

THE Column

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Sir Nicholas Winton returns to Stowe

Sir Nicholas Winton – saviour of over 600 Jewish children in World War II – returns to Stowe to open Stanhope House.



On Friday 6 March it gave me great pleasure to welcome Sir Nicholas Winton back to Stowe as our guest of honour for the occasion of the official opening of Stanhope House.

Sir Nicholas is the oldest Old Stoic alive today: he joined the School as a member of Grenville in the autumn term of 1923 and this spring he celebrates his 100th birthday. He also happens to be one of Stowe's greatest humanitarians.

In 1939, Nicholas Winton, then a 30 year old stockbroker, organised the Kindertransport out of Prague and rescued 669 mostly Jewish children. Working around the clock in the months before the outbreak of World War II, Sir Nicholas persuaded the Home Office to issue entry papers for the children, raised the £50 needed as a guarantee for each child – a lot of money in those days – and found foster parents for them all. In that short time, Sir Nicholas arranged for 8 trains to leave Prague. The 9th and largest transport, which was supposed to leave on 3 September 1939, fell victim to the outbreak of war and was prevented from leaving the station. Few, if any, of the 250 children on that 9th train survived the Holocaust that was about to engulf Nazi occupied Europe.

Sir Nicholas gave these children the most precious gift of all – the gift of life. Very few of them ever saw their parents again. Had Sir Nicholas not spirited these children away, they would almost certainly have been murdered in the concentration camps. Today, 70 years later, there are more than 5,000 descendants of the original 669 children.

Sir Nicholas' achievements went unrecognised for more than half a century and most of the children

did not know to whom they owed their lives. This inspiring story only came to light in 1988 when Sir Nicholas' wife, Greta, found an old leather briefcase in an attic and discovered lists of children, letters from their parents and copies of official documents.

Although ordinary life demands courage, sometimes in exceptional amounts, circumstances occasionally demand another kind of courage: to bear what heaven sends, to accept love when it is offered, to face death when it comes and to bear the burdens that life imposes in return for its gifts. Heroism is often thought to be a warrior virtue – but it takes as much courage to save people through kindness and generosity of spirit. Without humanity we are barely human and humanitarians like Sir Nicholas achieve greatness through love.

I will leave the last word to Lady Hester Stanhope, a descendant of the family that once owned Stowe and in whose honour the new girls' house has been named. Lady Hester ran the household of her uncle, the Prime Minister, William Pitt the Younger, until his sudden and premature death in 1806. Hester then spurned social convention and became a pioneering, free-spirited explorer and adventurer until she settled in an isolated monastery built on the slopes of Mount Lebanon. She is still regarded as a legendary figure in the Middle East because she offered sanctuary to an oppressed and persecuted Middle Eastern religious minority, the Druse. An act of humanity which anticipates Sir Nicholas' heroism 100 years later. Reflecting on her place in history, Hester urged historians not *“to try to convince people anymore I am this – I am that: Time, please God, will prove what I am; I think I have been a true prophet in all things.”*

Lady Hester's only wish, she said, was *“to deserve the Goodness of that God, one and almighty, whose existence my entire soul acknowledges”*.

Dr Anthony Wallersteiner, Headmaster

in this issue:

- SCHOOL NEWS P2-5, 7
- NEWS IN BRIEF P6
- OLD STOICS P8-9
- OLD STOICS NEWS P10-13
- SCHOOL SPORT P14-15
- END PIECE P16

Stowe



Sir Richard Branson meets his Scholars

Much to their delight, the inaugural Branson Scholars met Sir Richard Branson (Cobham / Lyttelton 67) on Wednesday 20 May.

They were special guests at an event held at Sir Richard's house in Oxfordshire – the FastTrack 100 Conference, celebrating the success of the

fastest-growing privately-owned companies in the UK. Sir Richard was obviously delighted to meet the Scholars, and they chatted for some time in his garden about life at Stowe, Dominican Convent School in Johannesburg, and their ambitions for the future. Richard also gave advice about how they might extend their opportunities in South Africa, where the Branson School of Entrepreneurship has partnered with CIDA – a leading institution in providing education in business, economic and social development. The Branson School aims to unlock entrepreneurial flair within young South Africans and provide funding for fledgling businesses.

The Branson Scholars programme, coming to the end of its first year, provided the opportunity for five children, from Dominican Convent School in Johannesburg, to attend Stowe for a year. Funding for four of the five children has been very generously provided by Mr Mike Parsons, a current Stowe parent, who has had a long association with Sir Richard, through Virgin Unite, the charitable division of Virgin.



Academic Report

By the time you read this we hope that the Report of our recent Inspection by ISI (Independent Schools Inspectorate) will be available to you on our website and also the Internet. On behalf of the Government, the ISI inspects all private schools on a 5 year cycle and much time, energy and effort had gone into preparing for their visit. They assessed the quality of our teaching and learning, the provision of activities, the pastoral support, management and regulatory compliance etc. The School is thrilled with the praise and high value judgements made by the inspectors and I encourage you to read the report on its publication. I wish to record my personal thanks and praise of the teaching and support staff who all worked, seemingly tirelessly, to provide the highest quality of service and support to Stoics. In case we are thought to blow our own trumpet excessively, the responses of Stowe parents and the Stoics themselves in confidential questionnaires were overwhelmingly positive over the quality of Stowe's education and boarding experience.

As part of our increased academic success and our openly-stated commitment to the pursuit of excellence across all areas of school life, we are also delighted at the success of our Oxbridge candidates this year. Six Stoics have been offered conditional places, the largest number of successful candidates in recent years. So, many congratulations to:

Lucy Brooks (Balliol; English);
Natalie McDaid (Hertford; Chemistry);
Sam Tracy (Clare; Natural Sciences);
Mark Goodenough
(Jesus, Cambridge; Computer Science);
Laura Grossick
(St John's, Cambridge; Geography);
George Hunter
(St John's, Cambridge; Natural Sciences).

I should also like to thank the staff who provide the support of extra classes, deeper thinking and wider reading so necessary to ensure successful applications to the top universities.

In addition, we are pleased at the increasing number of Stoics who are successful in their applications to The Russell Group (the more selective universities) and the more prestigious creative institutions for Music, Art & Drama. In an increasingly competitive and complex world of university admissions, it is gratifying to encourage and support so many Stoics who then move on to higher education and later, also good and varied employment. While Dr Sandra Naish has quietly and professionally energised the Careers Department this year, gratitude is also due to Stephen Thompson whose commitment, knowledge and attention to detail with UCAS forms over many years is legendary. We wish him a happy and deserved retirement.

Exam modules are now being taken throughout the year with GCSE Science modules in November and March. The main public exam period, however, now spreads from 11 May to 23 June this year, not allowing for oral exams, practicals and Art exams which often fall beforehand. This relentless spread eats into our teaching time of the new specifications (syllabuses) and sadly could reduce our options to provide the broader and deeper curriculum we would like to impart. We are pleased, though, that the Inspectors believed that our curriculum provision is rich and diverse.

Finally, yet more government changes are imposed upon us this autumn with new GCSE and A2 Courses to be taught. With the plethora of academic and vocational courses now offered, we still believe in the value of GCSE and A levels, though we are watching the development of the Pre-U and IB courses with interest. We have introduced a system to measure the 'value-added' each Stoic achieves for themselves and also in each subject, so we can better evaluate an individual's success. We have most certainly not abandoned our commitment to the success of individual Stoics and continue to strive to ensure that it is at the heart of all we do.

Mr Crispin Robinson, Deputy Head (Academic)

It has been an exciting year for the Scholars. On 16 March, they were invited to visit the South African High Commission in London, and were entertained to lunch by the High Commissioner, Dr Lindiwe Mabuza, at her private residence. At Stowe, the three girls and two boys have taken part in every aspect of everyday life, and believe they have benefited enormously. As his year comes to an end, Khamuka Moloi reflects very positively on the whole experience: *"This has been an unforgettable experience, from leaving South Africa in September, through to this most enjoyable Summer Term. It has helped me in so many ways, and I will be taking back with me many new skills, interests and connections I would never have made without it. Without any doubt, I will cherish the memory of coming to Stowe forever."*

The New Athletics Track

Sports Day – 20 September, 2009

This year marks a time of considerable progress in sporting provision at Stowe. A full report will be provided in December's issue of The Column. At time of going to press, considerable progress had been made with the construction of the new Athletics Track – funded in entirety by the generous donations of a number of Old Stoics and parents. We are particularly indebted to Sir Jack Hayward (Grafton 41), Andrew Tucker (Lyttelton 72), David Lloyd (Bruce 48), William Garrett (Grenville 64) and Nigel Rice (Chatham 64). Everyone who has contributed, though, at any level, has played a very important part and we are extremely grateful to them all.

The Track – to be named the 'David Donaldson Track' in recognition of the Master in charge of Athletics during the sport's heyday at Stowe in the 1960s – will be officially opened on Sunday 20 September. We are delighted and honoured that Sebastian Coe KBE has accepted our invitation to be the Guest of Honour at the occasion.

Sports Day – postponed because of the construction – will be held on the same day. All Parents and Old Stoics are warmly invited to attend, with further information to be circulated in due course by both the Stowe Parents' Association and the Old Stoic Society. Please mark the date in your diary.

Mr Colin Dudgeon, Development Director

Chairman's Address – Speech Day 2009



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“My Lords, distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Welcome to Speech Day and a particular welcome to Lord Sainsbury, our guest of honour today. Lord Sainsbury has been a tireless champion of Stowe over the decades and through his support and enormous generosity we have been able to make such very significant improvement to our facilities.

Over this last year so many of you have been prepared to stand behind us and help us to improve and develop Stowe. Donations have ranged from funding studies in Chatham to the complete renewal of the Athletics Track, from the fundamental remodelling of the Art School to a grant to help pupils in need of bursaries. The range is huge, and your generosity has known no bounds. On behalf of all of us at Stowe an enormous thank you to everyone who has supported us whether for the School or the restoration of the Mansion.

Our negotiations with the National Trust have concluded successfully and our relationship with our Stowe partners has developed well with the arrival of the World Monuments Fund as a major contributor to the restoration of the East and West Pavilions and the State Rooms.

We await the conclusion of the Stowe House Preservation Trust's application to the Heritage Lottery Fund which would mean we have raised the funds necessary to carry out that work and the refurbishment of the Menagerie – known to most of you as the School Shop.

The Athletics Track will be re-opened in September and work will commence later in the summer on the complete remodelling of the Art School for completion next year.

Earlier this year the second new girls' boarding house was opened by Sir Nicholas Winton MBE. This completed our investment in the facilities needed to support our move to full co-education.

Our programme to update classrooms, add technology and improve boarding accommodation continues with further substantial investment this year.

During the year the Headmaster and Governors finalised our strategic plan 'Towards 2023', which will be our centenary. This plan will inform and guide all that we do over the next few years as we build Stowe into the country's leading co-educational country boarding School.

Our finances are, all things considered, in good shape. But we know that the last few months have been increasingly difficult for very many of you and in recognising that we are committing more to bursaries to support those who are finding the economic climate difficult.

Fuel and food costs have continued to rise and our staff costs are increasing in line with national pay awards all bringing pressure on our own finances. However, we are determined to do all we can to help repay your loyalty by minimising any fee increase this year.

While we are still finally to decide what that will be, I can assure you today that it will be no more than 2.5% and I hope this early announcement will help you with your planning. I will as usual be writing to all parents at the end of term with details.

This is an opportunity publicly to thank those who have contributed to making Stowe what it is.

So – to everyone who works at Stowe – paid or not, full time or part time, in whatever your role, let me say, on behalf of all my colleagues, a heartfelt thank you to you all for your loyalty, your hard work and dedication, and your passionate commitment to Stowe. And to my colleagues on the governing body, thank you all for your support, energy and commitment.

Let me single out four people to whom we owe special thanks. Peter Thorogood retired as a Governor last November after 20 years. Peter contributed in so many ways and to so many people at Stowe through that time.

Helen Williams, who retires as a Governor in June after 16 years of service. Peter, Helen, we thank you for all you have done.

Ro Masters who retires as Deputy Head after some 25 years at Stowe. Ro – your contribution to Stowe has been inestimable and we wish you the best of times as you retire to Paris.

The Bursar, Rupert Litherland, who will leave us at the end of the summer after some 15 years at Stowe. He has seen us through turbulent times and brought order to our affairs. His feat in delivering Queen's House ready to be opened by Her Majesty the Queen – albeit with about 4 hours to spare – was one of the finest pieces of project management I have seen.

Rupert – we will miss you and we thank you for all that you have done to make Stowe what it is. But what is Stowe?

Stowe doesn't turn out automatons – programmed to think and act in a particular, stereotypical way. At Stowe, pupils are encouraged to think, to think for themselves, to think constructively, to think about others. They are encouraged to challenge conventional wisdoms and the old ways of doing things; by trial and error to experience what works and

what doesn't; to reach their own conclusions; to experience triumph and disaster, to dare to be different.

At Stowe we encourage pupils to take responsibility for themselves, for what they do and how they do it. Within a caring and secure environment every Stoic is encouraged to nurture their character and their emotional, physical and mental well-being.

These are the essential freedoms we provide to every pupil – to grow in their own way, to pursue the activities they choose, to find out what they can do and what doesn't work for them.

To take the words of Gandhi – “I want freedom for the full expression of my personality”. I would hope that our vision for Stowe might satisfy Gandhi were he here today.

That we have such conviction in our purpose and have made such great progress over the last 12 months is due to the strength of leadership we have enjoyed. In schools the Headmaster is the key leadership figure and in Anthony Wallersteiner we have an exceptional Headmaster. Headmaster – thank you for all you have done, and continue to do, in demonstrating your leadership and for all that you have achieved this last year.”

Mr Christopher Honeyman Brown (Grenville 66)
Chairman of the Governors

Ben Housson meets Her Majesty the Queen

Ben Housson was invited to meet Her Majesty the Queen at a reception held in St James's Palace on Wednesday 18 March to honour the work of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Children's Fund. This was the second time that Ben has met the Queen as he was one of a group of Stoics sketching the gardens when the Queen visited Stowe on 22 November 2007.

In conversation with the Headmaster, the Queen enquired after the House that was named in her honour and was most interested to hear that Stanhope had been opened by Sir Nicholas Winton MBE. The Queen recently gave Sir Nicholas the ultimate upgrade when she offered him a seat on the royal flight coming back from her recent state visit to the Czech Republic.

Dr Anthony Wallersteiner, Headmaster



RIBA Award Win for Queen's & Stanhope

Rick Mather Architects, who designed Stowe's new girls' boarding houses, Queen's and Stanhope, have won an award in this year's prestigious RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) Awards. The new buildings were completed in two phases and provide accommodation for 144 girls. The main accommodation boasts one, two and four bed en-suite study bedrooms. There is also additional staff accommodation and shared facilities such as common rooms, offering spectacular views across the surrounding landscape.

RIBA Awards are given for buildings that have high architectural standards and make a substantial contribution to the local environment. The awards are annual, and have been running continuously since 1966.



During the Easter half-term, a group of Stoics studying art and history of art visited New York to experience some of the world's most established art galleries.

During the daytime in New York, we visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art which houses one of the world's largest collections of art ranging from cave drawings to modern art of the 21st century. I personally was particularly impressed by the abstract expressionist works of Mark Rothko and Jackson Pollock. We also visited The Frick Gallery which is a private collection composed of mainly portraiture and religious paintings from the Baroque period. In contrast, we visited the Guggenheim Museum which was beyond astounding; from the moment we entered this bizarrely shaped building to the moment we left we were all amazed at the sheer diversity and peculiarity of this gallery. In addition to this, we visited the Museum of Modern Art, or MOMA as it is more commonly known, where we viewed some of the most influential works of modern art in existence. Here, we discovered a variety of art ranging from surrealist works to impressionism.

During the afternoons, we went shopping on New York's Fifth Avenue where we got a real taste of New York life. The food vendors on every corner and the tediously polite shopkeepers heightened the whole experience and offered a real sense of what New York is like.

In the evenings, we were treated to a meal courtesy of Mr Young at various different pizzerias and Italian restaurants which allowed everyone to unwind and indulge themselves in the luxurious food that America is renowned for. Following this, we were given free time to roam around Times Square, one of the most iconic areas of Manhattan where we concluded that America is the greatest consumerist nation on the planet as everywhere we looked there was an overwhelming neon sign advertising something unnecessary but appealing. We would then later return to the somewhat less than perfect Hotel Newton which was adequate but was considered underwhelming by the Stoics used to more well-appointed accommodation.

But sadly, we had to leave at some point. The journey out of Manhattan was one of the most memorable of my life. The silhouetted Manhattan skyline with the Statue of Liberty in the distance was one of the highlights of the trip.

The trip was one of the most enlightening experiences of my life and I am deeply appreciative of being given the opportunity. I learnt so much about American life and my interest in art was simply invigorated by it. It was without question the best school trip I've ever been on.

Ed Borland (Temple L6th)

Stowe Music goes to Spain

I think all of the Strings players and myself did wonder what on earth we were doing sitting on a minibus at 4:15am being driven by Jockey, who is one of the many exceptional chefs at Stowe, to Luton Airport after one of the busiest spring terms I can remember. However, what surprised me was the arrival of Evie Roxburgh (3rd form – cellist), Frank Kilsby (4th form – cellist), Edward McDonald (4th form – cellist), James Blackham (5th form – violinist), Jacob Dennison (lower 6th – cellist), Balthazar Mattar (lower 6th – violinist), James Gordon Reid (upper 6th – violinist) and Emma-Claire Bailey (upper 6th Violinist) at such an early hour, all packed, with their instruments and music!

Monarch Air took us to Gibraltar where we were met by Matthew Coman, a double bass player with the London Symphony Orchestra, who had organised the tour and welcomed us into the comforting warmth of Southern Spain. We drove

through the beautiful countryside to arrive at our home for the next four days in Alcala de los Gazules, a white, mountain top village nestled in a national park. Our hotel was very comfortable, and once unpacked, Matthew took us straight to a local restaurant for lunch alfresco. The pupils and I were simply stunned by the warmth and the overwhelming smell of orange blossom which filled the air.

Each day the pupils rehearsed with Daniel Bhattacharya (Head of Strings) and Chris Windass (Violin teacher) and they prepared to play Purcell, Bach and Vivaldi. We had one concert in Alcala, which was televised and one in Cadiz. We played in two churches, and James Gordon Reid and Balthazar Mattar played their concertos with a vibrant sense of style and occasion. The audience was also thrilled when Emma-Claire Bailey played a part of the Schindler's List theme, James Blackham played Czardos, and Edward McDonald

poetically gave a very moving performance of a movement from one of Bach's Cello Suites. The musicians from Stowe were taken aback by the standing ovation the Spanish audience gave them at the end of the concerts. It was a thrilling tour, and one I hope we will repeat each year.

Mr Simon Dearsley, Director of Music





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Senior Congreve

The Boy Friend ended its three night run in The Roxy on Saturday 14 March. Throw in a few who saw the dress rehearsal on Wednesday and we had over 1000 happy, contented and smiley audience members who loved every minute!

The show is a throw back to the old fashioned, 'terribly nice' musical comedies made popular in the years between the wars. No loud, obnoxious

American high school airheads and cheerleaders in this show, thank goodness, but instead we have a parade of perfect young ladies, French maids, school teachers with a shady past and enough cut glass English accents to make the most patriotic Britisher proud!

A cast and crew of over 70 worked incredibly hard to produce such a polished and professional

show. Congrats to all who took part and a big thanks to those parents, friends and family who came to give such fantastic support!

Mr Nick Bayley, Director of Drama

A2 Drama

Hot on the heels of the AS Drama practical assessments and sandwiched in between the Senior Congreve production of 'The Boy Friend', came this year's A2 Drama assessments for the 21 Upper 6th Drama and Theatre Studies Stoics.

Their task was to rehearse, develop and present three contrasting extracts, two scripted, one being from a pre 1900 text and one from a post 1900 text as well as a devised piece, based around a theme given to them by the exam board.

The A level Drama Stoics are always encouraged to think 'outside the box' when planning to present their work for performance and this year was no exception. We had a wonderful 'As You Like It' with Jonty Irving, Georgia Lowther and Poppy Regan on the Nugent lawns, a thrilling and powerful 'Julius Caesar' with Freddie Forrester and Hamish Eggins on the South Front Portico, some elegant Oscar Wilde in the shape of 'An Ideal Husband' with Lilly Hanbury and Chris Lord and 'The Importance of Being Earnest' with Monty Lewis and Ed Abel Smith in the Music Room and a moody 'Macbeth' with Phillipa Wadlow, Steph Inden and Autumn Kidd and the hilarious 'Drinking Companion' (Alan Ayckbourn at his acerbic best) with Jonty, Georgia and Poppy in the 6th Form Club.

Throw in for good measure 'The Frogs' and 'The Glass Menagerie', with Immy Brabant, Lucy Gallimore and Blake Woodruff, 'Othello' and 'A Streetcar Named Desire', with Liv Mulhall, Edwin Maganjo and Lily Samengo Turner, 'Entertaining Mr Sloane' with Monty and Ed, 'The White Devil' and 'Mother Figure' with Laura Paine and Olivia Palmer, 'The Crucible' with Lilly and Chris, and the brutal realism of 'Drummers' with Freddie and Hamish and one was treated to a fabulous, eclectic mix of the very best of world theatre.

Credit must go to the effort and commitment of all the pupils taking part, particularly as many of them were busy with Congreve at the time. Huge thanks must also go to my colleague Chris Walters for his fantastic work in helping to prepare the pupils for this challenge.

Mr Nick Bayley, Director of Drama





Dham Srifuengfung (Bruce, 5th Form)

Stowe in the snow

Stowe is beautiful in every season – but was stunningly so over the few days in February when the heaviest snow in 18 years fell. Normal life became challenging, most particularly for those teachers and other members of staff who braved treacherous conditions to get to the School. A ‘Dunkirk’ spirit prevailed, but by lunchtime on the first day the Headmaster bowed to circumstance and cancelled afternoon lessons. A monumental snowball fight ensued on the South Lawn, with Housemasters rallying their troops to greater effort!

For 12 hours, a photographic competition was held, inviting Stoics and staff to submit their entries in two categories: Stowe in the Snow and Stoics in the Snow. Over 100 entries were received by the 9pm deadline, and the two photographs above and below were representative of some of extraordinary talent evident.

Mr Colin Dudgeon, Development Director



The Whole of Lytton House

Wildlife and Stowe

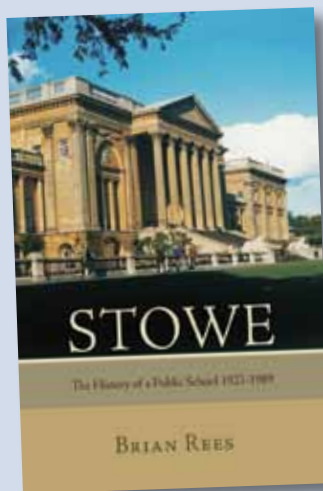


The Biology Department set up a photographic competition open to all Stoics. There were two categories; one with a more general title of ‘Wildlife’ and a second with a local slant, ‘Wildlife and Stowe’. Entries were judged by the Biology Department and the winning shots were Dham Srifuengfung’s (Cobham) ‘Elephant’ which won the ‘Wildlife’ category and Dominic Nazeri (Bruce) and Ben Manser’s (Temple) ‘Crayfish’ which was taken looking back at the South Front from the other side of the Octagon Lake. Winners received a signed copy of Alex Mustard’s (Grafton 93) book ‘Reefs Revealed’.

Mr Rory Akam, Head of Science



Stowe: The History of a Public School 1923-1989



This book tells the story of how, within seven decades of its foundation in 1923, the fledgling Stowe School established itself among the group of leading public schools.

It covers not only the early years, when Stowe’s ambitions had to contend with shortage of resources and make-shift facilities, and the heroism and losses of World War II, when every Old Stoic was of military age, but also the post-war changes in education and society which threatened old-style public school attitudes and the resolute march into the modern age of co-education, building programmes and technology.

Such a History will be of great interest to all Stoics, old and new, and also to all who are likely to be fascinated by the daily workings of a great public school, and the interaction of Headmasters, Housemasters, Senior Common Rooms and pupils.

To purchase a copy please visit www.stamppublishing.com

Public Speaking

The regional heats of The Schools’ Public Speaking Competition (organised by the English Speaking Union) took place on Tuesday 10 March at Bedford School. The Stowe team (Speaker – Imran Momen, Chairman – Ellie Rix, Questioner – Anton Melnikov) made an excellent impression on the judges and were awarded the ‘runner up’ prize (2nd place out of seven schools participating). This was an excellent

achievement, especially given the high calibre of the competitors and the intense nature of the competition. Imran Momen was also singled out by the judges for his ‘outstanding’ speech. Overall, an encouraging experience for the Stowe Public Speaking team who proved to be great ambassadors for the School.

Mrs Julie Johnson, English/EAL



Sailing

Four Stowe cadets visited Portsmouth in March for an afternoon’s sailing in two Fox Terrier 22 yachts with Royal Naval Reserve instructors. Light winds made for an excellent introduction to the basics of boat-handling. Three of the group were Branson scholars who had

not been in a small boat before, and when they left South Africa for Stowe they certainly hadn’t expected to find themselves sailing among the grey-painted hulls of the Royal Navy.

Mr David Critchley, Classics

Literature Quiz

An excellent evening was had by all at the Inter House Literature Quiz, held by the Library every year at Stowe to celebrate World Book Day. The enthusiastic audience of over 150 Stoics met in the Roxy and had the chance to take part in an audience quiz. Teams of 4 from each of the 12 Houses had their literary knowledge tested over 6 rounds by Question Master, Dr Paul Miller. Rounds included Places in Literature, People in Literature, Numbers

in Literature and Quotations from Literature as well as a sound and picture round. After a keenly fought competition with the lead position changing after each of the early rounds, there was a tie between Chandos and Bruce for 3rd place, Queen’s House came 2nd, narrowly pipped at the post by 1 point by Nugent House to win the silver plate trophy.

Mrs Carol Miller, Librarian

Announcing the Launch of Stowe Wines

Sometimes ideas occur that seem too good to ignore! Stowe has long had links with fine wine – both through vineyard owners and distributors – and so it seemed both a natural and a fun thing to launch a range of Stowe wines.



We are particularly pleased that Gavin Quinney (Cobham 78) has responded so enthusiastically to the idea. His vineyard, Chateau Bauduc, has for many years produced Bordeaux wines of the finest quality and has supplied the last 10 vintages on the trot as the house wine in Gordon Ramsay’s restaurant. “My sommeliers swear by Bauduc,” an enthusiastic Mr Ramsay was quoted recently in The Daily Telegraph as saying.

A range of three wines is offered – red, white and rosé – all tested and approved by the Headmaster and President of the Old Stoic Society! Below we provide details about how you can obtain them.

Gavin Quinney himself comments:

“It’s a great honour to be asked to make a wine for Stowe. It certainly wasn’t one of my ambitions when I left the School in 1978 but, then again, ‘bucolic French winegrower’ wasn’t on the list of possible career choices. Neither was ‘personal computer sales’, given that the technology was in its infancy, yet it was through the popularity of these gadgets that I was able to buy a vineyard near Bordeaux ten years ago. I’m quite sure that, judging by my fellow Stoics, the School instilled in all of us a sense of fun, independence, open-mindedness and the will ‘to have a go’.

Old Stoics who visit us have no doubts of the impact that Stowe had on our choice of home, albeit on a far smaller scale. A beautifully proportioned house, handsome columns and

a South Front, with lovely views over parkland and woods. All that’s missing is a lake and a couple of temples.

Our biggest investment in time, energy and euros has been in the vineyard, and for the past decade we’ve been making the house wine for Gordon Ramsay and Rick Stein, and for a growing band of private customers to whom we sell direct. We’re the only overseas vineyard which sells direct to consumers in the UK, with our own cellars near London. Delivery is within a few days.

We do hope you enjoy the fruits of our labour.”

How to Order your Wine

Ordering the Stowe wines is most straightforward and quickest via the dedicated page on the Chateau Bauduc website: www.bauduc.com/stowe. The red and white are £8.99 per bottle; the rosé is £6.99. Delivery is free to the UK mainland for half cases (6 bottles) and over; mixed cases are available.

Alternatively, you can call the vineyard directly via freephone 0800 316 3676, or Gavin can be contacted on gavin@bauduc.com

We would be delighted to hear your thoughts on the wines. It has been suggested that we should supply a Stowe sparkling wine or champagne as well. Old Stoics or parents with capacity to do so are invited to make contact!

Mr Colin Dudgeon, Development Director

The Stowe Putter 1967 – 2009

Golf has been played in the grounds of Stowe Park since the 1920s. However, it was not until the 1960s, when the old rustic course was redesigned by C K Cotton, that the Headmaster – Bob Drayson – conceived the idea of holding an annual Preparatory School Golf Tournament at Stowe. He received instant support from two of Stowe’s legendary Walker Cup players. P B ‘Laddie’ Lucas presented the Putter which is a classic Andrew Kirkaldy of St Andrew’s design, and John Langley, who played in the Walker Cup whilst still at Stowe, became the first Joint President and Guest of Honour.

Furthermore the I.A.P.S. welcomed the opportunity to adopt Stowe as the permanent venue for its official annual golf tournament. An enthusiastic Committee was formed and the first Stowe Putter Golf Tournament was played on 7 September 1967.

In the last 42 years the Stowe Putter has become one of the most prestigious trophies to be played for

in prep school sport. The Tournament itself attracts competitors from more diverse regions of the UK than any other I.A.P.S. sporting competition. Almost 4,000 young golfers, representing more than 100 prep schools, have to date competed in the Stowe Putter. The 41 past champions have been presented with the Putter trophy by an extraordinary and eclectic range of distinguished Guests of Honour. The Stowe Putter Tournament is therefore a firmly established event in independent prep schools’ sporting calendars and is widely recognised in amateur golfing circles as one of the foremost junior golfing competitions.

This year’s competition will take place on Thursday 27 August. For those readers with children at Prep Schools, application forms should be available from your Prep School Headmaster or alternatively can be downloaded from the Stowe website.

Mr David Fletcher, Registrar



Recent Stowe Putter winners

Year	Winner	School	Points	Guest of Honour
2003	W W Eke	Cranleigh	56	Olaf Rogge
2004	M Deacon	Millfield	55	Eddie Bullock
2005	G Munsey	Dragon	55	Jeremy Robinson
2006	G Munsey	Dragon	57	Michael King
2007	P Horsting	House	60	James Tucker
2008	L Casserley	Millfield	58	Allan Lamb

Junior Stowe Putter

2003	G Munsey	Dragon	27	Olaf Rogge
2004	A Montgomerie	Ludgrove	23	Eddie Bullock
2005	B Henwood	Northwood	24	Jeremy Robinson
2006	B Robinson	Bromsgrove	24*	Michael King
2007	A Kovenklioglu	Quainton Hall	24	James Tucker
2008	J Taylor	Bedford	45	Allan Lamb

* After Play Off

NB: from 2008 onwards, the Junior Stowe Putter was played for over 18 holes instead of 9.

From the Chairman



Writing to you as your new Chairman following three years with John Arkwright (Cobham 69) so capably at the helm is a hard act. John has devoted enormous energy to the Society and has overseen more and more of our re-connection activities during his tenure. I wish to thank him on behalf of the Society for all he has done.

Much has happened since the last issue of The Column but the most poignant and memorable occasion in the calendar was the Service of Thanksgiving for Robert Drayson, Headmaster of Stowe 1964-79. 'Bob', as he was affectionately known, was one of the great Headmasters of his time and brought lasting change for the good of the School. The turnout of some 500 Old Stoics at the service in the School Chapel bears testimony to the enormous respect so many had for this great and good man. His former pupil, Head of School and close friend, David McDonough (Cobham 71), delivered a remarkable and fitting address, a transcript and recording of which is still accessible on the School website.

Another memorable occasion was the opening on 6 March of Stanhope House by Sir Nicholas Winton MBE (Grenville 27), who, on 19 May this year reached his 100th birthday and is our most senior Old Stoic.

Old Stoic gatherings in the regions of the UK continue apace, thanks to the organisation of Tim Scarff and Caroline Whitlock in the Old Stoic office at Stowe. The South West Reunion recently held in Taunton was attended by 50 Old Stoics. This was followed soon after by the annual OSS dinner which this year took place at the Inner Temple Hall with over 140 in attendance. The success of the evening was in no small part due to the marvellous show at the end of the dinner labelled 'Stowe's got talent'. Some of the School's current and extremely gifted pupils (Charlotte Matthews, Rosie Gawthrop, Florence Hopewell, Imogen Brabant and Augustus Perkins Ray) treated the dinner audience to an eclectic selection of excerpts from well-known operas and musicals. Stowe is clearly continuing to cultivate exceptional musicians.

There are further Old Stoic events to come during the summer and autumn and all of these will continue to be shown on the website. In the near term, those who are involved in the business of property would be most welcome at the event for Old Stoics in Property being held at The Ritz on 17 June 2009.

One of our initiatives going forward is to engage some younger Old Stoics with the activities in the forthcoming year and any well thought out ideas will be warmly welcomed.

I wish you all well during the coming summer months. You should see Stowe now if you haven't visited recently. There is much about it that should impress you.

Ivo Forde (Walpole 67)

Marathon for Spinal Research



In March 2007 my housemate Dan James, an England students rugby player, suffered an accident whilst playing rugby for Nuneaton RFC, leaving him paralysed from the neck down. He carried out extensive rehab but he never fully came to terms with his paralysis. Tragically, Dan ended his life in a Dignitas clinic in Switzerland last September, which sparked huge media coverage. Those close to Dan have gone on to support Spinal Research in his memory.

Over the winter we built a team of 16 to run the London Marathon and after a very successful press

launch at Worcester Rugby Club where Brian Moore (ex England and British Lions) spoke, the marathon day soon arrived. On a very hot morning the team met at Greenwich Park and after a good stretch, team talk and a lot of Vaseline off we set. We had all decided to run our separate races but many of us set off too fast and were soon hit by 'The Wall' including me! However, we all completed the day and so far have raised over £22,000 for the charity. The occasion was hugely enjoyable and we are now considering our next challenge!

The money raised will go towards research to re-awaken dormant nerve cells using proven treatments, making new connections between brain and body, resulting in movement and feeling being restored. Successful results could lead to treatments that would make a fantastic difference to the quality of life and expectation of the 40,000 people already paralysed in the UK and the 800 new patients, many of them young and active like Dan, who will join this number each year. If you are able to make a donation please visit: www.justgiving.com/danjamestrust

Will Gallimore (Bruce 03)

The Great Indian Rickshaw Run

Assembled in the sweltering sun of southern India, a sweat building beneath our ridiculous white three piece linen suits, team 'Crash Gordon' looked at the vehicle that was to carry them the length of India – it was pink and yellow, had three wheels and a 140cc engine. Encouraged by the cacophonous brass band that Pondicherry's local tourist board had drummed up, we yanked the starter and our Tuk-Tuk phut-phutted to life.

Team Crash Gordon's line up was Tom Barker, an old friend from Bruce and Tony Arnott, an old Uni chum and myself. We were about to embark on a 3,500 km journey through central India, up over the top of Bangladesh and down into Assam in little more than a baked bean can to raise money for charity. This was the great Indian Rickshaw Run.

After a brief detour down a goat track, (we were relying on instinct – mistake number one) we managed to get out of town. Not really knowing what to expect, we took it very leisurely to start with, pottering north up the coastal highway from Pondicherry. It was only on the third day, as we checked into a fairly seedy looking hotel that we saw five other teams; comprising a pair of middle aged women who were 'taking in all the sights,' a couple of Canadian Rotary Club members who were planning to take a month to complete the race, two teams of gap year students who seemed to be somewhat confused (or high) and an Aussie team who had crashed on day one and had to get their Rickshaw repaired. Realising that these were unlikely to be the pack leaders, we set off at 5am and drove solidly for 48hrs, rotating driver, navigator and some sleep (sitting vertically in the back in a sleeping bag). That became our routine for many of the coming days as we left the main road at Vijiwada and headed inland where the last of the small tarmac roads were replaced with dirt, holes, boulders and insane lorry drivers. Never quite sure what each day had in store for us, planned sleeping stops were a fairly fluid exercise, sleeping in a flooding forest during a downpour and spending the night in a Catholic orphanage missionary being a couple of the more colourful



ones. We tended only to stop for fuel, food and map checks as we approached the mid-way point. Up through Jagdalpur, Raipur and up to Bodh Gaya, where we headed east through Purna up to Darjeeling and south east into Assam, with a final tortuous mountain climb into Shillong – to win the race!

It was an incredible experience with too many memorable moments to mention in detail. However, highlights include breaking down in the middle of a tiger reserve at 4am in the pouring rain, running a bristling army checkpoint in a fairly high threat terrorist district, crashing into the back of a truck whilst waving to police and crossing the finish line to find that the finishing banner had yet to be put up.

We are delighted to have raised several thousand pounds for three wonderful charities working in the region – Mercy Corps, Frank Water and the Gurkha Welfare Trust.

I am back in the UK for a few months now, before embarking on my next fundraising trip in August with another OS – Jeremy Pemberton (Chatham 96). We're taking part in a two week 1000km horse race across the Mongolian desert to raise money for Mercy Corps and Help for Heroes. Training has begun in earnest – learning to ride being the first module!

Will Kemble-Clarkson (Bruce 96)

Cross-Country Old Stoics v The School



The annual cross-country match between the Old Stoics and the School took place on 22 March 2009 and followed the usual format of a 2-lap race of some four and a half miles around the lakes and up through the infamous Japanese Gardens.

The field, featuring a strong turnout of Old Stoics, was sent on its way by the Headmaster, now an expert with the starting pistol, but we were unfortunately unable to repeat the success of one or two recent years and stumbled to a heavy defeat of 27 points to 65, counting 6 a side.

Leading the Old Stoics home was Jonny Legge (Bruce 98) in 24 minutes 33 seconds, exactly 2 minutes behind the School's Tom Osborne with a very promising performance as the winner. Chris Hutber (Chandos 87) belied his advancing years, finishing next in 24:47. Also for the first time the Old Stoics were able to count a lady, Charlotte Wilson (Nugent 91), amongst their scoring squad.

No account of OS cross-country would be complete without mention of those two stalwarts, and joint presidents of the club, Marc Hope (Cobham 79) and Richard Weston (Chatham 65) who at least made it round before the timekeepers had packed up.

The full team was Simon Gardner (Temple 95), Peter Ham (Grafton 79), Marc Hope, Chris Hutber, Chris Lascelles (Temple 89), Jonny Legge (Bruce 98), Jonathan Shillington (Temple 89), Richard Weston and Charlotte Wilson (Nugent 91). Previous and new runners are always welcome (contact the OS Office). We next meet for the Thames Hare & Hounds Alumni Race over 5 miles on Wimbledon Common on 12 December 2009.

Richard Weston (Chatham 65)

Old Stoics in Australia

A reunion of Old Stoics living in Australia was held at the RACV Club in Melbourne, Victoria on Saturday 15 November.

The reunion was attended by Hugh Taylor (Chandos 61), John Simpson (Grenville 67), Sam Black (Grafton 68), Nick McGuigan (Temple 69), Chris Barbour (Grafton 73), Peter Neufeld (Chandos 79), Julian Scott (Cobham 79), Anthony Austin (Grenville 80), Nick Chance (Cobham 80), Jason Gray (Chatham 82), John Mills (Grafton 82), Andy Hine (Walpole 82), Ashley Morrison (Cobham 82), Charles Hornor (Chatham 83), Harry Kinahan (Temple 83), Craig Williamson (Chatham 84), Louisa Vass (Stanhope 87), Peter Clarke (Temple 89), Guy Taylor (Chandos 89), Paul Davies (Chatham 92) and Jonathon Anderson (Walpole 94).



There are some 112 Old Stoics believed to be lurking in the Antipodes. Those interested in attending a future reunion should contact John Mills on john.mills@mac.com

OS Dinner & AGM



The Inner Temple Hall, just off Fleet Street, provided an excellent venue for this year's Old Stoic Annual Dinner. Champagne flowed in the Parliament Chamber whilst the 146 guests arrived. The atmosphere was lively and the food excellent. The Headmaster finished a little differently this year by introducing some very talented current Stoics who performed a few songs from recent School productions. The after dinner entertainment was a welcome surprise with praise across all the generations of Old Stoics in attendance.

Old Stoic email list

We are very pleased now to be in contact with over 3,500 of our members by email – providing timely bulletins about School and Society news and events. It is a service enjoyed and welcomed by many. If we do not yet have your email address, we would be delighted to add you to the list (you can unsubscribe at any time) – please email us at oldstoic@stowe.co.uk



Your racing car

It's the soundtrack to life at Stowe. From March to October the gentle buzz of racing engines carries across the otherwise reasonably tranquil environment enjoyed by Stoics and visitors alike from Silverstone racing circuit. Casual listeners describe this 'intrusion' as romantic – a reminder of a glamorous world that exists just half a mile outside the School boundary.

The Old Stoic network penetrates almost every industry and professional discipline across every continent. So why is the industry on our doorstep more sparsely populated by our number than most? Hannah James (Nugent 97) is returning to Stowe on the 11 June to talk to the latest generation of leavers about life in the fast lane – working in motorsport. In a career that has seen her working for a championship winning British Touring Car team, a Lamborghini racing outfit and waiting bleary-eyed at the chequered flag of the 24 hours of Le Mans for an Aston Martin DBR9, she now runs her own racing team (YourRacingCar.com) competing with a Ginetta G50 – a British built sports car.

Returning to Stowe to talk about the opportunities in motor racing is not a purely altruistic activity for Hannah. She feels that the best way to bring strong professionals into the business is to strip away the glamorous exterior of this industry to expose what lies beneath. Giving the current crop of leavers a chance to quiz her on her experiences might just tempt a few of them to consider a career in motorsport if they have the 'insider's' view to draw on.

In a world facing stricter employment regulations and health and safety bureaucracy, Hannah feels that motorsport is one of the last bastions of sanity. Entrepreneurs at every level are encouraged and rewarded, the workforce largely happily takes on the responsibility for their own well-being in a genuinely high risk environment, and an 80 hour week is considered 'a quiet one'. It takes a lot more than passion to fuel these dedicated individuals – there's very little glamorous about working in motorsport, but there is a heck of a lot of fun to be had and there is nothing like that winning feeling.

Hannah firmly believes that motorsport is no different to any other industry – it's not only what you know but who. The biggest difference being that, regardless of the extent of your social influence, you always have to earn your stripes in motor racing. There is no right or entitlement to advance up the career ladder – nobody will put their name to you until you're a proven grafter and talent. You have to create your own sphere of contacts – nobody else's little black book will be any use to you in a sport moving so fast in every way.

Hannah's talk will cover insights into mechanics and engineering but focus largely on event management and marketing and how many balls it takes to create a start-up business so anybody interested in any of these areas is welcome to pick her brain in June!

Hannah's innovative response to the current economic climate is well documented in the pages of the industry rags but if you want to find out more about her team visit www.YourRacingCar.com

Hannah James (Nugent 97)

South West Reunion

Fifty Old Stoics and their guests arrived for Champagne before a sumptuous four course dinner at The Mount Somerset Hotel near Taunton. Set in the beautiful surroundings of the West Country the hotel provided the perfect setting for this Old Stoic reunion. The Headmaster spoke with his usual positive energy about the School's recent developments and successes.

Former Staff Mr Colin Juneman wrote in to say, "The Mount Somerset was certainly a very happy choice of venue and the Dinner was a particularly good one, we thought. I hope you were happy with the turnout and the event itself; certainly all on our table seemed to be enjoying it hugely and such events can only be good for the wider Stowe community, so I hope you have many other such successes and we look forward to the next one down here!"

Many thanks to all those Old Stoics who submitted news items. Please accept the editor's apologies that, due to the overwhelming response and obvious space constraints, it has been necessary to edit some entries and to omit many photographs.

Please keep sending your entries for the next issue, keeping in mind that this section aims mainly to record news from the previous six months.

Email your entries to oldstoic@stowe.co.uk or post them to Old Stoic Office, Stowe School, Buckingham, MK18 5EH.

Mr John Walters (Cobham 43) During 2007, John came to England to attend the centenary celebrations of Imperial College, London, and took the opportunity of visiting Stowe with his brother, Peter (Cobham 48).

Mr Rodney Shirley (Temple 46) In 2009 Rodney published his fifth book on early cartography. There is a provocative title 'Courtiers and Cannibals, Angels and Cannibals' as well as a serious one: 'The Art of the Decorative Cartographic Titlepage'. The work tackles a new topic linking art and cartography which has not been studied hitherto. A copy has been presented to the Headmaster, for Stowe library.

Mr Michael O'Neill (Cobham 51) Michael is retired and living in Vermont, he still consults for his company (Perkin Elmer, based in Connecticut), helping with the design of analytical instruments. Recently his name was added to the listings in 'Who's Who' in Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry.

Mr Andrew Trimmingham (Walpole 53) It occurred to Andrew that there may be one or two of his generation still alive who might be interested to know that he has moved from Bermuda to the UK and is now living in East Devon.

Mr Richard Meredith (Grenville 53) Richard warmly recommends a former colleague's property with gîtes 5 miles from Saumur in the Loire valley – www.lechapy.com

Mr Bryan Toye (Grafton 56) Bryan is a Council Member of The Defence Manufacturers Association, Chairman of CLING (Clothing Interest Group), Deputy Chairman of The Defence Manufacturers Association Commercial Committee and Past Prime Warden of The Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths. He has relinquished the post of Honorary Ordnance Officer, The Tower of London, a position he held for approximately 15 years.

Mr Robert Hetherington (Grenville 58) Robert married Sheelagh in 1972. He has three children (Andrew, Jane and John) and is qualified as a Chartered Accountant. Most of his working life has been spent with The Riverside Group, Liverpool's largest Charitable Housing Association. He is now retired, but works part-time helping to manage a guest house run by Augustinian Sisters.

Mr John Bouckley (Temple 59) John retired in 2001 from a life of investment management and banking. He now lives in Naples, Florida for most of the year. If any old buddies are in the area please email him at jbouckley@comcast.net

Lt Col John Shepherd (Cobham 59) In March this year John was awarded the grade of Fellowship of the British Computer Society with Chartered IT Professional status (FBCS CITP).

Mr Alastair Stone (Temple 59) Alastair continues to enjoy life at 9,000 ft in Colorado. After 4 years working for Keystone Ski Resort's Mountain Watch, he and Helga have switched to being



Mountain Hosts, and include among their work acting as ski tour guides (the coldest start at 7:30am was -30°C!).

Mr Tim Cecil (Chandos 60) In May 2008 Tim and his wife Rachel came over from Australia and met up with three Old Stoic contemporaries (and their wives), George Yannaghas (Walpole 60), Edgar Both (Bruce 61) and John Curwin (Grenville 60) in Buckingham for a pub lunch. They then went on to Stowe for the rest of the day reminiscing, walking, exploring and in wonderment at how the School is still so familiar after almost 50 years.

Mr John Curwin (Grenville 60) John has recently returned from an expedition in Uganda climbing the Rwenzori, which is a remote range of beautiful mountains on the Congo border. It's also the true source of the Nile. Margherita peak of Mt Stanley is the third highest mountain in Africa at 5109 metres. He also climbed Mt Speke which is 4890m.



Mr Richard Clegg (Walpole 63) Richard is now on a four year posting with the Canadian Foreign Service, as Trade Commissioner for Investment with the Canadian Consulate General in Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

Mr Brian Perryman (Bruce 64) Brian was a member of the England hockey team that won the recent over 60s World Cup, held in Hong Kong, beating Australia in the final.

Mr Martin Beaumont (Temple 67) Having retired in July 2007, following 5 years as Chief Executive of The Co-operative Group (formerly CWS), Martin has taken on a variety of non-executive roles including Chester Race Company, The Duchy of Lancaster and Chairman of the retail sector skills council, Skillsmart Retail.

Mr Nigel Murray (Chandos 67) Nigel is a self-employed lecturer and teacher in Germany. He specialises in teaching Business English to Lawyers and Tax Consultants.



Mr Henry Straker MBE (Temple 67) Henry has had MS since 1976 of the secondary progressive type. He was a full partner in a firm of solicitors in Newcastle until 2001. Unfortunately he is now very incapacitated but mentally very strong and gains much happiness from his children and grandchildren.

Mr Tim Harris (Bruce 68) Tim's comedy 'Much Ado About Macbeth' has won the Rondo Writers' Best Short Play 2009 award. (Author's note: This play would not have been possible without George Clarke's enthusiastic English Literature 'O' Level tuition to Remove A in 1965)!

Mr Kevin Saunders (Lyttelton 71) Kevin is back in Europe after 25 years in Atlanta, with a new 'gluten free' business providing holidays at Chateau de Villars in the Dordogne, France for coeliacs, their partners and friends (www.chateaudevillars.co.uk). Longer hours than when a lawyer!

Mr Edward Corbett (Walpole 75) Edward is a construction law solicitor who has accumulated enough grey hairs to receive his first appointments as arbitrator in international construction disputes. The first one involved parties from Sweden and Finland and a project in Russia. Edward's firm Corbett & Co was started in

1993 and is busy resolving disputes on projects that have gone wrong all over the world.

Major General William Cubitt CBE (Temple 76) William is the Major General Commanding the Household Division and General Officer Commanding London District.

Mr Oliver Colvile (Bruce 77) Oliver has lived at the Millfields (the old Royal Naval Hospital) – in Stonehouse – for the last eight years. A governor of St Andrew's primary school, Oliver is working with Plymouth Cricket Club, where he is vice-president, to bring the English Cricket Board's 'Chance to shine' to Plymouth's inner City schools. He is also the Chairman of the Plymouth Health Watchdog, which campaigns for better health care in the City. Oliver runs his own communication business specialising in regeneration and development throughout England. He is also the Parliamentary Candidate for the new Parliamentary constituency of Plymouth Sutton & Devonport.

Dr Stuart Miller (Chatham 77) Stuart made chief medical officer of the Paralympic team and ran the medical services for the Beijing Olympics last September. He continues as the clinical director of Sport and Exercise medicine at Bath University. Stuart became the first doctor to be fully recognised as a specialist in Sport and Exercise medicine in December 2008.

Mr Mike Tomlin (Cobham 77) Mike still has a passion for all sports having played for The Harlequins (London), then for Haywards Heath (Sussex) and more recently Holt (Norfolk) rugby clubs. He also enjoys tennis, squash, plus snow skiing and water skiing, and he has completed 3 Marathons (2 in London and 1 in Budapest). Mike continues to have a love of travel, new cultures and people and has visited about 55 countries.

Mr Marc Hope (Cobham 79) Marc is in his continuing role as Rights Marketing Director at Fast Track, the UK's leading sports marketing sports and events agency. He is now working on new properties British Basketball and British Triathlon with their GB teams and events as well as continuing with multi sports properties Balfour Beatty London Youth Games, UK School Games and BT Paralympic World Cup. Marc and his team recently negotiated a 6 million pound five year deal with McCain to sponsor all levels of UK athletics in the build up to 2012. Marc is now in his last year as a Wandsworth Councillor where he plays a leading role on sport strategy.

Mr Mark Horlock (Walpole 79) ERRATUM: The news from Mark in Issue 7 of The Column was mistakenly attributed to his brother, David Horlock (Walpole 77). Mark is a Director at Marshall Warburton, a financial services headhunting firm in the City, specialising in the Equities markets for investment banks and brokers.

Mr Jonathan Kemp (Walpole 79) Jonathan has developed 'SmartWisdom' an Advanced Note-Taking and Structured Thinking technique. Dr Itiel Dror, a cognitive neuroscientist with UCL found that SmartWisdom improves comprehension in demanding meetings and presentations by an average of 20%. A scientific paper has been accepted in the peer-reviewed journal 'British Journal of Educational Technology'.



Sir Richard Kleinwort (Grenville 79) From 1st April 2009 Sir Richard will become non-executive Chairman of Hungry Hamsters Limited, a Film Production Company.

Dr Ian Keith (Chandos 81) Ian managed to cycle from John O 'Groats to Lands End in seven and a half days in aid of 'The Wooden Spoon Charity'. His contribution of £4,000 was part of a total £59,000 raised, by the other 12 people.

Mr Tim Hall (Cobham 84) Tim lived in Hong Kong for seven years and made several books on Indochina. He has exhibitions of photographs of large scale seascapes and landscapes. Tim's latest commission was to photograph the mountains around Lech in Austria to adorn the walls of a new luxury hotel Aurelio. His work is sold in galleries in London, Paris, New York and Hong Kong.

Mr James Hopkinson-Woolley (Temple 84) James achieved the fastest time for a British skier in the 66th International Inferno Downhill race in Murren. He was awarded two trophies by the Kandahar Ski Club: the Alan d'Egville Cup for being the fastest in the 36-49 age group, and the John Palmer Memorial Trophy for being the fastest overall. The latter trophy is usually won by a 'young whippersnapper', except for when it was won by Konrad Bartelski in 1998! The event was witnessed by another Old Stoic taking part, Ian Bendell (Walpole 87).

Mr Richard Carruthers (Grenville 84) Richard relaunched his website (www.music-chamber.com) as a networking destination for classical musicians in London which provides free podcasts of their concerts and released a new album of Prokofiev violin sonatas.

Mr Gareth Evans (Lyttelton 85) Gareth is an independent curator, editor, writer and critic. He edits the international film journal *Vertigo* (www.vertigomagazine.co.uk) and the new magazine *Artesian* (www.gotogetherpress.com). He has curated many film and mixed media seasons, including *John Berger: Here Is Where We Meet* (www.johnberger.org) and *All Power to the Imagination! 1968 and Its Legacies* (2008). He is currently supported by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation for his new three year project *The Re-Enchantment*, developing artists' responses to place across the UK. He has one son, Tom, and lives in London with his partner Tereza, a Czech artist.

Mr Martin Doble (Grenville 85) Martin has moved from the Scott Polar Research Institute to the Polar Ocean Physics Group, Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics at Cambridge University.

Mr Justin Nelson (Lyttelton 86) Justin was relocated by Microsoft to Seattle, Washington State, USA to undertake a Senior Marketing role in June 2006. Currently he is driving the creation of Customer ready content on how Microsoft's internal IT Department successfully deploys, manages and operates Microsoft software across its business. He says Washington weather is much like the UK except he can ski and be on the water a lot quicker!

Miss Amanda Seymour (Nugent 88) Amanda now runs her Greetings Card Publishing Company, C MAW, from Devon. It is seven years old this year and currently supplies lovely shops like John Lewis, Selfridges, Harrods etc. Amanda is just about to launch a brand new website where you can buy her cards online (www.c-maw.com). Amanda is also looking to branch out into the world of Children's Book Publishing and Animation. Any budding children's authors or animators please get in touch (amanda@c-maw.com).



Mr Jonathan Fish (Temple 89) Jonathan lives in Marylebone, London with his wife, Silvana and two daughters, Taya (aged 5) and Matilda (born on 10 April 2009). Jonathan is a director of a boutique management consulting firm.

Mr Alexander Talbot Rice (Cobham 89) Alexander is painting and teaching in an orphanage in the Pajahir Valley, for an exhibition in London, intended to show the human face of the conflict in Afghanistan, especially regarding the human rights of women and

children. This year he is also painting HH The Pope Benedict XVI, HRH The Prince of Wales and Lady Thatcher. In May he is launching a charity scholarship programme in New York at the Carlyle.

Mr Maurits Gorlee (Walpole 91) In August 2008 Maurits began a new position within the Netherlands Ministry of Defence (NLD MoD) as senior tutor at the Netherlands Defence Academy and General Staff College. His current position is within International Security Studies. His duties relate to the senior staff course, with the aim of grooming staff officers for the higher NLD MoD management positions.

Mrs Vicky Walker (née Straker, Nugent 92) Vicky is married with two children and living in Dorset.



Dr Peter Straker (Cobham 93) Peter was stricken with MS in 2002 and appeared to have a benign type until 2005 when he deteriorated rapidly and within two



months couldn't walk, his speech and vision were badly impaired and there were many other debilitating problems. Thanks to his Neurologist in Newcastle, Peter was given a drug which was still in its trial stages which has improved his condition from suffering the above to being able to walk, see and speak. He still has other medical problems but at least he is able to work. He had been a Surgeon up until the devastating attack in 2005 and now is retraining in another branch of medicine. He will probably not be able to run the Marathon des Sables again, which he completed in 2000, but he does have his life back and a wonderful wife who has been completely supportive during the bad times. Four Old Stoics were particularly kind and supportive to him: Giles Thompson, Arvind David, Justin Shasha and Mark Beevor (all Chatham 93).

Miss Virginia Holmes (Stanhope 93) Virginia Holmes is currently designing Disney's first Indian Feature film - 'Zokkoman'.

Mr Matthew Moskey (Lyttelton 94) Matthew and his wife Jodie (née Ives, Nugent 95) have recently moved to Hong Kong and have just celebrated their daughter, Jasmine's 3rd birthday and their son, Lukus's 1st. Matthew heads up a hedge fund office.

Mr Sandy Robertson (Grenville 94) Sandy is the Enologist at Merry Edwards Wines in the Russian River Valley and has been living in Northern California for a couple of years.

Miss Verity Scott (Nugent 98) Verity works full time as an Art Director and has also set up a film and TV production company Variety Productions (www.varietyproductions.co.uk). She is writing formats for new television programmes and would love to hear from Old Stoics who have ideas for new programmes.

Mr Richard Clapham (Temple 99) Richard is engaged to Gemma. He proposed to her at the Temple of Friendship at Stowe on 30 December 2008.

Mr Charlie Duffin (Cobham 99) Charlie and Robin Jones (Grenville 99) have set up a joinery company in Essex - which keeps them both entertained.

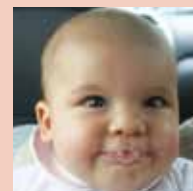
Mr Stuart Healey (Walpole 99) After going to university in Washington DC, USA, and spending a couple of years working in London and Dublin, Stuart is now living in Abu Dhabi, UAE. He has a degree in Business Management and a subsequent degree in Quantity Surveying. His job has evolved into a role as a commercial consultant in the construction industry.

Mr Chris Johnstone (Chandos 99) Christopher now works for Partridge Fine Art Ltd in New Bond Street London having spent several years previously working for the National Museums and Galleries of Wales in Cardiff. He is due to be married to Alice Vaughan of Goodrich, Herefordshire in April of this year.

Dr James Lyon (Cobham 99) James is an Army Doctor stationed with 16 Air Assault Brigade in Colchester, recently returned from a 6 month Tour of Afghanistan. He is hoping to start jumping out of planes soon, however the short supply of ones to jump from means that that's looking unlikely!

Mr Jerome Starkey (Chandos 99) Jerome is based in Kabul, freelancing for various newspapers. It's election year so May is likely to be fairly fractious. The president's term is due to expire on 22 May, and the elections are set for 20 August. The traditional way to resolve this sort of administrative error is to start shelling the capital.

Mr Pietro Melloni (Grenville 99) Pietro lives in Sankt Moritz with his girlfriend Simsa Loertscher McNally and their daughter Greta. Greta was born on 1 May 2008. Pietro and Simsa graduated two years ago from the Architecture University in Mendrisio. They have recently opened an Architecture studio named PS: studio here in Sankt Moritz. They have more work than they hoped for and hope to see any Stoics that might come over to ski.



Mr Charles Rainer (Former Staff) Charles Rainer (Former staff 63-88) I enclose a picture of a statue which I retrieved from the rubbish bin in the Art school, probably at some time in the 1970s. I found it strangely compelling and it has adorned my landing window-sill ever since. It is done in plaster on, I suspect, a wire frame and is coated with a pale yellow wash. I have often wondered who the sculptor is. Perhaps it could be displayed in Column in the hope that he might see it and make himself known to you or me.



Miss Emily Townsend (Lyttelton 00) Emily ran the 2009 Flora London Marathon on a beautiful spring day, completing the course in 5:11:44 and raising over £2,600 for Children with Leukaemia - that's £100 a mile! She was running with a group of Tarmac colleagues and their collective total was over £30,000, smashing their £1,000 a mile target. "It was a truly inspirational and emotional day and a fantastic 'once in a lifetime' experience."



Miss Stefanie Woodward (Lyttelton 00) After working as an Interior Designer in Manchester for the past few years Stefanie has now moved to Prague, Czech Republic and is working as the E.M.E.A. Space Planner for Regus.

Mr Roman Strecker (Walpole 00) Roman was elected President of the Bucerius Alumni Association at Bucerius Law School, Hamburg. It is Germany's only private law school and although only 9 years old, it already belongs to the best in the country. He is currently working for the German Embassy in Windhoek.

Mr Piers Craven (Bruce 01) Piers is with the Foreign Office. He has learnt Arabic and is now working in the British Embassy in Khartoum. He has also recently become engaged to Jura.

Mr Alex Rogers (Walpole 01) Alex played the leading role of John Proctor in the Oxford Theatre Guild's production of Arthur Miller's 'The Crucible' at the Oxford Playhouse in March/April 2009.

Mr Nick Verney (Temple 01) Nick has started his own business, CityButler, a new concierge service that aims to assist people in their day-to-day lives and bring the concierge concept to a wider audience than just the luxury market. Find out about it at www.citybutler.com. He is also now a Freeman of the City of London and a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Dyers.

Mr Ed Hackett-Jones (Temple 01) Ed became engaged to Miss Eloise Ellis in March 2009. The marriage will take place in January 2010.

Mr Amir Amirsadeghi (Cobham 02) Amir was previously at Lehman Brothers and is now with Nomura Group in Risk Management & Sales Support. He also does some consultancy work on the side for Media & Finance companies.

Mr Dominic Gordon (Bruce 02) Dominic has just been selected as part of the 2009 team to climb the West Ridge of Everest. Dominic works as administrator of events and graduation at Leeds Metropolitan University.

Mr Tom Kirk (Cobham 02) Tom gained his Masters in International Security and Terrorism with Distinction at the University of Nottingham, his undergraduate degree, a BA in Philosophy and Classical Studies, is also from the University of Nottingham. Tom travelled to Kashmir in the summer of 2008 to investigate the impact of the 'War on Terror' on the region. He completed and enjoyed the Mongolian Charity Rally 2007 returning via Shanghai and is now temporarily in London.

Mr Lucian Tarnowski (Cobham 02) Lucian started BraveNewTalent.com while at Edinburgh University, a unique employment social network. He has since gone on to win the Global Enterprising Young Brit of the year and is the world's youngest entrepreneur to join the Global Entrepreneur Program. Through BraveNewTalent.com Lucian is leading the social media search to find 1500 young leaders from 192 countries for the One Young World summit. For more information or to contact Lucian see <http://unhub.com/Lucian>

Mr Ed West (Grafton 02) Ed became engaged to Miss Alice Pearson-James in November 2008. The marriage will take place in July 2010.

Mr Will Gallimore (Bruce 03) Will is working in London at the moment and living with his girlfriend who is an artist. He is running the Marathon at Easter for spinal research – Daniel James who tragically broke his neck playing rugby at Loughborough and then went to a Swiss Hospital to end his agony was his housemate at University – so he will be running the marathon for charity in his memory.

Mr Miles Kaye (Grafton 03) Miles graduated in June 08 from Northumbria University with a 2ii in Estate Management. He is now working for The Ledbury Wine Cellar, Herefordshire in pursuit of a career in the wine industry. In addition, he has joined the Royal Wessex Yeomanry and is based with C Squadron in Cirencester.



Mr Christian Roe (Walpole 03) Christian is currently performing in Stephen Thompson's 'Roaring Trade' at the Soho Theatre. Commendable reviews can be seen on line from Telegraph, Guardian and Evening Standard. Former staff, Tony Meredith and Peter Farquhar enjoyed seeing the performance and meeting Christian again.

Mr Thomas Borwick (Grenville 05) Thomas is studying economics at the University of Richmond, Virginia and is President of the Fraternity Phi Gamma Delta.

Mr John Galvin (Walpole 06) John has started a fashion company called 'Business before Pleasure' (www.businessbeforepleasure.co.uk) with the supporting line 'God makes Men. We make them Gentlemen'. BbP recently sponsored a production of Austen's 'Pride and Prejudice' produced and directed by Old Stoics King-Ho Leung (Walpole 07) and Antonia Melville (Lyttelton 06).

Mr King-Ho Leung (Walpole 07) In December 2008 King-Ho produced whilst Antonia Melville (Lyttelton 06) directed a production of Austen's 'Pride and Prejudice' at the Old Course Hotel in St Andrews. 200 tickets were sold in 2 hours.



Mr Thomas Stanton (Bruce 07) Tom is currently in his second year reading Land Economy at St. John's College. He represented Cambridge

University in the annual U21 Rugby Varsity match held at Twickenham on the 11 December 2008. The Cambridge side ran out eventual winners by a 20-3 margin.

Mr Joshua Wheeler (Walpole 07) Is currently in Tenerife completing a Hotel Internship.

Births

Mrs Catherine Kirby (née Burke, Stanhope 83) Lucy was born on 3 January 2009 to Catherine and Will, a sister for Emma.

Mr Jonathan Fish (Temple 89) Jonathan and Silvana had a daughter, Matilda, on 10 April 2009, a sister for Taya.

Mr Toby Gauvain (Temple 89) Emily Alexandra Gauvain born 7 November 2008, a sister for her brothers Henry and George.

Mr Mark Smith (Cobham 89) Francesca born on 20 January 2009, a sister for Sebastian and Dominic.

Mr Ben Whitfield (Grenville 89) To Ben and Heidi, Charlie Benjamin was born on 10 October 2008, a brother to Willow.

Mr Alex McEwen (Chatham 91) To Alex and Emily, twins Fred and Tilly were born on 22 May 2009.

Mrs Kirsty Lane (née Stewart, Stanhope 91) To Kirsty and James, Eloise Kate Helen Lane was born on 18 March 2009, a sister for Henry.

Mrs Belinda Swan (née Ellis, Nugent 92) To Belinda and Tim, a daughter, Imogen Jane born on the 1 March 2009.

Mrs Jessie Fletcher (née Childs, Lyttelton 95) Jessie and James had a girl, Isabella Jane, on 4 December 2008. Her godmothers are Miranda Raison and Sophia Chambré (both Lyttelton 95).

Mr Richard Thorneycroft (Walpole 95) Richard and Ekaterina's son, Sebastian Serge Ilya Thorneycroft was born on 4 November 2008.

Mrs Suzy Lethbridge (née Rasch, Nugent 97) Suzy and Edward are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Celia Mimi Alice, born on 13 September 2008.

Mrs Theodora May (née von Schroder, Nugent 01) Theodora and Matthäus had a baby boy, Oktavian Frederick Christian Mayer, born on 26 February 2009 in Munich.



Mrs Anthea Westbrook (née Bentley, Stanhope 81) After 11 years, Perry and Anthea have had a second baby – Arthur Harry Oliver Westbrook born on the 29 January 2009. A little brother to Duncan (11) and half brother to Kasper (22) and Kamilla (17).

Deaths

Mr Geoffrey Holt (Chandos 30) in October 2008

Mr Nigel Bennett (Bruce 31) on 26 July 2008

Mr Peter Ward (Bruce 31) on 13 January 2009

Brigadier Hugh Wilberforce (Chandos 31) on 8 January 2009

Mr Bobby Winton MBE (Cobham 33) on 25 February 2009

Major Peter Forbes (Grafton 34) on 1 February 2009

Mr Dicky McDougall (Chatham 35) on 24 January 2009

Prof Michael Bullock (Cobham 36) on 18 July 2008

Mr Paul Dyer-Smith (Temple 36) on 25 December 2008

Sir Nicko Henderson (Grenville/Walpole 37) on 16 March 2009

Mr Walter Morison (Grenville/Walpole 37) on 26 March 2009

Mr Keith Boyd (Chatham 41) on 15 December 2008

The Rt Hon The Lord Wayland Kennet (Walpole 41) on 7 May 2009

Brigadier Neil Fletcher (Cobham 42) on 8 November 2008

Lt-Col David Carnegie-Arbuthnott (Bruce 43) on 19 March 2008

Mr Barrie Barton (Grafton 44) on 24 September 2007

The Lord Rees (Temple 45) on 30 November 2008

Mr Peter Dempster (Bruce 48) on 22 April 2009

Major Michael Benthall (Grafton 50) on 7 September 2008

Mr Tony Brunton (Bruce 50) in November 2008

Mr William Eddy (Cobham 50) in December 2008

Mr Bobby Butlin (Grenville 52) on 30 December 2008

Mr Anthony Cooper (Walpole 52) on 25 January 2009

Mr John Harding (Chatham 52)
ERRATUM: The notification of John Harding's death in October 2008 in Issue 7 of The Column was premature. Happily, John is very much alive and kicking.

Mr Knut Robson (Temple 56) on 5 January 2009

Dr Peter Hughes (Grenville 59) on 16 November 2007

Mr Simon Channing-Williams (Chandos 64) on 11 April 2009

Mr John Harding (Chandos 64) in October 2008

Mr Algernon Lendrum (Temple 07) on 10 June 2008

Mr Hilary Kelynack (Former Staff) on January 2009
Hilary Kelynack died on 19 January 2009, aged 93. He was Director of Music at Stowe in the 1950s.

Obituaries

Sir Nicholas Henderson 1919-2009



Sir Nicholas Henderson, KCVO, GCMG, one of Stowe's most illustrious alumni, died on 16 March at the age of 89.

Sir Nicholas was one of the most distinguished British ambassadors of his generation, serving as ambassador in Warsaw, Bonn, Paris and Washington. Between 1969 and 1975, when Sir Nicholas was at the embassies in Warsaw and Bonn, he was at the crux of East-West relations when Europe was locked in the Cold War and Germany remained divided. Henderson was convinced that Britain's destiny lay in Europe and, advocating the process of further political integration, he felt frustrated with what he perceived to be an unfocused, wavering foreign policy towards our continental neighbours. In 1982, Henderson played a major role in influencing the U.S. government to support Britain in the Falklands conflict and, together with Caspar Weinberger, the U.S. Secretary for Defence, he is credited with persuading President Reagan to allow Britain to have the vital use of the American base on Ascension Island. His diplomatic sensitivity and acuteness was widely regarded as exceptional. 'Nicko', as he was known by his colleagues, and his wife, Mary (who died in 2004), became celebrated for throwing splendid parties at the various embassies to which they were posted and they impressed foreigners by their enthusiasm in creating beautiful English gardens overseas. Their pedigree Dalmatian, Zorba, accompanied them to Warsaw, Bonn and Paris and made a name for himself by biting a Polish cleaner when she was spying on confidential papers for her Communist masters.

Henderson came to Stowe in 1933. His career at School was blighted by tuberculosis. Although this affected his attendance and his performance deleteriously, his brightly convivial personality caught the attention of Roxburgh who, it would seem, single-handedly persuaded the Principal of Hertford College, Oxford, to award him a place to read Geography in a letter which could only make current public school masters green with envy, so different is the bias in admissions today. Roxburgh's prescience seems, however, to have been justified, as Henderson became President of the Oxford Union in 1939, the year of one of its most famous debates. After joining the Foreign Office, he wrote a moving letter to 'My Dear JF' from the Minister of State's Office in Cairo in 1943, expressing his deep appreciation of Stowe and of Roxburgh and sharing in the Headmaster's distress over the death of so many young Old Stoics in the war.

Henderson was chairman of the Channel Tunnel Group, a forerunner of Eurotunnel. After retirement, he became a director of various banks and insurance companies. He wrote stories and articles in Penguin New Writing, History Today, Country Life and The Economist. Of his books, 'Mandarin: the Diaries of Nicholas Henderson' was especially well received. He also wrote a biography of Prince Eugen of Savoy, a memoir entitled 'Old Friends and Modern Instances' and 'The Private Office Revisited' which included character sketches of the several Foreign Secretaries with whom he had worked. In 1975 he was made an honorary fellow of Hertford College, Oxford, and served as a trustee of the National Gallery from 1985 until 1989.

Mr Peter Farquhar

Charlie Oakes (Former Staff)



Cricket Professional 1958-77

Gentle, encouraging and much respected. Charlie died, aged 95, in Tonbridge on 19 December 2007

At the age of 95, Charlie was the oldest surviving former player of Sussex CCC. Between 1935-54 he played 285 matches for the County scoring more than 10,000 runs,

including 14 centuries, and taking 449 wickets. He was awarded his county cap in 1937 and was establishing a most promising career when the War stole several valuable playing years and effectively denied him an England cap. He was genuinely a great cricketer but, such was his modesty, that few at Stowe were ever aware of his eminence in the game.

He came to the School, on a trial basis, in 1958, when your correspondent was Captain of Cricket, and from the start it was clear Charlie had an empathy with Stoic cricketers and very soon earned their respect. Needless to say, he became an indispensable member of the School's sports staff and, in 1971, when the said correspondent returned to Stowe as Master i/c Cricket, a treasured partnership was established. Charlie's great success as Stowe's cricket coach is measured, not by the results of the 1st XI, although there were some outstanding seasons, but by the number of Stoics, of all ages and abilities, he inspired to enjoy the game he so clearly loved himself.

No wonder Charlie was greeted so fondly each year by OSs returning for The Cricket Week and, by universal demand, granted honorary membership of The Templars C.C. He is remembered with affection and gratitude by all who knew him.

Mr Christopher Atkinson

Ted Walsh (Former Staff)



Ted Walsh – Temple 1930-35; Estate Bursar 1962-1967

Distinguished soldier and countryman. Lt Col 'Ted' Walsh died, aged 90, at his home in mid-Norfolk at the end of last year.

His love of country pursuits was developed during his time as a Stoic in the 30s and,

equestrian training and greyhound coursing particularly, became lifetime passions. At Cambridge he, not surprisingly, changed courses from History to Land Management and afterwards, with European hostilities looming, followed his father into the Army. He served as a Major in the Indian Army for much of the War and afterwards was appointed Commanding Officer of the 14/20th King's Hussars.

In 1962 he retired from the Army and re-joined Stowe as Estate Bursar – a position he held for five years during which he was a prime mover in establishing the first Stowe beagle pack. His final career move was to nearby Akeley where he ran a plant nursery for eight years with his wife Peggy.

He finally retired to Norfolk in the mid 70s, where, at the age of 60, discovered his talent for writing. He wrote articles for The Field and Shooting Times and published several books, still regarded as classics, including 'Lurchers and Longdogs', 'The English Whippet' and 'The Poacher's Companion'.

Mr Christopher Atkinson

Marriages

Mr James Snyder (Bruce 91) James was married for the second time and has moved to Kent, having lived abroad for a decade. Alex Saary (Bruce 91)



was best man whilst Bruce Snyder (Bruce 56), John Snyder (Bruce 84) and Ian Thomas (Bruce 92) attended the reception. Having obtained a Postgrad in Information Communication Technology, James has become a Chartered Professional Member of the British Computer Society and has been actively involved in the Open Source Software development community.

Mr Rob Samuel (Bruce 92) Robert married Deborah Hebden (Stanhope 93) at Hatfield House, Hertfordshire on 4 October 2008. Old Stoics



present (and pictured from left to right) were Sophie James (née Fox, Nugent 93), Adrian James (Cobham 93), Andrew Samuel (Bruce 87), Katrina Rowton-Lee (Stanhope 85), Gavin Wetton (Bruce 55) and Jimmy Samuel (Bruce 55).

Mr Toby Stevenson (Cobham 95)

Toby was married to Carol (née James) on 24 January 2009 at Arley Hall, Cheshire.



Mr Mark Williams (Bruce 95) Mark and Katy Willis were married on New Year's Day 2009 at Stewkley Church in Buckinghamshire. Old Stoics in attendance were joint best men Daniel Wills (Temple 95) and Robert Margossian (Chatham 95) plus Matthew Williams (Bruce 99), Ross Atherton (Bruce 95), Luke Smith (Bruce 95), Francis Wallis (Bruce 95), James Paravicini (Bruce 94), Andrew Bates (Bruce 94), Matthew Newnham (Temple 95), Emanuele Pesenti (Grenville 95), Edward Roques (Chatham 95), Nick Janson (Chatham 95), Richard Dobbin (Chatham 95), Rupert Calvocoressi (Chatham 95) and Alix Calvocoressi (née Stuart-Bruges, Nugent 95).



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Boys' Sport

Rugby 7s

It was an excellent start to the season as, arguably, we had the strongest Stowe Senior 7s side for many years. We won the Pangbourne tournament, and were runners-up at the big tournaments at Windsor and Oakham. The team scored 94 tries in 21 matches, with Marcus Fountaine and Hugo Empson as the leading try scorers.

Likewise the U16s have made significant progress this year just losing out to Adams GS with the last kick of the match in the plate final of the Stowe U16 tournament.

On the rugby theme, the Development XV has had an unbeaten term, winning 4 matches and drawing one.

The Yearlings have had a superb season with the As only losing one match out of 10 and the Bs going undefeated. This looks to be a very strong year group all round with Oscar Page, Dominic Smith, Jake Olley and George Jones all getting selected for the Bucks/Wasps School of Rugby and Angus Morton on trial with the Northampton Saints EPDC.

Ben Nichols has represented Oxfordshire U15s and Billy Richardson was recently selected for the Bucks U17s.

Cricket

Several Stoics have been trialling with various counties or representatives sides this winter.

3rd form: Ben Duckett and Henry Woodward are in the final stages of trials for Northants U14 County squad; Ben has also been taken onto the Northants Academy. Russell White has made it into the Worcester U14s and Harry Martin into the Buckinghamshire U14s.

4th Form: Ben Paine is in the final stage of trials for Northants U15s and is likely to make the squad.

6th form: John Gurney has made it into the final stages of the Midlands trials and will play for Leicestershire U17s this summer and Josh Sainsbury-Bow has made it into the Bucks U17 squad. Ben Sutton is part of the Cricket-Master Academy for minor counties cricketers.

Hockey

The 1st XI hockey team had a hard season this year playing some of their toughest opposition for a number of years. A particularly strong Bloxham squad early in the term and a very good Charterhouse side in the cup proved too much for Stowe this time out. A well fought draw with RGS High Wycombe followed and victory over Sir William Borlase in the County Cup in extra time was a highlight before being 2-0 ahead at half-time and losing the County Cup Final to a strong Dr Challener's side. Fine performances followed in matches against tough schools such as Oakham and St Edward's when, at half-time, there was often nothing in it before a disappointing second half would cost Stowe the points. Results, therefore, have not reflected the games but a great squad has persevered nonetheless.

Squash

The squash teams this term have put in a commendable effort against some of the top squash schools on the circuit, although many of the teams were slightly too strong. The Senior V team was led by Josh Sainsbury-Bow, who has improved steadily year on year and has now been invited to play at county level. Other regular players in the Senior V have been Dominic Noakes, Petko Pishinov, Madhav Dhir, Hamish Edwards, Alexey Grabarnik and Daniel Carnevalheira-Mobaraki. This year Stowe was able to field a Junior side comprised of 4th and 5th form players, who won 4 matches and lost 2. All players in the Junior team deserve a mention for their ever-improving performances. They are James Saunders, Daniel Robinson, Hugh Stanley, Arthur Hobhouse and Ed Warburton.

Fives

This term has seen greater success at U14 level than ever before with Stowe players placed first and second at the U14 Birmingham Ladder and with Stowe pairs placed first and fifth at the Southern Schools U14 competition. Promising players from this year group include George Jones, Christophe Carrelet, Tristan Phipps, Will O'Callen-Smith, Billy Lawrance-Thorne and Lucas Worsdell.

Mr Alan Hughes, Head of Boys' Games



© Roy Ottaway

Darren Gough: Stowe's New Cricket Coach

With the arrival of his son Liam at the School this term, Darren Gough (the former Yorkshire, Essex and England fast bowler who took over 200 Test wickets) has become a part of the Stowe coaching team. He joins us for two days a week throughout the summer and will be involved in all age groups, from U14 up to the 1st XI.

Darren is well-known for his passion for the game and as a coach it is no different. This enthusiasm, as well as the expert technical input that Darren has delivered, has already made a big impact on the Stowe cricketers. We look forward to Darren's involvement in the years ahead.

"I have really enjoyed working with all the age groups at the School and there are many talented cricketers here at present. The facilities are second to none and as a parent whose son loves the game it is fantastic for him to be training and playing in this environment."

Mr James Knott, Cricket Professional

Polo



Stowe beat Eton 5-4 in a very exciting game at the Guards Club in Windsor. Going behind 3-0 in the first chukka, Stowe battled really hard and credit must go to Jack Berner (Chatham U6th) our Man of the Match with 3 goals to turn around the deficit. Further goals by Archie Voorspuys (Chatham L6th) and William Berner (Chatham 5th) meant that Stowe came out on top of what was a thrilling match.

Mr Matthew Pitteway, Polo Coach

Swimming

This must have been the best performance the Swimming Team has had in recent years.

The most successful age group was the U16s. They won the Bucks County championships for the second time in style, over 16 schools.

Two days later they battled through the snow to The English Schools finals in Gloucester where Anders Palm, Harry Hawkes, James Blackham and Sam Strutt gained 8th place in the national final.

Later in the term, at the Bath Cup, Sam Strutt, Alexey Grabarnik, James Blackham and Anders Palm were on fine form. They were able to take 7 seconds off last year's record by finishing the 4 x 100m Freestyle in 3 minutes 52 seconds. This put them in the final of the Alderham Cup. Overall Stowe was ranked 8th out of 60 schools participating and for the first time Stowe won a silver medal.

A total of 10 School records were broken this Lent term, mainly by Francesca Hutt and Ellie Pinnock.

Mr Stewart Cowie, Swimming Coach

The Cape Town U15 Cricket Tour



The Cape Town cricket tour is so far and probably will remain the highlight of the year for everyone who went on it. We all had a great time in South Africa and everyone really enjoyed it; that wasn't just because all the things we did and saw were very nice, but we won every single match we played.

Pinelands High School – Match 1. Won by 3 Wickets. Pinelands 197 for 7 dec. Stowe 200 for 7
Goudini High School – Match 2.

Won by 114 runs. Stowe 156 for 5. Goudini 42 all out

Reddam Atlantic Seaboard – Match 3. Won by 60 runs. Stowe 142 for 8. Reddam 82 all out
Reddam Constantia – Match 4. Won by 146 runs Stowe 167 all out. Reddam 21 all out.

Langa Township – Match 5. Won by 119 runs. Stowe 175 for 4. Langa 56 all out

Henry Rudd (Chandos 4th form),
Tour Captain

Impressive Term for Girls' Sport

A successful combination of hard work, intuitive coaching and competitive play from some outstanding athletes has culminated in another impressive term for girls' sport.

My praise and heartfelt congratulations go to those who continue to forge their way on to the international scene:-

- Abby Webb (Nugent U6) has been trialling for selection to the U21 England Hockey squad and, although she has not made the team to compete in the World Cup taking place later this year, she is still part of the squad and has three more years in this age group.
- Louisa Dobbs (Queen's L6) took time out from School earlier this term to compete for N Ireland in the U17 Netball European Championships and we look forward to hearing of her continued success over the next year.
- Vicky Elliott (Nugent U6) has only just heard that she is being invited to U21 England Lacrosse trials following her impressive play at Nationals at the end of this season.

All these girls have become role models for our younger Stoics through their determination, high level of skill, and desire to succeed and we hope that our list of future Internationals continues to increase.

However, girls' sport at Stowe continues to create waves throughout the School on a variety of different levels and there is an enthusiastic desire from girls of all ages not only to participate but to be selected for teams.

Netball has had its finest season ever, under the coaching of Sarah Sutton and Jane Hamblett-Jahn. Although the 1st team obviously benefited from the experience of Louisa Dobbs, their victories at this level were by no means the feat of one player; the tireless running of Sarah Worrasm in the centre and the impressive defending of Ellie Green and Izy Cameron have made them a team worth watching. The emphatic victory over Downe House's 2nd team means that we will be challenging this extremely successful all girls school at 1st team level in Netball, Hockey and Lacrosse next year. Not bad for a boys' school that went co-ed in 2005?

Our two young swimmers, Chess Hutt and Ellie Pinnock have rewritten the record books over the last few months. We are all delighted that Chess has opted to remain at Stowe instead of taking up Millfield's offer of a scholarship for her 6th form; we look forward with eager anticipation as these two compete against each other for supremacy in the pool over the next few years!



Our runners have continued to reap the benefits of excellent coaching on the cross-country courses and individual performances from Laura Grossick, Lydia Wood, Tiffany Georgallides and Elizabeth Eden have all contributed to a collection of Gold, Silver and Bronze medallions over the last two few months.

Finally, Lacrosse has had its best season ever with some impressive victories at Junior and Senior level over some of the strongest teams in the country. The tactical brilliance of new coaches, Liz Hollick, Bethany Carey and Eric Krieger has created a steely confidence about the sides, and the impressive way that our Senior sides accelerated their development at key moments in the latter stages of the Lent term has put us on a different footing in the lacrosse arena. We have beaten teams this year that would not have appeared on our fixture lists three years ago (St Helen & St Katharine's, St Swithin's and Cheltenham Ladies College at 1st team, and Downe House at Junior level) and should be very proud of our current standing in the lacrosse world. Despite losing some key players from our Upper 6th, we are replacing them with young talent from our U15s and there is a confidence that our 1st team over the next few years will be a force to be reckoned with. As a two term sport, the teams aim to reach perfection at National Schools in March, and our 1st XII did this effectively this year, sending out warnings that Stowe have reached a level of attainment that allows them to compete with the very best. There is a quiet confidence about the way they step out on to the field and control the proceedings and when you look at the impressive stats you start to realise that this is very much a team game.

As a final note I would like to refer to the time old debate that women's sport is still seen as intrinsically inferior to men's. One of the real blind alleys we tend to wander down is the debate over how women would compete in men's sport. Men can outrun women and are known for their strength and often their competitive edge. Stowe 1st XII played an Upper 6th boys side in the last week of term and, although the boys will complain that they had a man in goal, the girls won convincingly 9-2. An Upper 6th boy was heard to say, reluctantly, in a complimentary tone, 'Hey, you girls are good, aren't you!'

A dangerous way to end an article in a still predominantly boys' school, I know...but I'm confident that we will continue to deliver the goods!

Mrs Jayne Duckett, Head of Girls' Games



Girls' Hockey Tour to Malta

The Stowe U15 hockey team had its first ever tour over the Easter holidays, travelling to Malta for an 8 day trip consisting of 4 matches including a game against the Malta U15 National side. Fifteen bleary eyed girls met at Gatwick Airport at 4:30am on Easter Monday morning looking smart and professional with matching shirts and kit bags, full of anticipation and excitement over the prospect of a sun drenched tour of Malta, including a cruise around the island with some quality time on the beach for good measure!

The weather, however, was not quite as the girls had imagined as we touched down at Luqa International Airport to be greeted by cold, wet conditions that made the temperature we left behind feel like high summer! After a restful first day, however, and a promising first training session on day two with our ex-International coach, the sun came out and jumpers were swapped for flip flops.

After a tough first fixture the girls won their second match 2-0 with goals from Imogen Voorspuy and Lara De Keyser. Morning training sessions continued to be of a very high standard and free time saw the girls enjoy some time at the beach, an evening of ten pin bowling, a day at the water park, an evening of Salsa dancing at a Brazilian bar with a Cuban instructor (!) and a day off hockey to enjoy a cruise around the island stopping off at the beautiful Comino Bay with time to swim in the crystal clear waters and soak up the April Maltese sunshine.

The penultimate game was against Malta U15s and having been 2-1 down at half-time the girls conceded 4 quick goals in the last 20 minutes losing the match 6-1 in a tighter game than the score line suggests.

The week finished with a squad meal at a local restaurant and prizes were awarded to Imogen Voorspuy for being top goal scorer, Charlotte Cook for captaining the side in the absence of Octavia Trevor, Rebecca Dale for being the best team player and Charlotte Lechmere was awarded player of the tour.

Mr Matt Walsh-Woolcott, Hockey Professional



Glorious Restoration!

Exciting news at Stowe as the Stowe House Preservation Trust starts the next phase of restoration. In July, architects, conservators and builders will be moving in to start on the State Library, restoring the beautifully ornate but failing 18th century plaster ceiling, returning the flat Library roof to a mansard roof and restoring the South Front of the Library façade. This will take approximately nine months and the School library is being temporarily relocated.

The funding for the Library restoration has been donated from many sources: one very generous anonymous donor, the Robert W Wilson Challenge (through the World Monuments Fund), and further matched funding from a number of charitable foundations and individual Old Stoics.

We wait to hear, in July, whether our application for further funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund has been successful. The HLF grant we hope for would play a vital role in enabling us to complete the restoration of the remaining State Rooms and the South Front. Associated with this grant would be the creation of new visitor facilities at Stowe, linking the historical interpretation of the House and the School with the visitor's experience of the landscape gardens.

There is much work still to be done but once finished we might be a step closer to seeing Stowe in its true, restored magnificence. Watch this space!

Miss Anna McEvoy, Stowe House Preservation Trust



Stowe Parents' Association



A bright and sunny, if rather windy morning greeted the 130 or so parents and guests who arrived at the School for the

official launch of the Stowe Parents' Association (SPA) on Saturday 9 May.

After enjoying the magnificent views across the South Lawn from the Portico, guests were welcomed by The Headmaster, Dr Anthony Wallersteiner, who outlined the thinking behind the formation of SPA. A theme continued by David Corless, Chairman of SPA, in his welcome, who explained that the Association's purpose is to emphasise the social side of being a Stowe parent, provide an informal network, but most of all to have fun. He invited all parents to contribute to this by bringing ideas to the SPA Committee and supporting future events.

The guests separated into four groups to begin a tour of the Stowe Landscaped

Gardens with teachers from the School, Nick Rendall, Matt Wilson, Andrew Rudolf and Tony Chan, providing their own personal insights on the striking landscape and architecture.

A highlight of the tour occurred at The Temple of Ancient Virtue, where the Headmaster shared his deep knowledge and passion for Stowe with each group.

A morning in the Buckinghamshire country air is sure to build an appetite and this was catered for with a splendid lunch preceded by a glorious welcome back to the Portico, courtesy of the fabulous choral skills of the Stowe School Chamber Choir, ably led by Huw Jones.

With a number of sporting fixtures being played that afternoon at Stowe, many parents took in a match or further explored the grounds to round off the first of what promises to be many memorable days at a Stowe Parents' Association event.

Mr Nick Broomhall, Stowe Parent

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.

12 June 09	Stowe Harvard Dinner
13 June 09	Old Stoic Open Golf Tournament – The Bill Edgerley Memorial Cup
13 June 09	Stowe Jazz Band at the Althorp Literary Festival 2009
14 June 09	Fodens Brass Band – A Day of Celebration
17 June 09	Old Stoics in Property (The Ritz Hotel, London)
21 June 09	Summer Jazz on the South Front
28 June 09	Mozart Trio in the Music Room
07 July 09	Roxburgh Society Lunch
19 September 09	Open Morning – Upper School (16+ entry)
19 September 09	Old Stoics 25th Anniversary Dinner
23 September 09	Old Stoics 50th Anniversary Lunch
10 October 09	Open Morning – Lower School (13+ entry)

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The Campaign for Stowe – a brief update

Firstly, our sincere thanks to everyone who has supported the Campaign for Stowe – at whatever level they may have been able to – in recent months. Whether through one-off donations, ongoing contributions, legacy gifts, or donations of shares, it is most exciting to report that we are already well ahead of last year in donations received. Over £2 million has been donated and pledged this academic year to important projects at the School and the House – a remarkable collective gesture of support.

A number of important initiatives have benefited as a result: the provision of further Bursary Support, the construction of the new Athletics Track (see page 2), the complete refurbishment of the Art School and the restoration of the Library.

It may sound clichéd, but it is entirely true in this case: every donation counts, and in this spirit we would very much like to bring your attention to the 2009 Appeal, about which you may already have heard. We do recognise that budgets will be tight at the moment, but whatever you may be able to give to Stowe – whether a few pounds or more – will be very gratefully received.

Sometimes we receive particularly notable gifts and we thought you may be interested to know of one such donation we were delighted to receive within the last few weeks – from the Trustees of the Bill Butlin Charity Trust. Bobbie Butlin (the son of the great Billy Butlin) was at Stowe in the early 1950s. A very keen sportsman, Bobbie went on to run the Butlins empire, and always maintained a very fond connection with Stowe. He sadly died over the New Year, but left instructions that Stowe should benefit in forthcoming disbursements from the family Trust. Their recent endowment of £200,000 will go to fund the 'Bobbie Butlin Sports Scholarship', which will provide bursarial support to particularly talented boys and girls. It seems a most fitting way to remember him. In conversation with the Trustees, the Headmaster revealed that in 1981, having served as a redcoat for the summer season, he was offered a job as a manager at the Butlins camp in Margate.... what might have been!

I would be delighted to answer any questions you may have about the Campaign and how you may become involved. Please do get in touch. cdudgeon@stowe.co.uk, 01280 818249

Mr Colin Dudgeon, Development Director