



STOWE HOUSE

Volunteer's Newsletter

May 2016

Introduction

Wine and Wisdom Quiz

Where are all you wise man and wise woman, so far only a small number of you have stepped forward, please come and join us it will be a fun evening

We will be holding a Quiz on Tuesday 31st of May at 6.30pm in the Music Room. Wine and soft drinks will be provided, but would suggest that you bring your own nibbles. You will also need to bring your own wisdom. This will be open to you and one guest, it our intention to have as many teams of six as we can. Sign-up sheets are in both kitchens; please add your name(s) to one of the teams.

In order to fit in with the schools requirements we had to moved a number of the Coffee Mornings

Please note the changes

July Coffee Morning will now be on, Wednesday 6th.

August, Coffee Morning cancelled, replaced by a BBQ on the evening of the 12th. Details to follow

November Coffee Morning will now be on, Wednesday 9th.

December Coffee Morning and Christmas Lunch will be on Tues 13th. Details to follow



Stephen
Volunteer Social Organiser

Visitor Services

Hi,

During April I headed off to Dudley fire station for Salvage Training with Historic England and the National Trust. The training lasted three days and gave us a thorough understanding of fire prevention, salvage and dealing with water.

The first day involved putting on the full firefighter outfit including breathing apparatus and entering a smoke filled building. The team running the training had renamed the building 'Dudley Museum' and had dressed the inside as a National Trust property would be dressed – full of furniture, paintings and ceramics (presumably some nice charity shop finds!). We have not been into the building before so as we entered the smoke was so thick that it was pitch black. Holding on to the person in front of us we had to negotiate the building which includes going on to the 1st floor. As I am sure you can imagine there were a few breakages!

On the 1st floor we could see a large orange light flickering, fortunately this was a fake fire, however it lit up the smoke making it even more difficult to see. After we finished exploring the 1st floor we had to head back down the stairs – this meant letting go of the person in front, turning round and walking down backwards – this is the safest way to walk down stairs with the firefighter kit on, but it was quite alarming! After we had finished this task we moved on to dealing with water. This involved 'Dudley Museum' having water poured on it from the 2nd floor and it pouring through the building. I was part of the team that went up ladders on to the building and used tarpaulin to redirect the water over the side which helps to protect the objects in the building. It was rather wet work but great fun!

Later that day we became the Salvage team for 'Dudley Museum' I took the role of Recovery Co-ordinator. We were briefed on procedures and trained on packing historic objects in a hurry. The following day saw 3 fire engineers attend a 'fire' at 'Dudley Museum'. Working with the Incident Commander, Salvage Co-ordinator and the fire service we successfully salvaged all of the objects in the Museum (in record time I might add!). As Recover Co-ordinator I had a team of 8 people to manage and we had to work together to put the objects through triage and then into wet and dry bays ready for packing. It was a fantastic experience and has helped me understand exactly what we would have to do here at Stowe if the worst was to happen. It has also highlighted to me NEVER to risk the worse happening – I'm much more vigilant now about preventing fire. It also highlighted the really difficult job the firefighters do – walking around in the pitch black in a building you have never been in before with a fire raging must be very frightening and they really do deserve our admiration.

Now I'm back at Stowe I will be working with Anna on the Stowe House Salvage plan and helping to train up other members of the staff team at Stowe. Finally I thought you all appreciate this mug shot of me in my fire fighter gear:



Ruth Peters
Visitor Services Manager

Hi,

I wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone for making me feel extremely welcome over the past few weeks, I have now managed to meet most of you but still a few I look forward to meeting.

Just a brief bit about me, I have been volunteering since January here at Stowe House as a Visitor Assistant on Sundays and when the opportunity arose to apply for Kate's position I jumped at the chance.

My background is I studied Conservation and Heritage Management and Countryside Management both at The Royal Agricultural University with the future aspirations of working within Country Houses and Estates. Before, during and after my degree I have worked in retail in one form or another most recently as an assistant section manager at Waitrose whom I left to join Stowe (Much to their shock) so great customer service is a passion, so to say of mine, along with merchandising. On a personal level I am an avid sports fan and it goes without saying but love nothing more than wandering around a museum or historic property or estate on day off.

I hope this gives more of an insight to me and as I say I look forward to learning more about you all also.

Sadie Bull
Visitor Experience Officer

Community and Learning

Changes in the Community and Learning Team!

The last few months have been a time of change for the Community and Learning team. Kelly, our community and Learning Officer, left in March for a year's Maternity Leave and is expecting her first baby any day now! I am standing in for Kelly over the next year and am excited to continue in her creative footsteps until her return.

Natalie has left to join the Roald Dahl Museum as Learning Manager and will be replaced soon by who also manages the learning programme at St Neots Museum, Cambridge.

Formal learning blossoms!

Our **school learning** programme is now fully up and running and receiving bookings.

We have welcomed a number of schools over the last term including Frinkford School who brought all of their KS2 students for the **stories through time workshop**. They had a fun packed day creating their own mystical beasts and temples inspired by Stowe as well as exploring the stories and legacy of Greek culture.

Summer Exhibition.

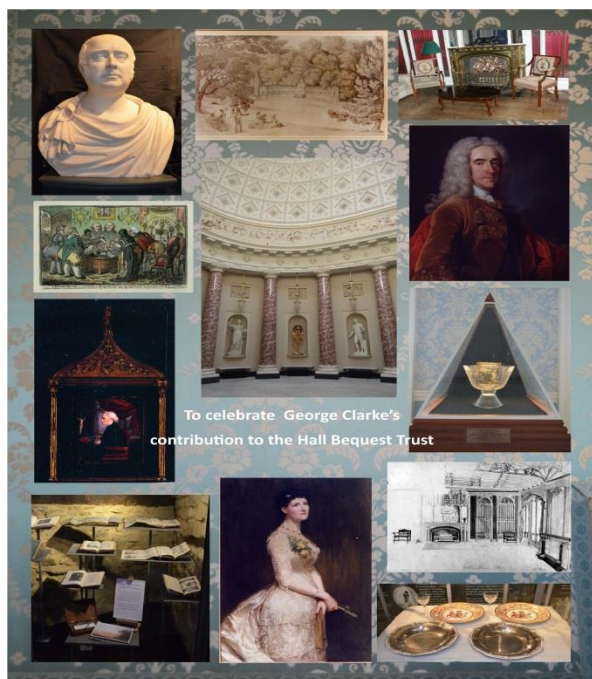
This summer we will celebrate the results of our **Open art competition**. We have been working with students from **Denbigh School and Oakgrove School** to create imaginative and artistic responses to Stowe House and they are nearly complete. All the works of art will be displayed in a public art exhibition here at Stowe House this summer and a winner and runner up will be announced.

Jess Elliott
Community & Learning



House Custodian News

As a way of commemorating George Clarke's contribution to Stowe we are giving him this poster of a handful of key items he was part of choosing when Chairman of the Hall Bequest Trust (HBT). And this process has not yet finished. The HBT have recently purchased this John Piper view of the south front of Stowe House, which will go on display in the Discovery Centre when we get it.



Anna McEvoy
House Custodian

Tours and Events

Saturday 7th May 2016, **N.T. Coffee Morning** in the Bennett Room, New Inn at 10.00am

Friday 13th May 2016, **Coffee Morning** in the Music Room at 09.45am for 10.00am. Speaker: - John Walton.

Tuesday 31st May 2016, **Wine and Wisdom Quiz**, see notice board for details

Friday 3rd June 2013, at 10.30am **Coffee Morning**, at Concorde and Victory for refreshments followed by a tour of Capability Browns Stowe,