

# Stowe mail

VOL 10 ISSUE 2: 12 OCTOBER 2018  
NEWS ROUND UP FROM STOWE

Queen's



Bruce



## House Singing

On Sunday 6 October the whole School gathered in Chapel for the annual House Singing Competition. It was, as always, a fiercely contested and vibrant event and a great many Stoics had clearly gone the extra mile to provide a musical and entertaining rendition in both Unison and Part Songs. Temple took the best overall boys' House gong and were closely followed by Grafton in second place. There was one clear winner overall though and that was Queen's – their energetic rendition of Avril Lavigne's 'Girlfriend' complementing an excellently arranged Part Song. Congratulations to all the winners and many thanks to Mr Wellington and the Music Department for their hard work in organising the event. The format of the competition is expected to change next year to allow for the growing numbers in School and to preserve the quality of Part Song performances in particular. More details will be released nearer the time.

*Miles Nottage, Teacher of Music & Head of Rock, Pop and Jazz*

Chandos



Chatham



Lyttelton



Temple



Cobham



Stanhope



Walpole



Grafton



Nugent



West



Grenville





# StoweSPORT

HOCKEY

## County Cup Hockey

It has been a great week for Stowe Hockey – the U14 and U16 girls made it through to the Regional Heats which will take place after Half Term.

Stowe hockey had a wonderful spell of mid week matches. The U14, U16 and 1st XI all won the North Bucks tournaments, with a total of 10 victories and no defeats, proving that Stowe is the strongest hockey school in the area.

The league fixtures took us further a field as we travelled to Birmingham to play against Bromsgrove. The 2nds & 3rds won and the U14Cs drew.

GOLF

## Ladies Golf Championship

The Final of the South Beds Ladies Club Championship took place on Saturday 29 September over 36 holes. Chanel Fontaine-Geary (Third Form, Queen's) was off to a good start - after 18 holes in the morning, she was winning 2 up.

Chanel had a tight game in the afternoon but managed to hang on to win 2 up on the last hole. This was Chanel's first Championship Final and history was made by Chanel at 13 years old, being the youngest ever South Beds Lady Champion.

# Co-Curricular Day

On Monday 8 October the Third Form were off timetable for the day to immerse themselves into poetry writing, grammar and Maths. The students were split into groups of four Houses on a carousel of three activities in three sessions throughout the day.

They had a creative writing workshop with two established poets. **Lewis Buxton** who is a commissioned poet for The Tate, producer and workshop leader as well as headlining stages at the Royal Festival Hall and The Roundhouse and **Cecilia Knapp**, a writer of poetry and novels as well as a performer. She runs workshops at the Lyric Theatre in London for young adults and has been commissioned by BBC iPlayer.

**Cecilia** has also recently delivered a TEDx talk at Warwick University on creative writing.

Another session was with **Barrie McDermid** who gave a lively musical and interactive performance on grammar and its uses. Barrie is an English teacher from County Durham who specialises in performance to embed SPAG, reading and English resources for students, particularly working towards GCSEs. In this session they focused on simple and compound sentences; semi-colon, adverbials, commas and complex sentences, mostly to music, it has to be heard and seen! There are resources on his website for students and parents to use as well.

*Lyn Foden, School Librarian*



# OS Lacrosse

Two Old Stoics have been demonstrating their excellent talents that were developed during their time at Stowe. Philippa (Philly) Stacey (Stanhope 17) and India Chadwick (Nugent 16) have both been selected for Senior England Training Squad. This summer Philly took part in the U23 women's tour in Japan alongside the men's U23 squad, playing for team England. Both girls have continued their journey through the England Squads after being selected originally whilst still at Stowe. Philly first played in the England U19A squad for the England Home Internationals, whilst India competed for England U19B.

From this platform, both will have the opportunity to play for England in the spring Home Internationals, as well as the ability to be selected for the European Championships in Tel Aviv next summer.

*Rob Ingham Clark, Head of Lacrosse*

[StoweSport.co.uk](http://StoweSport.co.uk)



For up-to-date news, fixtures and results from all the sports at Stowe make sure you visit our dedicated sports [website](http://StoweSport.co.uk). You can also get live reports from our teams by following us on [twitter](https://twitter.com/stowesport).

[@stowesport](https://twitter.com/stowesport)

# National Youth Jazz Orchestra

Sunday 7 October saw the second visit to Stowe in 18 months by the National Youth Jazz Orchestra. This time we were joined by young jazz musicians from NMPAT's three jazz bands and the Aylesbury Music Centre Big Band, plus pupils from several local primary and secondary schools.

The afternoon started with a short performance by NYJO, who were then joined by all of the young musicians for a workshop which was led by the amazing jazz trumpeter Mark Armstrong (Musical Director of NYJO). After only an hour he had amassed a band of more than 40 players who were able to perform an extended jazz piece. This included complex rhythms and harmonies, and the players also needed to remember tunes based on two different jazz scales.

The evening concert was opened by the Stowe Big Band. This was the first performance with the band for Dylan Grafftey-Smith (Third Form, Walpole), Tham Luanghvisut (Third Form, Walpole), Neel Collin (Fourth Form, Bruce), Edward Bush (Third Form, Cobham) and Oliver Seddon (Lower Sixth, Coham) and they all seriously rose to the occasion. The massed band from the workshop then performed to demonstrate their achievements from the afternoon session. After the interval we were treated to an hour-long knock out set from the incredible NYJO. All of the players and audience were left buzzing after a thrilling evening.

*Nigel Gibbon, Head of Brass, Wind & Percussion*



## Roxburgh Society Lunch

Seventy members of the Roxburgh Society gathered for their Annual Luncheon on a simply glorious day. Wednesday 10 October was blessed with unseasonably warm weather and some of the School's most proud Old Stoics were treated to the House and Gardens looking at their very best. The Roxburgh Society is made of OSs and other friends of the School who have pledged to bequeath a legacy to The Stowe School Foundation or Stowe House Preservation Trust in their wills.

Guests were treated to a delightful menu, and the Society President, Nigel Rice (Chatham 64), thanked the previous Society Manager, Hannah Al-Anazi for building the Roxburgh Society cohort to its strongest numbers yet. Mr Rice also introduced Hannah's successor, Charlie Clare (Chatham '94).

The Development Director, Colin Dudgeon, spoke of how legacy donations from Old Stoics

play a fundamental part in Stowe's fundraising and last year accounted for over half of the donations made by OSs to the School for new projects and bursaries.

After lunch, guests were treated to a wonderful musical recital by Fourth Form Stoics, Sebastian and Jessica Foxwell (Walpole & Lyttelton), in which they played the Flute (Jessica), Trumpet (Sebastian) and a piano duet of Chopsticks arranged by Head of Keyboard, Ben Andrew.

To end their visit to Stowe, members were given a tour of the South Portico Statues by Anna McEvoy, the Stowe House Custodian and many also spent time talking to Stoics about their projects as part of the HPQ Fair.

If you would like to learn more about the Roxburgh Society and its mission, please do contact me by email or 01280 818326 – I would be delighted to tell you more.

*Charlie Clare, Development Manager*



## SAILING

On Saturday 6 October, the Stowe Sailing Team competed in the British Schools' Dinghy Racing Association Midlands Regatta at Oxford Sailing Club. The team consisted of Hugh Fox (Lower Sixth, Chatham), Theo Coley (Fifth Form, Chatham), Will Warde-Norbury (Fifth Form, Grafton), Will King-Eccles (Fourth Form, Walpole), Sam Ellis (Fourth Form, Chandos), Dylan Grafftey-Smith (Third Form, Walpole) and Joseph Pullin (Fourth Form, Walpole).

For many of our sailors this was the first time they had raced in this format of event. A total of 76 races were run back to back, so each of the 21 teams entered raced 7 or 8 matches throughout the regatta to decide who went through to the final. This meant that our team had to be aware of which races they were sailing in and get themselves to the boat hand-over point at the right time - something which they did like experienced campaigners - some teams didn't!

Out on the water it was clear that the team were putting into effect the strategies and set piece moves we had been working on in our training sessions. Team racing is a complex and strategic form of sailing with no two races being the same, so the team had to make split second decisions based on what was happening around them on the race course. Not all the decisions went our way, but the team pulled off some great manoeuvres against the more experienced competition.

We didn't make the cut for the top-four shoot out, but the team took a great deal out of the event and I am certain that they will move up the rankings in their next regatta.

What has impressed me most about this team is that after the event, they have been keen to learn where they can improve and showed great self-awareness and initiative in directing the content of our final training session of the term.

Sailing is taking a break for the winter now, but we're keen to welcome any Stoics who want to join this team and learn more about team racing (experience not necessary, just a willingness to be part of the team). We re-start sailing after the Easter break.

*Duncan Syme, Head of Sailing*  
*Photo credit: Nigel Vick*





# CCF Navy Section

On 7 and 8 October, the Navy Section attended a two day field trip to Calshot Activity Centre in Southampton and Chichester Harbour.

Over the period the cadets were taught to rock climb, abseil and canoe. It was pleasing to hear the positive feedback from all of the instructors about the exemplary behaviour, commitment and involvement of Stowe's cadets, who were a credit to the School. Highlights included Callan Gottlieb (Fifth Form, Grenville) balancing on the canoe and 'flossing' without falling into the harbour. The activities co-ordinator had a better idea and discreetly tipped him in just as he was feeling satisfied with his achievement! Fixy Hill (Fifth Form, Queen's) and Katie Lee (Fifth Form, Nugent) were much less enthusiastic about being dunked into the water and tried their best to stay dry, but alas, they too ended up in the canal.

The new Fourth Form cadets threw themselves into all of the activities on offer, and even managed to find their way around the maze that is the destroyer HMS Bristol, the Royal Navy's accommodation ship in Portsmouth. I would particularly like to thank the Lower Sixth cadets for the way they looked after the new cadets by offering advice and pointing them in the right direction. It was very pleasing to be able to identify how they demonstrated their leadership skills and qualities, standing them in good stead for positions of responsibility in the future.

I would also like to thank Graham Essen-Basset and Allison Puranik for their support and input during the trip.

*Lt Nick Zammit, CCF Officer in Charge of Naval Section OIC RN Section*



## Stowe SPORT

### Badminton

Our mixed 1st team beat Rugby 10-6 on Saturday 6 October.

Ellie Butler (Fifth Form, Lyttelton) and Rosia Li (Fifth Form, Stanhope) play as the Schools' 1st pair and won all their matches again.

### Rugby

290 boys represented the Stowe Rugby Club on Saturday 6 October as we put out 14 teams against Oundle. The challenging weather conditions called for a particular character trait, namely 'grit'. Grit enables an individual to persevere in accomplishing a goal despite obstacles. There is no doubt that the the Colts and Junior Colts teams have grit in abundance as they continued their winning records.

The 4th team were the only Senior team to register a win, but all the matches were close, similarly the Third Form teams are steadily improving.

On Thursday 11 October, a record 16 teams from Stowe Rugby Club took to the field against Radley College. The five Senior teams all lost but fought well in some close encounters. Radley's 1st team prop was the difference between the sides, scoring a hat trick of tries to help them to a 22-3 victory.

The Stowe Colts A side continued their unbeaten run with a comfortable 49-10 victory, playing some scintillating running rugby. Perhaps the performance of the day came from the Junior Colts A side also maintained their perfect season with a nail-biting victory over a previously unbeaten Radley side. They defended their try line valiantly to keep Radley from scoring a single try to come out worth winners 17-15. Other victories came from the Junior Colts B team and the Yearlings E team which took on Radley H in a tag match which meant over 300 pupils represented the School in a single afternoon.

### Lacrosse

The 1st and 2nd teams had impressive away wins on Wednesday 3 October against Malvern College.

### Basketball

Stowe had an encouraging first match of the season. The 1st Squad beat Radley 52-37.

On Sunday 7 October, the Third Form Inter-House tournament took place. The Champions for 2018 are Nugent for Girls and Bruce for Boys.



# CCF

## Army Field Days

125 Army cadets deployed on field exercise to a military training area near Basingstoke for a couple of days. We were blessed with good weather, for which the Fourth Form in particular, for whom the exercise was their first foray into military camping and activities, were very grateful.

The Fourth Form thoroughly enjoyed escape and evasion, and navigating their way to a friendly forces RV (rendezvous) to gather intelligence, followed by a mild interrogation (amidst giggles) for those caught, as to what they had been doing on the area. The next day they were fully occupied with building a signal fire to attract a helicopter rescue through the tree canopy, a stalk upon a patrol-guarded building, to obtain more intelligence, and an introduction to the cadet general purpose A2 weapon.

The Fifth Form took their field craft to the next level and were involved in night recon patrols to establish a good location for night ambushes, platoon attacks and hostage rescue the following morning.

Sgt Alex Sprules was with the Fifth Form and writes: "Once deployed into the field the Fifth Form quickly and effectively deployed onto Recces. 4 sites were allocated for the recces to be conducted on with 1 being used later that evening for ambushes. Under their section commanders, the Fifth Form effectively and professionally carried out their mission objectives.

With nightfall came the deployment of two separate ambushes. Led by CSgt Jess Potts, who showed excellent leadership and tactical understanding in not only sighting a good ambush location but also deploying the first 25 cadets under her command, effectively and without fault into the ambush site.

The second ambush was led by CSgt Alex Jones who also showed a firm understanding of base ambush tactics.

The following day at 0700hrs the cadets deployed on four further recces to gain intelligence on a scenario of 'Black Hawk Down'. They gathered vital information on enemy locations, numbers and resources which they then collated to plan a deliberate attack later that morning.

At 1200hrs, the 4 sections attacked the enemy location in unison. Alpha and Bravo section provided a strong base of fire support, suppressing the enemy, whilst Charlie section flanked the position. This proved an excellent diversionary tactic which allowed Delta section to sweep in and rescue the two captured pilots."

The Sixth Form NCOs are now taking on more leadership and responsibility and it is good to see them all rising to the challenge, commanding the Fourth and Fifth Form sections effectively. Many NCOs discovered that leadership can be hard work, especially when tired. It was good to see them pushing themselves and rising to the challenge, with some of them really excelling.

Altogether it was an excellent exercise and all of the Stoics worked hard and threw themselves into the activities, which was great to see. They all survived a cold night, managing to maintain impressive morale and a good attitude throughout.

All of the Army Section staff provided excellent support with endless encouragement and cheerfulness, despite this being the first ever engagement with a CCF for Miss Syrett and Messrs Last, Johnson and Lomax. My thanks to them, as well as to Captain Corrhine, 2Lt Shah, Dr Smith, Mr Ashfield and of course Sgt Sprules. The Army CCF Section couldn't function without them.

*Major de Gale, Contingent Commander*

## CCF RAF Section

Anyone who works with the RAF soon learns that whenever flying is concerned it pays to have patience, time and an alternative solution up your sleeve: the weather can be against you, the aircraft can breakdown and the best-laid plans can very often go pear-shaped at very short notice. The Fifth and Sixth Formers in the CCF RAF Section have already come to recognise this fact all too frequently but our large new Fourth Form contingent have recently had to learn the hard way...

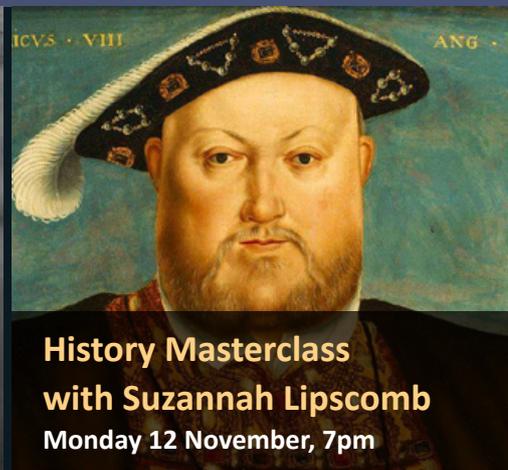
The original plan for our field day was to visit RAF Odiham in Hampshire with a view to flying on their Chinook helicopters. Unfortunately the majority of the units there have been called away on operations and major training exercises in Mali and Oman, so we had to come up with a short-notice Plan B: paintballing!

And so it was that the combined might of the RAF Section headed off towards Banbury to visit Delta Force Paintballing. The weather was kind, morale was high and the keener students lost no time in purchasing the shop's entire stock of extra paintballs along with upgraded weapons and pizza. The wooded training area provided the venue for six 45-minute games, by the end of which the vast majority of Stoics had been eliminated in scenarios ranging from straightforward catch-the-flag contests to full-on building and bridge assaults. Everyone involved had a highly enjoyable time. Particular congratulations go to Henry Pearson (Fifth Form, Walpole), Sean Carslaw Tricot (Lower Sixth, Grenville) and Max McLeish (Lower Sixth, Walpole) who were voted Top Guns of the day for their singular – and at times life threatening – acts of bravery in the face of zombie invasions and Axis attacks.

We still aim to visit RAF Odiham soon but in the interim it is good to know that there is a place some twenty minutes up the road from Stowe that can provide such a well-organised and enjoyable day of fitness, teamwork, leadership, resilience, fun and gunge.

*Mr Jon Murnane, RAF Section Commander, Stowe CCF*

## Stowe arts



**History Masterclass  
with Suzannah Lipscomb  
Monday 12 November, 7pm**

**Piano Recital  
Lukas Geniusas  
Wednesday 21 November, 8pm**



**The Budapest  
Café Orchestra  
Friday 16 November, 7:30pm**

**NT Live : Allelujah  
Thursday 8 November, 7pm**



# Stowe SPORT

## 2019 - Sports Scholarships

In order to give our 2019 candidates a full flavour of Stowe as well as have a chance to play as many sports as possible, we decided to extent the assessment to a two day festival of sport! The candidates were put through their paces with some demanding fitness tests, as well as assessments in all the main sports we enjoy at Stowe. We also introduced activities such as the assault course, teamwork tasks and an interview that tested other aspects of the candidate's character. There were recovery sessions in the pool and also a pilates session which helped to warm tight muscles up at the start of day two. A trip to Nando's on Monday evening, followed by bowling gave us time to relax and form new friendships and an overnight stay in a Boarding House helped to give a flavour of life at Stowe.

The whole group were impeccably behaved and were a joy for our sports coaches to work with. We were very impressed with the candidates commitment, enthusiasm and positive attitudes.

*Craig Sutton, Director of Sport*



## Nicola Morgan

On the Monday 24 September we had a visit from Nicola Morgan, a dyslexia specialist and author of over 100 books on teenage stress, well-being, friendships, learning, social media and the adolescent brain. Her books are mainly directed at young adults.

We had a presentation to the staff focusing on online stress for students in the afternoon; followed by an evening presentation to the Third and Fourth Form giving the students tips and hints on how to channel their way through the trials of exams; smart use of screens and other aspects of being a teenager. She was very impressed with the interest and high level questions from the students at Stowe; many of whom also bought her books for further reading which are also available in the School Library.

For interested parents there are resources to look at on her [website](#) along with articles, a list of her books, tips posters and her research.

*Lyn Foden, School Librarian*



On Sunday 7 October, we were delighted to welcome 100 Old Cobhamites to Stowe for a farewell tour of the old Boarding House, in anticipation of the opening of the new Cobham, which will take place on Sunday 28 October 2018.

The day began with tea and coffee in the Marble Saloon, which was very welcome, as some of our guests had travelled long distances to attend the day.

Colin Dudgeon (Development Director) welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. James Peppiatt (Cobham Housemaster) followed by reading amusing excerpts from the previous and current Cobham house books, before inviting our guests to stroll down to Cobham for a free flowing tour. This was a highlight for many of our guests, as some had not been back to their house for a number of years and were especially pleased to be able to search for themselves in the House photographs. Feeling very nostalgic, and remembering their time fondly, our guests made their way back to the Marble Hall for pre-lunch drinks but not before asking where the pond had gone!

Our catering team, as always, produced a most delicious lunch for our guests to enjoy.

After lunch, the Headmaster, Dr Anthony Wallersteiner, entertained our guests with a speech about the history of Cobham and the reasons behind the decision to embark on building a new Boarding House, as well as the exciting development plans to turn the current Cobham into the two new day houses of 'Cheshire' and 'Winton'. John Arkwright (Cobham 69), whose wonderful idea

it was to hold the day, thanked the Headmaster and the Old Stoic Society for hosting the event.

As the speeches ended, a short presentation film of the new Cobham was played for our guests to enjoy before taking the short walk down to the new site, for the group to see the progress of the house. Regrettably, original plans to allow our guests a walk through had to be postponed due to the beautiful hot summer, causing a delay in completion of the new building.

As the day came to a close, our guests were able to enjoy a walk through the gardens before making their way back to the Marble Hall for afternoon tea.

A special mention must go to Mr Anthony Smith (Cobham 60) and Mrs Lore Smith, both of whom had travelled from the USA, and Mr Michael Legg (Cobham 57) from Switzerland, so that they could enjoy the day with us.

*Anna Semler, Old Stoic Society Director*





Stowe School presents

# Romeo and Juliet

Scheduled performances:

Wednesday 28, Thursday 29, Friday 30 November  
and Saturday 1 December, 8pm

A bit of history:

The Congreve Society at Stowe was first formed in 1942 to 'promote the study, encouragement and practice of drama in all its aspects'. Named after the English Dramatist William Congreve (1670-1729) who was both a playwright and poet of the infamous Restoration period. Congreve was a minor political figure in the Whig Party, a friend and supporter of Lord Cobham and a frequent visitor to Stowe.

There are normally two major Congreve productions staged in the School year; the Senior Congreve featuring Upper School Stoics and The Junior Congreve by Lower School Stoics. The Historian's Shakespeare (1935-1962) was a forerunner as well as rival to the Congreve Society for many years and the last production of Romeo and Juliet at Stowe was in November 1990.

This year's production:

It's all in the stars. And it is indeed a cast of young stars who bring us this year's School Congreve, Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. Over thirty Stoics, Thirds to Upper Sixth, make up this extra-ordinary company who are currently busy in rehearsals. If you pop your head into the Dobinson studio any evening you are bound to see pupils on a journey of discovery as they unravel each scene and the world of the play emerges before their eyes.

Rehearsals involve table-work where cast members sit around, reading and deciphering the language, followed by practical exploration of each scene. They learn stagecraft through ensemble work, improvisation, experiment and bravery. Discovering how they can work collaboratively together to conjure a piece of theatre, pupils finish rehearsals with a greater appreciation of what it is to be creative.

Romeo (Dominic Selvey (Lower Sixth, Chandos)) and Juliet (Sonya Sander (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton)) are teenagers who meet and fall in love despite their families' deadly rivalry. Unassuaged by their friends and counterparts and peculiarly encouraged by their somewhat wayward elders, they career recklessly towards their destiny.

To reserve tickets email [thearts@stowe.co.uk](mailto:thearts@stowe.co.uk)  
or call 01280 818012



CRICKET

We would like to extend a huge congratulations to James Cronie (Fifth Form, Cobham) after finishing a very successful season for Northamptonshire.

At the Northants Young Cricketers Presentation evening James won an impressive four awards for centuries and Bunbury attendances. He was also awarded the Dorothy Radd trophy for excellence in ECB games and the overall Player of the Year for all of Northants Youth Cricket.

*James Knott, Deputy Director of Sport  
& Head of Cricket*



FENCING

On Thursday 4 October the small but committed Stowe fencing team had a home match against Abingdon. The standard was extremely high and Stowe fencers are right at the top of the schools circuit. There is plenty of room for anyone wishing to take up the sport.

For weekly reports  
on all Stowe Sports  
visit our website

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



## Horse of the Year Show

Lucinda Stockley (above), Stowe Library Assistant won 1st prize in the Fells and Dales class at the Horse of the Year Show at the NEC.

## Badminton

Oliver Butler (Third Form, Grenville) has been offered a fully funded place on the England U15 National team and will play in the Finland International Open (26-28 October) and the Estonia International Open, (6-9 December). Well done to Oliver on his selection.

# Brackley & District Band featuring Guest Soloist Steven Mead

On Saturday 22 September, Stowe's Brass musicians joined Brackley & District Band and enjoyed a wonderful opportunity to work and perform alongside Besson euphonium artist Steven Mead. The day concluded with a stunning evening concert.

Steven gave a superb afternoon masterclass before taking the stage later to be the featured guest soloist. Steven said "It was wonderful to work with such a responsive set of musicians.

The talent on show was amazing, but the desire to learn and improve was startling. I enjoyed every minute of the day and it was rounded off with a splendid concert at Stowe School."

Huge congratulations to the Stoics and Nigel Gibbon, Head of Brass, Woodwind and Percussion for his support and co-ordination of this fantastic day.

*Deborah Howe, Director Arts at Stowe*



## Boys' Lacrosse Evening

On Sunday 7 October, six boys from the Fifth Form to the Upper Sixth travelled with the three male members of the Lacrosse Staff to the Midlands Roller Arena in Lutterworth as part of the Weekend Activity Programme.

Capably assisted by Rob Gooch, the President of South Lacrosse, as well as an England Masters box lacrosse player, the boys were put through their paces playing the fast-growing and fast-paced indoor version of the sport. This full-contact sport saw the boys learn new techniques - such as passing, catching, and checking one another - play a few games, and they finished with a match. Standout players included Oscar Brett (Upper Sixth, Chatham) and Archie Page (Fifth Form, Chatham).

The boys returned with a greater appreciation for the sport, a keenness for the next opportunity to play, and a few bumps and bruises. Although none as many as the girls' 2nd XII coach Mr Giles Cuddy who played as goaltender for the night.

*Rob Ingham Clark, Head of Lacrosse*



LACROSSE



On Monday 8 October, Arts Award Stoics went to Aylesbury for their first Field Day of this academic year. We visited the Buckinghamshire County Museum and enjoyed exploring their collection and having a question and answer session with their Creative Learning and Engagement Manager, Sarah Jones. The Stoics had the opportunity to discover how the museum organises events, manages its programme of school visits and hosts arts events. They asked a range of pertinent questions about how the museum is funded and how it appeals to its diverse audience.

In the afternoon, we visited a very different venue, the Queen's Park Arts Centre, which also houses the Limelight Theatre. Again the Stoics had the opportunity to see how this busy community arts venue operates. They took part in an art workshop with artist, Pippa North, and had a question and answer session with their Artistic Director, Sarah Lewis. The Stoics behaved in an exemplary manner and relished the opportunity to discover more about how the venue interacts with the community, attracts audiences and generates funding.

Visiting both venues provided the Stoics with true insight into the challenges facing small venues and the minefield of funding arts initiatives. They had a very informative and enjoyable day and will be able to incorporate their experiences into their portfolios at Gold and Silver level, where they must interview or work alongside arts practitioners.

*Lucy Miller, Drama and English Teacher*

## How the Classics made Shakespeare

Stoics studying A Level English Literature enjoyed the rare privilege of a lecture from an Oxford Don on Tuesday 9 October. Hosted by the Buckingham Literary Festival and the University of Buckingham, Professor Jonathan Bate, provost of Worcester College, Oxford, discussed the research for his new study, *How the Classics Made Shakespeare* (forthcoming, Princeton University Press).

A renowned scholar in the fields of Shakespeare studies and eco-critical theory, Bate offered to Stoics and members of the public a engaging lecture on the crucial significance of the classics on Shakespeare's writing, as well as the larger world of Renaissance England. Fashioning itself as a new Rome, Elizabethan and Jacobean London was a city pitched in a fever of self-fashioning: at the same time that a Protestant England was at war with Catholic France and Spain, London was, in Bate's words, effectively a 'neo-Rome at war with a modern Rome'. These tensions played out on Shakespeare's stage, where Shakespeare - a beneficiary of the 'Tudor educational revolution' of expanding grammar schools to rural areas like Stratford - used his classical training in rhetoric to examine contemporary anxieties in Renaissance England. For Bate, Shakespeare dramatised something more than characters and plots; he dramatised competing perspectives about issues most pressing in the early seventeenth century: the dangers of civil war, the royal succession, and the ideological wars between Catholic Europe and Protestant England.

With casual brilliance, Bate moved from discussions of Cicero and Tudor succession to the nuances of single lines and words in individual tragedies, illuminating for the Stoics the profound interplay between Shakespeare's learning and Shakespeare's writing. At the behest of Sir Anthony Seldon, vice chancellor of University of Buckingham, Bate even gave the Stoics a 'killer fact' to include in their essays on their set text of *King Lear*: for some unknown reason, the Master of Revels (effectively the censor that determined whether a play was suitable for performance) deemed acceptable a tragedy in which a king is deceived, is reduced to poverty, and loses his



favourite daughter along with his sanity - but requested that before performance, Shakespeare remove a line about beer monopolies.

Stoics discussed the lecture with animated energy afterwards, debating the Jacobean views on marriage over well-earned pizzas at Prego.

Special thanks go to Christopher and Chloe Woodhead for facilitating the talk, as well as to Allison Puranik, Head of English, for organising a trip that will surely deepen the students' understanding of the ideas and anxieties that crisscrossed Renaissance London.

*Dr Fitzpatrick Smith, Head of Literature*

# North Hall Restoration

Over the October Half Term, work will start on the final stage of restoration of North Hall. William Kent's painted ceiling was restored in 2014 but further research was needed to agree the decorative details for the walls and floor. Although the plan for Kent's scheme does exist, the extent to which it was ever implemented is unknown while later changes would have made a full re-instatement of his intended scheme somewhat hypothetical. After extensive research and consultation with expert advisers, the Stowe House Preservation Trust settled on the decorative scheme that had been in place shortly before Queen Victoria's visit in 1845. Trials have been carried out to confirm the findings from detailed paint analysis resulting in the selection of a colour that matches most closely the 'warm, pale stone' found in samples taken from the walls and dated to around 1840. Gathering evidence for the floor required research into the archive held in the Huntington library in California, which was scrutinised for evidence of stone procurement.

The most exciting aspect of the whole project is the installation of a copy of the classical statue group of Laocoon and his sons. The bronze that had been purchased by the second Duke

of Buckingham and Chandos from William Beckford's gothic fantasy Fonthill Abbey was tracked down to a country house whose owner kindly consented to loaning it to SHPT to enable the copy to be made by skilled craftsmen. It is now in a workshop in London where the moulds for casting are currently being produced.

Work on the Hall will be completed in February and the Laocoon will be installed during the February Half Term.

All the work has been funded by donations received by SHPT and we are extremely grateful to all those who have helped in this task.

Throughout the restoration project, 'hard hat' tours will be offered to enable a close up view of conservation in action, see [www.stowehouse.org](http://www.stowehouse.org) for more information.

We continue to fundraise for our next project, the State Dining Room. For further details on this and the ways in which you can help support Stowe House Preservation Trust please see the SHPT section of the website or contact us on 01280 818002 or 01280 818229.

*Nick Morris, CEO SHPT*



## Sun, Sea and my Summer 2018 Work Experience

by Octavia Comerford (Lower Sixth, Stanhope)

This summer I worked part-time, three to four days a week, as a sailing instructor at Longshore Sailing School on the Long Island Sound. My role as a dispatcher consisted of working closely alongside sail boat and paddle craft renters explaining the boundaries, checking that they were familiar with the operation of their rented boat, as well as rigging and de-rigging the boats and caring to them at the end of each day. I was also given the responsibility of lookout, which entailed keeping track of every boat that was on the water and the safety and whereabouts of the renters, ensuring to keep in constant contact with the senior instructors and coastguard, through radio communication.

From both working as a dispatcher and alongside senior instructors, teaching both adult classes and children as young as eight years old, I feel that I have further developed the characteristics of confidence, leadership, responsibility, patience and communication skills. I feel that my work experience this summer not only allowed me to pursue one of my passions of sailing but also allowed me to unwind and decompress after the intense rigor of the Fifth Form GCSE year. While my summer job may not have directly linked to my potential career choice, working on the Long Island Sound opened my eyes to the disregard that some people hold for the water and what an impact it has on the surrounding ecosystems, which has furthered my interest in the prospect of studying environmental law in the foreseeable future.

I feel grateful that I was able to give back to the community this summer after assisting a class in teaching underprivileged children how to sail. I found that the children in class had an impressive can-do attitude and great endeavour and was inspired to take this a step further. After several weeks of correspondences with Horizons' charity headquarters I was able to gather and donate a community drive of lightly used books, clothes, sports equipment, and toys. Being able to give back to the charity that worked so closely with the sailing community that had been such a large part of my childhood felt very rewarding.

Overall I thoroughly enjoyed my work experience this summer and found it very enlightening on how a work community functions. If I were to give any advice to the current Fifth Form it would be to start thinking now about where you are going to work. I applied to my workplace at the end of my Fourth Form summer, went to my interview in the winter of Fifth Form, and was confirmed my job in May of Fifth Form. Applications can be a long process so makes sure to be prepared.

Now that I am in the Lower Sixth, I feel that I need additional work experience that is targeted at my potential degree interests. With the help of my family, I have arranged a summer internship at a law firm, where I will shadow a lawyer preparing for cases and attending hearings.



## Bury Farm Equestrian Championship

Stowe's Equestrian team travelled to Bury Farm on Sunday 16 September. Chloe Livesey (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) won her Elementary Dressage Class qualifying her for the Championships at Keysoe in November. Cecilia Mayne (Lower Sixth, Nugent) also qualified for the Championship Silver Plate at Keysoe in the 1m Show Jumping by being placed 3rd in her class.

At Berkshire College of Agriculture on Sunday 23 September, Charlotte Morgan (Fifth Form, Nugent) was placed in the 80cm Show Jumping also qualifying her for the Championship Silver Plate at Keysoe.

On Sunday 7 October, Cecilia Mayne was placed 6th in her 1m Class at the NSEA Eventing Championship Final at Elmwood Equestrian.

We have four strong teams going forward on Sunday 14 October to the Beachborough Eventers Challenge. Good luck to all those competing!

*Jo Cannon, BHS Accredited Professional Coach*



# Stowe Parents

Stowe Parents would like to extend a warm welcome to you all and we hope you will find something of interest in our selection of Events for the Michaelmas Term 2018.

If you would like to make a booking, please click on your chosen event below and you will be taken through to our online booking page on the [website](#).

If you have any queries, please contact [stoweparents@stowe.co.uk](mailto:stoweparents@stowe.co.uk)



## Headmaster's Garden Tour

**Saturday 3 November, 10:45am**

**£20.00**

The Headmaster will lead an exploration of the Stowe Gardens. His aim is to introduce the gardens to those who have not had a previous opportunity, and for those more familiar, we aim to broaden and deepen your knowledge.

This event is always hugely popular and we hope to continue that tradition this year. Book now to avoid disappointment!



## Headmaster's Dinner at the Carlton Club

**Wednesday 14 November, 7:15pm**

**£70.00**

Join the Headmaster for dinner at the prestigious Carlton Club situated in the heart of Mayfair, just off Pall Mall.

This is a fabulous opportunity for parents to meet each other. Enjoy a drinks reception in the Morning Room followed by a three-course evening meal in the magnificent Churchill Room. The evening will end back in the Morning Room for after dinner drinks.



## London Silver Vaults Tour & Lunch

**Wednesday 5 December, 11am**

**£40.00**

Located in Chancery Lane, The London Silver Vaults is home to the largest retail collection of fine antique silver in the world. After a short introduction, you will be free to enjoy one of London's most unusual shopping destinations, made up of 30 independent retailers.

Followed by lunch, this promises to be a shopping trip with a difference. Discounts will be available on the day.



## Apsley House Visit

A band of interested Stowe Parents met on the steps of No 1 London, Piccadilly for a private tour of the Duke of Wellington's House on Tuesday 9 October. We were welcomed by Josephine Oxley, Curator of the Wellington Collection, who treated us to some wonderful stories about the Duke himself and how this exceptional collection of art, silver and porcelain came into being. Josephine was fascinating to listen to as she knows the history and collection intimately. We could have spent a whole day in the house alone, but took a short walk to the Wellington Arch which afforded us glorious views from the roof, down Birdcage Walk and Apsley House itself.

On to a cosy pub lunch at The Grenadier and then off to visit the working studio of Wolfe von Lenkiewicz. Wolfe was fascinating to listen to. He is a truly dedicated artist, and generously described his paintings to us and answered the many questions we had. Wolfe's paintings are monolithic in size and are themed around famous works of art, some of which we had just seen at Apsley House. He described how during the creation of a work he is so captivated by the process that he would sleep under a canvas until released by its completion. We all left Wolfe's studio rather captivated by him!

*Emma Marriott, Chair Stowe Parents*



# Language, Thought and Culture

Mr Johnson who speaks three languages fluently and has a great understanding of Russian and Polish, passionately delivered a diverse and brilliant talk to start off this year's Language Society, on Wednesday 10 October. The main theme of the talk was about Language, Thought and Culture. He cleverly mixed many different languages together to create a cultural mood throughout the talk. We learnt many phrases from a variety of languages, and it was very interesting to learn about how each individual phrase can hold so many different meanings in different languages throughout the world, thus reflecting your identity or your culture. Firstly, he spoke about how different nations greet each other. The word "Hello" has many different meanings in other languages such as Italian (ciao – hi/goodbye) and French (bonjour – good day). These greetings are more neutral than the "hello" in English which is rather formal. A word that is so simple and a word we take for granted actually says a lot about a country and what it wants to portray itself as. From the talk, one key point that was discussed was that a language can reflect your identity, culture and fate for e.g. Shibboleth in Hebrew. All languages interpret things differently whether it is colours, phrases or culture. English typically is very formal and simple. Other languages such as Chinese and Japanese take great pride in their historical use of language. Did you know that the Great Wall of China was built due to the Chinese people thinking that anyone outside of their country was a 'stranger' or 'ghost' as they referred to them? This shows how much a culture can mean to people and how precious it is, so much so that they are not willing to share it with others. Arabic uses many more religious terms for e.g. "Inshallah" (God Willing). From those phrases, one can see that Arabic countries are much more religious and their use of language represents their culture and strong belief in faith and God. It was a fascinating talk for everyone who went and it was great to learn in depth about the beauty of languages and what they mean. Thank you, Mr Johnson, for successfully starting the ball rolling and the Language Society are very much looking forward to future talks and events.

*Tom Scott (Lower Sixth, Chandos)*

## Visit from the Royal Northern College of Music

On Wednesday 26 September, the Head of Popular Music from the Royal Northern College of Music, Andy Stott visited Stowe to give a talk to Stoics about the undergraduate degree course in Popular Music they offer. A band called Cosmo Calling, which is comprised of current 4th year RNCM students, accompanied Andy on the visit and gave a wonderful concert of their own material to an audience of Stoics. This was a unique opportunity for those considering a career in the music industry to ask questions and to receive coaching and advice from the leader of the only course of its kind in the UK. Places on the course are hotly contested and granted only after a rigorous and competitive audition process. The visitors from the RNCM were very impressed by the Stoics who took part and provided them with some invaluable advice on how to enhance their already accomplished performance skills.

The afternoon was a great success and all those who attended gained a great deal from the event. I would like to thank Andy Stott and Cosmo Calling for coming to give such an inspirational workshop to the Stoics and we look forward to having them back next year. I would also like to thank the following Stoics involved for their performances: Clara Tearle, Celest Lamberti, Theo Hayes, Oliver Seddon, Sean Carslaw Tricot, Mimi Pearson-Gee, Rosia Li, Olivia Elliott, Barnaby Peppiatt, Audrey Au, Ben Li and Toby Thorpe. Thank you!

*Ben Andrew, Head of Keyboard*

## Half Term Arrangements

We would like to make those Parents picking up their children from Stowe on Saturday 13 October for Half Term aware that the Annual Charter Fair returns to Buckingham this weekend and there are road closures in place in the town. Diversions are well-marked so please follow these if you would normally travel via Buckingham to Stowe.

## Book Review

I got into reading later than most people and before that it was something I hated. I didn't touch a book unless I had to and I wouldn't even read before bed at my parents' request. Recently I started reading books and found that they weren't that bad and ever since I have really enjoyed it. I found a series that I really liked and it has completely changed my opinion on books. For me the best time to read is just before bed. It helps me calm down and relax before I go to sleep. I have also found that reading has many benefits; my spelling has greatly improved, as has my vocabulary.

Over the summer, I read several books from the list sent around by the School; one was the first book of The Gone series. It was written by Michael Grant and is a fantasy novel based in America. The children in Perdido Beach are at school one day when suddenly all the teachers, parents and anyone above 15 disappears; not only that but a force field appears, circling the area. This meant no one can get in or out of Perdido Beach. Then to add to the confusion some children started gaining weird powers, some more powerful than others. When more children arrive from a special school in the mountains and declare authority, all hell breaks loose. Every child is joining sides depending on who they believe should be the leader.

This book is a fantasy novel that is very enthralling and is one that everyone would like if they read it. I am sure it will not fail to delight many readers, ranging from fans of The Hunger Games, to those who prefer the modern classic Lord of the Flies. However, if I had to recommend this book to a certain age group it would be young teenagers mainly because that is the age of characters featured in the plot.

*Tobias Blythe (Third Form, Grafton)*



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