

Stowe mail

TATLER
2023 BEST PUBLIC SCHOOL

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NEWS FROM STOWE



Macbeth

Entering into Stowe as a new Lower Sixth pupil and immediately auditioning for a role in Macbeth was one of the scariest and most exciting things I've ever done. I didn't know anyone else and so was not sure of the level and whether I'd be completely out of my depth here. I thoroughly enjoyed the audition process and found I was much more comfortable when I realised that everyone fully wanted to be there and there was no judgement.

Originally, I got a part in the ensemble and was excited to just be a part of such a large production, however, due to other circumstances, some people dropped out of the main roles and so I was given the opportunity to be one of the three witches. This meant I got lines and to sing throughout the play. I loved rehearsing the play, the environment here is so good and everyone got involved, I fully believe my friendships between Year Groups have become closer due to this. I loved performing the play to an audience, as it was such a rewarding experience to show off all our hard work over six shows. Even though the flu was going around in the weeks leading up to this, we banded together as a cast to help the potential understudies learn two parts and lines for their character. Thank goodness that by the opening night everyone was well and the understudies were not needed and so could perform in their own roles.

I have really enjoyed being a part of such an amazing opportunity here at Stowe and can't wait to see what we do next year!

Claudia Kilonback (Lower Sixth, West)



The Senior Congreve collaborated to create, once again, a thrilling piece of theatre adapted from Shakespeare's macabre masterpiece 'Macbeth' accompanied by The Rolling Stones' haunting ballads. The music choice perfectly complemented all scenes; but a personal favourite was when the slow-motion murder of Macduff's family had a peaceful accompaniment, making this moment even more devastating.

The set consisted of two staircases leading up to a balcony stretching the whole width of the stage, creating three levels of action. Below the balcony, witches opened doors into a room where King Duncan made his first and last appearance and showcased the moment of Macbeth's death.

The prophetic witches remained on this stage, singing, cackling and retelling the tragedy, portraying how they were all-knowing. This short, intense drama enlivened the audience when a coven of eerie witches started hissing and chanting behind them as they walked down the stairs to centre stage.

The combination of smoke, mystical music, torches and synchronised movements throughout the play further augmented the themes of supernatural and self-deception. Moreover, Banquo's bloody makeup helped to demonstrate Macbeth's hallucinations and the costumes were well in accordance with 11th Century clothing.

This incredible tragedy highlighted the pitfalls of chasing supremacy in an innovative adaptation that was enchanting for the audience.

Imogen Embley (Fifth Form, Queen's)



"Thank you so much for inviting and facilitating Swanbourne House pupils to attend Macbeth: Paint It Black. We had a group of 31 Year 7s, 8s, parents and younger siblings, and each and every one of us absolutely loved it.

The acting, the set, the direction, the physical theatre, the singing, the music, the costumes, the whole concept - genuinely, it was all outstanding. Almost certainly the best production I have been able to see (and we've been to quite a lot!) at a Senior School. It's such a clever and engaging adaptation and it really captured the children's attention and imagination; especially our Year 8s who have been studying Macbeth and went to see the production in Stratford earlier in the term."

Rebecca Walters,
Head of Drama,
Swanbourne House School



In response to the Exeat issue of Stowemail, in which we wrote about the forthcoming Senior Congreve, Old Stoic Alastair Stone (Temple 59) took the time to email Laura Parker (Macbeth Director) with the following words and photograph:

"What a marvellous article in the Stowe Mail about your Macbeth production. I just could not resist sending you a picture of me as Lady Macbeth in 1957. I was already nearly 17 years old, a husky tenor in the choir, and a prop in the 3rd XV. But I loved the part, and the play, and performed on the (amateur) stage until 2020.

Thank you to Stowe for a lifelong love of Shakespeare, and especially Gilbert and Sullivan!"

It is lovely to hear about the lifelong passion that Drama at Stowe is able to instill in lives.



As a member of the Upper Sixth with this being my last Congreve, Macbeth has been a bittersweet experience. I have tried to savour every single moment, from rehearsals, to costume fittings, to tech, to the performances. I tried to make the most of every performance knowing that with each one we were one step nearer our final one.

Playing the part of Banquo gave me the opportunity to play the fierce, loyal warrior in the early fight scenes, and also the blood-boltered spectre, manipulated by the witches in the banquet scene.

Tears were shed by some of the cast on the final night, but they were tears of joy because despite this chapter of our lives coming to a close, we would be able to reflect back on the happy memories of Congreve and the fun times, friends, and joy we shared.

Owen Gunn
(Upper Sixth, Chandos)





Carols at Stowe

On Monday 11 December, more than 600 people gathered for Carols at Stowe, a traditional service of lessons and carols held in the Stowe Chapel. Carols at Stowe was originally the brainchild of our Prep schools, and now in its second year has grown to involve everyone from across our Stowe Community.

The congregation included Staff, parents and governors of the three Schools in The Stowe Group (Stowe, Swanbourne House and Winchester House Schools), as well as Old Stoics, National Trust volunteers, friends, family and members of the public for whom Stowe is a special place. It was lovely to gather, to sing favourite carols and hear traditional Christmas readings.

Guests enjoyed mulled wine and minced pies in the Chapel before the Service, allowing everyone time to appreciate the candles and seasonal decoration provided by Stowe's hard-working matrons. Just before the service began, the 110 singers from the four choirs (one choir from each School, plus the Stowe Choral Society) took their place at the front of Chapel. As is traditional, soloists from each Prep School combined to perform the haunting first verse of 'Once in Royal David's City'. Between the congregational carols and scripture readings delivered by pupils, Old Stoics and the Heads of each School, each choir performed a choral item. For many the highlight of the evening was the massed-choir performance of the 'Hallelujah Chorus' from Handel's 'The Messiah' complete with brass accompaniment from the Organ loft.

The Christmas story is one of good news and great joy for all people. Carols at Stowe provided a wonderful occasion for all to gather and celebrate this together. The smiling faces of all who filed out of the Chapel were testament to the hard work of the Choral Directors (Emma Bryden and Jonathan Kingston from Stowe, Matt Phillips from Swanbourne House and Vivienne Williams from Winchester House), and the great performances by the choir.

Rev Righetti, Stowe Chaplain

Maths Talks

A beautiful Formula, Warped Spaces and a Short Story about Infinity

The Gaussian Society met on Wednesday 29 November to hear talks from Gilbert Xu (Lower Sixth, Chandos), Daniyal Satybaldy (Lower Sixth, Chandos) and Ryan Zheng (Lower Sixth, Grenville).

Gilbert had been inspired by the appearance of Euler's identity in the YouTube film 'Animation vs Mathematics' and told us the story of what many mathematicians believe to be the most beautiful formula in mathematics. He carefully guided the audience through imaginary numbers, Euler's exponential function and Taylor series, and derived the astounding formula that connects the five most special numbers in mathematics: e , π , i , 0 and 1 .

Daniyal started out with the story of Euclid and his elements of geometry, that rely on five postulates, and the work of Lobachevsky, Bolyai and Gauss, who attempted to prove Euclid's fifth postulate by contradiction, discovering non-Euclidean spaces in the process. Daniyal showed how changing the rules about parallel lines leads to spaces that are curved outwards, like a sphere, or inwards like a pringle, and in which the angles in a triangle can add to more or less than 180 degrees.



Finally, Ryan told a very entertaining story about Cantor's sets, which he explained using a fully booked infinite hotel. The hotel manager could admit an extra guest, 'n' extra guests, or even an infinite number of extra guests arriving in an infinite number of buses. This showed us how there are, in a sense, equal numbers of integers and fractions. However, an infinite number of robots arriving with decimal identifiers showed, as Cantor found, that the size of the set of real numbers is a different proposition.

Dr Charles Adkins, Teacher of Maths



Triumph in Tradition: A Glimpse into the Prestigious Cadet Forces Military Equitation Competition

On Sunday 19 November I had the opportunity to attend the Light Cavalry Honourable Artillery Company (HAC) stables to compete in a Military Equitation competition.

Equitation is a long-standing military tradition which has evolved into its own discipline. The basis is riding an unfamiliar horse whilst acknowledging military bearings and drill, in a section of four.

On arrival, a brief introduction was given on what we were going to do and then four of the Troopers gave us a demonstration. The time then came for names to be drawn from a hat - I was pulled out in the first group of four, to ride a horse called Jimmy.

Once mounted I had an individual practice first to get used to riding in military tack, all whilst being one handed and maintaining strict posture. With the judge watching on, we were sent off as a four, under orders of the Officers, often using some rather odd terminology; starting in walk and then progressing up through the paces to an infuriatingly bouncy sitting trot (as we were reminded the cavalry never rise in trot). As the next groups continued, I watched from the stands seeing how other people were getting on and how it looked as a spectator.

After grabbing a packed lunch, kindly provided by the Regiment, I went off to have a look at a display on show. It consisted of what the horse and rider would have worn into battle and now what they wear on parade. I was surprised by the functionality of the equipment - even though it looks so fancy, every single item had a function. The bridle could easily turn into a head collar with a rope around the horse's neck to lead and the rolls each end of the saddle could contain all a soldier's gear to survive in the field and offer vital protection. On a slightly more gruesome note, the hat was attached to the jacket by silver ropes to supposedly identify which head belonged to which body.

We were then able to hold the original Victorian lances and swords. The lances were surprising light as they are made of bamboo, whilst the swords were very heavy and hard to manoeuvre.

Overall, it was a great day to learn new things whilst meeting new people from different Cadet forces, and the military hospitality was second to none. I would like to thank Major Gerrard and Sergeant Major Abbey for providing me with the opportunity to attend this wonderful event.

Cadet Jonty Gordon (Lower Sixth, Croft)



Neurodiversity and Disability Week

During the week of Monday 27 November, Stowe celebrated Neurodiversity and Disability Week. All Stoics took part in raising awareness and learning of the many neurological differences and disabilities and how they change people's way of learning and living in ways we may not consider.

The School invited Old Stoic, Will Perry (Cobham 19), British Paralympian, to host a talk with the Fifth Form on disability; where he involved all in realising and questioning the many stereotypes and prejudices in our society towards those with disabilities. This engagement allowed all Stoics to be advocates of those who face discrimination.

Will also talked to the Stowe Radio team, and this is available for all to listen to in the Christmas broadcast. The School's actions have given Stoics the power to make a positive difference for neurodiversity.

Benjamin Bailey (Lower Sixth, Chandos)

Photo taken by Jemima Dare (Upper Sixth, Queen's). Jemima is Will's cousin and along with Ruby Colebrook (Upper Sixth, Queen's), arranged his visit as part of their work with the ForEver Stowe Group).



Service@Stowe Community Christmas Party



The weather for our Community Christmas Party on Sunday 10 December was kinder to us than last year; although wet and blustery, it was, at least, not cold.

A large and enthusiastic group of Stoics arrived in North Hall ready to undertake all the tasks required to run a successful Christmas Party, with guidance from a great group of Staff who all gave up their Sunday afternoon to help. This year the Community Christmas Party, the biggest in our history, moved back to the refurbished State Dining Room, and we filled the room with around 150 elderly local residents.

The Stoics transformed the Dining Room with tablecloths, Christmas crackers, bingo cards, raffle tickets, decorations and festive touches, whilst others prepared the raffle prizes and bingo equipment.

As the guests arrived, the Stoics went out in the rain to direct traffic, and with large umbrellas, welcome guests and help them in from their vehicles. Tea and biscuits were served in the Music Room while people arrived, before everyone moved into the State Dining Room for the main event. With a very full room and everyone in high festive spirits, proceedings started with a warm welcome from Rev Righetti. Christmas Carols were sung with great gusto by lots of Stoic singers and the guests, to the brilliant piano playing of Jonathan Kingston (Director of Chapel Music and Head of Vocal).

Afternoon tea was served by a vast swathe of enthusiastic and professional Stoics under the guidance and assistance of the Catering Department. The treats on

offer were outstanding and the guests tucked in with enthusiasm and soon polished off every last morsel.

Following tea, it was time to get the games under way. Dr Wallersteiner was once again persuaded to call the bingo; he was great as usual, making some very amusing calls which I'm not sure were all straight from the bingo callers manual! So many Stoics were on hand to help, one spun the wheel to release the balls, others noted all the numbers, fetched and check the winning lines when BINGO was called, and prizes were delivered with a smile.

When it came time to do the raffle, we were once again inundated with Stoics who wanted to do the draw, announce the winning tickets numbers and ensure the appropriate prizes were selected and delivered to the winners.

Finally, to round the day off, Dr "Santa" Webber came flying into the Dining Room like a force of nature, Ho-Ho-Ho-ing and ringing his bell whilst handing out the gifts, ably supported by a swarm of Stoic "elves", to each visitor, before ending the day with resounding leadership of 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas'.

The contribution of every single Stoic was absolutely brilliant, and I hope we can say that this is the best community Christmas Party we have hosted; the enthusiasm was astounding, and I congratulate you all. Thank you too, to all the Staff who contributed so much to the event.

Rowland Shuttleworth, Head of Service@Stowe

It was lovely to receive such genuine thanks by one of our visitors, illustrating the importance of the party to those who attended and how well the Stoic and Staff efforts are viewed; "Thank you so much for a wonderful Christmas Party.

I was invited to Stowe as a volunteer with Contact The Elderly (now ReEngage), a charity which I have been involved with for many many years.

Recently my Mother was diagnosed with dementia which has advanced aggressively and I have become a carer for her and my Father. As a result they have become guests of Contact The Elderly too.

My Mother's dementia is such that she becomes panicked at anything new and unusual. However, we all spent a lot of time at Stowe, (Gardens and House) during the 80s and 90s so she was in fairly familiar territory. She relaxed at once with the help of your wonderful students.

She enjoyed the party so much I can't tell you how wonderful it was to see my Mother back again, breaking through the dementia.

Your pupils are a true credit to you and all of the Staff were so amazingly friendly and helpful.

Thank you so, so much for giving my parents a truly wonderful experience and for giving me some cherished memories. (Oh, and for the chocolates too!)

With best wishes and kind regards
Kirsty"





ROBOTICS

On Wednesday 6 December, the Stowe Robotics team hosted the VEX Regional Robotics Competition in the Marble Hall.

We welcomed around 24 teams to Stowe, of which four represented Stowe. The day consisted of practice matches then qualification matches followed by Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals and the Final. It was an international competition with teams coming from as far away as Singapore.

In the matches, each team used their robot to try to score the most goals. Our Fourth Form team enjoyed great success by getting to the Semi-Finals.

Overall, it was a very successful day and we look forward to hosting more competitions in the future.

With special thanks to Mr Thompson and all the Staff who made it possible.

James Barnett (Fourth Form, Winton)

Stowe Results

The Fourth Form team, comprising of James Stratford (Walpole), Henry Anderson (Temple) and James Barnett, won the Design Award, which comes from having the strongest engineering notebook explaining their build and programming so far this season, to date this is an impressive 100-page document.

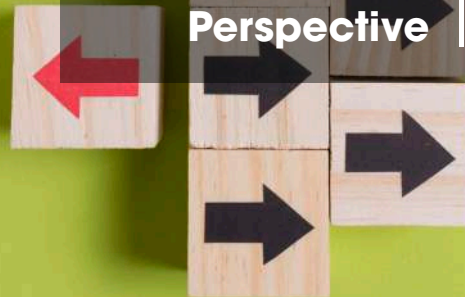
The Lower Sixth team led by Will Woodmansee (Winton) placed Third in the Skills aspect of the competition. This requires teams to score as many points as possible as a solo robot, through their programming and driving skills. This qualified them for the National Finals in March. So now both the Fourth Form and the Sixth Form teams are through to Nationals. We still have strong hopes that the Third Form and Fifth Form teams will be able to qualify in our last two remaining regionals in the new year.

Paul Thompson, Head of Robotics



How to Choose A Level and BTEC Subjects: A Sixth Form Perspective

FUTURES



On Wednesday 1 November we addressed the Fifth Form on the crucial topic of selecting the right A Level/BTEC subjects and understanding the significance of GCSEs. These choices play a pivotal role in shaping your future.

When choosing A Levels or BTECs, reflect on your strengths and interests and consider potential career paths or university courses. It is not just about preference; your GCSE grades, especially in English and Maths, are critical for university applications. Most institutions require a minimum Grade 4, with more competitive courses or universities such as Oxbridge demanding higher grades.

Your GCSE results are the foundation of your university application. Ensure that your chosen A Level or BTEC subjects align with the requirements of your desired courses. Remember, predicted A Level grades are also a key consideration for universities.

You should not only choose the course you think best suits your aspirations beyond Stowe, but you should choose subjects you enjoy and are good at. Look at what universities really want and do the research; do not simply ask someone.

Ultimately, achieving the necessary grades is your responsibility. Hard work and dedication are essential and our general tips to succeed include:

- Regular revision
- Asking questions
- Focusing on personal progress
- Keeping up with coursework
- Making decisions based on your strengths and aspirations

Choosing the right A Level or BTEC subjects is a significant step towards your goals. Align your strengths, interests, and ambitions with your subject choices, maintain strong GCSE and predicted grades, and you will be well prepared for successful university applications.

For additional resources and guidance:

- UCAS provides comprehensive information on university applications and related topics.
- The US-UK Fulbright Commission offers advice and opportunities for transatlantic education exchanges.
- Stowe's 'Futures' website and YouTube channel offers a wealth of information on careers, work experiences, and more.

For further advice and guidance, speak to your subject teachers, tutors, or contact **Ms Guntner** or **Dr West** in the Futures Office.

Martha Blake (Upper Sixth, Cheshire)
& Daniel Flames (Upper Sixth, Cobham)

Top Honours in Wildlife Photography Competition 2023



**Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
& Oxfordshire**
Wildlife Trust



We are thrilled to announce that our talented pupil Anton Poon (Fifth Form, Croft) has achieved remarkable success in the annual Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBONT) Wildlife Photography Competition for 2023. Not only did Anton win the 'Teen' category, but he also earned the title of Runner-Up within the same division - a feat that showcases his exceptional skill and creativity behind the lens.

A Double Win

Anton's photograph, titled 'Coreus Marginatus' captured the judges' attention with its stunning composition and attention to detail, effortlessly securing first place. His runner-up photograph was equally captivating and showcased his remarkable aptitude for capturing the natural world. The judges were astounded by the quality and finesse of both entries, making Anton a standout competitor in the field.

Prize and Recognition

The achievement comes with more than just accolades; Anton has won a set of nature books as part of his prize. What makes this win even more special is that these books will be added to our School Library, enhancing our collection for all pupils to benefit from. The addition of these not only expands the existing selection but also serves as an inspiration for aspiring photographers and nature enthusiasts alike within our School community.



Acknowledgements

We extend our heartiest congratulations to Anton for his spectacular achievements. His passion for photography and nature shines through his work. We are incredibly proud of him and his achievements. We also want to thank the organisers of the BBONT annual Wildlife Photography Competition for creating such a wonderful platform for young talent to be recognised and celebrated.

Please visit their official [website](#) for more information on the Wildlife Photography Competition 2023.

Dr Gordon West, Croft Houseparent

CCF Inter Platoon Field Gun and Tug of War Competition



The final CCF evening of the Michaelmas Term, on Monday 11 December, saw the CCF Inter-Platoon Competition. It consisted of the Navy, Army and RAF Sections competing against each other in Field Gun and Tug of War at the athletics track. For the Field Gun competition a team of eight Cadets had to collect and assemble parts of the bulky and heavy field gun before racing up and down the athletics track, pulling the gun. The fastest team won and gained their team the most points.

The Army and RAF performed exceptionally well, especially without having any prior experience with Field Gun. All three sections managed to efficiently assemble and bring the limber to the gun and back using teamwork and communication. This part of the competition was won by the Navy by only 16 milliseconds with a total of 58.14 seconds. They demonstrated their ability to work together through cooperation and coordination.

The second half of the CCF competition was composed of Tug of War where all three sections combined strategy and strength to try and win each round. The winner ended up being Anderson 1, thanks to their joined collaboration and unity which helped them manage to get the flag on the rope to their side.

After calculating the scores each section gained for both the Field Gun and Tug of War, the overall victor was announced to be Cheshire 5, winning the most points from both activities conjoined. Even though they did not win any of the individual activities, they still managed to rise to the top due to their organisation and initiative. Their hard work was rewarded with a giant 4.5kg Toblerone bar! To conclude the evening, we were all treated with mince pies and hot chocolate leaving us looking forward to the holidays and next terms activities.

**LCpl Lani Shah (Fifth Form, Cheshire)
& Cadet Julia Likierman (Fourth Form, Stanhope)**



BADMINTON

On Saturday 18 November Stowe had six badminton teams competing against Oundle School. The boys' teams dominated proceedings, winning all four of their matches. The 1st team won 10-8, the 2nd team had a fantastic 16-2 win, the 3rd team eased to a 14-4 win and the 4th team played with a great deal of composure and spirit to win 10-8. It was harder going for the girls but nonetheless they fought for every point with the 1st team going down 1-8 and the 2nd team 4-5.

On Saturday 2 December the boys' 1st team battled hard against a very strong Abingdon side but eventually lost 5-11, however, the boys' 2nd team put on a scintillating performance to beat Abingdon 13-3 having lost this fixture last year by the same margin.

On Saturday 9 December the boys' 1st team came up against the strongest opposition on our circuit this season and although many of the matches were close, MCS Oxford proved to be too strong on this occasion, winning the

match 12-4. The boys' U16 played some superb badminton and had a resounding 11-5 victory against MCS Oxford. Stand out performances came from 1st pair Martin Zhang (Fifth Form, Chandos) and Alex Fan (Fourth Form, Chandos) and 3rd pair Alexander Humphreys-von Bittschwan (Fifth Form, Grenville) and Oliver Lamberton (Fifth Form, Grenville) who won all their matches.

The Third Form boys' and girls' doubles and singles competitions took place on Sunday 10 December.

Girls' Doubles: Nugent beat Queen's 3-0 in the Final (21-17; 21-19; 21-10)

Girls' Singles: Praepilai Phungsunthorn (Third Form, Lyttelton) beat Aroa Ane Herran Berraondo (Third Form, Lyttelton) 21-6.

Boys' Doubles: Bruce beat Grafton 3-0 in the Final (21-7; 21-19; 21-19).

Boys' Singles: Oscar Chiang (Third Form, Walpole) beat Ralph Frohnsdorff (Third Form, Temple) 21-12.

Isaac Michael, Head of Badminton



Basketball

On Thursday 16 November the 1st team were not able to reproduce the form which saw them defeat Abingdon earlier in the term and lost this encounter 33-42.

On Saturday 18 November a combined 1st and 2nd team had a close encounter with Oundle's 1st team, eventually coming through 34-28. The team played well in the first half with good ball movement and shooting well, as well as good rebounding. The team dropped off a little in second half losing the 3rd quarter but held on to secure the win.

On Thursday 7 December, the U16 team avenged their earlier loss this term of 25-48 by beating Abingdon 29-26. Leading scorers were Will Catley (Fourth Form, Chatham) 10 points and Santiago Fernandez Garcia-Ramos (Third Form, Grenville) 9 points.

Isaac Michael, Head of Basketball



Rowing

The rowers were looking forward to a final flurry to end the Michaelmas Term after last year we attended Walton Small Boats Head on a frosty, but sunny, Winter's day. Our rowers trained well, in sub-zero temperatures and we had a bigger and better prepared team - 20 boats in all.

Unfortunately, the frosty weather broke, the River Thames returned to flood, and Walton was cancelled; to the disappointment of 600 crews, including us. Schools that row on the Thames have not been on the water since Half Term. At Stowe we have the great advantage of two lakes, which are unaffected, and we have been able to get on the water all term.

As a substitute for Walton, we considered a day with one of those disappointed clubs, Bewl Bridge - the club of one of our families. Bewl is a fabulous lake in the Weald of Kent, allowing up to 5,000m of rowing, but stormy weather was not going to make the trip worthwhile. Hopefully we can re-visit this on a more clement day in the Spring.

It seems worth reflecting upon the term. Each year it is sad to say goodbye to leavers, some of whom committed themselves whole-heartedly to rowing, and got back everything the sport has to offer. Their Centenary Day at Henley in 2023 was so special.

For the girls, these have been replaced by new starters in the Fourth Form from Stanhope and in Lower Sixth from Nugent. For the boys we have some new Stoics from the Third and Fourth Form. We would like to see some of the Stowe rugby players picking-up rowing, as a way to improve their strength and fitness over the Summer. This is the model at schools including Abingdon, St Edward's and Radley.

Before half term, Coco Bartoszewski (Fifth Form, Nugent) issued a challenge of a race, on behalf of Nugent House. The challenge was accepted by Fourth Former Agnes Edwards on behalf of Stanhope House, who won the race. We hope that this will be the first of many such challenges, and indeed Coco has her eye on the main chance - at Cambridge University Boat Club!

For the Lent Term, the main aim is the Schools' Head for boys' and girls' 1st VIIIs - Stowe have never had both before. We also hope to offer other events, for rowers who do not make the 1st VIIIs, at Northampton, Hampton and possibly Dorney.

The long-term aim is Henley, with quads at Henley Women's Regatta (Saturday 22 June) and 1st VIIIs for boys and girls at Henley Royal Regatta Qualifiers (Friday 28 June). It is nice to see our 2023 Centenary row-past crew at Henley featured in the Regatta's video 'Today at Henley Royal Regatta Finals Day 2023'. This has 35k subscribers and 22k views. Those with an eagle eye may spot our new rowing coach, Odhran Donaghy, in his Oxford Brookes Henley blazer, cheering on his winning teammates.

Andrew Rudkin, Head of Rowing

Climate Change Challenge

In October, we had five Stowe teams (19 pupils) participate virtually in the Climate Change Challenge competition run by the University of Oxford Saïd Business School. Pupils were asked to present their proposals for addressing the climate crisis across five key areas: air pollution, extreme weather events, water scarcity, food security, and vector-borne diseases. Competition finalists presented their solutions at COP28 held this December in Dubai.

Pupils dedicated many hours to developing and presenting their ideas in a three-minute video and ten slide PowerPoint, with some teams also committing to a four-week online programme where they were mentored by business professionals from Microsoft and Vodafone.

Each team produced extremely high quality, innovative and professional solutions, including:

- To help reduce air pollution, pupils designed a reward-based system and app to encourage people use the most eco-friendly travel routes and modes of transport.
- To help tackle water scarcity, pupils created a water recycling drip irrigation system inside a greenhouse to help farmers in developing countries reuse water and desalinate saltwater.
- To help tackle the vector-borne disease, Malaria, pupils explored the effectiveness of deploying fish, such as guppy fish, and plants, such as *Capsella bursa-pastoris*, to the waterways in Malaria prevalent regions to reduce mosquito larvae.

This competition aligns well with the School's Change Maker ethos. Our pupils significantly improved their entrepreneurial, teamwork and presentation skills.

Next term, we will be exploring how we develop their innovative ideas further by testing their solutions or designing prototypes.

Congratulations to the following pupils for making it to the third round in the competition:

Team 1

Théa Gross,
Nada Shamsuddin, Niamh Gilmore
(all Fifth Form, Cheshire)

Team 2

Isobel Crabb
(Lower Sixth, Lyttelton),
Lulu Goaman
(Lower Sixth, Lyttelton),
Frederica Hodges
(Lower Sixth, Queen's),
Grace Reilly
(Lower Sixth, West)

Team 3

Grace Huang
(Lower Sixth, Lyttelton),
Gilbert Xu
(Lower Sixth, Chandos),
Jerry Liu
(Fifth Form, Chandos),
Martin Zhang
(Fifth Form, Grenville),
Kaito Mbanefo
(Fifth Form, Grenville)

Team 4

Gaia Mesonero-Perez,
Hannah Wilkinson,
Marina Goje,
Mila Dozono
(all Fifth Form, Lyttelton)

Team 5

Ceara Cusiter
(Upper Sixth, Cheshire),
William Durnnell
(Upper Sixth, Cobham),
Ruby Colebrook
(Upper Sixth, Queen's)

Shelley Rowley, Teacher of Geography

Stowe Sailing Trip - April 2024

Dates for the big boat sailing trip have been confirmed for the end of the Easter Holidays 2024.

We have chartered a 75ft Yacht from the Rona Sailing project for a sail training voyage between Sunday 7 and Friday 12 April. Stoics who come on the trip can achieve their RYA Competent Crew qualification, or log sea miles towards a higher qualification.

The sailors who perform well on the trip may also be invited back to the project for other trips such as the Tall Ships races, so this is a real opportunity to experience some amazing sailing.

Places are limited to a maximum of 12 pupils and are offered to any Stoic interested in coming - no previous sailing experience is necessary. Stoics wanting to take part on this trip of a lifetime should ask their parents to contact [me](#) for more details and to reserve a space.

Duncan Syme, Head of Sailing





Equestrian Success

On a very windy Sunday 19 November at Aston le Walls, 12 members of the Equestrian Team took part in the Bloxham Eventer Challenge.

The 80cm Team, Bunny Hales (Fourth Form, Nugent), Bea Pinner (Third Form, Stanhope), Daisy Edwards (Fourth Form, Cheshire) and Flora Edwards (Third Form, Queen's), came Second in a very large, competitive class.

In the 90cm class, Stowe teams took First and Third, with special mention to Clemmy King (Third Form, Queen's) who took Second place and Emilia Rivett (Fourth Form, Queen's) who took Third place individually. The 1m class was dominated by Stowe with five riders in the top ten; congratulations to Daisy Frampton (Upper Sixth, West) taking First and Fourth place with her two horses.

From Thursday 16 - Sunday 19 November, Ruby Wetherall (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) competed at the FEI Youth Showjumping Festival in Belgium. Congratulations to Ruby for a double clear and Top 20 placing against riders from across Europe.

Mercurie Smith (Upper Sixth, Queen's) went away to the Senior British Showjumping Show at Bury Farm (16-19 November), competing across the four days and finishing Second in the Discovery class.

On Saturday 2 December, in freezing temperatures, nine girls went to Bury Farm to compete in the NSEA Showjumping event. All the girls showed excellent team spirit, supporting one another throughout a long, dark afternoon. The 80cm Team; Lola Soto (Third Form, Cheshire), Bunny Hales, Anabelle Robbins (Fourth Form, Nugent) and Honor Henry (Fifth Form, Stanhope) took Team Second, with Honor taking individual Third.

Congratulations also to Daisy Bilderbeck (Third Form, Stanhope) who had a fantastic clear round in her first competition. The 90cm Team; Lola Price (Third Form, Cheshire), Emilia Rivett, Anabelle Robbins and Honor Henry took Team First.

Finally, the 1m Team; Bea Pinner (Third Form, Stanhope) and Lola Price, riding two different horses, also took Team First. Special mention to Lola Price who individually won both the 90cm and 1m, on a horse she had never competed on before!

A very exciting few weeks for the Stowe Equestrian Team, with lots of colourful rosettes and smiles, well done to all involved.

Becky Coote, Head of Equestrian



Rugby

On Wednesday 29 November the Fourth Form Junior Colts (U15s) travelled to King's Worcester in the last 16 match of the National School's Cup.

Charlie King (Croft) got the Stoics off to a flying start with an early try but King's Worcester fought back to lead 9-5 with repeated offences by the pack. Stowe were the better side and further tries came from Captain Seb Dare (Grafton) who worked tirelessly all afternoon.

Benjamin Shortridge (Croft) caught a well-executed cross field kick from fly half Eddie Hartigan (Grafton) and Charlie King scored his second of the afternoon to see the Stoics take a hard fought 25-16 victory and send them into the Quarter Finals.

Grant Seely, Director of Rugby

TENNIS

The Stowe Senior boys' team is playing in the Winter League and got their campaign off to an impressive win with a 6-0 win over Cedars School.

The team of Arin Chatsuan (Upper Sixth, Grenville), Beltran Ortega Goldaracena (Lower Sixth, Grafton), Gustav Franzén (Fourth Form, Cobham) and Oscar Chiang (Third Form, Walpole) did not drop a single game all afternoon.

Well done boys!

Cheryl Davis, Assistant Director of Sport

Lacrosse

Stowe hosted Westonbirt during the afternoon of Saturday 18 November. The 1st X scored five goals against the strong opposition but sadly did not win the match, despite some amazing goalkeeping from Martha Bond (Lower Sixth, West).

The 2nd X continued their wonderful season in which they are unbeaten thus far, with another win 7-4, with Tatiana Riviere (Fifth Form, Nugent) top scored.

Congratulations to Sofia Comino (Fifth Form, Stanhope) who has been invited into the Italian development squad and Honor Leslie (Fourth Form, Nugent) who is part of the Scotland Academy.

Rob Ingham-Clark, Head of Lacrosse



DYLAN

I first recorded Dylan (aka Natasha Woods - Queen's 18) as a fresh-faced prep-school girl aged just 11 years old, sporting a straw boater hat, complete with ribbon and full-sized acoustic guitar - which then seemed comically huge! She played a simple, yet very well written song, which would have challenged many of the secondary school songwriters I was working with at the time.

Little did I know that after attending various schools, our paths would cross again, when she came to Stowe for the Sixth Form. Having spent the next two years constantly in the studio; writing, playing and singing, I introduced her to a producer friend of mine who was suitably impressed and offered to help her move forward, after she finished her A Levels.

I kept in touch and worked with her remotely, on a few of her following releases, however, it was mind-blowing to finally catch up with her again in person, because she had just stepped off the stage at Wembley Stadium, after opening for Ed Sheeran! Ever the energetic, witty, and broad smiling girl she had always been, she had not changed a bit.

Following the success of her tour with Ed, both in the UK and the US, she has just released a song with Bastille, and announced her own headline 'The Rebel Child' tour of the UK, Europe, USA, Australia and New Zealand. If you are planning trips for the New Year, I would highly recommend an outing to see a home-grown pop superstar on the rise.

Ben Weston, Head of Popular Music Performance & Music Technology



Wilson's Cockerels

The Enterprising Journey of Huw Wilson

At the tender age of seven, Huw Wilson (Lower Sixth, Croft) began his entrepreneurial journey with a Christmas gift of chickens from his mother. Residing on his family's farm, Huw found himself in an ideal environment to nurture his burgeoning business. Over the years, his dedication to selling eggs to locals allowed him to amass profits, setting the stage for a significant expansion.

Three years ago, Huw took a bold step in diversifying his egg business, venturing into selling 'Christmas Cockerels,' procured from a specialist supplier. This move proved successful; from selling 20 birds in the first year, Huw has escalated to 30 birds this year. Each bird, retailing between £40 and £60, presents a substantial profit margin considering the cost of £5.50 per bird and approximately £25 for feed to maturity.

The financials of Huw's enterprise are noteworthy. For each bird, assuming an average retail price of £50, the gross profit is around £44.50 (£50 - £5.50). Factoring in the feed costs, the net profit per bird stands at approximately £19.50 (£44.50 - £25). Annually, this translates to a gross profit of £1,330 (30 birds x £44.50) and a net profit of £585 (30 birds x £19.50), considering the zero-cost housing on the family farm.

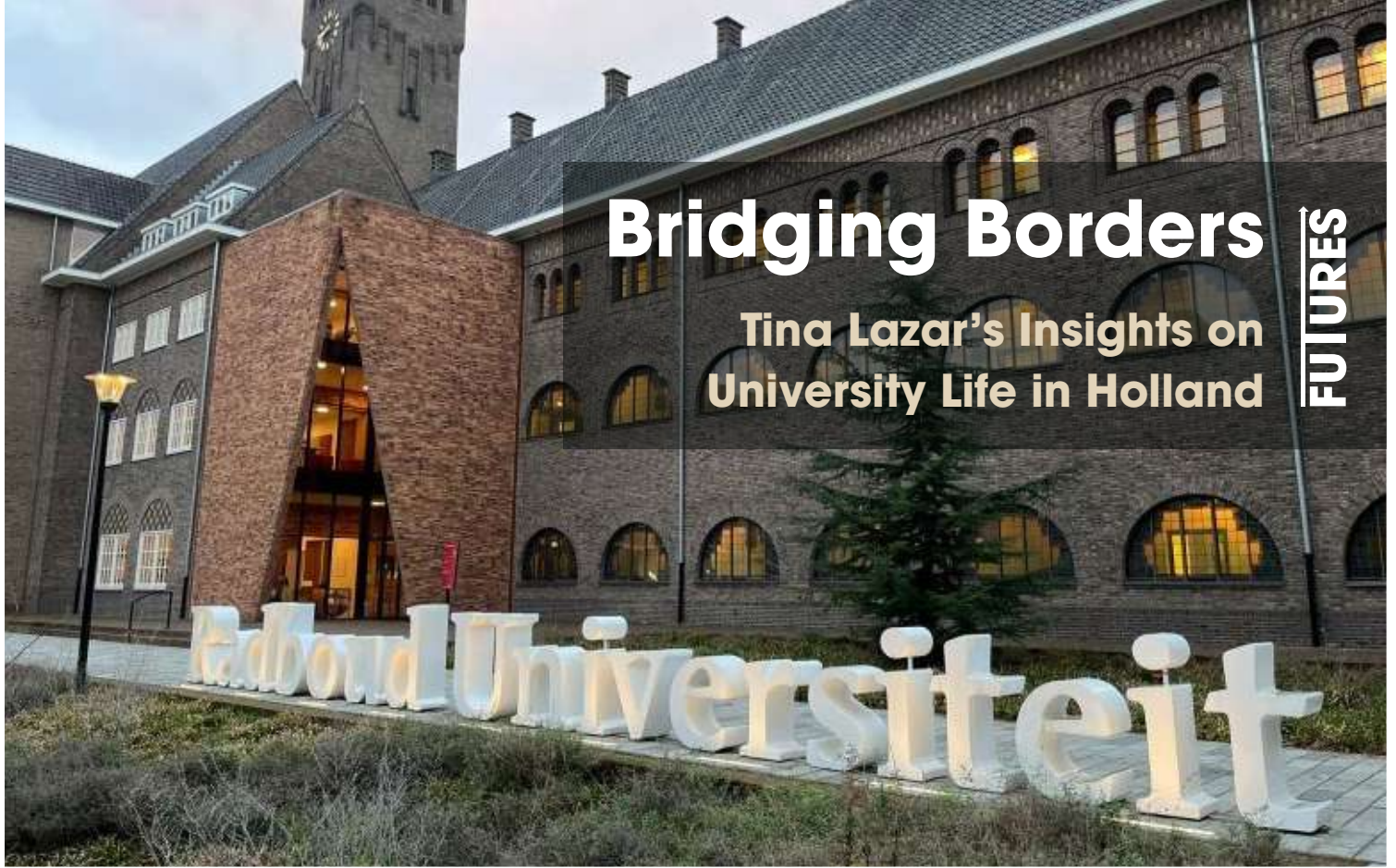
Huw's commitment to his business extends beyond mere sales. He has engaged in extensive training, shadowing experienced poultry farmers, learning about bird slaughter, food safety, and account management. This holistic approach to learning underscores the importance of practical skills in business.

The hands-on experience in running a business dovetail seamlessly with Huw's academic interests. Considering a degree in Agriculture with Farm Business Management, the practical skills he has gained align with the course modules like 'Introduction to Farm Business Management' and 'Leadership and the Role of Professional Services in Farm Business Management'. This real-world experience, demonstrating Huw's practical understanding of business concepts and management, is invaluable for university applications.

Looking ahead, Huw is considering expanding his business to include turkeys, depending on the availability from his trusted supplier. This decision reflects strategic thinking and market awareness, key components of successful business management.

Huw's journey from a young chicken owner to a successful poultry micro-business owner embodies entrepreneurial spirit and business acumen. His hands-on experience, aligned with academic pursuits, prepares him for a successful career in agriculture and business.

Dr Gordon West, Croft Houseparent



Bridging Borders

Tina Lazar's Insights on University Life in Holland

FUTURES

In a riveting university talk beamed via Teams from the Netherlands, Tina Lazar (West 23), a student at Radboud University, Nijmegen, shared her invaluable experiences and insights with an audience of Fifth and Sixth Formers. The event, held on Tuesday 28 November, was skilfully moderated by Thomas Bicknell (Lower Sixth, Croft) and Alfie Corthine (Fifth Form, Croft).

Tina Lazar, currently enjoying her Computing Science course, reflected on the profound impact her A Levels in Computer Science, Maths, and Further Maths have had on her academic journey. She emphasised the hands-on learning approach, the collaborative workstyle that Radboud University fosters, and the unique 1:1 ratio of international to domestic students, enriching the learning environment. She admitted she has not had to learn Dutch yet, as everyone either speaks English or German, both of which she is fluent in.

A significant part of Tina's talk focused on the challenges and opportunities of student life in Holland, particularly regarding accommodation. She highlighted the shortage of student housing and provided a realistic financial overview, noting that costs range from 450 to 750 euros. She also mentioned there are various government-funded schemes to help with the cost of accommodation, health insurance and other items. There is a lot of administration to research during the application process, but it sounds worth it to minimise the expenses of studying in the Netherlands. This practical advice is invaluable for prospective students planning their budgets.

Tina outlined the course structure at Radboud University, which is divided

into quarters with four exam periods. She pointed out the importance of assignments and the support teacher assistants (TAs) provided. Tina's experiences underscored the independence expected from students, advising them to seek information and engage in lectures actively - "Don't expect to be given everything you need to get a good grade. You will need to be an independent learner."

Of particular interest was Tina's mention of the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS). She explained how the credits earned at Radboud University are recognised across the European Union, greatly benefiting students who wish to study or work in different EU countries. This aligns with the Erasmus Scheme, which facilitates student mobility across European universities.

For pupils interested in following Tina's path, she outlined the application process, including creating a Studielink account, the numerous Fixus programs, and the importance of early application due to the high demand for certain courses.

Tina Lazar's talk offered a glimpse into university life in Holland and served as an inspiring and informative guide for students considering an international academic journey. Her experience at Radboud University exemplifies the blend of rigorous academics, practical skills, and international exposure that modern higher education aims to provide.

Dr Gordon West, Head of Futures & Croft Houseparent



Refugee Talk

On Tuesday 28 November Annabel Taylor-Ross, Former Army Captain and UN Aid Worker came to Stowe to speak to the Upper Sixth on the subject of Refugees.

Annabel ran an interactive session challenging Stoics on their knowledge on the subject and recent events that have resulted in refugee crises, including reviewing elements of the debates on migration.

The talk brought to a close this terms series of PSHE speakers for the Sixth Form. Pupils have received talks on a variety of subjects ranging from domestic violence through the eyes of a male survivor to the mental challenges of recovering from a life-changing disability.

Liz Huxley-Capurro, Head of PSHE



LACROSSE



Michaelmas Term

1st X

The Stowe 1st X Girls' Lacrosse Team, led by Emily Watson (Upper Sixth, West) and Maddie Baker (Lower Sixth, Queen's), has showcased remarkable improvement throughout the season, turning challenges into opportunities for growth.

Despite a 15-4 loss to Downe House in the first game of the season on Saturday 16 September, the team demonstrated significant progress, especially compared to last year's 17-2 defeat. This reflects their commitment to continuous development and the hard work invested in refining their skills, especially when seven starters graduated at the end of last season.

The narrow 8-7 loss to Warwick University on Saturday 7 October and 13-11 to Haileybury

(Saturday 9 December) stand out as a testament to the team's competitive edge, showcasing their ability to go toe-to-toe with strong opponents. The County Tournament saw the team engaging in several close matches, highlighting their determination and skill in a challenging competitive environment.

Notable victories against Dadford LC (10-7) on Saturday 14 October and Phoenix Lacrosse Club (9-7) on Saturday 2 December underscore the team's ability to secure wins against tough adversaries. These triumphs, combined with the competitive spirit displayed in close matches, signify the team's positive trajectory and resilience.

The team's journey this season exemplifies the true essence of sportsmanship, growth, and teamwork.



2nd X

The 2nd X Lacrosse Team has celebrated a triumphant season, showcasing a remarkable blend of skill, teamwork, and determination on the field. The team's resilience was evident from the start, even in their initial 4-2 loss to Downe House on Saturday 16 September at a triangular fixture. Undeterred, they rebounded swiftly, marking the beginning of a season characterised by grit and growth. A nail-biting 3-3 draw against Charterhouse set the stage for a remarkable turnaround and the team's offensive prowess came to the fore with a decisive 4-0 victory over Marlborough College, setting the tone for the winning streak that followed.

A thrilling 8-7 win against St Helen & St Katharine on Saturday 23 September and narrow victories against Bedford Girls' School (7-6) and Warwick University (15-1) on Saturday 3 and Saturday 7 October respectively, demonstrated the team's ability to clinch close matches and dominate the competition.

The momentum continued with impressive wins over Cheltenham Ladies' College (11-7) on Saturday 11 November and Westonbirt (7-3) on Saturday 18 November, showcasing the team's strategic play and defensive prowess. Though facing a setback on Saturday 2 December with a 9-3 loss to Phoenix LC, the overall season performance highlights Stowe's 2nd X as a force to be reckoned with. The 2nd X finished the season with a resounding 23-3 victory over Tudor Hall on Saturday 9 December.

This winning streak not only reflects the team's athletic prowess but also speaks volumes about their camaraderie, resilience, and commitment to excellence, leaving a legacy within the lacrosse programme at Stowe.

Both teams, as well as the 3rd X, U15A and U14A sides will continue to work throughout the Lent Term in preparation for the National Schools' Championships in March.

Rob Ingham Clark, Head of Lacrosse

GOLF

IGSA Matchplay

Thursday 7 December saw Stowe A take on a tricky Uppingham side in the IGSA Matchplay. The team, consisting of Captain Elliot Strickland (Upper Sixth, Grenville), Poon Prachakrit (Lower Sixth, Grenville), and Miki Khurshed (Lower Sixth, Bruce) played the very challenging Marquess Course at Woburn Golf Club.

Despite the less-than-ideal conditions, the boys played well securing a convincing 3-0 victory. The boys very much enjoyed the day and we must thank Woburn Golf Club for hosting this event.

The team are now through to the National Finals which will be played at the Players Club next April.

Dusan Gavrilovic, Head of Golf

Law Society



Rights at the Threshold: Exploring Self-Defence and Human Rights in Law - Dr James Slater

On Thursday 16 November, the Law Society hosted a talk led by Dr James Slater (LLB Programme Director at the University of Buckingham); focusing on the critical legal issues surrounding self-defence and human rights. Dr Slater's presentation navigated the complex dynamics of householder rights versus trespasser rights, delving into the nuances of self-defence, justification, excuse and exemption.

The concept of reasonable force was central to the discussion, as delineated in the landmark case of *R v Owino*. This case underscores the legal requirement for force in self-defence to be deemed reasonable, resting on the individual's honest perception of the situation, notwithstanding potential misjudgements. Dr Slater highlighted the critical distinction between a defendant's perceived circumstances and objective reality, a cornerstone in understanding lawful self-defence.

The session shed light on the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 (CJIA 2008), particularly sections 76(3) and 76(4)(b), which articulate the common law stance on reasonable force. This legislation plays a pivotal role in establishing the parameters for what is considered reasonable and proportionate force in cases involving householders.

Stoics then explored the intersection of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) - particularly Article 2, which guarantees the right to life - with the UK's criminal law on self-defence. They discussed various cases with Dr Slater, including 'Collins', to clarify the legal perspective on the reasonableness and proportionality of force in self-defence scenarios.

R (on the application of Officer W80) v Director General of the Independent Office for Police Conduct and others [2023] UKSC 24: Although the legislation and case law discussed in the talk may seem outdated, Law Society members must remember that it will impact more recent cases. For example, the case above revolves around the question of whether a police officer's honest but mistaken belief that his life was threatened, found to be unreasonable, could lead to a finding of misconduct. This case is particularly relevant to discussing reasonable force in self-defence, a key topic in Dr Slater's talk. The case involved an armed police officer (W80) who shot Jermaine Baker during a police operation under the belief that his life was in danger. The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) concluded that W80's belief was honestly held but unreasonable. This case brings into focus the legal standards applied to determine reasonable force and self-defence, particularly in law enforcement context. You can watch the recording of judgement [here](#).

This talk was important for aspiring Law students, highlighting essential academic skills. It underscored the importance of commercial awareness, demonstrating how legal professionals must remain abreast of current business trends and their legal ramifications. The talk also emphasised the crucial role of excellent communication skills in writing and speech for the effective articulation of arguments and further reinforced the value of independent learning and robust research skills. The ability to conduct comprehensive legal research is imperative in the rapidly evolving digital landscape.

A special thank you goes to James, who regularly supports Stowe's Law Society concerning his specialisation in Criminal Law.

Dr Gordon West, Head of Futures & The Law Society



Legal Pathways Unveiled: An Insightful Evening with Andrew Gordon & Stowe's Law Society

The Law Society recently hosted an enlightening talk on Thursday 23 November, with Andrew Gordon shedding light on the intricacies of working in an elite global law firm. The talk was hosted by Head of the Law Society, Henry Clare (Upper Sixth, Winton) and Toby Gross (Lower Sixth, Croft).

The evening attracted a diverse audience, including pupils interested in law and business. This mix of attendees highlighted the interdisciplinary appeal of the subject matter and the relevance of legal expertise in various professional domains.

Andrew Gordon, Global Director of Business Development and Marketing Communications, offered his insights and experiences, contributing significantly to the success of the event. His talk encompassed various aspects of legal careers, including the types of work one might engage in, the culture of law firms, pathways to entering the profession, and potential career trajectories. His expertise provided valuable guidance for pupils considering a future in law. His presentation included a detailed exploration of different types of law firms; from big to small, boutique, full-service and specialised firms. This comprehensive overview helped pupils understand the diverse legal landscape and where their interests might align best.

Andrew gave the pupils a comprehensive understanding of corporate law and its various disciplines. His presentation explained how these areas might grow or decline depending on the state of the economy. A key highlight of his talk was the explanation of the dynamic nature of corporate law. For example, in times of economic boom, there is often a surge in mergers and acquisitions (M&A), leading to an increased demand for legal services in this area. Conversely, during economic downturns, there is a notable rise in bankruptcy and restructuring cases. This cyclical nature of legal services demand means that corporate lawyers need to be adaptable and well-versed in multiple areas of law to stay relevant and effective.

One of the key takeaways from the talk was the importance of academic excellence, practical experience, networking, and a strategic approach in securing a position at a prestigious law firm. Andrew's advice on these topics was especially pertinent for those aspiring to enter the competitive world of elite law firms.

The event concluded with a vibrant question and answer session, leaving the pupils enriched with knowledge and more confident about their future career paths. A special thanks to Andrew for dedicating his evening to this informative session, providing pupils with a rare and valuable opportunity to learn from a seasoned professional.

Dr Gordon West, Head of Futures & The Law Society

Film & Media

70s QUADS RULE: A LOST ART FORM

At the end of Michaelmas Term, the Film and Art Departments teamed up to mount an impressive exhibition of quad film posters in The Watson Gallery, which included 'Last Tango in Paris', 'The Gauntlet', 'Convoy' and a double bill of Woody Allen's 'Annie Hall' and 'Manhattan'. I have been collecting film posters since I was a teenager and it was a pleasure to see them on display.

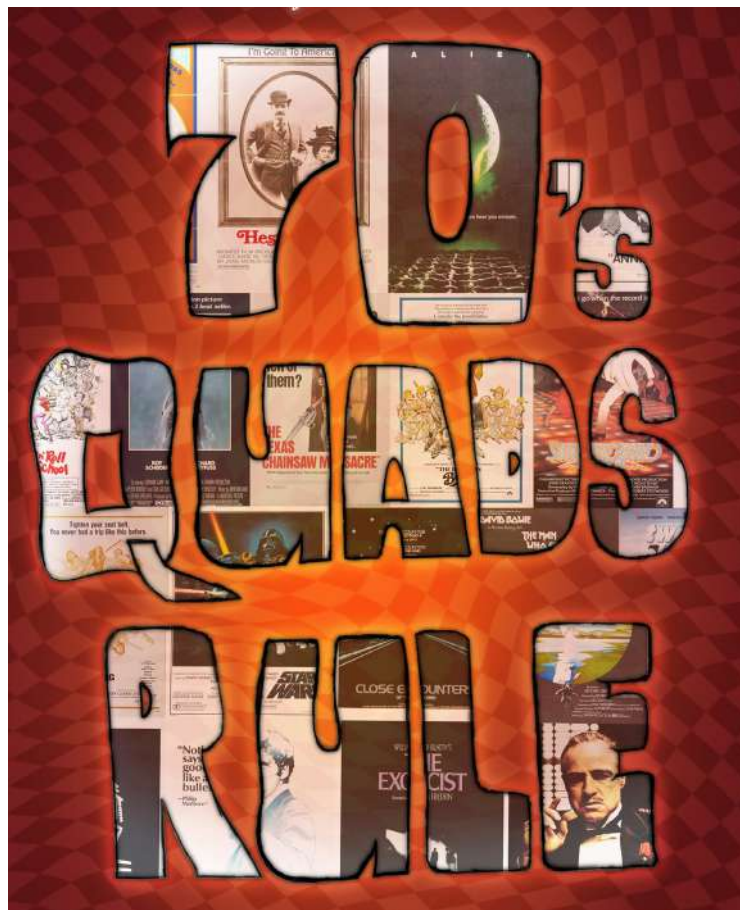
The quad film poster is something unique to the UK. It uses a 30" x 40" landscape layout and was named after the paper size it was printed on.

Like many other print media products, it faces extinction as cinemas go digital, using interactive screens instead of pieces of paper to promote new movies. Many cinemas are now full of moving image publicity, which flashes and buzzes around us as we enter the foyer.

Originally, audiences in Britain were happy with a poster, although cinemas also used to display still photographs from the movies they were screening in the form of a lobby set. These were usually mounted beneath the quad poster which was often backlit with an electric light (turned off, at the end of the last screening). On display are some James Bond lobby sets, note how the prints contained a brief description of the scene - these photographs were usually sent to the local newspaper and might have been published alongside any feature or advert for the local cinema.

Quad posters were often our first introduction to a new film, in the days where coverage of the cinema was limited to a few newspapers and specialist magazines, and they were designed to make an impact - so audiences could tell at a glance what the films were about. They used taglines to add extra information about the film for potential viewers; press quotes and awards almost always featured on the posters for heavy-hitters and it was standard for basic information about the film to be included (i.e. stars, producers, directors etc.).

The designers of film posters were often anonymous freelance artists and, up until the late 1960s, almost all quads were painted. It was during the 1970s that photography became the norm, and even then, to keep production costs

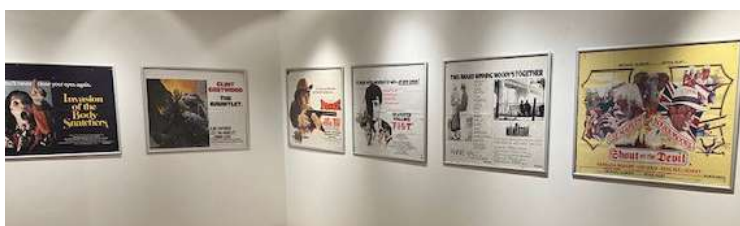


down these tended to be black and white (it was always cheaper to print in three colours, although, the painted designs usually made full use of the colour palette).

The hand painted and designed film poster is now something of a rarity so the posters on display in this exhibition were selected to show off the artistry of those often anonymous designers who were also likely to be doing work for advertisers, comics, record sleeves and magazines in addition to the film posters.

It was a trip down memory lane, and much like record sleeve design, seems like something of a great lost art form in today's digital world.

Dr Andrew C. Webber, Teacher of Film Studies



Content Creation, Digital Media & Journalism Degree

A small group of Media pupils attended Buckingham University's Radcliffe Centre on Thursday 23 November. The University launched its revamped Media degree in content creation, digital media and journalism with a fascinating talk from Senior Media Officer and Buckingham University graduate, Frederika Mitchell.

Ms Mitchell rose to the heady heights of 10 Downing Street just six years after graduating, and now organises media coverage for Prime Ministers; working with Rishi Sunak and, before that, Liz Truss and Boris Johnson.

Frederika had some stories to tell of the fast-paced life that includes much international travel and high stakes media events, but also about Rishi Sunak's dog who does not get on with Humphrey the cat and the weird dancing of Dominic Cummings in the halls of Downing Street!

Ms Mitchell was an inspirational example of what Media pupils can achieve in an ever-evolving world of Media and Politics.

Emma Ackroyd, Head of Film & Media





Poetry Matters: An Evening with Author Julian Lovelock

Earlier this term we were fortunate to meet Author Julian Lovelock when he visited the School to promote his new book 'Where All the Ladders Start'; a highly accessible investigation into poems, poets and the people who inspired them.

After a witty introduction by the Head, Dr Wallersteiner, Mr Lovelock was interviewed by Head of English, Mrs Borman in the Music Room. The engaging discussion covered topics ranging from his favourite poems; to why the book only included one female poet; to advice for those studying poetry and how his book tried to focus on the primacy of the text, in spite of its interest in what was going on in the poets' lives at the time when they were producing their work.

The audience provided Mr Lovelock with several good questions and his point about how poetry is a form of communication which works best when read aloud was well-made. As readers know, we have been mounting spoken word poetry events at Stowe over the last few years (most recently using poems about nature in our 'Different Seasons: the Turning Tides of Time' event) and it is certainly the case that these performances (which feature specially recorded readings of poems by Staff and pupils) bring poetry to life due to their focus on hearing the words and how the readers interpret them in often surprising ways.

The book itself (which takes its title from Yeats' 'The Circus Animals' Desertion') covers key works by Shakespeare, Donne, Milton, Pope, Wordsworth, Keats, Barrett Browning, Hardy and Yeats, with each author getting a chapter each. Effectively mixing biographical details with some pertinent analysis of the poems themselves (reproduced throughout, meaning you do not have to keep looking them up elsewhere), 'Where All Ladders Start' is an ideal introduction to poetry and arrives at a time when we appear to be living in an increasingly unpoetic world.

English Literature has become a hard subject; the government puts emphasis upon science and business; pupils are leaving school with little or no interest in reading for pleasure.

Yeats suggests in 'Circus Animals' that, as he got older, he was worried about losing his gifts as a writer ("Now that my ladder's gone, I must lie down where all the ladders start, in the foul rag and bone shop of the heart."). The much-quoted phrase tells us that he need not have worried; the words were still flowing freely and would continue to do so.

Poetry touches our souls, shapes us and helps us understand our feelings and is literally in our hearts. All we must do is listen, and as Wordsworth puts it in 'The Tables Turned', bring along a heart "that watches and receives".

What might have inspired the writers included in the book (the people, the places, the experiences, the relationships) therefore makes for fascinating reading and Mr Lovelock reminds us of why poetry remains so important and how it can have huge significance in our lives. He is an engaging companion throughout, and his talk confirmed that his passion for literature remains undiminished, after a life spent in education, which is exactly as it should be.

Dr Andrew C. Webber, Teacher of Film, Media & English

Safeguarding at Stowe

Everyone's Invited



On Saturday 4 November Stowe hosted Everyone's Invited (EI).

Everyone's Invited is a charity and organisation, set up in the Summer of 2020, but came to the public's attention in March 2021 in its aim to combat and eradicate Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment. This is sadly, not a topic from which Stowe is immune and we always find our visits from Everyone's Invited valuable.

The morning consisted of a whole School talk about Everyone's Invited and we were privileged to hear from Soma Sara, EI's founder. The School was then split into different Year Groups for more specific talks.

Finally, the School was divided into smaller groups where the pupils were tasked with working on pieces of 'Art' - ranging from poetry to mind maps, and everything in between, to display ideas around how Stowe and Stoics can combat and challenge Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment in our community. The work produced was incredibly powerful and emotive and the EI team were very impressed with the depth of and maturity in understanding such a complex topic.

**Mike Rickner, Deputy Head (Pastoral)
& Designated Safeguarding Lead**



Old Stoic Society

University Drinks, Newcastle

On Thursday 23 November, Bev Kelly (Interim Old Stoic Director), Toby Gauvain (Temple 89) Vice Chair of the Old Stoic Society, and myself travelled to Newcastle to host an informal evening of drinks and food in the popular Jesmond area of the City. We were delighted to meet and chat to over 30 Old Stoics who came along to the event. They were keen to share their stories of university and offer tips to the first year students on challenges such as finding university accommodation in their second and third years. They also offered advice on searching for internships, and Toby shared some interesting career advice and recommended Old Stoic contacts for those in their final year at the University.

There were plenty of funny stories exchanged about their time at Stowe, none funnier than that of Toby and a boat... The evening was full of fun and laughter, and it also demonstrated the tangible benefits of Old Stoics keeping in touch and building networks and life-long connections.

Many thanks to all those who attended, and please keep an eye on the **Old Stoic website** for our 2024 events programme. We would also love to hear from any Old Stoics with new ideas for OSS events; contact the **Office**.

We thoroughly enjoyed our visit to this great City on the Tyne, and we look forward to seeing you all again next year.

Charlie Evans, Old Stoic Society Events Manager



Stowe Studio 100



As my five years at Stowe is sadly coming to a close I am proud to present the Stowe Studio 100 Digital Exhibition. This is my photographer's edit of 100 images, selected from an archive of over 100,000 pictures taken from my time spent with you at the School. For me, these pictures represent the energy and spirit of 'what I saw' on a weekly basis through my lens at Stowe, and from spending time with all you Stoics - I hope you love them as much as I do.

When your Head courageously invited me to start this Centenary project in 2018, I knew that to make it work I was going to have to build a great deal of trust with pupils and Staff alike. I have been humbled by the patience and good humour you have all shown me, and I would like to thank you all for embracing my presence term after term!

I have enjoyed sharing my work with you on social media @stowestudio100, in the glossy Centenary Book, and now with my final edit of 100 photographs. These are now for sale online for a limited period only and would make a very special Christmas gift. Please use the QR code to take you to the online gallery where you can browse the full collection of images and order each high-quality, C-Type photographic print in a range of sizes.

**With gratitude and thanks,
Jonathan Glynn-Smith**

Jonathan Glynn-Smith is a world-renowned Photographer and Director who has built his 30-year career working with some of the most successful global brands and household names from Mercedes-Benz to Louis Vuitton. You can see more of his work [here](#).

The Stowe Studio 100 project is his third youth project, although the first for a British Institution.

The Centenary book can be purchased [here](#).



Change 100

Launched three years ago, the Change 100 bursary programme has gained great momentum, with over £19 million raised through the enormous generosity of donors who share our vision for a more inclusive Stowe. This fund now supports 23 pupils across The Stowe Group and last June saw the 'graduation' of our first five alumni, all of whom have transitioned to their first choice of university.

The success of Change 100 is also in part thanks to the tremendous support and enthusiasm of our dynamic Change 100 Ambassadors.

As advocates for the Change 100 programme, these Stoics play a key role in communicating to the Stowe community what Change 100 stands for and why it matters. They regularly assist with initiatives for fundraising; represent the School at meetings and events in the wider community and help with thanking our generous benefactors.

Now, mostly in the Upper Sixth and nearing the end of their journey at Stowe, they have, in the past few weeks, been working to recruit the next generation of Ambassadors, so they can pass the baton to the younger years.

Giving presentations in House Stance, they have explained the scheme to those new to the School and shared their first-hand experiences. Given the number of applications from would-be Ambassadors, these Change Makers have clearly done an excellent job.

Catherine Trotman, Interim Fundraising Manager Change 100



Music

Handel's Messiah

It was wonderful to welcome an audience of around 300 listeners to a collaborative Stowe Group performance of Handel's Messiah on Saturday 18 November. This most famous of oratorios was given a splendid outing as the combined chorus of the Stowe Chapel Choir and Stowe Group Choral Society joined acclaimed soloists Emily Bradshaw Gibson, Annabel Kennedy, Paul Badley and Guy Harbottle. Emma Bryden's professional orchestra provided first class instrumental support all the way through as did the School Organist, Thomas Hawkes.

It was a most memorable occasion as biblical passages of expectation, joy, sadness and triumph were delivered so vividly by the combined Stowe forces.

My thanks to all who committed to it including Old Stoics, parents and friends of the School, as well as to those audience members who supported us. I would also like to thank my esteemed colleagues in the Music Department for their consummate skill in both rehearsal and performance. It was such a privilege to steer you all through it!

Jonathan Kingston, Choral Director



Adventure Sports at Stowe

Adventure sports are firmly established at Stowe and there is much on offer beyond the DoF&E and CCF programmes.

This term has seen a range of different events taking place both on site and further afield with Stoics enjoying the opportunity to develop skills and put them to the test in the outdoors.

Climbing

The Climbing group at Stowe are on the wall twice a week at Pinnacle in Northampton and the new members of the group quickly 'learn the ropes' under the guidance of instructors and the older members of the group. It is a fantastic opportunity for the more experienced members of the group to develop their personal mentoring and coaching skills, whilst challenging their own knowledge and ability on the rock. For those who know, it is not uncommon to see members of the group flashing a 6b on a top rope or a V4 in the bouldering room, whilst others are practising lead climbing and belaying.

Kayaking

A core group of kayakers have been developing their skills in the pool over the past couple of years. Their ability to control the boats has seen a real rise in the quality of kayak polo being played, whilst some members of the group have really persevered and have now mastered rolling their kayaks. Their paddle skills were firmly put to the test earlier this term, when Mr Jones and Miss Vendrig took the group down to the whitewater course at Lee Valley. The course was built for the canoe and kayak events of the 2012 Olympics and it was a great experience for the kayakers to really use their 'sheltered water' skills

in anger on what is a very challenging course. After an hour or so learning how to break in and out of the main flow, the group had the opportunity to run the whole course - with some swimming more than others!

Skiing

The Stowe Ski Team has spent this term training at the MK Snozone ahead of next term's British School Boys' and Girls' Championships out in France and Switzerland. There is a real range of experience within the group, however under the expert guidance of our race coaches in MK, we have seen some real progression on the slalom and giant slalom courses and are excited for the races in January.

Girls in Adventure Sport

Over the remainder of this year, Miss Vendrig (our resident back-country Canadian) is going to be offering a range of opportunities for girls to experience the world of adventure sports. Miss Vendrig has a background in leading back-country rafting and canoe expeditions as well as being a qualified snowboard and ski coach. We hope that these opportunities will inspire the girls at Stowe to be more involved in this really exciting world of opportunity, both at Stowe and beyond.

Gwylim Jones, Co-curricular Co-ordinator

If you have any questions about the opportunities available at Stowe please do get in touch:

- Mr Jones** - Paddleport and Climbing
- Miss Vendrig** - Girls in Adventure Sport
- Mr Grumble** - Mountain Biking
- Mr Bonomi** - Skiing



Mountain Bike Trail Building

A team of mountain bikers (three of which are photographed) have been working hard each week constructing Stowe's own mountain bike trail.

Following an overarching plan which runs the length of the Bourbon Woods and includes various course features, the latest build is now complete! This is the first of several berms that will occur on the course.

A generous donation of pallets from Northampton based 'Alpha Pallets' were used in combination with logs and earth to achieve the build. The varying angle of the pallets to create a strong solid berm was no easy task and took careful planning and building over many weeks.

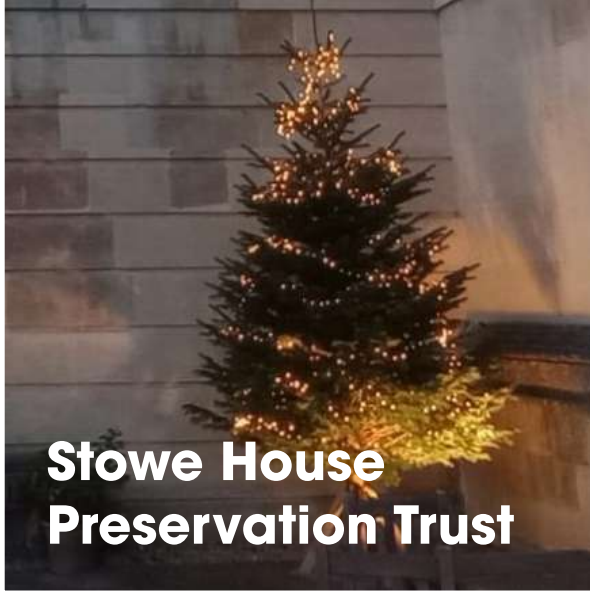
Next to be built alongside the berm is a small tabletop jump and large-scale ramp.

After a few initial runs by the Stoics, the riders were asked if the effort was worth it? The verdict: "definitely!" The plan now is to use the berm to develop riding skills further before embarking on the next build. At the same time this will serve to develop skills for the next excursion to Rushmere Park Bike Trail or Northampton Bike Park.

If anyone is interested in getting involved assisting the builds or wishes to learn more about cycling at Stowe, please **contact me**.

Chris Grumble, MiC Cycling





Stowe House Preservation Trust



Winter Conservation and Planning

With Winter fast approaching, our team's focus shifts to annual conservation and planning for the year ahead. Visitor opening hours for House Tours, museum access and our Visitor Centre are reduced to weekends only to enable us to undertake essential tasks.

Over the last weeks, our House Custodians and a team of volunteers have been conservation cleaning in the museum. The display cabinets are emptied, and our collection items are meticulously cleaned and checked for changes to their condition. The capitals from several columns have been delicately cleaned with a conservation grade cleaning brush, used to flick the surface dust into a museum vacuum. Over the coming months, you may see the team working their way through the State Rooms, carefully removing dust from walls, doors, statues, and picture frames. Please do stop and say hello - the team are always happy to talk about what they are doing.

We have also made improvements to assist our visitor's day-to-day experience and interpretation of our history. Graphics have been replaced on entry to help first-time visitors identify immediately what is inside and welcome them in, whilst a new family tree has been installed in the museum. You may have noticed most recently a new screen on the welcome centre wall to play additional footage to give visitors a glimpse of the rooms upstairs and to entice them to purchase admission tickets. More tweaks and improvements are on the way so pop in to look, enjoy some refreshments and top up your stocking fillers with items from our shop.

We look forward to greeting you all over the festive season to provide a warm retreat from the garden during your Winter walks, and to open the House for you to explore it at your own pace or take a tour. We are now open weekends only, 11am-3.30pm with additional hours between Christmas and New Year. Please check our website stowehouse.org or follow our social media channels for the most up-to-date information before visiting.

Instagram: [@stowehouse](https://www.instagram.com/stowehouse) | Facebook: [Stowe House](https://www.facebook.com/StoweHouse)

It has been a tremendous year celebrating the Centenary of Stowe School, coinciding with the completion of the State Dining Room restoration, and the phenomenal response to Gaia. Thank you all for your ongoing support and we wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Here's to exciting times in 2024.

Mel Whitrow, Stowe House Preservation Trust Team



Three Peaks Challenge for the Samaritans

Ten Lower Sixth Stoics; Bear Hewlett (Cobham), Henry Roberts (Chatham), Archie Trotman (Cobham), Algy Orchard (Chatham), Maddie Baker (Queen's), Poppy Lawson Johnston (Queen's), Gwen Grovit (Nugent), Emelia Brett (Queen's), Beau Deacon (Queen's) and Suraya Hashimi (Nugent), will be attempting the Three Peaks Challenge. This includes hiking up Snowdon (Wales), Scafell Pike (England) and Ben Nevis (Scotland) within 24 hours. The total distance covered will be 26 miles, with a cumulative elevation gain of 3,000 metres.

We have been touched recently by the subject of men's mental health and we all would like to raise more awareness around the topic. The Samaritans is an extremely deserving charity, and any donations, regardless of their size, will be greatly appreciated.

You can donate [here](#) thank you for your support.

Bear Hewlett (Lower Sixth, Cobham)



Winter Ensembles Concert

On Friday 1 December we held our annual Music School Winter Ensembles Concert in front of a large audience of parents, Governors and Staff. The audience were welcomed into the Ugland Auditorium by the Brass Ensemble who performed a wide selection of Christmas carols, before and during the concert, which set the scene for the musical feast ahead. Our thanks go to Mr Richard Lewis, Visiting Music Teacher (VMT) for leading the Brass players and bringing so much to the event.

The percussion ensemble began the concert programme with two uplifting and rhythmically complex items by Bruno Mars and Lennon and McCartney before Satis Johnson-Greene (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) wowed the audience with a spectacular performance of 'Tico-Tico' by Forslund/Lindholm on Marimba, accompanied by Mr Matt Turner (VMT).

The Saxophone ensemble performed two Songs, specifically arranged for them by Sarah Watts (VMT). The ensemble captured the style and fun of classic 60s and 70s songs 'Da Do Run Run' by Barry, Greenwich and Spector and 'Give It Up' by K.C. and the Sunshine Band. It was wonderful to hear the full array of saxophones from Soprano to Baritone being utilised by our talented saxophonists with additional parts by Luiza Cavalcanti (Fifth Form, Lyttelton) on Bass Guitar, Freddie Youngman Sullivan (Fourth Form, Grafton) on drums and Mr Danny Mills (VMT) on Piano.

The Wind Band gave a rousing and confident performance of the main theme from 'Star Wars' by John Williams which showcased their warmth of tone as an ensemble and a rhythmic precision which perfectly captured the military character of the music. The Wind Band then performed '(So here it is) Merry Christmas Everybody' by Slade, bringing festive cheer to the programme and lifting the spirits of the audience.

The String ensemble performance began with the first movement of Bach's Double Violin Concerto. Eva-Grace Ng (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) and Milo Xing (Lower Sixth, Chandos) gave dazzling performances as the two soloists displaying their exceptional technical skill and virtuosity. The second item was two movements from 'Henry V' by

Walton which showed a mature understanding of Walton's harmonic landscape. The String ensemble finished their portion of the concert with a driven performance of 'Palladio' by Karl Jenkins, made famous by its previous use in the De Beers diamonds advert. The string ensemble continues to perform without a conductor, affording its members a richer and more nuanced experience of ensemble work.

The concert closed with performances from The Stowe Orchestra and Stowe Group Orchestra which additionally featured pupils from Winchester House School. The Stowe Orchestra performed three movements from Tchaikowsky's 'Nutcracker Suite' ('Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy', 'Dance of the Reed Pipes' and 'Trepak'). The Orchestra of over 40 members performed to an incredibly high standard, capturing the nostalgic and magical mood of each of the movements. The Stowe Group Orchestra performed the penultimate item, 'Walking in the Air' from Howard Blake's 'The Snowman' before finishing the concert with a rousing and vibrant rendition of 'Two Renaissance Dances' by Susato.

The concert displayed not only the exceptional talent of the Stoics but the commitment and dedication of the Visiting Music Teachers and Staff who rehearse and direct the pupils weekly and to whom we are incredibly grateful.

Emma Bryden, Director of Music



Service@Stowe



Conservation Group

During the Michaelmas Term, the Stowe Conservation group met every Monday, engaging in many activities and volunteering opportunities to enhance our understanding of wildlife and woodland conservation.

In September we welcomed two experts in the field of butterflies and moths. The Stoics were treated to captivating presentations showcasing the diverse array of UK butterflies and moths, providing invaluable insights into these delicate creatures. Later in the term, one of our conservation activities took us to the local village of Granborough, where Stoics enthusiastically contributed to clearing dry grass and planting wildflowers on a three acre natural reserve. The collective efforts of our Stoics ensured the removal of undergrowth, setting the stage for the farmer to sow wildflowers. This project promises to establish an exceptional pollinator habitat in Spring.

Collaboration has been a key theme for us, as evidenced by our partnerships with Evenly Woods Garden in Brackley and the National Trust at Stowe. We had a range of tasks, including going into a stream to pull out persistent weeds obstructing the water flow. We also undertook the mission of weeding a recently established tree-sapling woodland as well as planting hundreds of bulbs; enhancing the beautiful spaces we are surrounded with.

We were very excited to recently acquire a moth trap which will become part of our activities towards the end of the Lent Term. This moth trap employs a light source to attract flying moths, capturing them in the trap for identification and counting. Following this process, we will try to identify the moths and safely release them back into the wild. This purchase will allow us to survey some of Stowe's wildlife and understand the local ecosystem. We also aim to input the classification of our detected moths into a national database to help with moth conservation in the UK.

**Julio Morales Shearer & Leena Rana,
Service@Stowe**





Gingerbread Houses

With Winter nights drawing in and the boys getting a little excited for Christmas, I organised a Mentor and Mentee evening building gingerbread houses.

Two teams of happy, noisy, hungry boys enjoyed an evening of festive fun in the run up to the Christmas break, with Luca Natella's (Lower Sixth, Cobham) team called as the winners by the judge, Houseparent, Mr Corthine.

The gingerbread houses were then eaten by all the Cobham boys at break the following day, much to everyone's delight!

Jo Dalrymple, Cobham House Matron



Thanksgiving Celebration

Thursday 23 November marked the North American celebration of Thanksgiving. A holiday which has been celebrated since the 1600s, it is a time to come together with friends and family and share gratitude for all we have to be thankful for in our lives. Stowe is home to approximately 25 American and Canadian pupils and Staff, and this time of year can be challenging for them as they are so far from their loved ones.

The International Society held a Thanksgiving Dinner to ensure they could come together as a community and celebrate with other North American Stoics. The Catering Department laid on a feast of roasted turkey breast, mashed potatoes and vegetables.

This was followed by a Thanksgiving themed quiz which had been put together by the Upper Sixth International Prefects - Natalie Nylaende (Queen's), Daniel Flames (Cobham), Arin Chatsuwon (Grenville) and Molly Muhoho (Nugent).

The quiz was won by Clara Yatsevich (Third Form, Queen's) who saw her knowledge rewarded with American candy!

The Harvard Graduates, Felix Bulwa and Vanesa Perea, also gave a short speech at this time, explaining the importance of the event and why having a gratitude attitude is so important for one's wellbeing. This was followed by all attendees sharing what they are grateful for, which is one of the key traditions of a Thanksgiving meal.

The night finished with a desert of sticky toffee pudding and ice cream, which brought an end to the festivities in a delicious manner. It was excellent to see our North American Stoics enjoy the company of one another, and this is mostly due to the hard work of the International Prefects. We look forward to the next celebration led by the International Society in the New Year!

Fran Shah, Head of International Pupils



First Aid at Work Course

Throughout the Michaelmas Term, several Stoics utilised their co-curricular time to undertake a First Aid at Work course. During the course, they developed an understanding of how to manage medical issues such as cardiac arrest, choking, burns and bleeding.

As well as learning vital lifesaving skills and knowledge, the pupils involved can utilise this to demonstrate a commitment to supporting the wider community, and as such, are able to use this to work towards their volunteering aspect of The Award.

Big congratulations to the following Stoics who have successfully completed the programme:

Sophie Cecil, Nicole Yonan & Araminta Spencer-Churchill (Lower Sixth, Stanhope), Marina Goje & Olivia Hillier (Fifth Form, Lyttelton), Edward Saunders (Lower Sixth, Grafton), Archie Trotman (Lower Sixth, Cobham) and George Watson (Fifth Form, Bruce).

Fran Shah, Deputy Co-curricular Co-ordinator



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