The highlight so far was the preliminary round of the National Twenty20 competition, in which Stowe beat Shiplake, Uppingham and Rugby, to progress to the last sixteen of the competition. Played at Stowe, this was a superb day of cricket, with coloured clothing, loud music, white balls, and barbeque, with high tempo cricket.

The Stowe Horse-Racing Syndicate

It is apparent that a considerable number of Old Stoics and Stowe parents have a very keen interest in horse racing. For some, this is a professional one, and for others it is much more social.

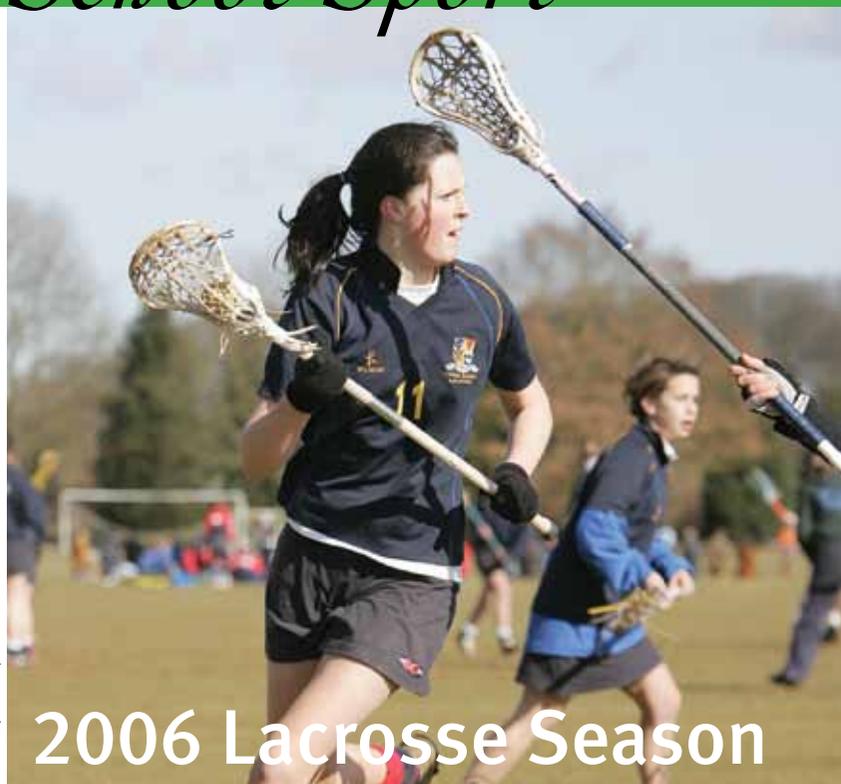
Over recent years, the idea of setting up a racehorse-owning syndicate has been formed and begun to gather momentum. The syndicate of over 200 that owned Motivator (the 2005 Derby winner, trained by Michael Bell,

Cobham 79) provides an intriguing illustration of what might be – a group of over 200 that gets together to enjoy a very convivial time.

Would you be interested in joining? Some level of investment (yet to be established) would certainly be involved, but the social (and possibly even financial!) returns could be considerable.

If so, please email racing@stowe.co.uk as soon as possible. No obligation of any sort is imposed at this stage, but with enough interest, this could very well be a 'runner'. In expressing your own interest, please also advise of others that you think might follow suit. Our target is to establish membership, and make some initial progress by the end of the year.

Photo: Roy Ottaway



2006 Lacrosse Season

We have had the most successful lacrosse season ever. Our 1st team remained undefeated in all full length matches. We won our first ever trophy at the Abbots Hill Tournament, became Regional Small Champions and were semi-final losers at the National Schools Tournament.

The junior girls' lacrosse team took to the field for the first time, against Uppingham. Lucy Beaty made history by being the first junior girl to score a goal for Stowe, shortly followed by Lillie Ziegler Pounds. India Palmer and Natasha Trevor were instrumental in Stowe's fight from the defense wing position, but unfortunately Uppingham's experience was a little too strong for our juniors this time around.

With the enthusiasm for lacrosse on the increase, we fielded not only a successful 2nd Team who won 4 of their 6 games, but also a 6th Form beginners Team.

Outside Stowe, 7 girls were also selected to represent Buckinghamshire County in the Midlands Regional County Tournament. Clarissa Knox and Katie Kosciuczyk represented Bucks in the 1st team. Buckinghamshire B was also stacked with Stowe players: Alice Wiggett and Jo Lee in defence; Alex Carter and Leo de Ferranti in midfield; Milly Beddall in attack; Mrs Duckett as Head Coach and Jo Lee as captain. Bucks combined very well as a team and beat Oxford B's by a margin of 5 goals.

Arguably, Stowe's toughest fixture of the year was when we took both seniors and juniors to play Malvern Girls College, National Champions just three years ago and undefeated so far this season. The 1st team came away with a massive 13-3 victory. Eliza Winwood led the way in attack with 5 goals while Clarissa Knox dominated

the midfield. The key to victory though was Stowe's outstanding defensive play. In the afternoon the Junior team defeated Malvern College by a score of 6-2. Defense was the catalyst for victory - Emma Duckett and Lillias Wigan led the show. In the attack Lilly Ziegler Pounds starred with 4 goals.

On March 4/5 Stowe hosted for the first time the National Lacrosse Schools Championship. In two days, Stowe played 13 games, won 9, lost 3 and drew 1 with the eventual National Champions, Downe House. We scored 35 goals and had 17 scored against us, finishing as losing semi finalists by 2 goals to 1.

All season our sights had been set on the Small Schools National crown. We were ready for the challenge and demolished every team in our division scoring 22 goals and conceding 2. Clarissa Knox guided Stowe into the final. The game was dominated statistically by Stowe in every aspect except for converting shots into goals. Stowe shot the ball 11 times and the opposition once. Unfortunately for us, once was enough for them to score. At the end of the game the scoreboard read 1-0 to Princess Helena College.

Having started our campaign back in September, what happened reached far beyond expectations and moved into the realms of sheer brilliance. Stowe gained unprecedented recognition for our character and style of play. We can now stand shoulder to shoulder with any team in the nation. The legacy that has been left by the senior Stowe lacrosse representatives has set a level of attainment that future female Stoic's will do well to aspire to. With the introduction of junior girls there will undoubtedly be exciting times ahead for Stowe lacrosse.

Polo: National Schools Intermediate Championships

Stowe's B team played at the Championships held at Inglesham on a very cold Sunday in February. Representing us were Tom Bailey, Sebastian Bianchi and Dom Woods together with a few hardy supporters.

Our first chukka was against Harrow's A team. Their aggressive style, rapid attack and long shots ensured their 6-0 win over Stowe.

Our second chukka saw us facing Wellington and in a better match, slightly slower in pace, Dom Woods charged around the field and led our attack. Good team work by Wellington finally outpaced Stowe and we lost 2-0, a more commendable score.

Our honour had to be saved and in our third and final chukka we faced the Rugby Rhinos. This time we were the more confident, practised and aggressive team, with much close jostling between players. Tom Bailey scored a notable goal and we emerged the victors with a narrow but deserved win of 3-2.

Stowe's polo players had not played together as a team and the team talks held in the relative warmth of the minibus clearly played their part in inspiring the team to eventual victory. Many thanks to our team and their supporters and we anticipated greater success at the Senior School's Polo Competition the following week.

The Stowe A Polo team of Will Randall-Coath, Will Walmsley and Billy Jackson-Stops rode out to compete in the Seniors Competition. We had been placed in the highly competitive Division One amongst more practised teams. Our first chukka was against Wellington and our team took some time to warm up and get their eyes and sticks on the ball. Wellington, however, were focused from the start and Stowe lost to the opposition by 2-1.

With defeat ringing in our ears, Stowe took the field against Milton Abbey with more focus. All three Stoics played superbly and fiercely with two fine goals from Billy-Jackson Stops and one from Will Randall Coath, a victory 3-1. We were now in the Final of Division One and playing for the Plate against Radley.

It was a needle match, a tense game of rivalry and pride. Stowe even had the support of other schools and an excellent chukka ensued. It was 2-all just before the end and talk of penalties hovered in the air when a lucky goal from Radley, soaring through the air in the last seconds of the match, meant we lost 3-2.

Despite our lack of silverware but with the award of some rosettes in Division One both Stowe's teams are to be congratulated for their efforts in the Indoor Arena Competitions. With further practice and better teamwork we hope for a more successful season, next term, in the Outdoor Competitions.



Feedback from the First Issue

Many thanks to all of you who responded with your comments on the first issue of The Column. The editorial team are delighted that, overwhelmingly, readers were favourably impressed.

In this issue we have attempted to address your concerns with the font size and with the use of text against coloured backgrounds. The OS news section has now been sorted by leaving year, rather than alphabetically. The new 'non-standard' size divided opinion, but on balance (and with apologies to those Old Stoics who have collections of the old Stowe Bulletin in box files) we have decided to retain it. As many readers pointed out, it does help to give this publication a distinctive style.

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.

22 July 2006	Pineapple Ball in the Stowe House state rooms. See page 7 for further details
16 September 2006	Open Morning, Lower Sixth entry (for 2007 only)
16 September 2006	25th Anniversary Dinner at Stowe for Old Stoics who left in 1981
30 September 2006	Reunion Day at Stowe for Old Stoics who left before 1955
7 October 2006	Open Morning, Lower School (13+ entry)
11 November 2006	Lower Sixth Examination Day for 2007 entry
4 December 2006	50th Anniversary Lunch at Stowe for Old Stoics who left in 1956
To Be Confirmed	10th Anniversary Dinner in London for Old Stoics who left in 1996
To Be Confirmed	Under 35's London Party

CONTACTS

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

A British Feature Film: A 'Work' and 'Investment' Opportunity at Stowe

In 1981 I had one of the happiest times of my life in a teaching period at Stowe. As a current proud parent the same joy always returns whenever I visit. The School Careers Office recently invited me to talk about my experiences during my last 20 years as a film maker. The fascination and interest of the Stoics both enthused and astounded me.

My current feature film project, entitled 'Seeds for Sid', is a film about Sid, a battle of Britain pilot, now a Christian lollipop man and his wonderful relationship with a little boy, Charlie, who inspires his Headmaster to give Sid seeds to plant in an allotment. The boy becoming the young man at Stowe, learns of Sid's death. The fighter pilot is a man of truth, a brave visionary who led an unselfish life. This is a story about the importance of community, old fashioned moral values, historic respect and unconditional love.

Funded at £2 million we hope to shoot, in part, at Stowe. The Producer, Pat Greenland, wants the Stowe filming to incorporate professional work experience for Stoics in all departments, including camera, sound, costume, art department, editing and production.

Art Malik from 'True Lies' is both actor and Executive Producer on the film. We would like Old Stoics (particularly military backgrounds), parents and Stoics to take part as extras and will also be filming at the famous Brooklands Museum. All will receive professional credits and investors will receive Associate Producer credits. Everyone involved will be invited to a Premier screening.

Old Stoics, parents and other members of the Stowe community interested in investing or being involved in the project are invited to email: RWTMP@aol.com for full details.

My production team will inform investors of an exciting presentation in London, early to mid June to outline the financial package and creative concept of this film by Trinity Motion Pictures, a true British film Company making British films great again.

Let's put Stowe on the world map and in the movies!
Rod Woodruff, current parent.

Stowe-doku

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Stowe House and Gardens Update: Springing into life

Since the completion of the glorious restoration of the central Pavilion, the South Front Portico and the amazing Marble Saloon last July, thousands of people have visited and appreciated the work done and the beauty of the House. Stowe House Preservation Trust is waiting to hear back from the Heritage Lottery Fund regarding the next phase of restoration, focusing on the Library ceiling and roof, and is continuing to fundraise to match the grant awarded. The beautiful detailed plaster ceiling, thought to date from 1797 when the room became a library, is in a fragile state and needs urgent attention. Restoration will also help us to understand, archaeologically, the other uses of the room before it became as we see it today. We are also, rather excitingly, about to buy statuary and restore the original Atheniennes to place in the niches of the Marble Saloon, which will return the room to its 18th century appearance. For opening times of the State Rooms to the public and the Interpretation Centre please check our website www.shpt.org and click on Visitor Experience or telephone 01280 818229.

Work in the National Trust Gardens continues and visitors can this year see the magnificently restored Corinthian Arch and walk the newly restored Pebble Alcove path. Visitors can now also purchase peat free plants seen in the garden and grown by the National Trust gardening team here. With the new self-guided Grecian Valley Walk and Stowe Story trail there is something for all ages at Stowe this spring and summer. For more information please check the website www.nationaltrust.org.uk/stowegardens or telephone 01280 822850.

Competition Winners

The editors of The Column were delighted with the response to the first Stowe-doku puzzle and the caption competition.

For the Stowe-doku the five prize-winning entries, drawn on March 31st, were from:

1. Julian Hunt
2. Peter Williams
3. Alexander Irwin
4. John Curwin
5. Charles Furness-Smith

Each wins a copy of 'Fame by Chance', by Donough O'Brien (Chandos 57) – an A-Z of places (including Stowe) that became famous by a twist of fate.

We have been urged by correspondents to provide a sterner test, and thus the Stowe-doku alongside falls firmly into the 'Difficult' category. The five first entries drawn on 31st August will win a prize. Please send your completed grids to: Gina Swift, Stowe School, Stowe, Buckingham, MK18 5EH.

The usual rules apply: each 3x3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers from 1 to 9.

For the caption competition, the winning entry was "Sold to the lucky lady, one ex-Madame Tussaud's reproduction public school Headmaster!", submitted by Jess Norman who wins tickets to the Pineapple Ball on 22nd July.

The Roxburgh Society

The Society continues from strength to strength, having almost doubled its membership since the inauguration of the Society in November 2004. Membership now stands at 54 and is exclusive to those who have left a legacy to Stowe or intend to do so.

The Society's purpose is to foster a steady increase in legacies over the years ahead and to provide an opportunity for the School to recognise the generosity of the members and thank them for their contribution.

The second Roxburgh Society Annual Lunch will take place at Stowe immediately after the end of term in July and members will be entertained by a guest speaker and wonderful recitals by some of our music scholars.

For further details or to join please contact Cherry Baker, Roxburgh Society Manager, telephone 01280 818326.