

THE STOIC



December 1986

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December 1986

THE STOIC

Editors—

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J. P. Summers
R. J. H. Woolley
Alexandra Goldsmith
(Photography)

Frontispiece:
The South Front
Photograph by:
Alexandra J. Goldsmith

EDITORIAL

In the winter issues of this magazine we invite readers to note, or recall, the achievements of Stoics during the long days of the summer past. Last summer at Stowe followed a Spring Term marred by severe weather, widespread illness and multiplied difficulties. Therefore, it was with heightened relief that we greeted the many sunny days, heralding the return of good humour and tolerance to the atmosphere of school life in the last months of the academic year. On a Speech Day of unusually fine weather the School welcomed Sir James Cobban as the guest speaker.

Recorded — often eloquently described — in the sports pages of this issue are many fine individual and team performances, distinguished by character as well as skill. The achievements of last term have been followed by autumn successes. At time of writing the 1st XV has already scored victories over Radley, Oundle, Rugby, Oakham and Eton.

But the creativity of Stoics must show itself primarily elsewhere, and so it did in The Junior Congreve's imaginative double production of "Scapino" and "Unman, Wittering and Zigo". Reviews of both this event and of a variety of Lower Sixth plays appear elsewhere. The artistic and musical life of Stowe continues to be energetic and expressive. Many will recall, for example, the exhibition of Miss Estdale's work (last year's Artist in Residence), the House Art Exhibitions, the musical entertainment on Speech Day, the Vivaldi Concerto and Alan Bush's oboe recital, the first such solo performance and one of superb quality. Splendid entertainment on a large scale was provided by the Staff production of "The Gondoliers". Reviews and revealing pictures appear in this magazine. An exciting example of a scientific enterprise is the joint expedition planned by the Stowe and Rugby Biology Departments, which will take place next July. A group of twenty will cross South America overland from Rio de Janeiro to Lima. We look forward to the reports in future issues.

The new building work on Grenville House was completed at the beginning of the term. The next *Stoic* will report on this very important project and the recent opening ceremony and celebrations. Other School initiatives include arranging Open Days for Old Stoics and continuing our programme of visits from Prep. School Headmasters.

We welcome six new members of staff: Brigadier Pulverman as Bursar, Mr. Hancock as Artist in Residence, Dr. Houliston and Dr. Ozturk to the English Department, Mr. Johnson to the History Department and Mr. McCabe to the Mathematics Department. We are delighted to welcome back the versatile Mr. Platt to the Mathematics, Physics and Divinity Departments.

We have regretfully to say farewell to Mrs. McDouall who, as

Librarian, has given the School fifteen years of invaluable service. Her meticulous and helpful administration has guided many Stoics through the maze of the library. We wish her every happiness in her retirement. Stowe also bids a sad farewell to Mr. Hoyle, and we offer below an appreciation of his work. Mr. Haynes, who replaced Mr. Meredith during his sabbatical term, is also leaving us. We thank him for his work in the Classics Department and wish him well in his new post at Eastbourne College. We also thank Mrs. Partridge, on her departure, for three years of much-appreciated part-time work in the Biology Department.

Finally, we report the recent marriages of Mr. Cawthorne to Miss Joanne Armitage and of Mr. Taylor to Miss Anna Bassett. Our hearty congratulations to both couples. And it is also a great pleasure to announce the birth of a daughter, Ruth Frances on 4th August, to Mr. and Mrs. Stanton-Saringer and the birth of a son, Peter Benjamin on 8th September, to Mr. and Mrs. Hirst.

J. Summers
N. Groves

The Prefectorial body consists currently of the following:	
C. H. Pullin	Head of School
J. R. Hazell, ma.	Second Prefect
S. P. Ferrand	Co-ordinator of Sanctions, Defaulters, Grounds
A. R. Adam	Head of Grenville
M. S. Appleby	Head of Lyttelton
B. L. Bannister	Head of Walpole
R. C. Boulogne, ma.	Head of Bruce
Sarah H. Campbell	Head of Stanhope
L. E. Chauveau	Prefect of Mess
Fiona M. C. Craig	Head of Nugent
J. P. Crosby	Head of Grafton
N. H. Groves	Head of Chandos
E. W. Heard	Prefect of Chapel
J. R. O. Jones-Perrott	Prefect of Grounds
M. D. Lewis	Prefect of Mess
I. D. Mattingly, ma.	Prefect of Defaulters
M. P. Moore	Head of Cobham
R. S. M. Morris	Prefect of Sanctions
C. W. Royds	Prefect of Sanctions
A. D. H. Sugars	Prefect of Shop
P. M. Tetlow	Head of Temple
R. J. H. Woolley	Prefect of Library
J. C. J. Yeoward	Head of Chatham

C.W.O.R.

Charles Rainer came to Stowe twenty years ago to teach Mathematics after his successful career as a submariner in the Royal Navy. Although he preferred a more traditional approach, with a clear exposition of principle, followed by plenty of practice in graded exercises, and had little time for the notion that six quadratic equations were enough to last a life-time, he was imaginative and enterprising in his use of materials in the classroom. He devised a course of mechanics experiments for his top Fourth and Fifth Form Sets in the long gap between Maths and Additional Maths; he collected sheets of examples on matrices and their application; and his Statistics Set was enabled to show, apparently, that whether drawing pins scattered on a desk landed point up or down merely depended on the colour of the pin. He accepted the challenge of Statistics in Further Mathematics when, ten years ago, it came into that syllabus, and is now our local expert. This was a daunting task and I shall always be grateful for the way in which Charles has coped with advanced topics, being able to explain them with such clarity, using methods which had taken the department much time to master — or even find in any book! I hope that he will leave us his notes.

Making use of his Naval experience, Charles taught 'AO' Navigation as a half subject, and the 'black-board' sphere used to illustrate this still exists. The C.C.F. Naval Section fell naturally under his care, and he took the helm of the School's Sailing Club for many years. He has now taken on the Signals Section, and is the longest serving officer in the Stowe C.C.F.

His careful attention to detail made him the ideal man to wrangle with not only the termly task of the Blue Book, but also the far more complex job of administrating and supervising the 'O' and 'A' level exams, where errors or inaccuracies could have been so disastrous. That the whole exam procedure — entries, seating, clashes and last minute changes — has gone so well is a great tribute to his cool-headed ability.

Charles delighted in music, sang with the Choral Society, and his enthusiasm for the Savoy operas of Gilbert and Sullivan is well-known. The 'patter' songs of the 'Chancellor' and the 'Modern Major General' will remain especially happy memories for all those who saw them. He made his final appearance on the Stowe stage in 'The Gondoliers' this term.

We wish Charles and Shirley a pleasant and happy retirement.

C.D.M.

DR. BARRY KING

Dr. Barry King joined the staff in September 1979 and took over the Biology department. He came to us from Marling School, Stroud, and he took a deal of persuading to leave rural Gloucestershire. He moved with his growing family to a new house in Lois Weedon, from whence he commuted to Stowe on a variety of forms of transport through the back lanes of Northants!

Barry very soon had the measure of the department, and those of use who were already there were soon struggling with the high-tech approach to Biology. We quickly realised the importance of the computer as a tool in the hands of the Biologist and it would be true to say that Barry put the School "on the map" with his new software developments and exciting interactive programmes. Having established himself amongst his colleagues, Barry soon impressed his pupils with his expertise and dedication as a fine teacher. There are many Stoics at present in universities and colleges who have cause to thank Dr. King for his help.

Outside the classroom Barry created an excellent rapport with the 2nd XI Hockey side and with the Colts cricketers and we were all very sorry when he gave up his involvement with sports to concentrate on the editorship of a new Biology textbook. He will perhaps be best remembered for his involvement in the development of "Challenge 2000", a scheme that encourages young people to become involved in an expedition to study a particular topic. The "Challenge" has become a nationwide concern and Barry is maintaining his interest in the project from outside the School.

After seven years at Stowe the lure of a Business Consultancy (and a company car!) were too great and Barry has left us to join the Rat-race. He has not strayed far, however, and Sue, his wife, still continues with her teaching at Akeley Wood School. We wish Barry and Sue well in the future and hope that they will maintain their links with Stowe.

J.B.D.

MALCOLM AND FIONA BURLEY

Commander Malcolm K. Burley, M.B.E., F.R.G.S., F.R.S.A., R.N. (Retd.) came to Stowe as Bursar in September 1973. The long string of letters after his name indicates a distinguished and adventurous career in the Royal Navy and he had many an anecdote about his experiences as an Antarctic explorer on Elephant Island and elsewhere. On coming to Stowe he succeeded a much-loved predecessor, Kenneth Box, but he threw himself into the new task of bursaring with boundless energy and enthusiasm, earning the affectionate sobriquet, 'Hurly Burley'. He, his wife, Fiona, and their three daughters were soon very much part of the Stowe scene. Malcolm's invariable good humour and ever-open office door, with a cheery welcome inside, did a great deal for the morale of academic and non-academic staff alike. During his thirteen years at Stowe a great deal of development work was undertaken, most notably the new swimming pool and sports hall, the new Bruce House and the total refurbishment of Nugent as a girls' boarding house. As bursar Malcolm had to oversee all this work in addition to his routine duties. Fiona, together with Mrs. Mead, acted as housemistress to the Stanhope girls for the first few years after girls first came to Stowe, and several generations of Stanhope girls found a happy term-time home at 3 Home Park for the rest of the time that the Burleys were at Stowe. Both Malcolm and Fiona played full parts in the life of both the School and the local community; Fiona was a leading light in the choral society and Malcolm's near genius as an impromptu pianist enlivened many parties. Both were essential members of the cast in any staff play or opera. Malcolm served for a time as parish clerk of Dadford and was a keen member of the Buckingham Rotary Club. Within the School he was treasurer, and a tireless supporter, of the Stowe Beagles and also led sailing expeditions during the holidays. The list of the Burleys' activities could be continued indefinitely, but enough has been said to make clear what a huge gap their departure leaves in the life of Stowe. They and their family leave with our very best wishes for their next adventures in Suffolk. One thing that can be said with some certainty is that the next phase of their life will not, in any true sense of the word, be 'retirement'.

A.R.P.

K.R.S.H.

Delayed by his flight from Belfast and arriving at Heathrow too late to reach Euston in time to catch his scheduled train, he took instead a train to Marylebone and another to Aylesbury, from where he caught a bus to Buckingham and hitched a lift with a Payne's coach to Stowe, arriving just in time for sherry and lunch, as requested.

Thus do I clearly remember the day in November 1981 when Ken Hoyle came for interview. Initiative apart, his sincerity, frankness and enthusiasm were evident then and have remained so ever since.

He has transformed an already very good Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme into an excellent one; he has coached School rugby teams with unbridled energy, punishing himself as he has his charges by participating fully in their training sessions; and he has worked tirelessly inside the classroom where, perhaps unusually, he is both respected and liked.

Most of all he has given a generation of Stoics a set of standards to live by. He cherishes warmth, friendliness, honesty and courtesy, and he knows that only within a sound framework of discipline can relationships founded upon these qualities flourish. Stowe in general and the Mathematics department in particular will be impoverished when, with his wife Jasmine and son James, he leaves to become Head of Mathematics at Papplewick.

D.G.L.

K.M.R.

Kathryn Reeve came to Stowe in 1982, having taught at Altrincham Boys' Grammar School and having recently married Andrew Mashiter.

In her four years at Stowe she did a great deal to strengthen the Mathematics department. Calm and clear in the classroom, she was a most conscientious and deservedly popular teacher who achieved outstanding results with boys and girls of all abilities.

In Stanhope, Kathryn was continually at Miss Nixon's right hand as Deputy Housemistress, efficiently and cheerfully handling a wide variety of administrative chores, as well as advising and helping girls with everything from careers to cookery. Community Service, too, enjoyed her loyal support.

A committed Christian with the highest standards, she left in July to have a baby. We congratulate her and Andrew on the birth of Richard Philip, born on 2nd October, and we wish them all well.

D.G.L.

OBITUARIES

We report with much regret the deaths during 1986 of four men who served the School for many years during the last half century or so. Bill Snowdon, joined the Music staff in September 1929, as assistant to that fine, inspiring Director of Music, Leslie Huggins, and himself took charge of the Music when 'Hug' was away during the war. They made an impressive pair, and it is not particularly surprising that after leaving Stowe in December 1945 for Haileybury Bill eventually was appointed organist of Carlisle Cathedral.

John Saunders joined the staff in the same term, and except for absence on war service played a leading part in School life until his retirement in 1966. His main contribution was to the English department, but in addition to that he commanded the C.C.F. (as it was then called), edited the *Stoic*, and did a great deal for the School's musical and dramatic activities. Earlier members of the Common Room will remember how it was regularly enlivened by John's wit.

Ainger Negus came to Stowe in 1940 as a member of the Music staff. He left in 1957 but returned to work part-time from 1965 to 1970. A man of great gentleness, and indeed gentlemanliness, in an age when such qualities were becoming less conspicuous, he gave many Stoics their first introduction to the violin, as well as playing the organ in Chapel and the violin in the orchestra.

Walter Bradshaw came to Stowe in 1947 after spending some years in India, as a man of abundant energy and enthusiasm for whatever he touched. In the class-room he taught principally French and Latin, mainly to boys of modest intellectual talents, whom he coached successfully through their examinations with the mixture of patience, tenacity and bludgeoning appropriate to such pupils. A versatile sportsman, he did valuable service for many years, particularly in cricket. In 1962 Walter took on the Housemastership of Chatham, where the qualities he showed in the class-room earned him much respect and affection.

MISS CRAIG

Born the daughter of a London fireman in the last days of horse-drawn fire engines, Violet Craig trained and worked as a nanny before spending the Second World War in the W.A.A.F. as a sergeant in charge of an Australian air-crew mess. After a long engagement her fiancé was killed, and she never married. In the post-war years she ran a British Restaurant, managed a butcher's shop, joined the catering staff at Denham Film Studios, and became one of the first employees of the newly-formed Practical Catering Systems.

Until 1953 Stowe had always employed its own caterers, but they then engaged P.C.S., whose Area Manager, Bob Auker, became Stowe's Caterer. At this time "Craigie" was at Summerfields Prep. School in Oxford, but when Bob left the company in 1960 she took his place as Area Manager and, in the early '60's, came to Stowe as relief Caterer for one term, before going on to spend five years at St. Edward's. Here a benevolent Housemaster volunteered to teach her to drive but gave up when, on being told to turn right at the next roundabout, Miss Craig took him at his word and drove a furrow between two lanes of oncoming traffic.

Gardner Merchant now absorbed Practical Catering Systems, and in 1968 Miss Craig left St. Edward's to become Caterer at Stowe. "Craigie" was promptly re-christened "Flora" by C.A., and Flora she remained until the day she died at the age of 76, 17th May this year.

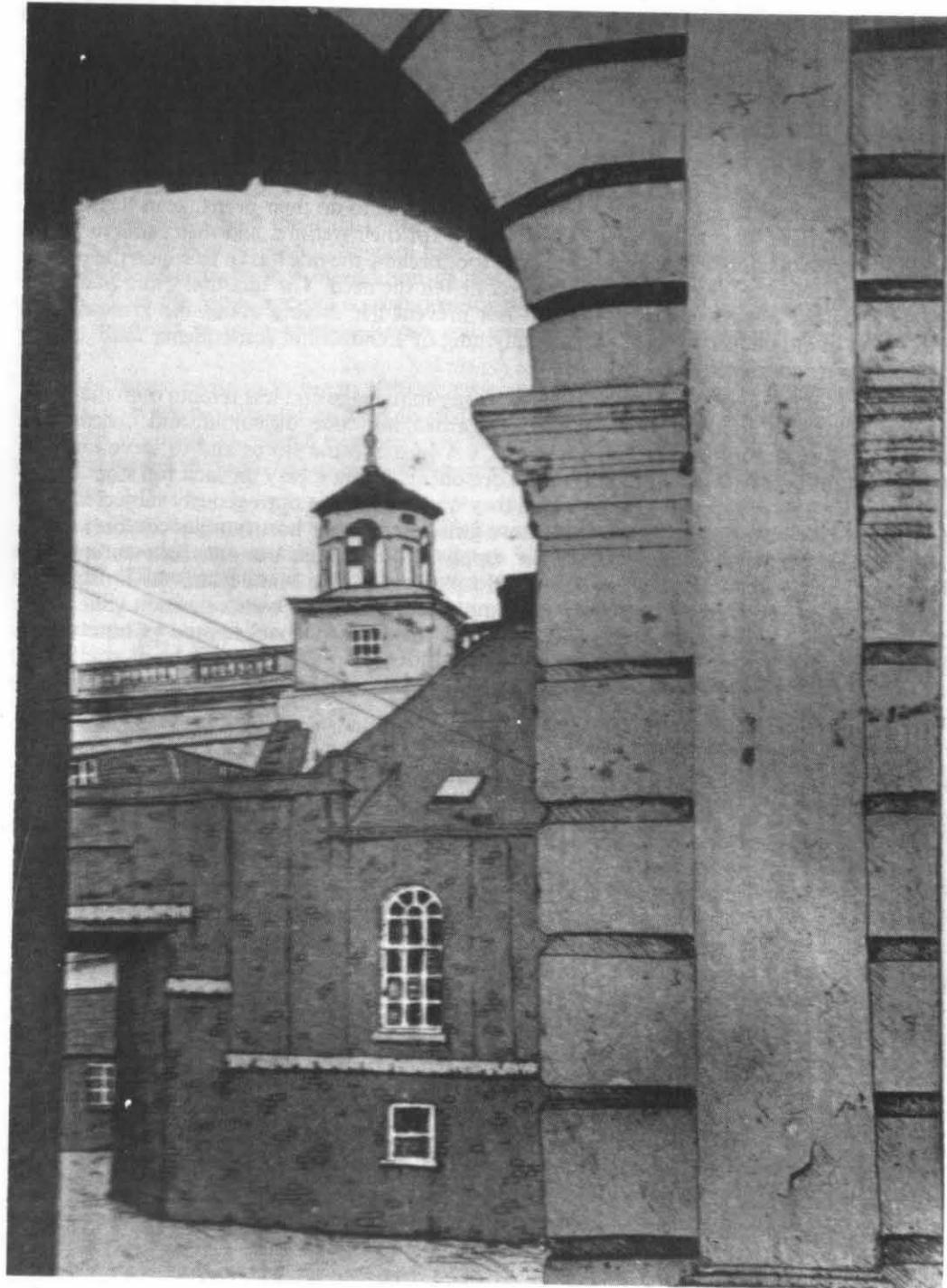
From the day she arrived she put the fear of God into me, so I can scarcely imagine the effect she had on the boys or her own staff. Certainly the boys quickly learned to behave in the dining-halls, and her staff became wonderfully efficient. It took me years to discover that her battle-axe image disguised the most generous of natures, the warmest of hearts. She was uncompromisingly honest and scrupulously fair.

When she retired to the Corinthian Arch in 1975 she quickly earned a reputation for serving sumptuous snacks and teas, principally, I suspect, to boys cutting their afternoon activities. She became hostess to several Stowe girls who were made to do their preps, keep their rooms tidy and get up on time; but she cared passionately for their welfare, and they came to regard her with deep affection. The Corinthian Arch, too, became the one haven to which the present Headmaster could and would repair whenever he felt the need. The fact that Flora had never taken, let alone passed, a driving test did not prevent her driving about the grounds in a succession of old bangers — rarely hitting anything of architectural consequence until, one by one, they were consigned to the tip.

In 1983 Flora moved to the Oxford Lodge, easier to manage and less remote than the Arch. She worked hard to transform a neglected garden into one of colour and charm. She continued to assist in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme stores and to serve excellent teas and suppers to Stowe Golf Club, whose opponents found it easy on such full stomachs to suffer the verbal slings and arrows to which they were sometimes outrageously subjected. But, after spiritually refreshing two or more Stowe girls whom other host families couldn't reach, Flora lived on her own, and eventually her supply of old bangers ran out. Last autumn she became ill and, after spells in Buckingham Hospital and Stoke Mandeville, she finished her days in Willen Hospice. She never once complained about her own condition. She loved Stowe and those who knew her loved her. Her funeral service in a packed Stowe Church was a moving affair. Stowe had lost one of its characters.

D.G.L.





NOT-SO-TRIVIAL PURSUIT.



Try as you might you'll find it exceedingly difficult to find anything that's trivial about Porsche. Nevertheless here are six questions of varying degrees of obscurity which may test your knowledge to the full (inspired guesswork could well pay dividends). If you think you can successfully attempt all our questions send your

answers to Marketing Services Department, Porsche Cars Great Britain Limited, Bath Road, Calcot, Reading RG3 7SE.

Six correct answers will win you a full colour wall poster (760 x 1015 mm) of the breathtaking 187mph, Porsche 959.

PORSCHE
BUILDING ON ACHIEVEMENT

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 **Geography:** Which performance car manufacturer builds its cars in Stuttgart - Zuffenhausen and has its Research and Development Centre at Weissach?

 **History:** What was the surname of the man who designed the Volkswagen 'Beetle'?

 **Entertainment:** What did Steven Spielberg buy four of for his wife because he already had four of his own?

 **Sports & Leisure:** What is the name of the manufacturer who has won Le Mans more times than any other and who in 1986 took the first seven places?

 **Science & Nature:** Which car manufacturer built the first turbo-charged production sports car?

 **Art & Literature:** In the Merchant of Venice one of the female characters appears disguised as a man. What's her name?

SPEECH DAY 1986

Saturday, May 24th

The Headmaster's Speech:

On a warm sunny day in September — and how few of those there have been since then! — a number of Old Stoics, Governors, parents, friends, staff and Stoics stood on the south-facing terrace of Bruce House while Lord Boyd-Carpenter formally declared open that very successful new building. A few weeks later, on a chilly but cheerful November day, Mrs. Margaret Gull, Governor and former parent, declared open the new House of Nugent in one of the oldest wings of Stowe. On a very, very wet Thursday evening just over two weeks ago, Sir Edwin Nixon, 20 years Managing Director and Chairman of IBM, gave his blessing to the newly equipped Computer Room. This coming September, still within a year (just) of the first occupation of Bruce, Grenville will, we hope, re-occupy their old and occupy their new premises behind the North Colonnade. In brief, it has not been and is not being a year of stagnation. The money which so many of you have very generously contributed, along with the funds already set aside for the purpose, has visibly lifted Stowe into the last decade of this century.

What does all this mean? Stowe is set in incomparable surroundings, but Stoics have been living in cramped, overcrowded conditions. The central Houses were a jumble. Work in them was too often a game of pretence for too many. It became clear that the extraction of one House from that jumble would make possible the modernization, by stages, of all the central Houses. And that great work has now begun. Uprooting a House and giving it a new identity is a delicate affair. It's rather like replanting a temperamental cyclamen. The wonderful thing is that, in the case of Bruce, it has worked. For this I pay great tribute to the leadership of the House — above all to Michael and Hazel Waldman but also to those very fine prefects and monitors he has — some of the best the House has had since those great days of the 20s, of Peter Sherwood and Granville Carr. I am confident that this major operation will have a radically beneficial effect on the academic performance of the Houses concerned, not that we have much to be ashamed of in that respect.

The opening of Nugent under Mr. and Mrs. Small's command was not without its problems at the start: builders' calendars do not always coincide with the pattern of school terms, especially when unsuspected rot and decayed wiring upset their calculations. Stowe's mixed Sixth Form is benefiting enormously from the easier administration, the gentle competition and the fuller integration now possible. I have heard no complaints from girls or boys. The top floor of Nugent will become part of the House next term. We can then concentrate on the next phase in the boys' Houses.

Computer education benefits superbly from Michael Manisty's direction. The new IBM machines are already much in demand. I'm not quite sure what will be next on the list of things he will tell me simply must be done without delay! The high-tech revolution moves at frightening speed.

In our creative departments in general it has been a great year. The exhibition of design projects last week was inspiring. I don't know whether I was more impressed by the professionalism of the clothing design or by the care and sensitivity with which a toy for disabled children had been developed in consultation with the users themselves in Milton Keynes. Alongside those have been the amazing 'A' level results of the Art Department where all their eight candidates scored either A or B. And that is not all that goes on in the Art School or the Workshops or the Photography rooms. Witness the junior work in all those areas and the impressive stage designs we enjoy term after term.

I have launched straight into the year's most visible and expensive developments. That is a good backcloth for a review of Stoics' achievements over the past year. Last summer's 'O' and 'A' level results have already received some coverage. A brief reminder of the outline statistics: at 'A' level 84.8% of the papers taken were passed — just above our average for the decade but below the two previous years by 2%. There were 124 A and B grades, averaging one a candidate. The highlights were: 56 passes out of 57 in English, the third year running in History with 90% or higher success, 39 passes in Geography out of 42, with many high grades, and 29 out of 33 in Maths; Physics dropped slightly off its plateau of perfection, so that out of about 35 candidates a year it has now had an average over five years of fractionally more than one failure a year. At 'O' level, the success rate was 80%, giving candidates an average of 7.9 passes each by the time they left the Fifth Form or over eight by the time they would leave the School. Statistics of Oxbridge results are confusing. Oxford now has no post-'A' level November exam and Cambridge are switching to a summer exam; so one year cannot at present be compared with another. This year's experience, although not bad, suggested that neither the universities nor we ourselves (schools in general) knew how best to use the changing system.

The autumn will always be remembered for its excellent 1st XV. It might be thought unfair that a school should be judged as a school by the performance of its 1st XV. There are, after all, other areas of school life of overriding importance. So I should perhaps be cautious about making too much of the success of a few. Yet David's slaughter of Goliath, Achilles' pursuit of Hector round the walls of Troy have made their impact on history, and after all a good XV cannot exist without leadership, without an excellent first game and fine coaching or in a community which does not breed self-discipline and commitment. They were also excellent ambassadors for England. So, congratulations to those Stoics who took Ireland by storm and won all but two of their school games in England, losing one point to Oundle for the second year running and nine to Radley after injuries.

Wise is the Head who keeps quiet about the winter of 1986. It was a long, cold haul, starting with a blizzard which took five weeks to melt and ending with a gale which destroyed 300 trees. There was illness galore and standards slipped and tempers frayed towards the end. Suffice it to say that we skated on the lakes, we were admirably entertained by the music pupils and the House drama festival, while excellent results were achieved by the sculling four and the cross-country team.

The long winter showed no signs of abating at the end of March; April was colder than it had ever been in the history of the School. But the high level of achievement we were enjoying before Christmas returned after Easter. The Hockey XI visited Holland and did not lose a match. They won golden opinions as ambassadors for Stowe. Several expeditions took place in the Easter holidays. In every single case (nearly every single case!) the masters who led them reported that the Stoics were a positive pleasure to take, whether in the Himalayas or on adventure training or on specialist field courses. The same reports came to me after Field Day a fortnight ago. This term is going at break-neck pace and most encouragingly. The Cricket XI, the athletes, the tennis players, the swimmers have all been winning. Even the Summer Ball was a widely shared pleasure.

I'm often asked what is special about Stowe. Our surroundings are acknowledged to be unique. What else is special? May I say that it does not surprise me to hear of very recent Old Stoics working in refugee camps in Bangladesh, raising money for Intermediate Technology, leading explorations in remote corners of the earth. Enterprise, enthusiasm, initiative are common characteristics. It is also significant that the Director of the National Gallery in Washington is the first to say how much he owes to his short time at Stowe for the inspiration which led him to put on last year's exhibition of the English Country House, to which a

million visitors came. Creative and artistic energy are still very much with us. An Old Stoic won the competition for the Channel Tunnel; without rejoicing at the prospect, I admire his professionalism. I don't think Stoics have common characteristics, but they do not lack character. I cannot keep up with the books written by Old Stoics. It is easily forgotten that Stoics of every generation have made their mark in the world of scholarship in spite of some localized prejudice against Stowe's academic seriousness. Yes, there are Stoics who don't like work in their youth (in that they are not unusual), but that does not seem to prevent them from getting where they want to get and occupying a disproportionate number of influential positions in the world of affairs. Versatility and ingenuity are not bad qualities for success in the modern world, especially when their possessors know how to stand up for themselves and what they believe in and to speak up. I am certain that these exciting qualities reflect the high concentration of enterprising parents who favour Stowe.

The staff too play their part. We were thinking only last Sunday night, after hearing Paul Harris performing the Weber Clarinet Quintet, how incredibly fortunate Stoic musicians are to have such a team to teach them, three of them composers, two high class conductors, all of them outstanding performers. Talent was glowing in the staff's performance of the 'Gondoliers'. Less obvious are the other distinctions. Mr. Manisty is a pioneer in Computer Graphics; Dr. King has devised computer software for schools and he has now published an important school text book. Dr. Hornby's research in Nepal is of national importance to that nation. Several men are public examiners of some distinction.

Sadly, we have our annual wrench of parting from good friends. Staff meetings will be duller, Stowe's landscapes less colourful, Buckingham poorer in laughter and friendship when Malcolm Burley retires this summer. A Bursar can too easily be a remote and awesome, Scrooge-like figure in some dusty office. Not so our Bursar; some Stoics have even enjoyed his expert seamanship off (or rather on) the coast of Western Scotland. I don't think any School has ever had a more loyal servant and friend. Our very first day here seven years ago was gladdened by the warmth of hospitality we had from Malcolm, Fiona and their splendid daughters. Nor have I ever known a faster operator. A note to the Bursar produces an unfailingly instantaneous response, even if not expected; a complaint prompts a smiling apology — someone else's blunder always enjoys the glow of generous forgiveness; a sick employee will be visited, a retiring one feasted in the Burley's own home. Fiona herself played a historic rôle, before I came here, in the evolution of Stanhope House. How we shall miss them both in every area of Stowe's life! I don't believe I am alone in saying that I owe Malcolm and Fiona a very, very great deal for their loyalty and kindness and sheer goodness. May we wish them a very happy and active retirement with the deepest gratitude from Stowe.

The navy is having a battering this summer at Stowe. If it's not the Duke of Plazatoro or the model of a modern Major-General, it will be Admiral Sir Joseph Porter, KCB, that we should elect to command "the Queen's Navee". It is a brave man who changes career in mid-ocean. Two have done it to Stowe's advantage and both leave us this summer. Commander Rainer, Commander of Stowe's Naval Section, Commodore of the Sailing Club, a Mathematician of skill and modesty and great patience, Charles Rainer to us, has given Stowe the best years of his life. With humour and good nature, he has steered many a bone-headed mathematician through 'O' level. He has managed the administration of the GCE with superb efficiency. Every letter I have ever had to write to the Board mysteriously appears on my desk in draft form, ready for immediate typing. It appears to cost him no effort. In fact, he is irreplaceable. A very happy retirement to you Charles! I hope you and Shirley will both continue to sing to us in various choral groups.

Dr. Barry King has done a mere seven years as the very distinguished Head of our Biology Department. I have mentioned the excellence of his scholarship. His is a name to conjure with

in the educational world. I hope that we shall soon hear that the remaining sponsors of Challenge 2000 have materialized so that Barry's brilliantly imaginative venture can be launched into the jungle of South America. Ecology, Conservation, Scholarship and Humanity typify the venture and epitomise Barry's contribution to Stowe. He is also an expert hockey coach and a colleague and friend valued by all, respected by all his pupils. I hope that British education will not be without his help for long; for it is his intention to leave it at least for the immediate future. We wish him very well with heartiest thanks.

We cannot be sad at the cause of Mrs. Mashiter's departure — Miss Reeve as she is known to the uninitiated. We wish her and her husband very well as she surrenders her teaching for fuller family life. Stowe has been fortunate to have Miss Reeve's scholarship and confident command of the classroom these past few years. A brilliant mathematician herself, she is one of those rare people able to make the duller understand the subject. And Stanhope have had marvellous help from her calm, clear support. We are sad to say good-bye to her; I hope it may prove only to be "au revoir".

Two men have given us valuable help over this past year — Dr. Stepputat since September and Mr. Hepworth since January. Dr. Stepputat came to help us at the very last minute, delaying for a year his final stage of teacher-training. A man of unparalleled good nature and benevolence he deserves well from his career to which he brings very great ability. We owe him our sincere thanks. Mr. Hepworth also stepped into a breach; when Mr. Norris went to Australia to marry, Mr. Hepworth stepped out of a headmastership in Kenya to take a modest rôle in our Geography Department. He has done very much more than that: he has been totally involved in Stowe and Cobham life, supporting, encouraging and reassuring us all. Lucky will be the school which enjoys his leadership. If we can cajole him into staying a little longer before assuming a new command we shall be grateful. Thank you, gentlemen both, for all that you have given us in so short a time.

Headmasters received a timely rebuke at the Old Stoic Dinner last week when our distinguished Old Stoic speaker, Peregrine Worsthorne, touched on a political theme. He hinted that we indulge in left wing posturing while enjoying the fruits of the establishment, having it both ways. Fair comment! I am, I believe, obliged to refer to politics before I close because there may be a General Election before we meet next. Who knows? A Labour spokesman on education has declared their intention of abolishing school fees. Now there is no evidence that Neil Kinnock is behind that threat (if parents regard it as a threat) and he well knows the opinion polls have recorded massive support for independent education. There are those who fear they mean business this time, if they get in. I'm not convinced. Neil Kinnock is a realist and a very practical politician. The point I make is this. I believe in independent education, and I believe in Stowe and I believe I speak to the converted. Our task is to make the nation believe that independent schools are a good thing. If there is, therefore, a tendency among us to be arrogant or to think that certain privileges are due to us because we have been lucky and parents have been generous enough to pay for an education which enlarges our opportunities, we must banish such attitudes from us as far as the East is from the West. On the contrary, our fellow citizens have a right to expect from Stoics and their competitors a greater dedication, more strenuous service, a more courageous lead — if leadership is their lot — a stronger sense of community and higher professional standards just because they have enjoyed what has been denied by accident to others. Now this has been said by hundreds of others over and over again, including, to the surprise perhaps of many present, the present Lord Chancellor; it is inescapable common sense, but let us beware of thinking we practise the philosophy just because we hear it so often. We shall be judged by the result of the next Election if independent schools become an election issue.

No man is better equipped to speak to us at such a moment than Sir James Cobban. He has moved in the highest educational circles in Britain and beyond for many years. He has worked hard for the Church of England's leadership in education; he served his county of Berkshire for a generation as an educator and a Headmaster of a great school. I believe, though, that at heart he has always been a schoolmaster whose chief care is people. I'm not the only schoolmaster to have sought advice and comfort from him and always found it. James, we are honoured that you should be celebrating the golden jubilee of *Civis Romanus* by sharing Speech Day with Stowe.

Sir James Cobban's Speech:

Mr. Chairman, my Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen,

After hearing all those far too generous tributes, I could scarcely wait to hear myself speak. I am essentially a modest man but I never realised how much I had to be modest about. How do you expect me to speak to you after that marathon performance in which I have just engaged? A sheer display of Headmastermanship — he showed us how efficient his Head of School was, and his Master in charge, in disposing of and juggling with so many books, distributed according to the principles of plurality. I myself give full marks to Stowe, and one reason why I'm going to tell you that Stowe is such a good school is that they all looked me in the eye; it had been carefully arranged that they were all a little lower than myself when I was talking to them and they all knew how to shake hands properly. My right hand I don't think will ever recover from the iron grip to which it has been subjected by some of your young gentlemen, which is just as it should be. And if there hadn't been so many of you there, I should not just have shaken hands with the young ladies.

Now, Headmasters are, generally speaking, "generally speaking", and the same applies to ex-Headmasters, too; I think it is extremely hazardous of your present Headmaster to drag an elderly guru such as myself from his retirement. In fact, I have already entered into what is my fourth and possibly my final quarter of a century. I know that I am venerable but you cannot always tell when you pass over the almost invisible line which divides the venerable from the senile. I have reached the stage where my invariable practice in the morning is that I stop in bed, I open my *Times* and I read the obituary columns and, if my name is not there, then I get up. (And I may say that if you applaud every fourth form joke, your tea will be very late). I actually retired from active work some sixteen years ago: I saw the red light when I read a statistical table headed 'Oxfordshire teachers broken down by age and sex'. I was rather like the Scottish Minister giving up his final cure of souls, who said to his vestry: "Of course, I shall not take part in any of the affairs of the parish; I shall continue to serve the Almighty but it will be in an entirely personal and consultative capacity."

Courtesies are time consuming, but it would be ungracious and ungrateful of me not to say what an enormous privilege I feel it is to be standing here this day. I stand before you as a Stoic by adoption rather than by grace, but my connection with Stowe goes back a long time. Nearly 40 years ago, in 1948, I first came here when the great J.F. entertained his colleagues of the Midland Division of the Headmasters' Conference. And then in 1970, as you will have heard, I was given the awe-inspiring privilege of joining your Governing Body. Now I appear before you by way of a swan-song. I regret in a way that we are not holding this ceremony on the steps of the South Front, where the Governors, from an Olympian height, half-way up the steps, could enjoy that ravishing view across towards the Arch, during which time the audience were able to count the number of Governors who were wearing odd socks. Some of you may have won your battle honours way back in the days when Dean Sullivan of St. Paul's presented the prizes on the North Front. He and the Governors, thank goodness, were under

the protection of the Colonnade while he himself addressed a sea of umbrellas down beneath him. At all events, standing here, I'm pretty safe compared with my position precisely a year ago today when I was giving the prizes away at another school (and wild horses on their bended knees would not drag the name of this school from me) because there they had a swagger new Assembly Hall-cum-Theatre, and I started giving the prizes away in the usual way when I was conscious of a kind of frisson; ladies were gasping in the audience something was happening; I became conscious of the safety curtain which was coming down inexorably between me and the recipient. I had to make a quick decision: on which side of it was I to be found? And I dove underneath it and, as I came up, it crashed into place behind me, and there it stayed because you are not supposed to be able to move them when they are down. And I had to entertain the audience with funny stories. All that is perfectly true, and the story goes on but I leave it there.

My first job is to congratulate the Headmaster on his report. This is, by any standards, a good school. In 1923 the occasion produced the man and the man produced a new kind of public school, and if Stowe gave its members beauty, J.F. gave them liberty — the liberty to develop their talents, all their talents, to the full. Now it is easy nowadays to be snide about Roxburgh and, indeed, to be snide about Stowe, as one saw in one of the Sunday papers recently, which purported to provide a guide to the 20 top schools. Of course, times have changed and the times probably call for a rather different kind of headmaster, but by any standards J.F. must be accounted one of the 12 greatest headmasters of this century. In retirement, he wrote to an Old Stoic: "Some day, perhaps this place will have an efficient Headmaster. I hope it won't, for if it does its character will entirely change." He was not being entirely serious, but there was something in what he said. And I agree completely with that point of view. All headmasters of my generation certainly would feel very sad if the day were ever to come when on the hook in the Headmaster's study hung not a 'square' (an academic cap) but a bowler hat. But your present Headmaster — and this is no moment for us to be bandying lush compliments to each other — has disproved that statement because he has brought to his tremendous and daunting task at Stowe a high degree of professional efficiency and expertise, which is combined with the personal dedication, that dedication to the interests of boy and man, which is the mark of the really great headmaster.

I come here to give away the prizes not to give away the Headmaster. I should have called him a model Headmaster, but someone once called me a model Headmaster and I was chuffed until I looked the word up in a dictionary on my return home and I found it defined it as "a small imitation of the real thing". So, perhaps if I called him the John Cleese of Buckinghamshire, some of you here will know what I am getting at. That lovely school story — the conversation at the breakfast table: "Mother, I don't want to go to school. The boys are beastly to me, the masters take no notice of me, and the food is frightful". "Rubbish, my son, of course you'll go to school. You are 47 years of age and you are the Headmaster, and you must go." Still less do I intend to patronize what until recently were my fellow Governors. Although I have governed in my time more schools than I can remember, I still have a healthy fear of Governors. There once was a Headmaster who was too ill to go to his Governors' Meeting — and you have to be very ill not to attend a Governors' Meeting because you don't know what they will get up to in your absence. Three days later he received a very formal letter from the Clerk to the Governors, typed as follows: "I informed the Governors of the reason for your absence and they instructed me to send your their best wishes for a speedy recovery and a return to your duties. This motion was carried by 5 votes to 3, with 4 abstentions." Still less do I intend to pontificate to the parents. I have been a parent in my day — I suppose I still am. I was very nervous before my fourth daughter was born because I read in a newspaper that every fourth child born in the world is a Chinese; in the

event it turned out all right. I had one daughter at a boarding school. The Headmistress herself telephoned me one evening and said, "How is Helena?" And I said, "Helena is very well. She's looking forward to coming back to school tomorrow." "Is she?" said the frigid voice at the other end of the telephone, "Everybody else came back today".

All of this is absolutely true. Another daughter, at a day school, came back on the first day of term and I said patronisingly, as I always said to my daughters: "Well, my dear, how did you get on at school today?" "Daddy", she said, "I was the only girl in the form who had forgotten to take her health certificate back with her." Health certificates were abolished immediately at that school because I happened to be Chairman of the Governors.

There are two things I must do. One is to make a few general remarks about education and the other is to talk to the School; parents can eavesdrop if they wish. Now, as you have heard from the Headmaster, the big debate about education is not over. It has been obscured in a sense by this pay dispute. The really big debate is about principles. It is a great pity that Sir Keith Joseph has never really had the chance to get his teeth into these questions. We have to consider what are the complementary and sometimes contradictory claims of **quality** and **equality**. We have to try to balance the **interests of the individual** against the claims of the **community as a whole**. We have to hammer out what are the **purposes of education**. I always used to think that the purpose of education was education and it wasn't social engineering, or what you will. But it is now open to question. Then, of course, there is the big question of the existence of the independent schools, which is complicated by the question of selection. Now the state system has by and large gone over to the comprehensive system; when we are talking about the independent and the maintained sectors we are also talking about selection and comprehensivisation.

The present buoyancy of the independent schools must not conceal the fact that the potential threat to their existence still exists. It gives us no pleasure that some part of our prosperity is due to deficiencies in the state system. We want to succeed on our own merit and not on the failures of others. The independent schools have always been the target of criticism. It is many years since a presumably responsible body defined the system as one "calculated to produce men of inflexible will and without any scruple, who do not concern themselves with intellectual problems." £5 to anybody who can identify the source of that quotation. No offers? It was the Gestapo report prepared for Hitler in readiness for the occupation of Britain in 1940. At what time (and this is a footnote to history) the British Government, at the darkest moment of its history, established three similar units, so called, the German, the Austrian and the Italian, to prepare plans for the military government of those countries after the war. An interesting sidelight. Meanwhile, you have exercised your inalienable right — and I say "inalienable" because it is a right which is enshrined in every international charter of human rights, to have your sons educated, at whatever sacrifice, in the way you want them to be educated. There are many reasons why you and other parents choose to send your children to an independent school or why you should choose to send them to this particular school — because it plays rugger rather than soccer, because it's a fairly small school, because it's in the country, in many cases because it is a school with a strong Christian foundation. And in parenthesis I would like to ask a question which so many Headmasters have agonised over for years: what makes a Christian school? But that's in parenthesis. Well, we in independent education have been in it because we believe in freedom of schools; we do not believe that monopoly in education is a good thing. We believe in the freedom of the parent to choose. We believe that the two systems can co-exist. We do not want opposition between the maintained system and the independent system. Again, as your Headmaster says, there's room for both of us and we want to do all we can to break down the barriers between the two systems. Ultimately, these schools stand or fall firstly by the quality of the education

they supply and secondly by public opinion, especially in what I may call "the soft centre". We have somehow got to build up a public opinion that will not allow these schools to be destroyed. And this is an obligation all of us have — parents, Old Boys and friends. Some of us do it, of course, through membership of the ISIS Association. And that public opinion matters, and I hope you will all do your best to build that public opinion up.

It was when the visiting speaker said, "Now, for a word to the boys at the back of the hall" that I used to squirm. I knew that very soon he would be saying one or both of two things: either "I'm not going to make a speech", and we knew that he was going to go on for hours, or "I never won any prizes at school and look at me now" — and we looked at him then and we knew what he meant. But at the risk of making you all switch off, I think it is a good thing if occasionally someone from outside comes along and asks you what it is all about. What in fact does a school like this believe? And in days when there is so much waffle and vague thought it is a good thing to ask ourselves this question. A Headmaster once wrote a notice, as headmasters often do: "All boys who have not already done so . . ." and then he was called away, as happens so frequently — he came back, he didn't read what he had already written, and added the words "will do so immediately". And that notice appeared on the Headmaster's noticeboard, where it attracted as much or as little attention as headmasters' notices always do. **We believe in excellence**. In some quarters, "excellence" is a dirty word nowadays, but it is a good word. If you are doing anything at all, it is worthwhile doing it well, doing it as well as you can. We believe in practising excellence and in respecting excellence. **We believe in tolerance**, seeing the other man's point of view. Don't get into the Wolsey mentality, condemning something unseen. Wolsey, you will remember, under Henry VIII, sent a commissary down to Bath with these instructions: "You will give my Lord Abbot of Bath fair trial and you will then hang him from the highest arch of his Abbey." I sometimes wish we had more tolerance, more generosity, in politics and that we could somehow get rid of the ya-boo kind of politics which seems to dominate all parties in the House. **We believe that people matter**, particularly in these days when it's alleged that even Bishops have two pending trays — one marked 'sacred' and one marked 'top sacred'. We believe that boys (and, of course, nowadays when I say boys I mean girls as well, because in this context as in so many others, boy embraces girl) — **we believe that boys belong**. This is where you must have a sense of community and to get that you must be in a community which is small enough, whether it is a school or within a school, within a house. **We believe that privilege demands responsibility**, and responsibility is the only justification for it. Some of you may have seen a Dictionary of Australian called **Let's talk Strine** in which all the words are spelt as pronounced. There's a word "Aorta". I always thought that was a medical term. But not a bit of it out there: "Aorta be a law about it"; "Aorta do something about it". And it dawned on me that lots of us are "Aorta" people as well. Well, you privileged people here make your minds up that you are not going to grow up as "Aorta" people. We are all in it together. "No man is an island, entire of itself."

During the dark days of Dunkirk, of which some of you will have heard from your grandfathers, when we suffered the most almighty defeat that Great Britain has ever suffered, the fragments of the British Army were making their ways back after nine days of hell on the beaches; and there was a battalion of the Grenadier Guards, who at last got on a destroyer and they spent the voyage home not in belly-aching but in polishing their equipment and in shaving themselves and in things like that. Eventually they reached Dover Maritime Station and they marched on to the platform; not 600 — there were about 160 of them. They held their heads high and one of the WVS, bless them, went up to the enormous drill sergeant, which is what the Guards call their Sergeant Major, and said, "Sir, do you think your men would like knives and forks with their meat pies?" He looked down at her gravely and said,

“Madam, the Guards carry their own cutlery.” And if you remember nothing else of what I’m saying today, I hope you remember this. It’s up to you who have had these opportunities to make sure that you do “carry your own cutlery” through life and then you are in a position to help other people who are not in that position.

Then in my last term in office, I looked out of the window at 10 o’clock, on a summer evening; it was getting dark, an almighty thunderstorm was going on, and there was one of the members of my experimental Sixth Form House standing out just in a singlet getting wet through in the rain. I called to him through the window: “Oaf,” I said—and that was a term of endearment—“what are you doing?” He said, “Sorry, sir, I just came out to see the lightning.” Well of course, it was very stupid of him but it would be a bad day for this country if all young men were afraid to go out and see the lightning because they might get wet in doing so.

Now talking to the young gentlemen and ladies of Stowe, it is scarcely necessary for me to say that if you can mix in a dash of **style** it helps. Just two stories: Cambridge, 14th century, filthily cold in the winter; two poor undergraduates; they were living on a sack of oatmeal, they had nothing else; bitterly cold. At last they got their degrees. They saved up, they bought their caps and gowns and they were flaunting their finery along the river. Whoosh came the wind, as it does along the Cam. Bang went the square of one of them right into the middle of the River Cam. Without a moment’s thought the other one took off his own square and hurled it after it and said, “As between thee and me, Jack, there shall be no difference”.

Come forward a couple of hundred years. Francis Drake, sailing round the world, five little cockle boat ships. His favourite captain was found mutinying against him. He had him over to his Flag Ship: he was tried; he was found guilty. That night, he and Francis Drake dined together alone ‘to the sound of the viols’; and the next morning they got up and they took the sacrament together and then Francis Drake had him executed straight away. Rum story, you may think, but you may see what I am getting at. Style. But the most important thing is to be involved, to stand on your own feet, to be prepared to get wet.

These are not a bad basis for living. But some of you, I hope, will go further and while you are here you will hammer out a basis for life. Face the challenge of the Christian faith. A boy’s religion, as J.F. says somewhere, is a very private thing. Boys are very sensitive and a Headmaster, a Chaplain, has to tread very carefully when he is treading on what is holy ground. But it is up to you; you have the opportunity here of facing this challenge and I hope you will. Christianity is hard work. It calls for toughness. There is no place in it for the flopsy bunnies of life, and it doesn’t seem to fit very well into the rum world you are going out into. But it is the only thing, I think, that will enable you to face that world in the proper spirit of hope and faith.

There are signs of hope. I must declare my belief in the essential goodness of this world and in my belief that that good will ultimately triumph. So, don’t lose your nerve. I was preaching once at a school up in Yorkshire. Just before I went in the Chaplain said to the choir in the vestry: “Now, the organ is a bit ropey. At any moment the organ may stop, but the choir will go on notwithstanding.” I like that “notwithstanding”. That again is something to remember. The heavenly music will stop. You won’t be always hearing it but you must go on with the practice of your faith **notwithstanding**. And you must aim high when you leave here. “A man’s reach should exceed his grasp or what’s a heaven for?” A notice — what I think they call a wayside pulpit — outside a London church: “Where shall you be on the Day of Judgement?” And underneath somebody had written: “Still waiting here for a 22 bus”. Make your minds up, members of this school, that on the Day of Judgement you are not to be found on the pavement still waiting for a 22 bus. Six hundred years ago the Monks of Seville decided to build a cathedral. It was a brutal and a brutish age; but they first of all set up a

committee, and then they bought a minute book, and the first minute they wrote, which still exists in that minute book, reads as follows: “Let us build so vast a cathedral to the glory of God that those who come after us may think us mad even to have attempted it”. Well, they built that cathedral and that cathedral still stands to the glory of God. I only hope that there are still some people here in this country, some people in this school who have that kind of madness, who would be prepared to aim that high. You have a very proud school motto. Some might think it a little arrogant. “Persto et Præsto” — “I stand firm and I stand first”. Another motto very similar to it that I came across very recently, “Summa Malo Sequi” — “I choose to follow the highest”. Can we choose to follow the highest and aim high, without being arrogant, without losing that proper Christian humility, that proper compassion and care for those who are less fortunate? If you can weld together those complementary qualities, then you will have no need to fear the future and old men, such as I, have no need to fear for the future of this country. It is quaint to think that today is, or ought to be, Empire Day. We are a bit hesitant about talking about it now but there was much that was good in the ideals of those from schools like this who helped to build up the British Empire. Somehow we have got to use those qualities and adapt them to the very different world in which we now live.

I am very grateful to you all for listening to me so patiently, and I do wish Stowe, a school which has a very real place in my heart, God speed and good fortune in the difficult years that lie ahead.

‘THAT MAN’

He is old and weary of life,
Cannot put up with the strain from his wife.
His features are very worn and grey
As though he couldn’t last another day.

What a strange customer that man was:
He looked so forgotten, so rejected,
But, even so, quite respected.

A.E. Beattie (IIIe)

‘MEDITATION’

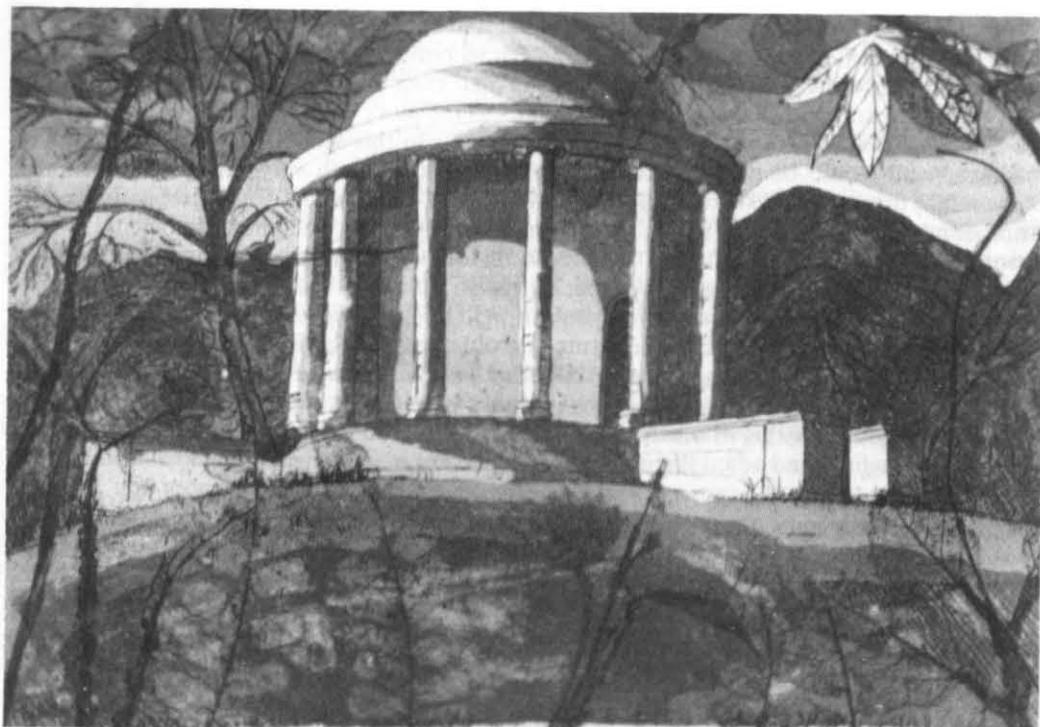
The mind directs
The energy of the physical entity
Into harmony with the state of the universe.

When all about you is frantic chaos,
Do not be absorbed by the crashing gongs,
The screams of the hysterical,
Or the wailing of the grievous.

Become one with the rocks that never
Feel the need to weep.
Become a part of the plains that never
Feel the need to shift about at the whim of minor batterings.

Your roots are buried deep,
Like those of a tree.

K. Salah (IVb)



Soft and hard ground etching with aquatint by M. S. Talbot

Photograph by D. H. J. White, ma.

Watercolours by Carolina Thwaites Lastra



Photographs by D. H. J. White, ma.



MUSIC

(List of Musical Events)

Sunday, April 27th, 1986 at 8.00 p.m. in the State Music Room

AN EVENING OF ENGLISH SONG

INTRODUCED BY FELIX APRAHAMIAN

Songs by Elgar, Quilter, Warlock, Ireland and Vaughn Williams

sung by

Juliet Rudolf, Lisa Tustian, Ian Small and Barry Bigger

Saturday, May 10th, 1986 at 8.00 p.m. in the Roxburgh Hall

THE SALOMON ORCHESTRA

Conducted by MALCOLM BINNEY

STEPHEN BRYANT (*Violin*)

Young Persons' Guide to the Orchestra *Britten*

Violin Concerto in D *Korngold*

Symphony No. 3 "The Rhenish" *Schumann*

The Salomon Orchestra is a very good amateur orchestra, based in London. It has an excellent wind and brass section but, as is often the case, the strings are not quite so impressive. This concert was given a hard time by the critics when it was performed a week later in Oxford (where it was presented as part of a group of professional concerts).

The orchestra managed the very difficult Britten piece very well but struggled with the opulent difficulties of the Korngold. Soloist, Stephen Bryant, had a good shot at playing the concerto but he was fighting a losing cause, I fear.

The Schumann did not come off very well; Malcolm Binney hit some strange tempos which just did not work and the whole felt rather unsatisfying. It has to be said that it is very rare for any orchestra, however distinguished, to bring off a Schumann Symphony well and the Rhenish is probably the hardest of the four.

The concert was badly attended, occurring as it did the Saturday before Field Day, but one suspects that the indolence of many Stoics was also to blame.

R.J.S.S.

Sunday, May 18th, 1986 at 8.00 p.m. in the State Music Room

STOWE CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

String Quartet *Debussy*

Clarinet Quintet *Weber*

Saturday, May 24th, 1986 at 12 noon in the Roxburgh Hall

STOWE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

with

GILES MUNT and JOHN DA SILVA (*Trumpets*)

Concerto for Two Trumpets *Vivaldi*

Tone-Poem: FINLADIA *Sibelius*

Sunday, June 1st, 1986 at 8.00 p.m. in the State Music Room

STOWE CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

Trios for clarinet, viola and piano *Bruch*
Variations for viola and piano *Joachim*
Marchenerzahlungen *Schumann*
Grand Duo for Piano Duet *Schubert*

Monday, June 7th, 1986 at 6.00 p.m. in the State Music Room

ALAN BUSH (*Oboe*)

performs

THE SAINT-SAENS OBOE SONATA

with PAUL DRAYTON (*Piano*)

Sunday, June 15th, 1986 at 8.00 p.m. in the Chapel

THE QUEEN'S TEMPLE SINGERS

with

DAVID GATEHOUSE (*Organ*)

Prelude, Toccata and Chaconne *Brockless*
The Second Eve *Paul Drayton*
Sonata No. 1 *Hindemith*
The Peaceable Kingdom *Randall Thompson*

Sunday, June 27th, 1986 at 6.00 p.m. in the State Music Room

SUMMER SERENADE

Fanfare for Three Trumpets

Anthony Bewes, Simon Cormack, Paul Saville

Concerto for Trombone (1st and 2nd movements) *Rimsky-Korsakov*

Benet Northcote (*Trombone*), Peter Sawbridge (*Piano*)

The Swan *Saint-Saëns*

Mark Fatharly (*Tenor Saxophone*)

Divisions on the Carmens Whistle *William Byrd*

Stephen Gundisch (*Treble Recorder*), Sally Adams (*Piano*)

Concerto for Oboe (1st and 2nd movements) *Cimarosa*

Luciano Chianese (*Oboe*), Peter Sawbridge (*Piano*)

Gopak *Gordon Jacob*

Bennies Boogie *Jo Hudson*

The Stowe Clarinet Quartet

Concerto for Oboe *Pergolesi*

Alan Bush (*Oboe*)

Sonatina for Clarinet (World Première) *Paul Harris*

Cordelia Beresford (*Clarinet*)

The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba *Handel*

Julian Barnbrook and Sebastian Timpson (*Oboes*)

Stuart Thompson (*Piano*)

Sunday, June 29th, 1986 at 8.00 p.m. in the State Music Room

STOWE CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

The programme will include the first performance of a new work for
viola and piano by PAUL DRAYTON, and

Piano Quartet *Elgar*

Sunday, September 12th, 1986 at 8.00 p.m. in the Roxburgh Hall

INSIGHT INTO OPERA

KENT OPERA

introduce

THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO by MOZART

Saturday, September 13th, 1986 at 8.00 p.m. in the Chapel

ORGAN RECITAL

by

DAVID GATEHOUSE

Music by *Bach*

The Queen's Temple Singers and Stowe Chamber Ensemble performed on Sunday, October 19th in the Music Room. The concert consisted of Brandenburg Concertos numbers 3 and 6 and Handel's 9th Chandos Anthem. The two viola soloists in the 6th concerto were R.J.S.S. and Francis Saunders, and in the Handel solo parts were sung by Alex Brown, Sarah Guthrie, Anthony Selby and J.B.D.

R.J.S.S.

Tuesday, September 23rd, 1986 at 8.00 p.m. in the State Music Room

OPERA BY CANDLELIGHT

PAVILLION OPERA in L'ELISIR D'AMORE

by DONIZETTI

Sunday, September 28th, 1986 at 7.45 p.m. in the Roxburgh Hall

STOWE CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

with

ROSEMARY MASTERS and IAN SMALL

La Creation du Monde *Milhaud*

Dr. Cullpepper his Nosegay *Paul Drayton*

Façade Entertainment *Walton*

Sunday, October 19th, 1986 at 8.00 p.m. in the State Music Room

THE QUEEN'S TEMPLE SINGERS

AND ORCHESTRA

Conducted by DAVID GATEHOUSE

Brandenburg Concerto No. 6 *Bach*

Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 *Bach*

Chandos Anthem No. 9 *Handel*

ORGAN RECITAL AT STOWE

D. J. Hicken gave two outstanding organ recitals, the first of which was repeated at Newcastle and Chester Cathedrals, where it was received with acclaim and requests for an encore.

G.S.T.

Saturday, October 11th, 1986 at 8.00 p.m.

RECITAL BY DAVID HICKEN

PROGRAMME

Arrival of the Queen of Sheba..... *Handel*
Fantasia and fugue in G minor BWV 542..... *Bach*
Epitaphe..... *Vierne*
Canon in B minor..... *Schumann*
Concerto in G major..... *Ernst/Bach*
Toccata..... *Dubois*
Fugue à la Gigue..... *Bach*

Saturday, November 8th, 1986 at 8.00 p.m.

RECITAL BY DAVID HICKEN

PROGRAMME

Toccata for flute..... *Pietro Alessandro Yon*
Carillon..... *Louis Vierne*
Prelude and fugue in A minor..... *Bach*
Fugue sur le nom d'ALAIN..... *Maurice Duruflé*
Concerto in A minor..... *Vivaldi/Bach*

Tuesday, October 21st, 1986 in the Marble Saloon

BYZANTINE AND SLAVONIC CHURCH MUSIC

BELGRADE STUDY CHOIR

Directed by DR. DIMITRIJE STEFANOVIĆ

Byzantine art appeals to few as much as it did to Yeats, and by the same token Slavonic Church music is unlikely to achieve even modest status in 'the charts'. It was, therefore, sad rather than surprising that not very many gathered in the Marble Saloon on October 21st to hear music from these somewhat esoteric worlds. For those who attended it was indeed a rare and memorable experience. The first half of the recital consisted of chants and hymns ranging from the 13th to the 18th centuries, particularly from the earlier ones, some by known (though hardly well-known) composers, some anonymous, some transcribed by the choir itself from unpublished sources. The intricate polyphony of this glorious music was a delight to hear. The second part consisted of four-part Serbian Church music, from the 19th and 20th centuries, and here it was most interesting to see how the dignified sonorities of Church music could be tinged with the romanticism more usually associated with the Slav soul. The solos were sung with impressive dignity by a member of the choir who was, appropriately, a priest, possessed of something of the stature and timbre of Boris Christoff. The obvious enthusiasm of this highly disciplined choir enhanced the pleasure of the audience, and the somewhat forbidding impression made by their initial appearance (they were dressed wholly in black) contrasted vividly with the atmosphere after the recital, when, over wine and cheese, they talked

animatedly about themselves, in their excellent English, to members of the audience, and sang an encore. They had clearly enjoyed singing to us as much as we had listening to them. We must thank Mrs. Turner for arranging such an unusual performance.

B.S.S.

The second half of last year was a very busy one as regards concerts, in what is a unique concert series. On the whole the concerts are well attended, although a large part of the audience comes from outside the School. However, there is a loyal nucleus of Stoics and Staff who go to most events.

On Sunday, March 16th, we were given an enjoyable concert by students of the Royal Academy of Music, consisting of Baroque solo and trio sonatas. There was little attempt at authenticity in the style of the playing but the players more than made up for this in the enthusiasm of their performances.

Sunday, April 27th, saw the return of Felix Aprahamian in an illustrated talk about English Song. Because of the diverse nature of the subject this was not as successful as his last visit when he talked about Delius. I have to admit to a soft spot for English Song, having been brought up on concerts of it from a very tender age, and, on the whole, found the evening most enjoyable. The Butterworth songs were so good that perhaps Felix should come to give a talk about this most talented of British composers (sadly, Butterworth was killed in action during the First World War).

The Stowe Chamber Ensemble played three concerts during the latter part of the Summer Term, including the String Quartet by Debussy, the Piano Quintet by Elgar, the Clarinet Quintet by Weber, Trios by Bruch and Schumann and a performance of The Grand Duo by Schubert.

The School Orchestra played at noon on Speech Day and a capacity audience heard a splendid performance of the Vivaldi Two Trumpet Concert played by Munt and Cormack. Later on, the Band played energetically just before the Prize Giving.

The end of term saw the departure from the School of Alan Bush, James Sparling, Nicholas Atkinson and Lisa Tustian, all of whom made a valuable contribution to the musical life of Stowe, and we wish them all well for the future.

A veritable flurry of concerts greeted Stoics when they returned after the Summer break. Organ recitals by D.F.G., David Hicken and an amazingly musical computer set the term off to a very promising start.

Pavilion Opera paid us a visit on September 23rd with a superb performance of "L'Elisir D'Amore" by Donizetti. Strangely this was not quite the draw that their previous performances had been, but on the night the Music Room was filled to capacity.

Kent Opera gave an "Insight into Opera" in the Roxburgh Hall on October 12th with a performance of parts of "The Marriage of Figaro" with a very entertaining, if slightly fanciful, dramatic introduction. That this worked there can be no doubt as many Stoics said how much they enjoyed the evening.

A small orchestra played Milhaud's "Creation du Monde" on September 28th, in a concert that also included "Dr. Culpeper his Nosegay" by P.C.D. and Walton's "Façade". R.E.M. and I.M.S. were the reciters in the Walton and the concert was conducted by D.F.G.

'THE ENGINEER'

One dark stormy night,
not a star in sight,
the north wind came
howling down the line.
There stood a brave engineer,
with his sweetheart, so dear,
and his locomotive to pull,
old number nine.

She kissed him goodbye,
with a tear in her eye,
the joy in his heart he
could not hide.
The whole world seemed bright,
for she told him that night,
that tomorrow she would be
his blushing bride

The wheels hummed a song,
as the train rolled along,
the black smoke came pouring
out the stack.
The headlight it gleamed,
seemed to brighten his dream of
tomorrow, when he'd be going
back.

He sped round the hill,
as his heart stood still,
a headlight was shining in
his face.

He whispered a prayer
as he threw on the air,
for he knew this would
be his final race.

In the wreck he was found,
lying there on the ground,
as he asked them to raise his
weary head.

His breath slowly went as
a message he sent,
to a maiden who thought
she would be wed.

"There's a little white home,
that I would have built
for our own,
where I dreamed we would
be happy, you and I.
Well, I'll leave it to you,
because I know you'll be true,
till we meet at the garden gates—
goodbye".

T. E. Sas (IVc)

'WINTER NIGHT'

The evening settled, the moon came up
Above ponds and streams packed hard.
The snow again began to fall
On the withering, swaying trees.
An owl let out a sound of alarm
As stars floated above.
A weasel pattered along the ground
Fearing the cold dark night.
Puffs of smoke rose and fell as
The houses began to sleep.
Soon the old dark-grey fog had
Weaved itself around the trees.

C. J. F. Skeffington (IIIe)

DRAMA

Lower Sixth Plays:

"Les Justes"

The subject of terrorism is still so hideously relevant in 1986 that Albert Camus' play, "**Les Justes**", was an entirely appropriate revival as a Lower Sixth play in June. Written and rewritten towards the end of the Second World War, some ten years before its author was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature, the play concerns itself with the contrasting attitudes of the hardened anarchist, Stepan, consumed by his desire for destruction of the existing order, and the poetic idealist, Kaliayev, who needs to justify any killing by the merits of the perfect society towards which it will lead, and who seeks to atone for any murder he commits by surrendering his own life.

The sparse stage setting in the black and white surroundings of the intimate Rehearsal Room allowed the action to continue briskly and without distraction. The bare, black iron bedstead of the prison scene, the unprepossessing furnishings of the various cheap rooms used by the terrorists, the dowdy costumes of the actors, all these were significant touches of Chris Hutber's direction, lending a pathetic and sordid tone to the dramatic setting.



Carleton Royds (left) and Matthew Biffa (right) in the Lower Sixth play "Les Justes"

Photograph: Alexandra Goldsmith

The intensity and concentration of the acting spoke not only of hours of rehearsal but of a deep understanding of, and commitment to, the author's intentions. Richard Woolley, as the reluctant leader of the terrorist cell, acted with judiciously underplayed authority, leaving the centre stage to the three main protagonists. Mark Jenkyn-Jones, as the cold-hearted Stepan, ranted with murderous determination, jaw jutting, veins standing out, face contorted by hatred. In contrast Matthew Biffa seemed delicate in the face of Stepan's outrage, until the power of his idealistic vision swept the stronger man aside, and won from Stepan the final admission that Kaliayev had been right.

The desperate sadness of Dora, who has renounced all joy in her lifetime and dedicated herself entirely to revolution, was sensitively played by Victoria Harding, who allowed just sufficient beauty and joy to appear in her rôle to allow us to feel the full measure of her sacrifice. She showed in tiny glimpses her strangled love for Kaliayev, and her sympathy for the anxious and self-doubting Voinov, played to great effect by Eddy Butler.

The mindless humour of the wild-eyed prisoner and hangman, Foka, was assiduously overplayed by Carleton Royds, and broke the melancholy rhythm, but contrasted with the sinister and menacing Chief of Police, played by Christ Hutber, and the terrifyingly intense rôle of the widowed Grand Duchess, played with great sympathy by Catherine Spicer.

A profoundly thoughtful and enthusiastic production of a difficult and wordy play, introduced and linked by songs written and performed by Carleton Royds, was a worthy offering by this year's Lower Sixth, and demonstrated their passion, talent and responsibility in equal measure throughout a memorable evening.

P.S.C.M.

"All My Sons"

"I ignore what I gotta ignore" remarks the leading character in Arthur Miller's "**All My Sons**", presented as one of the Lower Sixth plays in June. There is, it turns out, much that Joe Keller (Ben Bannister) has to ignore. His small-town American company had provided defective aircraft parts in the war and twenty-one pilots had died. His own eldest son, Larry, had gone missing at about the same time. Criminal proceedings had exonerated Joe, but not his partner, Steve Deever, now serving a prison sentence on Joe's evidence. Joe bravely returns to his home town, he bottles up his guilt, launders his past, and re-opens his factory, now making pressure cookers and assembling washing machines. It is this self-assured, self-contained Joe that we meet in Act One, even engaging in a standing joke about jail with a local boy (Tim Arlon). It is his wife, Kate, who openly bears the scars. Her ambiguity of character was exactly caught in Fiona Craig's performance: warm, practical, and maternal, she yet has a steely and desperate attachment to an unreal world in which Larry will someday return.

As the truth emerges Joe crumbles both emotionally and physically in Ben Bannister's sensitive portrayal. He did it for the highest motives, for the family, for his sons. Joe begins to see the inadequacy of his moral world, and, at the climax of the play, realizes that the dead pilots were "all my sons".

The play is a demanding one at many levels and this moving production was a considerable accomplishment. It captured the atmosphere of post-war America with convincing authentic period fashions and gestures, although the accent sometimes came over at the expense of audibility of diction. James Perris as the neighbour, with his chirpy wife, Lynda (Anna Carr), was particularly evocative of the period. Shaun Spencer held nothing back in his portrayal of the remaining son, Chris, by turns gullible and passionate. It was a convincing performance in a pivotal part.

The first night had its difficulties. Ironically, the doctor (Charles Calvert) fell ill, but director Paul Dobinson so flawlessly took his place that not even his complaining wife (Harriet Lund) could have found fault.

For all its period setting the play has a timeless quality. The performance began with the music of Bob Dylan evoking a later war and another generation of missing pilots. Even more poignantly it coincided with the publication of the official inquiry into the disaster of the space shuttle, 'Challenger'. Perhaps those who succumbed to pressures to authorize the launch momentarily forgot that each of the crew was somebody's son or daughter. Perhaps even their own.

A.S.H.



Tim Arlon (left) and Ben Bannister (right) in the Lower Sixth play "All My Sons"
Photograph: M. Mossadegh

“Zoo Story” by Edward Albee

Albee’s play was an ambitious choice, both from the point of view of the endurance and range needed by the two actors and because of the limitations imposed on the producer by the static scene in contrast with the flow of ideas the personages express.

The set — with difficulty we remembered it was the wrong time of year for autumn leaves to have been blown in — merely sketched at the beginning the physical location of the play; by the end it underscored the stark inner desolation of the lives the men are describing. The park bench is the only escape for a man who is unwilling to face, or talk about, the meaninglessness of his home life, and its public position makes him a prey to the unwanted company of an equally desolate figure, whose life has had none of his cosy advantages. As the skins of the onion are discarded the men recognise in fear, anger and scorn that they share common elements of the human condition.



John da Silva (left) and Charles Lambert (right) in the Lower Sixth play “Zoo Story”

Photograph: Alexandra Goldsmith

Da Silva gave a larger-than-life performance, filling the room with his presence: striding, glaring, making the rafters ring and clearly relishing the disconcerting effect he was having on his audience, on the stage and off it. This part is a *tour de force* and da Silva had all the charisma needed to carry it off. The part played by Robson, containing minimal possibilities for bravura, was equally, if not more, demanding, necessitating as it did the difficult outward portrayal of a man totally repressing his feelings and reactions. It was Robson’s strained efforts to remain aloof and unmoved and then to placate his interlocutor, as much as da Silva’s rantings, that had the audience on the edge of their seats.

The contrasts, both in range of voice within each character, and in the use of space, testify to the sensitive production skills of Fred Rutter. As the play moved inexorably towards its inevitable bloody climax, the audience were totally, if at times reluctantly, gripped by Albee’s relentless dialogue.

W.C.R.

Junior Congreve

Unman, Wittering and Zigo : Giles Cooper

Scapino : Frank Dunlop and Jim Dale

This term we were privileged to a double bill: the first, a thought-provoking insight into the vengeance of a Fifth Form class; the second, a rollicking, fast-action continental farce involving the machinations of unrequited young love. So different were the plays that the combined effect made a thoroughly enjoyable evening’s entertainment and I congratulate all those boys involved in whatever capacity on and off the stage, all the staff who helped and, in particular, Mr. Hirst and Mr. Small for their direction. At a very busy time of the year it is most encouraging to see boys skilfully enjoying themselves through the medium of the “stage performance”. The experience gained by this participation is immeasurable. Now the plays themselves!

Giles Cooper intended his play for radio and for “classroom productions” and readings. On Stage, however, we were easily able to view the various parts of the school: the classroom, the Headmaster’s study and even the local public house were revealed by clever use of lighting and blackouts. Alastair Macintosh, as the earnest Ebony, moving between each scenario, beautifully orchestrated the proceedings. He was a distraught new teacher thrust into a class who claimed to have murdered his predecessor. His acceptance of their “modus vivendi” and his naive appeals to the Head (Bimbo Hart), his confidence with his colleague Cary Farthingdale (James Fenton), whose persecution complex he claimed “comes from being persecuted”, were all moods enacted with considerable skill.

Economics teachers beware! “Honest Joe Mackenzie the Burnham Scales’ best friend” became the sole means through which the class became industrious; lessons confined to picking “racing form” became a preoccupation and poor Ebony merely the “runner”. Even with this the boys were very civilised in their treatment of him and other members of staff, a little too well disciplined in fact! “Boys are never a problem with a bit of discipline” was the byword of the Head and though the class seemed leaderless (Ebony’s one aim was to spot the leader) it was not difficult to distinguish Terhew (Gareth Amdor) — “You are not like Pelham — you have a wife!” — and Cloistermouth (Peter Evelyn) as the natural pivots on the stage. Indeed when Ebony finally abdicates, Cary rightly points out that he will now be able to spot the leader as “now he will have to lead”. However, the action leaves us with the feeling that those in power have power to command whether they realise it or not.

After some rapid interval scene changes the whiff of sea air and the salty taste of humour pervaded the Roxburgh Hall immediately. The Neapolitan waterfront was “vaguely

reminiscent" and the Café Napoli very functional especially as a "den" for the young men (McEwen, Martin and Hodgson) to frolic their way through the slapstick routine they euphemistically called "waiter service".

In Ottavio (Mark Aldridge) and his rastafarian "minder" Sylvestro (Dominic Jenkin) we saw two characters well able to cope with any adversity even when "the fixer", Scapino, superbly portrayed by Alex Rutter, chose to intervene. Even if it was not always possible to hear Argante's (Nathan Jenden) words, his colourful portrayal of the father (a mixture of Henry Cotton and Al Capone) who was "arranging a marriage" for his son against all advice, his "continental semaphore", told its own story. In superb contrast the other stern father-figure, Geronte (Ivan Tennant), dishing out similar treatment to his errant son, was played with Hitlerian verve even though most of it was enclosed in a sack.

The two "girls" (Marcus Atkinson and Chris Johnson) reacted very favourably with the boisterous audience and caused much merriment. However, the virtuoso scene of Alex Rutter and unsuspecting Ivan Tennant in the sack made the evening. With the help of the audience he tellingly brought to life Long John Silver, Bruce Lee and a whole platoon of Household Cavalry in wreaking revenge on the mean Geronte.

"Not much I can't do when I put my mind to it" was something of an understatement!

The plot is too involved to detail here, save to say that everything works out well in the end, though the play could well have ended with Scapino being "found out" by Geronte as he emerged from "hiding" during the assault: a minor readjustment to the finale would have sufficed. Even so the audience left high in spirit having enjoyed the entire evening enormously.

Thank you and well done Junior Congreve!

L.E.W.

"The Gondoliers"

All the evident hard work put into this production by L.E.W. and his team was fully justified by the excellent result and the memorably enjoyable evening which so many of us in the audience felt we had been given. The only complaint, universally shared, was in the poor behaviour of the School, who considered it appropriate to talk throughout the overture and leave by stampede during the interval.

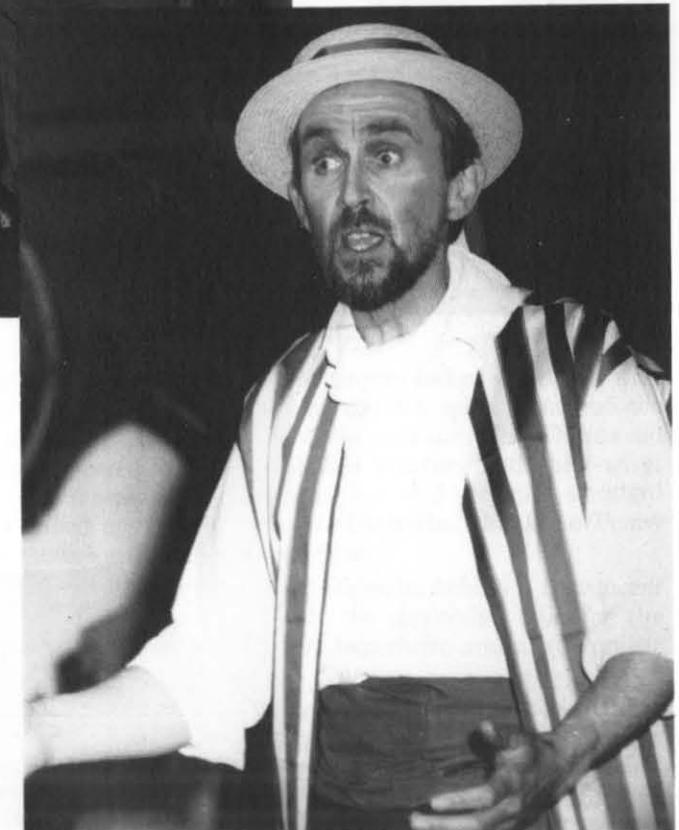
Such a delightful entertainment certainly deserved a better fate and those Stoics who did stay clearly appreciated the worthwhile nature of the experience.

In some respects, **The Gondoliers** is a strange operetta, hingeing as it does on the happy fortune of the shadowy Luiz and a princess who herself scarcely qualifies as a central character. It is not as amusing as "The Pirates", as timeless as "The Mikado", as sentimentally appealing as "Iolanthe" or as richly and self-consciously dramatic as "Ruddigore". Ironically, even its satire is almost too unconventionally off-beam for the strongly pro-monarchical atmosphere of 1986. We are not, as a nation, in the mood to smile at the idea of our own dear Queen 'running little errands' for Mrs. Thatcher. There is no Republican platform in this country.

And yet, it was this sense of satire, and the humour underlying it, which, together with consistent technical excellence, provided the key to the outstanding success of this production. The cleverness of the entertainment did not merely rest on any understanding of the ironic voice but in the highly intelligent and sustained capacity of the Director and his cast to turn it on its head so that it itself could be indulgently smiled upon. I.M.S., for example, fully grasped the complexity in 'Rising Early in the Morning', when, with his excellent baritone voice, fine clarity of distinction, and light, jaunty rhythmical movement across the stage, he knowingly carried us along as he 'ran his little errands for the Minister of State'.

Dr. and Mrs. M.W. in full song

Photograph: M. Mossadegh



A.A.V.R. "For the merriest fellows are we..."

Photograph: M. Mossadegh

G.St.J.S. with designs on the set?

Photograph: M. Mossadegh



The 'ever-youthful' J.M.L. with Mrs. Ruth Harrington

Photograph: M. Mossadegh

Indeed, throughout the performance, both the Palmieri brothers had the style as well as the voices, presenting themselves with zest and excellent stagecraft from the beginning, when they each acquired "just the very girl I wanted" from the simpering squadrons "all young and fair". A.R.S.'s tenor voice was particularly beautiful and 'Take a Pair of Sparkling Eyes' was sung with a warmly attractive wistfulness, the power of the voice being carefully directed. R.E.M. also combined strength and sweetness as Guiseppe's bride and she effectively led a large and energetic chorus in 'When a Merry Maiden Marries'. Juliet Rudolf provided a full and authoritative Mezzo as she fended off the Inquisitor and one felt that she would have no trouble in pushing around the more finely drawn Marco as a 'regular royal queen'. Both the gondoliers and their two wives communicated a real sense of the satire as they shifted their positions in the debate between republicans and royalty. Remarkably, all four were so effectively different from each other.

By contrast, C.W.O.R.'s voice, although again good and clear, lent itself to the stiff dignity which the Duke of Plaza-Toro felt appropriate to himself. The arrival of the Duke, Duchess and Daughter by gondola to the sound of drums was a great moment. The cast's ability to portray characters who were able to smile at themselves was again beautifully presented by Rowena Pratt as the Duchess whose light but attractive voice and vivacious personality combined in 'On the Day When I was Wedded' to make her a twinklingly formidable wife rather than the merely dowdy frump into which the part could so easily and tediously degenerate. When the Duke and Duchess pronounced how they 'enjoy an interment' they were indeed a grim pair wittily presented, their lightly satirical restraint suiting them well together on the stage. C.W.O.R.'s good voice and real sense of the character emerged especially in 'I am a courtier, grave and serious', in which he was strongly supported by the two gondoliers-cum-kings.

Ruth Harrington's effortlessly charming voice provided a gracefully lovely Casilda, simultaneously imperious and attractive, well matched by J.M.L. as the elusive Luiz.

J.B.D.'s excellently strong voice, pure enunciation and easy natural acting made him a vivaciously magnetic old fixer as the Inquisitor. It would be difficult to imagine a higher quality of performance than that enjoyed when he was explaining his philosophy to the not wholly convinced Guiseppe and Marco, that 'When Everyone is Somebody, then No-one's Anybody'.

The Chorus got off to a slow and muted start. What some singers lacked in volume they made up for in gesture. The quavering tenor at the opening did not quite transcend the dominating barrier of the pianos and the excited murmur of the audience. The Chorus did improve immeasurably when they appeared with the Palmieri brothers and their wives superbly garlanded and appropriately enthusiastic. The dancing was of a very high standard on a cramped stage; they really warmed up when dancing the Cachucha, thanks to Penny Waterman's choreography, and they blossomed into a superb finale.

The Venetian set was quite splendid with its cupolas and campaniles behind a translucent lagoon. The vivid costumes were most effective, especially the distinctive blue for the Gondolieri, the dark robe for the Inquisitor and the slightly hyperbolic and anachronistic aristocratic formality for the Duke and Duchess.

When I entered the Roxburgh Hall, I was musing that 'A Critic's Lot is not a Happy one' when making a public judgement involving one's colleagues and even one's doctor. But I must say that I emerged delighted with the cast's intelligent sense of satire, giving one of Gilbert and Sullivan's more remote operettas a light and bright humour and joi de vivre which could so easily have been missed. All involved must be warmly congratulated, especially the Director, L.E.W., and the Musical Director, P.C.D.

P.A.S.F.



I.M.S., A.R.S. and J.B.D. — "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly?"

Photograph: M. Mossadegh



R.E.M. and the ladies of the Chorus

Photograph: M. Mossadegh

Left to right: Miss Rowena Pratt, Mrs. Ruth Harrington, C.W.O.R.

Photograph: M. Mossadegh



Left to right: R.E.M., J.B.D., Mrs. Juliet Rudolf — "The Grand Inquisitor and two blushing brides"

Photograph: M. Mossadegh



'THE HARBOUR AT NIGHT'

The sea gently laps against the harbour wall,
Like a lazy cat drinking milk.
The day's cruel storm is over
And now the sea licks its many wounds.

The stench of fish wafts from the boats,
Herald of a successful catch.
The smell lingers and hangs,
Like a homeless ghost.

The dark, cold sea is lipped with silver,
Reflecting the soft light of the moon.
A fishing boat chugs dreamily out of the harbour,
Into the unwelcoming sea.

A cold sea breeze chills my bones,
Despite my warm clothes.
I take one last look, I turn on my heel,
And return to the warmth of the pub.

A Watson (IIIa)

McELWEE TRAVELLING AWARD

A Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela

During this Summer alone over one thousand people from all over Europe either cycled or walked on a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, the supposed burial site of St. James after his missionary work in Spain and subsequent martyrdom when he returned to Jerusalem. Perhaps this pilgrimage has been gaining popularity more recently because life has become too comfortable in the West and people are dissatisfied with its 'sophistication', and banality. Maybe pilgrims today are partly searching for the hardship, poverty and struggle which was so natural to mediaeval man, and which might give meaning and fulfilment to life.

The four traditional starting points are all in France: Paris, Arles, Velay and Le Puy, where I began my walk with C. Carpenter, A. Read and R. Hoare at the beginning of July, finishing with C. Carpenter only eight weeks later.

The pilgrim began his devotion by placing his staff on the altar at the Church at Le Puy before the rare Black Virgin. The old route takes the walker through the crumbling villages and farmhouses of the Massif Central to Cahors and Conques. From Cahors, we broke off from the pilgrim route and hitch-hiked to Toulouse, Lourdes and Biarritz before continuing walking the almost vertically steep route taken by Charlemagne and Napoleon from St. Jean Pied-de-Port across the Pyrenees to the semi-Basque city of Pamplona, a buzzing, aggressive and youthful city. From there we hitched to sedate Burgos, from where we walked continuously to Santiago in the wet, green hills of Galicia.

On arrival at Santiago, the pilgrim enters the Cathedral and completes the end of an ancient ritual. He places the fingers of his right hand on the "tree of Jesse", whose stone has been worn down by centuries of pilgrims, and then touches the statue of Maestro Mateo, the sculptor of the Portico de Gloria, with his head, so as to gain some of the master's wisdom. He prays before the supposed relics of St. James, takes confession and communion, and finally embraces the image of his beloved saint. All this completed, the mediaeval pilgrim was entitled to an indulgence which would give him an easier path to heaven. Today, the pilgrim will still receive the official mediaeval document in Latin, the 'Compostela', which serves as something of a credit card in Santiago, entitling him to nine free meals in the kitchens of the Hostal de Los Reyes Catholicos, formerly a pilgrim hospice set up by Ferdinand and Isabella, and today a grandiose hotel.

Although after nine hundred kilometres of walking over eight weeks our blistered feet were not unhappy to see the end, the value of the pilgrimage was not in the arrival itself, but in the journey.

My happiest memories are of the people we met on the way, including: Nazis, anarchists, parachutists, students, potential priests, ageing spinsters, and notably some real pilgrims who walked penniless and shoeless all the way. There was a shared sense of purpose and a very friendly and international atmosphere. I also count as very valuable the way we lived: the total lack of luxuries, the constant moving from one place to another, the impossibility of being bored, and the joy of being independent. Neither will I forget many of our experiences: swimming in a river alongside water snakes; calling out the Spanish bomb disposal unit for a false alarm; busking in the streets of Santiago and getting 5p; sleeping in a large greenhouse where a dog and cat who lived there ate all our food; sleeping in a telephone booth in Paris while the Libyan bombs were dropping; being evicted by the police at Biarritz and making a nightly barbecue on the beach; thirst, exhaustion, and the silence of the desert plains; the beauty of the shepherds and peasants in the north Spanish hills; the deadening violence of a bullfight; seeing an eagle; drinking unpasteurised and warm milk from a cow — these I will remember, and I am extremely grateful to the Trustees of the McElwee Travelling Award for this opportunity.

R. Marsh

FIXATION (N.)

Buoyant fixations towards stagnation creep
Sink like stones to the depths of despair and frustration—
"Fixing or being fixed"; non-existent solutions
Optimistic depression: Crystallization:
Psychological arrest of development, emotional
Obsession, obsessional attachment thereof
Now here and nowhere, the question remains.
We strive for the heavens, a religious conversion
Of atmospheric nitrogen into abstract compounds
Compounds as such, the elixir of Life.
The strength of fixations lies not in their mettle,
But in the believer's belief of their power.
Trapped in one's own fixational Universe
Perception's the key to heaven or hell.

P. E. Beck

McELWEE TRAVELLING SCHOLARSHIP 1986

The McElwee Travelling Scholarship, the basic value of which is £600, was established in memory of Bill McElwee, History Tutor at Stowe from 1934 to 1962, who died in 1978. It is financed with money subscribed by many former pupils and friends and, in the spirit of Bill McElwee's Culture Tours, is for travel in Europe to study some aspect of culture, history or art.

Impetuous enough to brave the hospitality of a foreign country for four weeks, J. S. da Silva and I chose to use the Scholarship by visiting Turkey, following in the footsteps of Alexander the Great during his campaign to conquer the Persian Empire in 333 B.C. Although the Archaeological Museum in Istanbul contained the only actual remains of Alexander that we were to see — his sarcophagus (tomb) and a large frieze — we did however visit his battle sites, travelling down the Aegean and Mediterranean coast. We stopped off at the ancient sites of Troy, Ephesus, Militus, Priene, Halicarnasus and Termessos, amongst others. Though not strictly part of Alexander's journey, we spent a few days at Bergama, the ancient site of Pergammon and Kas, which was a beautiful small town and an absolute must for any traveller.

It was while we were staying near Ephesus that my passport, travellers cheques, air ticket and money were stolen, and a stomach complaint merely added to the disaster! After many enquiries, statements and general red tape, not helped by the fact that no one spoke passable English, I had to return to Istanbul to be reimbursed. (I finally got my air ticket fifteen minutes before we took off). Three days later I was able to rejoin John, who had felt that my disaster should in no way ruin his holiday (!), and we were able to continue.

The sites really were most beautiful and the scenery was quite unlike anything that we had ever seen before. The local hospitality was enchanting, and the food and drink were extremely good. It was both an excellent holiday and a unique experience. Our thanks must go to David Part and Colin Anson, the trustees, who so generously sponsored us.

P. M. Tetlow



SOCIETY

CHAPEL CHOIR

We must record our special thanks to three girls: Lisa Tustian, Sophie Rudolf and Shenaiya Khurody, who have contributed so much valuable work, including solos, over the years. They will be especially remembered for their tripartite version of the famous Mendelssohn solo, "O For The Wings of a Dove".

A more secular highpoint in last term's repertoire was the performance on Speech Day of two uncharacteristically rollicking items: "Summer is icumen in", a mediaeval round, and "Pastime with Good Company", a robustly Epicurean song attributed to Henry the Eighth. For this the music department synthesiser provided a suitable backing of "crumhorn" sound.

P.C.D.

THE LIBRARY

At the end of the Summer Term, to replace leaving House Library Monitors, and our appointed Library Monitor, some of whom left early, we were lucky enough to have the assistance of a Prefect Elect, Richard Woolley, who recruited help in most houses in the rounding up of Library Books not returned. They worked to good effect as we began this term with the shortest Missing Book List (17 only), since the Spring of 1976. The list was reduced, at a stroke, to 13, when I.M.S. returned four geography books found in Nugent, two of which were almost new. Not for the first time Nugent has been so distinguished — always in terms of geography books, borrowed and not registered! In addition to these 13 books from the lending catalogue, six reference books are still adrift, representing selfishness on the part of a few, to the inconvenience of many.

The Autumn Term has begun with a keen band of House Library Monitors, under the efficient and all-seeing eye of our Prefect, the above named Richard Woolley, so perhaps we can break all previous records, kept since 1971. The figure to beat is 15!

I have only one gift to acknowledge — from the Hellenic Foundation — since May: **The Greek World: Classical, Byzantine and Modern**, a large and well-illustrated volume, which will be appreciated by all, not only by students of the Classics.

Double-glazing has been installed and the room was actually too hot in the Summer Term, until some of it was temporarily removed! It should make a great difference in cold, and especially windy weather, when, perhaps, the radiators will be made to function as well.

For Old Stoic authors: Please consider giving the Library a copy of any or all of your publications. They would be greatly appreciated.

Prefect: R. J. H. Woolley (Chandos).

Monitors: M. A. Samuel (Bruce), J. S. da Silva (Temple), P. S. Gladstone (Grenville), P. H. Saville (Chandos), M. J. Williams (Cobham), J. J. W. Boddy (Chatham), H. C. Vaswani (Grafton), J. P. Summers (Walpole), T. R. Elliott (Lyttelton), M. A. Slawson (Nugent), S. J. Thomas (Stanhope).

W.C.R.

CLASSICAL SOCIETY

On Monday, 29th September, Mr. J. G. Griffith, M.A. formerly a don at Jesus College, Oxford, gave a fascinating talk to the Society on Greek and Roman coins. His talk was illustrated with slides of his coin collection and he also brought a number of specimens with him. He explained how the coins had to be laboriously struck and why certain illustrations were used and what their significance was.

During the talk, the two-thousand year old coins were passed around the room and we were allowed to handle and examine these beautiful objects of antiquity. The talk was mainly concerned with the reigns of the twelve Caesars from Julius Caesar through to Domitian, the period that the 'A' level Ancient History sets have been studying, and I am sure that it proved very useful background knowledge.

Mr. Griffith gave us all a taste of an enthralling subject; his enthusiasm rubbed off on us and left us all wanting to know more. We hope to see him again in the near future, so that he can finish the story!

R. J. H. Woolley

CHAPEL

The Summer Term, after the Confirmation service, is always a quiet one on the Chapel front. It ended as usual with a leavers' service, ably conducted by a small group of the Summer leavers, and a rather emotional final service of term.

I had one small regret. Following a morning chapel during which I spoke about why so many members of the worldwide Church were calling for sanctions against Southern Africa, there was a strong protest. Politics and religion should not mix I was told. I should have liked the opportunity to debate that motion, but with the pressure of exams, the time could not be found. At least I now know that my doubts about whether or not weekday chapel speakers are listened to, are unjustified.

This term we have tried to institute a rather more regular pattern of Sunday worship, co-ordinated with the Parish Church. It is clearly not going to work without any hitches, but the reasonable degree of certainty we have gained is thought to be worthwhile. I share the regret of some that the voluntary Family Communion have had to be sacrificed to achieve this regularity.

My thanks to those who have preached to us: Mr. James Larcombe, The Revds. A. R. H. Macleod, D. Everett, J. M. M. Mruka-Mgoye, the Ven. C. H. Wilson, and the Right Revd. T. Dudley Smith.

I should also like to thank the musicians who provide such a vital part of our worship.

M.C.S.S.

STOWE CHURCH BELLRINGERS

A small but dedicated band of Stoics have continued to ring the bells of Stowe Church on Sundays. Thursday practice nights have introduced a number of new boys to the art and allowed the regulars to learn the mysteries of Plain Hunt and Bob Minimus. We have been glad to welcome a group of local Girl Guides qualifying for their badge and visitors from Maids Moreton and other local towers.

Church bells have been used continually down the centuries to call people to worship, those at Stowe have been doing this for three hundred years. They can only continue to do so if enough people are prepared to learn this old and very English skill. Newcomers are always welcome and we hope a few more Stoics might see bellringing as a useful form of service to the community.

A.J.E.L.

THE LITERARY SOCIETY

The Society has met twice since our last report. On the 2nd of February Dr. Eric Griffiths, English Fellow at Trinity College, Cambridge, not only gave two interesting and intellectually challenging talks in the State Music Room, on 'Thinking Straight' in 'Hamlet' (with a particular focus on the development of the theme of the 'sovereignty of reason' throughout the play) and on 'The Poetry of Marvell, but also spent some time during the afternoon with the prospective English Oxbridge candidates, answering a battery of questions about new and rather complicated Cambridge sixth term entry procedure.

On Wednesday, 24th September, we were delighted to be able to welcome Mr. John Venning, Head of the English Department at Malvern College, who spoke to us, again in the State Music Room, on "King Lear and Shakespearian Tragedy". Mr. Venning gave a helpful general overview of the subject, and then very amusingly presented something of an 'alternative' view of the motivation of characters in 'King Lear', where 'fair' Cordelia was very much made 'foul', and 'foul' Regan and Goneril made really rather 'fair'. Then, clearly enjoying his unusual stance, he defended his view that 'King Lear' was really rather like 'Cinderella', only told from the Ugly Sisters' point-of-view, by fielding a number of questions with admirable dexterity.

We are extremely grateful to our speakers for giving up their time, not only that spent with us, but also in the preparation of their talks.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Historical Society has continued to meet at regular intervals and with great enthusiasm. Since the last report in *The Stoic*, we have had a number of speakers, all of them giving highly interesting and informative talks.

In May, Mr. Nicholas Vincent, who temporarily replaced A.A.M.S. in the History Department, gave us a fascinating talk on 'Mediaeval Miracles', with rather morbid references to exploding corpses. Another temporary member of the Department, Mr. Hope, spoke on the Lollards of Buckinghamshire.

In the second half of the Summer Term, we were extremely fortunate to be able to welcome Dr. Leiman from Warwick University, who spoke to us on "Hitler in the 20th Century", a great help to those 'A' level candidates who are studying Hitler as their special subject. Dr. Leiman took the interesting view that the Nazis came into being because of a fear of the problems created by modern society.

At our first meeting of this term, the 131st Historical Society meeting, Dr. Morell, Admissions Tutor at Selwyn College, Cambridge, gave an enlightening talk on "Early Modern Parliaments in the 16th and 17th Centuries", the theme of which was an investigation into the strength of the relationship between the King and Parliament which clearly existed in the 16th Century, but which began to severely diminish as the 17th Century progressed.

In the second and most recent meeting of this term, we welcomed the very familiar figure of Mr. George Clarke, recently retired as Senior Tutor at Stowe, and himself a leading expert on 18th Century landscape gardening. His talk, entitled "How tall is the grass in the Elysian Fields?", dealt with the ways in which the gardens at Stowe should be remodelled to recapture their 18th Century splendour, and the problems which would be faced in such a task.

Many thanks must go to A.A.V.R. for his continued success in arranging for such interesting speakers to talk to the Society, and we look forward to hearing some Stoics speaking to us in the near future.

J. S. da Silva

THE COMPUTER CENTRE

Once again the Computer Room has pushed ahead with technology. Each terminal now has its own "Mouse" for graphic design and more software has been added to the Network, helped by the large expansion of the memory capacity of the main computer. The arrival of a "Modem" telephone link now gives access to PRESTEL and other "Viewdata" systems, such as the Times Network for Schools (already being used for 'Challenge 2000').

The huge range of different applications for computers at Stowe underlines the importance placed on using them simply as tools, however complicated, rather than simply having to understand the most intricate circuit boards inside. Douglas Twining has done an excellent job as Manager of the Centre, keeping hackers away and helping all-comers, including staff, to make the best use of the system.

M.E.M.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The usual activities have continued during the Summer Term (village projects and gardening for the elderly). A very successful coach outing was organised in June for forty pensioners from Buckingham and the surrounding villages. Ian Donald and Guy Foster did some excellent organisation for the outing and will be much missed. The coach outing was a 'Mystery Tour', ending up at Stoke Bruerne. Here a canal boat trip had been organised and we ended up with a superb cream tea. We hope to repeat this venture next year.

N.C.G.

THE BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Our first meeting of the term, and indeed since March, was on Friday, the 17th October, when we were pleased to be able to welcome Dr. Sutton of the Forensic Science Department at Aldermarston, who gave an extremely informative talk on the highly complex subject of 'Forensic Science'. Explaining some of the main methods used and processes involved in crime investigation in this country, Dr. Sutton cited a number of interesting examples of cases in which his department has been able to correctly identify a suspect in a particular incident by forensic evidence. The importance of Biological Science was stressed throughout the talk.

The tremendous complexity of the subject was reflected in Dr. Sutton's talk and it proved very popular, many of the members of the Society showing their keen interest with a series of enthusiastic questions, which they were able to put to our speaker during the final stages of his talk.

P. W. Garton

ANACREON SOCIETY

This term's Anacreon meetings have been responded to with great enthusiasm and enjoyment from all members and guests, with a high standard of culinary skill and conversational wit.

Meals have included coq au vin, carrot and courgette soup, mackerel pâté and an array of specifically chosen wines to complement the courses. It is to be hoped that all potential chefs in the Society approach the problem of cooking for twelve to eighteen people with such zeal and professional attitude.

Our warmest thanks must be extended to Miss Pratt, Mr. and Mrs. Secret, Mr. and Mrs. Atkinson and, especially, Dr. Hornby for all help in hosting and planning the evenings.

Louisa Morgan

CENTREPOINT

Once again Centrepoint has enjoyed two active terms, with a number of distinguished speakers enlightening us on the topic of Paul's letter to the Philippians, the theme of the Summer Term, and the Psalms, this term's programme.

The Summer Term began with Mr. Tim Hastie-Smith, a veteran of this year's Lent Addresses, speaking on 'The Power of Paul's Prayer'. This was followed by a talk on 'Paul's Confidence' by Mr. Barney Mayhew, and one entitled 'Lights in the World' by Canon Mark Ruston.

The Rev. David Fletcher opened the second half of term with a powerful insight into 'The Supreme Example', and we were then very kindly invited to a barbecue lunch with Mr. and Mrs. Stanton-Saringer. Mr. Giles Rawlinson and Mr. Gavin Williams gave clear, frank and challenging talks on 'Paul's Priorities' and 'Running Towards the Goal', and Mr. Alasdair Paine and Mr. Chris Townsend spoke to us about 'Peace of Mind' and 'Abundant Resources'. After a very full and varied term's programme, the leavers shared some parting words with us.

At the start of this term we welcomed Mr. Charles Farrar-Bell and the Rt. Rev. Timothy Dudley-Smith as they spoke on 'Light and Love'—Psalms 27 and 103. Mr. Andrew Stirling (O.S.) joined us to talk on Psalm 15, 'What God Requires' and, after a break for Field Day, The Rev. Peter Hancock, a previous Stowe Chaplain, gave a talk, highly appropriate to its surroundings, on 'Templa Quam Dilecta', Psalm 84. The final Sunday before Exeat was devoted to learning about 'Spreading the Good News', as Mr. John Knight concluded a successful first half of term.

Our warm thanks go to H.D.M. for the use of his flat and his continued support, and we hope that everyone will feel welcome to come and join us after Chapel on Sundays.

R. W. Kennedy

THE PINEAPPLE CLUB

The Stowe boys' club in London, the 'Pineapple Club', made its annual visit to Stowe to take part in the 'Funday', held in aid of the Sport Aid charity. It turned out to be a very successful day, and was much enjoyed by the Pineapple team. Many of last year's Third Form have visited the Club over the past year, and ten boys from this term's new intake have made their first visit and have found it enjoyable enough to want to go again — a good sign.

N. A. C. Laurence and W. J. P. Atkinson take over from Paul Dobinson and myself, and we wish them luck for next year. Many thanks to N.C.G. for his often thankless task of organising and supervising the visits.

L. Chauveau

MUSIC CLUB

Music Club took place every two or three weeks at 1 Home Park last term. The secretary was Nicholas Atkinson assisted by James Sparling. Meetings included a compact disc demonstration, an evening listening to twentieth century English Music and discussion sessions.

Two trips were organized during the year, one to a concert of music by Penderecki at the Royal Academy of Music and the other to a performance of Parsifal at E.N.O. The Wagner was conducted by Raymond Goodall whose magnificent pacing of the performance more than made up for the ugly production.

The Music Club Secretary for this year is Cordelia Beresford.

R.J.S.S.

FORESTRY

Forestry has flourished this year with about 35 boy-afternoons being worked each week. Initially we concentrated on two sites — the copse opposite Lyttelton and the waterways from the Grotto to the Octagon. The copse contains many fine young oaks and we removed all but the best larches in order that the oak canopy would have a chance to spread. During the summer we underplanted with thorn, shrubs and wild flowers.

At the start of the year the Upper Styx was stagnant and low and became even more so when we cleared its exit channel by the Cook Monument. This was quickly remedied by building a dam which raised its level by several inches. We also cleared debris from various input channels and the lake itself in order to improve the water flow, but the problem will never be fully solved until the Grecian Valley once more drains through the Grotto into the lake and the latter is dredged. The islands and Capel Cure's garden received some long overdue maintenance but the garden was then devastated by contractors felling an unsafe beech on top of it.

Where the Worthies River joins the Octagon has been transformed from an overgrown swamp, where little but mares tails would grow, into a fast running stream. Once spring growth hid the ravages of our digging, the area became very attractive. Judicious pruning has restored the view of the Palladian Bridge from the Doric Arch and created 'peep' views of the Shell Bridge and the Worthies from the track.

This term we started to thin the copse between the Pebble Alcove and the Octagon and embarked on the huge task of counting all Stowe's trees! We estimate that this survey will take at least two years, but the computer database thus created should yield very valuable information to garden historians and planners.

On the Summer Field Day we visited the National Garden Festival at Stoke and this term have been to a farm which demonstrates conservation techniques and to the Ashridge Estate. We are now officially the Stowe National Trust Volunteers and all boys working for more than forty hours per year on the estate receive free National Trust membership for the following year. As befits our new status, we now have a headquarters in which we not only store tools but display posters, before-and-after photographs, plans of the estate, etc. The N.T.V. hut was officially opened by George Clarke on 3rd November.

While all the boy foresters have worked well, especial mention must be made of the efforts of Sebire (representative tie) and Humbert.

M.E.
M.C.S-S

THE DEBATING SOCIETY

The Society finished last term with a controversial debate on the subject of feminism. The motion was: "This House agrees with Milton that 'nothing lovelier can be found in women than supporting their husbandry, and good works in their husband to promote'" I.M.S. and John Stopford (the ex-Chairman or 'Chair-person') and William Herrington spoke in favour of the motion; A.A.M.S., Stephanie Struthers and Luke Chauveau spoke against the motion. The Music Room was packed with Stoics and, after a heated debate, the motion was rejected (a severe blow for male chauvinism) by a narrow margin of only two votes, and a recount was required.

The very large breach left by John Stopford and his contemporaries has meant that theirs is a hard act to follow. However, we are planning to hold a number of debates next term and in the Summer Term, and we hope that interest in the Society continues.

W. J. P. Atkinson is acting as the Lower Sixth Secretary this year, and we thank S.G.A.H. for his organisation and enthusiasm.

L. Chauveau

THE DUCKERY

This summer's breeding season was not a very successful one. Although a large number of eggs were laid, many proved to be infertile. This was possibly due to the cold winter and spring and to poor feeding early in the year. The birds actually bred were 11 Mallard, 2 Mandarin, 1 Wigeon and 2 Pintail. Some were hatched under Bantams, some in our incubator.

Fortunately the Tew family very kindly donated 4 Shovellers and 2 Tufted Ducks in September, the former species being new to the Duckery, and we hope to breed them successfully in the next year or so. A programme of renewal work has been started in the breeding pens; replacement wire, partitions and an extension of one of the small ponds are in progress. Throughout the summer we kept the grass cut and our pumped water supply running. Much of our food has had to be purchased for the last 12 months, but we have now re-established a corn supply from the school. Our regular Monday working party has consisted through the year of Mark Aldridge, Charlie Hughes, Johan Ursing and Alexander van Moppes from Cobham, and Charles Skeffington from Bruce. We are most grateful to Mr. Lloyd for helping us and supplying the tools and equipment we need, and to all those who feed the birds during our absence in the holidays.

M. Northey
J. Tew

C.R.A.C. INSIGHT PROGRAMME

On the 2nd and 3rd October, a group of ten boys and girls from the Lower Sixth went to take part in the C.R.A.C. 'Insight Into Business Management' course at Milton Keynes Open University. The aim of the course was partly to give students an insight into the job of management within different organisations, and partly to help try to clarify their career goals.

Each team was made up of six or seven students and one young manager, whose task was not to lead but to take an equal part in the decision-making processes. Most of the two-day course revolved around one game, 'Closephit', the object of which was, by managing a fashion retailing company, to become as successful as possible. We were presented with a number of different problems which we then had to solve: for example by designing a competition to promote our products. The direction of the company was decided by a series of executive options and, all in all, the game seemed extremely successful.

The remainder of our time was filled with various lectures and other business games, all helping us to gain experience and some insight into business management. We were also able to meet other students of the same age and different backgrounds, and to get to know them better by working with them.

The course was both extremely enjoyable and thoroughly worthwhile, and we all thank A.J.E.L. for giving us the opportunity to take part.

J. A. Kaldor
M. Manning

FUN DAY

The 'Fun Day' was Stowe's contribution to the 'Band Aid' and 'Sport Aid' charity for famine relief in Africa. The aim was not only to raise money for this worthwhile cause, but also to involve as many Stoics and members of staff as possible in what turned out to be a tremendous final Sunday of the Summer Term.

The 'Fun Events' laid on included a Donkey Derby, a 'Green Hunter Wellie Wanging' competition, stilt races with stilts made by the teams in the Workshops, an obstacle 'Spacehopper' race, and an extremely popular 'Soak the Master' sideshow. The highlight of the afternoon must have been the fierce 'Tug-of-War' contest. Congratulations to the overall winners, Chandos, and also to Stanhope's formidable team, which lost only three of its matches!

Each House organised its own stall, ranging from Stanhope's 'Guess the Baby' and Chandos's 'Hay Bale Tossing', to Walpole's 'Smash the Malteser' and Bruce's 'Target Golf'.

Very many thanks to the Matrons and staff wives who baked cakes for prizes and for sale, to all the organisers, competitors and spectators, but especially Lionel Weston, without whom the event could not have taken place. The net amount raised was £634.46, which was handed to Mrs. Jenden, the Director of the 'Band Aid' Trust, who very kindly opened the afternoon's proceedings. Good sense, good humour and glorious weather prevailed and a most worthwhile and enjoyable afternoon was spent by all.

N. H. Groves



'Fun Day' — Stanhope's 'Tug-of-War' Team

Photograph: Mr. Skuse



'Fun Day' — Jane Lascelles and J. Allday

Photograph: Mr. Skuse

STOWE INDUSTRY CONFERENCE 1986

The Industry Conference took place for the sixth successive year over the last two days of the first half of this term. Sponsored by Kodak Limited, the Conference was designed not only to give the participants a valuable insight into industry, but also to establish contacts with industrial personalities. The Stowe and the Royal Latin School MVI combined in this joint venture, forming twenty competitive groups. Each group was allocated an advisor, someone with some experience in the world of industry, who was able to give general hints instead of fully participating in 'the games'.

During the two day Conference we took part in a variety of games, ranging from "Darowen Farm", the object of which was to sort out an order in which to deal with a series of catastrophic disasters on your farm, to "Bric-a-Brac", where the teams had to conceive, design, realise and market an end-product manufactured from a 'Blue Peter'-like assortment of raw materials. The Conference was centred on the business game "Tycoon", which involved making as much money as possible by means either honest or devious in the allotted time, and within the rules!

Overall, the Industrial Conference was a most enjoyable and educationally-worthy event and we would like to extend our warmest thanks to Chris Brockbank of Kodak Limited for his organisation, and to A.J.E.L., M.E. and N.C.G. especially, for their organisation and management at the Stowe end.

R. W. Kennedy



SPORT CRICKET THE FIRST XI

It would, perhaps, be presumptuous for one with only two seasons' experience of Stowe cricket to describe 1986 as a "vintage" season, but it would be unfair to suggest it was anything less than "de qualité supérieure". Stowe was a force to be reckoned with on the field of play, and the ability of its players and their conduct of the game commanded the respect of both the schools and clubs against which they played. What drew the greatest attention and admiration, however, was the refreshingly open and almost Corinthian spirit which produced nine results in eighteen matches and reduced to a sprinkling the type of meaningless draws eked out by the over-cautious and those who set store on remaining unbeaten.

Courage, confidence and a certain lack of compromise are required if such an approach is to be maintained throughout a season. Sean Morris possessed these qualities in full measure, and several more besides. An elegant batsman of deceptive power and great concentration, a safe catcher and accurate off-spin bowler, he looked every inch a cricketer and led his team by example. To him fell the distinction of becoming the first Stoic to score 1000 runs in a school season: it is a feat that few will emulate, and it included four centuries and three fifties and produced just on half our runs. Indeed, such dread did his deeds inspire in a couple of our opponents that they were moved to allow us at least twenty overs less to reach their total than it had taken them to compile it. Poetically, their "largesse" cost them victory on each occasion! Morris played for The Rest in the Public Schools Trials and also represented Worcestershire 2nd XI.

Despite the impression which may now be forming, this was not a one-man team, nor were its victories achieved off one bat. Bowlers win matches, and the truth of this oft-repeated dictum was proved yet again: Stowe dismissed nine of its opponents to record seven wins; at no stage did Stowe "knock-off" the runs after a declaration, hard though they tried on several occasions. It was no coincidence that five of these victories coincided with days on which Andrew Hazzard took three wickets or more in an innings. Rather above medium pace, his in-swingers were almost invariably aimed at the target and were delivered with the determination and conviction that only a true Yorkshireman can muster. If one adds to this his impeccable ground fielding, safe catching and rumbustious contributions with the bat, there emerges the picture of a doughty competitor to field in any side.

No bowler was able to achieve half his total of wickets, but this was not for want of trying, nor yet for want of support in the field. Few sides achieve perfection in this area, but there were not many of the really important chances which went to ground, and the team was not conspicuously easy to score runs against. In James Adams we had a wicket-keeper who was prepared to attack and stand up to all bowlers but one. It may well be that he conceded a few additional byes, but this was more than offset by the pressure applied to the opposing batsmen and the opportunities for taking wickets which would otherwise not have existed. The bowlers gained the advantage whilst he carried the can, an unselfish contribution to the success of the team.

It appeared at one stage that Hugh Thomas would once again be denied just reward for his efforts as an opening bowler of pace and perseverance. Fourteen wickets in five of the last six matches, however, redressed the balance and should give him the confidence to do well from the start next year. Robert Pumfrey, with his classic action and strength beyond his coltish years, made a habit of taking a wicket or two, but the other "quickies", Richard Giles, Angus Adam and Mark Gardner, whilst each had his moment, found it impossible to strike

consistently. In the spin department the Captain was, for most of the season, a one-man band. He did well in providing much-needed variation of pace and took his share of useful wickets with his off-breaks. But it was not until the emergence of the yearling Jefferson in the final few games that the ideal combination of right and left-arm was seen in action, and the proper balance of attack was struck.

There was a pleasing urgency in the way this side went about making its runs which only on rare occasions afflicted the committed onlooker with incipient heart-failure. As Morris's opening partner, Ian Bendell did much to fulfil the promise he showed in the Colts last year by compiling a string of useful scores, among them a century against Oundle. At number three Justin Phillips often threatened to demolish the opposition, only to fall prey to his own impatience, but his innings against Wesley College was full of fighting spirit. Mahbubani and Pumfrey, at four and five, reacted well to the responsibility thrust on them. They may be a little disappointed at the totals they achieved, but the experience gained in a strong side this year should make them both a force to be reckoned with in the next two.

Such was the strength in the early batting that it was not often that those below six had the opportunity to show what they could do, and this could have had a bad effect on morale, quite apart from the more obvious lack of practice in the middle. As it was, Andrew Phillips, Giles, Hazzard, Adams, Adam and Thomas all found their moments to shine and, as a result, there were only two occasions during the season when all ten Stowe wickets were taken.

It is not intended to comment on every game played: the full results are printed below and speak for themselves in terms of individual performances and the quality of the cricket played. Several occasions stand out, however, as being worthy of special mention. Wesley College, Melbourne, showed us the uncompromising brand of cricket which is played on the other side of the world, bowling tight to a defensive field and conceding not one unnecessary run. Declining the invitation to throw wickets away, Stowe battled to 178. Though the Australians batted more freely, they did not pass our total until the penultimate over and might have lost more than six wickets had the final hour of the play not taken place in steady rain. In any sport it is probably the match against Radley that the Stoic would most like to win. This time the contest was fought in perfect conditions by two accomplished and evenly-balanced sides, and Morris's declaration, following a superb innings of 84, gave both teams the opportunity to win. The crucial chance came in Thomas's first over, but was not accepted; our bowlers stuck to the task but failed for once to achieve the vital penetration and Radley got home with an over to spare. In Stanley, Bedford Modern had the leading Public School cricketer of the season and a supporting cast of good players. By lunch they had taken eight Stowe wickets for under a hundred and must have been contemplating an early trip home! Adam and Adams, however, had other ideas and, with lusty support from Thomas at the end, clawed us back into the game and more than doubled the score. Modern always had the target in their sights, but Hazzard kept getting out the danger men and they settled for a draw when their seventh wicket fell with only four overs to go — an absorbing day of fluctuating fortunes. To play against a County 2nd XI as a school team is a privilege not granted to many and an opportunity to really test the mettle. There were a few unaccustomed butterflies around at 11.30 but bowlers and fielders rose to the occasion and made the Northamptonshire batsmen work for every run. Scoring runs ourselves was a different matter and, despite a generous declaration, it proved impossible to mount a serious challenge against some very brisk and accurate bowling. An experience to savour and next year to anticipate!

On the domestic front, both House Competitions were won by Walpole and a Bowling Competition was held for the first time. This was not as easy to master as some had thought and, apart from Andrew Hazzard, who won the Senior Seam section, none of the winners was a front-line performer for his team. There must be a moral here somewhere! Bowlers are

meant to win matches and, to do so, they must learn to bowl more than the odd one straight! Hazzard also won the 1st XI Bowling Cup and we shall miss next year his aggressive commitment and burning will to win. The outstanding fielding of Ian Bendell, which won him the Cup for that art, will again, we hope, be on display at cover-point (though not, for preference, the brown belt which supported his trousers!) and Sean Morris, whose name went on to the Batting Cup for the second time, will once again be at the helm. We look forward to April in keen anticipation.

Next year could, in fact, be somewhat of a watershed for the game of cricket in Public Schools. Whatever the changes forced upon us by the advent of G.C.S.E. in 1988, Stowe is well placed to meet, and rise to, the inevitable challenge. The new Nottingham Turf nets have not only increased the amount of practice time available, but they have also improved the quality and safety of play. The purchase of covers for the North Front brings our main ground up to at least Minor Counties standard and the other squares do not lag far behind. Head Groundsman Tony Stairs and his staff have done a good job and we thank them. Good cricket cannot be played on an empty stomach, although on seeing the copious amounts supplied and consumed, it is sometimes a source of wonder that cricket can be played at all! Richard Menzies and his staff and the ever-present Mary and Stanley are the ones to thank for this. Scoring and umpiring are both tasks which are too often taken for granted, and we were fortunate in these departments to be served by real enthusiasts. Miles Lewis, Peter Evelyn and Michael Phillips shared the duties in the "box", while Arthur Pooley and Frank Isham kept firm but genial control in the "middle". Thank you all. Enthusiasm and commitment are the paramount qualities of a coach and Mike Harris possesses them in full measure and communicates them to all those with whom he comes into contact, boys and masters alike. His contribution to the success of the First Eleven has been enormous, but so also has been the advice and encouragement he has given those at other levels. Long may his influence guide us. One of the most pleasing aspects of 1986 was the spirit and enjoyment generated in the 3rd XI, proving the important point that it is not essential to be an "A" team player in order to make a worthwhile contribution to school sport. Such a healthy situation could not be brought about without the dedication and interest shown by colleagues in running the various teams at different levels. Their help and support are warmly appreciated.

G.A.C.



Neil Golder stumping Ollie Ripley

Batting Averages:

	Inns.	N.O.	H.S.	Total	Average
R. S. M. Morris	18	4	115*	1001	71.5
I. O. Bendell	17	2	109*	411	27.4
J. M. J. Phillips	16	4	78*	328	27.33
J. C. Mahbubani	12	3	41	181	15.08
R. B. Pumfrey	12	2	30*	142	14.2

* Not out.

Also Batted: D. T. H. Rotheroe, 64, 17 not out.**Bowling Averages:**

	O.	M.	R.	W.	Average
A. J. E. Hazzard	247	73	562	43	13.06
R. B. Pumfrey	104	19	318	21	15.14
H. R. Thomas	141.2	26	377	22	17.13
R. S. M. Morris	160	42	415	19	21.84
R. B. K. Giles	149.4	30	403	11	36.63

Also Bowled:

A. R. Adam	33.3	5	90	9
M. R. A. Gardner	27	4	77	7
M. J. T. Jefferson	29	14	54	3

Results:

v. Dean Close — Won	Dean Close 78 all out (Gardner 4 for 7) Stowe 79 for 1
v. Free Foresters — Won	Stowe 202 for 3 declared (Morris 114) Free Foresters 187 all out
v. Buckingham Town — Drawn	Stowe 133 for 6 declared (Morris 57 not out) Buckingham 130 for 7
v. Wesley College — Lost	Stowe 178 all out (Phillips 78 not out) Wesley College 182 for 6
v. Mill Hill — Won	Mill Hill 141 all out Stowe 142 for 5
v. Oakham and Bedford — Abandoned	
v. Old Stoics — Won	Stowe 195 for 6 declared (Morris 115 not out) Old Stoics 87 all out (Hazzard 4 for 23)
v. St. Edward's, Oxford — Drawn	St. Edward's 134 all out (Hazzard 4 for 23) Stowe 58 for 1
v. Bradfield — Won	Stowe 200 for 6 declared (Morris 110 not out) Bradfield 120 all out (Hazzard 5 for 33)
v. Radley — Lost	Stowe 200 for 9 declared (Morris 84, Mahbubani 41) Radley 201 for 4
v. Oundle — Drawn	Stowe 251 for 2 declared (Bendell 109 not out, Morris 79) Oundle 172 for 3
v. Bedford Modern — Drawn	Stowe 199 all out (Adam 42 not out, Morris 41) Bedford 171 for 7 (Hazzard 5 for 64)
v. M.C.C. — Drawn	Stowe 180 for 8 declared M.C.C. 105 for 8 (hazzard 5 for 18)
v. Colchester R.G.S. — Won	Colchester 95 all out (Hazzard 4 for 9) Stowe 96 for 4
v. Northants 2nd XI — Drawn	Northants 177 for 7 declared Stowe 96 for 4
v. Merchant Taylors' — Drawn	Merchant Taylors 210 all out (Thomas 4 for 27) Stowe 125 for 9 (Rotheroe 64)

FESTIVAL AT BEDFORD:

v. Wellington — Won	Wellington 117 all out Stowe 118 for 3
v. Bedford — Drawn	Stowe 172 for 8 declared (Morris 70) Bedford 127 for 6 (Thomas 5 for 27)
v. Repton — Drawn	Repton 198 all out Stowe 177 for 9 (Morris 105)

SECOND XI

The 1986 season was not a distinguished one in terms of results, but certain individual performances and the better-fought matches were memorable. The infamous summer weather cannot be blamed for the lack of success, for the new artificial nets permitted practice under almost any conditions. More relevant was the difficulty of maintaining team cohesion under circumstances that forced the selection of twenty-eight different players throughout the season. Complaints about pressures imposed by academic staff and the lack of recognition by the 1st XI selectors are all very well, but, apart from the faithful nucleus of Carpenter, Fincham, Heard, Walker and Page, it was commitment and application that was in short supply and performance was affected accordingly.

Nonetheless, the dismissal of Mill Hill for 37 by Gardener and Llewellyn; fifties scored by Carpenter, Fincham, Heard and Rotheroe; the win against Dean Close in the last over; and the exciting match at Bradfield, which might have gone either way, were the pleasurable highlights of the season.

Finally, your correspondent would like to pay tribute to the enthusiasm and tenacity shown by Nicholas Fincham over the past two years in the 2nd XI despite physical handicap, and to Tim Carpenter for his leadership and efficiency both on and off the field. The game of cricket is so much richer for the contributions made by players such as these.

C.J.G.A.

Team From: T. J. Carpenter (Captain), E. A. J. Butler, N. M. Fincham, M. R. A. Gardner, W. E. Harrison, E. W. Heard, N. E. Hencher, R. A. Hill, M. Jenkyn-Jones, J. R. O. Jones-Perrott, N. J. Llewellyn, J. R. Maskell, R. M. Page, A. J. Phillips, O. Q. Ripley, E. N. S. Walker.

Also played: A. R. Adam, N. J. Airikkala, T. W. Baker, S. M. Banbury, L. E. Chauveau, N. R. Hegarty, D. St. J. Jepson, J. E. P. Mierins, D. T. H. Rotheroe, M. A. Samuel, P. M. Tetlow, M. J. Williams.

Match Results: Played 11: Won 2: Lost 6: Drawn 3

v. Wellingborough — Drawn	Wellingborough 169 for 3 declared Stowe 130 for 9
v. Buckingham — Lost	Buckingham 163 for 4 declared Stowe 115 (Rotheroe 55)
v. Mill Hill — Won	Mill Hill 37 (Gardner 6 for 16, Llewellyn 4 for 10) Stowe 40 for 2
v. Stowe Templars — Lost	Stowe Templars 198 for 2 declared Stowe 169 (Phillips 41, Carpenter 35)
v. St. Edward's — Lost	Stowe 123 (Harrison 46) St. Edward's 127 for 3
v. Dean Close — Won	Stowe 162 for 7 declared (Carpenter 58) Dean Close 131
v. Bradfield — Lost	Stowe 150 for 6 declared (Phillips 38) Bradfield 152 for 8
v. Radley — Lost	Stowe 104 Radley 105 for 1

v. Oundle — Lost	Stowe 152 Oundle 153 for 3
v. Bedford Modern — Drawn	Bedford Modern 163 for 5 declared Stowe 110 for 5 (Fincham 43)
v. Rugby — Drawn	Stowe 185 for 7 declared (Heard 57) Rugby 118 for 3

The matches v. Bloxham, Oakham and Bedford were abandoned

THIRD XI

This was a splendid season, due entirely to the spirit of the twelve boys who made up a largely unchanged side. No-one can remember a century by a Third XI batsman before; this year's captain, James Jones-Perrott, remedied this lack by scoring two! Unfortunately he was out quickly in all his other innings and without a contribution from him the batting tended to be fragile, particularly after we lost Steven Banbury to the 2nd XI. We were fortunate to have a lot of bowlers, with Andrew Samuel and Simon Williams perhaps the most effective. Above all, however, this was a team who enthused and played for each other and this was recognised by the award of colours to all twelve 'regulars': Jones-Perrott, Samuel, S. Williams, M. Williams, Chauveau, Moore, Mierins, Gartside, Parker, Banbury, Butler and Tetlow.

Our results were not as good as the team's talent and enthusiasm merited, but we were never outclassed as the Thirds have too often been in past years.

Results:

v. St. Edward's — Won by 109 runs	Stowe 233 for 4 declared (Jones-Perrott 103 not out, Banbury 58) St. Edward's 124 all out (Samuel 6 for 35)
v. Bradfield — Lost by 3 wickets	Stowe 121 all out Bradfield 122 for 7 (Samuel 4 for 41)
v. Radley — Match drawn	Radley 170 all out Stowe 134 for 9
v. Oundle — Lost by 3 wickets	Stowe 102 all out Oundle 103 for 7 (S. Williams 6 for 30)
v. Bedford Modern — Match drawn	Stowe 203 for 3 declared (Jones-Perrott 110 not out, Moore 52 not out) Bedford Modern 122 for 8

In addition a combined Third/Colts 'B' XI beat Rugby Colts 'B' and the 3rd XI twice beat Stowe Colts 'A'. The matches against Bedford and Mill Hill were rained off. I would like to thank the team for a most enjoyable season and look forward to fielding much the same side next year.

M.E.

THE COLTS

The 1986 season started optimistically with the general opinion that Mahbubani and Pumfrey would score all the runs needed. This illusion was soon shattered by their immediate elevation to the 1st XI after the game against the Royal Latin School. Confidence was badly dented, but the side was totally rebuilt and by the end of the season had developed into a useful unit.

Although the School bowled badly against the Royal Latin's 1st XI, they were still dismissed cheaply and the runs were easily obtained. A much better all-round performance accounted for Oakham, but the brittleness of the batsmen became evident and was mainly responsible for the defeats by St. Edward's and Bradfield, when, on each occasion, good bowling couldn't quite save us.

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Radley proved to be the turning point when, chasing 139, Stowe had collapsed to 5 for 3 but a number of batsmen found new courage and application to earn a draw. Inspired by this, we defeated Oundle off the very last ball in a thrilling finish on the North Front, where a number of spectators were treated to the side's 'coming of age' performance. The Bedford Modern game could have been won with a little more adventure and, in a rained-off match, Rugby were almost defeated against all odds.

The batting was always going to be a problem, but after the Radley game a settled and successful opening partnership was found and a number of the lower-middle-order batsmen started chipping in with constructive scores. The bowlers were useful, if not always accurate, with many players able to move the ball through the air or off the wicket. It was found that the slow bowlers bowling straight were much more effective than quicker bowlers who were erratic.

Catches were spilled on many occasions and the wicket-keeping problem was never really solved — we used five different keepers! However, the real strength of the side lay in its ground-fielding where many runs were saved by athletic stops. Indeed, in the final match against Rugby on a very slippery surface, the fielding was of such a high standard that it looked professional.

Lacking many stars, this was nevertheless a genuine team and should prove the backbone for a good second team in 1987.

The regular players were: Ian Dunton, a studious batsman who also bowled very straight; David Rotheroe, a good "eye" player who scored quickly and fielded well; William Atkinson, the Captain, a stylish batsman and a developing off-spinner; Guy Hooper, who made useful runs and became a competent slip; Guy Jefferson, a leg-spinner and a gritty batsman; John Bingham, another leg-spinner and a potential run scorer; Toby Baker, who batted and fielded well after a shaky start; Niko Airikkala, who turned his off-breaks a great deal but never really found form with the bat; Ben de Wynter, who bowled huge in-swingers and proved a gutsy bat and an enthusiastic fielder; Nick Laurence, an opening bowler who did not always achieve the success he deserved; and Dicken Weatherby, who proved very effective with the ball on occasions. Each in his own way gave of his best.

D.C.M.

Results:

Royal Latin 92 (Weatherby 4 for 12, Pumfrey 4 for 24) Stowe 94 for 2 (Pumfrey 47*)
Oakham 92 (Laurence 5 for 27, Weatherby 3 for 28) Stowe 96 for 3 (Rotheroe 53, Atkinson 38*)
Stowe 69 St. Edward's 70 for 6 (Laurence 3 for 26)
Stowe 112 (Atkinson 60) Bradfield 113 for 7 (De Wynter 2 for 9, Dunton 2 for 13)
Radley 139 for 5 (Jefferson 2 for 43) Stowe 62 for 7
Oundle 138 for 9 (Atkinson 4 for 18) Stowe 140 for 9 (Rotheroe 45)
Bedford Modern 141 for 9 (De Wynter 3 for 34, Dunton 2 for 11) Stowe 74 for 7 (Rotheroe 30)
Rugby 149 for 7 Stowe 116 for 3 (Rotheroe 76)

Batting Averages:

	Innings	Not Out	H.S.	Total	Average
Atkinson	8	4	60	154	38.5
Rotheroe	7	0	76	235	33.6
Baker	4	2	11	27	13.5

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Bowling Averages:

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Atkinson	15	1	72	6	12
Weatherby	49.4	6	160	13	12.31
Dunton	28	5	86	6	14.3
De Wynter	45	5	166	9	18.4
Laurence	69.5	11	211	11	19.2
Jefferson	38.1	5	138	6	23

JUNIOR COLTS

The results give a good indication of the team's strengths and weaknesses. Only twice did we do badly with the bat and only twice did we bowl the opposition out. Two matches were won, two were lost, and there were six draws: four of the draws we might have won had play continued, and one of them we would have lost. The team was not far, therefore from having a very good season. All that was needed was a little more penetration in attack and a little more confidence in the batting. We tended to rely on two or three batsmen too heavily.

There was plenty of promise, however, in all departments of the game. Some splendid catches were taken (and a few, vital ones spilt). The ground fielding was generally clean, particularly for the first one and a half hours. We tended to wilt later, if under pressure from bat or conditions. Some throwing was excellent too. Gareth Amdor was a most positive captain, for ever trying new wheezes, some of which were excellent. At all times he led by example. Neil Golder did excellently behind the wicket.

There were plenty of good batsmen. Neil Golder scored a lot of runs, despatching the bad ball very hard and watching the good one carefully. Gareth Amdor played with style and sense. Patrick Gorlee has a tremendous eye, which allows him to take liberties (but he sometimes took too many). Martin Dunton looks a good player and so too Peter Hale. With a few more inches next year they will find life easier. James Watson sometimes looked a very good player indeed. Guy Holdsworth-Hunt, with limited opportunities, never let the side down and James Long got better and better. His performance at Radley, long sweater and all, remains in the memory. Freddy Hawkings-Byass batted with splendid aggression. Mark Smith proved a hard man to dismiss, as he accumulated well with cuts and glances. Patrick Campbell could likewise develop into a good bat.

Freddy Hawkings-Byass bowled furiously, and quite successfully. Length and line improved during the season, as did his own understanding of these two virtues. Mark Smith rolled out his leg-breaks with a calm craft, which would have warmed the heart of Roley Jenkins. He must never lose faith in them, higher up the school. James Long bowls marvellous off-breaks and so too does Patrick Gorlee. Peter Hale also shows great promise as a bowler. Martin Dunton deserved more chance than his googlies received and Gareth Amdor could develop into an excellent 'stock' bowler. The left-arm Patrick Campbell showed the versatility of Sobers. So there is plenty of talent in the bowling department. It is a question of hard work and the right mental approach.

Late in the season Marcus Jefferson and Ralph Hazell joined us from the Yearlings and soon showed why they merited this promotion.

A.G.M.**Results:**

v. Wellingborough — Drawn	Wellingborough 119 Stowe 81 for 4
v. Oakham — Won by 7 wickets	Oakham 148 for 9 declared (Hawkings-Byass 5 for 38) Stowe 152 for 3 (Golder 58*, Gorlee 44)

v. Mill Hill — Won by 8 wickets	Mill Hill 66 (Hawkings-Byass 6 for 33) Stowe 69 for 2
v. St. Edward's — Lost by 5 wickets	Stowe 120 for 7 declared St. Edward's 123 for 5
v. Dean Close — Drawn	Dean Close 144 for 8 declared Stowe 139 for 7 (Watson 40)
v. Bradfield — Drawn	Bradfield 140 for 7 declared Stowe 60 for 7
v. Radley — Drawn	Stowe 168 for 4 declared (Golder 46) Radley 141 for 8
v. Oundle — Drawn	Oundle 211 for 0 declared Stowe 194 for 2 (Golder 106*, Amdor 56)
v. Bedford Modern — Lost by 154 runs	Bedford Modern 198 for 6 declared Stowe 44
v. Rugby — Drawn	Stowe 157 for 6 declared Rugby 63 for 4

YEARLINGS 'A' XI

In terms of results the season looks very disappointing. This is not the case when one considers the considerable effort the boys made in practice and in matches. The luck did not always go with them, and if several hard catching chances had been accepted the end results may well have been different. Though the boys, as individuals, were all successful at prep school, the techniques they need now are different and will need to be perfected if the faults are to be removed next season. Pumfrey and Blackwood were the two most successful batsmen, the former succumbing to impetuosity on a number of occasions, and the latter demonstrating amazing 'Boycottian' patience and determination. Jefferson, Burrough, Pinney, Atkinson, Fisher and Vernon all show promise and will no doubt have more success in the future with determined practice.

We displayed a variety of bowling talent. Burrough with his left arm seam bowling is a fine prospect. Jefferson is a class left-arm spinner and achieved notable success in the higher age group after being promoted mid-season. This move left us more opportunity to see Fisher and Cormack bowl off-spin. Marr, Hodgson, Kaunda and Pumfrey bowl seamers. They all bowled well on occasions but need to develop far more consistency in length and direction.

Hazell as wicketkeeper was a bundle of energy and enthusiasm and was an extremely capable and dependable captain. The team members were all enthusiastic and willing to learn and improve, both qualities which will be the recipe for success in the future, I hope.

L.E.W.**Results:**

v. Wellingborough — Lost by 66 runs Wellingborough 133 for 3 declared Stowe 67 all out.	v. Rugby — Lost by 8 wickets Stowe 69 all out Rugby 71 for 2
v. Radley — Lost by 6 wickets Stowe 126 all out Radley 130 for 4	v. Bedford Modern School — Drawn Bedford Modern School 148 for 5 declared (Blackwood 41 not out) Stowe 106 for 6
v. St. Edward's — Lost by 5 wickets Stowe 83 all out St. Edward's 83 for 5	v. Oakham — Drawn Stowe 148 for 7 declared (Pumfrey 85) Oakham 76 for 8
v. Bradfield — Drawn Bradfield 125 for 6 declared Stowe 37 for 5	v. Oundle — Lost by 6 wickets Stowe 101 all out Oundle 102 for 4

LAWN TENNIS

1st VI:

With only one of last year's successful 1st VI still available, and one 'probable' ill at the start of the season, it was clear that considerable team-building had to be quickly accomplished, particularly as the match programme was due to start almost as soon as the Summer Term had begun. In the event, the first match against Merchant Taylor's was a disaster and ended in a 4-5 loss, which should have been a fairly easy victory, but by the time of the second fixture, some team re-organisation had taken place and Bradfield were defeated 7-2. Good victories followed against Uppingham and Oakham, but when one of the team was ill we were unable to make much impression on a strong Eton team and lost 3-6. However, some excellent play enabled the team to obtain victories against Aldenham and St. Edward's, Oxford — to whom we had lost in the previous years. The Old Stoics match was, as usual, a most enjoyable occasion, and the Old Boys produced a strong VI, and in spite of some bad weather they played on. Although the School won, a draw would have been a fairer result. Everyone always enjoys these matches, as Angus Mackpherson and his team always play with the right mixture of friendliness and determination, regardless of the end result, which over the years has been fifty-fifty, and is always greatly appreciated by players, parents and friends. The season ended with a visit to Rugby to play on their grass courts, and largely because Stowe players have no opportunity to play on this surface, they found it difficult to adapt and were beaten 6-3 in an enjoyable game. It is a great pity that in six hundred and fifty acres of land we are unable to find an area flat enough to have at least one grass court!



C. M. King and A. G. Astley

Turning to individual performances, J. W. Allday and A. G. Astley (who was still of Junior Colts age) had a very good season and achieved some excellent wins. Allday is to be congratulated on his captaincy of the team, and for bringing the best out of his promising younger partner (from whom we shall be expecting great things in the future). J. P. Robinson and A. P. Craig improved considerably during the season and became a very proficient second pair, and won some close encounters through their thoughtful play. They will be with us for another year and should be a force to be reckoned with next summer. The third pair was A. D. Reed and E. C. Galbraith, and although they proved to be rather erratic in their achievements (sometimes winning all their rubbers and sometimes none) they have definite ability, and it is to be hoped that they continue to improve at their respective Universities, and I wish them well for the future.

All in all it was an enjoyable and successful season, and all the players produced some excellent play on occasions, with most praise due to the first pair, and I particularly hope (and expect) that the Captain goes on from strength to strength in the years to come.

Results: v. Merchant Taylor's	Home	Lost	4-5
v. Bradfield	Home	Won	7-2
v. Uppingham	Home	Won	6-3
v. Oakham	Home	Won	8-1
v. Old Stoics	Home	Won	6-3
v. Eton	Home	Lost	3-6
v. Aldenham	Home	Won	7-2
v. St. Edward's, Oxford	Away	Won	7-2
v. Rugby	Away	Lost	3-6

Match Results: Played 9; Won 6; Lost 3.

Colts VI:

The Colts VI had a very successful season which would have been even better had Astley not been playing in the 1st VI.

After a disappointing performance against Merchant Taylor's School, they played much better and the team defeated both Bradfield and Uppingham fairly easily. However, a big defeat by Eton (partly caused by illness) seemed to spur them on to excellent wins against Aldenham, Oakham and St. Edward's, Oxford, but they found Rugby on grass just too much, going down in the last set of the match.

T. Y. Alireza and C. J. Wilkinson, at first pair, had some fine wins during the season, as did C. M. King and J. G. Shillington, whilst S. F. Allison (who was a very capable Captain of the team), partnered by T. A. Elliott, played well at third pair. There are some promising players at this level and they should do well in the future.

Results: v. Merchants Taylor's	Home	Lost	3-6
v. Bradfield	Home	Won	7-2
v. Uppingham	Home	Won	6-3
v. Eton	Home	Lost	1-8
v. Aldenham	Home	Won	7½-1½
v. Oakham	Home	Won	9-0
v. Rugby	Away	Lost	4-5
v. St. Edward's, Oxford	Away	Won	5½-3½

Match Results: Played 8; Won 5; Lost 3.

Junior Teams:

Most of the Junior matches were won but, as in the past, there is a difficulty in obtaining games at this level, because many of the schools we play do not have sufficient courts to make it possible. However, having said that, there were some useful performances by the Stowe players. In the Junior Colts team, A. E. Macintosh (who was the Captain) played some good tennis with T. A. Elliott at first pair, and when they were both playing their best at the same time they proved a difficult combination to beat. M. J. Lawman and M. E. Dawson played steadily together and improved during the summer — I hope they will become a little more aggressive on court as time goes by. A. C. Bewes and M. B. Johnstone showed promise and keenness, but must aim for more consistency in their play. P. W. Joynson-Hicks also played for the team on occasions and showed potential.

The Under 14 VI was a very good team, but it was a great pity when N. J. Aiyela was forced to leave the team through injury as he had been playing so well and was gradually gaining a good understanding with his partner. However, J. H. Hutter (Captain) and W. Stoppard proved themselves to be a fine first pair, the one complementing the other in style and temperament. They should have a good future ahead in school tennis. C. J. Gibbs and R. J. Godman had some good results during the summer, the former in particular being a most enterprising player. Both have potential, and greater strength will make them even more effective in the years to come. B. C. Holloway and R. C. Houghton also showed promise, whilst P. A. Would joined the team in some matches. All in all the future of the Stowe tennis is encouraging, and it is to be hoped that these boys will work very hard to improve, as the better they get the more enjoyable they will find the game.

The P.S.L.T.A. Thomas Bowl

The Public Schools' Lawn Tennis Association's Competition for the Thomas Bowl is for boys under 15½ in July and is played at the A.E.L.T.C. Wimbledon. Teams consist of one pair and it is played on a knock-out basis. Stowe was represented by A. G. Astley and C. M. King, and we were hoping to do quite well. In fact the Stowe pair did very well indeed and achieved some excellent victories. They beat Leeds Grammar School, Uppingham, King's College School, Wimbledon, Winchester, Radley, and Rugby on their way to the final against a strong St. Paul's team. The last match could well have been won, but the London pair were able to keep calmer than the Stowe combination, who did not manage to reproduce their top form, and the final was lost 3—6, 2—6. However, it was a magnificent performance by Astley and his less experienced partner, King, particularly when it is remembered that the last time a Stowe pair had reached this far in the competition was 1965! Congratulations to both of them.

P.G.L.

ARCHERY

It has proved impossible to organise any away matches, but the team took part in the Association for Archery in Schools postal league. Chatham won the housematches and A. P. Bush the individual cup. I would like to thank A. P. Bush and J. J. de C. Sabey for their enthusiasm and hard work as Captain and Secretary respectively.

A.A.V.R.

GOLF

Summer/Autumn 1986

Results in the Summer Term were mediocre, with a similar number of matches lost and won against both schools and club sides. However, some very promising junior players have emerged, and both Under 15½ matches were won very decisively against Radley (away) and Cheltenham (home).

The monthly medal tournaments have been entered into with enthusiasm, by the juniors particularly, and this regular discipline of playing with a card and pencil off the back tees with no putts conceded, seems to be paying dividends. It was no accident, therefore, that our Team of Three for The Golf Foundation regional qualifying round of the Schools Team Championship consisted of two juniors (Duncan Lennard and Peter Hale) plus David Douglas, the captain. This team picked itself after six players had a practice and trial at Stratford a week before the tournament. For the first time for several years the team performed as well in the actual event as in practice (maybe the practice scores were more accurate than hitherto as they were compiled under the watchful eyes of myself and D.G.L. each playing with three boys!) The tournament was won by 5 shots from a field of eleven schools with a total of 237 (Lennard 76, Douglas 79, Hale 82). Duncan Lennard also won the individual trophy. We now contest the English Finals in April against some 26 other schools.

With many promising juniors coming up, as well as two of last year's Micklem team, and Caspar Yeoward, captain for the second year running, available, there will be keen competition both for the Micklem and Hill Samuel Foursome teams. This is a healthy state to be in, with few players absolutely sure of a place and having to work hard for it.

In the House matches Chatham beat Walpole in the Seniors 3—2, and Walpole beat Chatham 3—0 in the Juniors. Patrick Cooper won the Penfold Cup at Stowe after the original tournament had to be abandoned at the half-way stage at Church Brampton because of a thunderstorm. David Hope-Johnstone won the Warrington (Under 15½) Cup.

Colours Summer 1986: P. J. T. Cooper, J. C. J. Yeoward, D. J. M. Douglas, M. S. Bramley, M. R. A. Gardner, P. A. Williams.

Colours Autumn 1986: D. A. Lennard, P. J. Hale.

Results for Summer and Autumn Terms:

School Matches (Senior): Won 4; Lost 4
(Junior): Won 2; Lost 0

Club Matches: Won 2; Lost 2; Halved 3

M.D.D.

SHOOTING

The Summer Term saw our usual devotion to full-bore activity and we performed creditably in the County matches that we entered. This season for the first time saw us competing at 300 and 500 rather than 200 and 500 yards to bring cadet shooting in line with adult competitions. These county events were in reality our practices for the Ashburton, since we still have access only to our own 25 yards range.

This must have been without doubt one of the hottest Bisley Cadet Camps on record! The first two practice days saw temperatures in the 80's with almost zero wind, and no wind-coaching needed. This for us was an advantage since we fielded such a young and relatively inexperienced team, with only two members with previous Ashburton experience. Again it is sad to have to record that we could have fielded a team with another seven Stoics with 16 Ashburton cadet years of experience between them! Until we can rely on trained shots to stay

with the C.C.F. and the Shooting team into their LVI and MVI years we will not be able to make much impression on our Ashburton position.

The highlights of the first two days Wellington 200 yards and Iveagh 500 yards competitions were:

Burford-Taylor (Capt.)	63/70
Boulton	61/70
Laurence & White, E.	60/70
Talbot-Rice	59/70

all of whom were entered for the Cadet Rifle Aggregate.

Fatharly, Yallop and Fairhurst had satisfactory performances of 29/35 at 200, but could not match this at 500 yards.

If everyone had matched their best score of the week in the Ashburton a respectable total score of 474/560 would have been possible. Unhappily the tricky "fishtail wind" got up early on Ashburton day, the team of Eight lost its nerve and concentration to a man and ended with a miserable score of 416/560. This placed us in the bottom 10 of the 80 competing schools. The lack of wind-coaching experience during the week made a large contribution to this slump, each man underscoring by three or four points at each distance. The Cadet Pair scored 98/140, also one of our lowest recorded totals.

The highlight of Ashburton day was Laurence's 59/70 in the Cadet Pair, followed by a Stowe record-breaking score of 46/50 in the Spenser-Mellish individual self-coached competition at 500 yards, for which performance he won a bronze medallion and was awarded his shooting colours.

The Autumn Term got off to its usually busy start on the first Sunday with the best Casualty Cup Competition we have seen for some years. There were some very quick finishes even in the preliminary rounds. At one stage it looked as if it could have been an all Cobham final, and indeed the Cobham 'B' team were the eventual winners in a close-run final.

To try and increase interest in shooting we have re-established Junior Society Shooting on Thursday afternoons, with the kind help of Mr. E. Brannan and have entered two junior teams in postal leagues for this term. There was an open trial shoot on the second Sunday of term. This proved extremely popular, with some promising natural shots being spotted! This keen group of youngsters had sadly to be limited to 12 in number.

We have also entered three senior teams in Postal Leagues this term, and at the time of writing they are lying 2nd, 1st and 3rd in their respective divisions. The senior 'B' team must stand a very good chance of bringing us some medals this term! The Captain for this season is P. Garton and club secretary H. Burford-Taylor.

The following cadets shot in the annual Cadet Skill at Arms Meeting held at Ash Ranges on 3rd, 4th, 5th October, 1986. The practices were ETR, Gallery, LMG, and scores are indicated.

Senior "A"	ETR	GAL	LMG	TOT	Junior "B"	ETR	GAL	LMG	TOT
CSM Corrigan	52	71	37	160	Cadet T. Eve	48	17	26	91
Sgt. J. Clegg	52	95	44	191	Cadet Clark	20	12	33	65
Cpl. B-Taylor	72	108	23	203	Cadet Taylor	36	33	68	137
Cpl. Fatharly	40	102	44	186	Cadet Corner	60	85	42	187

The Saturday shoot was fired under perfect conditions, for ETR and Gallery matches. The fog descended to delay the Sunday shoot by three hours and we were unable to enter the Falling Plate competition. On the basis of his excellent performance in the competition Shooting Colours were awarded to Cpl. H. Burford-Taylor.

Altogether it has been a busy and encouraging start to our new shooting season.

S.O.C.

MOUNTAINEERING

Some younger talent is emerging, particularly from Grenville, but we have had fewer meets than we would have liked. A.G.E. has started climbing again and has been a welcome extra leader in Derbyshire.

We have visited Birchen Edge twice. On the first occasion in March, revolting weather conditions forced us off the rock after only four climbs, but we did abseil off the Monument. Another June day was more pleasant with half a dozen or more routes ascended, including Porthole Direct ('Hard Severe'), the top move of which was an awkward thrutch unless approached correctly.

Caving has been confined to Mendip. We visited Goatchurch Cavern and Sidcot Swallet in the summer. Goatchurch is dry, and polished by the passage of many bodies. We wandered in the Maze and did the Ratrun by mistake instead of the Rabbitrun, the names giving some idea of the relative sizes of the passages. Sidcot was new territory, but in spite of a couple of squeezes, including the Tiepress, we found it quite easy.

In October we were able to visit G.B. Cavern with Edward Coombs (Chandos 1984) who is on the committee of the University of Bristol Speleological Society. This cave has the largest chamber under Mendip and some of the best formations, including the extraordinary spiral helictites. The day was enlivened by the presence of Nugent and by the antics of the oldest members as they used 'combined' and 'monkey' tactics to get up the pitch into the Ladder Dig Series. The helictite grotto was well worth the effort, even if the wet squeeze into the continuation, Bat Passage, was sufficiently unpleasant to signal turnback time.

G.M.H.

SWIMMING

Considering how short the swimming term is, and with public examinations taking place, our swimming results were very encouraging.

The highlight of the season was our swimming gala at Harrow School in the first few weeks of term. It was contested by six schools and we were narrowly beaten into second place by Harrow.

The U.16 team were the most successful of the squad, only losing one match through the season. The seniors were second to none, when we fielded our best squad (examinations permitting).

Our U.14 team battled bravely but always seemed to be overpowered by larger opponents, although their enthusiasm could not be faulted.

As I am leaving Stowe, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my swimmers for the enjoyment they have given me, and to wish them the best of luck in the next few years.

G. Brookhouse

House Results:

U.14:

1st	Bruce	36 pts.
2nd	Chandos	29 pts.
3rd	Cobham	25 pts.

U.16:

1st	Walpole	41½ pts.
2nd	Cobham	37 pts.
3rd	Chandos	34 pts.

U.19:

1st	Walpole	52 pts.
2nd	Lyttelton	45 pts.
3rd	Cobham	35 pts.

Overall:

1st	Walpole	117 pts.
2nd	Cobham	97 pts.
3rd	Bruce	70 pts.

GIRLS' TENNIS AND ROUNDERS

Summer 1986

With the increase in the Lower Sixth numbers, we have been able to field two tennis VI's and a Rounders Team this season. We have also been fortunate this year to have a group of Lower Sixth girls who have been both enthusiastic about their games and of good ability

In the First Tennis VI, our tenacious Captain, Sally Campbell, and her partner, Victoria Harding, have together been very consistent and successful as the first pair, losing very few sets. They have been supported by Stephanie Thomas, Joanna Tustian, Helen Corner, Sarah Guthrie and Rachel Renwick, and the team has won five of its eight matches. The composition of the Second Tennis VI, which has won three of its five matches, has varied greatly because of the overall sound standard of many of our first year girls.

The girls entered the School's House Tennis tournament in the Colts section for the first time this season. Stanhope beat Nugent, Cobham and Temple, before being narrowly defeated by Lyttelton. This was a new venture and very much enjoyed by all those who took part.

The Marshall Tennis Trophy was won by Sally Campbell after an exciting final match against Joanna Tustian.

The squad of a dozen Rounders players had a quite remarkable season and were undefeated. Although the majority of the opponents were younger than our players, they nevertheless played keenly as a team and built up some enormous scores — often with an innings to spare. Mrs. Taylor's newly created "Slogger of the Year" award went to Sally Campbell, with Victoria Harding hard on her heels.

Our results this season auger well for next year and we hope that these Lower Sixth girls will be able to spearhead next summer's tennis.

J.A.N.

Tennis: Full Colours: Sally Campbell, Victoria Harding
Half Colours: Helen Corner, Sarah Guthrie, Stephanie Tomas, Joanna Tustian

Rounders: Full Colours: Sally Campbell, Victoria Harding, Stephanie Thomas
Half Colours: Caroline Batten, Helen Corner, Fiona Pollard, Rachel Renwick, Joanna Tustian

KARATE

Over the last year the Karate Club has seen many new members and we hope to see the present number maintained for some while.

Earlier this year the Club fought well at Radley and achieved an overall win, with Barry Topham, Matt Page and Mark Farah all winning their bouts.

At the end of last term it was sad to see Sensei Pallet leaving us, although this term's tuition has been willingly taken over by Sensei Williams. This take-over means the Club has adopted a new style. The older members are slowly adapting to the slightly different techniques, while the newer students are learning with great enthusiasm. The word "student" is used here rather than "boy" because this term we have two keen female students and hope to see some more following their example.

Later this term we will be forming another team to fight in Berkshire on 23rd November. We go with high expectations.

Overall it has been a successful year and it is good to see the Club expanding.

C. C. P. Woodford
B. E. Topham

CROQUET

"Proper croquet — a sophisticated challenge to mental skill — is not to be confused with the vicious amateur scrum in the shrubbery".

The quality of play at Stowe has certainly improved a hundred fold over the last few years and when we all returned for the Summer Term in April, we expected great things of the new croquet lawn in the north east corner of the North Front. Fate appeared to have been against us; the grass had totally failed to grow and the surface was still uneven. Two courts were therefore marked out between the cricket nets, and it was here that the team got down to some studied practice.

Having competed successfully in the Schools' Tournament last year, where Stowe reached the final, we decided to enter the competition again this year. The team consisted of Robert Marsh and Nicholas Mellor, who made up the doubles pair, and James Gartside and myself, who played singles. We were successful against Bedford Modern and managed to roquet into the Regional final, where we fought hard and long against Colchester Grammar, but were not victorious. After this initial disappointment, our spirits were vigorously fortified when Kimbolton's extensive armoury of boaters, cravats and blazers gave way under Stowe's 'epicurean' tactics when we played in a friendly match in the last week of the term.

Croquet is played at Stowe as a Monday Extra and we now hold an inter-house competition each year. Chandos was the overall winner, beating Grenville in the final. Croquet lawns have been springing up in the most unusual places throughout the School and a number of houses now have their own sets. I can only hope that the speedy growth of the game is matched by some enthusiasm on the part of the croquet lawn grass.

Many thanks to M.E. and B.H.O. for all their help and enthusiasm.

R. J. H. Woolley



Croquet Team: Left to Right: R. Marsh, R. J. H. Woolley, N. Mellor, J. H. Gartside, B.H.O.

SAILING

Despite some challenging weather conditions and adverse results, the enthusiasm of the Sailing Team remained consistently high during the Summer Term. The withdrawal of two potential team helmsmen and clashes with public examinations undoubtedly weakened what would otherwise have been a very strong side, but the rest coped well and it was good to see some younger talent gaining team experience, not least in the Junior match against St. Piran's.

Ian Longshaw rounded off his many years with the Club by winning the Helmsman's Tankard, albeit narrowly, from Simon Billington, who reversed the order in leading Chandos to victory in the final of the House Matches against Temple. The Pennant, competed for this year by Juniors, was won by Michael Worthington; Timothy Mash *proxime accessit*.

It was particularly appropriate that Andrew Kennon was able to reassemble a strong Old Stoic team of some fourteen years' vintage for the annual match against the School in Charles Rainer's last full year of teaching. At the end of the term the present members of the Club also presented Charles with a small token of their gratitude since, although he ceased active involvement some four years ago, the establishment and subsequent success of the Club were largely the result of his dedicated leadership over the previous eighteen years.

Results:

v. Merchants Taylors'	Home	Lost	0—2
v. Rugby	Away	No res	
v. Radley	Away	Lost	0—2
v. Bloxham	Away	Won	2—0
v. Harrow	Away	Lost	0—2
v. B.C.S.C.	Home	Lost	1—2
v. St. Piran's	Home	Won	2—0
v. Old Stoics	Home	Lost	1—2

Helmsman's Tankard: I. Longshaw.

Pennant (Juniors): M. J. Worthington.

House Matches: Chandos.

Team from: I. Longshaw (Commodore), S. C. M. Billington (Secretary), J. G. Rudd, K. M. Ramsden, A. R. Bennett, M. J. Worthington, T. S. Mash, A. Wolcough, J. P. Humbert, S. G. Gundisch, R. C. H. Wood, T. A. Wilkinson, W. Fraser-Allen (v. St. Piran's), C. E. Spencer, mi. (v. St. Piran's).

M.J.B.

STOWE BEAGLES

As in previous years, we started our season in Northumberland by participating in the Northumberland Beagling Festival. We had four days hunting, at Edges Green, The Red Lion (Newborough), Greengate Wells and Hopbank Farm. Our day at Greengate Wells was particularly memorable; the hounds hunted constantly for six hours.

Unfortunately we were not able to start hunting on our return from the holidays due to late harvesting. We eventually started in late September. Since then we have been hampered by the dry weather, which has produced very little scent.

The hounds were again very successful at the three national hound shows which we attended: Builth Wells, Harrogate and Peterborough. We won the champion bitch prize at each show, surprisingly with three different bitches (Satchel, Gravity and Joyful) and achieved many other placings.

As usual there has been a large amount of support and interest out on the hunting field, as well as down at the kennels.

The Whippers-in this season are: N. C. P. Marsh (1st Whip), A. J. G. David, M. E. Burditt, R. R. Barrow and A. P. A. Waugh.

D. H. J. White

BADMINTON

With Mr. Dawson's secondment to the rugger field in September, a term's interregnum began in which the squad introduced me with great patience to the finer points of the game prior to Mr. Taylor's arrival as master in charge of Badminton from January.

The example and encouragement of Maghazeh and Richards as Captain and vice-captain respectively have, as a result, been particularly important in the early weeks, and they have been supported by the confident game of Bendell and Dunton, mi. who complement one another splendidly as second pair. After three matches, Samuel and Dunton, ma. currently look favourites for third pair. Our first match against Oakham produced an encouraging win of 6—3, and after a defeat at Uppingham, 7—1, the seniors went on to beat Mill Hill decisively, 8—1.

Results in the Colts have been very similar. Hooper and Melvani, ma. have played with calm determination as first pair, whilst Khemaney, King, Melvani, mi. and Asnani, in varying combination, have provided second and third pairs. These last two, both new boys this term, look very promising for the future as they gain experience. The Colts too went down to Uppingham, 7—2, but beat Oakham 5—4 and Mill Hill 7—2.

Matches against Cheltenham, Abingdon, Rugby and a return fixture at Oakham are still to be played this term, and we hope to field a mixed senior team before Christmas.

R.E.M.

CANOEING

We started the year by adding the following to our list of equipment: five fibre-glass snipes (a good all-purpose slalom canoe), a bath trainer for polo, three wetsuits, three neoprene spray decks, buoyancy aids, paddles and helmets. We also now have an "inter-house canoe polo shield" which will be competed for yearly.

The Club has been quietly ticking over throughout the year. A few of us were able to join Banbury Canoe Club in their slalom training sessions on Wednesday evenings in the swimming pool. This included a visit to Thornton weir in early summer. The weir was in spate and rather a frightening proposition! The Venture Wing have continued to make good use of the facilities in the swimming pool and on the lake.

On 20th September (Old Stoic Day) we held a premiere Old Stoic canoe polo match. Stowe lost 3—0, but if one takes into consideration the fact that we were up against the people who taught me to canoe four years ago, the result was not too discouraging. We then decided to mix up teams and spent the rest of the afternoon learning from them.

This is not a good year for the Club, in that we are losing our life-blood, namely Mr. Hoyle, who has done a great deal for the Club over the four years that he has been at Stowe, and taken us on a number of very enjoyable trips, surfing and river trips alike. We thank him enormously and we wish him luck in his new position at Papplewick.

R. J. H. Woolley

ATHLETICS

Although the weather forced us to cancel our first match, the extra time allowed us to prepare thoroughly for the Dr. Challoner's Relay meeting. The Senior 4 x 100 team of Collier-Wright, Thornber, Matthews and Clarke, ma. produced an excellent time of 43.9 secs., smashing the meeting record and winning convincingly, while the Intermediate team came second in their age group. The Senior (Under-20) boys' team was inside the All-England entry standard and consequently the entire team was selected to represent Buckinghamshire in the English Schools Championships in Portsmouth, where they finished third, running another record of 43.6 secs.

Once the inter-school matches started, it was obvious how much talent the School possessed in addition to the sprinters, especially in the Senior age group. Convincing victories were scored against Oundle, The Leys, St. Edward's and Oakham, amongst others, and the only defeats were at the hands of Rugby and Marlborough, but these matches would have been much closer but for injuries. The Intermediate (Under-17) team was also very successful and



Dominic White

many of the athletes will be eligible for the same age group next year. The Junior (Under-15) team, however, was not too successful, mainly due to lack of boys participating in athletics at this age. Powles, Ridley, Nathan-Marsh and Miller were amongst the stars in this age-group, often competing in six or seven events each to fill the vacancies in the team.

Numerous School records were broken during the course of the season, the most impressive being Steve Clarke's 10.8 secs. run in the 100m to break the 22 year old ground record. His younger brother, Peter, broke the Under-16 record and equalled the 200m record, with times of 11.3 secs. and 23.3 secs. respectively. William Herrington broke the Senior high jump record with a leap of 1.86m (6ft. 1in.) and Mark Roper broke the Intermediate record with 1.76m (5ft. 9ins.). Simon Montford continued his progress in the 1500m, setting a new Under-16 record with a time of 4 mins. 25 secs. Justin Sander smashed the School record in the Junior boys' javelin event and also gained selection for Buckinghamshire. His best throw of 43.44m was, however, only good enough for 15th place in the All-England Championships. In all, 13 new School records were set in the course of the season.

Under 20 (Senior):	100m	S. Clarke	10.8s
	400m Hurdles	J. Thornber	56.6s
	High Jump	W. Herrington	
Under 20 (Senior):	100m	S. Clarke	10.8s
	400m Hurdles	J. Thornber	56.6s
	High Jump	W. Herrington	1.86m
	4 x 100m Relay	S. Clarke, ma., J. Thornber, D. Matthews, J. Collier-Wright	43.9s
Under 17 (Inter.):	100m	P. Clarke	11.3s
	= 200m	P. Clarke	23.3s
	1500m	S. Montford	4m 25.0s
	High Jump	M. Roper	1.76m
	100m Hurdles	N. Lawrence	15.9s
	Triple Jump	A. Mackintosh	11.90m
	4 x 100m Relay	P. Clarke, mi., B. Hesketh, E. Kerr-Muir, T. Richards	47.4s
Under 15 (Junior):	Javelin	J. Sander	43.44m
	4 x 100m Relay	O. Nathan-Marsh, G. Miller, B. Ridley, L. Powles	52.0s

The School also enhanced its reputation with some excellent performances in the County competitions. We gained 5 first places, 6 second places, and 2 third places in the Bucks. A.A.A. County Championships held at Windsor. In the Bucks. School Competition at High Wycombe, the success rate was even greater with 4 first, 10 seconds, 1 third and 4 fourth places.

The inter-House matches were, as ever, very keenly contested but no one could match the ability of the Cobham team, who once again had a clean sweep of the trophies, winning the School Sports, House Relays, and Standards competitions, under the guidance of Jules Thornber.

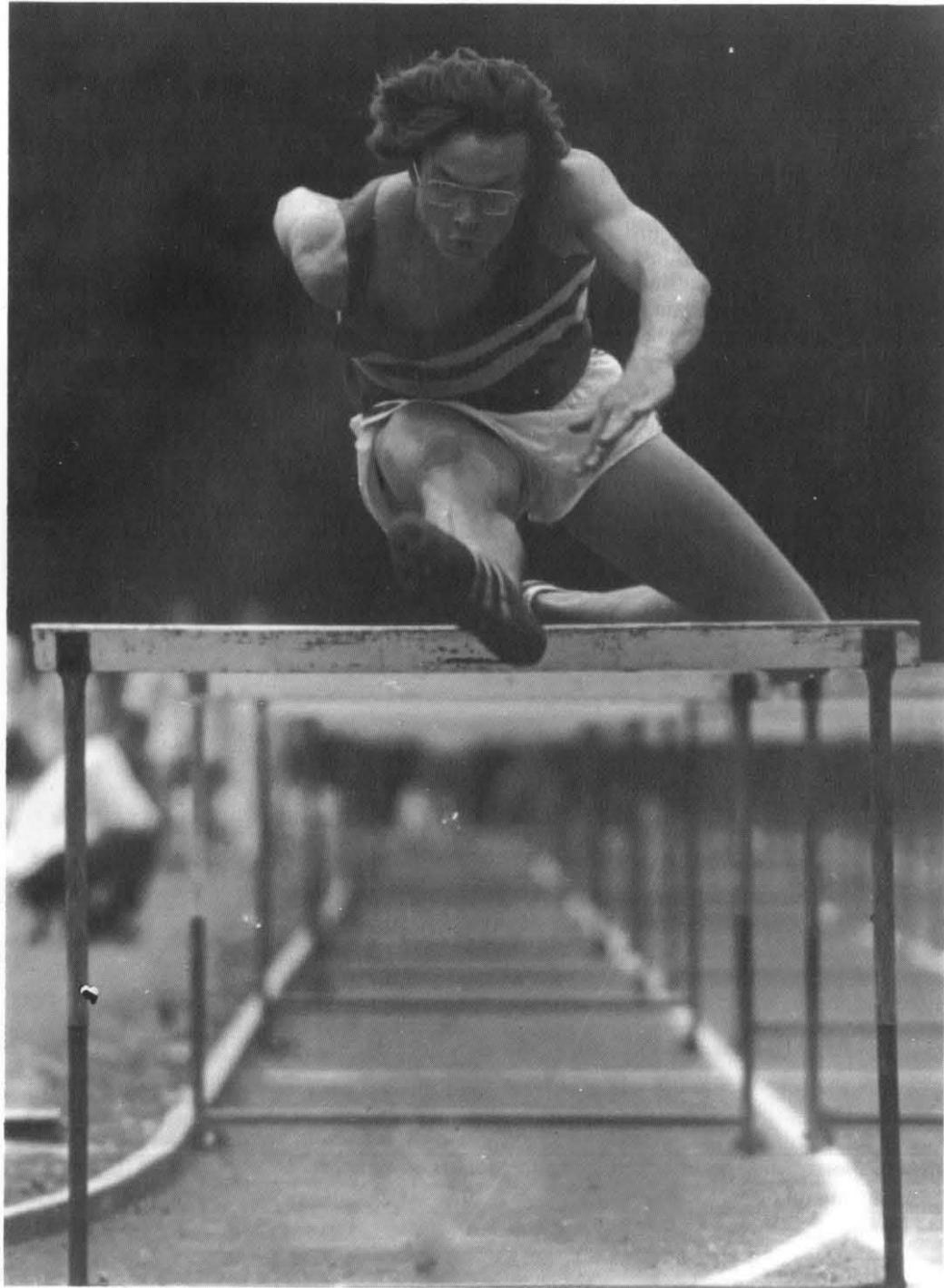
Next year promises to be another successful year, although the Seniors have lost some very talented sportsmen. The Intermediate team should, however, be very strong and the Juniors, as yet, are an unknown quantity.

1986 Colours: Full: J. Thornber, S. Clarke, D. Matthews, G. Bates, W. Herrington, G. Curtis.

Colts: B. Hesketh, C. Allerton, N. Mellor, J. Allerton, J. Collier-Wright.

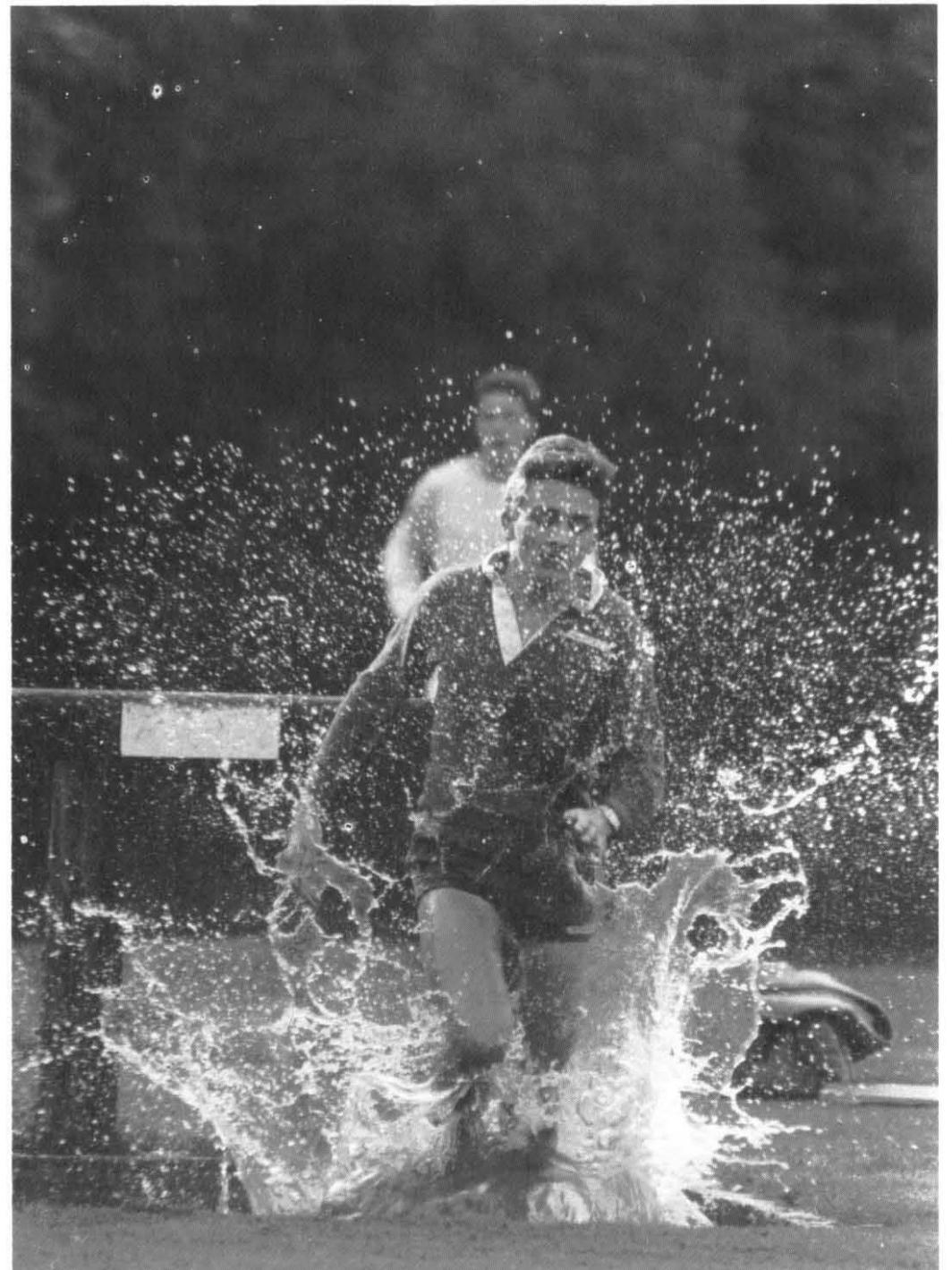
1986/87 Season: Captain—D. Matthews. Vice-Captain—S. Clarke.

M.D.



Sports Day: J. D. Thornber

Photograph: I. O. Bendell



Sports Day: P. R. Shackleton in the water jump

Photograph: I. O. Bendell

C.C.F.

As Brigadier Dunphie's car pulled up just by **George** on the North Front on a sunny 29th May, the C.C.F. started another Biennial Inspection Day. The guard of honour smartly presented arms whilst the Brigadier's Royal Green Jacket bugler played the general salute. Formalities of the day now over, our inspecting officer became involved in a wide range of activities taking place in the Stowe grounds. He took to the water with the Navy section, risked wet feet taking command of Lt.-Cmdr. Manisty's reed boat, raced into the attack against weakening enemy resistance with the Advanced Infantry section, spoke to cadets of B Company, watched the Skill-at-Arms section fire on the range and took to the controls of the REME hovercraft. The day went off very well and the Brigadier commented on the atmosphere of liveliness, enthusiasm and genuine enjoyment shown by the cadets.

The guard of honour, now well practised in ceremonial procedure, went on parade in Buckingham, at the invitation of the Town Mayor, to take part in Mayor's Sunday, after an absence of some years. Such an impression was made by the cadets that this has now become a permanent fixture in the C.C.F.'s programme and ceremonial duties have now been extended to include attendance at the Remembrance Day service.

Run from the Science block, over the assault course, sprint to the eleven acre lake, swim for fifty yards, dash to the Palladian Bridge, pick up a log, tackle an obstacle course, leave the log, run to the range, score as highly as you can with a .22 rifle, and all this inside thirty minutes. This is the task facing teams entering the Coldstream Cup. All the teams this year faced up to the challenge very well. Lyttelton once again were victorious but they had some strong competition. The atmosphere during the 'Cup' this year was exciting and enthusiastic, a credit to the competing teams.

Summer camp took place on the edge of Sherwood Forest at Proteus Camp. On arriving, the cadets buzzed with energy and enthusiasm; they left tired and thoroughly happy with the time they had. The programme included orienteering, canoeing, rock climbing, rafting, a march and shoot competition and infantry training. The contingent came second in the camp's Falling Plate Shooting competition. Good potential as future leaders was demonstrated by a number of the cadets and the two senior N.C.O.'s, J. Corrigan and E. Hamilton-Russell, played a major part in making this camp a success.





C.S.M. Corrigan spent part of the summer holidays with the Royal Marines on Arduous Training and Amphibious Warfare Courses, bringing the number of cadets attending courses in the last twelve months to 26.

On Field Day the recruits had their first full day of training and experienced orienteering, a fieldcraft exercise, drill and weapons training, together with a go on the assault course. The Pioneers and R.E.M.E. went shooting whilst the Advanced Infantry and Signals section participated in section and platoon exercises. The Skill-at-Arms section represented the School in the Cadet Skill-at-Arms meeting on Ash Ranges. The Royal Navy section split into two groups: half went to join *H.M.S. Arethusa* to become seamen for a day, whilst the others went on a bike and canal safari.

For 1987 there are already a number of exciting events to look forward to. The contingent has been invited to Germany in the summer as guests of 12 Air Defence Regiment, Royal Artillery. Adventurous training will take place in the Lake District at Easter and the Navy section has been invited to go to sea with Southampton University Royal Naval Unit's fast patrol boat.

Graham Brookhouse who has led the Pioneer section for the last year is, sadly, leaving us to take up full time Pentathlon training. The contingent wishes him every success in the future. At the same time two new members of staff have joined the team, Mr. Houliston and Mr. Johnson.

The C.C.F. over the last few months has received a number of accolades. The Biennial Inspection report was good and the Contingent has been given the distinction of wearing the Royal Green Jacket green beret, a rare honour.

M.J.S.

R.N. SECTION

It was an active Summer Term for the section. On the Eleven Acre Lake good use was made of the existing A.S.C., five Toppers, sailboards and Lt. Cmdr. Manisty's powered rescue craft, while the new sailboard and inflatable dinghy have provided further scope for training on, or sometimes in, the water. Field Day saw one group at the Dodnor Creek Centre on the Isle of Wight learning the finer arts of seamanship in strong wind conditions, while another group, led by Lt. Hepworth, attended the Fleet Air Arm R.N. C.C.F. day at Portland, where some managed to get airborne despite the low cloud cover. Towards the end of term Lt. Cmdr. Manisty took a group of ten cadets aboard *H.M.S. Intrepid*, thanks to Captain A. G. M. A. Provest (O.S.), where they gained valuable experience for five days of life at sea. Six other cadets attended R.N. C.C.F. courses from Sailing at *H.M.S. Raleigh* to Air Acquaintance at Yeovilton and Electrical at *H.M.S. Collingwood*. All thoroughly enjoyed their time with the R.N.

On Field Day this October part of the Section visited our link ship, *H.M.S. Arethusa*, where they were put to useful work in preparation for her sailing to the Mediterranean later that week. We are grateful for their kind hospitality once more. Lt. Cmdr. Manisty again arranged an excellent venture for the others which involved cycling, camping and canoeing, as well as navigating his barge through numerous locks on the Grand Union Canal.

This term the Section is a little larger than last year. P.O. Mark Northey has taken over from C.P.O. Ian Longshaw as the senior cadet. I am very grateful to Ian for his leadership over the last few years and also to David Hepworth who gave invaluable help during the two terms that he was with us.

M.J.B.

OLD STOIC NEWS

The Lord Amptill (Temple 1938) was awarded the C.B.E. in the Queen's Birthday Honours for services to Parliamentary Committees.

B. C. Briant (Bruce 1935) has been re-appointed as a Church Commissioner in 1986.

Caroline M. Bridgewood (Stanhope 1978) published her first novel "This Wicked Generation" (Pan Books) May 1986. (Second novel due Spring 1987).

N. F. Clive-Smith (Walpole 1946) was awarded a M.B.E. in the Queen's Birthday Honours 1986.

C. I. Cox (Grenville 1982) gained a First Class result at Clare College, Cambridge in Natural Sciences Pt. 2 1986.

M. G. Falcon (Chatham 1946) has been elected Chairman of Norwich Winterthur Reinsurance 1986.

J. S. W. Gibson (Walpole 1952) has been awarded a Silver Jubilee Medal by the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies 1986.

C. Graham (Temple 1950) has been awarded a Honorary Degree as Doctor of Arts from Webster University for service to the Art in the U.S.A. and Europe 1986.

R. A. Hamilton (Chatham 1976) has been appointed Export Sales Executive for Central and South America at White Horse Distillers. 1986.

C. F. N. Hope (Cobham 1951) admitted to the Class of Fellow: Institution of Mechanical Engineers. 1986.

Lieutenant Commander G. D. Inge-Innes-Lillingstone (Chandos 1941) was awarded the C.B.E. in the Queen's Birthday Honours for services as Crown Estates Commissioner. 1986.

S. K. Knowles (Temple 1952) elected Officer of the Chartered Surveyors' Company, 16th October, 1986.

M. E. Llowarch (Walpole 1953) has been appointed Chief Executive of the British Steel Corporation 1986.

W. Llowarch (Ex. Staff) was awarded the Bragg Medal of the Institute of Physics in May 1986.

J. C. B. Lucas (Grenville 1970) has been appointed as Director of Morgan Grenfell Finance. 1986.

N. W. Lyell, Q.C., M.P. (Grafton 1957) has been elected a Bencher of the Inner Temple. 1986.

Lord McAlpine of West Green (Temple 1959) is Chairman of the Aboriginal Enterprise Company. 1985.

R. K. Middlemas (Chatham 1953) has been elected to a Professorship in History at Sussex University. 1986.

N. O. G. Murray (Bruce 1957) was appointed a Judge of the High Court of Botswana in September 1984.

C. F. Roxburgh (Temple 1977) graduated from Harvard Business School with High Distinction and was designated a Baker Scholar. June 1986.

C. O. N. Stanley (Chandos 1973) is Managing Director of Corney and Barrow. 1986.

S. D. C. Wallace (Bruce 1957) was awarded a Commendation by the Worshipful Company of Tanners, for the invention of "Metsolock 3 System", January 1986.

A. C. L. Whistler, C.B.E. (Grenville 1930) has designed and engraved a glass prism, as a memorial for his brother Rex Whistler in Salisbury Cathedral. 1986.

M. C. A. Wyvill (Temple 1964) is High Sheriff of North Yorkshire. 1986.

COMMISSIONS

The following have been commissioned into the Regiments stated:

A. E. G. Atkinson (Grenville 1985). Short Service Limited Commission Queen's Own Hussars. 1986.

R. E. Mackenzie Hill (Chatham 1984). Irish Guards. August 1986.

A. J. P. Woodward (Grafton 1984). Royal Horse Guards. August 1986.

'THE CREATION OF THE EARTH'

To know that the heavens were created
To descend into the five elemental manifestations.
One piece

A small mirror of all others.

It is all the same
Each piece of existence
Is its own small universe.

Earth
Water
Fire
Air

And the potential of the great Emptiness
is there, in everything.

To know the order of the universe
Is to understand the ways of nature,
And the proclivities of man.

K. Salha (IVb)

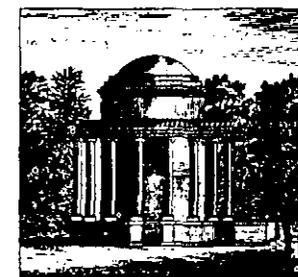
BIRTHS

- R. W. Bailey-King** (Chandos 1963) a daughter on 16th July 1986.
W. S. Brann (Temple 1972) a daughter on 26th December 1982 and a son on 27th June 1986.
D. A. Bowman (Bruce 1976) a daughter on 10th December 1985.
The Countess of Courtown (née Dunnett) (Stanhope 1978) a daughter on 13th September 1986.
The Hon. D. J. N. Curzon (Cobham 1976) a son on 16th August 1986.
C. C. Davis (Grenville 1969) a daughter on 11th May 1984 and a son on 1st July 1986.
A. G. Eve (Grenville 1968) (present Staff) a daughter on 20th March 1986.
C. M. Goldingham (Cobham 1970) a son on 19th October 1982 and a second son on 15th July 1986.
J. M. Hayward (Grafton 1976) a son on 16th June 1986.
D. R. H. Hinds (Temple 1977) a son on 17th February 1986.
P. M. Hugill (Cobham 1976) a daughter on 24th April 1986.
A. C. Keal (Bruce 1969) a son on 15th July 1982 and a second son on 26th March 1986.
A. J. Laird Craig (Bruce 1972) a daughter on 20th August 1986.
D. M. Lancaster (Chatham 1974) a son on 24th November 1983 and a daughter on 21st May 1985.
S. J. Marshall (Chandos 1974) a daughter on 2nd November 1985.
T. O. Mytton-Mills (Chatham 1974) a daughter on 19th December 1984.
J. P. Raw (Grafton 1966) a daughter on 10th May 1985.
The Hon. Anthony Russell (Temple 1970) a son in 1986.



MARRIAGES

- C. G. Bazeley** (Grenville 1967) to Elizabeth St. Leger Moore in 1981.
D. A. Bowman (Bruce 1976) to Carole Jane Grimlard on 2nd March 1984.
H. W. Campbell (Bruce 1973) to Jenifer Margaret Shenton on 30th May 1986.
R. G. G. Carr (Chatham 1971) to Nicola Bremner on 21st June 1986.
Caroline S. Cowper (Stanhope 1978) to Charles Marr on 1st November 1986.
J. W. H. Fitzherbert (Bruce 1976) to Philippa Frances de Valon on 30th November 1985.
M. C. G. Fry (Grenville 1951) to Susan Vlasto on 27th July 1985.
R. P. H. Harris (Chandos 1977) to Sarah Ann Richley on 24th May 1986.
B. D. Henry (Chatham 1937) to Eileen Dorothy Goddard on 1st May 1986.
Belinda L. Hill (Stanhope 1979) to Mark J. B. Roberts on 13th April 1985.
D. R. H. Hinds (Temple 1977) to Susan Mann on 23rd July 1983.
D. M. Lancaster (Chatham 1974) to Frances Anne Murison on 16th April 1983.
M. W. Lancaster (Cobham 1973) to Ruth Marion Felce on 27th October 1984.
H. C. M. Leyland (Bruce 1972) to Sandra Johnston on 28th June 1986.
T. O. Mytton-Mills (Chatham 1974) to Marcia Mary Seaman on 4th June 1983.
A. P. M. Prince (Chandos 1976) to Sally Tate on 20th September 1986.
A. H. Ritchie (Lyttelton 1979) to Nicola Harris on 13th September 1986.
J. D. Russell-Davis (Chandos 1930) to Gaynor Brooke-Webb on 31st May 1986.
R. H. Steavenson (Grafton 1973) to Valerie Wormald on 25th September 1985.
A. T. Thornton-Berry (Chandos 1979) to Bridget Jill Colin on 8th January 1986.
T. C. P. Whidborne (Temple 1944) to Wendy Pallett on 31st January 1986.
N. C. Woodbridge (Grafton 1968) to Mary Rose Brennan on 25th August 1986.



The Temple of Ancient Virtues.

DEATHS

- W. H. Bradshaw** (Staff 1947-1969) on 14th July 1986.
R. B. Booth (Walpole 1938) on 18th November 1985.
C. F. Bouchier (Chatham 1961) on 22nd May 1986.
A. A. C. Chater (Chatham 1975) in July 1986.
Violet M. Craig (Associated with Stowe since the early 1960's) on 17th May 1986.
R. F. C. Davis (Temple 1941) on 16th August 1986.
Mrs. Marjorie Gibson, widow of **A. B. E. Gibson** (Staff 1936-1962) on 2nd September 1986.
M. F. Horne (Grenville 1932) in 1981.
P. F. Hornsby (Grenville 1931) on 8th May 1986.
A. P. Kaye (Grenville 1943) on 27th August 1986.
D. McL. Lea (Cobham 1931) on 16th March 1986.
Sir Francis Lowe (Grenville 1950) on 28th May 1986.
G. R. A. Miskin (Walpole 1948) on 21st December 1985.
A. A. Negus (Staff 1940-1957) on 6th June 1986.
K. McC. Reynolds (Grenville 1949) in July 1986.
J. C. Saunders (Staff 1929—1966) on 10th September 1986.
W. L. Snowdon (Staff 1929-1945) on 12th August 1986.
P. L. Stileman (Bruce 1936) on 14th May 1986.
A. S. P. Watney (Chatham 1954) on 13th September 1986.
Mrs. Marjorie Webb, widow of **E. Webb** (Education Committee) on 26th September 1986.



'ARCHAIC REFLECTIONS'

A murder of crows abandoned the shade.

The serene silence left with them,
And returned, resounding off the ruins.
I walked on, into the temple

The mortuary temple of Sethos.

A vast super-structure of stone,
Once dedicated to a deceased king,
Now standing empty and alone

In the vast desolation. Obelisks

Flanked the entrance; now no longer
The once proud guardians of long ago—
But large, meaningless monoliths.

I entered a small niche, a dark recess

In the desolate heat. I stood
Still, my reasoning clouded by the sun,
Sweating dew drops. Outside, the crows

Once again gathered at the wind, and swam

In the empty blue sky. They perched
On a colossal statue of Sethos,
A mockery of the greatness

Of the long dead Pharaoh. Gradually

The heat became less oppressive.
The sun slipped down, burning the shifting sands,
And the dusty shadows lengthened.

Now the crows echoed. Nocturnal creatures

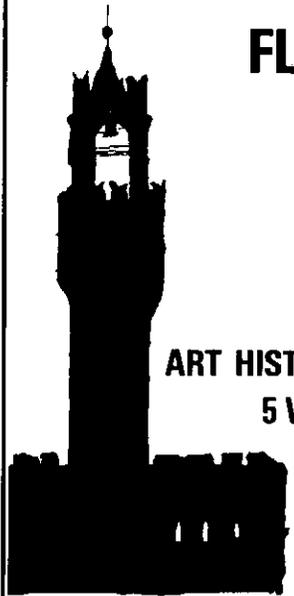
Awoke, and the echoes grew to
A crescendo. My thoughts came flooding back,
It was mayhem in the ruins.

I walked out, under the constellations,

And back into the barren waste.

B. Walsworth-Bell (Shell A)

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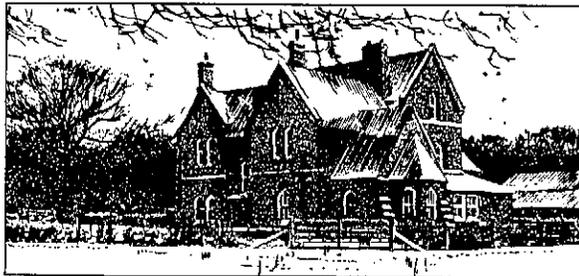
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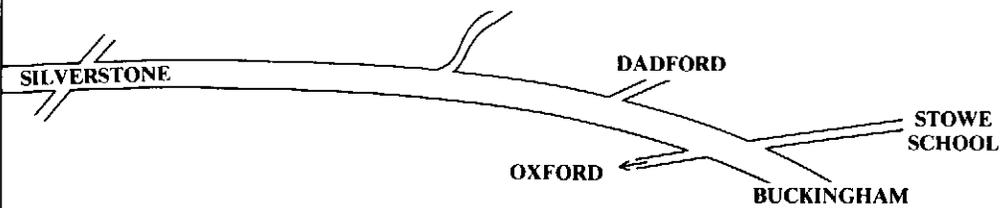
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