

The Corinthian 2015

THE MAGAZINE FOR OLD STOICS

Issue 5

ROWING FOR ELEPHANTS

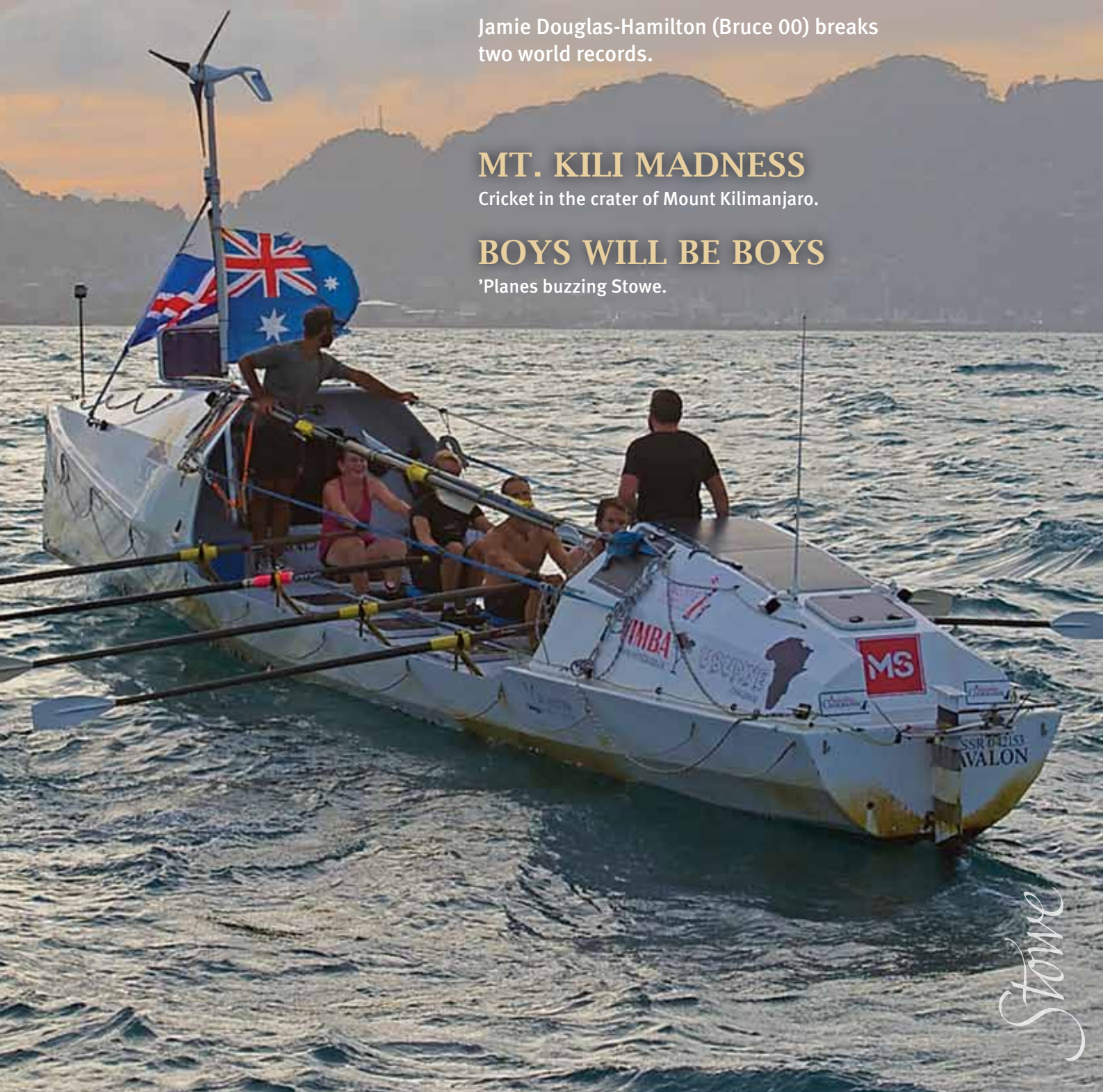
Jamie Douglas-Hamilton (Bruce 00) breaks two world records.

MT. KILI MADNESS

Cricket in the crater of Mount Kilimanjaro.

BOYS WILL BE BOYS

'Planes buzzing Stowe.



Stowe

THE OLD STOIC SUMMER PARTY

AT THE KENSINGTON
ROOF GARDENS

Tuesday 9 June 2015

7.00pm – 12.30am

All Old Stoics and their guests
are invited to join us for this
informal evening.

Welcome reception in the Spanish
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drinks until 10pm.

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Call 01280 818349, Email oldstoic@stowe.co.uk
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Contact the Old Stoic Office if you would like to e-mail your year group
personally to ensure as many of your friends are there as possible.

Cash bar from 10pm to 12.30am.

TICKETS
£45



the roof gardens 

Kensington Roof Gardens, 99 Kensington High Street,
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The Corinthian

2015

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2015 EVENTS

Welcome to the fifth edition of *The Corinthian* – the magazine for Old Stoics.

This magazine chronicles the amazingly diverse achievements made by Old Stoics over the last year. Sleuthing out a cover story to top last year's fantastic shot of our President, Sir Richard Branson (Cobham/Lyttelton 68) kite-surfing, was quite a challenge. I was simply delighted when I stumbled across the world-record-breaking antics of Jamie Douglas-Hamilton (Bruce 00). I am sure everyone will enjoy reading about his efforts to raise money for Save the Elephants.

Once again, this magazine brings news from friends around the globe, with word of their successes, photographs of parties and a collection of articles about recent adventures and activities from Old Stoics of all age groups.

Thank you so much to those who have written articles for this edition, as well as to everyone who has taken the

time to send in their news. I am in no doubt that the most well thumbed pages will be the news section to find your friends from Stowe. If you haven't sent something in this year, please do pop it over to us in 2015, no matter how brief. Your friends would love to hear it. Thank you to the advertisers who have supported the magazine this year, it is a pleasure to feature so many fantastic Old Stoic companies. I would also like to thank Caroline Whitlock for her help compiling this magazine. Her tireless efforts are very much appreciated and her excellent proofing skills are second to none.

As always, I must end with my annual plea to ensure we have your current email address. The majority of our communications are now electronic.



If we don't have your email address, we can't let you know about all the exciting developments we are making and can't invite you to networking events and parties. If you are in any doubt, please email oldstoic@stowe.co.uk

Anna Semler (Nugent 05)
Old Stoic Society Director

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WELCOME FROM... THE CHAIRMAN OF OSS

There is something about Old Stoics that others can

discern. We have an uncanny ability to be interesting, to be individual, to be quirky as well as conventional, personable as well as effective, and humorous as well as serious. Put two Old Stoics together and you're in for a treat; put four together and you're in for a party. But we also know how to work hard and we know how to get the best out of other people.

So, is it something in the school porridge, or is it the petrol fumes from Silverstone that give us our spark? It might be both, but actually I think it's the whole experience of being educated in what was the world's first invitation-only theme park. Stowe combines vision with fun, subtlety with beauty, style with practicality, and mud with gold leaf. All that rubs off onto each of us, sometimes with more

mud and sometimes with more gold leaf, but the end result is the Stoicness which gives us that indefinable edge over mere mortals.

A Stoic is someone who knows a Palladian Bridge when they see one, and there's something fittingly Stoic about the notion that you can get drenched by rain on either side of a lake, but not for the twenty seconds it takes to walk across. And yet the Bridge has a serious message, that it's possible to add a little panache, even if it's to something mundane like crossing a lake. And panache, perhaps, is what Old Stoics do best.

The other lesson of the Palladian Bridge is to look after guests on their journey, so the OS Society seeks to place a roof over your own journey through life. We don't just put four Old Stoics together and start a party, we put together forty, four hundred and, perhaps one day, four thousand.

There's a rich programme of events all round the world, and there's an even richer network for you to tap into when you want local knowledge, career advice, professional introductions, a game of golf, or just to catch up with an old friend. We are there for you, so please use us, please keep in contact, please take part in our activities, and please be proud you're an Old Stoic.

As always, your comments and ideas are very welcome, and we do try to make them happen. Finally, please volunteer to help with one of our project teams, which need a variety of skills but which also offer a load of fun and the chance to really achieve something.

Best wishes

Simon Shneerson (Temple 72)
Old Stoic Society Chairman

NEWS FROM STOWE

Writing for this year's Corinthian, I wear two hats. The first is one of marketing – the ambition of my department is to tell our parents, the Stoics and indeed the world what an interesting and exciting place Stowe is! From work on advertising Stowe, to our communications through the website, *Stowemail* and *The Stoic*, it is a lively job which means that I am fortunate to meet all kinds of people and, more importantly, hear and shout about our news.

This year's highlights have been numerous but one of the most memorable must be the opening ceremony of the new Chung Music School where the sound of the Russian National Orchestra playing with Stoics was enjoyed by a spellbound audience which included HRH Prince Michael of Kent. It is a building that truly has transformed the teaching environment of Music at the School. The celebrations during the day were followed by an evening concert which had every Stoic on their feet singing along with Lesley Garrett, not a sight you will see every day. Fabulous drama productions were to be found on the stage in the newly refurbished Roxy, our drama department now having facilities that are on a par with their musical neighbours who were producing musical events of which any world-class performers would be envious. Our Art School and Design Department put on their annual exhibition on Speech Day, highlighting the outstanding work that our Stoics produce during their studies. Our budding scientists launched their own magazine and others launched Stowe (or at least a Lego Stoic) into the stratosphere! Our academic societies have been just as active as our sports teams with us reporting every week on an interesting array of visitors from literature, politics and science (to name just a few) and some outstanding wins on the sports fields by Stowe over our poor opponents. There is always a lot to say about Stowe and this last year has been no different, it really is a school buzzing with energy, enthusiasm and life. If you haven't yet done so and would like to receive more regular news updates from Stowe then you can subscribe to receive *The Stoic* and our electronic newsletter, *Stowemail*, by contacting Anna Semler in the OS office who will add you to the mailing list. Perhaps I am biased, but I like to think my view is one held by many: Stowe is a fabulous school.

This leads me nicely on to my second hat, as Director of Admissions. If you have children, you will inevitably be involved in the all-consuming process of choosing the right school for their education. Like many other Old Stoics, you might consider sending your nearest and dearest to be inspired by everything that Stowe has to offer, and we do hope that you will consider Stowe during the process. If choosing a prep school is difficult, then choosing your senior school can seem even worse; a minefield of registration dates, open mornings and interviews. Schools may variously expect you to have registered your children at birth or may require them to sit pre- or even pre-pre-tests. In the public schools' marathon, what you don't want to do is either peak too early in your search or, much worse, leave it too late and be greeted by superior registrars telling you that they have, of course, been full for your child's year group for years. Not that Stowe's Registrar would ever be superior, but our year groups do fill earlier and earlier so if you are looking at senior schools then please do get in touch. The admissions process for all independent schools can be bewildering and we want to make sure that your offspring do not miss out. We are, of course, very happy to offer advice to our OS community about other senior schools, if you are willing to forgive our natural bias!

We are always delighted to hear from members of the OS community so please do drop me a line if you so wish.

Tori Roddy, Marketing Director



Find Stowe School on twitter @stowemail and facebook.com/stoweschool



FROM THE HEADMASTER



🕒 The Old Stoic Dinner at Middle Temple Hall, 20 November 2015.

20 NOVEMBER 2014: SPEECH GIVEN BY THE HEADMASTER AT THE OLD STOIC DINNER

I have an announcement to make about a significant departure and I've chosen the Old Stoic Dinner to let everyone know that after years of energetically reshaping the landscape, a relentless building programme, redesigning the curriculum, emphasising exam success and academic rigour and the occasional controversial opinion – yes, you've guessed it, Michael Gove had to go. As he told a radio interviewer: "Demotion, emotion, promotion, locomotion, I don't know how you would describe this move".

One of George Osborne's less gifted predecessors struggled to write his own speeches and delegated this thankless task to his overworked private secretary. After a couple of years, the worm turned, and the Chancellor's annual Mansion House Speech went as follows:

"My Lords, Your Grace, My Lord Bishop, My Lord Sheriffs, Ladies and Gentlemen. The problem which faces us today is perhaps the most daunting which has ever faced our nation in its island history.

Unless we can find a solution in the coming months, I see nothing but catastrophe ahead. There are only three possible ways of escape from the dangers which now confront us..." The Chancellor then turned over the page: "from now on you're on your own, you bastard".

I'm pleased to be able to report that as Headmaster of Stowe I seldom feel on my own, supported as I am by a talented Common Room, able and insightful Governors and a richly diverse community

of Old Stoics. We may have one or two divas in our choir, but we make a great sound when we're singing in harmony – especially if it's Jerusalem at the end of term. Furthermore, I generally write my own speeches (although I shamelessly steal other people's jokes).

As I'm sure you are all aware, today is UNESCO World Philosophy Day. A long time ago Socrates taught a new science called philosophy in the marketplace of ancient Athens. Philosophy, meaning the love of wisdom, was all about taking control of your life and of your emotions. Socrates' wife, Xanthippe, was not happy about her husband working for free and insisted that he charged for his services – the first independent school was born.

Philosophy took off and soon there were different schools, pre-eminent of which was the Stoic School. Stoic philosophy is centred on the metaphysical principle that the goal of all philosophy is the

achievement of a state of absolute tranquillity – something I think we may have found tonight in the elegant surroundings of Middle Temple Hall. Lesser schools emerged – the Sceptics (otherwise known as Wykehamists), the Epicureans from Bedales and the Atomists from Radley – who examine the smallest particles in the universe.

It is a little known fact that the origins of Stowe lie in an essay in *The Tatler* published in 1710 in the form of an allegorical dream. The writer, Joseph Addison, describes a walk from the Sleeping Wood across the South Front to the Elysian Fields, Ancient Virtue, the British Worthies and Modern Virtue. Tucked away in every Old Stoic's subconscious mind is a similar vision of an idyllic journey that takes you across the Oxford Water, the landscape framed by the pepper-pot Boycott Pavilions, to the welcoming embrace of the Colonnades, the grandeur of Vanbrugh's North Front, then into North Hall to marvel at William Kent's ceiling painting of Mars handing the sword of victory to Cobham, moving to the sublime interior of the Marble Hall, before drinking in the vista from the South Front Portico to the Corinthian Arch where cattle and sheep graze in distant pastures.

The good news is that we have now improved on this visionary dream of Arcadia. Many of you will have given the academic area a wide berth, for understandable reasons, but now we have a handsome new avenue from the Leoni Arch to the newly restored Art School, removing the ugly intrusion that was the Religious Studies block. Onwards we go to the magnificent new Chung Music School, a temple which honours Apollo, god of Music, and which is a worthy adornment to the Western Garden. Our Director of Music, Simon Dearsley, passionately believes that melody and rhythm lie deep in the soul of every Stoic and all pupils should have the chance to perform. The Roxburgh Hall has been completely refurbished and connects hearts, minds and spirits with the best of contemporary and classical drama. Even the once-carbuncular Lyttelton has emerged blinking into the sunlit uplands as grey industrial bricks have been replaced with warm honey-coloured sandstone matching the render of the North and South Front. An ugly duckling – no offence intended to any Lyttelton girls present – has been turned into a swan. Beyond Lyttelton lies a new Sixth Form house called West, named after Sir Gilbert West, a distinguished member of the Temple-Grenville family who wrote these lines about Stowe in 1732:

"All great, all perfect Works from Genius flow

The British Iliad hence, and hence the Groves of Stowe."

Many of these projects are generously supported by Old Stoics and your generosity has allowed the School to embark on its most extensive development programme since the Roxburgh years. There is a rolling programme of Boarding House refurbishment: Chandos, which had the dubious distinction of having some of the slummiest rooms in the School, has been transformed with a magnificent House Room forged out of the historic Paris Room. It has also benefited from a successful land-grab of the old Masters' Common Room which has now been turned into some of the best study bedrooms in the School. There are plans for further development – including a very exciting redevelopment of the Science Building, now generating some of the best academic results in the School. The white hot heat of technological change demands a complete overhaul

educational travels and that there will be bells ringing, flags waving and bands playing: satisfaction comes from the journey and not the arrival. Schools shouldn't just be testing the intelligence of their pupils, but finding out how intelligence works and discovering different ways of introducing pupils to the joy of science, languages, maths, IT and creative subjects.

Stowe is strong on tradition, yes, but it is also innovative and forward looking. Stoics are unafraid to challenge conventions and stand out from the herd. We take a collective pride in the fact that among the Old Stoics we have three of Britain's greatest philanthropists: Leonard Cheshire, founder of 270 Cheshire homes and winner of the Order of Merit and the Victoria Cross; Sir Nicholas Winton, saviour of 669 Jewish children from death in Nazi concentration camps and Marc Koska, inventor of the non-reusable syringe which has been credited with saving more than one million lives in the developing world. President of this association is Sir Richard Branson, Britain's most famous businessman and entrepreneur, and a

THE SCHOOL IS FULL, WITH THE NUMBER OF PUPILS ATTENDING HIGHER THAN IT HAS EVER BEEN IN STOWE'S COMPARATIVELY SHORT HISTORY.

of the building which was innovative and exciting when it opened in 1972, but now looks tired and lacklustre.

The School is full, with the number of pupils attending higher than it has ever been in Stowe's comparatively short history. We are even operating waiting lists. Our academic results rival the best in the country and this summer we celebrated record GCSE results. All is well in the world when the 1st XV beat Uppingham 34-10, Oundle 27-10, Oakham 35-0, Warwick 35-0 and earlier this afternoon we won 47-3 against Marlborough.

Stowe doesn't just educate from the neck up, operating a Mitsubishi-like factory line producing boring stereotypical automatons. A blind focus on exams misunderstands the purpose of education. A good education should be a preparation for life. It requires the development of the whole person, not merely the intellect. Just as money can't buy you happiness, although it might help, success is not just about academic achievement. It is an illusion to think that we will arrive at some mythical station at the end of our

couple of weeks ago we welcomed another Old Stoic back to Stowe to celebrate the CCF's 90th anniversary, the present First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir George Zambellas.

The DNA that makes Stowe exceptional is not just the beauty of the place – that goes without saying – but the exceptional individuals it produces. Stoics have resilience, grit, humility, emotional intelligence, the ability to work in a team, a strong sense of right and wrong, an impulse to give something back to society, the sort of person who will go the extra mile. Aristotle identified these virtues about 2,500 years ago. Stowe provides a bespoke education that is tailored to suit each individual, allowing them to make the most of their various talents beyond Stowe and then to contribute to the wider world.


When you leave tonight, I trust that you will have enjoyed a sense of union and reunion, and will feel reinvigorated and even inspired by what you have heard about Stowe, your Stowe – Persto et Praesto."

COVER STORY

ROWING FOR ELEPHANTS

Two-Time World Record Breaking Old Stoic



A photograph of a man with blonde hair and a beard, wearing sunglasses and a black t-shirt, rowing a boat on a blue ocean. The boat is white with blue accents. The man is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The background shows the vast expanse of the ocean under a clear sky.

📍 The crew on board the Rossiter's Avalon. Jamie Douglas-Hamilton (Bruce 00), far right.

On 11 June 2014, Jamie Douglas-Hamilton (Bruce 00) was in a team of seven who rowed out of Batavia Marina in Geraldton (Western Australia) and headed westwards in a quest to cross the Indian Ocean and reach Africa. They rowed almost 5,000 miles in two hourly shifts (24 hours a day) and gained two Guinness World Records in the process. It was a journey which tested every one of them to the absolute brink of endurance and survival.

They faced every set back imaginable on their expedition. Jamie has kindly given us a blow by blow account of his amazing voyage.

“The first night was one of the hardest as we left Geraldton in rough weather, the wind was coming from the south east and we needed to head north west to get around the perilous Abrolhos Islands. These islands are a collection of reefs and land only one metre above sea level and have caused many shipwrecks over the centuries, including the famous Batavia. It was absolutely key we left with the wind behind us because if we hit a reef we wouldn't be alone: the islands are home to the world's largest tiger shark colony and there have been many fatal attacks.

The wind picked up that night to a force 8 and waves were coming right over the boat swamping the deck and lifting us clean off our rowing positions, either into the water or into the safety lines. That night most of the team were badly sea sick. I was so sick I couldn't hold any food down and, sometimes not even water, resulting in losing a stone of weight in the first three days.

The weather was about to get a whole lot worse as we were hit by three major low pressure systems one of which was a hurricane, all of which had come up from the Southern Ocean and hit us with all their strength. For the next two weeks we didn't see the sun and were met with winds that whipped up huge seas. Until you've been out there it is hard to imagine how big 60 foot waves are, but that's what we were fighting every day. The boat was swamped hundreds of times, even taking the rowers overboard, we had multiple semi capsizings and one time we were hit by a 60-70 foot wave that knocked us upside down in the middle of the ocean. Luckily the boat's hull was filled with water so it self righted but it was scary stuff that left us exhausted.

My Australian crew mate, Shane Usher, was preparing a meal by boiling freeze dried food

when a freak wave hit the boat at a parallel angle almost capsizing us, the boiling water went straight over his leg causing him first degree burns. These burns then got infected and it became clear we needed to evacuate him before he got blood poisoning.

He was insured by Global Rescue and after two days of discussions we put the distress signal out and an enormous bulk carrier called Nordic River came towards us. The captain of the ship tried to get us to approach his boat so he could get two of his men on a crane to lift Shane up from our boat. We explained this would be difficult as we were a rowing boat with no engine. When we rowed up to the bulk carrier we realised how big she was. It was like looking up at a giant wall of steel that was moving from side to side in the swell. All of a sudden we were too close and we were going to be crushed underneath her as she rolled sideways towards us. Within seconds we had our oars ready and were fending her off but she was too big and she came down on top of us and it was only by sheer adrenaline and strength that we managed to fend her off.

If we had hit, we would have almost certainly had our boat smashed to pieces and it would have probably killed us. The captain of the Nordic River released his lifeboat and Shane was evacuated.

Only a couple of days later the Morse cable broke which connected the auto helm to the rudder which meant we were on manual steering for the last 2,000 miles, with only two rowers on the oars at any one time. The workload required from the rowers was extreme. We rowed at 22-25 strokes per minute for 24 hours a day, split into two hourly shifts.

As we came closer to the Seychelles we were approached by a 70 foot vessel that came directly behind our stern and had two Africans looking through binoculars at us. The team joked that they were pirates and then there



- 🕒 Our boat, the Rossiter's Avalon.
- 🕒 Jamie Douglas-Hamilton (Bruce 00).
- 🕒 Fending off the Nordic River.
- 🕒 The team, left to right Shane, Tim, Cameron, Gemma, Iain, Jamie, Leven, Miony (Levens mum), Heather, Lorne (Leven's father).

was silence as they realised they could be. Then a voice came over the VHF;

Pirates: "Hello, hello, hello this is small white fishing vessel"

Skipper: "Small White Fishing vessel this is Q-boat Avalon" (A Q-boat is a civilian ship armed with mercenaries).

Pirates: "Do you need assistance"

Skipper: "Small White Fishing Vessel we are an armed Q-boat. We do not need assistance"

Pirates: "Stop, stop, stop right now. We are coming to give you assistance"

Skipper: "Small White Fishing Vessel do not approach us. We are awaiting Royal Navy escort in 30 minutes, they have you on their radar. Do not approach us or we will open fire."

They kept looking at us through their binoculars and then they left. This was immediately reported to the coastguard who took it very seriously. At the time we didn't realise how bad piracy was in that area, we went through a 'no go' zone as there were so many piracy incidents there which had led to the marinas in the Seychelles being virtually empty. The pirates have changed their business model from taking large vessels to kidnapping tourists, fishermen and yachties and demanding ransoms. There are currently over 1,200 held for ransom in Somalia and if it wasn't for the quick thinking from our skipper, Leven Brown, our team may have met the same fate.



The next day, the outline of land could be seen. It was the most exciting feeling. For two months none of us had seen any land and then we entered what can only be described as paradise. Despite all the pain, sleep deprivation, weight loss and sheer exhaustion, when we reached the Seychelles it was the best day of my life and the most uplifting experience I have ever had. It was a day I will remember forever.

This row will go down in history by breaking two Guinness World Records:

1. **The furthest a team has rowed in any ocean**
2. **The fastest crossing of the Indian Ocean by human power alone**

This row is testament to the fact that no matter how bad things get and how tough they are at the time, if you keep on going you can achieve the unthinkable."

Jamie and the rest of the team rowed in aid of Save the Elephants. Jamie's cousin

Iain Douglas-Hamilton has spent most of his adult life in a battle to Save the Elephants. He carried out a decade-long trans Africa study which proved that the African elephant population halved between 1979-1989. His research led to the ivory trade ban in 1989, probably the strongest environmental protection statement that has ever been achieved.

Today, a much more severe threat exists with China, where 70% of illegal ivory is ending up. The aspiring middle class in China want ivory ornaments and chop sticks to adorn their houses as a sign of wealth. This is decimating the elephant populations and has led to over 100,000 elephants being killed in the last three years alone. At the current rate of poaching, there will be no African elephants left in less than a decade. This was the motivation behind this row, hence why it was called 'Rowing for Elephants'.

Jamie Douglas-Hamilton (Bruce 00)

Old Stoics can support the fight to save the African elephants by making a donation to Save the Elephants: www.justgiving.com/rowing-for-elephants



THE GREAT BRITISH CLUB

Founded in 1908 as the UK's first Country Club, Stoke Park is set within 300 acres of beautiful parkland.

Members join to take advantage of the unique combination of the traditions of an exclusive members' club and the best of today's sporting, leisure, entertaining and hotel facilities. Facilities include: 49 bedrooms & suites (5 AA Red Stars), award winning Spa, 27 Hole Championship Golf Course, 3 Restaurants & Bars including 3 AA Rosette winning Humphry's, 13 Tennis Courts (indoor, grass and artificial clay), Indoor Pool, Recently upgraded State-of-the-art Gym and Hot Yoga Studio, Fitness Studios, Creche, Games Room & Playground.

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www.stokepark.com



SPOTLIGHT ON STOWE'S GOVERNORS

CHRISTOPHER HONEYMAN BROWN

Grenville 1961-66



Stowe is fortunate to have a strong group of Governors from various backgrounds, and several of them are Old Stoics, including the Chairman, Christopher Honeyman Brown (Grenville 66).

First of all, though, what do Stowe's Governors do? The answer is a great deal, and most of it goes unseen. In recent

years, the job description has become increasingly onerous for Governors everywhere, and it begins with all the government-imposed compliance which is increasingly focused on personal responsibility of Governors. The latest hot topic is promoting British values, which now needs to be a provable part of the education provided.

Once compliance is out of the way, the major task for the Governors is to develop the long- and short-term strategies that will keep the School on track in a rapidly changing market. Along with that, they have policy and direction to set, budgets to approve and monitor, a wealth of everyday operations to overview, and the buildings and resources to protect, prioritise, fundraise and invest in. Then, if that's not enough, Stowe is a school so Governors' focus is increasingly on the quality of the educational offer and Stowe's academic progress. At the same time they must also keep abreast of emerging educational trends, whilst overseeing health and safety and child safeguarding. All this requires diligence, professionalism, specialist skills, relevant experience and a lot of time, which – in accordance with British values – is unpaid.

Christopher Honeyman Brown has been Chairman of Governors since 2007; like most of his predecessors, he enjoyed a very successful career whilst finding the time to give years of

voluntary support to Stowe and the Old Stoic Society. His own years at Stowe straddled the Crichton-Miller and Drayson eras, a period of considerable change, and seeing change happen helped him develop some of the core skills which have been the hallmark of his subsequent career. Both as a Chartered Accountant and then as CEO of several leading professional firms, his particular talent has been to see opportunities for strengthening and developing organisations, and his reputation is as someone who provides the necessary strategy and structure, along with a high level of encouragement. He continues to work helping a handful of entrepreneurial companies to realise their full potential.

As an Old Stoic, Christopher has never been far from Stowe and he joined the OSS Committee in 1986. He became Vice Chairman in 1990 and the Society's Chairman in 1993, which led to a seat on the School's Governing Body. There, his financial and business skills were much in demand and in 1996 he became Chairman of the Governors' Finance Committee, a key role. Christopher says, "In 1996 finances were precarious and masonry was crumbling. It was critical that Stowe developed its teaching and pastoral facilities and, in 2005/8, its accommodation for the growing number of girls. Sustained annual surpluses and a highly effective Campaign have allowed us to execute a very ambitious development programme, and the result has been the two splendid new Houses, Stanhope and Queen's, and a growing list of first class facilities including, at last, a best in class Music School and one of the best Art Schools in the country."

In his eight years as Chairman, Christopher has tightened standards of governance and stimulated the strategic plans to which we are now working. Among these is the international strategy which now takes Stowe into the rapidly expanding market for British overseas schools.

Highlights of his Chairmanship? Christopher says, "There've been so many. The academic results we're achieving. The growing demand for a place at Stowe, the increase in our numbers and the quality of children coming to Stowe. The Music School, the Art School, our financial strength. Clear strategies for the future. An effective team of Governors who enjoy working together to tackle the challenges we face. Welcoming the Queen in 2007. Working with Anthony Wallersteiner, an exceptional Headmaster. The School's general success. The list is endless. But I think the one I'm proudest of is that Stowe continues to be a thriving community where every student can develop their individual talents and character."



📍 The Queen's visit to Stowe in 2007.



Colin



Anna



Caroline



Laura



Janet



David

CHANGES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

This year will have seen some changes in the team within the Development and Old Stoic Office. After ten years as Development Director, Colin Dudgeon will be leaving Stowe this Summer and will be taking up a post in a similar capacity at another school.

He writes: "The last decade has been, by a very long way, the most enjoyable and rewarding in my working life. I have been privileged to work in the most extraordinary place, to have met remarkable and inspiring people (it is surely true – there can be no more eclectic a universe of alumni) and to have been closely involved in a school that exudes the most captivating and compelling sense of momentum and progress.

As decisions go, the question of whether I should stay at Stowe or to seek fresh challenge in a quite different environment was tremendously tough. My mind must have changed on more than twenty occasions!

Between now and July, though, there is much to be achieved, most particularly as we look to close out our appeal for a superb new Science building... you will read more of that elsewhere in these pages and we would be thrilled and very grateful if you were able to lend your support to the effort.

I am delighted that the Development and Old Stoic office is in such fine fettle. Anna Semler (Nugent 05) and Caroline Whitlock continue to do wonderful work, with the OS Society Committee, to provide the network and community of OSs with diverse and stimulating opportunities to meet, remain connected and share professional and social contact with one another and with the School.

We are very fortunate that Laura King has recently joined us, from St Cross College, Oxford, as the new Development Manager. Amongst other responsibilities, Laura will be working with Nigel Rice, the President of the Roxburgh Society, to grow its membership substantially in the coming years (you will read more of the purpose and activities of the Society on page 52). She will also be helping to develop our overseas networks – most particularly the American Friends of Stowe and the newly formed Hong Kong Friends of Stowe.

Janet King (no relation to Laura!) provides invaluable support to the Development Office team, and is always available to answer funding-related queries. David Meadows continues to look after our database and keep track of Old Stoics around the world.

Please do feel free to contact any of us, by email, post or phone, as below:

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STOWE PARK KEY RETURNED



Even before I came to Stowe I had developed an interest in heraldry. I recall whilst my parents and I waited to see JF in the Gothic Library admiring its heraldic ceiling centrepiece. During my time in Walpole (1948-52) I followed this up with

genealogy. I already knew I was descended from the family of Southam who, for two generations, were lords of the (very modest) manor of Barton Hartshorn, a tiny village south of Finmere. I was easily able to cycle over and find gravestones in the churchyard. My three x great grandfather, John Southam, was born there in 1756, but when he was 13 his father died and his inheritance was lost (traditionally, to a wicked uncle).

Instead he became a doctor, with his practice in Buckingham. As such, he was appointed local physician to the Marquess of

Buckingham (1753-1813) at Stowe (whose wife's maiden name, Nugent, is now perpetuated in the School). The Marquess thoughtfully provided him with a key to the park gates, so that, whenever he needed to see other patients, he could ride through the park rather than having to go all round the outside.

I don't know how long this arrangement lasted, as Dr Southam became a Quaker and may well have been dismissed. However, he kept the key, with a note attached to it written by Dr John Southam's daughter, Sarah, (my two x great grandmother), I think in the 1840s.

In due course he moved to Leamington where he died in 1845. His long-suffering wife, Anne, née Priest, whose father was steward to the Cartwright family at Aynho, bore him no less than 17 children! A daughter, my ancestress, married Joseph Cash of Coventry, whose sons founded the firm of J & J Cash, well known to mothers of many future Stoics as they sewed nametapes into their clothes. Having effectively no heirs to this part of my family history, it seemed appropriate that the key should return to its earliest home.

Jeremy Gibson (Walpole 52)



Saturday, 14 June 2014

OS CAREERS' FAIR

I returned to Stowe for the first time in 16 years to take part in the Old Stoic Careers' Fair.

I was representing publishing because I have a micro publishing business (very micro) and because one of my particular interests, as an Oxford University tutor, is the digital publishing revolution. Though I was also more than happy to answer questions about the things that take up most of my working life at Oxford, managing three Bodleian Libraries and teaching creative writing at undergrad and post-grad level.

I enjoyed the Fair very much and loved meeting other Old Stoics and the Sixth Formers.

I was also amazed by how Stowe had changed. All the temples and garden buildings are so well looked after and the School itself is extremely smart compared to when I was there in the 1970s. I wonder if my dad noticed similar changes when I started – he had been at the School in the last years of the Second World War when there couldn't have been much money for the upkeep of the buildings and the grounds.

What remained strikingly the same, however, was the beauty of the School's location. When I was a schoolboy one of my greatest

pleasures was walking along the nearby lanes and through the fields. Not that my mind was quiet at such times. Mostly it was fizzing with ideas and attempts to puzzle through my experiences and the things I was learning, not least TS Eliot's *The Waste Land*. The effects of David Bowie's music, how it made me feel and the thoughts it provoked, were also pretty major.

At the Fair, it was interesting to be asked what Stowe gave me that had helped me in later life. As I explained, I wasn't very academic when I was at Stowe until my last year or so, by which time it was too late to do that well in my A levels. Having grown up on a farm though, I could do practical things. My chief interest was working behind the stage at the Roxburgh Hall and eventually became the School Stage Manager. My biggest achievement was designing and building the set for the Congreve Club production of Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People*. By cunning use of a picture rail that extended outwards, three-quarter-height flats could be slotted over the main ones during the interval, so that a large drawing room, with a dining area at the back, was transformed into a newspaper office.

Being Stage Manager transformed my life. It gave me responsibility and helped me to achieve things. I had about 20 people working with me and I had a budget to manage. I could also work through the night in the theatre without anyone being bothered about it. I presume the teachers turned a blind eye. Good for them because the work I did, and how I managed my time, made me feel that I was in charge of my life, that I was living like an adult rather than a schoolboy, and gave me the chance to succeed at the one thing through which I could express myself. Did my studies suffer? No more than they would've done otherwise, I don't think. And during the two terms after the play was performed, I began to learn about academic subjects in ways which were new and exciting precisely because I was feeling confident for the first time in my life after the success of the set and getting the only colour tie I received during my school career (looped over and over so there was just this enormous knot and a tiny stub of tie tucked into my tank top!).

I loved my time at Stowe. Meeting the students at the Careers' Fair and hearing about their interests and plans for the future was a pleasure. Are Sixth Formers really that much more mature and switched on than we were? They did seem so.

Frank Egerton (Temple 77)



✓ The world record breaking match taking place, in the crater of Mount Kilimanjaro.

MT. KILI MADNESS

On 26 September 2014, I took part in Mt. Kili Madness, a record attempt to play the highest game of cricket ever played, in the crater of Mount Kilimanjaro, at 5,752 metres.

This trip involved scaling the mountain for eight days, to give the team the best chance of breaking the world record. The team of 30 people taking part included 2005 Ashes winner Ashley Giles; South African cricketer Makai Ntini; current England Ladies vice-captain Heather Knight and Clare Connor, a previous captain of England Ladies Cricket.

The previous world record had been recorded at Everest Base camp, at 5,100 metres in 2009. One member of the team was even wearing boots which had been worn in setting this previous record.

The trekking started on 20 September, we slowly made our way up Kilimanjaro taking in some spectacular scenery and being blessed with wonderful weather. There was a support team of approximately 150 who ferried our tents, bags, portable toilets and mobile kitchens (for the excellent food produced for everyone) and lastly the cricket pitch, which we constructed on the crater just below the summit. Thankfully, there were some very good instructions provided!

At 2.00am on 27 September we started the final ascent in the pitch black with

only our head torches to guide us, the temperature was between -12 and -14 degrees. As the sun rose, we edged our way to the top of the ridge known as Stella Point. As we arrived, we were greeted by a group of porters, singing and dancing. We still had a further hour to walk to reach Uhuru, the summit which most of us reached by 9.00am.

Having reached the top, we all made our way slowly down into the crater which was flat, sandy and a tad exposed. The pitch was laid and boundary set up and eventually what we had come up here to do was actually becoming a reality. The teams were picked and a reduced ten over game was played due to weather conditions. I had the delight of facing Makai Ntini, however, thankfully because of the lack of oxygen, he only ran off 10 paces! After some great cricket my team, the Gorillas, scored 82-5 beating the Rhinos who only managed 64-9. The match was complete and the world record achieved.

The purpose of this challenge was to set a world record but, more importantly, it was to raise funds for three great causes, Cancer Research UK, Tusk and the Rwanda Cricket Stadium Foundation. If you would like to help Mt. Kili Madness reach their target of £200,000 please visit their website: www.mtkilimadness.com



▲ Christopher's certificate.
▼ Christopher (left) and his friend George (right) at the Summit.





RUSSIAN NATIONAL ORCHESTRA

During the journey to Stowe for the concert on Friday, 23 May, I experienced a Groundhog Day moment. Driving through torrential rain and with glowering leaden skies ahead of me, I remembered that it was exactly the same scenario a year ago to the day as we sped towards Stowe to witness the triumphant return of Roger Hodgson (Grenville 68) to our Alma Mater for the School's 90th Anniversary Celebration Concert.

Is this always to be the case? Is the combination of 'Stowe' and 'Concert' to be as apocalyptic as the presence of David Cameron and Sir Mick Jagger at sporting events where the object of their support always loses? Let us hope not! However, this time the concert was to be of an entirely different hue.

Arguably the finest orchestra in the world, The Russian National Orchestra had flown to England for the express purpose of performing at Stowe to inaugurate the opening of the new Chung Music School and to celebrate the affiliation with Steinway as one of the leading 'All Steinway Schools' in the UK. As it was the previous year, the concert was to be held in a large marquee on the South Front lawn. However, would the marquee survive the deluge and would the audience's picnics be swept down to the Eleven Acre Lake? Miraculously, as I

arrived (purely coincidentally, I hasten to add!) the clouds evaporated and there was Stowe in all its glory, bathed in early evening sunlight. The omens looked good.

Picnics and more formal dinners having been consumed and copious quantities of champagne and wine infused, we all made our way to the fabulous marquee where, as last year, The Chance Organisation had worked their magic. A huge stage crowded with chairs, music stands and musical instruments all bathed in atmospheric lighting added to the impending excitement of the occasion.

Having secured our seats, we waited in eager anticipation to be blown away by this unique concert. The lights went down and we were welcomed by the Headmaster, Dr Anthony Wallersteiner, beaming with the knowledge that Stowe

had pulled off another massive coup. He quickly introduced us to our MC for the evening, the composer Howard Goodall (Lyttelton 76), who leapt nimbly to the fore, whereupon Dr Wallersteiner presented him with an Old Stoic tie. This vexed Howard momentarily as he was sartorially clad in a Nehru style jacket – not the ideal vehicle for such an accoutrement!

Howard Goodall was a delight, confidently and fluently entertaining us with a few memories of his time at Stowe, culminating in his reportage of The Great Toast Disaster of 1973! It was good to have such an entertaining and musically erudite MC who informed us succinctly about what we were about to hear and filling in with background and historical information which could only add to our enjoyment of the music.

As is often the case, the actual titles of pieces of music are not always familiar, so when the orchestra launched into the Overture to the opera *Ruslan and Ludmilla* by Glinka it was hugely reassuring to discover that it was something with which I was very familiar without previously ever knowing what it was called. This was followed by a selection from that perennial favourite, Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker Suite*, the title and the music of which, of course, everybody knew!

By this time, we were all in total awe of the consummate skill and dexterity of the orchestra. A performance of such lightness, precision and jaw-dropping synchronicity I had never witnessed previously. I had never seen such a large



▶ The Russian National Orchestra.

string section in an orchestra before. The sound quality, too, was mightily impressive. It is no mean feat to replicate with such precise clarity the clear sounds of a concert hall when one is faced with a temporary construction of flapping canvas with zero acoustic merits whatsoever. The Chance Organisation, by dint of dextrous and subtle technology, succeeded in amplifying all areas of the Orchestra so that what we all heard with exquisite balance and clarity – as I say, no mean feat!

Our conductor for the evening, the absurdly good looking Maestro, Carlo Ponti, (well his mother, Sophia Loren, isn't exactly a moose is she?), was totally fascinating to watch. At times whipping up his orchestra to frenzied sonic activity with wide sweeping arm movements and intense facial grimacing whilst, at others, especially during the slower movements, appearing to be completely immobile and frozen. Standing stock still and with arms outstretched, he brought forth from the orchestra such tender, sensuous and emotive passion all by the movement of his eyes, the flaring of a nostril and a twitch of his mouth – it was a really captivating show of skill.

After we had all been suitably 'Sugar Plumbed' with Tchaikovsky, next onto the stage strode the solo pianist, Craig Greene (Chandos 07), whose controlled and totally dominating performance of Tchaikovsky's *First Piano Concerto* was staggering to behold. Once again, a completely colourless title evolved into one of the most familiar pieces of music ever written – stirring stuff it was, too.

By this time, I was feeling like the apocryphal girl who, when asked during the interval of a performance of *Hamlet* how she was enjoying it, replied "Yeah, well it's alright I suppose but it's full of quotes, innit?" Every piece of music that this fabulous Orchestra played was wonderfully, comfortably and reassuringly familiar.

After a brief interval of ice cream consumption and leg stretching, we returned to our seats and Howard Goodall materialised in front of us to give us the synopsis of the second half of the concert and to introduce us to the star of the evening, the soprano Lesley Garrett, who appeared on stage in an eye-popping aquamarine and bronze creation of striking visual bravura. Straight into Schubert's *Serenade in D Minor* she went, followed swiftly by the achingly

beautiful *Song to the Moon* by Dvořák from his opera *Rusalka*.

Now, a lot of arrogant piffle is voiced about opera and how it should be performed. The purists insist that, in order to appreciate the composer's work to the max, it should be performed in the language in which it was written – and yes, why not? However, unless one is totally au fait with the work or fluent in that particular language one is missing a dimension. Surely I cannot be alone in finding that it is an aid to one's enjoyment if one knows what the hell is going on and what the singers are singing about? Now, this is where La Garrett did us all a massive favour – she sang in English. I have known *Song to the Moon* for ages but it really did add to my enjoyment to know just exactly what *Rusalka* was intimating.



▶ Lesley Garrett.

Lesley Garrett is a terrific performer with a wide and powerful vocal range and, as Howard said in his introduction, she is a brilliant interpreter of a myriad of song styles, which she performs in the manner in which they were intended.

In order to give Lesley a well-deserved rest, the Russians delivered an explosive piece aptly entitled *Fireworks* by Stravinsky. This was followed by one of the most quintessentially English pieces of music ever written, *Nimrod* from Elgar's *Enigma Variations*, (although, as Howard Goodall explained to us, the composer thought that he had failed, as he was attempting to emulate the quieter movements of the contemporary German symphonies) oh, if I could have such failures! Once again the Russians delivered in spades. In shutting one's

pistachio and apple blossom, to deliver a sassy, sexy and utterly provocative, (so much so that the first violinist, very quickly, started coming to the boil) *Habanera* from Bizet's opera *Carmen*. Then, leaping forward one hundred years, she delivered a delightful rendition of Rodgers and Hart's *Lover*. At this point we heard quite a different side of the orchestra. Aside from the sonorous sweeping and dramatic movements of previous numbers, this was music of an entirely different colour, giving expression to the many varied facets of the orchestra. Continuing within the filmic vein, Lesley then entranced us with the full version of *Somewhere Over The Rainbow* – only here she could not resist giving full operatic welly to the final note – and well, who can blame her?!

salacious bit of Bizet, but this time with updated lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein from his version of *Carmen*, the musical *Carmen Jones*. *Beat out that Rhythm on a Drum* was a terrific finale to a wonderful musical showcase. By this time, such was the intensity of La Garrett's flirting, the first violinist was in urgent need of a good rubbing down with a wet lettuce!

For an encore, what could be better than involving us all in a rousing rendition of Elgar's *Land of Hope And Glory*? We had all been issued with a lyric sheet so that we could give it our all. Hmmm, well that was the intention. In the event, Carlo Ponti, who had done such a spectacular job of whipping up the Russians to their full power, was so wrapped up in the impending culmination of his triumphant evening that he forgot to cue in the audience. Lesley politely alerted him to this oversight, at which point he swivelled round and, whilst executing the most alarmingly convincing impersonation of Rik Mayall that I have seen, apologised by explaining that he was Italian and therefore we must excuse him, which, of course, we did. Then, after much scrabbling around and fussing with sheet music and urgently whispered instructions to the First Violinist (who by now was about to spontaneously combust), he launched into a second attempt to give us all our moment of glory. And did we rise to the occasion? You bet we did!

And then suddenly that was that. We stood clapping and cheering a spectacular orchestra, a brilliant and charismatic conductor and a wonderfully talented, exciting and fun soprano. All together it was a brilliantly performed and produced event and our thanks must go to the sponsors whose kind support made the concert possible: Mr and Mrs Mikhail Popov, Mr and Mrs Gennadiy Surkov, Mr and Mrs Andreas Ugland and Mr and Mrs James Gordon-Colebrooke. A great many thanks also to the producer (The Chance Organisation) and all of the performers for taking the time and trouble to travel so far to entertain us all so wonderfully.

As I mentioned at the beginning, this was the second major celebrity concert that Stowe has put on and, boy, do they do it well. Let us hope that this will become an annual event. I can't wait to know who we shall see performing in 2015. Perhaps I shall treat myself to a new OS umbrella – that should ensure a fine night!

AS THE APPLAUSE SUBSIDED, LA GARRETT REAPPEARED, THIS TIME IN A **SYMPHONY OF PISTACHIO AND APPLE BLOSSOM TO DELIVER A SASSY, SEXY AND UTTERLY PROVOCATIVE HABANERA FROM BIZET'S OPERA CARMEN.**

eyes, images of cloud shadows scudding over the Malvern Hills appeared – not a hint of a Tutonic schloss anywhere.

And then, another familiar friend. I never realised that this most typically Neopolitan of songs, *Funiculi-Funicula*, was written by a Russian, (Rimsky-Korsakov)!

As the applause subsided, La Garrett reappeared, this time in a symphony of

Lesley's rendition of *The Impossible Dream* from the Broadway musical *Man of La Mancha*, surely one of the most aspirational songs ever written, was exemplary. It is always a good crowd pleaser and, sure enough, we were all on our feet living the dream with her.

Having been carried away by Dorothy in her red shoes and taken to astronomical heights, we were then brought right back down to earth by another steaming and



▶ Craig Greene (Chandos 07).

WORK EXPERIENCE CASE STUDY: WILLIAM DODGE

On Saturday, 14 June 2014, the Old Stoic Society organised an exciting new event aimed at connecting both Old Stoics with current Stoics by introducing them to realistic future career prospects.

With over thirty different Old Stoics in countless different industries ranging from acting and hospitality all the way to investment management and engineering, Stoics were given the chance to select their interests. The day was comprised of five, twenty minute sessions and a short networking session afterwards. I took this opportunity to have a look into various industries including: Marketing, Hospitality, Estate Agency, Asset Management and even Recruitment.

The talks were a series of very interesting and inspiring presentations aimed at giving you a true insight into each industry (not just the bright side in some cases!) and offered students a chance to fire questions at some of the industry's experts. The morning oozed organisation from both the Old Stoics and the Old Stoic Society team as it finished with a general vibe of interest and excitement from Old Stoics and students alike as Stoics gratefully received business cards and ideas of something bigger.

A few days later, I decided to reconnect with the Old Stoics I had met that day, not knowing what it would amount to, merely in an attempt to reaffirm the knowledge I was provided with and ask a few follow up questions on how to go about choosing the right industry for me (as opposed to blindly walking into an industry I had no real ideas about). It was here that I was so delighted by the warm responses and care from the Old Stoics as they took the time to go into detail about possible routes into their industries and the best ways to really gain a feel for what I would be getting myself into. One gentleman in particular, Patrick Burke (Grenville 74), offered me the opportunity of a lifetime to travel to Jersey and work alongside professionals in the very demanding hotel industry. He put me in contact with the Manager of his hotel (The Atlantic) and within two days I had organised flights to Jersey and back, for what appeared to be an exciting experience that could potentially give me a sure understanding of what I wanted to do for a living.

Upon arrival, I was driven to the Hotel, booked into a beautiful room and offered the rest of the day off to explore my new surroundings. That evening I had a lovely low key chat with the Manager about what I hoped to achieve and learn about in my week at The Atlantic. The next morning I met Mr Burke who really made me feel welcome. That day I was given the opportunity to be thrown in at the deep end and, dressed in my suit, I was introduced to the hotel porter and was given a first-hand view on what really goes on behind the scenes at a

world-class hotel. I experienced the difficulty of staying on one's toes, constantly at the guest's beck and call, whilst also helping to maintain the hotel and serve food and drinks. The porter, Andrew, also gave me a glimpse of how he organises his life: I have never seen anything so specific! The organisation of everyone there was incredible and, it really taught me that organisation is a key factor in any walk of life.

The next day I worked with housekeeping. Here I learned about the constant hurry they face daily having to clean rooms for current guests and set up new rooms for arriving guests. It truly was a system in which the slightest slip up could sour a visitor's whole stay. They were so determined to do their job to a high standard whilst still maintaining that positive smile on their face. This was when I learned lesson number two: a job is only worth doing if you do it well and maintain a positive attitude throughout, a skill that I'm sure you will agree is difficult in high pressure and constantly busy situations. Later on in the week, I helped in the office and learned that no part of hotel work is easy, with the Manager dealing with numerous different situations as I was helping fill out forms and the rest of the office staff have to juggle many tasks at once, including welcoming guests, taking bookings, answering the 'phone, organising events and so much more.



Also, I was able to spend a day looking around the island itself which is a place of true beauty. I spent my last evening with Mr Burke and his family and was treated to a meal in The Atlantic's Michelin star restaurant which was a real delight and a wonderful way to finish the week. This whole experience really taught me what Stowe has to offer providing such brilliant support. Without the Old Stoics' talks I would not have been able to achieve any of this. I would really encourage all Stoics to make the most of the Old Stoic Society, as this is the time when you really can work out how you want to spend your life and it can provide amazing opportunities. I have gained so much real world and industry experience from the opportunities which the Society has provided.

For more information on the Atlantic Hotel visit:
www.theatlantichotel.com

William Dodge (Upper Sixth, Cobham)



HATS OFF TO MILLINER

KATE BRAITHWAITE
(NUGENT 05)

After leaving Stowe to take an Art Foundation Course followed by a Textile Degree, Kate found herself obsessed with making hats and headpieces, which has led to an exciting career as a milliner. Kate tells us a little about her craft and her inspiration, as well as sharing some essential tips for OS girls choosing a hat.



So, Kate, can you tell us a little about how you got started in millinery?

I've always been interested in how things relate to one another: colours, textures, people and objects. I started creating my hats by

experimenting at university with things I had collected and challenging myself to see what I could produce.

I love how personal making hats is; producing things for a specific individual, making sure they look and feel great at the same time as the hat being interesting and beautiful. I find learning traditional craft techniques extremely satisfying and I love interpreting these in my own way in my designs.

Did you learn anything at Stowe which led you in this direction?

My art teacher, Mr Johnson, encouraged me and gave me confidence in my Fine Art. I went on to do an Art Foundation after Stowe. I focused on painting and mixed media and then on to university to study Interdisciplinary Textile Design, where learning about the design process fed my interest in innovative materials, as well as architecture and design. After leaving university I soon realised I had an obsession with hats, (I'd been making headpieces for parties and festivals) so I enrolled at Kensington and Chelsea Art School to learn millinery.

Who do you make hats for?

Everyone. I do a lot of private commissions for mothers of the brides and people attending weddings or the races. I have recently launched my first Fedora and Trilby collection – I decided this was a popular style that would work well as a stock piece for people to buy off the shelf. They're made with the finest rabbit fur felt, which is an extremely hard wearing and long lasting material.

What materials and techniques do you like best?

I love the idea of modernising a traditional craft, bringing it into the future and playing with old techniques, whilst using modern materials like plastics and metals usually not associated with the tradition of millinery. It makes the hats more exciting and interesting, as well as capturing the imagination of the wearer.

Where do you get your inspiration for your hats?

I am constantly inspired by different cultures; historic fashion; architecture; movement and form and I love the British countryside. I am always challenging myself to find materials which can capture my inspiration.

I'm really interested in the way situations or particular things make you feel and how this differs from person by person. This will be the same as a client wearing a hat – even if they are wearing the same hat, it will make each person feel completely different.

I am fascinated by the way a person's mood can influence their experience of the space around them. I try to inspire confidence with my headpieces, which help to lift the spirit of the wearer to influence their mood.

And do you do it all alone?

At the moment, yes.

What is your proudest moment as a milliner so far?

I've been invited to join Triumph's 'Women in Making' alongside a small team of extremely talented women to celebrate

craftsmanship in a range of fields. I feel very honoured to have my skills recognised in this way, especially as I love what I do.

Do you think there's such a thing as a 'hat person'?

I don't believe it when people say they are not hat people, but I do love the challenge of helping them realise they are. You need to make sure you try on different styles, shapes and colours and you will soon realise what suits you and what doesn't.

Do you have any tips or advice for choosing and wearing a hat?

I have six essential hat-tricks, which I'd recommend:

1. Make sure you try on different styles of hats and see what suits you. Think about the shape of your face and finding a colour that will go well with your complexion. The perfect hat can transform you!
2. Be brave. Maybe chose your hat first and then dress around it. This way you will be more adventurous! If you're looking for a cocktail hat, be creative.
3. Try something that will give you height and make you feel elegant.
4. Don't be afraid of wearing something that has been made with unconventional millinery materials. This is something I love experimenting with as I feel it adds a contemporary feel, It's a challenge to make sure the hat is still glamorous. You might not imagine yourself wearing a hat with plastic pleats!
5. Remember that you are wearing the hat all day and we are in England. You want to choose one that you will be comfortable in and that fits securely.
6. Hats will accentuate your features. Make sure you pick the perfect one to make you look and feel your best.

To find out more about Kate's work or to discuss a commission, visit www.katebraithwaite.co.uk or email studio@katebraithwaite.co.uk Her fedora collection is available from her website, starting at £180.



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THE STOWE GHOSTS

Dear Anna

In response to the Stowe Ghosts article in the 2014 edition of *The Corinthian*, I am sending in an extract from my memoirs which I hope might be of interest to others.

“Stowe, the Public School I attended in England had a number of claims to fame including being the most picturesque public school in the British Isles. It was also haunted. The old country estate of the Duke of Buckingham, Stowe dominated the undulating fields of Buckinghamshire in much the same way as the old Duke did his serfs in years gone by.

For several weeks my friend Imrie and I had been sneaking out of the dormitory just after the witching hour. The object of these excursions was to rendezvous with two girls who lived locally.

Imrie, nick-named Immers, had the best sort. Answering to the name of Mandy, she was a stunning girl with jet-black hair; almond eyes and a nose that twitched a bit like Samantha’s in *Bewitched*. The object of my attention was called Rachel. Once a week, Immers and I would tiptoe down the dormitory corridor, through the Marble Hall, (which was a pretty spooky place in the dead of night) and down the 33 steps that led onto the south lawn and freedom.

FOR SOME MINUTES NONE OF US SAID ANYTHING BUT PRETTY SOON THE WHISPERING STARTED.

From the lawn we’d then sprint into the woods to our rendezvous point close to a mile away. On this particular night there was a full moon. Corny but true! Everything was going according to plan until we got to the Palladian Bridge. It was then that we heard the noise. Although indistinct, it sounded as though somebody or something was crashing through the woods towards us. Our first reaction was to dive into the bushes. Being caught meant, at the very minimum, six of the best from the Housemaster. Neither of us relished pain.

It was only when we were successfully concealed that we paused to survey the scene. At first we could see nothing. But the noise that we’d initially heard became much clearer and sounded increasingly like horses! Although, why on earth anyone would be riding around in the woods at half past twelve at night was anyone’s guess!

But this was no single horseman. Minutes later two soldiers wearing what we later discovered were the traditional uniforms of the Household Cavalry trotted into view. Behind them was a carriage drawn by four horses. Three more soldiers in similar uniforms brought up the rear. We were dumb founded. But even then we were not thinking ghosts. We were still thinking canings and possible pain.

The entourage trotted up to the bridge, their stirrups and bridles clinking in the midnight air. We could see them quite clearly and I remember that one of the soldiers was mounted on a

huge grey horse that began pig rooting as it crossed the bridge. But it never reached the other side. Neither did anyone else. In the middle of the bridge they quite simply disappeared!

We sat there for a few seconds trying to take it in. It had happened just 20 yards from where we were hidden. They looked like soldiers. They sounded like horses. It looked AND sounded like a carriage. But where the hell had they gone! On the other side of the bridge was an open field and it was empty! In the distance we could make out a couple of cows, but of the horses and carriage there was no sign at all. Discretion and plain fear won out over curiosity and we beat a hasty retreat back to the dormitory. Mandy and Rachel remained Beattyless and Immersless that night. In fact, they never did believe our story. Shortly after that they took up with two lads from the local soccer team.

But this wasn’t my only encounter with the supernatural at Stowe. Six months later, a group of us were wandering back from an after dinner detention. All of sudden we noticed what appeared to be a nun walking about 15 yards in front of us. She’d just appeared out of nowhere. But there were no nuns at Stowe!

For some minutes none of us said anything but pretty soon the whispering started.

“Who the hell’s she?” “Where did she come from?!”

Then, in a repeat performance of the horsemen and the bridge, she just as suddenly...disappeared! One moment she was there. The next she wasn’t.

I never did find out who the mysterious nun was or where the ghostly carriage came from. But there were rumours. The locals spoke of Queen Victoria visiting Stowe on several occasions and tales of her carriage being spotted on winter nights were evidently quite common.

As for the nun, well the Duke of Cobham had an illegitimate daughter who entered the clergy. He disowned her and her grieving spirit was believed to haunt the southern portico and the corridor outside the Great Hall. We’d seen her on the path leading up to the South Portico.”

Michael Beatty (Bruce 67)



Dear Madam

I have just been reading your magazine, which I found very interesting. I can assure you that it was JF Roxburgh who saw the Stowe Ghosts. I heard the story from him more than once. Perhaps I should add that I was in the VI Form for quite a time, and that JF had us late on Sunday afternoons for a special seated tea, about once a month. It was on such an occasion, he told us this story.

The circumstances and the story as told by JF Roxburgh, the then Headmaster of Stowe School

It was customary for JF to leave first, at the end of the Service in the School's Chapel, followed by the Masters in their gowns, then the School, leaving from the front.

If it was not raining, the Masters usually stayed talking outside the Chapel's main doors. JF set off alone up the gravel path along the front of the House towards the main front steps, in the gloaming on this day.

On this occasion, he had just reached the east end of the House when he noticed two people some way ahead of him on the path.

In those days, the grounds were strictly private, long before the National Trust took the grounds over. So he wondered what this couple were doing, and why they were there. He quickened his pace to catch them up. He also noticed that their clothes were somewhat odd – Fancy Dress?

When they reached the steps, they started to go up. When they had reached the platform, they started to climb again. JF, by then, was on the lower steps.

Suddenly they just disappeared. JF was so alarmed, realising that he must have seen ghosts, that he ran to the west of the step he was on, and leapt down to his garden immediately below.

I gathered he had not seen a ghost before this. I presume he stayed in a state of shock in his rooms, until he had recovered. This is the story as I heard it from him. The stories in *The Corinthian* 2014 are more detailed in some ways, clothing, etc.

Perhaps I should add that, as far as I know, I have myself never seen a ghost, but I have seen several aunts and their children who have seen lots of ghosts, the same ones, in their bedrooms, several times. Yet another genuine story.

Yours sincerely

Edward Chapman (Bruce 36)

THE PRINCE'S FOUNDATION FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY



I have been working for the last decade for the Prince's Foundation for Building Community – The Prince of Wales's charity concerned with the relationship between the built environment and people's quality of life – based in Shoreditch, London.

My role, as Senior Director, varies enormously from masterplanning, architecture, community engagement to teaching and practical research. On the masterplanning side, I am currently engaged in planning a new city expansion to Liberville for the President of Gabon, the new Duchy of Cornwall development at Newquay and a new town called Sherford, east of Plymouth.

One of the more challenging projects has been overseeing the planning and implementation of an urban village and on the former site of the UK's first oil refinery at Llandoverly, near Swansea. The BP refinery was closed in the 1980s, having a huge impact on the local economy, as BP was the largest employer in the region. The vision was to fully remediate the site and build a new mix use 'walkable' town and then to create a new knowledge economy, by creating a science and innovation campus, where companies sit alongside research and academic facilities. The projects are expected to contribute over £3 billion to the regional economy in the next decade and the campus is expected to open phase 1 in September 2015.

On a smaller scale, I have enjoyed working in the healthcare field, particularly planning the redevelopment of Alder Hey Children's Hospital in Liverpool. This brand new state of the art facility is currently on site and will replace the current hospital which will be demolished and replaced with a new children's health park. The vision is centred around the importance of the natural environment to influence well-being and so the building is seamlessly integrated with the park so that patients, parents and staff have easy access to the surrounding landscape. At a detailed level, I designed a pair of houses at the Building Research Establishment's innovation campus which have undergone nearly two years of extensive testing, to establish actual building performance against the modelling.

Current teaching duties include our graduate fellowship masters' programme and our joint MSc with Oxford University in sustainable development. I have advised in a design and panel review capacity on many projects including the Armed Forces Memorial, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Chelsea Barracks, Westminster Abbey, Kensington Palace as well as Winchester, Peterborough, Exeter and Hereford Cathedrals.

Any Old Stoics looking to develop land or buildings in a sensitive manner please do get in touch: ben.bolgar@princes-foundation.org

WHERE THERE'S A WELL...

▶ Oliver and his son, Jaimie, travelling to see the wells in India.

I grew up in India, Delhi to be precise. In 1957, my father, Henry Croom-Johnson (Temple 29), after a near diversion to Cairo, was appointed the Representative for The British Council in India. His tenure was supposed to be no more than two years. He stayed seven.

For my brother and me it was a pretty surreal childhood in that post-Raj period, although our social responsibility antennae were not completely redundant. My progressive-minded mother was always active in the nearby leper colonies, and she was absolutely insistent on setting up British-style pension plans for our rather non-plussed servants.

When it came to choosing a university course, I was lucky in having as my tutor at Stowe David Manly, then Head of Modern Languages. Having long realised that I was a determinedly mediocre student, he packed me off to an interview to study Hindi at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) on the basis that a) I was less likely to cock up an interview about a place where I had spent much of my childhood, and b) that the subject might engage me a bit longer than the more obvious choice of a degree in French.

By the time I had been offered my first job (in advertising – I think they hoped that my second class degree in Hindi might make me slightly more interesting than better qualified graduates with degrees in Sociology, Anthropology or the arts). My compulsory three months in Allahabad, as part of the degree course, meant I had been made keenly aware of the water supply problems endemic to whole areas of rural non-development in India.

One thing about the advertising and marketing field is that it provides fertile ground for those minded to go off and create small (and sometimes not-so-small) start-up companies. When, as inevitably happens in the corporate world, I found myself with an idiot boss I found it impossible to work for, it was time to strike out on my own. I was just short of 40, and

as things progressed I was clear that if I ever made any money out of our growing family of little start-ups, one day I was going to 'dig wells in India'. It was a very simple one-line idea, long on naivety and short on sophistication, borne of the somewhat pious cliché that those of us who have been bequeathed good fortune need to return serve at some point.

So, came the day in 2006 that, having accounted for some family responsibilities (school fees, anyone?), I managed to persuade myself that I didn't really want a helicopter and that now was a good time to look to a wells project.

Although I had no experience and no contacts in the field, what I found on what might have been a difficult journey was so interesting. Somehow, following random conversations in hairdressers and a couple of false starts, I found my way to the Savitri Waney Charitable Trust. It is a small-ish Indian family trust set up to enable charitable works in India. They are heroes.

Their main activity is Second Sight which conducts thousands of cataract operations in India every year, and they didn't 'do' water, they said, but would I like to join in their eyes project? Not really. Then could they introduce me to someone who does water projects in Africa? I thanked them politely but said I was really only interested in water in India.

So, I was delighted when, a couple of weeks later, they contacted me to say they had always wanted to do a water project in India after all and they wanted to help me. Moreover, although they neglected to tell me at the time, they were prepared to match me pound for pound. Since then, they have done very much more.

Having started easy, it almost got easier. We commissioned a research project to identify six different possible projects through different NGOs, some of them quite sophisticated and with Government support. However, it was simply muddy old wells that would enable small farmers to irrigate their few fields that had always been my ambition, and Option No. 6 and its NGO was an easy choice.

Hence, I found myself one October about six years ago taking a big 'plane to Mumbai, a smaller one from there for the two hour flight to Bhopal, and from there a train



- ▶ A completed well.
- ▶ Children in an Indian Shanty.
- ▶ Digging the wells by hand.
- ▶ Irrigation pipes from a completed well supply a farmer's crops.



taking five hours costing the princely sum of £1.77 second class to Ratlam in western Madhya Pradesh to see what I had started.

The thesis of the project is simple. Our community is the bottom tier of the Scheduled Tribe farmers in the areas of Ratlam, Jhabua and Barwani. They will have somewhere between two and five acres, typically three or four fields. The farmer there is reliant upon the monsoon. To keep a family of, say, six or seven people anywhere close to a subsistence level for a year, he needs an income of about £600. His monsoon crop, presuming it is a good monsoon, will provide him with anywhere between £120 and £150. For the other eight months of the year, to make up the shortfall he, and one or more members of the family, may go and work for a larger farmer in the locality or, more likely, he will bundle up his family and they will travel to become part of the vast population of migration labour, living on a railway platform or in a shanty area in a city, working as a labourer on the roads, railways or building construction. Eventually, the family will become part of the great shanty population of India. The vast majority of the Indian shanties are populated by people who have come in to the cities when the land has given them up.

Providing a farmer with his own well completely changes the financial dynamic. Two things happen almost immediately. First, his monsoon crop becomes reliable, and he will be able to upgrade his crop from gram or maize to something higher grade and more profitable. Second, he is now able to grow second and third crops in the year, and may also grow a small vegetable garden for family consumption. Immediately he becomes self-reliant, and he may even be in a position to employ those without land from his village on a casual basis. He now sees himself as able to invest in his farm, and he sees a future for his children.



It is important to stress how much the farmer and his family contribute to the well. They have to dig the first two metres themselves of an area that could be anything up to 5-10 metres in diameter, and they don't get a penny until they do. Our funding kicks in to provide the things they just can't afford, such as hire of the rock-blasting equipment and purchase of pumps and piping, or simply extra labour. The self-help element of the deal is vital. The farmers see it as very much their project, and we are merely financial 'enablers'. They work extremely hard, and their pride in what they achieve is richly deserved.

I knew when we set out that what we were creating should provide self-sufficiency. However, there have been some collateral benefits I didn't see coming. First, the children start going to school, vital for the family being able to manage the futures of their descendants. Second, the great work being done by our NGO (Action for Social Advancement) has gone to a different level. Previously 5% of their effort had been going to water projects, but they have become so enthusiastic about the wells that it has now become 40% of their activity. Third, and slightly counter to their avowed strategy, the wonderful Savitri Waney Trust has continued to be tireless and generous supporters of the work being done and, rather sweetly, still allows me to pretend it is my project.

In 2010 we took a (very) small crew out to Madhya Pradesh to make a half-hour film for More4 featuring my then 12 year-old son, Jaimie (now in the Upper Sixth in Temple House), with his take on how the lives of the smallholder farmers can change so completely with access to water. (It is an engaging little piece, and for anybody interested, it can still be seen by going to the Where There's a Well website and accessing the video page).

As for ongoing planning, ASA is now expanding its activities into the regions of Chhattisgarh and Orissa where the conditions are even worse, and I am now in the process of squaring up to the Charity Commission in an effort to cement the project's future. Accountability and sustainability are the watchwords, and we aim to ensure that over 90% of our money goes directly to the creation of wells. We have 'done' over 680 so far, each of them feeding two or three smallholder farms – a good start but we have only really scratched the surface of what is possible.

Oliver Croom-Johnson (Temple 69)

oliver@sppmedia.co.uk
www.where-theres-a-well.org.uk



DOGWATCH COMBATING RURAL CRIME

As a result of a spate of dog thefts in the area, Michael Colston (Grenville 51) set up an organisation called Dogwatch in conjunction with the Thames Valley Police, several years ago. The idea was to alert members and the rural police by email as to the theft or loss of dogs so that they could report suspicious activity and, of course, any sightings of dogs fitting the description. As a result, a large number of dogs have been recovered, often a very long way from where they were stolen.

It soon became clear that the sorts of people who steal dogs are often the same as those who steal vehicles, chainsaws, diesel and the like. So Dogwatch is now as much concerned with rural crime generally, as with the theft or loss of dogs. Strangers hanging around farmyards are often up to no good. Members are advised to find out where their car is parked and forward a description of the individuals and details of the vehicle to Dogwatch and, through them, on to the police. It is astonishing how frequently the police respond saying that that vehicle is on their wanted list. As a result, many arrests have been made.

Dogwatch has gone from strength to strength and now numbers about 3000 members covering nearly half a million acres of the Thames Valley. Michael retired from Dogwatch in 2014 and was given a Commendation by the Chief Constable reading: "Michael Colston is commended for his commitment and dedication to the prevention of crime. His development of the Dogwatch network has played an essential part in the prevention of rural crime and dog theft within the Thames Valley. It has provided reassurance to local communities and enabled the development of relevant intelligence and the subsequent arrest of offenders."

Dogwatch goes from strength to strength under new management and may be contacted at www.dogwatchalert.com

Michael Colston (Grenville 51)

NEWS

Many thanks to all those Old Stoics who submitted news items for this edition. Please accept the editor's apologies that some entries have had to be abridged and that some photographs have been omitted due to their print quality.

Please keep sending in your entries for the next issue of *The Corinthian* to oldstoic@stowe.co.uk or post them to Old Stoic Office, Stowe School, Buckingham MK18 5EH.

1940s

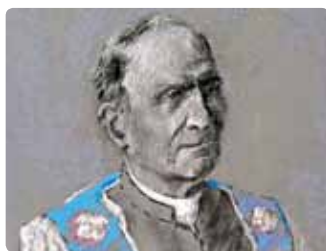
Anthony Lewisohn (Cobham 43)

His son, Nic, writes, "Just a quick update for my father Anthony Clive Leopold Lewisohn. He is in pretty good health and enjoys walking, swimming, grandchildren and going to Lords and of course his marriage to my mother."

Dr John Kessler (Bruce 44)

John writes, "at 89 years I am finding long journeys more difficult and to my great regret have felt obliged to resign from two charitable foundations of which I was a member. I was a member of the Urco foundation in the Netherlands for 56 years and of the Ulting Overseas Trust in London for 27 years. In July 2014, I was privileged to attend a family reunion of the descendants of my father. It was held on a lovely beach in the north of Costa Rica where I now live and attended by 108 persons. A great occasion."

Dr Peter Rossdale (Temple 46)



Peter writes, "During 2014, I completed a two part book. The first part represents an analysis of the philosophy of Canon George Austen, Rector of Whitby for 45 years and Chancellor of York Minster for 25 years, up to his death aged 94 in 1933, whose belief in the Gospel was absolute. The second part is the philosophy of an individual in 2014 with respect to the viewpoint of Charles Darwin and the impact of modern technology on the human mind." It will be available in 2015 on www.romneypublications.co.uk ISBN 97809541587-6-7.

Michael Loup (Temple 47)

Liz Zettl, the widow of Ewald Zettl, who patiently and charmingly, tried to inspire generations of Stoics to absorb German grammar and his enthusiasm for Schiller and Goethe, is now 97, living in Buckingham with her beloved black greyhound and tells me she has just renewed her Driving Licence. Tea with Liz and Ewald was our reward for Class Room time, and how we looked forward to time spent enjoying school news (gossip actually) on winter evenings.

Anthony Platt (Chatham 47)

Anthony writes, "We are still living very happily in Bury St Edmunds. No particular news to offer, though we're looking forward to a cruise on the Rhine early next year so I'm brushing up my German in preparation."

Pat Roberts (Temple 47)

Pat writes, "My great grand-daughter, who goes to Peterhouse Girls School in Zimbabwe had the pleasure of watching Stowe play Rugby against Peterhouse Boys earlier last year. She had no idea I had been to Stowe and was delighted when she heard. Apparently, it was a very good game."

Patrick Ellis (Bruce 48)



Patrick has recently had his latest book *Living the Dream, Tales of a Hunting Man across three countries*, published. Copies are available by emailing him on patrick@uwclub.net

David Cobham (Grenville 49)



David writes, "After spending most of my life making films for television or the cinema I decided to write a book. It is called *A Sparrowhawk's Lament* and was published last June by

Princeton University Press. It is a personal account of how our British Breeding Birds of Prey are faring. My brother Richard (Grenville 52), David Connell (Grenville 48), David Withers (Grenville 47), Noel Cunningham-Reid (Grenville 49) and the late Peter Cooper (Chatham 54) all helped with personal stories or bird watching exhibitions. Anna McEvoy at Stowe was very helpful in letting me know what had happened to the Hart Collection of stuffed birds which, in my time at Stowe, were housed in the Aurelian Room. My book has just been chosen by *The Guardian* as an example of the best nature literature in 2014."

Colonel Geoffrey Norton (Chatham 49)

Geoffrey writes, "On 22 October 2014, I was the Senior Officer of the York and Lancaster Regiment attending the funeral of 15 members of that Regiment who were killed in action on 18 October 1914 and whose remains had been discovered in 2009. They were buried with full military honours in the Commonwealth War Grave Commission Cemetery at Bois Grenier in the Pas de Calais, France. From the taking of DNA, relatives were found which meant that 11 had named headstones. The Padre of 4th Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment conducted the service and they also provided the pallbearers, firing party and band."

1950s

David Duckworth (Grafton 50)

David writes, "Christchurch, New Zealand. Earthquakes 2010 and 2011. The repercussions last longer than the media 7-day wonder. Thought, planning and reconstruction for a city like Christchurch (population about 350,000) takes several years. We are in the mid-range of progress: our house has been demolished and a new one, stronger and better, is being rebuilt. We move back in mid-2015. To have reached even this far has taken determination and persistence. Not bad for 83. Many people are still in dispute with their insurers. So, we count our blessings."

Nicholas Boulton (Grenville 52)

Nicholas writes, "In June 2014, I attended the Beating Retreat Ceremony performed by the massed bands of the Royal Marines on Horse Guards Parade. A large band from the U.S. Marine Corps and the Band of the Royal Netherlands Marine Corps were also on parade celebrating the 350th anniversary of the founding of the Corps. At the Reception afterwards I noticed how young the Field Grade Officers (Majors and up) seemed to me. As I did not know a soul there, I just went up to various groups held out my hand and said, "I am Nicholas Boulton from Canada and I don't know anyone here." Everyone was very friendly and didn't mind such behaviour from an elderly gent who had served in the Corps absolute ages ago. The Generals had heard of me and my late wife entertaining very many Royal Marines at our home in Montreal. The Corps deputy Commandant thanked me and my late wife for looking after 365 marines, NCOs and officers in the 70s when Royal Navy ships carrying RM detachments and 42 Commando RM had visited Montreal. The motto 'Once a Marine always a Marine' was certainly evident."

Dr Stephen Cross (Grafton 52)

Stephen's recent book, *Schopenhauer's Encounter with Indian Thought: Representation and Will and their Indian Parallels*, was published by the University of Hawaii Press in conjunction with the Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy at the end of last year, and studies Schopenhauer's philosophical ideas as constituting a bridge – as yet insufficiently used – between the Western and Asian traditions of thought. His lecture to the Temenos Academy, *Truth in the Garb of Fable – Christianity and the Philosophy of Arthur Schopenhauer*, appears in the 2014 issue of the Temenos Academy Review.

George Kent (Cobham 52)



George, shown here with his wife Angela, is retiring as Chairman of Children's Homes in India Trust. He remains a Trustee alongside Pauline Stanton-Saringer, formerly on the Stowe staff, and Christopher Turner, former Headmaster. More info on chitonline.co.uk

Prof James Humes (Chandos 53)

James writes, "In the past year I've been to England twice, once in April and the second time in November. I talked to the great Headmaster – the best in the country. I sent my 40th book to the printer, *Presidents And Their Pens, Presidents And Their Speechwriters, Washington to Obama*. I also sent my editor my manuscript: *The Wit and Wisdom Of George Washington*. My grandson, James, is at Eton studying Greek and playing rugby."

Peter McMullan (Temple 53)



Peter writes, "We just happened to be staying with Peter Houghton Brown, my long ago (early 1950s) Temple fishing partner, in the week of the great May concert so off we went with our wives to enjoy a fabulous evening. What a truly wonderful setting and what a great performance." Peter McMullan is on the right in the photograph.

Richard Meredith (Grenville 53)



Richard is delighted that his daughter-in-law, Fiona Benson, has had *Bright Travellers* – her first collection of poems – shortlisted for the prestigious T.S. Eliot Poetry Prize.

Alan Morriss (Bruce 53)



Alan writes, "This year has seen what I regard as one of the most significant things I have done, and which will, with any luck, be the most long lasting. In 1897, the most magnificent tree ever known was cut down for a bar room bet. It was a Californian Coastal Redwood, 400 feet high and 3,500 years old. There is a photograph on the internet taken at the time, of 30 people standing on what is now known as the 'Fieldbrook Stump'. The perpetrator was an Englishman. In

recent years however, little shoots have started growing from the stump. I heard about this and contacted Archangel Tree Archive who clone significant trees. Eventually, after two years of requests, they let me have three which arrived last Easter, and are planted down by one of the lakes. They are growing at an amazing rate and the little trees which were about 18 inches tall on arrival have nearly tripled in size. The tallest is now over five feet. The Eden Project in Cornwall is now also getting some so we, in England, are trying to make some atonement for the original act of vandalism."

Ian Henderson (Temple 54)

Ian writes, "I hesitated numerous times before making the decision to reply with a brief outline of my position as I doubt too many Old Boys are interested in relics from the early 1950s. Needless to say, I always remember my days at Stowe with wonderful memories of the School and Temple House and the beautiful grounds that even today I enjoy relating to my family and friends. I have however, now been in America close to 60 years and lived originally in New York City, but for over the past 30 years in Central Pennsylvania with my wife Karen where we raised two children. I started an electronic component manufacturing company www.americanpiezo.com that's located in many countries, and specialises mainly in the defence and medical industry – fortunately I am able to travel extensively and indeed, I visit London a few times each year, thus opening the door for me to one day partake in one of the festivities organised by the Old Stoic Society. Through LinkedIn I did find the Society and have now connected to a few other Old Stoics. The area where I live is home to The Pennsylvania State University and should any young Stoic make the decision to enrol at Penn State – I would be very open to welcoming them to this lovely part of Pennsylvania."

Christoph von Eberan-Eberhorst (Chatham 54)



In 2014 Christoph, now 79 years young, decided to reduce his consultancy activities regarding automotive engineering by handing his annual two-day seminar on

The Lubrication of Internal Combustion Engines at the Technical Academy Esslingen over to Prof. W.J. Bartz, internationally reputed tribologist. He continues, however, to take interest in automotive history and in current technology developments. He supports the Auto Museum 'PROTOTYP' in Hamburg and regularly visits relevant conferences and exhibitions. The photograph shows Chris (left) 'talking shop' with Karl Ludvigsen, well known automotive historian at a Colloquium organised by the Technical University of ZWICKAU (Saxony) and sponsored by AUTO UNION (Audi AG, Ingolstadt) in March 2014.

Dr Peter Andrews (Chatham 55)

Peter has been awarded the Ancient and Modern Prize for 2014, a fund administered jointly by Christies, and Hali and Cornucopia magazines. This is to enable Dr and Mrs Andrews to study two Indian tents of outstanding historical interest: the Tienda de Campaña at the Museo del Ejército at Toledo, dated 1535, and probably the oldest extant, and the tent captured from Tipu Sultan, dated c. 1750, at Powis Castle. The structure of neither has been published. He and his wife have completed a book, *Tentage at the Calico Museum and its Patterns*, in which they analyse the holdings of the Calico Museum of Textiles at Ahmedabad, India. This is now in press, published by the Museum, ISBN: 978-81-86980-51-4. They plan to follow this with a second volume, to be published at Jodhpur, on Indian tentage outside the Museum, including the two specimens mentioned above.

Stanley Judd (Walpole 55)

Skip writes, "We have launched CRY, a new Internet Journal, which speaks for our children. Our mission is to alert all of us (especially those of us over 65) that the Internet affords us the power to change the world. We would welcome anonymous articles from Old Stoics for our Civilized free speech page." Please see <http://planetzero815.com>"

Nicholas Abbott (Chandos 56)



Nicholas writes, "Following major heart problems in 1993 and anticipating only a short time to do the things one hopes to do in retirement, I retired from my family law firm in Chelmsford, keeping my head above water financially as a part-time

Chairman of the Employment Tribunals, until all four children were safely through university and a pension became within reach. I am still here! I enjoy managing a small wood in Essex and making bespoke furniture with my wife, see www.nkabbott.co.uk I very much enjoy the magazine and have been particularly interested to learn about the continuing restoration of the mansion and the follies."

Ralph Cobham (Grenville 54)

Ralph is enjoying the use of a student rail-card, as he attends the Heatherleys School of Fine Art in Chelsea for the two year diploma in portrait painting. He was awarded the Mr Heatherleys 'Summer Figure Competition, 2014' Prize.

Piers Plowright (Temple 56)



Piers writes, "I'm working on a BBC Radio 4 documentary about some of the 'sounds' in my life, which will include

a nostalgic visit to Stowe this summer to recreate the 1955 Historians production of *Coriolanus* when I played the pig-headed Roman and made a spectacular fall in full armour down the Queen's Temple steps. Volunteer stunt person welcome. The programme is called *Stepping Stones* and will be broadcast in the autumn of 2015."

David Ridley (Cobham 59)



David writes, "Being well into my seventies and an overseas resident spurs me into renewing OS connections on most visits back to England. The 2014 round of reunions began with a May lunch in Monte Carlo with Paddy McCrea (Walpole 59) and ended in Bequia where Noel Mawer (Chatham/Lyttelton 68) lives, he was nine years behind me. I also had a chance encounter in Battersea Park with Hugo Curtis (Walpole 59). My other OS encounters were in the Cotswolds where there seems to be a host of Old Stoics. I lunched with Michael Houghton (Chatham 58) who arranged more connections resulting in a dinner with Robin Behar (Chandos 59) and an evening at Anthony White's (Cobham 58) phenomenal barn conversion. I also saw a couple of more recent Stoics,

NEWS

Damian Talbot (Cobham 89) over from the Middle East seeing his parents in Eccleston, where Michael and I grew up and, Alistair Clutton (Chandos 01) in Grandborough, where I lived for 19 years. The photograph is of the Cobham House production of Dry Rot in 1958. L to R: Ridley, Beatty, Buxton, Hotham, Winchester. I grew my sideboards as Brian Rix had when he portrayed the bookie's runner. On the afternoon of the opening night my father grabbed me by the scruff of the neck, marched me into the bathroom at The White Hart and scraped them off with his Gillette safety razor, saying I could paint them back for the performance!"

Alastair Stone (Temple 59)



Alastair writes, "After two years in Arizona, I'm still singing and playing tennis – both year round! Our men's choral group performs in local concerts around Tucson, and I am the secretary of our tennis club. One highlight of a long trip to Europe was staying three nights in the Gothic Temple at the end of June 2014. A surprise for Helga, my wife of 48 years, was that I had secretly planned for my sister Linda to join us. Helga, as befits the spouse of an Old Stoic, has been to Stowe many times, but Linda's last visit was to a Grafton House dance in 1959! Having been entertained by the Leavers' Ball fireworks on Saturday evening, we went to Stowe Church on Sunday morning, where there were more surprises in store. I did not expect to meet Andrew Rudolf (Cobham 55), nor to talk to and hug Biddy Stephan. It was, of course, interesting to climb to very top of the Gothic Temple – not something I was able to do when it was the Armoury."

Robin Thomas (Bruce 59)



From left to right, John Jackson (Chatham 61), Euan Kennedy (Chatham 59) and Robin Thomas (Bruce 59) who are all Hammersmith Reelers and go to a different hotel in Scotland for a long weekend at the end of April each year. The April 2014 event was at Douneside, Tarland in

the Dee Valley and the photo was taken at the dance they always have on the last of the three nights.

1960s

John Wates (Bruce 60)

John was awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2014, for services to the Arts; Criminal Justice; and the Community in Chipstead, Surrey.

Don Carslaw (Grenville 61)



Don writes, "At 70, I am still employed in IT here in the South of France. In September 2014, I celebrated 40 years of hang gliding with a nice soaring flight above our local hills behind Cannes. We are well placed here for activities with sea and snow equidistant at 40 minutes and the flying site at 20 minutes. The only problem is finding the time. I was happy to be able to visit Stowe in 2013, for the first time really since the 1960s, and was very impressed with the improvements! I look forward to soon being able to visit more often. We live just near Grasse and would be happy to see any Old Stoics who are passing through." Contact: plummet@easynet.co.uk

John Jackson (Chatham 61)

John writes, "I am now a grandfather and have three grandsons, aged 5, 3, and 6 months. A good place for a family holiday is Centre Parcs, Longleat, Wiltshire, which suits all ages. Next year we are planning a family skiing holiday in Switzerland – a lot more ambitious!"

James Cartwright (Chatham 62)

James is still running the cricket team for the Bar, BEWCC, and is preparing for the next Lawyers Cricket World Cup which is due to take place in Australia in January, 2016.

Michael Chapman (Chatham 62)

Michael writes, "I left Tarawa in the beginning of October 2014 and since then have been in Palau as Team

Leader of an Asian Development Bank funded project for sanitation. We had lots of meetings and I have already met the President twice. It's a great place for scuba diving."

Tony Macoun (Grafton 62)

Tony writes, "I have spent my life as an educator and am now retired but have recently been appointed as Chair of the Board on Lester B. Pearson College, Canada's United World College, a school where 23 years ago I was the Head of College. There goes retirement!"

Dr Michael Spira (Chandos 62)



Michael writes, "My news is that my latest book, *The 12 Minute Weight Loss Plan* is published in January 2015 by Piatkus, one of the UK's leading publishers. This is the first major book to promote HIIT (high intensity interval training) for weight loss."

Brian Marcel (Chatham 63)

Brian writes, "I was elected Councillor for East Sheen and serve as Champion of the Older Residents on the Council for Richmond upon Thames and also am the Lead in Adult Services for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee together with being Chairman of the Bench (Magistrate) for the Ealing, Feltham and Uxbridge Courts."

Alasdair Kennedy (Walpole 64)



Alasdair writes, "Far from the playing fields of Stowe I write this note from the shores of the South Pacific and reflect on my time at Stowe. Quite frankly I was always rather overwhelmed knowing that I was privileged to enjoy such a special place. From far away I retain good memories of Stowe and believe now is the time to return and look for old mates who played rugby with me, such as another jock, Archie Duncan! One of my favourite sports was cross-country and I ran for the School for two years. But I wish I had run harder! Here I am in South America with my feet in the ocean but from afar I have not forgotten! Far from the rolling fields of Buckinghamshire and grazing sheep, I remember the tradition and the responsibility I was taught to achieve and perform. Currently I manage my own company

involved in mineral exploration and have clients on four continents including China and Mongolia in Asia, the Canadian Arctic, also Finland and Ireland in Europe and throughout Latin America from Mexico to Patagonia. I have believed in nothing except being the best and providing excellence! Accordingly, *Persto et Praesto!*"

Peter Champness (Chandos 65)



Peter, Chairman of technology start-up SolaQuaGen, is delighted to announce a successful launch in November 2014 of a potentially world beating large scale desalination and waste water operating unit, capable of cutting energy use by over 50% compared to conventional technology. A new round of fund raising and commercialisation promises to make 2015 an exciting year.

Bruce Ley Greaves (Cobham 65)

Bruce writes, "having lived in London/Notting Hill most of my life we have moved out of town to Iver in Buckinghamshire and we are enjoying our life out here. My son, Robbie, has just qualified as a Doctor at age of 25 and has just become engaged to Laura – also a Doctor. On 14 November 2014, I celebrated 11 years since my Liver Transplant!! Still going strong! Us Old Stoics are TOUGH!!"

Peter Rapelye (Bruce 66)



Peter writes, "Janet and I enjoyed attending the Friends of Stowe event in NYC this past fall. We were very impressed to learn of the School's commitment and success in the arts and music. Likewise, *Stowemail* and *The Corinthian* are first class publications, providing in depth perspectives of life at Stowe and beyond. Retirement after forty years in education continues to offer opportunities to learn and grow. I am serving as a trustee at two independent schools, taught a course on WWI at the Princeton Adult School (oldest in the USA) this past fall, and continue to audit history courses at Princeton University, where Janet is now in her twelfth year as Dean of Admission. Still playing tennis and fondly

remember representing Stowe in the Yule Cup at Wimbledon. My best to all my team mates.”

Nigel Milne (Chandos 68)



Nigel writes, “I had the great pleasure of seeing my jewellery being modelled by CHERYL FERNANDEZ-VERSINI on several episodes of The X Factor – I have never been so jealous of my jewellery before! I also launched my FIESTA and JOLIE collections, too.”
www.nigelmilne.co.uk

Richard Nicholl (Lyttelton 69)

Richard writes, “Since last year I have become a Governor at Canford School, twin to Stowe in the Allied Schools. My summer 2014 was a busy one doubling my grandchildren numbers with two little boys, Sebastian and Hugo.”

1970s

Julian Boles (Chandos 72)

Julian is launching a special Gem Expert & Valuer Course in 2015 to enable anyone to speed up the process in becoming an accepted expert in coloured gem and diamond evaluation. It will be based in London with laboratory time, where the equipment and spectrometers are housed, and open to anyone interested in gaining new skills, or applying the top level negotiation training included to a different field of commerce. Julian is director of the British Gemmological Institute [BGI] in London, and the Course will last for 8-10 months, with flexibility in timing, and a completion certificate awarded. Information on the details from bgi@bgiuk.com

Neil Davidson (Cobham 72)

Neil has a filming company, MWP Digital Media that has made all the training videos for the Rugby World Cup in 2015, and is working with over 70 FTSE200 and hundreds of small businesses to dominate their sector through video marketing. He has opened offices in Sydney, Johannesburg and Los Angeles.

Etienne Millner (Grenville 72)



Etienne completed a bust of Sir Donald Gosling for the newly named Gosling Gallery at the Navy Museum, Portsmouth. The bust, commissioned by the former First Sea Lord Sir Jonathan Band, in recognition of Sir Donald's £25m donation for the restoration of HMS Victory, was unveiled by HRH The Princess Anne on 26 June 2014. He has been commissioned by the Royal Mint to design the £20 coin to mark the 50th anniversary of the death of Sir Winston Churchill in 2015. He has also exhibited nine sculptures in The Great British Sculpture Exhibition at Hatfield House from April to September 2014 and represented Britain in the Changsha International Sculpture Symposium, China, from 15 September to 1 November making a 5 metre bronze sculpture – *Divers*.

Salvador Potter (Cobham 72)

Salvador recently retired as Chief Executive of the PGRO Agricultural Research Station and has moved back to Fowey in Cornwall.

Michael Wright (Chandos 72)



Michael writes, “A few other yachts are with us on this transatlantic journey, but they will soon disappear over the horizon. We travel cocooned in our small, sail-powered world, unable to escape. St Lucia, an abstract destination 3,100 miles distant, may be three weeks' away. For now, there is the wind and the waves, lifting, surging and twisting us corkscrew fashion. I am struck by the vastness of the ocean, the shining sunsets and sunrises. Beautiful dolphins playing in bow waves, with flying fish unwittingly joining us on board. The sky at night is like black velvet, lit by numerous stars, with so many shooting stars that you lose count. This is an easy environment in which to contemplate infinity and eternity. In the 'real world', we are caught up in wealth and success, intoxicated by it, forgetting to

wonder at the awesome beauty and fragility of the environment. Too busy to live, we forget to attend to those things that might help us to discover our true significance and smallness. We remember it is the virtue of humility that helps us to discover our true significance and smallness. Wealth and success are poor educators, because they dupe us into forgetting our limits.”

Max Coventry (Walpole 73)

The main thing that Max Coventry learnt at Stowe was how enjoyable fishing is and he continues this agreeable pursuit in the rivers of north Wales, except in winter, when he plays chess and attends to none-too-arduous duties as President of the Chester & District Chess League.

John Lloyd Morgan (Lyttelton 74)

John continues to work as a consultant jeweller in London. He specialises in private shows of his pieces all over the UK and also, once a year, in the USA. As well as creating one-off pieces of jewellery, he can also take on the cleaning and repairing of all jewellery, silver and watches. There is a service to re-design old jewels, to source antique jewellery and to commission new pieces. He has no shop and therefore his prices are very affordable! For details of the next show in London (the end of March 2015), please look at his website – www.johnlloydmorgan.com

Rupert Wheeler (Temple 74)



Rupert's project for Hall & Woodhouse in Portishead, Somerset, was awarded 'Pub Design of the Year' in the 2014 CAMRA and English Heritage awards. The pub and restaurant is built largely from shipping containers and is shortly due to be extended upwards with another three floors of containers to add 45 hotel rooms.

Rajiv Bendre (Chatham 75)

Rajiv writes, “I took early retirement from the British Council in 2010, after a 25 year stint, picking up an OBE and a mention in the House of Commons for my work in Sierra Leone during the war there.

Retirement was mainly 'to spend more time with the family', as I believe politicians call it – but true in my case. (I had a succession of non-family postings including SL and Iraq!). Currently, I split my time between NZ (where my Kiwi wife Kathy has settled with our two 20 something daughters); India where I have parent care responsibilities (92 year old father) and London where I have friends and a (non-Stoic) brother. No paid work, but I am a Trustee on one of the Prince's Trust charities (the Prince's School of the Traditional Arts).”

Christopher Drake (Walpole 75)

Christopher writes, “One thing I've done during the past year, that I should not forget about, is getting Hong Kong Friends of Stowe formed here as a registered charity. It took quite a bit of time but it's done now! The next task of course will be some activities and hopefully attracting some support as well! I continue to be involved with a number of charities and an addition last year was becoming Managing Director (as a part-time position) of the Kwok Scholars Association which assists regarding scholarships for talented individuals from Hong Kong and China with a commitment to public service. Looking ahead to 2015, I'm planning a trek around three sacred mountains in the Ganzi Tibetan region of south west Sichuan; apart from a great adventure, we also plan to raise some funds.”

Neill Orr (Grenville 75)

Neill moved to Alberta, Canada in 1978 to avoid the recession, and has been there ever since. He has been employed in corporate marketing departments for the past 30 years or so, mostly promoting Canadian software products into North America. Last year also saw the launch of his consulting company, NOX Marketing, with software clients in the healthcare industry, and the B2B Oil and Gas market.

Greg Bell (Grenville 76)

Greg writes, “I was appointed as Development Director of Henley Investments Ltd in Sept 2014. We carry out high end residential development in central London. I celebrated my 25th wedding anniversary in May 2014 with my wife, Sue. We have three sons. James, the eldest, is about to qualify as a doctor in April 2015. Edward is studying Business Management at Reading University (Henley Business School), while Oliver is reading Civil Engineering at Bristol University. I keep in regular

contact with Nader Salour (Cobham 77) who has a development company in Jupiter, Florida and has been incredibly successful."

Major General Sir William Cubitt (Temple 76)

William runs his family's estate in Norfolk. He is also County President for Norfolk of The Royal British Legion and Vice Chairman of Norfolk Country Land and Business Association.

Howard Goodall (Lyttelton 76)

Howard writes, "It might be of interest to OS folk that my new musical *Bend It Like Beckham*, opens in the West End at the Phoenix Theatre for previews in May (opening proper 24 June 2015)." There's some blurb about it here: <http://benditlikebeckhamthemusical.co.uk>

James Hollond (Lyttelton 77)

James writes, "I have just moved to New York and am engaged to the accomplished Italian artist and photographer, Yasmine Chatila. Having produced films such as, *PS I Love You* and *Dorian Gray*, I have now completed my own film script."

Simon Clegg (Chatham 78)

Simon Clegg CBE (Chatham 78) is presently Chief Operating Officer of the inaugural European Games in Baku, Azerbaijan, Chairman of Great Britain Badminton and an elected Executive Board member of the British Olympic Association.

David Thomas (Chatham 78)



David writes, "I was at Stowe at the same time as Alan Dweck (Grafton 79). We weren't great mates at school (not much in common!) but we certainly remember each other. We hadn't kept in touch but we now both live in Sydney. I met Alan again at Old Stoic functions in Sydney organised by Chris Chance (Chandos 74). By an amazing coincidence, Alan and I both sent our sons (Toby Thomas and Jasper Dweck) to Knox

Grammar School. They are both in exactly the same year and both graduate this year! We met up at the final Valedictory Dinner in September 2014. Alan and I both wore our Old Stoic ties. There is a great photo of the four of us, with Toby and Jasper in their Knox old boys' ties and blazers. I guess it goes without saying that this is quite amazing considering our schools are at the opposite sides of the world! I wonder whether this has ever happened before!" From left to right: Toby Thomas (Knox 2014), David Thomas (Chatham 78), Alan Dweck (Grafton 79) and Jasper Dweck (Knox 2014).

Marc Hope (Cobham 79)



Marc spearheaded the successful commercial sponsorship programme for The Glasgow 2014

Commonwealth Games. He has since been selected to fight Central Ayrshire in this coming May's General Election for The Conservative Party, whilst continuing his day job in Sports Marketing working with Olympic Sports and British Teams. Marc has also extended his Non Executive Board Director/Trustee role with London Youth Games to become Vice Chairman.

Richard Montgomery (Chandos 79)

Richard is a Managing Director at JP Morgan, heading up the Emerging Market Credit Portfolio. Based in London, he travels extensively throughout the Middle East, Africa, Eastern Europe and Russia and would be interested in linking up with any Old Stoics active in those areas.

Peter Neufeld (Chandos 79)

Peter has designed the lighting of a revival of the 1974 Alan Ayckbourn play *Absent Friends*. It opened at Sydney's harbour front Ensemble Theatre in December 2014 and has happily received exemplary reviews before it tours in 2015. This is the 17th play he has lit at the Ensemble Theatre which is Australia's oldest and wealthiest theatre company – and one which receives no government support on any level but remains a stalwart of the Australian theatre scene. He is slated to light several more plays there in 2015 among other projects. 1974 was the year he arrived at Stowe and he says hello to all 79ers."

1980s

Adrian Beney (Grafton 80)

Having moved from Stowe to Durham in 1981, and having spent 33 years living in the incomparable North East of England, Adrian moved to north Gloucestershire last summer, following his wife's appointment as Vicar in the Gloucester diocese.

Laura Greaves (née Morrish, Stanhope 80)

Laura writes, "I have never contributed to *The Corinthian* so thought I might share news this year. First of all, though, I should say I married Frank Greaves in 1986 and we have a daughter Bethany (16 years). We live in SW London. Previously a primary school teacher, I retired and am now an Occupational Therapist working at a local hospital. Frank works for a Christian charity, Tearfund, as their Water and Sanitation Adviser – we also worked together overseas for several years (1989 to 2000) with Tearfund in our early married life. Our news this year is that we have just adopted 2 lovely boys (6 and 5 years of age)."

Guy Robinson (Temple 80)

Guy was due to return at the end of 2014 from Shanghai where he has been Managing Director – JCB China, manufacturing and selling excavators. He has been in China for two years with his family and has taken up the role of Managing Director – JCB Global Sales from January 2015.

Kate Measham (née Cunningham, Stanhope 81)

Kate writes, "I run art courses on the Wiltshire/Hampshire borders concentrating on drawing, painting in different media and experimenting with new methods and ideas." Please contact her direct via the Members' area of the OS website.

Toby Sparrow (Temple 81)



Toby writes, "Since January 2012 my wife, Susanne, and I have been in Singapore with SAP, a global business software company, in a role covering South East Asia. Our children Emma (21) and Tom (20) are both at University in Manchester and Chester respectively. We had the

pleasure of meeting other Old Stoics and the Headmaster at a very well-attended Old Stoic reunion in Singapore in 2014."

Mark Cazalet (Grenville 82)



Mark's etched and engraved glass window of St Cedd was installed in Chelmsford Cathedral and dedicated in October 2014 by the Bishop of Chelmsford, The Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell. The window is a laminate of two sheets engraved on three sides creating the depth of tone and movement within the design. The seventh century saint is shown within a stone opening holding a plumb line to assess the soundness of the church, both as an architectural structure and theologically. St Cedd's Stole has become a path for pilgrims, who ascending to his shoulder travel on via a ladder to a distant heaven. At the apex of the light is a trinitarian symbol taken from an illumination in the Lindisfarne Bible, his mother monastery. The allegory of a saint who becomes the means of ascent for future generations is alluded to in a quote from T.S.Eliot's *Four Quartets*, at the base of the window: In my end is my beginning. Mark continues to teach at The Royal Drawing School on the post diploma Drawing Year.

Marcus Cotton (Chatham 82)

Marcus continues to head Tiger Mountain Nepal and welcomes any Old Stoics visiting the Himalayan land. He is also the Nepal co-ordinator of CAIRN Trust UK, working to improve education in remote villages by improved classrooms, libraries, education support and early child development practices. CAIRN works closely with excellent local partners including the Gurkha Welfare Scheme, Pahar Trust, Saathi and GAN Nepal.

Charles Hopkinson-Woolley (Temple 82)

Charles writes, "After two years in Monaco we felt that it was time to come back to the UK so I am now working for NewSmith Asset Management as Head of Alternatives and Head of Product."

Doro Morrison
(Cobham 82)



Doro has recently had his third book published, the biography of three time boxing World Champion, Azumah Nelson. He has also started filming his 3rd and 4th documentaries which he hopes will be completed by the end of 2015, finances willing.

Christian Castell
(Grenville 83)

Christian writes, "Yes it is true, I was far from the perfect scholar, in fact, quite the opposite. However, I have begun a musical sideline and formed a band, *The Jackanory Story...* in South Africa. We have been recognised as healers in music. A documentary is in the making and our first album has been released. The website below is for the trailer to the documentary and the music is on Amazon...help an Old Stoic by making ends meet...I knew I should have studied!" www.000000.co.uk

Chris Neve
(Chandos 83)

Chris lives in Worongary, Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia with his wife Samantha and three children, Polly 20, William 18 and Emilia 14, where they have lived since Feb 2007, after emigrating from Petersfield in the UK. He is the Director of his own company Millstream Consulting that assists SME businesses in SE Qld. He is enjoying the outdoor Australian lifestyle with his family. Old Stoics are welcome to contact him for networking via LinkedIn. www.millstreamconsulting.com

Andrew Neve
(Chandos 83)

Andrew is living in Cochrane, Alberta with his wife Elizabeth and their two sons, Rupert, 17 and Edward, 15. He has just completed 6 years with Bell Canada as a Senior Sales Consultant in Telecom/IT to leading companies in Calgary. He is enjoying the Canadian lifestyle – fishing on the Bow River in the summer, skiing in the winter. He completed the Calgary Half Marathon in 2014. Old Stoics are welcome to contact him for networking via LinkedIn.

Dan Thomas
(Chatham 83)

Dan left Geneva and returned to New York in April 2014 to work in the Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General, heading up communications on climate change.

Richard Cleland
(Cobham 84)

Richard is the Owner and Managing Director of Cleland & Souchet Ltd. He is married to Fabrizia and has two daughters, Sophia and Bianca and, has expanded his company (leading wine merchants and retailer of luxury goods) into the catering sector with the launch of a new wine bar and café franchise called C&S WINE CAFÉ. They opened their first outlet in Portomaso, Malta to rave reviews followed by the opening of a second outlet at Malta International Airport in September 2014 and plans for two further outlets to open in 2015. The concept is a distinctive chic café with a seafood menu accompanied with an outstanding offering of 50 quality wines and Champagnes by the glass.

Andrew Hinds
(Temple 84)

Andrew writes, "Last year I was appointed to the British Hallmarking Council, which is responsible for oversight of the UK's four assay offices. In June 2014, I was elected Chairman of the National Association of Goldsmiths, the UK jewellery trade association. Incidentally, our family business, F Hinds, now has five family member Old Stoics from three generations (Roy, David, Andrew, Paul and Jeremy) plus another non-family member Olivia Pendered (Nugent 06)."

Robert Whitehouse
(Bruce 84)

Robert has been promoted to General Manager UK, Ireland & Northern Europe for Almirall SA.

John Young
(Lyttelton 84)

After almost 25 years as a TV reporter and presenter for BBC news in the south-east, John now divides his time between his TV work and running his own business delivering his 'Newsroom Bootcamp' workshops to school pupils – giving them a taste of the adrenaline, deadlines and energy of TV news reporting. www.johnyoungmedia.co.uk

Justin Anderson
(Cobham 85)



Justin and Richie Saville (Chandos 85) are leading the HyperCat consortium which is gathering pace at the standard driving the Internet of Things. The consortium has over 250 members including ARM, Intel, BT, IBM & Samsung. We are making some big waves.

Mark Kitto
(Grenville 85)



That's China, How a British Rebel took on the Chinese Propaganda System, was published in November 2014. It's the long delayed prequel to Mark's *China Cuckoo, How I lost a fortune and found a life in China* (2009). *That's China* explains how Stowe set Mark on his path to China, and includes swapping notes with another Old Stoic who made a splash in Shanghai, when he flew his airline into the city. www.moganshanlodge.com

Laura Louthan
(Stanhope 85)



Laura writes, "In August 2014 I moved to the San Francisco Bay Area to take a new job with Sephora as their Director of Information Security, with a mandate to build their security programme and embed it in all business processes. I've found a great place in Sausalito with a view of the water and am loving the cooler weather. Looking forward to the start of the ski season, as I'll only be a few hours from the multiple ski resorts around Lake Tahoe."

Helen Pumfrey
(née Mills, Stanhope 85)

Helen is now teaching English at St Edward's, Oxford.

Justin Phillips
(Chandos 86)

Justin writes, "I am now Commercial Director for Freeman based in the UK. We were bought out by an American company (Freeman) last year and specialise in Live events, corporate work and Exhibitions in the UK, Middle East and Africa. I am also a Governor at Sherrardswood School, a small private school in Hertfordshire, which resembles a smaller version of Stowe in its beautiful grounds."

Sophie Rudolf
(Stanhope 86)

Sophie has spent most of her teaching career in London at various prep schools. Currently, she is on a year's sabbatical in Israel volunteering with CMJ churches mission to the Jews, started by Wilberforce. She is in their guesthouse in Tel Aviv having served in their retreat centre in the Galilee. In 2015, she will be in Jerusalem in the old city at their third centre Christchurch.

Richard Hopkinson-Woolley
(Chandos 87)

Richard writes, "After 10 years as a partner at City law firm, Berwin Leighton Paisner, last year I joined International law firm, DLA Piper, in their City Office, continuing to practise Real Estate Law. I have been pleased to assist a number of Stoics and Old Stoics over the last couple of years or so, with advice on careers and work experience. The inaugural Careers' Fair up at Stowe last year was an excellent idea. I was happy to have been able to assist with that and, as a current parent of two Stoics, I very much hope the initiative will be repeated as I can see it being of huge benefit to pupils investigating different careers."

Paul Saville
(Chandos 87)



Paul continues his work for Lionbridge Inc. on the Rolls-Royce Defence Aerospace contract in Filton. As Project Manager, he now holds responsibility for technical authoring teams across six defence projects. He also continues as Lionbridge STE Trainer, where his work has been extended to train Lionbridge staff working on the Airbus contract, at sites both in the UK and India.

Jonathan Humbert
(Cobham 89)



Jonathan sold over £30M worth of fine art, antiques, cigars and classic cars in 2014. He sold a 1971 Ferrari Daytona Spyder for £2.27M in a London sale which grossed £9.9M and has broken more than 10 world record prices for classic cars sale prices in 2014 at five other major car auction events. Jonathan conducted Chris Evans 'Carfest' auctions in 2012/13 raising over £88,000 for BBC's Children in Need. He also recently conducted one of the world's largest auctions of rare and mature cigars in Belgravia which grossed over £550,000 and in which a single humidor of Cubatabaco 1492 cigars made £26,500! Jonathan has also raised over £250,000 for charity at auctions in London, Birmingham

and on the Cote D'Azur as well as regularly filming with UK production companies and the BBC. Jonathan is always inviting entries for his auctions of classic cars, fine art and antiques where discounted rates are available for Old Stoics.

1990s

Roo Fisher (Grafton 90)

Roo is Head of Residential for Savills, Lincoln and now lives in Lincolnshire.

Pippa Heggie (Stanhope 90)

Pippa is delighted to be working again after five fun filled years enjoying the children while they were little, now marketing some super holiday cottages in the South Downs National Park. "Do take a look, they're perfect for big gatherings of friends or family, rent one or all five together! Have a look at Wallops Wood Cottages."

Toby Crosthwaite (Grenville 91)

Toby writes, "After eight years in Hong Kong and then seven years in Singapore I have moved back to the UK and live near Wantage, Oxfordshire. I have two daughters – Amber, aged 8 and Clementine, aged 5. Married to Louise. I am working in London as a Partner at Russell Reynolds Associates where I have worked since 2007. Reconnecting with a number of Old Stoic friends and keen to catch up with more please."

Giles Dawson (Walpole 91)



On 1 October 2014, Giles moved to Lisbon, Portugal to work for The Garland Group. This was after living for 18 years in Chile and Colombia running his own IT business. The Garland Group is a family run business which has been in operation since 1776 specialising in the transport, shipping and logistics services, with offices in Portugal, Spain and Morocco. He has joined

his father Bruce Dawson (Walpole 60), his uncle Peter Dawson (Walpole 68) and his brother Mark Dawson (Walpole 89). Left to right: Giles Dawson, Peter Dawson, Bruce Dawson, Mark Dawson.

Maurits Gorlee (Walpole 91)

Maurits writes to say, "As of 1 August 2014 I am now senior consultant at The Compliance Company Group (TCCG). This is based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands and specialises in international trade compliance (amongst others EU and U.S. export controls, economic sanctions and anti-money laundering)."

Alex McEwen (Chatham 91)

Alex is still at Waddesdon and has now taken over the running of all weddings and corporate events at Waddesdon and the Five Arrows Hotel. He is happy to offer Stoics/Old Stoics a 10% discount. www.waddesdon.org.uk

Angus Watson (Chandos 91)



Angus is married and living with his wife, son, dog and two cats in west London. His first novel *Age of Iron*, part one of the *Age of Iron* epic historical fantasy fiction trilogy, has been published by Orbit and is available from all good book-selling websites.

Vicky Nice (née Thompson, Stanhope 92)

Vicky writes, "I'm living in Rudgwick, West Sussex with Ed and daughters, Saskia (6) and Libby (4). Motherhood necessitated abandoning my first career in TV production and I now run an interior design and blind-making business from home, which I love. www.vickyniceinteriors.co.uk I'm in regular contact with Charlotte Hands (née Spicer), Clare Westcott (née Cox) and Bertie Taylor-Young (née Sanderson), all Stanhope 92."

Alexandra Baker (née James, Nugent 93)

Alexandra has now become Business Director of Private Sales at Christie's.

William Evelyn (Chandos 93)

William writes to say that "Hotel Tumuñan Lodge was awarded the 2014 Traveller's Choice Award for the best lodge in central Chile by Tripadvisor."

Katie Houghton (Nugent 93)

Katie and her father Michael Houghton (Chatham 58) have worked closely since the death of their brother and son, Robert Houghton (Walpole 89), to develop the family business into ICNet International, a global software company specialised in monitoring healthcare associated infections in over 1200 hospitals. In February 2014, Michael and Katie sold ICNet to Baxter Healthcare. Michael is now enjoying retirement, whilst Katie has been retained by Baxter as Head of ICNet Operations, responsible for worldwide installations and sales in Europe, Middle East and Africa.

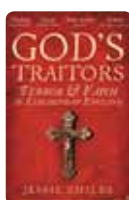
Revd Graham Platt (Former Staff, 1983-1994)

Graham writes, "I have returned to France to retire from full-time ministry. I am now living close to Carcassonne in the medieval village of Fanjeaux, the birthplace of the Dominican Order. I help out at the nearby Dominican Convent at Prouilhe. It would be good to hear from any Old Stoics who knew me and you will be welcome to come and stay. My email address is grahamplatt@hotmail.com"

Nic Tissot (Chatham 94)

Nic writes, "I am still working for Mirabaud, a global banking group based in Switzerland. I am COO of brokerage and corporate finance globally and of its London operations. This means I travel more than I would like and has certainly been an exciting ride in the last few years. I have three children, Tatiana (9), Elodie (nearly 7) and Felix (4). We live in Wandsworth and I still see many many Old Stoics."

Jessie Fletcher (née Childs, Lyttelton 95)



Jessie's second book, *God's Traitors: Terror and Faith in Elizabethan England*, was published by Bodley Head in 2014 and will come out in paperback in March 2015. It was a Book of the Year in the *Sunday Times*, *Daily Telegraph*, *The Times*, *Observer* and

BBC History Magazine, and was longlisted for the Samuel Johnson Prize for Non-Fiction. She had a wonderful time – and a very good dinner – with the Stowe History Society on 1 October 2014. Her website is: www.jessiechilds.co.uk and she can be found chirping on Twitter here: [@childs_jessie](https://twitter.com/childs_jessie)

Matt Newnham (Temple 95)

Matt is living in Norwich and is a Partner with the law firm Birketts LLP, specialising in Employment Law.

Richard Thorneycroft (Walpole 95)

Richard is teaching English and Art to the children of his two local schools in the south of France, one of which is attended by his six year old son, Sebastian. He has helped to establish a Cricket Club at the Club Polo de St Cannat near Aix en Provence and has even persuaded some of his compatriots to play the game... "Any touring sides are welcome to get in touch to arrange matches on our beautiful pitch under the Provençal sun and enjoy some of the local rosé!"

Gavin Ng (Grenville 96)

Gavin writes, "My wife, Chanel, and I are expecting our second child at the beginning of January 2015. At work, my company, WebSwami, is currently launching "BBC Business English" a mobile/web video learning platform which I've designed in collaboration with the BBC."

Richard De Butts (Grenville 97)

Richard writes, "I have been living in north London since 2011 when I got back from South Sudan where I had been working for Médecin Sans Frontières. I am now working as a doctor specialising in acute medicine and infectious diseases at University College Hospital."

Dr Tom Smith Walker (Chatham 97)

Tom is now living in Cornwall, married to Lisa and with three lovely children; Isabella, Leo and Felix. He graduated from St. Bartholemews & The Royal London School of Medicine in 2003. Recently, he has been appointed as a Consultant in Obstetrics & Gynaecology at the Royal Cornwall Hospital with a specialist interest in minimal access surgery.

Mark Bowman
(Cobham 98)



Mark took part in his second Ironman, Ironman Copenhagen, in August 2014. This involved a 2.4 mile swim, 112 mile ride and a marathon to finish. Mark finished in 11 hours 47 minutes. He has also recently been involved in a landmark legal case in the Court of Appeal. At the time of writing, judgement is awaited, but it is hoped that following Mark's case, anonymity will be more readily granted to children who have suffered catastrophic injuries at birth, and who recover multi-million pound clinical negligence settlements.

Michael De Butts
(Grenville 99)

Michael has recently returned from China after installing his giant straw fox in Shanghai International Sculpture Park, where it won Shanghai Sculpture of the Year Award 2014. He continues to manage his outdoor sculpture company 'Shipshape Arts'.

Charles Randall
(Cobham 99)

Charlie writes, "Randall's is an import export agency with offices in Shanghai, by the Bund. With teams in Mexico, Vietnam, India, Turkey, we are well positioned to help you manufacture. Randall's focus is in footwear, jewellery, homewares and textiles. For imports, we are looking for product into China – wine so far!" www.randallsltd.com

2000

Stephen Davis
(Chandos 00)

Stephen moved last November from working with Vodafone on their mobile marketing strategy to a Head of Digital role for a media agency called Mostly Media based in Bath.

Mr Catesby Langer-Paget
(Walpole 00)

Catesby moved back to the UK from Bahrain in December 2014 to work on a new residential property company called DC Derata (www.dcderata.com) with his brother, Rodney, (Walpole 03).

Juliane Althoff
(Nugent 01)

Jules writes, "I qualified as a solicitor in October 2014 and am now working as an Associate for Michael Simkins LLP, a leading media and entertainment law firm in London."

Amelia Annfield
(Nugent 01)

Amelia writes, "I am back living in London having been away freelancing in Australia and New Zealand for the last four years. I am a stylist and creative production coordinator, mainly working in film and events but I also take on interior decoration work and creative design for weddings. I can't resist a creative project!" Please get in contact ameliaannfield@gmail.com

Andy Comber
(Grenville 01)

Andy writes, "After six and a half wonderful years at Edgerley Simpson Howe (the late Bill Edgerley was an OS), I have moved on to pastures new and joined JLL in December 2013, as Associate Director in the Out of Town Retail department."

Jess Maisey
(Lyttelton 01)



Jess has recently taken a side-step in her career from interior designer, to become the Business Development Manager of the British luxury, heritage brand, Savoir Beds (www.savoirbeds.co.uk). For anyone wishing to purchase a Savoir Bed, please contact me for a 15% Friends and Family discount: jessicamaisey@savoirbeds.co.uk In all other news – fit and well and enjoying living in Hampstead with her long-term boyfriend.

Ed Black
(Bruce 02)

Ed is currently working for Price Forbes, a Lloyd's Broker, specialising in War and Terrorism Insurance.

Miss Sophie Housley
(Nugent 02)

Sophie writes, "Since graduating from Oxford University with a Masters in Women's Studies, I've spent the past six years working in the NGO/charity sector with a focus on women and the environment.

After spending six months working with various women's organisations in India in 2012, I then took up a role with the MicroLoan Foundation – which provides small business loans, skills training, and ongoing mentoring to economically marginalised, rural women in Malawi and Zambia. In August 2014, I moved to The Netherlands to work with one of the oldest global women's funds called Mama Cash, where I manage a portfolio of over 40 international women's rights grantees working on labour rights, natural resource rights, land, property and inheritance rights."

Ed West
(Grafton 02)



Ed has been running the family business Sundance Pools since 2010, a UK leading supplier of one-piece swimming pools currently based near Milton Keynes. In the summer of 2014, one of their pools was featured on Channel 4's *Double Your House For Half The Money*, and the business continues to expand, with a premises move planned for Spring 2015. More details on the company's news page www.sundancepools.co.uk/news In other news, Ed and his wife, Alice, are expecting a baby in March 2015.

Sofie Askew
(née Tkachuk, Nugent 03)

Sofie left her role as Director at one of the UK's most successful travel PR agencies to set up her own Luxury Travel PR agency – Sofie Askew PR. She is currently looking after a range of wonderful hotels and tour operators, including Aardvark Safaris, The Sanssouci Collection, Bespoke Switzerland and The Brackenbury Restaurant. Through passion, extensive knowledge and drive, Sofie delivers excellent results by targeting bespoke media coverage to create maximum PR impact for clients.

Will Gallimore
(Bruce 03)



Will met another OS, Sir Richard Branson (Cobham/Lyttelton 68) at the Fast Track 100 Conference in May 2014.

Henry Kimbell
(Chandos 04)



After getting married to Bella in 2013, Henry is still heavily involved in the world of charity fundraising – working in London. During the 2014

summer, he worked on a large scale Charity Golf Day at Royal Wimbledon Golf Club, as part of their Captain's Charity Day, which raised £90,000 for Kidney Research UK. He still retains his passion for horse racing and is currently involved in running a charity horse racing syndicate. Any Old Stoics who are stuck for a birthday, anniversary or wedding present then why not consider taking a share in this? For further information visit www.kimbaileyracing.com/partnerships/gsttkpa or email henrykimbell@hotmail.com He intends to make a long overdue visit to Stowe during 2015.

Dr Brian Orger
(Former staff, 1980-2004)



Brian and Frances Orger write, "Last summer, whilst on a holiday trip to British Columbia and Alaska, Frances and I spent a day on Vancouver Island in glorious sunshine, meeting up with former tutee, Dan Hayes (Bruce 99), his wife Micayla and their delightful little daughter, Juliette. Dan, who trained as a chef with Rick Stein after leaving Stowe, and his Victoria-born wife, now run 'The London Chef' cookery school on the island. Sadly, the day we visited the island, (a Sunday) was their day off, so we could not sample Dan's cooking. Instead, we enjoyed delicious halibut and chips with them at a harbour-side market before they took us to the famous Buchar Gardens, and then on to the ferry for the trip back to the mainland. A memorable final day of our visit to Canada! Dan and Micayla have had a very busy summer – as well as catering for weddings, they also run cooking courses for visitors and local schools. They are very happy in Victoria and send greetings to OS friends and families and an invitation to get in touch if visiting Vancouver or Victoria."

Harry Thuillier (Bruce 04)



Harry has joined his brother Charlie (Bruce 07) to launch Oppo healthy ice cream into Waitrose and Ocado.com. Created by Charlie, the ice cream replaces sugar and cream with stevia leaf and virgin coconut oil, and each flavour is boosted with super foods to make an indulgent ice cream. The idea was born during an expedition the Thuillier brothers did in Brazil – travelling 1000km along the coast using kites. They ran out of supplies so started eating coconuts and the local açai berry. This sparked a love for using natural ingredients to make the most indulgent foods healthy. www.oppoicecream.co.uk

Jeremy Hinds (Temple 06)

Jeremy and Paul Hinds (Temple 04) have joined David (Temple 77), Andrew (Temple 84) and Roy (Walpole 51) at F. Hinds the Jewellers; now into the 6th generation of the Hinds family to work in the business.

Charles Thuillier (Bruce 07)

Please see Harry's entry above for Charles' news.

Max Mackintosh (Chatham 08)

Max works in marketing for an electric car sharing company called E-Car club, based in London. He is enjoying his role as the company is looking to grow outside London and into Europe.

Charlotte Matthews (Lyttelton 09)

Charlotte writes, "I am currently working at St Philemon's Church in Toxteth, Liverpool (the vicar of the church is Brian Elfick who was a past Chaplain Assistant at Stowe 1998-2000). I have really enjoyed reading the Bible with some girls at a local school, helping out with youth groups, and learning how to mass cater! Liverpoolians are great, as is

sharing the good news about Jesus!"

Matshidiso Nhlapo (Stanhope 09)

Matshidiso writes, "I am currently a university student at the university of Pretoria. I am studying towards a Bachelor's degree in Education. I was part of the first five Branson scholars who went to Stowe in 2009. It was a life changing experience and I will be eternally grateful for the opportunity. Next year is my year of practicals and I have chosen to teach in a small school called Golden Gates Memorial School and is located in Malawi in a little village called Biwi. In the age of technology, most if not all education has become integrated with technological innovations. For example, many schools in South Africa have stopped using print textbooks as the learners now use e textbooks on iPads. While working in Malawi, I would like to bring in some technology to the School. I am planning a workshop for the teachers on how to integrate their lessons with technology. I am also trying to raise funds for smartboards, screens and projectors. Please spread the message. If there are any Old Stoics who would like to donate something or are interested in this project they can email me." tshidi.nhlapo4@gmail.com

Alexander Thompson (Grenville 09)

Alexander has now graduated from the Slade School of Fine Art. His short film *Gallery Girl*, made for his degree show, won an Audience Choice award at the Santa Monica Independent Film Festival in LA. He is now making and directing in-house videos for BMB, a major London advertising agency, as well as making fashion films for Phoenix fashion magazine and editing music videos for House music producer, Daniel Avery. His work can be found at www.awtstudios.com

Albie Mackintosh (Chatham 10)

Albie graduated from Oxford Brookes in 2014 and is currently doing a Masters in Neuroscience at UCL. He is now working on how developmental disorders within the cortex may lead to autism and schizophrenia. He has also recently been made an author on a paper of the role of stem cells in certain childhood brain tumours.

Winnie Maganjo (Nugent 10)



Winnie writes, "After gaining a BSc in Economics at SOAS, I have recently been awarded a Graduate Entrepreneurship Visa to pursue my start up natural flavoured nut butter company, Nutter. I started Nutter as a university project when I realised there was a gap in the market for nut butters that packed a punch in flavour, without compromising on nutrition or quality of ingredients. We are launching in January 2015 with three flavours, Coconut Cashew Butter, Espresso Almond Butter and Maple & Pecan Almond Butter. I'm excited for the next stage of this journey and cannot wait to share the nut butters with our customers both old and new."

Alexander Middleton (Bruce 10)

Alexander writes, "I am currently a Senior Auditor at Mazars LLP, and studying towards a professional accountancy qualification (ACCA). I have fond memories of the School and my beloved Bruce House. I hope events such as 'Unplugged' are still a fixture on the calendar, as I found that event particularly memorable."

Nicholas Rewcastle (Grenville 10)

Nicholas writes, "In January 2015, I started a new job as an Account Manager in a Sports PR agency based in Brighton, where I will be moving to, to live with my girlfriend."

Sena Oztosun (Stanhope 13)

Sena writes, "After graduating from Stowe, a new exciting chapter in my life has begun when I moved to New York City to study Economics at Columbia University, Barnard College. This is my second year at university. In addition to Economics, I enjoy studying a variety of other subjects including English Literature, German and Art History as the university has a strong Liberal Arts curriculum. In July 2014, I travelled to Berlin as a FUBIS scholar selected by Columbia Germanic Languages department to explore the German culture and language. After my visit to Berlin, I became the Ambassador of Freie Universität Berlin on Columbia's campus. Also, I have recently been appointed as the personal research assistant to the President of the College. I provide research support for the President's scholarly articles and books. My main research focus at the moment is the Economics of Africa. I attend American Friends of Stowe events in New York and am enjoying life in the US!"

1960s

Roger Grandsen (Grenville 67)

Roger married Pauline Collard (née Banyard) on 5 July 2014 at the Church of St Peter in Stourton Candule, Dorset.

1970s

Anthony Davies (Bruce 71)

Anthony writes, "I'm pleased to tell you that I got married on 14 February 2014 to Alison (formerly Martin) at The Royal Hotel, Ventnor, Isle of Wight. My best man was my son, Jonti, and Alison was given away by her elder son Isaac, attended by her elder daughter Claire and her other two children Laura and Sam gave readings. We live in Freshwater Bay on the Isle of Wight and continue to run The Really Green Holiday Company, an eco-friendly Yurt camping site." www.thereallygreenholidaycompany.com

Neill Orr (Grenville 75)



Neill married Cheryl White, on 17 May 2014, at the Muttart Conservatory, in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada with a group of 30 close friends and family where

they had a lovely reception and dinner, with a little wedding on the side! He met Cheryl three years ago at a social event and they have been best friends ever since. Cheryl had never been married, has no children, having dedicated her life to sports and works with the local government, so we welcomed her into our family, and she is loved by all!

1980s

Thomasina Sandys (née Boddy, Nugent 89)



Thomasina married George Sandys on 26 September 2014 in the Lake District. Old Stoics who attended were: James Adams (Grenville 87), Clare van Moppes, (née Kirton, Nugent 89), Alex van Moppes (Cobham 89), Alexa Pearmund (née Oliver, Nugent 93), D'Arcy Wyvill (Temple 93), Henry Warhurst (Grafton 02) and Charlie Shirley-Beavan (Grenville 03).

MARRIAGES

1990s

Lee Harris (Cobham 91)

Lee married Daniela on 19 July 2014 at Camden Town Hall and the reception was at The Groucho Club. Old Stoics present were Sirri Al-Kaylani (Cobham 90), Ola Nathan-Marsh (Cobham 90), Nick Bishop (Cobham 94) Robert Langford (Cobham 91) and Anthony Biffa (Cobham 91).

Alexander Shepherd (Cobham 91)

Alexander married Nadia Farac on 4 May 2013. They have since relocated to Singapore.

Rory Symes (Chatham 92)



Rory married Sarah Webster on 30 August 2014 at St Andrews Church, Sonning and afterwards at Stubbings House. The Best Man was Piers Williams (Bruce 92) and Sholto Vaughan (Bruce 96) also attended.

Michael Thatcher (Temple 93)

Michael married Samantha Couzens in August 2013 and they have just had a baby girl Bronte-Blossom. They are all a little overexcited but battling through it in their newly refurbished home in London.

Richard De Butts (Grenville 97)



Richard married Anjali Pai in March 2014.

Ambrose Waddell-Dudley (Walpole 98)



Ambrose married Sarah-Jane Seel on 20 September 2014, the service was held at Broughton Church, Broughton. Front left to right: Simon Dudley (Walpole 59), Sarah-Jane Dudley (née Seel), Ambrose Dudley

(Walpole 98) Back left to right: Admiral Sir James Burnell-Nugent (Grafton 67), William Dudley (Walpole 00), Piers Winton (Walpole 00), Lara Somerleyton (née Bailey, Nugent 99), Charles Bailey (Walpole 98), Patrick Dudley (Walpole 58) and Anthony Burnell-Nugent (Walpole 98).

Hugo Chance (Grafton 99)



Hugo married Rebecca Martin at Over Stowey church in Somerset on 19 July 2014.

Despite a forecast of thunder and lightening, the sun held and they had a fantastic day. They now live in Notting Hill and are enjoying married life. Hugo has also recently been taken on by Zeus Capital in London as their Head of Private Clients specialising in pre IPO investments.

Caroline Court (née Sabberton, Lyttelton 99)



Caroline writes, "On the 24 May this year I married Nicholas Court. We were married at Madingley Church near Cambridge, where I grew up. My father, David Sabberton (Temple 62), walked me down the aisle. One of my four bridesmaids was another Old Stoic, Sally Oliphant (Lyttelton 99). It was the most amazing day with our families and friends."

Michael De Butts (Grenville 99)



Michael married Diana Corbett in May 2014.

Stuart Healey (Walpole 99)



Stuart married Natalie Elsworth on 19 April 2013 at Rudding Park in Harrogate, and they live in Dubai.

Robin Jones (Grenville 99)



Robin married Natasha Bailey on 30 August 2014 in Burton Bradstock

Church, Dorset with a large contingent of Old Stoics present: From left to right: Bella Butler (née Lloyd-Owen, Nugent 99), Tim Hook (Walpole 99), Adam Cottrell (Bruce 99), Robert Bell (Grafton 99), Charlie Fenwick (Cobham 99), Charlie Duffin (Cobham 99), James Jones (Walpole 99), Charlie Randall (Cobham 99), Natasha Jones (née Bailey), Robin Jones (Grenville 99), Ashley Jones (Grenville 94), Tom Dufty (Bruce 60), Rachael Milford (née Jones, Lyttelton 96), Dudley Howard (Cobham 65), Dan Brandt (Former staff 1988-2003), Harry Girardot (Grafton 99) and Charlie Howard (Grafton 99).

Henry Wood (Bruce 99)

Henry married Isabelle Rowe on 25 October 2014 at Ixworth in Suffolk. Isabelle is a fine jewellery designer. Other Old Stoics in attendance were – Best Man, Adam Cottrell, Matthew Williams, James Haselwood, Rory Scott, (all Bruce 99) Henry Gillingham, Daniel Webster (both Cobham 99), Fran Watts (née Morley-Fletcher, Nugent 99), Louisa Jones, Miranda Campbell-Bowling (both Lyttelton 99) and Andrew Box (Grafton 65).

2000

Hugo Wilson (Grenville 00)

Hugo married Maria und Taxis in 2014. Old Stoics who attended were Flora Soames (Nugent 00), Leo Fenwick (Chatham 99), Ali Spencer-Churchill (Chatham 01), Sami Robertson (Temple 00), Angus Elphinstone (Grenville 00) and Jo Phillips (Nugent 00).

Daisy Gomme (née Lawson, Nugent 01)



Daisy married Peter Gomme (Chandos 98) at St Mary & St Nicholas Church, Chetwode on 26 April 2014. A reception was held at Poundon House and they are currently living in London. Eleven Old Stoics attended and are (left to right) Oliver Harrison (Chandos 98), Christopher Vane (Chandos 65), David Gomme (Grenville 66), Arthur Ward (Walpole 65), Peter Gomme, Daisy Gomme (née Lawson), Melissa Clark (Lyttelton 01), Laura Marshall (née Humber, Lyttelton 98), Camilla Clark (Lyttelton 98), Alice Kent (Lyttelton 01) and Catherine Thorogood (Nugent 01).

Rosie Ward (née Armitage, Lyttelton 03)



Rosie married Peter Ward on 4 October 2014. Old Stoics in attendance were

Georgie Budgett, Anna Nicholls (née Metzger), Louisa Burwood-Taylor and Nicky Osborne, all (Lyttelton 03) together with Danny Kinahan (Temple 75), Hugo Kinahan (Grafton 14) and Mia Kinahan (current pupil).

Caroline de Peyrecave (Nugent 04)



Caroline married Old Stoic, James Lyon (Cobham 99), on 16 August 2014 in Hascombe, Surrey. They met at the first Old Stoic Kensington Roof Gardens Summer Party in 2011. Best man was brother of the groom, Chris Lyon (Cobham 02), OS ushers were Henry Gillingham, James Fielden and Charlie Duffin (all Cobham 99). Many Old Stoic guests were in attendance. From Left to Right, front row: Kelly Kerruish (Nugent 04), Harry Thuillier (Bruce 04), Caroline de Peyrecave, James Lyon, Vicky Stirling (Nugent 04), Henry Gillingham, Charlie Duffin. 2nd row: Frances Ritson (Lyttelton 04), James Feilden, Chris Lyon. 3rd row: Jack Hawkes (Grenville 04), Nigel Milne (Chandos 68), Hubert Bourke Burrows (Chatham 04), Adam Charlton (Chandos 04), Oliver Winton (Walpole 04). Back row: George Prideaux (Grafton 04), Harry Arkwright (Cobham 04).

Sophie Wythe (née Dawes, Nugent 04)



Sophie married Captain Thomas Wythe (9th/12th Royal Lancers) on Saturday 13 December 2014.

Garyth Cooper (Temple 05)



Garyth and Charlotte Scott Gray (Lyttelton 04) were married on 8 September 2012 at Clearwell Castle, in the presence of a few Old Stoics.

BIRTHS

1970s

Miche Henri (Grafton 79)



Miche has a new daughter, Iris Isadora, born on 4 November 2014, a little

sister for Otto (3) and a half-sister to Dominic (26) and Madeleine (21) and much joy for the father (aged 53) who will now have to postpone retirement for a few more years!

1980s

Dr John Buchanan (Chandos 82)

John writes, "My wife Sheridan and I have had a new addition to our family. Henry John Gray Buchanan was born on 14 October 2014 and is a brother for Imogen and William."

Robert Whitehouse (Bruce 84)

Robert and Claire are delighted to announce the arrival of the newest member of our family, Sophia Grace Whitehouse, born on 20 May 2014.

1990s

Roo Fisher (Grafton 90)



Roo and Annabel are delighted to introduce the love of their life Daisy Annabel Fisher born 26 February 2014.

Rupert Mayhew (Bruce 90)

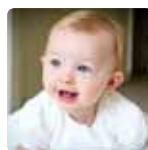
Rupert and his wife, Charlotte, are pleased to announce the birth of George Alexander Dennistoun Mayhew on 17 November 2014.

Alexander Shepherd (Cobham 91)



Alexander and Nadia are pleased to announce the birth of Johnny Shepherd on 5 August 2014.

Rory Symes (Chatham 92)



Rory and Sarah Symes are pleased to announce the arrival of Charlotte Natasha Symes on 3 February 2014.

Peter Brown (Grafton 93)



Peter and his wife, Jo, welcomed their first daughter, Freya, on 23 January 2014.

Iain Hall (Grenville 93)



Iain and his wife Katie are proud to announce the birth of their son, Jamie Cameron Hall. He was born on 30 October 2014, in Edinburgh, Scotland. He was born a healthy 8lbs 10z and has a fine voice on him!

D'Arcy Wyvill (Temple 93)

D'Arcy writes that, "he and his wife, Imogen, are delighted to announce the birth of Grace Elizabeth Mary Wyvill on 25 May 2014."

Andrew Bates (Bruce 94)



Andrew and Amy Dickson welcomed Hope Elizabeth Bates into the world on 29 August 2014.

Cressida Chester-Read (Stanhope/Lyttelton 94)



Cressida had twins on 27 February 2014 at The Queen Mary's Hospital, Hong Kong, where they live. The babies are called Archibald and Beatrice Towler.

Vishal Daryanani (Temple 94)



Vishal and his wife, Priyanka, had a baby boy on 19 April 2014, a brother for Mahika.

Rob Gooch (Temple 94)



Rob writes, "My wife, Anna, gave birth to our first child, Matilda Eleanor Florence Gooch on 29

November 2014. News which I am shouting from the rooftops at every available opportunity!"

Matt Newnham (Temple 95)

Matt writes, "My wife, Sally, and I were delighted on the birth of our son Charlie in February 2014."

Stuart Healey (Walpole 99)



Stuart and his wife, Natalie, had a son, Sebastian Healey who was born on 9 May 2014 in Dubai, UAE.

2000

Olivia Ashfield (née Burwood-Taylor, Lyttelton 00)

Olivia and Jay had a baby girl, Pollyanna Mary Ashfield, on 6 May 2014.

Darcy Chesterfield-Terry (Chandos 00)



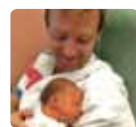
Darcy and his wife, Melissa, are pleased to announce the arrival of their son John Alexander

Francis Chesterfield-Terry (Xander) born on 21 November 2014, 6 weeks early. All are doing well.

Catesby Langer-Paget (Walpole 00)

Catesby writes to say that he and his wife, Bayan, had a baby girl called Gabriella Hope on 30 March 2014.

Piers Craven (Bruce 01)



Wilfred Vytutas, a son, to Piers (Bruce 01) and Jura Craven, born on 2 October in the Isle of Man.

Ed Hackett-Jones (Temple 01)



Ed and Eloise are pleased to announce that they had delightful, beautiful daughter; Clementine Maude Raewyn Ellis Hackett-Jones, on 23 October 2014.

Theodora Mayer (née von Schroder, Nugent 01)



Theodora and Mattheus are thrilled to announce the

arrival of their son Nikodemus on 27 April 2014 in Vienna. A brother for Oktavian (6), Ottilia (4) and Franziska (2).

Hannah Trelawny (née Tozer, Lyttelton 01)



Hannah and her OS husband, Harry Trelawny (Grafton 01) are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Annabel Jane born on 14 April 2014.

Ed Black (Bruce 02)



Ed married Laura Eyles in June 2012 and we had a baby girl on 26 June 2014 called Willow Sophia Beatrice Black.

Jessica Rollo (née Leon, Nugent 06)



Jessica and her husband, William, had twin sons, George and Edward who were born on 3 July 2014.

OBITUARIES

We have provided information about the lives and careers of a number of particular Old Stoics. In so doing, we realise that there are many other Old Stoics who will have made no less a contribution to society, the country and the lives of others. We hope, though, that in reflecting upon the lives of these alumni and their achievements in the world of academe, politics, the arts, the services and business, we are able to demonstrate the enormously diverse contribution of Old Stoics to the world.

1930s

Mr John Hanhart

(Cobham 32) on 4 September 2013.

Mr Noel Bell

(Chatham 34) on 17 June 2014, aged 98.

Mr David Felce

(Grafton 35) on 5 June 2014.

Mr Edward Cane

(Cobham 36) on 18 October 2013.

Mr Alex Hellawell

(Chatham 36) on 24 June 2012.

Mr Geoffrey Nicholl

(Bruce 37) in February 2013.

Dr David Baldwin

(Chatham 38) in May 2013.

Mr Tony Weston

(Grafton 38) on 9 November 2014.

Mr Derek Andrewes

(Grenville 39) in early January 2012.

Mr Alexander Baxter

(Grenville 39) on 9 June 2014.

Mr Humphrey Sassoon

(Grenville 39) on 5 May 2014.

1940s

Mr Richard Graydon

(Walpole 40) on 22 December 2014.

Prof Roland Oliver

(Chandos 40) on 9 February 2014.

Mr Derek Davies

(Temple 41) on 11 November 2014.

Mr Peter Hopkins

(Chandos 41) on 21 October 2014 in Canada, where he lived.

Dr Alan McDonald

(Chatham 41) on 14 July 2014.

Mr Frank Deakin

(Walpole 42) on 21 December 2013.

Mr Robert Gilliland

(Walpole 42) on 14 January 2014.

Sir John Milne

(Chandos 42) in June 2014.

Mr John Connell

(Grenville 43) on 18 March 2014.

Mr John Walters

(Cobham 43) on 16 November 2014.

Dr Brian Farrar

(Grafton 44) on 23 March 2014.

Mr Anthony Lucas

(Bruce 44) on 9 February 2014.

Mr Michael Scott

(Temple 44) on 6 April 2014.

Mr Michael Worsley

(Bruce 44) on 22 July 2014, after a long battle with prostate cancer.

Mr David Wynne

(Grenville 44) on 4 September 2014.

Sir John Freeland

(Chatham 45) on 29 June 2014.

Mr Oliver Taylor

(Chandos 45) on 24 February 2014.

Mr Derek Grossmark

(Chatham 46) on 19 February 2013.

Mr Nigel Smith

(Walpole 46) on 28 May 2014.

Dr Oliver Dansie

(Chatham 47) on 19 March 2014.

Mr Thomas Winsor

(Temple 47) on 8 November 2014.

Mr David Glynn

(Chandos 48) on 23 April 2014.

Mr Malcolm Goldsworthy

(Cobham 48) on 8 July 2014.

The Revd John Whitley

(Walpole 48) on 13 May 2014.

Mr John Woodman

(Chatham 48) on 13 April 2014.

Mr Christopher Bartlett

(Temple 49) on 1 October 2014.

Mr Richard Fulford

(Grenville 49) on 6 March 2014.

Mr Julian Twiston Davies

(Bruce 49) on 14 November 2013.

1950s

Mr Donald Helm

(Grenville 50) on 18 February 2014.

Mr Ian Holt

(Chatham 50) on 19 March 2014.

Mr Ronald Proctor

(Grenville 50) on 17 October 2014.

Mr Colin Cleugh

(Walpole 51) on 4 December 2014.

Mr John Cooke

(Temple 51) on 10 June 2014.

Mr Hugh Herrington

(Cobham 51) on 26 October 2014.

Mr Rodney Nicholson

(Bruce 51) on 15 March 2014 in South Africa, where he lived.

Mr Philip Jones

(Bruce 52) date unknown.

Mr Anthony Chamier

(Chatham 53) on 11 May 2014.

Mr Scott Durward

(Walpole 53) on 26 August 2014.

Mr Robert Vincent

(Temple 53) in Manaus, Brazil on 15 September 2014.

Major Noel Bell (Chatham 34)

23 December 1915 – 17 June 2014

Noel commanded a company in the Rifle Brigade and took part in the capture of Amiens and Antwerp.

In August 1944, Noel was in France in command of "G" Company, 8th Battalion, the Rifle Brigade (8RB). At daybreak on 31 August, they were outside Amiens. He was ordered to push into the centre of the city and capture the bridges over the River Somme. His part in the capture of the town was not without its dangerous encounters. "We had just settled down for a much needed wash and brush up," he wrote afterwards, "when an SS car drove straight into us, skidded round with machine guns blazing and made a getaway."

Noel joined the TA in 1938 and was commissioned into RB in 1940. He took part in the Normandy landings in June 1944 and came ashore with his company at Courseulles-sur-Mer on D-Day plus five.

On September 4, after a 300 mile dash in eight days, the company, together with a squadron of 3 RTR, reached Antwerp. As they approached the city, the Germans opened up with 20mm guns and started throwing grenades from windows. But once the Allied formation reached the centre, they found their vehicles brought to a halt by an overjoyed throng. "We were overwhelmed," Bell said, "with flowers, bottles and kisses, but we had to get to the docks at all costs to stop them being destroyed by the Germans."

After managing to get on the move again, the riflemen became separated from the tanks and were fired on from the far bank of the Scheldt Estuary. In fierce street battles, many civilians and soldiers were killed or wounded by the remaining enemy snipers and machine gun posts. It was November before the estuary's mines were cleared and shipping could move freely up the Scheldt. Bell was awarded an MC.

After the war, he joined Lloyds of London as an insurance broker and underwriter. After retiring, he moved to a farm in the Cotswolds where he reared cattle and ran a small shoot.

Mr Peter Cooper

(Chatham 54) on 16 September 2014.

Mr John Hawkings-Byass

(Cobham 55) on 24 April 2014.

Mr Bill Shand Kydd

(Cobham 55) on 27 December 2014.

Mr Bill Jarvis

(Chandos 57) on 9 September 2104.

Mr John Perris

(Walpole 57) on 23 June 2013.

Mr Martin Copley

(Bruce 58) on 30 July 2014.

Mr Nic Hawley

(Walpole 58) on 10 January 2015.

Mr Francis Meade

(Bruce 59) on 7 June 2014.

1960s

Mr Mark Webster

(Grafton 60) on 20 March 2014.

Mr John Maxwell

(Walpole 61) on 2 April 2014.

Mr Robert Hoar

(Grafton 62) on 28 August 2014, after suffering for 15 years from Motor Neurone Disease.

Mr James Grantham

(Temple 66) on 21 August 2014.

1970s

Mr Nicholas Hawkings-Byass

(Cobham 72) on 7 March 2014.

Major Jonathan Bray

(Temple 75) on 2 June 2014.

Mr Lawrence Werth

(Temple 75) on 19 August 2014.

Mr Simon Powell

(Lyttelton 77) on 17 December 2013, after a long illness.

Mr Louis Bell

(Grenville 78) on 3 December 2014.

Lt Cdr Charles Rainer

(Former staff, 1963-1988) on 12 December 2014.

Mr Muir Temple

(Former staff, 1958-1988) on 7 November 2014, just one year after his late wife, Margaret.

Mr Bram Wiggins

(Former staff, 1966-1982) on 18 October 2014.

Miss Rowena Pratt

(Former Staff, 1978-2004) on 9 March 2014.

Mr Ronald 'Steady' Barker (Grenville/Walpole 38) 22 April 1920 – 25 January 2015



Ronald Barker, internationally renowned motoring writer, was born on 22 April, 1920, the third of four children of a country doctor in Much Hadham, Hertfordshire. He followed his two

elder brothers, Derek and David, to Stowe in 1934 and loved his time in Grenville House, where he studied until 1937.

Passionate about motor cars from an early age, his time at Stowe heavily influenced his motoring tastes. As he later wrote: "The Lancia bug first bit me when I was at Stowe, where several masters then ran them – two Lambdas, an Augusta, an Aprilia and a superb Mulliner-bodied Dilambda. I still remember that Dilambda as one of the most elegant and beautifully proportioned cars I have ever seen, and as moving practically in silence." He went on to own countless Lancias throughout his life, including two of the ultra-rare Dilambdas.

During World War Two he served as a mechanic in the Royal Air Force, with postings to India, North Africa and Italy. Post-war, he continued his involvement in the aviation industry by taking a job at British Messier, whilst also immersing himself in the world of ancient motor cars. It was at this time he gained the nickname 'Steady', taken from the catchphrase of contemporary radio

personality Eric 'Heartthrob' Barker. The name stuck with him for the rest of his life.

Through his editorship of the *Vintage Sports-Car Club's Bulletin*, in 1955 he was headhunted by *The Autocar*, the world's oldest motoring magazine, where he rose to the position of Road Test Editor and then Assistant Editor and gained a reputation for lively, insightful articles that stood out at a time when most motoring journalism was factual and dry.

He remained with the magazine until 1966, after which he became a freelance journalist writing for magazines worldwide, most notably for *Car* in the UK and *Car Graphic* in Japan. In more recent years he was a valued contributor to old-car publication *The Automobile*, penning his last article as recently as last summer. Steady's outgoing nature and warm personality saw him accumulate an extraordinarily wide circle of friends, including many famous names from the motor industry such as Alec Issigonis (designer of the Mini and Morris Minor) and W O Bentley.

Never having the ties of a wife or family, in his spare time he was free to pursue his hobbies of restoring old motor cars and driving them in amateur competition, his favourite being the 11.6-litre sprint car built by Napier (another treasured marque, alongside Lancia) in 1908, which he owned for 20 years. His interest in aviation was never lost, and aged 70 took up wingwalking. He undertook his last flight on his 90th birthday, a feat recorded for posterity in a film about his life, *Holding Steady*. More recently he rekindled his association with Stowe, encouraging many of his motoring friends to attend the Classic Car displays held each year on Speech Day. Steady died on 25 January, 2015, aged 94.

Kindly written by Jonathan Rishton, Editor of The Automobile magazine

Professor Roland Oliver (Chandos 40) 30 March 1923 – 9 February 2014

Roland was born in Srinagar, Kashmir in 1923. His family lived on houseboats on the River Jhelum, one of which, the 'nursery houseboat', was allocated to him and his nanny. His nanny told him that his homeland was "a small island far away across the sea", something that he did not see until the age of seven.

After failing the medical for active service – a riding accident had left one arm permanently damaged – he was invited to go on a course, but not allowed to know what it was about! Shortly afterwards, he was to find himself at the code-breaking establishment in Bletchley Park. He described his own work here as breaking low-grade 'dockyard' codes – the information in the messages was not of interest but they often contained texts about weather, ice conditions, etc which were repeated in higher level codes and therefore helped to break Enigma.

After the war, he completed his degree at Cambridge and then a doctorate on missionaries in East Africa, his first engagement with the continent. This led to his appointment at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) to a lectureship in 'the tribal histories' of East Africa. He spent a year in 1949/50 in the Belgian Congo and British East Africa, investigating sources for this uncharted area of history.

Roland was eventually appointed to a Chair in African history at SOAS in 1964. His publications were many, including widely read works such as the Penguin Short History of Africa as well as many more academic titles. He was a founding co-editor of the *Journal of African History*, which first appeared in 1960.

He won many awards, among them a prize African Research from the Haile Selassie Prize Trust in 1967. This entailed a trip to Ethiopia where he was the guest of the Emperor who presented the awards in person. In 2004, he was awarded the Distinguished Africanist Award of the African Studies Association of the UK (ASAUUK) and in 1993 he was elected a Fellow of the British Academy.

Mr Richard Graydon (Walpole 40) 12 May 1922 – 22 December 2014



Richard was an amateur jockey who became one of the most celebrated stuntmen in the business, keeping cinemagoers on the edges of their seats in some of the most hair-raising sequences in the James Bond cannon.

Graydon's first outing as '007' came in 1969 when he doubled for George Lazenby, tobogganing down the Cresta Run. In one terrifying sequence Graydon was required to slide down, using a piece of chain, to a cable-car dangling over the abyss. "The drop was about 80 feet," he recalled. "The only safety devices I had were two hooks in the palm of my hand attached to my safety belt." Ten years later Graydon was again to be found atop a cable-car, this time suspended hundreds of feet above the ground in Rio de Janeiro, doubling for Roger Moore in the scene in *Moonraker* (1979). Graydon slipped and was left hanging from the cable-car by just one hand without any safety hooks.

Graydon performed in 10 Bond films in total. In *You Only Live Twice* (1967), he was seen abseiling down into a volcano and made a brief appearance as a Russian cosmonaut. In *Octopussy*, he replaced Martin Grace as Roger Moore's stunt double for much of the sequence in which Bond makes his way along the roof of a moving train. He also played the part of 'Francisco the Fearless', the man who gets shot out of a cannon at Octopussy's circus.

Martin Grace described Graydon as the most courageous stuntman he had ever worked with: "He treated hanging in the rafters of a volcano 120 feet up, and on top of the cable car in Rio as if he was having a coffee down at Piccadilly Circus in London. He made what other stuntmen claimed as too dangerous and impossible, look like a walk in the park."

He earned more than 30 credits for stunt work in such productions as *Where Eagles Dare* (1968); *When Eight Bells Toll* (1971); *Don't Look Now* (1973); *Royal Flash* (1975); *The Man Who Fell to Earth* (1976); *The Duellists* (1977); *Star Wars* (1977); *The Wild Geese* (1978); *International Velvet* (1978); *Raiders of the Lost Ark* (1981); *Batman* (1989); and *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels* (1998) in which he played a butler.

Sir Jack Hayward OBE (Grafton 41)

14 June 1923 – 13 January 2015

OSS President 1992-1993



Former OS President, Sir Jack Hayward was a philanthropist and a British patriot to the point of eccentricity.

Sir Jack's father made his first fortune manufacturing motorcycle sidecars. He lost it all in 1929, but then amassed a second, much larger pile with his engineering group, Firth Cleveland.

After Stowe, Sir Jack volunteered for the RAF. He went on to join Rotary Hoes, part of his father's Firth Cleveland Group. In 1951, he founded the American arm in New York. He lived there for five years until restrictions on foreign investment took him to Nassau.

He was quick to see the potential to make money in the Bahamas and persuaded his father to put £1 million into Wallace Groves's scheme to develop Freeport. Hayward became administrative Vice-President of the new Grand Bahama Port Authority, overseeing the development. He became Chairman in 1976. Freeport became the fastest growing industrial centre in the Caribbean. The shares rocketed on the New York Stock Exchange and Hayward became very rich.

He seemed to derive great satisfaction from giving his money away, finding patriotic causes on which to shower his money. In 1976, he

gave £150,000 to salvage Brunel's SS Great Britain in the Falklands and return her to her original dock in Bristol, followed by £500,000 towards the vessel's restoration. In 1969, Sir Jack purchased Lundy Island for £150,000 and gave the island to The National Trust. He also sponsored the England Women's Cricket Team and the first Women's World Cup in 1973. This resulted in an England Women's Cricket Team visiting Stowe in 1975 to play the Stowe First Eleven.

He funded three international racing yachts, a British yacht, named 'Stoic', spent £100,000 on saving the sloop Gannet (the Royal Navy's only survivor of the transition from sail to steam) and contributed another £100,000 to help raise the Mary Rose. After the Falklands conflict, he gave £1 million towards the replacement of the fire-damaged hospital in Port Stanley, and a further £1 million to the widows and orphans of those who had died during the fighting.

In 1990, Sir Jack bought his beloved Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club for £2 million. Jack was born less than half a mile from the Wolves ground. In 2003, they won a brief promotion to the Premier League. He sold control of the Club, in 2007 to Steve Morgan for a nominal fee of £10, allowing the new owner to use his money to fund a further promotion in 2009.

Sir Jack was appointed OBE in 1968 and knighted in 1986. He was a great supporter of Stowe: he made substantial donations to the School over many years and one of his children and seven of his grandchildren are Old Stoics.

Mr John Connell (Grenville 43)

29 December 1924 – 18 March 2014



John was Chairman of the Distillers company, whose spirit was broken after losing a takeover battle with Guinness. His 40 year career in the spirits industry was brought to a juddering halt when he was thrust unwillingly into one of

Britain's bitterest corporate battles. John's father was Chairman of Tanqueray Gordon, a London based gin maker owned by Distillers, and that is where he started. He was the first non-Scot to chair Distillers, and he was the first Chairman who had come up through the gin and vodka side of the business rather than whisky. He became export director of Tanqueray Gordon in 1954, and Managing Director from 1962 to 1970. In 1965, he was made a Director of Distillers, serving on the management committee from 1971 until he retired.

John had been Chairman for under three years at Distillers, which produced Johnnie Walker whisky, Gordon's gin and a host of other brands as well as pharmaceuticals, when James Gulliver's Argyll Group launched a hostile £2.3 billion takeover bid in December 1985. That prompted a rival offer from Guinness which eventually succeeded, but at a heavy price.

Distillers had been a stalwart of many investment firms' portfolios, so Connell was shocked when he saw how readily investors sold out, first to Argyll and then to Guinness. Guinness was presented as a 'white knight' that would rescue Distillers from Argyll, as it already owned Bell's whisky.

The Guinness chief reneged on a promise to let Connell continue as Executive Chairman of Distillers. Connell was so disillusioned that he retired from public life. Years later he confided that he could not believe that civilised business people could be capable of the ruthless public criticism fired at him.

Mr David Wynne (Grenville 44)

25 May 1926 – 4 September 2014

OSS President 1995-1996.

David died on 4 September after a short illness. His time at Stowe engendered his love of nature and after wartime service in the Royal Navy, David studied Biological Sciences at Trinity College, Cambridge where he developed an interest in sculpture. From that moment David enjoyed a long and varied career working for members of the Royal Family as well as receiving government commissions which included the 50p coin to mark Britain's entry to the Common Market, and the Silver Jubilee Medal for Her Majesty the Queen.

Through a circle of influential and loyal friends and patrons he created portrait busts and sculptures which adorn many a garden and house, for example the lively *Dancers* sited in Cadogan Place Gardens, London. At the instigation of Brian Epstein (1934-1967), David was invited to sculpt the heads of The Beatles whilst they stayed in the Georges V Hotel in Paris, the plaster models of which are on display at Stowe. To the general public, David will be best known for *The Boy with The Dolphin* on the Chelsea Embankment or *The Risen Christ* on the façade of Wells Cathedral. All Old Stoics, though, will know his bust of Group Capt the Lord Cheshire of Woodhall, VC, OM, DSO, DFC (Chatham 36), sited between Chatham House and the Chapel.

We, at Stowe, are also fortunate to hold on public view his collection of bronze maquettes which Stoics enjoy as part of their daily visual education. David loved returning to Stowe, full of reminiscences and to see his work being enjoyed by Stoics and visitors alike.

On Speech Day 2013, HRH Prince Michael of Kent, a long standing friend of David's, presented him with the third Distinguished Stoic Award, an honour which much moved David and his family.

The Headmaster and I will miss our conversations with David about poetry, art, philosophy and nature which were often delivered in a cloud of cigar smoke, accompanied by glasses of champagne. Even when frail, David continued to work, his fingers moulding clay as his imagination and creative spirit remained undiminished. On behalf of all at Stowe and the Old Stoic community, we would like to offer our sincere condolences to his family.

Crispin Robinson, Deputy Headmaster and Wynne Curator



Dr Oliver Dansie (Chatham 47)

13 March 1929 – 19 March 2014

Oliver was a Hertfordshire GP and self-taught expert on deer who passed on his knowledge to estate managers of English country houses and university scientists alike.

Oliver ran his practice at Bridge Cottage in High Street, Old Welwyn, seven days a week and was on-call at night, but he still found time to pursue his special area of interest. He was particularly adept at handling the animals.

In 1991, the President of Ireland, Mary Robinson, called on him to help catch deer from the 300 year old herd in Phoenix Park, Dublin, so that blood samples could be taken and health checks made. Dansie's usual method was to trap animals with fishing nets that he had himself adapted. Once a deer was ensnared, Dansie would hold it down and cover its eyes with a mask, quietening it; he would then fold its legs beneath it and truss it. Oliver wrote *Deer of the World* (with William Wince, illustrated by Michael Clare, 1970); and *Muntjac* (*Muntiacus reevesii*) and *Chinese Water Deer* (*Hydropotes inermis*) (with Arnold Cooke and Lynne Farrell, 1983). He introduced fallow deer to Knebworth House, Hertfordshire, and walked the grounds on the night in 1976 that the Rolling Stones performed at the rock festival there, to ensure that the creatures suffered no ill effects. The deer were untroubled.

Oliver trained at the Middlesex Hospital, London, where he met his first wife, Anne Minchin, a nurse. His National Service was served mostly in Sinai, and he made 80 parachute jumps. He is survived by his second wife, by the children of his first marriage, and by four stepchildren. His daughter Sarah is a doctor, as is his son Nicholas, who is senior partner at the Bridge Cottage practice. His son, Timothy, runs the Mammal Conservation Trust, and his daughter Elizabeth, known as Tilly, herds reindeer in the Cairngorm Mountains in Scotland.



Mr Colin Cleugh

(Walpole 51)

26 May 1932 – 4 December 2014

My father arrived at Stowe when JF Roxburgh was Headmaster (who was a family friend of his great aunt's

husband), having been at prep school at St Andrew's, Eastbourne. At Stowe, he was Captain of Fencing and took part in the Public Schools' Championships.

He was Chairman of the Old Stoic Society from 1979-1982 and also of the Pineapple Ball in 1963 and 1964. He went to Law School in London and was married to Susan in 1967, the same year he joined the Director of Public Prosecutions. Daughters Emma and Virginia arrived in 1968 and 1970 respectively.

After retirement, he became a part-time Chairman of an Employment Tribunal, a judicial appointment, which continued until the compulsory retirement age of 72. He had a great interest in the City and was a Freeman of the City of London, Past Master of the Worshipful Company of Cooks, as well as Past Master of the Parish Clerks. He was also a member of the Stowe Masonic Lodge and a Wandsman at St Paul's Cathedral. He had lived, since the age of seven and the beginning of WW2, in Buckinghamshire at The Abbey, Bourne End which he then inherited from his great aunt, where he was at his happiest sitting at his desk looking across the lawn or gardening with his cats Ginger and Blackie nearby.

Kindly submitted by Emma Cleugh

Mr Donald Helm (Grenville 50)

20 November 1931 – 18 February 2014

Donald worked in the oil business and negotiated troubled times in Africa on behalf of BP. He then went on to serve Scotland's National Trust for 30 years.

For the last 30 years, Donald was a major influence in the affairs of the National Trust of Scotland. He made a valuable study of volunteering in the Trust, Gifts in Time, in 1999; in 2003 he received the George Waterston Memorial Award and a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Diamond Jubilee awards ceremony in 2012. He was Chairman of the Trust's Edinburgh Members Centre in the 1980s and was elected to the Trust's Council in 1987 (and re-elected in 2000).

During training at Catterick with the Armoured Corps Training Regiment, a friend recalled Donald choosing his subject for a 10 minute presentation as 'The statues and landscape of Stowe Park'. 'Stowe,' Donald told him, "was the spark that lit my interest in the activities of the National Trust."



Mr Bill Shand Kydd (Cobham 55)

12 May 1937 – 27 December 2014

President OS Society 2000-2001

We are sad to report the death of one of the most colourful Old Stoics of all time. Bill Shand Kydd, who died at the age of 77 on Saturday, 27 December 2014, was a business entrepreneur; race horse owner, breeder and rider; powerboat and bob-sleigh racer and one-time gambler. He was the only person ever to have completed the Cresta Run and ridden in

the Grand National! Tragically, in 1995, he suffered a horrendous riding accident when team chasing, that left him paralysed from the neck down and forced him to spend the rest of his days in a wheelchair. However, with characteristic determination, he fought to maintain as much independence as possible and, with the devoted support of Christina, his wife, was able, against all odds, to survive a further 20 years. During this time, he threw his energies into raising hundreds of thousands of pounds for the charity Spinal Research which included stunts such as a tandem 12,000ft skydive and being pushed round the Great North Run by Caspar, his son, (Walpole 85) and their support team.

Bill entered Stowe in 1950 at the same time as his lifelong friend, David Rowe-Beddoe (Chandos 55) who recalls:

"64 years ago, as a new boy in Chandos, my adventure with WSK began. He was a Cobham new boy (we cannot all be perfect in everything!). We shared much laughter and many adventures in those early years, including sometimes his somewhat intimidating father ... 'God speed the plough' Norman!"

Bill could never resist a challenge, in fact he went well out of his way to find them, whether beagles, hunting, rugby, motorbikes, Cresta running and even the Congreve Club where he performed an admirable Mr Peachum in the production of *The Beggar's Opera*. Reviewed in The Stoic of March 1955, Alistair Macdonald (then Housemaster of Chatham and Second Master) stated "...he has a voice which might fairly be described as stentorian...he is also a comic actor of great conviction, who obviously enjoys every minute he is on stage."

He most certainly did and remained on stage all his life. His appetite for challenge never diminished even after the most dreadful accident almost twenty years ago. Courageously and selflessly supported by his wife Christina in these latter years (as well as the children Lucinda and Caspar, both OSs), he continued inter alia his lifetime interest in Stowe.

Bill, with his infectious enthusiasm for life in every form, will be sorely missed by those fortunate enough to have enjoyed his friendship along the way.

Mr Martin Copley (Bruce 58)

20 June 1940 – 30 July 2014



What Martin Copley described as his 'light-bulb moment' came at Warrawong Sanctuary outside Adelaide in 1989, when he suddenly realised that so many of Australia's native animals and birds faced an extinction crisis. He devoted the rest of his life to slowing and reversing this crisis for such endangered species as woylies, bilbies, numbats and gouldian finches. He was

particularly passionate about small mammals, or 'little critters' as he called them, and became a good friend of David Attenborough.

From small beginnings in 1991 at Karakamia in the Perth hills, where he bought 500 acres and surrounded them with one of Australia's first feral-proof fences, he built Australian Wildlife Conservancy, launched in 2001, into a nation-wide charity protecting more species than any other non-government organisation in Australia. Perth-based AWC now owns and manages 23 sanctuaries covering over 7.4 million acres (almost 1.5 times the size of Wales). Martin's work required leadership, fund-raising, presentational, deal-making and business skills, not to mention money, all of which he could bring to the table. Recognition came in 2010, when he was made a Member of the Order of Australia for his services to conservation and the environment, and in 2013, when HRH, The Prince of Wales agreed to become the Patron of AWC.

Martin followed his father, Samuel Copley (Bruce 25), and uncle, David Copley (Bruce 25), (twins entering in JF's second term) to Stowe. After a year in Hamburg learning German, followed by Lincoln College, Oxford, he qualified as an accountant and spent 1966 to 1970 working for a stockbroker in Sydney and discovering a love for the wide open spaces of the outback. Back in England in the 1970s, he sold Copley's Bank and used the proceeds, plus a mortgage on his home in Hampshire, to buy the rest of his family out of the Western Australia Insurance Company. Both had been founded by his grandfather, who emigrated to Australia from Huddersfield aged just 17. Starting in 1977, Martin moved the now Wimbledon based business into breakdown cover on household appliances, changed its name to Domestic & General Insurance and very successfully floated it on the London Stock Exchange in 1988. Hence, some capacity to respond to that 'light-bulb moment'.

Over 1970 to 1994, with only one exception, Martin visited Australia for a holiday every year, moving to Perth permanently in 1994. He subsequently took out Australian, in addition to UK, citizenship. He loved ocean racing and riding in his earlier years and, always, tennis, music and playing the piano. Charismatic, charming, kind, generous and modest, he attached enormous importance to keeping his extended family together. Latterly, this included an annual gathering at the villa he rebuilt in Tuscany, another of his great loves.

He was married twice, to Charlotte Macartney in 1966 and Lorraine Pearce in 1989. Valentine Thomas was his constant companion for the last two years of his life. He is survived by two daughters from his first marriage and a son from his second marriage.

Robin Thomas (Bruce 59)

Mr (James) Muir Temple (Former Staff 1958-1988)

24 January 1929 – 7 November 2014



Born in 1929 at Leeds, Muir Temple was educated at Sedbergh before reading Modern Languages at St John's, Cambridge, where he was the contemporary of Joe Bain. He started teaching at Liverpool College, but at Bain's suggestion applied to Stowe, where he arrived in 1958, the last of Eric Reynolds' appointments, and stayed for the next thirty years.

With Bain and David Donaldson, he made up the remodelled Modern Languages team, the youngest and liveliest

academic department then at Stowe. Muir's part was to teach French and German throughout the School, helping candidates of all abilities over the hurdles of 'O' and 'A' Levels and university entrance. This he did with steady success, but, more importantly, his knowledge and enthusiasm for the languages and literature aroused the enthusiasm of generations of Stoics. If he was sometimes provoked into an outburst of frustration, his pupils knew that it would quickly subside into self-mockery, for he had the priceless gift of being able to laugh at himself.

Outside the classroom he played an active role on the games field, and though not a star performer himself, he coached and refereed junior teams in most major sports. He, and his wife Margaret, gave consistent support to the cultural life of the School. Muir also acted in several staff plays (who will ever forget his performance as Big Julie in *Guys and Dolls*?) and regularly sang in choirs, while

Margaret was a founder member of the Rutland House Singers and wardrobe mistress of the Congreve Club for twenty years.

When the housemastership of Grafton became vacant in 1967, he was a natural choice, with Margaret beside him, to take over. The Sixties was not the easiest decade to be a Housemaster, but his understanding, innate fairness, patience and good humour made Grafton a happy and successful community at peace with itself.

His pastoral and organisational skills were again called for when in 1979 he became Second Master. No longer the honorary title-holder of earlier generations, he was now involved in decisions of high policy as the Headmaster's deputy, as well as being responsible for much day-to-day administration. All manner of things, from the intricacies of the School Calendar to the timing and protocol of self-service in the dining room became his problems. Muir grappled with them all, and still found time to care for the whole community, showing, for example, a genuine – and much appreciated – concern for the wellbeing of the domestic staff.

On retirement in 1988, he and Margaret returned to Yorkshire, where they were always eager to welcome any visitors from Stowe. Muir was in frequent touch with Stowe friends by 'phone and by long, hand-written, amusing letters, passing on the latest news and gossip. He kept himself extremely well-informed, and he had a collection of Blue Books which was more complete, it was said, than the set in the School Office. Even in retirement he seldom needed to refer to them to recall events or people – a testimony not only to his remarkable memory but also to his lasting love of Stowe and its community.

Kindly written by George Clarke with David Donaldson (long-term friends and colleagues).

A Thanksgiving Service will be held in honour of Muir's life on Saturday, 21 March, at 2pm, in the Chapel at Stowe. All those who knew Muir are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served in the Marble Saloon following the service. Please email cwhitlock@stowe.co.uk if you would like to attend.

Bram Wiggins (Former Staff, 1966-1985)
28 September 1921 – 18 October 2014



After a highly distinguished 11 year career as Assistant Principal Trumpet and Principal Cornet under George Eskdale at the London Symphony Orchestra, followed by a lengthy stint in Canada with the CBC (Winnipeg) Orchestra and the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Bram arrived at Stowe in 1966 as Head of Wind and Brass under the Directorships of Angus Watson and subsequently David Gatehouse. To this post, Bram brought a considerable academic pedigree, a wealth of experience, outstanding musicianship and infectious enthusiasm. Throughout his tenure at Stowe, Bram not only taught and encouraged his pupils with total commitment, he also found time to examine regularly at the RAM, to adjudicate, to arrange and to compose – activities which he continued to pursue well into retirement. A quick glance at the available works on Google gives a very limited idea of the range and extent of his substantial oeuvre.

For many of his pupils, one of the most cherished memories will be the annual Speech Day concert on the South Front. Somehow the apparent cacophony issuing from the practice rooms at the Queen's Temple resolved itself into a series of polished performances of what Sir Thomas Beecham called 'lollipops'. Beginners – indeed anyone who could tell one end of an oboe from the other – were cheerfully invited to participate. Bram's inimitable, idiosyncratic style of conducting (to the philistines, largely with his shoulders!) left its imprint on many generations of Stoic wind players. To them he was a gentle giant of unfailing generosity, humility and warmth.

Bram, together with his lovely wife Betty, were delightful, appreciative travelling companions. Bram had travelled throughout Europe and well beyond with the LSO, but his occasional visit to scenes of former triumphs were not so much nostalgic return trips as opportunities to re-express his pleasure. Over an evening drink, he would entrance his listeners with a fund of anecdotes of the mischievous off-duty antics of his fellow musicians at the LSO on tour – antics at which he was surely not an idle spectator.

Most recently he was, in his own words, immeasurably "chuffed" to have a room named after him in the new Music School. It was a fitting tribute to an exceptional man and an incomparable musician. The final words shall be those of Howard Goodall (Lyttelton 76), who, together with many other wind and brass players left Stowe to embark on extremely successful careers as professional musicians and composers: "Bram...was the kindest, most down-to-earth, modest, most considerate music teacher and band leader anyone could wish for."

Mr Simon Digby (Walpole 51)
17 October 1932 – 10 January 2010

Scholar, Writer, Linguist and Collector

Connoisseur, collector and linguist, Simon Digby was a brilliant scholar possessing almost total recall of everything he had read and seen and, indeed, virtually everyone he had met. His extraordinary research poured out in dozens of learned papers and articles, which are now instantly available through the internet archive, JSTOR.

Simon was born in 1932 at Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh, the son of an Indian High Court judge and a talented artist. His father was a great friend of JF Roxburgh, so it was natural he should go to Stowe (where he was 2nd Scholar), later followed by Trinity College, Cambridge. He archived first-class honours with distinction in 1954 and following graduation, he stayed on to supervise undergraduates at which point interests were drawn to Mogul history.

Aided by a two-year grant from The Goldsmiths' Company, he set off in 1957 to India in a steamship around the Cape and was enrolled at the University of Delhi. Extensive travels began, with a three month stay on the premises of the Prince of Wales Museum in Bombay, where he learnt Indian art history and museology and wrote his first article in the museum's journal. Taking up photography, he began what was to become an immense archive of architecture and artefacts, which are often the only record of things which have perished within the past 40 years.

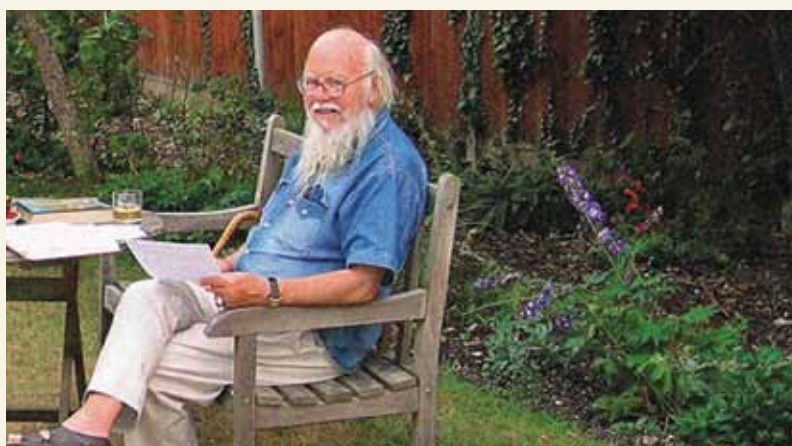
Returning to London, he started to study at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. He lived in a tiny 8ft wide end-of-terrace house in Camberwell, holding a weekly salon amid the crowded piles of books, which one night fell over and buried him. Simon later became a regular reviewer in *The Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* and *The Times Literary Supplement*.

In 1972, he took on his only full time paid appointment, as Assistant Keeper in the Department of Eastern Art of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. Here, on a very restricted budget, he made a series of brilliant purchases of Indian decorative arts, including a magnificent late 17th century Mogul carpet, a fine Gujarati mother-of-pearl casket and a painted writing cabinet, both of about 1600, and a remarkable early 19th century bronze depicting the King of Ouhd and the British Resident riding on elephants.

Fixed working hours and the lack of long vacations for research irked Digby and one Friday afternoon he was summoned urgently by a friend to look at a manuscript that the British Library had rejected as 18th century. Digby realised it was a rare Koran from Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh and soon spotted the date, 1399 (in Arabic it was 801AH), snapped up the manuscript for £2,000 and not long afterwards sold it for £40,000 to a collector.

In 1999 he was awarded the Burton Medal of the Royal Asiatic Society, London, and delivered a paper, later published as Richard Burton: the Indian Making of an Arabist. Simon died in 2010, aged 77. He was held in enormous regard and affection by scholars in Britain, America and India.

In June 2014, a three day memorial conference was held in Simon's honour. It celebrated his vast and innovative scholarship, focusing on the areas and materials he explored – coins, paintings, manuscripts and other material objects, art history, sufism, language and literary history. Over 100 learned academics attended, from across the world: a fitting tribute to a highly respected academic.



OLD STOICS VISIT LEEDS CASTLE

Bright and early on the morning of Saturday, 13 September 2014, 15 Old Stoics, together with their families met at the gates of Leeds Castle in Kent. Happily, Lord Ampthill (Temple 64) who grew up at the Castle, was one of them. We enjoyed a private tour of the Castle's State Bedrooms, with added anecdotes and family photographs brought along by Lord Ampthill.

We were also lucky to catch a glimpse of Henry VIII's armour from the Field of the Cloth of Gold, which formed part of a travelling exhibition on show at Leeds for a short time. Following the tour, we picnicked overlooking the castle. In the afternoon, the Old Stoic families explored the maze, children's activity area and Food Fair. There was certainly plenty to see and do; everyone seemed delighted with the day.



This trip was kindly arranged by David Lees-Jones (Grenville 65) for Old Stoics living in the South East of England. We hope it will be the start of more regional Old Stoic events taking place across the country. Representatives for Scotland, the South

West, East of England and the North have been found. If you would like to volunteer for your area, please do contact the Old Stoic Office by emailing oldstoic@stowe.co.uk

Anna Semler (Nugent 05)



STOWE MOTORCYCLE CLUB

Here at Stowe, for the last three years we have enjoyed having our own Motorcycle Club. We have been coached how to ride motorcycles by Patrick Gilson (Walpole 79), at the Bursar's field and have learnt a number of riding styles. Using the bikes, we have been taught the basics of riding a motorcycle safely, for use off-road and also how to use the bikes for sport.

We have covered short-track drifting, using counter-steering techniques to slide the bikes around corners. In contrast, we have

also ridden trial bikes. This consists of high control, slow riding, maintaining balance whilst overcoming all variety of obstacles, such as hills and barrels. Outside of the practical work riding bikes, the Club has visited the University Technical College at Silverstone, where we have been taught – along with their students – to disassemble, rebuild, clean and maintain a motorbike and study how it works mechanically.

Elliot Mitchell (Bruce, Lower Sixth)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Madam

Dr Leslie Huggins

Whilst I greatly enjoyed Dr Wallersteiner's article on 'The Early Years' of music at Stowe, I was saddened to read in it that JF Roxburgh felt able to dismiss Stowe's second Director of Music, L.P Huggins as "not an intellectual man". I would like to offer a correction to Roxburgh's assessment.

As well as being an Oxford MA and a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists – a very demanding qualification which in itself is regarded by many as equivalent to graduate status – Huggins (as his gown shows) was an Oxford Doctor of Music. In his day this jealously guarded qualification required (amongst other things) the composition of a major orchestral work such as a symphony; the ability to write 8-part counterpoint and the knowledge of 12 substantial set works, one alone of which was liable to be the full score of Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde* (1,025 pages in Eulenburg's miniature edition).

These are formidable intellectual accomplishments by any standards – rather more so, I suggest, than the ability to swap erudite banter at High Table.

Stephen Suttle (Former staff, 1973-1978)



▶ Najib at the finishing line.

RUNNING THE LONDON MARATHON

I was so proud to be part of Stowe and I loved my time there. Having left last summer, the one thing that stands most out during my final year was running the London Marathon.

In 2013, I was invited to speak about my experience living in Afghanistan at London's South Bank Centre and I was lucky enough to meet Koy Thompson, who is CEO of Children in Crisis. Following the meeting, the Headmaster became a Patron of the charity and Stowe adopted it as their charity of choice for the coming year. Children in Crisis was founded by the Duchess of York.

Stowe taught me many things: to try my hardest at everything I do and, importantly, to help others where you can. I wanted to do something to help to local communities in Afghanistan so I decided to run the London Marathon in aid of Children in Crisis.

The funds would go towards a school in Afghanistan. Education is needed there to help the country to become stable. I also ran in memory of my brother, Hamedullah, (who was killed by a Taliban rocket when he was 13 years old). I know that if it was the other way around, he would have done all that he could to help.

Training for a marathon is no easy feat, especially when trying to balance it with A Level studies. I had no idea how to start: it's no short distance run, 26 miles would be a challenge. So, I looked up online. For those starting from scratch, the training plan was more than a year long! Unfortunately, I only had two months which made things a lot harder.

I created my own plan. I would do my normal football and athletics activity during the week and go for a long distance run on Sundays. I would start with eight miles and increase the distance by two miles every week until I reached 26 miles.

Theoretically, you are not supposed to run a full marathon before the actual marathon but I wanted to make sure that I would be able to finish it. I even devised a homemade energy drink to help with my training, 20% honey from our kitchen, 10% milk and 70% water.

On the day of the marathon, all my hard work paid off. Thousands of spectators lined the route to cheer us on. I was given a charity T-shirt with my name on the front and back, so people kept cheering and shouting my name as I ran past.

I tried not to run too fast, I didn't want to get cramp early on during the race. As I ran, I saw so many Stoics and Old Stoics cheering me on and I almost didn't spot the Children in Crisis stand because of all the crowds. I had so much fun that the time passed very quickly and before I knew it, I had reached the finish line. I was 12,596th out of about 35,000 runners and crossed the finish line in four hours and three minutes which I was very pleased with.

I was given a beautiful medal with a picture of the River Thames on one side and a picture of the route from Greenwich to Buckingham Palace on the other. I was also very pleased to receive a picture of myself running, signed by the Duchess of York herself and thanking me for raising money for Children in Crisis.

In the summer of 2013, I visited a school run by Children in Crisis in Kabul, Afghanistan. Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine that less than a year later, I would be able to help their efforts by raising £5,000 by running the marathon. I had so much support from everyone at Stowe, including Temple House, my tutors, teachers, friends and their families. Thank you so much to everyone who donated. The words of support and encouragement on my Just Giving page made me break into tears. It helped me to realise that the world is full of good people.

I am delighted to have helped Children in Crisis by running the marathon. I am so pleased that I was able to bring together Stowe and Children in Crisis and I am so proud of everything Stowe has done to support their cause.

www.justgiving.com/Najibullah-Afghan

Najib Afghan (Temple 13)



▶ Najib raised £5,000 for a school in Afghanistan.



STOWE LODGE 9002

Many of my Old Stoic friends are surprised when I tell them that we have a Masonic Lodge; they then ask me about Freemasonry, what people get out of it and who is able to join. Given these questions, I hope this

article will provide you with some answers and also give you information about the Stowe Lodge.

So what is Freemasonry? It is one of the world's oldest and largest non-religious and non-political, fraternal and charitable organisations. It has approximately six million members globally with around 200,000 of these being in England and Wales. No one really knows when it was actually started but it is believed that Lodges began to appear in London around the mid-1500s. In addition, the United Grand Lodge of England, which is our governing body, was established in 1717. So, it is safe to say that Freemasonry has a long history!

At the heart of Freemasonry are three fundamental principles, which it seeks to reinforce and promote: friendship, charity and integrity. Friendship in that we promote tolerance, respect for the opinion of others and for behaving with kindness and understanding to all. Charity in that it is deeply ingrained in Masons to act with care and to contribute to the well-being of others and to society as a whole. In this context, after the National Lottery, Freemasonry is the largest single contributor to charitable causes in the UK giving approximately £30m annually. Integrity is very highly valued and we strive for honesty and high moral standards in every aspect of our lives.

Masons join clubs or what we term Lodges. A Lodge is a group of men who meet periodically to undertake Masonic business. It is by undertaking Masonic business that the three fundamental principles are applied. To do this, each Lodge meeting consists of two parts; the first part is where we are taught moral principles, gain self-knowledge and deal with the administrative matters of the Lodge and the second part consists of a meal, usually a dinner.

So that put simply is Freemasonry. So why you might ask, has Freemasonry persisted for hundreds of years with millions of members, if at first glance it appears to be slightly anachronistic and a bit dry?

Answering this can be a bit tricky as every Mason takes something different from Freemasonry. That said, many value the ability to meet like-minded individuals from all walks of life, others find it helps them to become more confident and assured, others find it attractive to know that wherever they are in the world they are usually not too far from a Lodge which they can visit, and some, as in the case of many of the members of Stowe Lodge, like it because it allows them to maintain contact with something they hold dear and the friends they made there. All of these reasons and many others are true, however, for my part, I think there are three key reasons why Freemasonry continues to appeal: it allows you to feel part of something bigger and to contribute to this, it allows you to make many new friends some of whom will become life-long and, ultimately, because in taking part it allows you have a significant amount of fun!

So what about Stowe Lodge? Like the School itself, we are relatively young and we were founded in 1981 by a number of senior Old Stoic Freemasons. The seniority of our founders is important as they established the ethos of the Lodge to be very much in line with that of the School; so we like to maintain our standards but we do so with a sense of style and fun. This means that our dinners can have a lively atmosphere! They were also keen that we maintain our contact with the School, and therefore every August we meet there, and dine afterwards with the Headmaster as our guest. Also as befits our charitable work, the Lodge provides a bursary for pupils who, without the benefit of our financial assistance, might otherwise have to leave the School; this latter initiative being organised confidentially in conjunction with the School. The Lodge is also a member of the Public

School Lodges' Council and we take an active role in this visiting other Lodges and attending its annual festival, which we hosted in 1993 and will do so again in 2023, the School's centenary year!

Our members come from all types of professions; we have people involved in horse racing, law, property, medicine, teaching, banking, art and general business and their ages range from their twenties up to their eighties. In addition to meeting at the School, we also meet three times a year in Duke Street, St. James's (just down the road from Fortnum and Mason) and we usually dine afterwards at the Oxford and Cambridge club on Pall Mall.

So who is able to join? First and foremost, we restrict our membership to Old Stoics. Secondly, we accept men who generally must be over the age of 21, although in certain circumstances exceptions can be made to this. We are also avowedly non-political and non-religious and therefore we accept people of every political and religious hue. Lastly, Old Stoics who are already Masons can also join us. There are women Freemasons, who belong to separate women-only orders of which there are two in England: the Order of Women Freemasons and the Honourable Fraternity of Ancient Freemasons, and if anyone is interested in finding out more about these I am sure we can help.

It is my sincere belief that Freemasonry is an honourable institution, which greatly benefits society and its members, is a hugely enjoyable pastime and that many of the people you meet will become life-long friends. I hope this article has answered some of your questions about Freemasonry and Stowe Lodge in particular, however, if you are interested in finding out more then please do not hesitate to contact me at IanBendell@hotmail.com

Ian Bendell (Walpole 87)



STOWE LODGE

(No. 9002 in the register of the United Grand Lodge of England)

Stowe Lodge is the Masonic Lodge for Old Stoics

We are a charitable and sociable London-based Lodge which meets three evenings a year in London and once at Stowe. We very much welcome new and joining members and for more information, please contact the secretary: IanBendell@hotmail.com

NINE YEARS AND COUNTING...

The countdown to the centenary has begun. With the 90th Anniversary only just under our belts, it wasn't long before whispers about the centenary began. There is one particular project I would like to get started, which will require plenty of preparation: the creation of an Old Stoic Centenary Archive, ready for the 100th Anniversary.

Of course, the Stowe archives are in a very healthy state but we would like to add to them, particularly with personal Old Stoic accounts relating to memorable occasions in Stowe's history. As we get closer to our 100th year, those who remember Stowe in its infancy are dwindling. We would like to collect up your memories, stories and anecdotes to create an Old Stoic archive to give to the School.

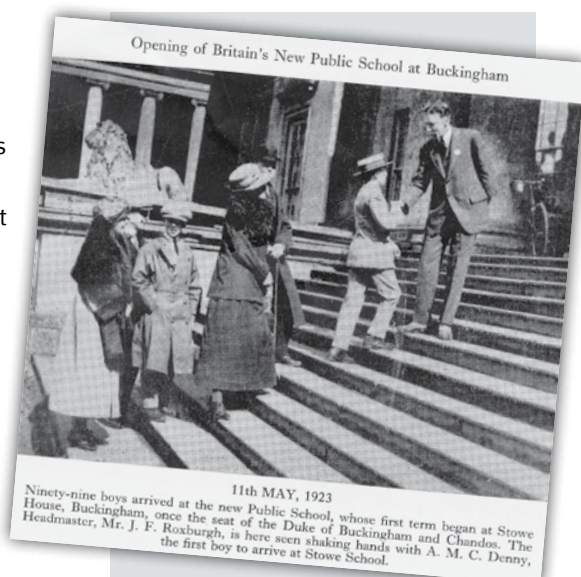
To do this, I must ask for your help. If there is a particular occasion that shines out in your memory of your time at Stowe (or indeed during a visit back to Stowe after you left) please do write down a short account and send it to me. The best way to do this is by email to asemler@stowe.co.uk or, if you

would prefer, please write to me in the Old Stoic Office. If you have photographs, brochures, posters or ephemera of any kind which you feel is of significant importance to Stowe's history, please do send me a copy.

The contributions made to this project will be collated on the online archive for all Old Stoics to enjoy. In addition, we are working on a scheme within the School to display more Old Stoic memorabilia for current Stoics. So, if your old Stowe cap has been hidden away in a drawer for years and you feel it is time it saw the light of day, please do donate it to our collection so Stoics can see uniforms of the past and get a flavour for what Stowe was like during your day. Of course, it might not be uniform; we were recently given a Stowe spoon!

I greatly look forward to receiving your contributions towards this monumental project and I am sure that, as we continue to count down toward the centenary, some of the best offerings will be shared with you all via this magazine.

Anna Semler (Nugent 05)



Before sending items to donate to the collection, please email a photograph and description to asemler@stowe.co.uk or write to Anna Semler, Old Stoic Office, Stowe School, Buckingham MK18 5EH

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A FEW THOUGHTS ABOUT STOWE

60 YEARS AFTER MY FIRST TERM...

In 1923, my father, Arthur Tickler (Temple/Grenville 26), went to Stowe as one of the first 99 boys in the first term of the School. All of the boys had only one bath between them to keep clean!

When I went to Stowe I unknowingly became the first Stoic to go as the third son of an Old Stoic. A few years later, one of the Bentall boys became the first fourth son of an Old Stoic.

The cedar tree on the South Front was a challenge for almost all Stoics. They were expected to climb to the top of the tree and stand with nothing to hold onto, on the very top branches. It took a very long time (about 2½ years in my case), to succeed in this task.

The statue of George III

The King was on the throne at the time it was built. In the 1950s

the statue was climbed onto by one of the boys who made a hole in the tip of the King's head and another in his horse's very evident willy. He then filled the statue with water and the horse peed for several days! The sad side of the story was that the iron infrastructure rusted away and became unsafe and had to be removed for repairs at huge expense. While the repairs were being done, the empty plinth was replaced by a cannon built by a Stoic and remained for some considerable time.

Prior to the swimming pool being built on the eastern side of the house, all the boys swam in a wooden framed pool on the south side of the lake.

Timothy Tickler (Grenville 59)

THE GAP YAH... OR IS THERE ANOTHER WAY?

"Yah, yah, that raarly reminds me of the time I was on my Gap Yah."

It is a phrase that has long been a staple of conversation at university freshers' week, but has since been adopted by Orlando Charmon, the alter ego of comedian Matt Lacey, whose parody of the exploits of this public school stereotype became an overnight internet hit.

Whilst many have decided that this is the route they would like to take following the completion of their A levels, I decided that there must be an alternative, not only to a hedonistic year sampling the excesses available to a young man in the pursuit of 'life enriching' experiences but also the ensuing three or four more years 'experiencing life' in the pursuit of an academic qualification. I'm not deriding those who have decided to undergo a year of public service, which some would argue sadly, are in the minority of those choosing to take a break before taking up places at university.

Having been fortunate enough to be given the opportunities and benefits of a good education, one might assume that my natural path would be to pursue my education through the traditional gap year followed by university route. One of the many benefits of further education is the combination of academic enrichment coupled with a greater requirement to fend for oneself: we are thrown in an environment where we will be required to learn how to cook; pay bills; budget and work more independently than we had during our school years but, most of all, we need to become self-sufficient.

I am sure everyone would agree that these are important 'life skills' that are a key ingredient in the process of growing up.

Whilst I wouldn't criticise anyone for this approach to further education, I can't help but feel that there has to be another way: perhaps an alternative solution to Blair's 'Education, Education, Education' mantra that led a generation to assume that university was their right and a highly paid job would follow, as night follows day.

Through work experience, I discovered that I find it a lot easier to apply myself and accumulate knowledge in a working environment than in the classroom. This may sound minor in the grand scheme of things but, for me, it was a significant step. Understanding that academic institutions are not the only place of learning was an enormous relief.

During my time at Stowe, I often struggled to understand the relevance of the subjects I studied. I found my A Levels of more interest but I still felt instead of learning about a subject, we were learning about an exam and how to conquer it. I accept this is part of the role of education and, to a certain extent, I appreciate it as my first set of professional exams loom ahead. However, I remain utterly convinced that having a passion for a subject or a thirst for knowledge is the most critical factor. This passion can be sparked by academic study but that's not the only way. I didn't experience this spark whilst at school but I have certainly experienced it during the year I have spent working following school, a year many would refer to as their "Gap Yah"!

During my work experience, I made it clear that I wanted to work during my gap year, thus aiming to find full time employment rather than taking up my place at university.

In September 2013, Mediobanca Securities offered me a month's work experience. It was one of the most rewarding times of my life. I found a passion for work and the financial industry as well as working hard.



Happily, I was asked back to Mediobanca to start on a contract basis at the beginning of February 2014, to work on the Equity Sales desk. My time with Mediobanca has made me realise that I want to keep going, to continue with my aim to go straight into work rather than to University. Unfortunately, Mediobanca are unable to offer me a full time job. So I am now looking for a full time opportunity.

The one question I routinely find myself answering is, "Why do you not want to go to University?" The concept of going up to university for the sake of working independently, paying bills and learning how to cook are not top of my priorities. Having lived independently for a year, working in a highly competitive and commercial world, making new friends has given me many of the skills that I would have learned at university and many more besides. Much of what is offered at university is readily available in the commercial world for those who go looking for it.

I fully accept there will be differing views on this subject and there are strong arguments to support those going on to university but, for me, choosing to work through my gap year has changed my outlook and set me off on the right path.

Jack Barham (Chatham 13)

Since writing this article, Jack has been employed by Prusik Investment Management in a sales support role.

KEEPING UP WITH STOWE

These days, there are plenty of ways for you to keep up to date with daily life at Stowe. We no longer send out paper copies of *The Stoic* magazine, (unless you specifically request a copy). Instead, an electronic edition of the School magazine is circulated to Old Stoics via email, as well as being available to download from the Old Stoic website.

If you would like to receive a paper copy of *The Stoic*, please email oldstoic@stowe.co.uk or telephone **01280 818349**. A contribution of £2.50 towards postage and packaging will be requested.

In addition, an electronic copy of this magazine can also be found on our website, so you can carry on reading whilst on the move. Please help us to find lost Old Stoics who might not have a copy of the magazine, by sharing the electronic version on social media and tagging your friends.

For those who might like to hear more about daily life at Stowe, please sign up to receive the fortnightly electronic newsletter, *Stowemail*. To do this, email oldstoic@stowe.co.uk. Regular updates about House and sporting competitions, Old Stoics events and activities at Stowe are chronicled for all to enjoy.

Lastly, for regular titbits from the Old Stoic Society, please like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and connect with us on LinkedIn. These not only provide a way to reconnect with friends from your time at Stowe, but you can also take part in fun competitions, find out about forthcoming events and hear fresh news from the OS Society.



OLD STOIC FINE ART EXHIBITION

Last year, ten professional and established Old Stoic Artists came together to form an exhibition of Old Stoic Art at the Clarendon Gallery, Mayfair. We had a wide range of art at the show from sculpture to abstract figurative work and photorealism pieces.

The artists showing their work included the infamous late David Wynne (Grenville 44), whose highly sought after bronze sculptures can be found throughout the School and along London's Embankment, and David Shepherd (Chatham 49), the acclaimed wildlife artist. Hugh Beattie (Chandos 91); George Irvine (Grenville 90); Mark Gilbert (Temple 58); Clementine McGaw (Nugent 06); Caroline de Peyrecave (Nugent 04); Justin Tew (Cobham 88); Oli Wilson (Cobham 92) and Robbie Wraith (Grafton 71) also displayed their art at the exhibition.

Many pieces were sold through the Gallery on the two Private View evenings and throughout the week. I would like to thank Old Stoic and former Chairman of the BBC and ITV, Lord Michael Grade of Yarmouth (Grafton 61) who sat for me on one of the evenings and was great at keeping us all amused, even if it did make all his expressions a little harder to capture at once!

The exhibition has given the artists a good relationship with the Gallery and some hope of exhibiting in the future with them. It was also an opportune platform for artists to meet and share experiences of their professional lives since Stowe. I personally enjoyed visiting most of the artists in their studios and discussing what would be best to exhibit. A particularly memorable visit was to David Wynne's studio with Nigel Milne (Chandos 68) (Chairman of the OS Networking and Events Committee) as David was so fragile then in the last few months of his life.

I was proud to be exhibiting alongside artists with a diverse range of talent and on such a professional level, in such a prestigious location and, of course, on behalf of Stowe.

Caroline de Peyrecave (Nugent 04)

RETURN TO SENDER

The address this magazine reached you at will be the address we hold for you on the Old Stoic database. In many cases, this might be somewhere you'll always call home but you might not visit very often. Many Old Stoics leave their parents' home as their main address until they live somewhere permanently.

If you would like to supply us with a secondary address, we will be able to invite you to business networking and social events taking place near that address. If you have a London address, please make sure we have this on file so we can invite you to London events. Please specify which address we should keep as our principal means of contact. Simply email oldstoic@stowe.co.uk to update us.



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and



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Course completion certificate awarded. **Web site: www.bgiuk.com**

All applications by email to bgi@bgiuk.com
Attn. Director General, **British Gemmological Institute** (BGI).

Science at Stowe is about to go...

BANG!

Recently, you should have received details of the exciting plans Stowe has for a new Science Faculty building and a request from the Headmaster for your support to help the School realise this ambitious and vital next step in its development.

Teaching within the Science department at Stowe is of the highest calibre, as is evident from the results recently achieved: last summer, 75% of A-Level results for the three Sciences were at the top A*, A and B grades, with an impressive overall pass rate of 97%. Every year since 2003, there has been at least one Stoic who has gained a place to read Chemistry at Oxford. Similarly impressive are the GCSE results which are among the best at Stowe.

In order to support and ensure the continuation of that success and enable Stoic Scientists to thrive, the School aims to make substantial improvements to the current Science facilities – built over 40 years ago, for a school of less than 600 Stoics – and, in its place, create the finest scientific learning environment in the country.

The new Science building will be created on the same site as the current Science faculty building. The present single-storey accommodation will be demolished and replaced with a new two-storey suite of laboratories, a Sixth Form Study Centre and a welcoming and spacious new entrance and gallery area.

Provision for teaching and learning Science at Stowe will be transformed. The new building will benefit from:

- Expansion: the creation of a total of six new laboratories (two for each of the three core subjects), lecture theatres, and a Sixth Form Study Centre which will provide space for interaction, enrichment, exchange of ideas and discussion across all three Sciences
- Refurbishment: an overhaul and upgrading of the twelve existing laboratories
- Enhancement: a much-needed and substantial facelift to the exterior of the building.

This is a mission to which we hope everyone in the Stowe community will be inspired to contribute – at *whatever* level they may be able. Every donation really will help the School and make a difference.

To find out much more about the project, to see the plans and to become involved, please go to www.stowe.co.uk/bang

The Headmaster also warmly invites you to join him, members of the Faculty and Stoics at:

THE BIG BANG – an informative and interactive Open Day for Science on Saturday, 21 March – safety goggles and lab coats will be provided! Again, please go to www.stowe.co.uk/bang to reserve a place.

For further information about the project, please contact Colin Dudgeon, Development Director, on 01280 818249 or cdudgeon@stowe.co.uk





SAILING IN THE CLIPPER RACE

I wanted to do something a little different in my gap year from the cliché South East Asia trips spending hard earned cash on cheap watches and expensive coach trips. I saw an advert on the tube on the way back to school after an exeat weekend, advertising places on a round the world yacht race, the Clipper Race.

During prep one evening (whilst procrastinating), I booked in for an interview in Portsmouth, without really thinking what I was doing. I picked a leg and, after a long conversation with my mother, (who insisted I couldn't do any major ocean crossing due to the weather fronts she had seen in *A Perfect Storm*), I went for leg seven which was San Francisco to New York via Panama and Jamaica. In February half-term, I went for my first week of training and despite being nervous to start with, I loved every moment of it. I was the youngest by a considerable way but that was no disadvantage as it meant I did more exciting things, like climbing the mast and rescuing the dummy in the man overboard drills.

I was allocated to Team Switzerland and a skipper, Vicky Ellis, who happened to be my skipper during my first week of training. I got swept up in my gap year plans, working in Scotland followed by a trip to New Zealand. I didn't give the Clipper Race a second thought until I boarded the flight from Auckland to San Francisco. Then it dawned on me, for the next six weeks of my life, I would only have a small cloth known as a 'lee cloth' for privacy and wouldn't be able to shower until Panama, a full three weeks away.

On race day, I was up early and without much of an appetite, I raced down to the dockside to help prepare for the start. As I hugged my mother goodbye I didn't really realise what I was undertaking, then, after a few words from Sir Robin Knox Johnston, we were off.

The Golden Gate Bridge was our starting line. As we settled into our watch system and, my watch was first, I took a moment to look back at the fast disappearing coastline with the light fading. Suddenly I thought to myself, "what am I doing? I'm stuck on this boat with 21 other people I've never met, I'm the youngest by at least nine years and there's no way out: this boat doesn't make port until

Panama, 3500 miles away." I'm not going to lie and say I loved every minute because that simply wouldn't be true. I loved a lot of it but there were low moments: that moment when land disappeared for the first time was particularly low.

I soon settled into the crew lifestyle and it turned out that it wasn't all bad: we got four baby-wipes a day to wash with! The race was in three parts, the first was sailing far enough out to sea to be downwind and in a straight line all the way to Panama: this took us around 48 hours and a couple of hundred miles before we could begin the voyage south. As part of our pre-race brief, we had been told to look out for wildlife while on this particular leg because the humpback whales would be migrating north against our path.

As the first sunset approached, a crew member shouted that they had seen a dolphin. I was dubious, I couldn't see anything in the turbulent water. Then a fin broke the surface and then another, suddenly there were tens, if not hundreds of fins around our boat following us as we made our way south, playing in our wake and dancing their way around our boat. As the sun set, the dolphins started to lay these



Ⓐ Grinding in a tutu, grinding is the action of putting the sails up and down, the tutu was for morale.

incredible phosphorescent trails behind them making the experience even more magical.

I lost track of the days after a while, each shift becomes a day in itself. It wasn't until Vicky, our skipper, told me that the finish line was only 200 miles away that I suddenly realised how far we had come. It dawned on me, as we pulled into the dock in Panama and I looked at my crew lined up waving to the supporters on the deck, just how close I had come to this random group of people from different countries, different ages and different backgrounds. The reason we all got on so well was our common goal, which was to race our boat to the best of our ability and try to achieve a podium place. Sadly, we didn't achieve one, as our boat came in 5th in the first leg.

After an incredible trip through the Panama Canal, we started our second race for Jamaica. Given that it was only 500 miles away in a straight line, it couldn't be an easier race. We started well and soon pulled away and, after a tight last 12 hours, we sailed into Jamaica in 3rd place, which was an amazing experience.

When we came to leave Jamaica and head north, I knew I was only 10 days away from being reunited with my family and having home comforts like a flushing loo, showers, and normal good food. Despite this, it was unbelievably hard to get back on the boat despite being able to call the other 21 crew my closest friends. In the end, I had to convince myself that I would be back on dry land in a matter of hours and divided those 10 days down into 25 watches, which would be five double night shifts and five 'lie ins' and, only 40 baby-wipes!

As we sailed north through the Caribbean I became obsessed with the chart plotter, constantly wanting to know how many miles to New York. We chose a route north along the Gulf Stream and turned in for New York. We had terrible winds on the way up; I was worried they would cause me to miss my flight home. Suddenly, home was so far away, despite being only 300 miles. In those last 24 hours, I was so determined to give my all to the crew and the boat that I didn't sleep, which led to my near collapse on dock in New York. We finished the last race 4th, being beaten to 3rd by just three and half minutes, which was gut wrenching.

As I boarded my flight home, I couldn't think of anything better than leaving that boat as far behind as I could! Looking back, the Clipper Race did everything I wanted it to: it was totally different from the cliché gap year travelling to South East Asia. I learnt so much about myself in those six weeks, especially how to interact with people of different ages and nationalities in a pressurised and potentially dangerous situation. It was an amazing experience and I would recommend the Clipper Race to any Stoic with the urge to do something a little different with their gap year.

Artist Profile:



Christopher Gornall (Grafton 51)

The famous JF lessons are the highlight of my happy memories at Stowe. They said to me then and do so still that beauty is something to treasure; to be enjoyed in whatever form it appears.

As a family, we returned from the Cape in a naval convoy in 1942. Luck was with us, we survived. I left Stowe in 1949 and, as my father was an officer in the Royal Navy, I chose to join the Royal Marines as a regular, rather than do my National Service. But, five years later my father died and the RM seeming not to be my metier, I decided to take a compassionate discharge.

I wanted a different adventure and chose to reinvent myself as a district officer in Tanganyika. Of course, I had no idea then that the spirit of Africa would so influence my sculpture many decades in the future.

As it happened, politics was on the move and if I stayed I would soon be out of a job. On my travels through the bush, of course, I saw tragic sights of untreated diseases. Fortunately, this experience drew me to medicine. Later, at the Middlesex Hospital medical school and much to my surprise, an ability to draw helped me through exams. Then followed many years as a busy family doctor. There was a happy marriage and the raising of our three children.

On retirement, portrait sculpture was my first love. I soon realised however, that sculpture offers many choices. Happily, I discovered the work of George Kennethson. His beautiful figurative sculptures led me to attempt my own stone carving. Now, I alternate between portrait sculpture and stone carving. Each is fascinating. Belinda, my wife, remains my severest critic and strongest support.

Love of the human form, an admiration for other artists and the effect of my time in Africa continue to influence my work.

My cup is full. I am eighty-two and in good health. What is more, I think that my best work is yet to come.

chrisgornall.co.uk

CLASSIC CARS AT SPEECH DAY



Saturday, 24 May dawned with sheeting rain, so this was not a promising start. We had over 100 classic cars booked to come to our display on the North Front and feared for our numbers. However, I hadn't counted on so many stalwart and truly stoic Old Stoics, Parents and Friends of Stowe braving the elements with nearly 80 cars making it to Stowe, some through torrential storms and appalling weather on the roads and motorways. Using the red Routemaster bus as my 'office' the drivers all came in their droves, one parent with a 1964 AC Cobra, arrived drenched in full waterproofs and rubber gloves and declared, "there is only one option at a time possible on the car: lights or wipers." She chose lights! What a girl!

Again, we had a very wide range of cars, from an 1875 Penny Farthing to a 2014 McLaren P1. Others included a 1902 Oldsmobile Curved Dash with a tiller-like steering wheel, a 1908 Renault Tourer driven down from Lincolnshire, a beautiful 1923 Aston Martin 'Razor Blade' from the The Brooklands Museum kindly driven here by Richard Nash (Chandos 66) which

had many admirers, a 1932 Wolseley Hornet March Special together with a 1944 Daimler Dingo Armoured Car and two Clan Crusaders from the 1970s designed and manufactured by an Old Stoic, Paul Haussauer (Grenville 60) – an Imp based sports car with a glass fibre monocoque body shell, which were bright yellow and made a very good pair. An unusual 1957 Panhard Dyna Z12 was also brought and we were written up in the Automobile magazine.

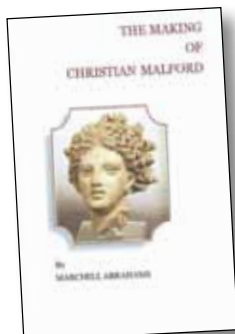
Our thanks go to Old Stoic, John Arkwright (Cobham 69) for his instigation of this event 5 years ago now and also to Marcus Atkinson (Chatham 90) and Angus Forsyth (Current Parent) whose company, Hagerty International generously sponsors the Lunch for the Classic Car Owners and Drivers on the day. Many others helped on the day, which was a great support and this year it will take place again on Speech Day, Saturday 23 May 2015. More classic cars are most welcome. Please contact me on cwhitlock@stowe.co.uk if you would like to display your classic car.

Caroline Whitlock, Old Stoic Events Co-ordinator



THE MAKING OF CHRISTIAN MALFORD BY MARCHELL ABRAHAMS

ASIN: B00KJ04RFK



In The Making of Christian Malford, Maria Carnegie (née Alexander, Stanhope 77), writing as Marchell Abrahams, presents an intriguing literary puzzle. Although the Foreword explains that this is not “a novel in the ordinary sense of plot and subplot, fictitious characters, setting and denouement” it nonetheless contains elements of all these

aspects within a fascinating, sometimes moving and always challengingly unconventional compilation.

The book's settings range from late 20th century Britain and the England of the Commonwealth and Restoration through the Roman Empire of the Christian era to classical mythology in a way that accommodates perplexing time shifts and narrative viewpoints. The past is intricately entwined with the present and is often reached through séance-like episodes in which time, place and people morph into one another rather as a kaleidoscope rearranges the same brightly coloured shards into an array of different settings.

Indeed, each section of the book appears to present one such shard without, at the outset at least, any evidently clear clues as to how the final pattern will settle. Thus, Christian Malford is an exploration of the ways in which not only a work of literature but also its author and her philosophy develop and become part of each other. It is an aggregation of incidents whose ultimate significance cannot be understood at the time – the road taken, the destination unknown, false starts along the way.

The work has a strongly autobiographical feel apparently employing incidents and locations that have influenced the author herself. Some of the most elegiac passages of one of several ‘novels within the novel’, for example, are a brilliant evocation of Stowe’s genius loci – clearly a major influence in Maria’s own life but penned here by her fictional almost-namesake Alexander Marsh.

This sense that Christian Malford is somehow the author’s own story is given greater weight by her own appearance in the guise of her nom-de-plume Marchell. As episode after episode unfolds, it is evident that whether they are viewed in real time modernity or through the prism of flashback and déjà vu, many of the characters are really the same person assuming a different identity in different circumstances.

Finally, there is a spiritual element to the work – perhaps hinted at in the title. Time-shifts, dream and fantasy, unexplained events, the quest for inspiration, brushes with spiritualism all suggest an other-worldliness, a higher self. The reader is given a religious nudge along this path by scriptural and literary quotations throughout the book and a nod to Jerusalem and the crucifixion towards its conclusion.

www.amazon.co.uk/THE-MAKING-OF-CHRISTIAN-MALFORD-ebook/dp/B00KJ04RFK

Roger Potter (Former Staff, 1970-88)



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THE ROXBURGH SOCIETY



The Roxburgh Society honours and recognises those who intend to leave a legacy to Stowe. Founded by Lord Quinton in 2005, it is an established and flourishing part of life at Stowe now entering its second decade, and I am honoured to be commencing my fourth year as your third President.

One's legacy bequests are the best way of showing what is important to you in life. By remembering Stowe in your Will and becoming a member of the Roxburgh Society, you join many others who have really made a difference and helped the School to attain its current outstanding reputation, and to maintain or preferably better it in the future.

Whichever aspect of this great School is closest to your heart, pledging a legacy to one or indeed both of our two charities would enable you to offer your support in the manner you choose. The Stowe School Foundation supports the provision of essential scholarships and bursaries, along with improvement of the School's facilities. The Stowe House Preservation Trust provides for the ongoing restoration and maintenance of the House.

Stowe is thriving, thanks to the inspired leadership of our great Headmaster, the talented and engaging teachers helping the Stoics to reach their full potential and all those who have made a donation or pledged a legacy to provide the facilities and support this School needs. But there is no room for complacency, in order to continue this success I urge all Old Stoics and Friends of Stowe to make their legacy pledge to our much loved School. Tax legislation is forever being tinkered with; however, tax rates upon death have remained consistently high. A call to your Financial Adviser, may allow you to be both tax efficient and generous?

To become a member of The Roxburgh Society one needs to commit in writing one's intention to leave a legacy. The bequest is not quantified, as if for no other reason, at the time of joining our august ranks, one's finances are some way in the future and therefore unknown. There will come a point when more detail may be required, but in the intervening years, one will have had the pleasure of our annual lunch at Stowe and other invitations (please refer to Michael Ridley's letter on p62). We next meet on Tuesday, 18 June in 2015.

We remain a comparatively new school, and, therefore, our endowment is not as great as much of the competition. As we move towards Stowe's centenary celebrations in 2023, I implore you to consider joining the Roxburgh Society and help to secure Stowe for the next one hundred years. Should you require additional information or have questions, please contact myself at nigelkrice@gmail.com / 07971 501750 or Laura King at lking@stowe.co.uk / 01280 818326.

Thank you.

Nigel Rice (Chatham 64)

Under the bonnet demystified



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OLD STOIC DINNER IN VANCOUVER

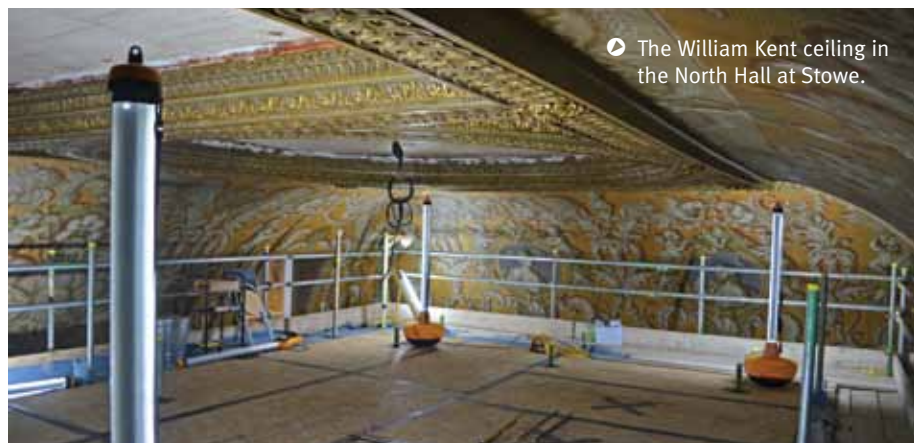
On 27 April last year, a group of 14 Old Stoics and their guests gathered at a restaurant in the famous Van Dusen Gardens in central Vancouver for dinner. The attendees came from as far as Alberta and across the border in Seattle. It is hoped that more events like this one will occur in future, with greater emphasis on trans-border connections to encourage networking opportunities in the North American Free Trade Area.

Robin Preston (Bruce 60), OS Representative, Vancouver



① Left to Right Back row: Rodney Rawlings (Grafton 57), Kelly Hyslop (Temple 60), Colin McCubbin (Chatham 70), Peter McMullan (Temple 53), Justin Nelson (Lyttelton 86), Jonathan Williams (Bruce 80), Peter Austin (Grenville 66), James Cormack (Temple 58). Front row: Robin Preston (Bruce 60), Thomas Delahooke (Walpole 68), Brian Graham (Bruce 61), Anthony Macoun (Grafton 62), Fletcher Morgan (Bruce 91), Peter van Engelen (Cobham 81).

ILLUMINATING STOWE



▶ The William Kent ceiling in the North Hall at Stowe.

During the past year, we have undergone several projects to enhance Stowe House. Following on from our investigations over Easter in North Hall and the Blue Room, we started with the total restoration of the Blue Room in August.

Known to most of you as the Grenville House room, as mentioned in the previous article, this is being restored to its 1860s Victorian drawing room splendour. During the restoration, we made a few interesting discoveries. These ranged from marks on the wall showing where the shelves were placed (when the room was the Ante-Library, around 1800, and was lined with mahogany bookcases similar to the Library now), to small pellet holes in the doors where they had been used for target practice! There was also evidence in a door lock of caps having been placed in it to blow it open. We're assuming it wasn't the 3rd Duke who undertook such a venture. By the time you read this, newly-commissioned blue silk damask, in an English Victorian design, will have been fitted into the beautiful newly gilded frames. A new marble chimney piece was carved, based on the photograph in the 1922 sales catalogue and a new mirror will grace the wall above the mantelpiece. The room will be unrecognisable to those who previously used it as a classroom, house room or meeting room!

In November, a birdcage scaffold went up in North Hall for the five month restoration of the William Kent ceiling from the 1730s. Despite very little having been done to it since its creation, it is in remarkable condition. The restoration involved taking down the three central canvas paintings and removing them off site to be consolidated and cleaned. The coving decoration is painted straight onto the

plaster work and so was cleaned in situ. The gold mosaic background is now gleaming, designed to reflect candlelight. The six Roman deities are more visible and the whole ceiling now shines. We had been due to restore the floor last summer but due to the lack of historical evidence as to what the floor looked like at any one time, we are undertaking more research to establish this.

Over the coming summer, we are hoping to undertake the cleaning and restoration of the Frederick Sleter painting on the ceiling of the Grenville staircase, depicting Fame and Victory. There has been some water damage over the years and loss of colour due to its position by the large stairwell window. It will really lift that area once the colour returns.

Over the past year, several 'lost treasures' have been offered to us and we try to authenticate the provenance of each item as far as is possible. Artefacts have included a portrait of the Marquess of Buckingham from a descendant of the Temple-Grenville family, a painting of Apollo and Daphne, a key to the Stowe park gates (see other article), a wooden table, a large ceramic plate decorated with the Chandos coat of arms, and a painting of the South Front from around the 1960s. It's fantastic that people are thinking of us and we are grateful for their consideration. It's been a good year for catching a glimpse at the 'treasures' that are out there! We shall see what 2015 brings us.

Looking towards the future, Stowe House Preservation Trust is building an exciting new Welcome and Discovery Centre on the ground floor of the main mansion, accessible from the South Front. Due to open in summer 2015, it will help us to raise the profile of Stowe House as one of England's most beautiful and important neo-classical houses. We are also creating a whole range of imaginative new experiences and activities that will transform visitor enjoyment of Stowe

House and increase learning about Stowe's history. Key improvements will include a brand new visitor reception, exhibition gallery, multimedia experiences and full access for people with disabilities. We will also be working with our local community and a range of artists and creative practitioners on Stowe-inspired creative projects and activities.

These new facilities are being made possible by generous grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), World Monuments Fund Britain (WMFB), the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and private donors. We are working closely with National Trust Stowe – who conserve and open the gardens to the public – and Stowe School to ensure that visitors can enjoy and understand Stowe to the highest possible level.

The image below gives a flavour of the new experiences that we are creating. The exhibition gallery will be situated in a beautiful oval vaulted cellar that lies directly beneath our stunning oval Marble Saloon – known to many of you as the Cellar Bar. We will also be displaying objects that formed part of the family's original collection of furniture and artwork in the main mansion as well as memorabilia relating to Stowe School, which is why it is fantastic that people are offering Stowe items to us.

So, with another dynamic year ahead for Stowe House Preservation Trust, we look forward to welcoming some of you over the year, experiencing Stowe in all its different stages of resurgence.

*Anna McEvoy and Jenna Spellane,
Stowe House Preservation Trust*



▶ The proposed new Visitors' centre.

▶ Detail of Victory from the Frederick Sleter painting on the ceiling of the Grenville staircase.



BOYS WILL BE BOYS



One hundred years ago at the outbreak of 'The War to End All Wars' Stowe was not yet a school. Nonetheless, thirty years later it most certainly was and the country was in the grip of another World War. It is hard to imagine how uneasy and difficult life was for everyone living through that time but, still, boys will be boys. This is a story of a slightly shocking but definitely rebellious incident that put smiles on many boys' faces at Stowe during this dark time.

Indeed, it must rate as one of the most daredevil and spectacular incidents to have occurred in the School's history. The perpetrator got away with it and only now will his identity be revealed. I have only just been told this tale, on the seventieth anniversary of the great act, and I am compelled to share it with you so that it is not forgotten!

This anecdote is about a great neighbour I have here in the leafy Sydney suburb of Mosman. His name is Guy Pease. He's 91, over six foot and in such amazing form that would put many fifty year olds to shame. He also has great wit.

Every once in a while, we go to our local pub for a civilised lunch and, it is there I probe for details about his extraordinary life. He is stubbornly modest and war stories are not easily prized out of him, which is typical of those of his generation about this time. I wouldn't have heard of this particular tale if his Old Stoic brother hadn't reminded him of it. Guy subsequently sent the correspondence to me in case I was interested – being an Old Stoic and of course I was. I hope you are too!

Guy went to Eton but his connection to Stowe is stronger than most. His grandfather, Lord Gisborough, was the first Chairman of the Board of Governors and his two younger brothers, Melik and Michael were at Stowe in 1943. He was twenty-one that year and a pilot in No.268 Squadron RAF, which had just taken delivery of the latest low flying tactical reconnaissance fighter – the North American Mustang Mk1A.

One day, Stowe's tranquility was shaken by the thundering roar of a Mustang Mk1A

flying spectacularly low across the Buckinghamshire countryside. Powered by the Allison V-1710-F3R/M V12 engine, it would have been impossible not to have heard it from miles away.

It was Guy popping over for a visit, to give his younger brothers a bit of a thrill!

He made an absolutely forbidden, exceedingly low, somewhat dangerous, definitely daredevil, window rattling pass over the School. Everyone rushed out of the classrooms: teachers, boys, caretakers, matrons and staff. Everyone stood in amazement in unbridled excitement watching this unexpected and very insubordinate and thrilling fly past. He then turned around and several minutes later came around for a second flight. A long low pass, all the way from the Corinthian Arch skimming just a few feet just above the Octagon Lake, roaring up along the green grass of the South Front, until pulling up at the last moment above the main House and shooting skywards.

You can imagine the boys waving and shouting, some staring in amazement and wonder, and no doubt all with big smiles, the blood rushing to their faces and many cheering. Especially Melik and Michael; they knew what a brother they had! Everyone else wondered who on earth was this renegade daredevil with such obvious and outright insubordination, much to the chagrin of some of the staff. But what a lark it was!

Here is the actual account of that day as recollected and written by Michael and Guy, now living continents apart. Sadly, Melik is no longer alive. It is taken from an edited

email conversation with Michael reminding Guy it was the seventieth anniversary of that flyover. It starts with a tampered version of the South Front picture from last year's copy of *The Corinthian* magazine.

Michael writes to Guy:

"I simply could not resist tampering with the image to show a Mustang low flying (buzzing) the building to commemorate the occasion when you did so in 1943. Was it the Easter or the Summer Term? I am aware that you and your wing-man approached from the south, from the direction of the Corinthian Arch and low over the 11 acre lake, passing perilously close to the top of the Marble Hall in the centre of the main building. My tampering shows a single Mustang, approaching from the west and flying perilously close. My technical ability could do no better.

I believe that JFR/Board of Governors was seriously concerned as to whether the whole building might have collapsed as a result of your buzzing! The central Marble Hall, in particular, was in a condition of serious disrepair in those war years. I believe that you received a mighty rocket from your Station Commander? But we boys all thoroughly enjoyed it and Melik and I basked in the event."

This is Guy's reply:

1. 100% for sure there was no wing-man, I could only have done it alone, I was far too fearful of the 'gossip' results on the Squadron afterwards if I had had anyone else with me, even my best friend at the time....

2. I went round twice, so as to give you and Melik time to exit your classes and 'enjoy' (take the dubious credit?!) – so it could well be that you reckoned the second 'go' was my wing-man. Gawd help us, if there'd been a wing-man as our wing-tips would of course have been within 2/3 feet of each other – in good Squadron 268-style!

3. 100% for sure I never told anyone on the Squadron – for the same reason – therefore 'it' never came out and equally therefore there was no 'bollocking' from the Station Commander. I may have had other bollockings in regard to other issues from time to time, but not on this occasion....

4. 100% for sure I was in fact thoroughly ashamed of myself all too soon afterwards because, to my own credit, I did realise that I'd gone far too low and far too close and that there was a serious danger for the fabric of such a magnificent and old building...It was only later that I heard from Melik that if I'd gone round and done it a third time I'd have been reported by the powers that be

who by then were assembled on the imposing front steps 'at the ready'...

5. Valiant effort as it may be, you have furthermore erred egregiously, even if half-admitted, by having me come in from and over the West end of the building, whereas of course the one and only PERFECT way to buzz Stowe School, were anyone ever again so minded, is to start way off down to the South, over the trees and past the 1st XI nets and cricket pitch and lake and then to sweep gently (at 270 mph, I guess) up the grassy incline with the magnificent South Front straight ahead and way up above on the near-horizon – and then, at as near to the last moment as you dare, to sweep up and over the top of the very centre of said building. It is in all probability one of the truly best 'buzzing sites' in the whole of Southern England...

... You're dead right, it is EXACTLY 70 years this year...before I had any of my 'fatal' crashes (July, August and September), so it would have had to be in May or June...

PS. 'Fatal' of course refers to the kites, all write-offs, yours truly presumably survived...

PPS. All a bit hairy at the time – and I actually shuddered in bed last night re-thinking those two swoops over the building...I am truly very ashamed of myself, it was an extraordinarily stupid thing to do, the slightest error and...

Guy had a remarkable and eventful war, doing very dangerous work penetrating low over France, Belgium and the Netherlands armed with four .50 calibre M2 and four .30 calibre Browning machine guns on the Mustang Mk.1 or four 20mm Hispano cannon on the Mk.1A as well as a built in camera. The missions were usually done in pairs.

One of the 'fatals' was when he had to bale out over the Channel as his engine overheated and caught fire but after treading water in the Channel for many hours he was eventually rescued and only just made it. He immediately returned to the front line, eventually being ambushed by six enemy fighters and shot down in France. Alas his wingman didn't make it. After several escape attempts, he was eventually sent to one of the compounds at the airman's prison Stalag Luft 3 made famous by *The Great Escape* which would take place a few months after he arrived.

For those Stoics and staff that day, few would forget such spectacular flying!

Anyone interested in the Squadron's history can contact the Historian of No. 268 Squadron Royal Air Force 1940-1946 Mr Colin Ford on cbford@effect.net.au

Peter Neufeld (Chandos 79)

REGULAR

🕒 JF Roxburgh and Stoics inspect a biplane at the RAF aerial display on 25 July 1927 near the Bourbon Playing Fields.

THE DE HAVILLANDS AND EARLY AIRCRAFT AT STOWE

In July 1925, two years after Stowe's foundation, and under 16 years after Britain's first powered flight, Sir Geoffrey de Havilland, the aircraft designer, flew his son home at the end of term, perhaps in a new DH.60 Moth.

The younger Geoffrey (Cobham/Chatham 27), the eldest of three brothers in Chatham, first flew in 1910 aged eight weeks, held by his mother in the open cockpit of the second plane her husband built, perhaps then the youngest ever passenger. The press was unimpressed: "Captain de Havilland quite suddenly appeared in an aeroplane and landed in the playing field. He had come to take his son, who attends Stowe School, home to Hendon. When schoolboys ride home in aeroplanes, the glamour is taken from aerial travel, though not perhaps from the schoolboy's life. It brings down an aeroplane to the level of a motor car." Two years later, the newly formed RAF display team visited Stowe. In fact, his parents always visited their sons "by Moth, landing in a field within the school grounds and there eating our picnic lunches." In 1927 the newly formed RAF display team visited Stowe. By 1941 the School had an old fighter biplane in Stone Yard.

Stowe, on a hill at the end of a long avenue, is an attractive target for low-level 'buzzing'. Guy Pease, a grandson of Lord Gisborough, the first Chairman of Governors, buzzed the School in June 1943 flying a Mustang P-51, to the delight of his brothers Melik and Michael in Grenville. JF frowned on this, however, fearing for the safety of the building. Michael Pease's (Grenville 48) account of this can be read next to this article.

The same year, John de Havilland (Chatham 35), then a test pilot aged 24, did likewise in W4050, the prototype Mosquito, on Sunday, 8 August, flying fast and low to test stub exhausts. Dick Whittingham, an inspector aged 23 at the de Havilland Experimental Flight Test Department in

Hatfield, Herts, recalled: "John de H arrived in the afternoon to fly it and I went up with him. After only about 15 minutes or so we dropped down even lower, flying down an avenue of trees which led to a lovely old building at the end. John said, 'Do you know where we are?' and, when I replied 'No,' said 'We are near Buckingham and this is Stowe where I went to school.' He zoomed over the School saying, 'This will get them out' and then flew around the countryside for a few minutes. By the time we came back, the whole School was out, standing on the steps of the main entrance and waving. We flew down the avenue of trees again, low over the School, and climbed away with a series of rolls. I remember that I was quite concerned for the safety of one lad who was jumping up and down, fully clothed, on the high board of an empty swimming pool!" An hour later, Whittingham flew in W4050 with John's eldest brother, Geoffrey, who had made the Mosquito's maiden flight. "We roared along at low level trying to blast the stub exhausts off and a few minutes later I found myself looking down on a familiar avenue of trees. At this point, Geoffrey asked if I knew where we were, and I replied 'Stowe', which seemed to surprise him until I explained that I had already been here with John earlier that afternoon. He said, 'We will have to stop doing this, but now that we are here I'll give them another show.' He then went through the same routine as John had earlier, zooming low over the School to get them out, and returning to give them a display of aerobatics."

Test pilots 'lived on borrowed time' then; 15 days later John was killed on another test flight. Geoffrey, awarded the OBE in 1945, was 'the finest demonstration pilot in Europe' and 'the ultimate professional. A man of few words, modest, private and unassuming, like his father and his brother John.' Attempting the sound barrier in a successor of the Vampire, the second jet prototype which he flew on its maiden flight, he was killed in 1946, 'a national loss'.

Michael Bevington, Stowe Archivist

OLD STOICS IN OTTAWA, CANADA

Sunday, 26 October 2014 was an historic date: Old Stoics gathered at the Chateau Laurier in downtown Ottawa for our first reunion organised by Oliver Stone (Cobham 80).

The interesting and accomplished group consisted of John Soar (Chandos 52), Colin Alexander (Temple 58), Dick Clegg (Walpole 63), and Charles Part (Chandos 74). There was much to reminisce about and we shall continue to meet regularly in the future. We welcome any other Old Stoics to our events in our region, and if you wish to be added to our email list and for further information, then please contact sto854@rogers.com

The next meeting will take place on Sunday, 1 February 2015 at Les Fougères, a restaurant near Chelsea, Ottawa, owned by Charles Part (Chandos 74).

Oliver Stone (Cobham 80)



AMERICAN FRIENDS OF STOWE

Engagement and Outreach Give Vitality to American Friends of Stowe.

Stowe has always been an international institution, taking in young pupils from around the world, many of whom go on to travel and live abroad. Over the past decade, Stowe's global footprint has been greatly strengthened by the growth of American Friends of Stowe, an organisation of Old Stoics, friends, families and supporters living in the US.

Membership of American Friends of Stowe (AFS) now stands at 350, making it by far the largest concentration of 'Old Stoics abroad' in the world. AFS has a dual mission: to foster connections and a sense of community among Old Stoics and Stowe supporters in the US, and to raise funds to financially support special projects at Stowe. AFS is an accredited 501(c)(3) organisation, so donations from the US are tax deductible, and it is governed by a Board of Directors which is fully independent from the School itself.

Friends of Stowe in America continue to enjoy the growing roster of social activities sponsored by the organisation. In 2014, a record number attended an annual cocktail event honouring Headmaster, Dr Anthony Wallersteiner. This year, the event's theme was *Music at Stowe*, in celebration of the opening of Stowe's new Music School. AFS also sponsored multiple informal gatherings including a midsummer Pub Night in midtown Manhattan and a BBQ Dinner for visiting Stowe art students. At every event, Old Stoics reunite with old school friends and meet other supporters who are strengthening the bond between Stowe and the United States.

A signature programme of AFS is the Stowe-Harvard Fellowship, which each year allows one graduate of Harvard College to spend a year living and teaching at Stowe. The programme is mutually beneficial: the Fellow receives a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience all Stowe has to offer, and Stoics received a unique exposure to American culture, views, and expertise. This is particularly helpful as more Stoics are attending American universities and travelling to the US after leaving Stowe.

Financially, support from America is becoming increasingly important in supporting critical infrastructure projects, scholarships and bursaries, and the School's operating budget. AFS has become increasingly sophisticated in encouraging Americans to donate to Stowe by increasing engagement between Directors and members and adding new ways of giving such as the donation of appreciated shares.

As the organisation grows, AFS operations have become more streamlined, communications have become more regular, and events have expanded to include more small events that allow members to meet and network in casual settings. With such a strong foundation, American Friends of Stowe is certain to continue strengthening the bonds that have become so important both for Stowe and for its friends abroad.

Brian R. Hecht, Chairman, American Friends of Stowe

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Book Review

A BREWER'S TALE

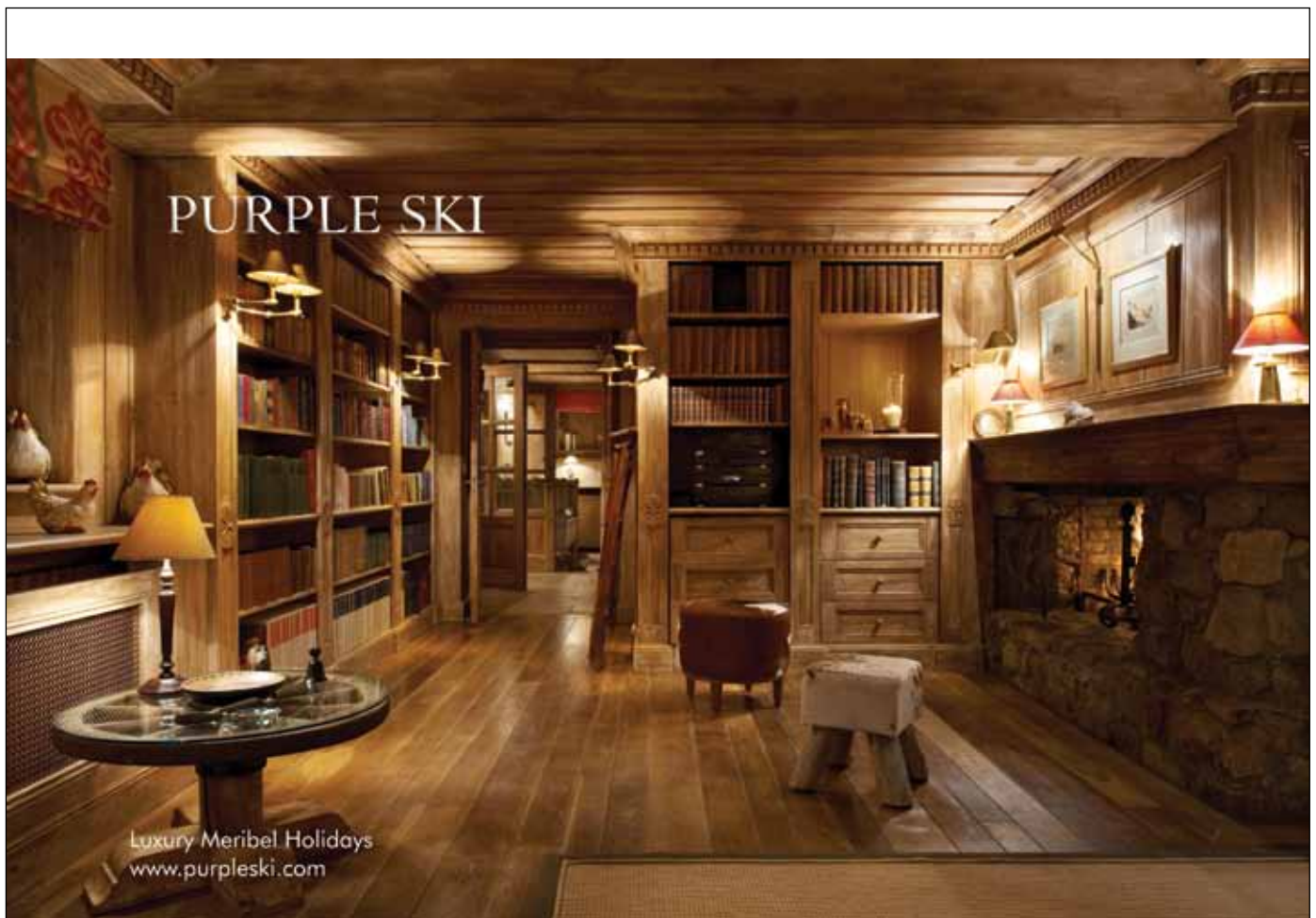
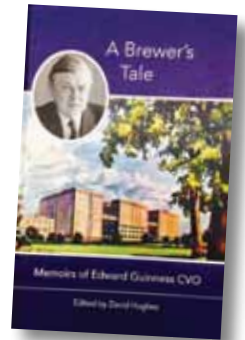
The memoirs of Edward Guinness (Cobham 42)

Last year, Edward reached his 90th Birthday and to celebrate, he has written a book called *A Brewer's Tale* to reveal his and his family's fascinating life story. This book is written with style and wit. It is no dull trudge through the years, but a vivid recollection of a long and eventful life well lived. And what an amazing life Edward has had.

He was one of the last family Directors on the Guinness Board when he returned in 1989, having joined Park Royal Brewery as a Brewer in 1945. But for destiny, his life may well have taken a very different path. He has made more after dinner speeches than he cares to remember, and many of his witty anecdotes are scattered throughout the text. It will make you laugh out loud.

He dedicates a chapter to his time at Stowe, accounting his memories of the great JF, "JF deserved to be regarded as legendary", and day to day life during war time Stowe. On his first afternoon he recalls that a number of them were drafted in to help to dig trenches for shelters at the Queen's Temple. During his time at Stowe, he also became the first boy Editor of *The Stoic*.

The book spans 500 pages includes over 160 photographs. It is an enthralling read and is fascinating to delve through. A limited number of copies have been printed, available at cost price of £12.00 plus £4.80 postage and packaging. If you would like a copy, please send a cheque payable to Edward Guinness to Huyton Fold, Windmill Road, Fulmer, Bucks. SL3 6HD, including the address to which you would like the book to be sent.



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Dear Madam

In your 2014 obituary of David Morgan-Grenville (Walpole 46) you rightly praised him as an outstanding civil engineer of his generation, but no mention was made of his great generosity to Stowe, which was not only his old School but also his old family home. For he was great-grandson of the last Duke, and had inherited a number of important heritage pieces and items of family memorabilia. However, he came to feel that, as the generations passed, the family's connection with Stowe was becoming more and more tenuous; and when he saw that Stowe's house and garden were being restored to their former glory, he decided that Stowe itself was the right place for these heritage survivals. He would have liked to donate them outright, but he was not wealthy enough, and so he approached the Trustees of the Hall Bequest to see if there was any

possibility that they might purchase them at a fair price on Stowe's behalf.

Letters, photographs and video-discs crossed and re-crossed the Atlantic, for he lived in Canada and this added to the complications. But, in the end a list of items was agreed, one of the London auction houses was commissioned to value them on a Willing Buyer/Willing Seller basis, and a deal was struck. A month or two later the crates began to arrive at Stowe. They contained, among other things, five original family portraits; a pair of armchairs (c.1800) with embroidered backs and seats from the Gothic Library; several armorial plates and dishes in porcelain and silver; a group of monogrammed drinking glasses; the ducal seal; a horse's hoof silver ink-stand, made from the Duke's favourite charger; and a baby's rattle – silver, as you would expect. For the record, they were valued at £34,430. But

for Stowe, of course, they are unique and priceless, and they will be available for display in the House.

But that is not quite all. Your obituary stated that "David's passion was strongest when framing a new venture," and so it was on this occasion. He devised a three-page, semi-legal Letter of Agreement for the various parties to sign, which identified possible problems and how to deal with them in some detail, concluding with the "hope that it may serve as a model for other such initiatives in the future".

Indeed, I hope it may, for it is a masterly demonstration of how such operations should be organised.

Yours

George Clarke
(Former Staff and Chairman of the Hall Bequest)



OS IN DUBAI

The second OS Drinks in Dubai was a well attended and an enjoyable evening was held at the Madinat Jumeirah on 15 October 2014. We were joined by Old Stoics from a wide range of years covering 1974 to 2013. The Stoic spirit shone through, as always, and there were plenty of stories shared amongst us in between the laughter. The youngest and most recent Old Stoics were the first at the bar, well before anyone else arrived and, in true Dubai style, people drifted in as the evening progressed. As always it's fascinating to see how people have got on since they left school and it's refreshing to see how a room full of quite different people can all get on so well and have so much in common.

Jamie Bernard (Lyttelton 90)



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Meetings are held quarterly in London. If you are interested in getting involved, please email asemler@stowe.co.uk stating which project you would like to help with.



STOICS ON ICE

On Thursday, 26 November 2015 we'll be taking to the Ice at Somerset House. All Old Stoics, friends and guests are welcome to attend.

Tickets can be purchased via the OS website www.oldstoic.co.uk





SAMI ROBERTSON (TEMPLE 00) SWIMS THE CHANNEL

In July 2014, I swam the English Channel to raise awareness and as much money as possible for Nordoff Robbins, a charity very close to my heart as my late father, Willie Robertson, was Vice Chairman for 35 years.

Nordoff Robbins uses music therapy to get to the root of the problem, whether it be to help people with autism, depression or cancer. It is extremely powerful and an amazing charity. I swam from Dover to La Sirene restaurant at Cap Griz Nez in 11 hours and 44 minutes, a time which placed me in the top 15% of fastest male swimmers to swim the Channel.

Swimming the Channel was hard. The training and preparation was a huge challenge. There were many times I doubted myself, questioned whether I had tried to do it too quickly (most do a relay first or give themselves a slightly kinder timescale) and frequently thought what am I doing?! I will never forget swimming in the Serpentine first thing in the morning before

work, it was about 10 degrees. It was horrible. This was followed by regular visits to Dover each weekend under the infamous stewardship of Freda Streeter who has helped thousands of hopeful Channel swimmers to get across.

The eating alone was one of the greatest challenges: I needed to put on about two stone to have any hope of keeping warm for the duration of the swim, no wet suits are allowed! Initially, I tried to put on weight with healthy but calorific foods, as directed by my wife who is helpfully a nutritional therapist. However, this wasn't doing the trick despite gradually eating up to 8000 calories a day! I had to resort to the sugar route and soon enough was having chocolate fondant for breakfast and a whole tub of Ben and Jerry's before bed.

Channel swimming is a team sport. I have many people to thank for successfully making it across. Firstly, Mark Faure-Walker for introducing me to the Serpentine Club. Never have I met such caring people who genuinely want to help others to succeed to their goals. I would like to thank Nick Adams, who is a legend in the sport and is about to cross the Channel for the 10th

time! I would also like to say a huge thank you to John Silcock, Bob Taylor and all the team at Robertson Taylor for their support and sponsorship.

It's hard to describe what it's like to swim 21 miles in cold water (around 13 and 15 degrees on the day) aided by a support boat through two shipping lanes in the company of 600 tankers and 200 ferries. I guess the main feeling is a sense of relief; I didn't want to let down the charity or my family. With their support, I raised over £53,000.

On the day of the swim, I was lucky enough to have a fantastic crew on a support boat which kept me company from Dover to France and back. One of the crew was Angus Elphinstone (Grenville 00), my best friend and Best Man, whom I met during my time at Stowe.

Finally, it was important to complete the Channel when I did, as shortly after we had a baby girl who is called Willow Rosie – a future Channel swimmer along with her older brother Bertie!

Sami Robertson (Temple 00)

OLD CHANDOSIANS REUNION IN WEST SUSSEX

Following the resounding success of the two visits by Old Chandosians to Menton in the South of France organised a couple of years ago by Michael Likierman (Chandos 58) with immensely generous hospitality, David Watson (Chandos 60) and Nigel Pattison (Chandos 57) suggested a two-day get together in their idyllic part of West Sussex this autumn.

It was attended by Robin Behar (Chandos 59), Nigel Pattison (Chandos 57), John Utley (Chandos 57), David Watson (Chandos 60), and Anthony Whinney (Chandos 57) with their wives, and briefly by Michael Likierman (Chandos 58); also Marcus Waring (Chandos 61) came all the way over specially from Brazil to join the party – a tremendous effort.

It began with a gathering at the Pattisons for drinks on the evening of the 24 September 2014, followed by a convivial and truly excellent dinner in the private room at the Itchenor Sailing Club.

The following morning the 'hosts' had arranged a visit to the restored Mary Rose in Portsmouth, where Marcus Waring (now the Duke of Valderano, following the death of his father Ronald, one of the very first Old Stoics), Anthony Whinney, and John Utley were amazed by the painstaking and fascinating reconstruction, a tribute (dixit Marcus) to King Henry VIII, considered by many to be the father of the Royal Navy. He did, however, observe that the superb match lock musket on display post-dated the Mary Rose by at least a century – never let a military historian aboard an even minutely-flawed representation!

In the afternoon, Nigel conducted those of a seafaring disposition on a tour of Chichester Harbour on his yacht, which was a hugely popular event on a perfect sunny autumn day.



This was followed by champagne at the Watsons' house in its gloriously commanding position on the top of the Downs at Goodwood, after which we all repaired to the famous Kennels restaurant in exclusive Goodwood Golf Club for the final O.C. dinner of the visit.

Sadly, on this occasion Robin Hunter-Coddington (Chandos 59), who is the prime mover of our 'vintage's' reunions, was unable to join us for health reasons; the late maestro David Fanshawe (Chandos 60) (African Sanctus, Dona Nobis Pacem, Pacific Odyssey), who would most certainly have attended, was also sorely missed.

Bertie Stephan must be looking down with satisfaction to see how this group of 1950s Old Chandosians still enjoy assembling to spend a few agreeable moments together every so often, after all these years. Stowe does seem to create an enduring bond among its alumni that only strengthens with the passage of time.

Robin Behar (Chandos 59)

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Dear Anna

It may interest Old Stoics, of recent years, to know that even those who left a long time ago (58 years to be precise) still meet as if it were yesterday.

Two years ago, four of us who had shared a study in Cobham in the idyllic Summer Term of 1955, when very little work was done, met at the National Trust New Inn and toured the Stowe grounds on foot and in a buggy. This was a great success.

We – Robin Charlton (Cobham 56), Michael Fincham (Cobham 55), Michael Ridley (Cobham 56) and Roger Trevor (Cobham 56) – decided to repeat the reunion at Stowe, but this time met at a very civilised lunch indeed arranged by the Roxburgh Society. Society membership is for those who have included a bequest to the School in their Will. An autumn event extends invitations to those who wish to learn more about the Society. Your contributor may be in danger of eating and drinking his way through the value of his planned bequest, but would encourage anyone who is interested to join this excellent group in a very good cause. See the article about the Roxburgh Society on page 52.

Our loyal wives, all of whom are the original ones, and who by now should be made Honorary Old Stoics, loyally came with (perhaps even drove) us and I hope enjoyed themselves as much as we did.

Earlier in the year, my wife and I went to stay with another Cobham contemporary, Nigel Williamson (Cobham 56), and

his wife Catlyne at their house in a lovely wooded area near Schilde in Belgium. Nigel and I had shared a study in the Pond Block, which may no longer be part of Cobham, in the year that we were taking 'O Levels'. This was distinctly to my advantage, as Nigel was extremely diligent and I felt I had to try and match his endeavours. My results were much better than they would have been otherwise.

Nigel and his wife kindly took us to the First World War cemetery of Tyne Cot, and to the museum at Passchendaele. Catlyne's grandfather had lived not far away and had fought in the war when Belgium was invaded.

On Speech Day, Diana and I met the widow of another contemporary and much loved friend, Nigel (NS) Murray (Cobham 56), on the North Front. Rosemary brought her daughter who had heard so much about Stowe from Nigel but had never been to the School. I had promised to show her around. We picked a good moment to meet, as the rain had stopped and all the guests were safely in the marquee listening to speeches. We had the grounds and State Rooms to ourselves.

Everywhere is looking in tip top shape, and when the State and Garter Rooms are restored the wonderful work of the last few years will have been completed.

The impact of the view when one opens the south door of the Marble Saloon and sees the vista to the Corinthian Arch is as great now as it was in 1951. I am sure it will be in 2051.

Sir Michael Ridley (Cobham 56)



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1964 UNBEATEN RUGBY TEAM: WHAT A GREAT DAY – 50 YEARS ON!

It had to be done! In 1964, Stowe School 1st XV had its first unbeaten rugby season since 1938 playing 11 matches, winning 9 and drawing 2. The School has not been unbeaten since 1964. The schools we beat were Cheltenham, The Leys (Cambridge), Radley, Rugby and St Edwards, Oxford. We drew with Bedford and Oundle. We beat the four 'club' sides London Scottish, Richmond, Metropolitan Police Cadets and Old Stoics. We have been celebrating ever since!

In 1984, we played the School 3rd XV and won. In 2004, we held a 40th anniversary dinner in London hosted by William Garrett (Grenville 64), so 2014 was the big one, 50 years on! It was the Master in Charge, Brian Mead's idea to hold the reunion at Stowe and, after negotiations with the School, it was felt that Old Stoic Day with the School playing Oundle would be the perfect setting.

Having fixed the date we needed to get the team back together. The initial round of invitations resulted in three of the original team, plus one reserve declining. We had also lost contact with Hugh Braithwaite (Chatham 65). I took on the task, along with Brian, of persuading the 'undecided' to attend and, luckily, they did all come which gave us a terrific turnout. James Agnew

(Walpole 65) tracked down Hugh on a social media site, so it was all systems go. The Old Stoic Office's team were very helpful and suggested we have a memorabilia stand, which they put together and used much of my wardrobe: socks, scarf, blazer and team photo plus press cuttings, fixture cards and a menu from the December 1964 celebration dinner with wine, at The Green Man at Syresham. It looked very good on the day.

The most important appointment that the players had to make was the team photo on the South Front portico. True to form, the squad were all there on time and you can see the evidence above. The players had travelled from all over the world, with Tim Taylor (Walpole 65) from Mauritius featuring in the Headmaster's entertaining speech, plus George Seal (Grafton 65) from North Carolina, USA, Hugh Braithwaite (Chatham 65) from New Hampshire, USA, Nat Parsons (Walpole 65) and Anthony Sharp (Walpole 64) from Scotland and our overseas Master in Charge, Brian Mead from the Isle of Wight. Brian had his 80th birthday recently but still looked in the best shape of all of us. 13 of the 15 players in the 1964 photo were present, plus Lionel Higman (Temple 66)

who played against Rugby School. Andrew Thomson (Temple 65) who, after 50 years, informed us late on, that he played in at least one of the club matches, was also present.

One of the charms of OS Day is meeting up with old friends unexpectedly, such as Robin McDonagh (Grafton 65) and (Robert) Geoff Parkinson (Walpole 65). Great also to see former staff, David Donaldson, now in his 80s, my form master in 1960, in good spirits and George Clarke, in his 90s, who remembered well our hat trick of wins in the rugby House match finals for Grenville.

The School match against Oundle did not disappoint. After a hesitant first half and being behind at half-time, the School came out in the second half with all guns blazing and won 27-10. I sent Alan Hughes, the Master in Charge a message asking how he had turned the match around. He replied, "I changed the midfield at half-time, we were too static going forward and I put the 15 to outside centre to liven things up, that and the forwards putting some phases together did the trick." Following this impressive victory by the School, we celebrated with a nice cup of tea and cakes in the Marble Hall, by which time the sun was shining and the view from the South Front to the Corinthian Arch was stunning.

Players were beginning to drift away with long journeys ahead for some. For others who were staying overnight locally, 11 of us met at the local pub where we had reserved a room and had so much fun, we did not want to leave at closing time. There was talk of having reunions more often but on a smaller scale. Brian sent a message to say, "The day went very well. It was great to see most of the side there and fun to see them all gradually reverting to their earlier personas... a small scale gathering in a few years' time sounds a good idea if people are up for it." So, let's hope we do have another celebration but, in the meantime, we are very grateful to Caroline, Anna and Colin from the OS team for making it such a special day for our 50th Anniversary and to the School and Headmaster for hosting this event, which will always have happy memories for us.

John Gronow (Grenville 64)

🕒 1964 Team L to R back row: John Burdon, George Seal, James Agnew, Nat Parsons, (played against Radley and The Leys, deputising in photo for Clive Hershman, inset above), Tim Taylor, John Short, David Remington, Noel Holloway. Front row L to R: John ('Stan') Matthews, John Gronow, Anthony Sharp, William Garrett (Captain), Richard Goodchild, Christopher Vane, Hugh Braithwaite.

🕒 2014 Team photo: Burdon, Hershman and Matthews not available. Burdon replaced top left by Brian Mead, Master in Charge, with his assistant Stuart Morris top right, Parsons again replaced Hershman, Lionel Higman, front row far left played against Rugby School, replaced Matthews.



OS SPORT



It is a good position to be in when you have so much to write about from a year's sporting action that you start worrying about the word count. I have no doubt that if all our participants described

some epic catches in the slips, a birdie or eagle and some great goals or free kicks, that the Old Stoic sportsmen and women could easily fill their own two hours of sports personality-esque highlights.

From the success of the Templars reaching the semi-final of the Cricketer Cup for the first time since the 1969 side (who lost in the Final that year) through to the golfers winning the Senior Cyril Gray and Alba Trophy competitions, there is plenty to write home about. I won't steal the team's thunder by writing any more here but please do read on as there are some excellent write-ups in these pages dedicated to OS sport.

On a personal note, I've thoroughly enjoyed helping some of the teams get funding from the OSS to help them achieve some of their

goals (and runs and birdies etc.) for the sporting year. There appears to be both strength and depth in OS sporting talent, with the newly formed football team gaining entry to the Arthurian league in their first season – another notable success. And in our midst, there are Old Stoics making the most of their careers in sport with Roger Charlton training Al Kazeem to a successful comeback. Many of us were lucky enough to see this majestic horse on the gallops at Roger's yard in the summer.

If you find all this sporting success daunting, then have no fear, there is plenty for the amateur sports man and woman. I met some of the cross-country team at a very fun, sports-team orientated, OS Dinner at the end of November. I can't blame the champagne because I was driving but they persuaded me to take part in the Hare and Hounds 'Old Boys' (luckily they allowed girls too) cross-country race around Wimbledon Common. Whilst I keep relatively fit with triathlon and cycling, I had not done enough running training for what was a tough, energy-sapping course in some serious mud. That said, it was huge fun, and something in which any London

based OS could participate. Whilst we won't necessarily win the overall competition for the fastest finisher, we could certainly look to have the biggest team in 2015. There's my challenge to you, the OS readership. Otherwise, why not come and participate in the race against the School at Stowe in March? If you need a goal to get fit, then this could be the perfect opportunity along with a good excuse to visit the beautiful Stowe grounds again.

Whilst at the Hare and Hounds race, Simon Gardner (Temple 95) and I got talking about the Stowe triathlon and thought that it may be fun to compete, as an OS team if we can muster numbers, on 'home' turf. There are a couple of OSs who participated last year and we thought it would be a good one as, ahem, seasoned triathletes, to add to our list. If you are tempted, then it is a great event as it runs three distances of a sprint, Olympic and half ironman... so something for everyone, as they say.

As ever, I am keen to see more girls taking part. Huge thanks to those who competed in the first old girls' lacrosse match early in the season against the current 1st XII. I'm just sorry that I couldn't participate in that one. If you have any interest in taking part or organising your own team then please get in touch with the Old Stoic office or contact the team captains direct, via the details available on the OS website.

Hannah Durden (Nugent 01), Old Stoic Sports

OLD STOIC GOLFING SOCIETY

While in 2014 the team did not progress in the main team competitions, the Halford Hewitt and the Grafton Morrish, the Society did achieve two significant competition wins by players at either end of the age spectrum.

Alba Trophy success: The young Old Stoic golf pairing of Jean-Michel Hall (Temple 06) and Haydn Brooks (Cobham 04) won the prestigious Alba Golf Trophy at Woking in June 2014. It is the first time that the Old Stoics have won this event, which is an invitational competition for scratch foursomes golf pairs played over two rounds at Woking Golf Club.

Senior Cyril Gray win: Following Stewart McNair's (Grenville 71) team winning the 2013 Cyril Gray competition for over 50 golfers, Mike Anderson (Cobham 57) and Nigel Stern (Bruce 57) won the Senior Cyril Gray competition for over 70 golfers at the end of June at Worplesdon Golf Club. This is a scratch foursomes competition played over one round with pairs from 32 schools competing.

Matches: In addition to playing the School team at Woking, Stowe and Stoke Park there were matches against the Old Haileyburians at Royal St Georges and Sunningdale, Aldeburgh Golf Club and the Old Gregorians at New Zealand. The match programme is being expanded in 2015 with additional fixtures

against Royal Cinq Ports at Deal, Stowe Templars, also at Deal, Old Canfordians at Sunningdale and Old Merchant Taylors at Moor Park.

Meetings: The Society Meetings were well attended at Formby (Northern Meeting), Woking (Spring), Aldeburgh (Summer) and Hunstanton (Autumn). The performance highlight was Neil Gray's (Chatham 78) 75 at Hunstanton to win the scratch competition as well as pairing up with Nigel Wright (Chatham 78) to yet again win the Lucas Langley Foursomes. Five Old Stoics also played in the Northern Schools Birkdale Bucket event at Woodhall Spa and in 2015 the Society will also enter a team in the new Dick Watson Trophy at Aldeburgh.

Charlie Dimpfl: Charles Dimpfl (Chatham 66) stood down as Secretary of the Old Stoic Golfing Society in October 2014 after 25 years dedicated service. His retirement was marked by a special presentation at the Old Stoic Society Dinner in November which was well attended by golfers. It is a measure of Charlie's fantastic contribution to the Society that to recruit a successor, the role has been split in two with Peter Simmons (Cobham 69) appointed Secretary and Ian Bendell (Walpole 87) Treasurer. Chris Luddington (Chatham 82)



was elected the new Captain of the Society at the AGM taking over from Peter Comber (Grenville 70) who has worked tirelessly to promote Old Stoic Golf during his term of office.

2015 promises to be an exciting year for the Society with extra matches, meetings and a new Halford Hewitt Captain in Haydn Brooks. The Society is focused on encouraging more Old Stoics to play in its matches and meetings, particularly younger Old Stoics, and discounts will be available to those under 30. If anyone wants to know more about the Society, please check our section on the Old Stoic Society website or contact Peter Simmons at p.j.g.simmons@herts.ac.uk

Peter Simmons (Cobham 69) Secretary



OLD STOIC V STOWE LACROSSE

Saturday, 6 September was a landmark day for Stowe. For the first time in recent years we raised an Old Stoic team to take on the 1st XII at Lacrosse! The OS team was made up of Claudia Button (Nugent 12); Lettice Carter (Queen's 14); Shona Drummond (Lyttelton 14); Megan Duckett (Stanhope 14); Zara Nichols (Lyttelton 11); Juliet Robinson (Nugent 03); Anna Semler (Nugent 05); Alice Deakin (Housemaster's wife) and Stowe lacrosse coaches Kasey Howard and Shelby Davis. We were also very lucky to be joined by some Stoics from the 2nd XII to make up our numbers.

The Stowe 1st XII had lost a large number of their team last season, so they were interested to see how their new, rather young team, would cope against our Old Stoic side, which included our secret weapon, Claudia Button, who is now playing for the senior England squad.

With this being the inaugural match for the OS team, we took a little while to warm up in the first half, putting us at a disadvantage to Stowe's pace and clinical finishing, which put them in a strong position at half-time, leading 10-3. Still, three goals was a valiant effort for our new side, so well done to Zara, Alice and Claudia for an excellent start.

Having finally warmed up and with a few goals under our belts, we improved greatly in the second half and came back after the interval with renewed vigour. We scored 4 goals in quick succession to make it 10-7, putting pressure on the Stoic side as they lulled in their expected victory. After a re-shuffle of their defence and some efforts to improve their marking they pulled up their socks and put in some more excellent goals.

The final whistle blew with Stowe having chalked up 17 goals to our 9, perhaps a little higher than we had hoped but an excellent match, nonetheless. Stowe certainly has a good season ahead, with an extremely strong attack and some well practised formulas to convert from the toss. We're expecting to hear great things.

I am hoping this match will be the first of many, with an OS side forming up to take on the Stowe side at Speech Day, along with the pre-season match on the first Saturday of the new Michaelmas Term each year. If you would like to play in either match, please do email me to put your name down for the team.

As an added incentive, the day finished with a lovely match tea in the Temple Room which was very welcome after such exertion. Well done to all who played, we are glad to see the start of more OS sport for girls.

Anna Semler (Nugent 05)

STOWE TEMPLARS

The 2014 season was generally deemed a resounding success. This might seem strange in a year when the results columns show 4 wins, 6 losses and 2 draws with 2 cancelled due to weather. However, all the losses were in close games which could have gone either way and, the same could be said of most of the wins – it has been a year for nail-biting.

The main plus to the season were the performances in The Cricketer Cup, where the Templars reached the Semi-Final for the first time since 1969 – our first year in the competition. Sadly, we came up 22 runs short of a 'get-able' total in that game but the 2014 run was a great achievement for all that. It was lovely to see so much support for the team at Bradfield for the Semi-Final match.

Finally, achieving something in the Cup (after a few years 'practising') was a credit to all the squad and to Adam Cossins' (Walpole 05) captaincy. It is invidious to pick out names, but Rob White (Cobham 98) and Ben Howgego (Grafton 06) showed their class whenever they played, Russell White (Bruce 13) proved an effective opening bowler in his first year, Lester Smart's (Bruce 00) 5 for 38 against Bradfield was a reward for many testing spells and the spin bowling generally exerted plenty of control. On the batting side, we have to thank Ashley Pearson (Cobham 01) for his 100 which set up a winning total against Bedford but perhaps the stand-out performance came from two of the YTS division in Rory Lyon (Walpole

07) and Ali Birkby (Chandos 11), who first dug us out of trouble and then saw us home with a stand of 167 against a hastily irritated Winchester side in the Quarter Final.

The Cricket Week was, as ever, a huge success. It was good to see so many of the younger players making such a good showing and enjoying themselves, so big thanks to Rupert Rowling (Cobham 05), Edward Hoy (Cobham 06) and Tom Wilson (Cobham 08) for their enthusiasm and good humour in organising. We also had a magnificently resurrected Cricket Week Saturday when Julian Stocks (Walpole 84) produced a team of his 70s and 80s contemporaries under the flag of the Chackmore XI to play a series of 20/20 matches against the current players. It was followed by a thoroughly enjoyable BBQ afterwards, kindly set up by the School, and was a day we would hope to repeat this year.

The season finished with the Templars taking a table at the Old Stoic Dinner where the year was celebrated in rather refreshed style. We are determined to maintain our efforts in 2015, and we would encourage anybody who would like to be involved to get in touch with any of Adam Cossins (07545 590710), Rupert Rowling (07833 694336), or Oliver Croom-Johnson (07909 962076). Nets are on Tuesdays from 8.00-9.00pm at Lord's and start on 17 March, for 7 weeks until 28 April for those within striking distance from London.

Oliver Croom-Johnson (Temple 69)

OS FOOTBALL

This last year has seen Old Stoics' football quickly adapt to life as a member of the Arthurian League to immediately challenge for silverware in their debut season.

Expertly captained by James Robson (Walpole 05), a side with an average age in the early to mid-20s, finished third in Division Four, one spot outside of the promotion, as well as ending up as runners-up in a cup competition, losing 1-0 in a close fought final against Old Oundelians.

With the team now well into their second season, the men in the traditional yellow shirts and blue shorts and socks are fourth in the league. With the cups also starting up in the New Year, optimism remains high that the team can go one better and pick up a trophy.

The sheer number of fixtures, with 21 played last season including a thrilling 3-3 draw against the current School 1st XI, has allowed the side to develop a spine of regulars with the more occasional players welcomed and easily accommodated. In fact, over 40 people have turned out so far.

Harry Benyon (Grafton 08) was voted player of the year last season and has started this season as he left off, being the club's leading goalscorer in spite of playing in midfield. Narrowly pushed into second was Jamie Hirst (Walpole 08) and he, too, looks certain to be in the running for this year's award with his assured performances up front.



Other players deserving a mention are keeper Mark Thompson-Royds (Chatham 07), who has gone from strength to strength to become a commanding figure behind the back-four as well as an expert shot-stopper. Rupert Rowling (Cobham 05) and Ben Hirst (Chatham 05) are quickly developing into the team's first choice centre-back pairing, while ahead of them, Alexander Jollivet (Grenville 08), Dominic Farr (Chatham 07) and Jamie Hirsch (Walpole 08) dominate game after game in the congested midfield. Tolly Leech (Temple 10) has come in this season to be a revelation on the left wing while up top Kyle Jordan (Grenville 07) has fully earned his 'Killer'

nickname with his assassin-esque finishes. Finally, last season's classiest individual, Archie de Sales La Terriere (Bruce 08), may have left for Australian pitches but his loss has not been felt as keenly as might otherwise have been, with Rory Lyon (Walpole 07) wowing oppositions with his immaculate close control and mazy dribbles.

For those wanting to get involved, contact Rupert Rowling (07833 694336) or James Robson (07971 504482) and to follow the side's progress, search for Division Four of the Arthurian League at: full-time.thefa.com

Rupert Rowling (Cobham 05)

TOUR OF ROGER CHARLTON'S RACING STABLES

Saturday, 17 May dawned as one of the most beautiful mornings of the year. Luckily for us, we had plans for a visit to top Racehorse Trainer, Roger Charlton's (Chatham 68) yard to watch his horses on the gallops. This proved very popular indeed, with over thirty Old Stoics and their guests champing at the bit to visit Beckhampton.

Roger is one of the country's top racehorse trainers and has held the Trainer's Licence at Beckhampton since 1990. He had an extremely successful season in 2013, with a series of major victories with Al Kazeen, who won the Tattersalls Gold Cup, Prince of Wales Stakes and Eclipse Stakes. Beckhampton has been home

to only six previous trainers since the 1820s; Roger is the latest in a long line to produce winning horses from these stables.

The day started bright and early at the gallops with a very informative talk by Roger, followed by a tour of the stables, where we saw all the jockeys' colours neatly stored in the tack room and, of course, the horses. Afterwards, everyone gathered at The Bell at Overton for a buffet lunch. The morning was a huge success; everyone was delighted to see behind the scenes at one of the country's top racing yards. Thank you so much to Roger and all his staff for making everyone so welcome.



OS CROSS-COUNTRY



The annual match against the School took place on 23 March 2014 and found the estate in its usual first flush of spring, lovely to visit and behold. 'First flush (of youth)' however does not, sadly, describe the physical state of most of the OS participants, although mentally you couldn't find a cheerier bunch.

The race, over about 3.5 miles, being twice round a loop comprising the Lakes, up beside the 'Japs' and back past the Gothic Temple, was won by a Stoic, Harrison Dockerty (Chandos, Lower Sixth), who had been showing fine form over the country during the term, in 22 minutes 36 seconds followed by Rory Knight (Chatham, Upper Sixth) 22.54 and OS Captain, Simon Gardner (Temple 95), in 22.58, so it was a close race.

Other OS finishers were an elastically connected trio of Chris Hutber (Chandos 87) 27.26, Simon Ridley (Walpole 95) 27.36 and

Charlie Clare (Chatham 94) 27.42, these latter two representing the younger age group (no offence to Chris). Lagging a short way behind but nevertheless a worthy team counter, was Tom Chambré (Grafton 95) 29.15. Allowing something of a gap to have opened up was Mark Henderson (Temple 65) making a welcome return from retirement in 37.45 and the ever present Richard Weston (Chatham 65) 42.46 (promising to be fitter next year – oh, no, not that old record again!).

For the record, and to give them their due, the School gave the OS team a pasting: the result was a win for Stowe on 28 points to the Old Stoics' 54. Ouch!

One pair of legs missing this year was that of Marc Hope (Cobham 79), another regular runner and joint President of the Club (with Richard Weston). He had a good excuse: he was busy raising funds, successfully, for the

Commonwealth Games. I think you will all agree that the Games were a great success, on a financial as well as a sporting level, the former in no small part due to Marc's efforts.

The Club (originally 'Donaldson's VIII' after our 60s mentor, David Donaldson) enjoys a convivial tea and get-together after the race, with invariably a simply gorgeous sunset to view over the Corinthian Arch. We would welcome some new blood; given the spread of times there is no requirement to be a runner per se and all newcomers are assured of a warm welcome. The OS office has the details. We also meet in December, just before Christmas, to take part in a race for school old boys' teams organised by Thames Hare & Hounds running club on Wimbledon Common.

Richard Weston (Chatham 65)

OS TENNIS

Tennis matches against the Stoics will take place on Speech Day this year (Saturday, 23 May). Matches were called off due to bad weather in 2014. If you are interested in playing, please email the captains below:

Men's Captain: Chester King
(Chandos 89), cmk@igroup.co.uk

Ladies' Captain: Megan Duckett (Stanhope 14),
meganduckett@outlook.com

OS CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING

This was my first year in charge of the OS Clay Shooting and my grand plan of beating the School on Speech Day didn't go as hoped! As per the last few years, the well practised School teams beat us far too comfortably for our liking.

Sadly, I didn't get an OS Clay Day organised in 2014, sorry to those who were disappointed but plans are coming together for an event later in the year. Full details will be announced soon and all Old Stoics with an interest in shooting will be very welcome to join us. Please contact Harry Hay on harry@hay.org.

Harry Hay (Grafton 03)

2015 Gift Collection

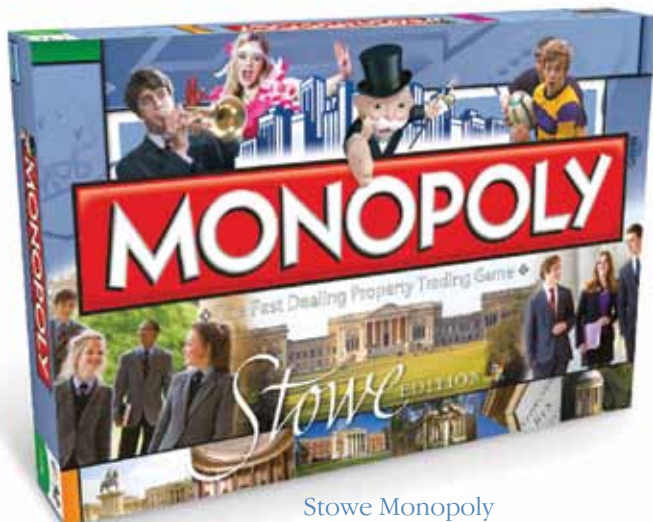
This page features some of the growing range of Stowe and Old Stoic merchandise available in the Shop at Stowe – a blend of traditional apparel and some new clothing and gift items that we have introduced in the last few months. We would be delighted to serve you in person, or to deliver an order to you by post.

To order, please call 01280 818211 or email shop@stowe.co.uk

You can see the full gift collection on the OS website: www.stowe.co.uk/old-stoics



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Pink and White Sizes

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To order: Telephone 01280 818211 or Email shop@stowe.co.uk

2015 EVENTS CALENDAR

We have endeavoured to organise a wide range of events in 2015 that will appeal to Old Stoics of all ages. To make enquiries or to book any of the events below please call the Old Stoic Office on **01280 818349** or email oldstoic@stowe.co.uk. Full details of each event can be found at www.oldstoic.co.uk



To see more photos visit the OS Event Gallery at www.oldstoic.co.uk

Tuesday, 17 March 2015

Old Stoics in Hong Kong Drinks Reception,
The Hong Kong Club, Hong Kong

Saturday, 21 March 2015

40th Anniversary Reunion Dinner, Stowe

Wednesday, 22 April 2015

Networking: Performing Arts and Media, £25
229 Great Portland Street, W1W 5PN

Wednesday, 22 April 2015

OS Live Band Night, £10
229 Great Portland Street, W1W 5PN

Saturday, 23 May 2015

Speech Day and the Old Stoic Classic Car Meeting, Stowe

Tuesday, 9 June 2015

Old Stoic Summer Party, £45
Kensington Roof Gardens, W8 5SA

Saturday, 13 June 2015

Careers' Fair, Stowe

Thursday, 18 June 2015

Roxburgh Society Lunch, Stowe

Monday, 6 July 2015

Classic Car Track Day, £350
Goodwood, West Sussex, PO18 0PH

Sunday, 12 July 2015

Stowe Triathlon, Stowe

Saturday, 3 October 2015

Old Stoic Day and 50th Reunion, Stowe

Thursday, 26 November 2015

Ice Skating, £20
Somerset House, Strand, WC2R 1LA

The Old Stoic Dinner will now be held on a biennial basis, next taking place in November 2016

Additional events including a trip to Brooklands Museum and a tour of a sculptor's studio are also planned for 2015, with details to be announced soon. In addition, regional representatives are now in place across the UK, so there will be an OS event taking place near you soon.

To make enquiries or to book any of these events please call the Old Stoic Office on **01280 818349** or email oldstoic@stowe.co.uk. Tickets can also be purchased at www.oldstoic.co.uk using PayPal.

Please note, payment for events must be made in advance to secure your place.



- ▶ The Summer Party at Kensington Roof Gardens, 9 June 2015.
- ▶ Track Day at Goodwood, 6 July 2015.

Old Stoic Society Committee

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Sir Richard Branson (Cobham/Lyttelton 68)

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