

the ***Stoic***

Stowe School 2006/2007



Editorial

Preparation for this publication began when the previous edition was still being completed and this move was prompted by my own personal wish to have an annual magazine distributed at the end of the academic year. This caused some frantic moments at an extremely busy time and I would like to thank all of the staff (and some students) who made the effort to contribute pieces despite their huge commitments to the school.

The fact that I was a member of staff for the entire year has allowed me to ensure that many more areas of the school are represented in this publication and I hope that readers recognise the depth and breadth of activities that Stowe is proudly able to offer.

The student involvement in this publication is still not at the optimum level but there were two people who deserve special praise. Both King-ho Leung and Rebecca Nicholl appeared to relish the opportunity to dictate layout, content and design and their contributions were remarkable, particularly considering their other responsibilities. I hope that an even larger student committee is formed next year.

Mr Gordon Oldham
Editor



After editing *CW magazine* and *The Voice*,
I've come to do *The Stoic* this year.
But am not planning to edit mags as a career
So you might ask why I made this choice.
Did I learn much? Not really.
Did I write much? Not really.
Did I do much? Not really.
Well, I can tell you secretly:
Doing this looks good on a CV.
Now I actually feel kind of guilty,
For not working so much recently,
When the Stoic needed work from me –
Well, I had to edit the Leavers' Book,
Which almost every second of my day it took.
Looking back when everything's almost done
Doing the Stoic has been rather fun.
Stoics, if you're interested, please join in,
Especially if you done nothing similar,
Yet would like to try so in the future.
It's a good way to begin.
Thank you Mr Oldham for all your work,
Now in a new style the Stoic has perked.
All fresh and lively more than ever,
Working with you has been my pleasure.

King-ho Leung
Student Representative



It seems a long time since
September when we had
the initial meetings to
discuss the new and
different Stoic, and it has been a long but
worthwhile process. To see its coming
together and eventual completion has been
a very rewarding process and to see new
pages, which you personally have designed,
being professionally completed has been
very exciting. Through my involvement in
The Stoic, I have really been made aware of
just what a wide range of activities and
events Stowe has to offer, to suit so many
skills and interests. It has been both a
challenge, and a privilege, to have worked
on The Stoic over the past year. As I leave
Stowe, after completing two years here in
the sixth form, I feel immensely proud of
what we have achieved with The Stoic this
year and I am sure that the skills I have
picked up along the way will be of great
benefit to me in my later life.

Rebecca Nicholl
Student Representative

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Headmaster's Speech



Dr Anthony Wallersteiner
Headmaster

Speech Day – Saturday 26 May 2007

In *The Lighter Side of School Life*, first published in October 1914, the opening chapter introduces the reader to the Headmaster of Fiction:

"He is invariably called "The Doctor", and he wears cap and gown even when birching malefactors - which he does intermittently throughout the day - or attending a cricket match. For all we know he wears them in bed. He speaks a language peculiar to himself - a language which at once enables you to recognise him as a Headmaster; just as you may recognise a stage sailor from the fact that he has to take constant precautions with his trousers. Thus the "Doctor" invariably addresses his cowering pupils as "Boys!" - and if no audience of boys is available at the moment, he addresses a single boy as if he were a whole audience. To influential parents he is servile and oleaginous, and he treats his staff with fatuous pomposity".

Well, such a being may have existed - may even still exist in some schools - but I have never met him.

And what of the Headmaster of fact? According to *The Lighter Side of School Life* the modern Head is no longer a pontifical, towering, be-gowned figure, on his way to a deanery or Oxbridge college. Instead, "a great scholar in charge of the multifarious interests of a public school is like setting a razor to cut grindstones". A certain low cunning and the possession of a Sixth Sense are more useful attributes when it comes to gaining complete mastery over "such trifling details as the organisation of the school routine, the supervision of the cook, the administration of justice, the diplomatic handling of the Governing Body and the suppression of parents...The Head must see nothing, but know everything that goes on in the School. He must know whether Mr A. in the Senior Science Set is expounding theories of inorganic chemistry which have been obsolete for ten years, or whether Mr B. in the Junior Remove is accustomed to remove a pool of ink from the seat of his chair before beginning his daily labours. He must not mingle with the boys, for that would be undignified; yet he must, and usually does, know every boy in the School by sight, and something about him. He must have his hand upon the pulse of the School in such wise as to be able to tell which master is incompetent, which prefect is untrustworthy, which boy is a bully and which House is rotten. He must be able to suck in school atmosphere through his pores". Little wonder, then, that the chapter ends with the observation that the headmaster "is always tired, for he can never rest. His so-called hours of ease are clogged up by correspondence, most of it quite superfluous, and the telephone has added a new terror to his life. But he is always cheerful, even when alone; and he loves his work. If he did not, it would kill him."

Not much has changed in one hundred years - except that I would add e-mail as the C21st scourge.

I don't think that Ian Hay, the author of *The Lighter Side of School Life*, would have been particularly surprised by the survival of the public schools in the twenty-first century. While the "daily, hourly business of the nation" is no longer "to govern hundreds of other nations" there is still an enormous demand for an academic education which makes pastoral and individual care its highest priority.

Earlier this month, The Independent Schools Council reported that 40,000 more children are being educated privately than when Mr Blair came to power in 1997 with his promise that "education, education, education" would be "Labour's number one priority". A favourite dinner party game used to be guessing how much everyone's property had increased in value - today it's thumbing through the Good Schools Guide and weighing up the competing merits of different private schools as they vie for pupils by offering a plethora of subjects from astronomy to mandarin and sports as diverse as beagling and wake-boarding.

A record number of parents have joined this exodus from state education. The ISC lists 509,000 children as attending private schools, 13% of the school population - up from 11.6% when Labour first took office in that false dawn exactly a decade ago. Almost a quarter of sixth formers now attend a private school while, in London, one in seven pupils is privately educated; in Edinburgh it is one in four. A Mori poll revealed that 50% of parents would like to be able to afford places in private schools. And all this at a time when none of the three main political parties in Britain

Headmaster's Speech

makes support for the sector a high priority and it would take a brave politician to challenge the anomaly of parents paying twice over for education through school fees and direct taxation.

In spite of government spending reaching £34.5 billion a year - an increase by two thirds in real terms since 1997 - value for money has been poor. Few resources have been directed towards fostering a love of sport, music, drama, art and adventures that will last a life time. Even while this government celebrated bringing the Olympics to London in 2012, sports fields continued to be sold, swimming pools closed and trips to broaden horizons were cancelled to satisfy a risk averse and increasingly litigious society. The great determinant of quality in



education is not money but independence and, as the Vice Chancellor of the University of Buckingham wrote so presciently a few months ago, the best things in life cost fees. State education never improves at the same pace as the private sector regardless of how much money is poured into it.

Everyone agrees that educational standards must improve if Britain is to compete with the emerging giants of India and China. But I doubt if the answer lies with the government spending untold millions on building another 200 City Academies when there are independent schools like Stowe with proven records of excellence and specialisation in art, drama, music, modern languages, science and sport. Surely it makes more sense to use the independent sector's existing expertise to create a mixed economy by using vouchers which can be offset against school fees? Educational vouchers are compellingly simple: parents pay taxes - well most of you do - the state gives you a voucher worth the equivalent of what it costs to educate a child in the maintained sector; parents choose; schools compete; standards rise; everybody gains and social mobility that was lost with the abolition of all but 164 grammar schools is restored. It is a tragedy that having abandoned the intellectually rigorous traditional grammar school schools as of interest only to "the select few", David Cameron is now out-Blairing Blair by embracing the City Academies. Sometimes Nanny does not know best. The Conservatives should be champions of a meritocratic system which encourages a variety of schools - including those which offer vocational and practical courses leading to apprenticeships - and let parents decide how their children should be educated.

Targets and league tables have reduced many schools to little more than factories for producing test and exam scores to the exclusion of virtually all other aspects of learning. With external assessments at 7, 11, 14, 16, 17 and 18, children in British state schools have the unenviable distinction of being the most heavily examined in the world - with the possible exception of North Koreans. We treat League Tables as the measurement of education in the same way that productivity of cars, barrels of oil and tins of baked beans are measured in industry. How depressing it is to read the recent headlines that examination boards are making thousands of pounds selling tips to schools on how to beat the A-level and GCSE systems with french teachers being told that teaching less able pupils grammar is not worth the effort because it is allocated few marks.

Yet, in spite of this government's obsession with tests and tables, each year 75,000 children finish 11 years of compulsory education having failed to achieve five GCSEs at any grade. It is estimated that 5 million people in Britain are functionally illiterate and three times that number not properly numerate. The ASBO not the A-Level is Labour's legacy as Britain languishes 23rd in an OECD league table of 30 entrants - behind Greece, Hungary and Ireland. The gangs of disaffected and menacing feral youths in hoodies who loiter around our shopping centres are the children of New Labour's educational policies.

This obsession with utilitarianism and exam success is stifling and it is hardly surprising that antidepressant prescriptions for 16 to 18 year olds have trebled in the past decade: one in eight teenagers is clinically depressed. The poet William Blake warned of reaping what we sow if the joyful spirit of youth is broken: "if buds are nipped, And blossoms blown away, And if the tender plants are stripped...how shall we gather what griefs destroy, Or bless the mellowing year, When the blasts of winter appear?" While it may be tempting to tell teenagers that if they find school boring, they should try working, society may come to regret an educational system that is almost exclusively geared to performance related tests which have squeezed the fun and creativity out of the classroom.

Our critics ascribe the success of schools like Stowe to the fact that society is getting richer and families are having fewer children. They point to an average of one teacher for every 9.3 pupils compared with the state system where the ratio has stagnated at 17:1. Some argue that the public schools are flourishing because we are ruthlessly selective or socially exclusive and our parents are interested only in networking and buying contacts for their children. I do not subscribe to these arguments - although it is surprising how many friendships that last a life time are forged at Stowe. There are some very good maintained schools and some very bad independent schools. But parents are terrified of getting it wrong and are not prepared to risk their children's future in schools where maths and physics teachers are sometimes unqualified and modern languages have been made optional at the age of 14.



Headmaster's Speech



We are fortunate in being able to ignore a great number of the hundreds of edicts which pour out of the Department of Education every week. Instead, we are able to focus on building a community based on shared values in which the "we" of membership comes from parents who know the needs of their children better than central government. Parents entrust schools to ignite the first spark of the will o' the wisp which lights an interest in first one subject and then another as teachers draw out the individual's talents.

Most teachers join the profession because they believe that education matters and that it should be thrilling, endlessly absorbing, fascinating and sometimes infuriating (try teaching period 7 on a dark November afternoon). Stoics are taught to question and think for themselves and find answers when they need them.

We want our pupils to do more than just skim the surface headlines on global warming and impending environmental disaster. Without the next generation of scientists who is going to discover the next clean fuel cell? Train doctors in state-of-the-art imaging diagnostics and robotic surgery? Provide us with scientifically informed opinions on stem cell research? Our pupils are encouraged to challenge conventional orthodoxies and go beyond the rigid strait-jacket of GCSE and A-Level text books. They gain an appreciation of music, art and poetry and find spiritual solutions to life's deepest tensions and anxieties. The house system encourages a strong sense of social responsibility so that differences are settled by discussion and debate rather than violence. We have resisted the temptation to lay on "happiness" or "wellbeing" classes as confidence and self-esteem grow out of endeavour not out of self-promotion or unearned praise. The occasional failure has to exist, because through trial and error we learn from our mistakes. Thomas Edison failed with more than a thousand patents before he finally invented the electric light. One of my favourite theatrical stories comes from Samuel Beckett rehearsing one of his more problematic plays: "I just can't do this! I'm failing," lamented one of his lead actors. Beckett replied: "Never mind. Try again. Fail again. Fail better."

In my own subject, History, Stephen Fry recently spoke passionately about the challenge facing history teachers: "if you cannot imagine yourself wanting to riot against catholic emancipation, say, or becoming an early Tory and signing up to fight with the Old Pretender, or cheering on Prynne as the theatres are closed and Puritanism holds sway...knowing is not enough...if you cannot feel what our ancestors felt when they cried "Wilkes and Liberty!" or indeed cried "Death to Wilkes!" if you cannot feel with them, then all you can do is judge them and condemn them, or praise them and over-adulate them. History is not the story of strangers, aliens from another realm, it is the story of us had we be born a little earlier. History is memory, we have to remember what it was like to be a Roman, or a Jacobite or a Chartist or even - if we dare, and we should dare - a Nazi. History is not abstraction, it is the enemy of abstraction".

At last year's HMC Conference in Manchester Sir Eric Anderson exhorted the gathered heads of independent schools to stop apologising for their existence and to celebrate their achievements. We punch above our numerical weight in securing places for Old Stoics at top universities, producing national and county athletes, future lawyers, doctors, soldiers, museum directors and gallery owners, writers, bankers and stockbrokers - in those areas of national life, in short, where Britain competes with the best in the world.

Country Life has been kind to Stowe in recent months. A few weeks ago, the magazine listed Stowe as the most popular co-educational destination in a survey of well-known prep schools. The article, *Educating Henry: A Father's Quest*, describes Stoics as "well-rounded individuals" who are "confident, articulate and polite" with "a sense of fair play". Another recent article in *Country Life* heralded the arrival of the New Rangers - the more dynamic and sophisticated descendants of the fun-loving Sloanes. "There is no doubt that they start from a privileged place" admits the journalist, "but the days of relying on Daddy are well and truly over, and life is all about getting out of your comfort zone" and being "fearless when it comes to pursuing success". And where have these carbon neutral Revolutionary Rangers been educated? The same four schools are listed under Old Sloane and New Rangers - Eton, Stowe, Harrow, Radley - in that order.

Today's celebration of the achievements of Stoics is tinged with sadness as we prepare to say farewell to the Right Honourable the Lord Lyell of Markyate. Educated at Stowe and Christ Church Oxford, Nick was called to the Bar in 1965 and elected MP for Hemel Hempstead in 1979 and then mid-Bedfordshire in 1983. He served as Solicitor General and Attorney General under Lady Thatcher and then John Major, winning the respect of all parties for his judicious and impartial advice. Nick has been a governor of Stowe since 1991 and chairman of the governors since 2001. I am enormously grateful not only for his part in my appointment - who else could have devised a headmaster's job description which required the successful candidate to be an epicurean - but also for being at my side over the last four exciting years. I do not think it is an exaggeration to say that Nick has presided over a period of greater change at Stowe than at any time since JF was headmaster. Words alone cannot adequately express the profundity of my debt. I wish him and Lady Lyell great happiness as they continue to reinvent themselves - the word retirement does not seem apt as I cannot see either of them slowing down just yet.





Sarah Bach

Sarah joined Stowe as a lacrosse coach in September 2006, having been recruited by the English Lacrosse Association as part of their development programme. Sarah or 'Miss America' as the girls call her, has integrated herself fully into life here at Stowe and has been invaluable on the lacrosse field. From the very start it was obvious that she could be trusted to run and organise practices, umpire and coach teams and in fact very quickly took ownership of the juniors and they, in turn, her. Her junior team have finished the season with the best record of all Lacrosse Teams with nine wins and one loss.

She accompanied us on a 'never to be forgotten' lacrosse tour to California where her insider knowledge was invaluable particularly when it came to knowing the best outlet stores! There was a time when we thought we had convinced her to stay for another year, but I think our weather, the size of her Stanhope room and her desire to shop in places other than Buckingham town has persuaded her to return home.

Sarah has helped out in Physical Education, Languages, invigilated during busy exam periods and has done a regular evening duty in Lyttelton. More importantly, however, she was part of the victorious staff Lacrosse team that won a trophy at the Mixed Clubs and Colleges Tournament in March. Let's hope her replacement is as talented as we look to defend our trophy next year!

Mrs Jayne Duckett

Pamela Burgham

Pamela has been Matron in Cobham House since September 2003. During that time she has helped both the Housemasters for whom she has worked improve the fabric of the House, usually through her persistence in seeking out everything from painters to curtains. Always prepared to 'roll up her sleeves', Pamela has run an effective team of domestic staff who maintain high standards of service for the boys. She has also taken an interest in their lives and she likes to be in touch with their academic and extra-curricular life so that she can add her praise and comments in her contact with the Cobhamites. Always prepared to 'go the extra yard', Pamela has earned the boys affection because nothing is ever too much trouble, as those she has taken for haircuts, got watch straps mended for, taken to get DVDs and so on will testify. Cobham will miss Pamela, but we wish her well as she moves onto Woldingham School.



Mr Matthew Way



Lucy Clewes-Garner

Lucy Clewes-Garner came to Stowe in September 2005 to assist with physical education and soon proved herself to be extremely able and well suited to a teaching environment. The weights room was well run and managed by Lucy. However she had only been here three months when she was asked to take over as a third form tutor and to be the Lyttelton under house mistress. This sudden change of events did not seem to daunt her, and was especially welcomed by me. She earned the respect of the pupils rapidly and has proved to be invaluable in pastoral situations. Lucy cares about her tutees and enjoys being with teenagers which is important when constantly surrounded by the demands of the boarding house. I have really enjoyed working with her and it has been great to have someone so reliable at hand.

Her degree in sports science has enabled her to start her PGCE this year although her teaching skills had already been tested as she has coached and refereed hockey, netball and lacrosse. She also accompanies the teams when they travel to matches and tournaments and maintains order and discipline. In addition Lucy has taken on voluntary roles like keeping the Lyttelton website up to date where she has proved to be creative and knowledgeable.

We wish Lucy well in her new teaching career and she will leave a gap in Lyttelton. She has made many friends at Stowe and seems to have enjoyed a good number of social events, so I hope she will stay in touch.

Mrs Judy Grace

George Ford

George Ford joined Stowe as the only full-time historian in January 2003 after a History with French degree from U. of Sussex and teaching at Buckingham School. He became the Head of History in 2004 and has ably administered the Department ever since. Known as 'Gorgeous George' by certain members of the Common Room, he will be missed for his conviviality, his fiendish walking pace and good-humour on Pitt Society Trips and by the Stoics for enthusiasm for shooting. We wish him well in his new post as Head of History at Truro High School for Girls and those Common Room members are looking forward to seeing him on his surf board in the Cornish breakers.



Mr Crispin Robinson





Frances Green

Frances Green came to Stowe from Framlingham College in 1990 to teach History and Latin and to be in charge of our external examinations system. Her talents were many – she also taught English and Classics at different points in her Stowe career – and she was Tutor to large numbers of Stoics, in Temple first of all, and subsequently in Chatham where the Third Form were kept in line by her for many years.

It must be as Examinations Officer, however, that the greatest number of Stoics over the years will remember FMG. Her role grew rapidly from the start, and with the introduction of AS level exams, not to mention a continuous stream of new instructions from the various examination boards, she had an immense job on her hands. Her superb efficiency kept both staff and pupils in order, however, and her brisk, no-nonsense emails to us all ensured that each year Stowe received glowing reports from the examination inspectors. Candidates knew that they crossed FMG at their peril, and her blunt, straight-talking approach – always tempered by a smile and a twinkle in her eye – meant that problems were rapidly sorted out and disasters averted.

Equally significant was FMG's role in the musical life of the school. Her clear, soprano voice was the backbone of the Chapel Choir from her first day at Stowe, and no Director of Music can have had a more reliable supporter – if he hadn't been married to her already. JCG would doubtless have made an honest woman of her in a very short space of time. FMG was always motivated by her Christian faith as much as by a love of choral music, and there is no doubt that the concept of service underpinned all her varied roles at Stowe. Even whilst undergoing cancer treatment she continued to teach and organise examinations, and both her determination and learning will be greatly missed throughout the school.

We like to think, however, that come the next round of examinations, she will be smiling quietly to herself at home in Cumbria, reading yet another of her many books, exercising her culinary talents with her new Aga and wishing us luck – knowing that we will need it without her.

Dr Rosemary Masters

John Green

John Cooper Green came to Stowe in the January of 1991 from Framlingham College in Suffolk where he had been a popular and highly successful Director of Music whilst also being involved with the Aldeburgh festival, directing its Chamber Choir which was established by the musical greats Benjamin Britten & Peter Pears.

JCG's mission at Stowe was made very clear by Jeremy Nichols. He was to put Stowe music on the map, so that every Stoic had the opportunity to experience as broad a musical spectrum as possible. A spectacular West Side Story whetted the appetite of the large cast demonstrating what the future may hold for Stowe music and in the last 17 years, JCG has dedicated his life at Stowe to creating and maintaining excellence in every musical aspect.

Within his first year John established a large Chapel Choir, and introduced a weekly congregational hymn practice. The choir's enviable national reputation is well known in other public schools and they have performed in many prestigious venues and, of course, led the magical candle lit Carol Service in addition to large scale school concerts – many raised vast sums of money for charities. His incredible work establishing perhaps the finest Prep School's Choral Day here is immense, and it is a fact that with over 600 prep school children visiting Stowe, it has now become one of our biggest marketing successes for new pupils. It is also worth remembering that before his complete restructuring of the music calendar with some 40+ events in the year, including the quite spectacular Mozart Trio Prize for the school's most advanced instrumentals, the aptly names 'Pupils Concert' was the only concert at Stowe which featured performances by Stoics.

JCG's chapel practices are legendary. I cannot think of many colleagues, musical or otherwise who would have the wit or gravitas within the community to lead a chapel full of Stoics (who could arrive on mass in a variety of temperaments...) without the presence of any other master.

Dinner 'n' Jazz and Summer Jazz were started by JCG and are real highlights in the school calendar, and tickets easily sell out a term in advance

As well as being an outstanding leader of a growing music department, John consistently demonstrated he was first and foremost an outstanding schoolmaster. He has been Under-Housemaster to Cobham before moving to Lytton as a sixth form tutor. Many of his tutees have gone on to great things; he has supported them all in every part of Stowe life.

Stoics and colleagues that have taken the time to get to know JCG 'off duty' will recognise just how much of a live-wire he can be. His performances in Common Room productions were terrifically entertaining, especially as the loud-mouthed and absurd J.B. Biggley in their most recent production of 'How to Succeed in Business without really trying'. Aside from his huge contribution to the extra curricular music and dramatic productions here John has remained a first rate teacher. His lessons are meticulously prepared and researched in order that pupils of all abilities gain considerably. His attention to detail is impeccable, and this is probably why he has been such valued member of the calendar committee, mapping even Stowe's busiest days with a reassuring confidence.

The Stowe community will be sorry to bid farewell to someone who has given an enormous amount to this school. It remains a great shame that the woefully equipped Roxburgh Hall is all Stowe has publicly to show for the efforts of such a dedicated and inspirational person. We wish John and Frances every happiness in retirement within the idyllic surrounding of the North Lakes.



Valete



Brendan Hogan

Leaving us as a Mathematician, Brendan joined as a Physicist. Currently a Walpole Tutor, Brendan is also in charge of driving lessons, though not, mercifully, as an instructor. Over the years and between his skiing holidays, Brendan has been attached to Chatham, Grenville and Bruce and involved in golf, coached athletics and squash. His appreciation of music improved considerably following his marriage to Zoe Fairbairn in November 2006. Brendan has served for many years on the Common Room Committee as Treasurer. His departure leaves a big gap in the Maths Department and the Common Room where his frank exchanges will be missed.

Mr Isaac Michael

Jonathan Kingston

It was always my fear that JRK would leave Stowe before I retired, but fortunately for me the two things have coincided. Stowe was the first teaching post for JRK and he came here straight from having completed a PGCEd at Oxford Brookes. I knew that from his interview that he was a very accomplished organist, he had been Assistant Organist of Bradford Cathedral, but we were soon to discover that he is an outstanding schoolmaster both in and outside the classroom.

As Chapel Organist he has been a joy to work with and his accompaniments are always painstakingly and meticulously prepared. They have lifted the choir to perform with even greater spirit and enhanced musicianship and his accompanying of the hymns is consummate.

Although JRK would describe himself first and foremost as a traditional Church musician he is also at home in other areas. Several times he conducted the school orchestra with great energy and verve. He played the piano in Jazz Band with accomplished artistry and rhythmic pizzazz, always ready to fill in any hole in the texture with a stunning improvisation. Three times he directed musicals: "Camelot", "How to succeed in Business" and then the finest thing I have seen or heard at Stowe "Les Miserables".

JRK is a superb teacher and a notice in his classroom, done by a student, stating that "Music with JRK is fun" bears testament to the enthusiasm for the subject which he has engendered in his pupils. His lessons have always been enjoyable and his skills as a musician, along with his passion for the subject and great sense of humour, have ensured that the Stoics were never bored.

Outside the classroom JRK has been a much respected tutor, first of all in Grenville and then as under- housemaster of Bruce. He also helped with swimming and ran the RAF section which led to a number of housemen referring to him as "Biggles", I had much more respect and with due deference acknowledged him as the Wing Commander. JRK has been as respected and popular with his colleagues as with the Stoics. He is the life and soul of any party and few will have escaped his sharp wit. He is the master of mimicry and caricatures of many members of past and present Common Room would frequently come out in company.

Mr John Green



Kathleen McKee

Originally from St. Louis, Missouri, Kathleen was the 16th Stowe-Harvard Fellow during the 2006-07 academic year. Studying English and American Literature and Languages, she graduated magna cum laude and used her intellectual talents at Stowe by teaching Third form history, extension classes for those wishing to study English at university, some politics, and the Critical Thinking AS-Level course. Outside of lessons she was always busy coaching rowing, pursuing her own interests in athletics and cycling, and ably helping out in Nugent House.

Kathleen also assisted with the Pitt Society and will be accompanying 20 students and three other staff on this year's return trip to Prague, Vienna and Budapest. Kathleen is returning to the US in July to focus on her chosen career path and hopes to continue her pre-medical studies next year. We would like to thank Kathleen for all her hard work over the last year and wish her good luck in her future endeavours.

Miss Francine Smith





Elspeth Mullineux

Elspeth Mullineux, or 'Mrs M' as she has been known to generations of Stoics, has been a stalwart of the Art Department since she arrived at Stowe in 1975. Though she was originally charged with running Ceramics and then O Level Dress-making with the (then) new girls (the theory being taught round her kitchen table), she faced the greater challenge of running Creative Textiles for both sexes.

With all manner of techniques and decoration (even by the artistically-challenged) the creative explosion she engendered led to much consumer-satisfaction among a wide range of Stoics as tie-dye drapes or silk-paintings hung on study walls, furry cushions propped up on beds, furry dice dangled in cars and even fancy-dress for 'those' parties etc. Very often the girls wore their most stunning creations at the Leavers' Balls and she was instrumental in the choice and design of the new Junior School uniforms, both sartorial testaments to her nimble fingers and professional understanding of fabrics and design. Often, Elspeth worked late into the night on costumes and props for Congreve, Staff and House plays, at the same time as providing support for Textile projects in Design Technology. Over many years, she even housed hundreds of exam-clash candidates or rusticated Stoics, providing lessons in table manners of which their parents would be proud.

What many Stoics may not have appreciated is that she often created the wondrous floral arrangements for Chapel, Open Days and the Leavers' Ball and that she also researched, designed and made the Stowe Flag that flies so proudly on the School Birthday (11th May) and Speech Day and which will now be flown on the Corinthian Arch. We shall miss her quiet wisdom in her upper room of the Art School, her sympathetic and discrete ear for generations of Stoics, their troubles sometimes emerging in the colourful mess of tie-dyeing or grappling with sewing on buttons or ironing.

All three of her children Kate, James and Nicholas were Stoics so the family connection with Stowe will continue. We wish her all the best in her much-deserved retirement, thankful that she is not so far away and that we will continue to see her in church and the grounds, and profoundly grateful that Elspeth gave so much unstintingly to Stowe.

Mr Crispin Robinson



Holly Owen-Frawley

Holly Owen-Frawley, a Bristol graduate, joined the English Department at Stowe in September 2006, having successfully completed her PGCE at Cambridge University the previous summer. From the outset, her dedication was clearly apparent: in addition to teaching English to five sets, she became actively involved in debating and public speaking, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and girls' gymnastics. Her support of Stowe and her students was evident in the frequency with which she attended Literary Society meetings, accompanied theatre trips and cheered on sports-fixtures from the touchline. We wish her happiness and success as she leaves us to take up a position at St. Mary's, Ascott.

Dr Paul Miller

Nathan Phillips

NGP arrived at Stowe in 2004 as a replacement for two extremely experienced Chemistry teachers, both of whom were previous Heads of Department. As such, the expectations upon him to maintain academic performance could not have been much greater. That he has so comprehensively filled the shoes of two accomplished teachers is a testament to his intellect and to his strong sense of purpose in the classroom. His clear expectations of both pupils and staff mark him out clearly as a classic Schoolmaster, aware that a sometimes steely exterior and a real concern for his pupils' success are far from mutually exclusive. Stowe has been very much the better for this presence and this extends beyond the excellent examination results that he has helped his students to achieve.

As Under Housemaster of Cobham, his firm, fair and genuinely caring relationship with the boys has a legacy in the form of his tutor group, whom he has helped mould from shaky beginnings into an excellent year, involved in all walks of school life. Clear in his ideas, it is to his great credit that he has welcomed a new Housemaster, embraced new ways and been unfailingly loyal and supportive. Cobham, too, will miss him.

On the sports' field, he has coached the U16 Colts and Yearlings as well as helping out with the 7's squads. He has been a committed and dedicated member of the Rugby staff and, despite coming from the far bank of the Severn, has brought a wealth of knowledge to the Stoics he has coached.

The Land of His Fathers is calling him back and he leaves three very difficult holes to fill. To each of his roles, he has brought professionalism and humanity and neither Stoic, nor staff could have asked for more.

Mr Darren Jeffreys



Victoria Ryan

Victoria Ryan joined the Stowe School common room in September 2001 from Tudor Hall. She worked under three heads of department in the Drama and Theatre Studies Department, including David Barr, Tony Meredith and Nick Bayley. She also taught English up to GCSE level and enjoyed pastoral responsibilities as a tutor in Temple and Cobham as well as being under housemistress in Lyttelton. She was actively involved in the coaching of Hockey and was part of two D of E trips to Scotland. She will be remembered for her two Junior Congreve productions of 'Macbeth' and 'Bugsy Malone' as well as her participation in the staff musical, 'How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying'. We wish her and her family all the best as she moves onto Downe House School to be a Housemistress in one of the lower sixth boarding houses.

Mr Nick Bayley

Valete

Robert Secret

RJSS came to Stowe in 1977 for what he thought would be only a few years, he leaves as our present longest serving member of Common Room. How fortunate Stowe was to employ a musician of his calibre as Head of strings, a person of such high musical standards who could really inspire our students to perform with skill and passion. RJSS went to the Royal Academy of Music as a violinist but soon switched to the Viola, an instrument for which he gained a national reputation and he could have easily pursued a career as either an Orchestral or Chamber Music player or even as a soloist. Fortunately for us he chose to stay at Stowe.

Whilst within the department RJSS has continued to give solo recitals as a Viola player and performed in the Purcell Room. He is in great demand as a conductor, for many years he conducted the Oxford Symphony Orchestra, has been guest conductor of the English Chamber Orchestra and still conducts the Oxford Harmonic Society. He greatly enjoys playing Chamber Music and we have enjoyed many concerts with him playing with our own team of musicians or with the Maurizi Ensemble in the Sunday evening concerts in the State Music Room.

RJSS has done much to foster good relations with the immediate locality and he is of course best known for bringing the school to national musical prominence with the Stowe opera, something which he entirely masterminded and brought to fruition.

Despite all these things RJSS has thrown himself whole heartedly into the life of a boarding school master. For many years he was a tutor in Lyttelton House and then, when that House became a Girls' House, he moved to Cobham where his work as a lower school tutor has been much appreciated. RJSS has always been someone who truly cares about young people and Stoics have gained much from his wise advice and pastoral care.

Although I will not be here I am sure that the Music Department will seem strange without RJSS. His sage like words and his longevity at Stowe has made him the "father" figure of the department. Robert and his wife Gillian are both very much going to be missed and I am thankful that they have been with me throughout my tenure as Director of Music.

Mr John Green



Andrew Shackleton

Andrew Shackleton came to Stowe at short notice to fill in for a year in the Design Department. He has contributed to both the department and has also been involved in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. Within the department, Andrew has taught the third form, GCSE Graphics and Resistant Materials and finally Graphics at A level. It has been a great pleasure to work with Andrew, and he managed to fill a gap in the department in the midnight hour. We wish Andrew all the best for his future career in teaching and we are all jealous of the the new post he has found in Thailand.

Mr Mark Wellington

Stephanie Sherman

Stephanie came to Stowe in September 2005 as the 15th Stowe-Harvard Fellow. Originally from Albany, New York, she has travelled extensively and spent some of her childhood in places as diverse as Bulgaria and Chile. Whilst at Harvard she majored in History of Science, also focused on pre-medical studies and Spanish, and played for Harvard women's rugby team, a passion she has continued to foster while in the UK, playing for Buckingham and Thames Valley teams. Stephanie settled quickly into Nugent as Under-Housemistress and over two years taught history, biology, US Politics, and maths with incisive knowledge and unflappable teaching style, as well as coaching rugby, athletics and even a bit of lacrosse. In her first year at Stowe, Stephanie helped run the cross-curricular Pitt Society and accompanied Francine Smith, Crispin Robinson and George Ford on their 10 day trip across central Europe with 20 Stoics. In 2006-07, Stephanie led XX Group, a society for lower school scholars, and mentored them through their very successful independent research projects, which were presented to the school and staff in March 2007.

On her return to the US, Stephanie will attend the University of Michigan (apparently an American football-mad school with its own 100,000 seater stadium) to study for a post-graduate degree in medicine. We wish her good luck and hope to see her at Stowe again at some point in the future.

Miss Francine Smith



Kate Webster

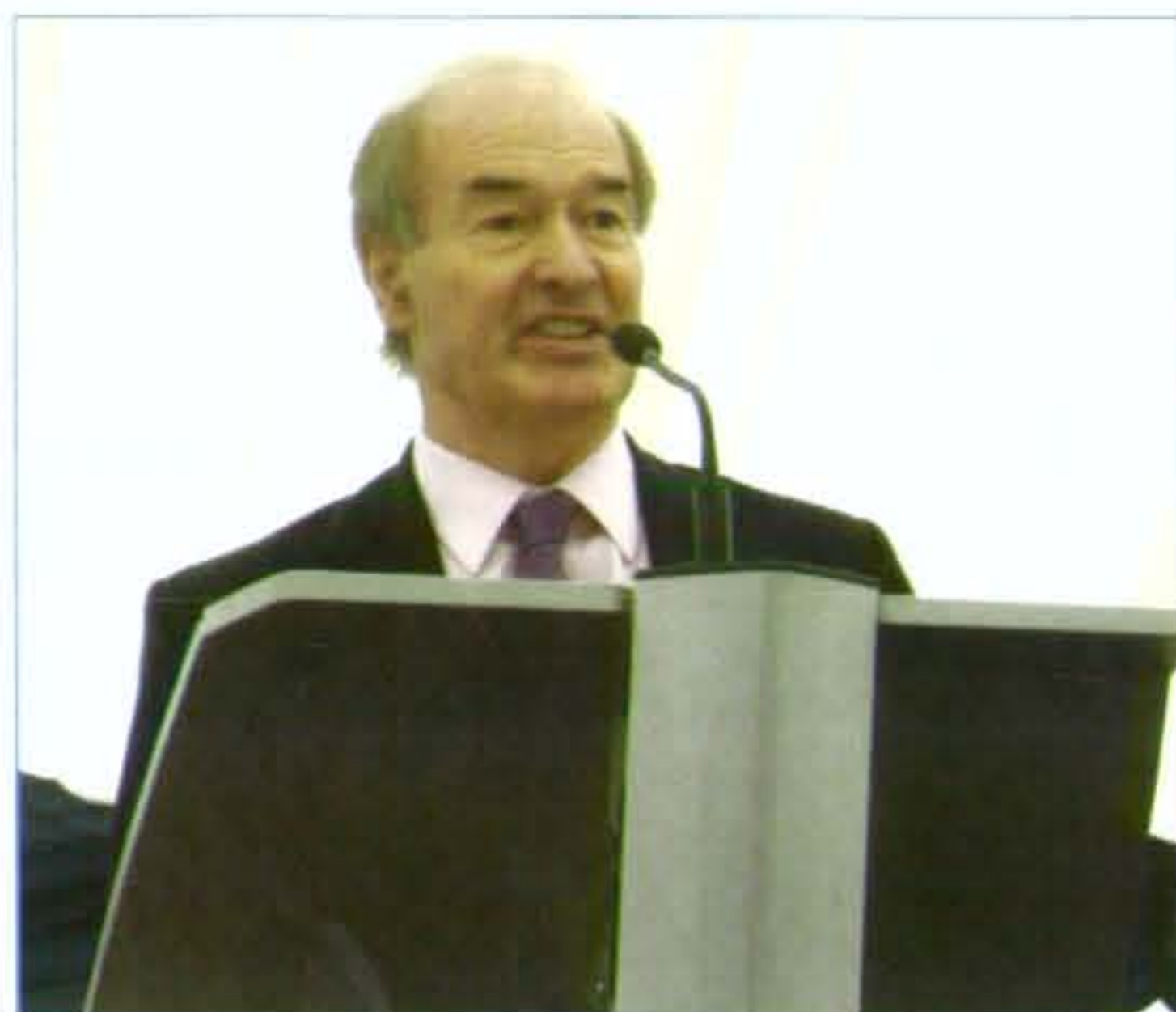
Kate Webster came to Stowe to as the Supervisor for the weight training room. In this role, she has helped many Stoics with their development of personal training programmes, specifically designed to help them in their particular sports. Her advice has been well received and her professional approach to the role has lead to a committed and industrious atmosphere in this ever popular part of the school. Her talents are wide ranging, having represented Birmingham University Ladies Rugby Club at Twickenham, and played netball throughout her time her for Milton Keynes. Kate has also assisted with the coaching of the 1st team in netball, Physical Education lessons and athletics. She has also contributed to the pastoral life at Stowe

by doing a regular duty in Nugent House. Her approachable and consistently happy demeanour has been much appreciated. We wish Kate well with her future plans, which include a return to Birmingham University to do a PGCE.

Mr Craig Sutton



Lord Lyell's Speech



Speech by the Chairman of the Governors
of Stowe School

The Rt Hon the Lord Lyell of Markyate QC
Speech Day 26 May 2007



Headmaster, Sir Matthew Pinsent, Stoics and Old Stoics, Lords, Ladies and Gentleman

Welcome to Speech Day 2007.

This is my last Speech Day. It reminds me of a painting holiday run by wife when a charming old man, who was normally very appreciative, came up to her with a very solemn face. "Susanna," he said, "I have a complaint." She looked anxiously at him.



"You make the time go too fast". Those of you who are leaving this year after five years may feel the same. Your time at Stowe has gone too fast. Well, I am leaving after six years as Chairman and it is 50 years since I left Stowe in March 1957 to go into National Service and then to Oxford. All those years, seem, looking back, to have gone astonishingly fast.



But this is a time of transition. Such times are times not only to look back on your years at Stowe, but for us all to look forward.



This is a very exciting time at Stowe. Building on the achievements of those who came before us, you have been living through the biggest developments in the School since the 1930s. School numbers will be 682 in the coming year, the largest it has ever been, and are in the middle of growing from 600 three years ago to 752 when the academic year 2008/9 begins in just over 12 months time, an increase of 20%. The School will then be fully co-ed, 508 boys and 244 girls. Boarding House 1 (we have not yet given it a name) which you see before you today, down by the Chapel, and which after half term you will see emerged from its scaffolding, opens this September. Such is our confidence that Governors have decided to crack straight on with Boarding House 2 to open in September 2008.



These developments are not only exciting for us in the School. They are catching attention in the country as a whole. It was just five years ago that the Good Schools Guide described Stowe as back on its pedestal. Nine months ago Headmaster, you were selected by the Tatler as Headmaster of the Year. I hope you will tell us of the exciting comments to be found in Country Life magazine and the choice by the famous Grosvenor House Antiques Fair in London's Park Lane to make Stowe the backdrop centre stage to their forthcoming great exhibition in June.



Academic standards are moving up. You may have seen in The Column, the photograph, last year, of those at AS level, the Lower Sixth, where 79% of the Chemistry got all A grades. Drama, Art, and Music are all flourishing. What an outstanding performance we witnessed in Chapel this morning from Craig Green playing Greig's piano concerto, and Lara-Clare Bourdeaux thank you and the choir for your lovely singing of the Mendelssohn. John Green (Director of Music who leaves at the end of term) you leave us on a 'high'!



This is also a time for saying thank you and in a moment I will do so. My thankyou's will also reflect the fact that the School has sound finances. The increase in the size of the school means that we make better use of our infrastructure and resources. It helps us to plough back and develop those resources with new pitches, new classrooms, better boarding accommodation, for boys as well as girls. We are pulling ourselves up by our boot straps, or should I say, by our own exertions. It is a wonderful foundation for our ambitious plans for big items like the New Music School and then a new Art School. I have seen Rick Mather's plans for the Music School and they are stunning. So can I say thank you to all of you for your support for the Campaign for Stowe which has got off to such a brilliant start. All that money is positive. None of it will be wasted. It is marvellous to see the alumni spirit, that spirit which inspires those who have carried away with them the spirit of Stowe, here today and afar, parents, former pupils and supporters far and wide, reinvigorating that spirit with their generosity, your generosity.



Now my specific thankyou's. The Heart of any school, no matter how wonderful its buildings or beautiful its grounds, and none can be more beautiful than ours, lies in people, in our academic staff and our support staff. I shall miss you all. I thank you not only for the wonderful efforts that you put in. For the excitement that you bring to the subjects you teach. I was looking only last night at our website. I was brilliantly taught when I was here but looking at, say, the opportunities today in Chemistry or History or so many subjects, what fun it would be again. And I shall miss our discussions at breakfast before Governors' meetings and at our Staff/Governors' dinners.

Lord Lyell's Speech



continued.....

Also, may I mention specifically our Bursar, Rupert Litherland, and everyone in his team of support staff? You do a magnificent job. And may I also mention your wives, or spouses I should say. The Terms are busy and the hours are long and your support is hugely appreciated. As to the Bursar, I should tell you that the Bursar and I are in the same boat. This last year both of us have been, as motoring enthusiasts might say, in the body shop. Whether he or I have been wholly obedient patients I will not comment upon but can I say a particular thank you to you, Rupert, for your tireless efforts on our behalf. May I also mention my fellow Governors. It is not seen by many what goes on behind the scenes in helping to guide our finances, chairing the Education committee, keeping watch on the enormous building and works activities, liaising with our cherished partners the Stowe House Preservation Trust and the National Trust, keep a watch on Health and Safety, jointly leading the Campaign for Stowe and supervising and driving forward our external commercial activities through SSES. These big commitments are all carried out voluntarily.

May I take this opportunity to introduce my successor as Chairman, Christopher Honeyman Brown, who is not only a former Chairman of the Old Stoic Society but has been a Governor since 1993 and has given invaluable support on the financial side. His dedication to Stowe cannot be overstated. Christopher, we are very lucky to have you. And our new Vice Chairman, Air Vice Marshall Marten van der Veen, former Fellow and Bursar of Balliol College Oxford, who brings great knowledge and experience and generosity with his time and will play a leading role in our liaison with both Stowe House Preservation Trust and the National Trust.

Finally, and before I ask him to speak to us, may I say a profound thankyou to our Headmaster, Anthony Wallersteiner and to Valerie too. I can only tell you that working with Anthony over these past four years has been a joy. His vigour and enthusiasm and wealth of ideas and tireless energy has been thrilling. And, as has been my association with all of you, enormous fun. The essence of Headmastership is leadership. Anthony you are leading us in a direction which is going to make, indeed is making, Stowe one of the great schools of the Western world.



Head Boy



In coming to Stowe, each and every one of us has been propelled into an environment that nurtures and actively encourages personal excellence.

As many of my friends will know, my love of sport has made me fiercely competitive and passionate about success and I firmly believe that every individual has the capacity to succeed. All Stoics should recognise the opportunities available to them and have the courage to embrace personal challenges and extend experience beyond their comfort

zone, because this is the best way to learn and develop. It is easier to come to Stowe and let matters take their course, however Stowe does encourage its students to be authentic, to be true to themselves, through personal motivation.

At Stowe we are so lucky to have teaching staff that are so willing to help and guide us; I would like to take this opportunity as Head boy on behalf of the school to thank the Common Room for their efforts and commitment during the academic year. One thing I have learned is the importance of support and the necessity of listening to advice and using this to learn. I cannot express enough my sincerest thanks to all who have guided us and supported us through what are occasionally difficult times. I have mentioned the importance of the teaching staff, but am aware that Stowe is underpinned by a dedicated team of ancillary staff. As a representative of the student body I would like to convey our thanks to the staff in the kitchens, ground staff, administrative and domestic staff, to all those who help contribute to the smooth functioning of our community.

Stowe is entering uncharted territory by now being fully co-educational, the school has never been so clean, the boys now showering twice a day and grooming one's self to attend early morning chapel.

The sweet smell of Armani is preferable to that of ripe games kit!!!

On a serious note we welcome this change and look forward to the next stage in Stowe's continued development.

In February of this year Stowe managed to produce two very contrasting but equally flamboyant events. The first showcased some of our most talented Stowe musicians and Jimmy Barnes, who I have reliably been informed by the Australian gap students is the Oz equivalent of our very own Rod Stewart. This concert started off what was a weekend of extravagance and glamour culminating in the event in aid of JDRF

I plan to pursue a career in management and this year in particular I have recognised the importance of strong and purposeful leadership. I have learned in management that not everything flows smoothly. This job is not without its challenges but you will gain respect and support, if you are fair and have clear vision and direction. You cannot please everyone but true conviction to achieve your objectives will bring people on board.

As a community, I would like to thank all of those friends who made me and other new arrivals so welcome. The strength of Stowe is accepting everyone for who they are and the willingness to recognise the success of others. It was refreshing to witness students congratulating other students for achievement.

This is part of the positive ethos and mutual support within the school body.

Rory Bradwin
Head Boy



Head Girl



I joined Stowe two years ago from St Andrews School Turi, Kenya, where I had spent the previous six years. Although I was accustomed to boarding school, I was new in a very different country and an unfamiliar culture. On looking back it was perhaps a somewhat daring move, but it has been immensely rewarding and thoroughly worthwhile.

I am grateful to have been part of the changes that Stowe is currently undergoing, from the introduction of more girls to the extension and updating of current facilities.

This past year has been exciting as well as challenging, and certainly not without its unexpected moments and gratifying episodes. It has taught me the spirit of encouragement, particularly from peers, the importance of diplomacy and the need and rewards of perseverance. As any member of an institution, organisation or society itself, we cannot expect change and progress if we ourselves are unwilling to persist and not deviate from our cause. Stoics, you have to initiate any change you see fit, by taking the matter into your hands, and remaining dedicated to it. As you make the most of your opportunities here, remember that what you can give to Stowe goes beyond academics, sport and music. Your attitude and commitment count for just as much, and these entities remain tangible and invaluable to the development of Stowe. I am confident that Stowe will continue to move forward and reach greater heights of potential.

Stowe has enjoyed yet another year of sporting successes, musical achievements and memorable drama performances. Fundraising for charitable causes has also been a focus with the Jimmy Barnes Concert, Model Student Fashion Show and Stars in their Eyes concert all taking place in a single term. Congratulations to those who coordinated and participated in these events and thanks to the Stoics, staff and parents for their continued support which is very much appreciated. I wish those who continue to raise money for charity over the course of the rest of the year all the best.

Thank you to all teaching staff, who deserve more thanks and recognition than they receive for their enduring dedication to the task of educating our young and growing minds. It takes patience, tolerance and emphatic drive to do what you do everyday. Thank you, Headmaster, for providing me this opportunity of responsibility and leadership in service to the Stowe community. I extend my gratitude to Rory and all prefects with whom it has been rewarding to work with. Thank you, Mrs Gracie, for your continued encouragement, support and guidance throughout my time here. Thank you Rev Jackson for the genuine compassion you show to all.

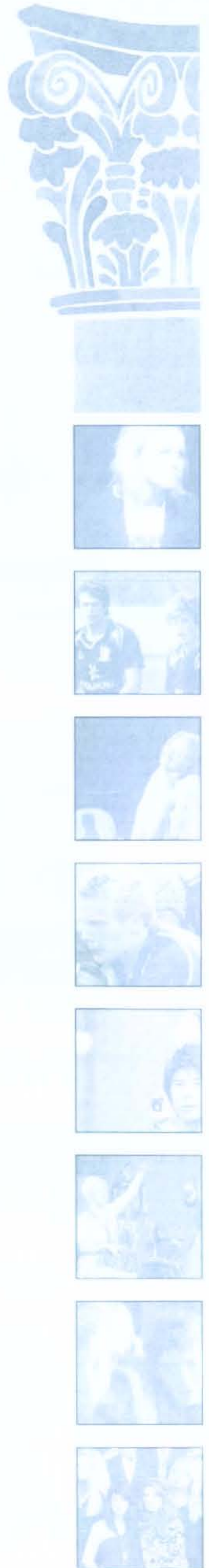


I am extremely grateful for my experiences here, for how I have grown in knowledge and understanding and for all the support I have received from various parties over the last two years. Thank you to all my friends who have kept me grounded and on a promising path.

Leavers, we all leave here consummate and established individuals. The broad range of future paths we have chosen surely reflects this. It is my hope that we take from what we have learnt here as we move towards new and exciting prospects.

I wish all those who are leaving Stowe paramount success and a fruitful future.

Mukami Wangui
Head Girl



Prefects



Nick Allen (Chandos)

Interests Sports in general, particularly cricket and rugby, films, going out with friends.
Favourite Movie/Music I don't really have a favourite but I have a collection of over two hundred DVD's and five thousands different songs
Prefect Privilege Prefects' supper
Happiest moment at Stowe Reaching the second day (last 16 out of 150 schools) of Rosslyn Park last year which is the biggest rugby sevens tournament in the world
 I am an outgoing, laid back kind of guy who loves to socialise and be with friends and family. Next year I hope to go to university in Manchester to study Physiotherapy then once I have graduated I would like to join the army entering the medical core, after a time in the army I would like to get involved with a professional rugby or cricket side where I can continue to be involved in sport and my love for the game.

Catriona Beadel, Chapel Warden and Club Monitor (Nugent)

Interests Chilled out music, hockey & lacrosse, trying to be creative with words, piano, friends etc. listening to the truthful words of Chris Price
Favourite Movie The Lord of the Rings **Book** Pride and Prejudice **Music** 'One man and his guitar' stuff- Jack Savoretti, Scott Matthews, David Ford
Prefect Privilege Allowed out 'til 11
Happiest moment at Stowe Sometime in late autumn term of L6 when I realised there was a God. Winning Coldstream Cup in L6.
 Next year I plan to go to either Bristol University or Imperial College London to read Geology...where I go depends on how well the marvellous A-levels go (fingers-crossed!) I am quite an interesting person, I guess, living life as much to the full as I can, and trying to enjoy it.



Lara-Clare Bourdeaux, Prefect of Stoic Council (Lyttelton)

Interests Drama and theatre, languages, music, travelling
Favourite Movie Romeo and Juliet (the modern one), The Notebook. **Book** Naughts and Crosses trilogy by Malorie Blackman
Prefect Privilege Senior Prefects' breakfast
Happiest moment at Stowe Being in four fantastic performances of Senior Congreve's Les Miserables (March 2006)
 This summer I am going to Tanzania for a month to teach in schools and do community projects. In September I am going to Manchester University (provided I get two Bs in my A-levels) to study French and Spanish, a language which is new to me. The third year of the course involves travelling to Spain, France, South America or wherever I can speak these languages that take my fancy. I intend to continue with singing which is my passion, so I'll see where that takes me.

Rory Brabant, Head Boy (Bruce)

Interests Playing sport, travelling, flying etc...
Favourite Movie The Thomas Crown Affair is incredible!!!! **Book** Living Dangerously by Ranulph Fiennes
Prefect Privilege Being able to walk through Power House Yard
Happiest moment at Stowe Being made Head Boy in my first year. Putting on the charity fashion show with Ned Boyd.
 It is very difficult to know exactly what I am going to do, but it is something along the lines of: Signing on professionally with Northampton Saints and hopefully gaining my first cap in the process; Learning to fly within the next three years with the R.A.F., moving on to university and doing a degree in Management, and then ultimately lead to a career in property and business.



George Coote, Library Prefect (Chatham)

Interests Rugby, friends, having a good time
Favourite Movie Green Mile, Silence of the Lambs, Gladiator, 300 **Book** Perfume by Patrick Suskind
Prefect Privilege Prefects' Supper
Happiest Moment at Stowe Having England rugby trials
 During my Gap year I am going to France from September onwards to play rugby for a 1st federal division club called Blagnac, this will hopefully improve my rugby so that when I return to England I can pursue a professional rugby career. I also want to become fluent in French while I am out there. When I return in April I am then going travelling with Nick Anstee. We are going to as many countries as we can fit in until we either run out of money or have to return to go to university.

Sebastian d'Agar, Library Prefect (Temple)

Interests Football (Charlton), playing piano, singing
Favourite Movie Green Street **Music** Renaissance choral music, my own things, keane, killers and loads of other stuff...and hymn 152 in Cantata Stoica **Book** The Lord of the Rings
Prefect Privilege Prefects' supper
Happiest moment at Stowe Coming back in Lower 6th after thinking I had left after GCSEs
 Well, I'm having a gap year, sharing the time between Malawi, South Africa and in England. This autumn, I'm spending 6 weeks at a penguin conservation centre in Cape Town, which will be good fun. I want to be a vet eventually, but haven't quite decided whether I want to go to university in South Africa or England yet. Lived in Malawi since summer '06, it's a great country, always hot, anyone can visit me there!!



Jonathan Eifer, Chapel Prefect (Grafton)

Interests Waterskiing, Surfing, Wakeboarding, Windsurfing, Rugby, Jamming with my band, and abusing Jamie Gray.
Favourite Movie Anchorman, The Green Mile or The Lord of the Rings, depending on whether on what mood I'm in, **Art** Renaissance...if King-ho changes this to "Post Modernism" I will lynch him **Book** Triumph of the Sun by Wilbur Smith
Prefect Privilege Prefects' Supper and my breathtaking waistcoats, which bring a little sparkle to everyone's lives. I know.
Happiest moment at Stowe Ooh, that's a toughie...well, I suppose when I became a Prefect and then finally progressing to big boy pants.

I am intending to get paid for bumming around in Cornwall this summer as a water-ski instructor and then getting a real job somewhere else for a bit if someone will employ me (any takers?). Then, in January, I am jetting off to Gambia to teach in a primary school and help the local Christian community for four months before bumming, yet again, around Europe, the Middle East and North Africa (Belgium, Holland, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Croatia, Austria, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Morocco, Spain, Portugal and France) with Jamie Gubbins. Then my travelling days will be over and I'll become a hermit in the Scottish Highlands...or study law at Leeds and possibly become a barrister...or solicitor...or wild man...thing...whichever appeals at the time really.



Prefects



Dominic Farr (Chatham)

Interests Rugby, football, tennis, hockey, history of art, going out partying with friends.
Favourite Movie Gladiator, the Sharpe series, Art Mona Lisa by Leonardo da Vinci. Music I like all music, hip hop, R & B...

Prefect Privilege Prefects' Supper Happiest moment at Stowe When I got into the first teams for four sports. I think that I am a happy, charming, hard working, outgoing guy. At the moment I am working very hard for my A2 level exams in the summer, after which I am planning to have a gap year. In order to fund for travelling, firstly I will work on a farm during the harvest in the summer and then hopefully working in London to gain experience. Then with the money, I will travel around South America, Nimibia, Thailand, Burma etc. I have always wanted to become fluent at Spanish, so spending 5 months in South America would be ideal to improve it. I am thoroughly looking forward to gaining the experience with different cultures when I am working and travelling.

Jamie Gray (Grafton)

Interests Amusing ones self with friends, good times and just to enjoy life! Avoiding getting bored as it's the worst of all life's givings.

Favourite Music Anything which has an incredible beat and is pure Electro funk/ psy trance/ trip-hop: Étienne de Crécy, Alex Gopher, The Similou, RJD2, AiM, DJ Shadow, Hot Chip, Mr Scruff, Mr Chuckles, M.A.N.D.Y, Booka Shade, Jona, Jacques Le Cont, Venetian Snares etc etc.

Movie Dodgeball, Top Gun, Italian Job, Great Escape, A Bridge too Far

Book Just William, Biggles, Flashman, Famous Five, Secret Seven, The Cat in the Hat, Tintin, Where's Wally, Jennings

Prefect Privilege Prefects' mess until my PS2 got nicked

Happiest moment at Stowe Sixth Form

I am going to have an epic gap year, visiting Argentina, Thailand etc.



Tristan Hirst (Chatham)

Interests Song writing, playing the drums, watersports and live music.

Favourite Movie Eternal Sunshine Music Biffy Clyro Book The Catcher in the Rye.

Prefect Privilege Being able to wear a stripy jumper with my suit.

Happiest Moment Winning the cross country in the Lower Sixth felt pretty good, and I was really pleased I organised the first Unplugged concert after it went so well. Scoring the first Stowe try of the season on the South Front and going to the nationals for high jump in the Third Form.

Next year I'm studying music technology at Lancaster (as long as I get the required grades), I decided not to take a gap year because I thought I'd enjoy not having to work too much and never get to university. I am excited about moving on but as soon as I leave Stowe I know that I'll miss it.

Clare Jackson (Lyttelton)

Interests Lacrosse, county tiddlywinks, learning Mongolian in my spare time, declaring war on red cups

Favourite Movie Haunted House starring Eddie Murphy as an estate agent...NOT!

Prefect Privilege Walking on grass

Happiest moment at Stowe Getting picked for the Lyttelton House chess team, competition was tough this year.

My plan for next year is engineering at Oxford whilst simultaneously pursuing a career as a hippie.



Katie Kosciuczyk (Lyttelton)

Interests Prefect duties

Movie Shooting Dogs, Bedknobs and Broomsticks, Blow Art Romilly's Art Book The Cement Garden

Prefect Privilege Prefects' Supper

Happiest time at Stowe The summer and the snow

I haven't applied for uni yet and so taking a gap year and living in London until January, hopefully getting a job. Then I will be travelling the world and going to South America, starting off with a charity organisation before experiencing a bit more of South America and the Rio carnival. Then I will hopefully head to India as well as a few other stops along the way.

King-ho Leung, Head of Events and Prefect of Sixth Form Club (Walpole)

Interests Painting, conceptual art, creative writing, metaphysics, theatre, listening to the lies of Chris Price

Favourite Movie Mainly arthouse stuff... Kar-wai Wong, Roman Polanski, Michelangelo Antonioni

Art Eliasson, Kosuth, various conceptualists, Rothko, Turner... mine?

Book My favourite book in the Bible is Ecclesiastes; Wittgenstein's Tractatus although it's not quite metaphysical

Prefect Privilege Walking on lakes

Happiest moment at Stowe Setting the record of attendance in the Dobinson Theatre with Mr Moule's Black Comedy and then breaking it the next year with Untitled, a play I wrote, directed and was called "a genius" for. 'The Voice' was released when I was the editor in Lower 6th.

I am not entirely sure how the future lies before me after messing up my UCAS applications: I need 2 passes to do the Byam Shaw Art Foundation at Central Saint Martins, which I'll do if my A Levels go well and reapply to Uni afterwards, more ambitiously. If they don't go quite well, I might read Philosophy or Physics at King's College London. If I fail, um... let's not go there... I might just be dead before all of that anyway.



Harry McCorkell, Head of Admissions and Prefect of Stoic Council (Walpole)

Interests Sailing, shooting and fishing... oh yeah, listening to the lies of Chris Price.

Favourite Movie The Thomas Crown Affair

Art German Romantic

Book Eye of the tiger by Wilbur Smith

Prefect Privilege Prefects' Supper

Happiest moment at Stowe Winning the Coldstream Cup the first time in Mr. Moule's final term (2005).

During my gap year I am getting qualified as a professional skipper on the Isle of Wight. I will then fly to Oman to do some scuba diving before moving on to New Zealand where I will do charter work. I will then travel around and try to get a feel for the culture of the place. I will stop off in California to do some surfing on my way home. In the summer of next year I will attempt to race from Newcastle to as far south as I can get on £50 without using public transport.



Prefects



Toby Marshall, Head of Buildings and Grounds (Walpole)

Interests Music, reading, listening to the lies of Chris Price, and art (though I don't think aimless doodling really constitutes...). Creating in general.

Favourite Art Warhol, Manet **Music** Bad Religion, Muse, Idlewild, The Fratellis and Rage Against the Machine. Mainly rock but I'm partial to some other stuff too. **Movie** Dr. Strangelove

Prefect Privilege That special black tie prefects' supper was damn good. Other than that the regular Monday night get-together is great.

Happiest moment at Stowe Hard to choose, performing in the Walpole House Plays (Black Comedy & Untitled), Dinner and Jazz and the Unplugged gigs are definitely up there. Being appointed Head of Buildings and Grounds probably takes it though.

My next year is nothing as interesting as McCorkell's sounds... someone once described me as lackadaisical, so maybe I'll play to my strengths. I do however plan to do something and will do the epic race across England with a couple of Walpole chums.

Julian Nesbitt (Chandos)

Interests Passionate about Monoskiing. I am a waterski instructor. I also love playing tennis and rugby

Favourite Movie Lord of The Rings

Prefect Privilege Prefects' supper

Happiest moment at Stowe Setting up school wakeboard and waterski club

I am going to study medicine at Bristol University and hope to go into surgery.



Rebecca Nicholl, Library Prefect (Lyttelton)

Interests Sailing, sewing, music, reading

Favourite Movie Gone With The Wind, Pride and Prejudice

Book Gone With The Wind, Brideshead Revisited, War and Peace

Prefect Privilege Wearing coloured jumpers and scarves

Happiest moment at Stowe So many, but one has to be winning a McElwee scholarship enabling me to visit St Petersburg last summer.

I've loved my two years here at Stowe and have definitely gained a lot. Next year I am (hopefully!) going to read history at St Andrews University which I am very much looking forward to as history is a great interest of mine.

Mathew Payne (Walpole)

Interests Rugby, listening to the lies of Chris Price, darts, and watching films in Walpole.

Favourite Movie Shaun of the Dead, Adam Sandler films **Music** Gavin DeGraw

Book Angels and Demons by Dan Brown

Favourite Prefect Privilege Prefect's supper

Happiest moment at Stowe Winning Senior House Rugby and Walpole House play Untitled

I am taking a gap year in which I plan to travel to Fiji to teach and coach rugby and then travel to South Africa to work with a veterinary surgeon in the Kruger National Park doing work experience. I also shall be challenging McCorkell and Toby in our epic race on £50.



Freddie Porritt (Temple)

Interests Sports, mates

Favourite Movie Lads' movies

Music Lads' music ...and Seb d'Agar

TV Series Anything with lads

Prefect Privilege Prefects' Mess

Happiest moment at Stowe Ask the lads

Hello, I am Freddie Porritt. I didn't actually write any of this.

James Richardson, Prefect of Stoic Council (Temple)

Interests Tennis, hockey, rugby and annoying Eck Gordon

Favourite Movie The Thomas Crown Affair

Book Emperor by Conn Igulden

Prefect Privilege Prefects' Supper

Happiest moment at Stowe Winning the Coldstream Cup in 2003 and 2004

During my gap year I plan to work for a charity in London called kidsco, at the same time I will be working for one or more catering companies. After the charity work I will carry on working to earn money for my gap year, most probably working for a building company as well as continuing the catering. I will then go to Australia for three months working on a ranch for the first month, followed by some travelling and kite surfing. I plan to either do part of a ski season in Europe or New Zealand, not quite decided yet. After the gap year on to Leeds uni hopefully.



Tom Stanton (Bruce)

Interests All sports, Geography, Biology, Economics

Favourite Movie Last Samurai, 300, Old School

Prefect privilege Being able to walk across the grass!!!

Happiest moment at Stowe Leading out the 1st XV every week in the Michaelmas Term

If all goes to plan, I hope to be going to St Johns Cambridge to study a BA in Land Economy this September. I also hope to pursue my rugby playing with the Bedford Blues Academy and hopefully make the U21's Varsity Squad at Cambridge.

Prefects



Alice Thomson (Nugent)

Interests Tennis, lacrosse, drama, music, films

Favourite Movie Pulp Fiction, Blood Diamond, Amazing Grace and Breakfast at Tiffany's

Art Velázquez, Rubens, Delacroix, Goya

Book Shadows of the Wind or The Kite Runner

Prefect Privilege Prefects' Supper

Happiest moment at Stowe Getting into Durham University

After I leave Stowe, I am taking a gap year, to begin with I am working in London from September to January and then travelling around New Zealand, Australia and Fiji with Talia Collins. Next I am planning to go to India where

I will teach in a school for two months, going on to travel further around India. I am then travelling around Thailand before returning home and am going to Durham University in September 2008.

Emily Thornton (Nugent)

Interests Art, music and lacrosse

Favourite Book The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini Art Turner, Virtue, O'Donoghue and Vermeer

Movie The Lion King and The Constant Gardener

Prefect Privilege Prefects' Supper

Happiest Moment at Stowe Many!

This September, I am going to do an Art Foundation course at Byam Shaw at Central Saint Martins in London. After that I hope to go to India for two months travelling and working with children, before continuing on to do an Art degree if all goes accordingly...



Charles Thuillier, Prefect of Lost Property (Bruce)

Interests Windsurfing, sailing, surfing, diving, mountain biking

Favourite Movie Lock Stock and Two Smoking Barrels, Lord of the Rings, Bourne Supremacy, Blood Diamond,

Music Trance, dance, chilled Ibiza, hard house, funk etc!

Prefect Privilege End of term party!

Happiest moment at Stowe Umm...not sure!

July and August I shall be working as a sailing and powerboat instructor down near Bournemouth, and as a crew member delivering Sunseekers to their new owners across Europe from Poole. Come September, I shall fly out to the Rift Valley in Kenya to teach in a rural primary school for three months, and then travel around Kenya and Uganda for a month. A couple of days before Christmas I will fly back here for 2 weeks, and then out to Australia for three months living in a hostel in Brisbane and working as a sailing and powerboat instructor. I then will be spending two months travelling up the Gold Coast, windsurfing and surfing, on to Darwin. I am then aiming to fly out to Fiji for a month's tour of the islands, living in home stay's and learning about the culture, traditions. Hopefully I won't just be confined to the touristy enclaves! I am then back in England in June, working as a (yep, you've guessed it) sailing and powerboat instructor and a crew member for Sunseeker. I shall then be back to Stowe in September to give the Gap Presentations in return for the scholarship, and on to York University to read Applied Social Science – Crime!

Mukami Wangai, Head Girl (Lyttelton)

Interests Books, politics, sport, hanging out with friends...

Favourite Movie Zoolander TV Series CSI

Book Unbowed, by Wangari Maathai

Prefect Privilege Prefects' Supper

Happiest moment at Stowe Seeing snow for the first time!

I'm off to uni in September at SOAS in London to study Economics and Law.



Amber Wyles, Prefect of Admissions (Nugent)

Interests The drama side of Stowe with House plays, Congreve etc and a bit of lacrosse and tennis.

Favourite Movie Has to be...Step-up

Art I find Richard Billingham's art work most interesting, but as to my favourite I couldn't really say - there are so many. Book Polo/ Pandora by Jilly Cooper

Prefect Privilege Being allowed out till eleven!

Happiest moment of Stowe Collecting the Part Song award for House Singing on behalf of Nugent.

Next year I want to do a ski season in Val d'sere and, all being well, leave for south America, India, Bali and Thailand...hopefully! After that I am hoping to go to Leeds to study design for a three year course which I am really

looking forward to. I don't know what is in store next, but we're coming to the point where everything is about to change which in itself, is both scary and very exciting.



Stowe Life



Director of Studies

Academic Report



August saw our 141 2006 leavers achieve 142 A grades at A level (though they weren't distributed one each – 21 pupils having bagged 63 of them) and a record (again...) AB rate of 59%, which finally became 60% after a few appeals. Edinburgh, Durham, Newcastle and Leeds all continue to pull Stoics north to University in significant numbers, although Bristol, Exeter, UWE and Cirencester together attract a fair few west. Oxford beat Cambridge 3-nil for Stoics qualifying in August 2006, and look set to win 5-1 for 2007, assuming all manage their A grades as anticipated, although at least two may desert their Oxford offers for possibly better ones received from elsewhere. All this, along with a complete new set of 2007 exam statistics, will doubtless be well known by the time this edition of *The Stoic* appears.

The year's U6th deserve to have done well: they had good AS levels in the bank, improving on the previous year's AB rate by no less than 9%, and they notched up some notable A2 module results in January: Biology managed an excellent 67% AB rate on their module, and Business, Economics and Chemistry had three or four students each who already had two of their three final modules at A grade with two terms still to go! Seventeen of the January module marks came in at 100%. More to the point, perhaps, they were a really eclectic bunch who provided a rich cultural and intellectual atmosphere of recitals, debates, unplugged concerts, plays and writings of all kinds. Attending the Headmaster's Essay Society, I have been regaled with exactly what a surgeon does once inside you; why the music industry tends to strangle creativity; how free speech is being denied us; the science of face reconstruction; postmodernism; the evils of imperialism (or not); the complications of the development of law; the science of renewable energy – I have been asked whether we are still waiting for Godot; after such knowledge as Primo Levi's what forgiveness? Was Marie Antoinette really so bad? And, of course, the inexhaustible "you may or may not like it, but is it art?", to name but a few.

The XX Group put on a similarly inspiring display of interests when they presented their research projects, and it was tremendous to see members of the Headmaster's Essay Society touring the Music Room and being engaged by their junior selves, as it were, on topics as diverse as the dissecting of amphibians, recreating and rewriting battle scenes, psychology experiments, sport efficiency, and gauging prejudice against ginger hair. They will clearly be every bit as interesting as their predecessors when they are at the top of the School, in a couple of years' time.

The government has continued to pretend it doesn't really like us while furtively following our lead most of the time, the latest being their "Every Child Matters" initiative which was about six years behind Stowe's "The Best by Every Child", and shows that the longer they take copying our ideas, the more accurately they do so. We prefer being copied, however, because left to themselves they tend to come up with increasingly convoluted and elaborate systems, self-referring in their crosschecks to the point where one is reminded of the aeronautical engineers who proved in a wind-tunnel that bees can't fly. Some current rules for essay-writing have become so inextricable in their prescription that few want to bother trying, and the results can hardly be marked. For the third year out of the past four we needed to query either the English or the English Literature results at GCSE: last year a third of all our English grades went up after re-marking, and this year 57 of our 84 English Literature results went up (five of them by two grades!) after re-marking. The boards try to walk a line between their own conception of a subject and a highly politicised one being forced upon them, and in attempting to follow the helpful guidance of various government bodies, they struggle to be able to do a consistent job. It's a bit like trying to run a safe and humane operation while simultaneously adhering to the letter of various employment and health and safety laws. If there really is an influential adviser watching Stowe for ideas, let him learn this from the middle two paragraphs of this article: schools will bite-size number-crunch if they have to, but education (education education) is concerned with the potential, vitality and diversity of people, and to describe that you need precise words, and not just the vague letters and wild numbers that would replace them.

Mr Stephen Hirst
Director of Studies

Guest Speakers

A wide range of speakers visited Stowe throughout the academic year – we managed to take a photograph of a small selection...



Rev. Vanessa Baron Chaplain
St Paul's Girls' School spoke
to students in October
(pic: Tom Haynes)



Drummond Money-Coutts
and Richard Jones
performed at Stowe in
December to raise money
for Kipungani Schools'
Trust.



Dr Tom Cadoux-Hudson,
Consultant Neurologist at
Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford,
spoke to Biology students
in November
(pic: Monika Jurcic)



Mindreader *Ian Rowland*
spoke to the whole school
about Mind Power - Fact,
Fiction and Fakery in
September
(pic: supplied)



Comedian *Tim Fitzhigham*
told students how he sailed
the Thames in a paper boat
during the Arts Festival in
October



Dave Smith spoke to
the Literary Society in
October



Oxford University's
Professor Vincent Gillespie
spoke to the Literary
Society in March
(pic: Nick Allen)



Producer and director
Dominic Stobbard spoke to
the Literary Society in
October
(pic: Ian Peele)



Magician *Paul Magram*,
Magic Circle's Silver Star
and WAM Close-up
Magician of the Year
2004/2005, provided
workshops during the
Arts Festival



Author *Jonathon Stroud*
spoke to Third form
students in October

The Headmaster's Essay Society



The Headmaster's Essay Society has had an immensely varied and stimulating year, with members presenting topics from almost every conceivable field. In one night we have often found ourselves debating topics as varied as freedom of speech and the finer pints of forensic science, from whether light travels in waves or particles, to Bob Dylan (including a memorable musical performance by Toby Marshall and Tristan Hirst)! Being able to hear from someone who has a real interest in what they have researched, and then debating it at some length has been for me one of the greatest academic eye openers Stowe has given me. The society works best when people are willing to argue a case and fortunately this year's members have been some of the most opinionated people I have met!

I think I speak for all of us when I say that the Headmaster's vigorous picking apart of every argument we made was invaluable experience for interviews where self-confidence and an ability to argue your case is everything. As well as this though, the society is also (surprisingly) really quite fun, with heated arguments fuelled by beer and chocolate, and a chance to express political

views. The arguments were particularly heated over Mia Hulla's presentation on the EU and Stuart's discussion on Capital Punishment, with most Stoics of course deciding they and they alone knew the best way to run the world. I have really enjoyed my time in the Society, and would recommend it to anyone with an academic interest in pretty much... anything.

Thanks to all the members for giving up free time and for making it such an interesting year: Ned Ponsonby, Hugh Birchall, King Ho Leung, Fred Wojnarowski, Edward Howlin, Romilly Morgan, Jonathan Elfer, Calvin Ho, Stuart Stevens, Clare Jackson, Alexander Fisher, Alexander Paull, Agatha Sutcliffe, Mukami Wangai, Vincent Yuen, Tom Fox, Tom Mitchell, Mia Hulla, Tatjana Leboff, Lara Clare Bordeaux, Mathew Payne, Julian Nesbitt, Tom Stanton, Anita Waterer, Catriona Beadel and Tallia Collins.

Thanks also to Mr Hirst and Dr Wallersteiner for running the Society for us.

Fred Wojnarowski

Colloquium

Members of Colloquium know that whether or not a topic is in a favourite area, discussion subject matter should stretch them, and that there is an obligation to have an open mind, to listen carefully, and to express their ideas thoughtfully.

The last meeting of the outgoing group was on the subject of Education, which was introduced by Mr Hirst. His preliminary talk reflected the massive complexity of this subject, and the assembled U6 discussers seized eagerly on some of these issues: What is the purpose of education beyond skills and training? What cultural/religious imperatives should be at its core – or not? What role does government play – or should government play – in using education for social engineering? What concepts of education should an individual have in terms of their own life? – and so on.

The first meeting of the new L6 group faced a challenging, multi-faceted topic outlined by Mr Jeffrey: the inter-relations between the citizen, government and science. At the heart of the complications was the issue of taking responsibility for the dissemination and understanding of the science and technology affecting our lives and environment. Politicians and scientists have their agendas and can put their own spin on controversial issues and reporting of research 'breakthroughs' in newspapers. The educated individual needs to be more aware and more sceptical of what is aired in the media.

There was also interesting discussion following Miss Sherman's presentation of 'Freak shows and the Construction of Difference', which took the implications beyond the photographs and commentary on a chapter in American social history between the 1850's and the 1930's. Complex issues of social conditioning, biological phenomena, defining 'normality', establishing identity, and cultural relativism, all received stimulating observations and exchanges of views.



Mr Steven Thomson

XX Group



XX Group, unofficially but perhaps more widely known as "Clever Club," is the Lower School academic scholars' society, comprised of approximately twenty students from the Third and Fourth Forms. Members are selected on the basis of teacher and tutor references and their academic achievement in TWO grades and exam scores. The aim of XX Group is to intellectually challenge Stowe's top lower school students by extending them outside of the classroom and exposing them to new concepts that will inspire them in their own academic pursuits. Through a programme of guest speakers, group activities, excursions, and independent research projects, XX Group members are introduced to new intellectual themes that differ from, yet complement and enhance, topics they study in their daily school lessons. The group meets semi-weekly during first prep on Thursdays with Miss Sherman, the Group's faculty advisor.

Group meetings yielded several highlights in the Michaelmas Term. A mathematics post-graduate student from Cambridge University led a session on logic problems, which resulted in the entire group at one point looking somewhat silly standing in a queue whilst balancing red and blue plastic cups on their heads (eh, guess you had to be there...) Later in the term, an Oxford archaeologist visited with photos of recent digs, archaeological site survey plans, and boxes packed with precious artefacts. But the tension and excitement peaked in the final weeks before Christmas with the First Annual XX Group Spelling Bee (an academic contest that Miss Sherman insisted on introducing out of nostalgia from her own school days in the USA). Luke "O.E.D." Rust bested the competition by spelling "omniscient" to win the competition, and, amazingly, no one complained too much about Miss Sherman's American pronunciation throwing off their spelling ability.



Early in the Lent term, XX Group was fortunate to have Mrs Miller organise an excursion to the new Borders bookstore in Milton Keynes, where the students were given ample browsing time to pick out books and DVDs for the School Library. The trip also included a visit to Starbucks and McDonalds, so the group also inadvertently gained first-hand knowledge of globalisation by large chain corporations! The primary focus in the spring, however, was the preparation of independent research projects by individuals or pairs of students. Throughout the term, XX Groupers planned and researched topics of their choice during group meetings, and, in the final weeks, worked diligently on the projects outside of meeting time on top of their normal academic and extracurricular commitments. The culmination of their hard work was the XX Group Research Symposium on Tuesday, 27 March, 2007, during which the Stoics displayed and explained their poster projects in the Music Room to teachers, parents, and fellow Stoics milling about the room and visiting the various "stalls" of each research team. All visitors to the symposium unanimously agreed that the eclectic array of topics showed the varied interests, yet consistently strong research capabilities, of every XX Group member, and the students deservedly celebrated with a formal supper in the Blue Room later that evening.



Though the Summer term has only begun at the time of this report's writing, the final weeks of the 2006-2007 academic year will undoubtedly contain more successful sessions, an excursion to London, and always plenty of jelly donuts and Smartie cookies at meetings. The success of Clever Club will assuredly continue during the next academic year with the new batch of Third Formers and leadership of the group's new faculty advisor, Mr. Robinson.



Miss Stephanie Sherman

XX Group Symposium: 27 March, 2007

Stoics	Project Topics		
James Blackham & Dominic Noakes	Improvements in Rowing Fitness Tests	Mark Ioannou & Luke Rust	What Defines Sport?
Adam Charlesworth	Comparative Dissection of a Dogfish Shark and Frog	Balthazar Mattar	History of Art: Painting Analysis
James Elliot & Miles Warden	Social Psychology Experiments	Anton Melnikov & Sebastian O'Donnell	Design of XX Group Website
Rebecca Elliot & Eloise Rix	Statistical Survey of the Perception of Blondes and Redheads	Ashley O'Callen-Smith	Pop-Art Inspired Photography of Stowe
Ella Girardot	Analysis of Independent Music	Josephine Peile	Creative Story
		Charles Toler	History of Toy Soliders

Library

The year in the School Library got off to a great start with a visit from best selling teenage author, Jonathan Stroud who wrote the popular Bartimaeus Trilogy. The 3rd Form sat enthralled as Jonathan described how the idea for the series came to him as he walked home one day with heavy shopping bags, thinking about how he could write a different sort of fantasy story from others that were around at the time. Jonathan had a flip chart and coloured pens on stage with him and as he spoke he illustrated his talk with wonderful cartoon drawings of the characters that frequent the pages of his books. He also spoke about the importance of marketing his books and of the front covers which were chosen to attract customers to buy them. After a question and answer session, when the students were keen to find out more about Jonathan's life as a writer, they had the opportunity to buy Jonathan's books and have them signed. As he did this Jonathan spent a long time chatting to each individual student and asking them about their interests. Everyone agreed that he was a great author to have to visit and to encourage the students in their reading.

The DVD and Fiction sections of the Library have grown considerably this year with plenty of great recommendations coming from the students. In order to encourage Stoics to get more involved in choosing stock for the Library we decided to experiment by taking a group out book buying. The XX Group are the academic scholars in the 3rd and 4th Form at Stowe and one evening in January we set off to an excellent new branch of Borders bookshop which opened in Milton Keynes recently. Over various choices of coffee and milkshake accompanied by muffins we discussed a short story that the group had all been asked to read and then the girls and boys enthusiastically set off to explore the store with the task of choosing books which they thought their classmates would be interested in reading. As you can see from the photo they came up with a wide selection and within a week of getting them back to the Library almost all of them had indeed been borrowed. This was a great trip and it is hoped to repeat this type of outing with other groups of students in the coming year.



Another new event in the Library calendar this year was the Inter House Literary quiz, held to celebrate World Book Day on March 1st. Each House entered a team of 4 students who answered questions from the Question Master, Dr Miller, on Prose, Poetry, Drama, Shakespeare and Children's Literature. A large audience turned up to support their teams and the competition was keen but the Bruce team emerged the winners and were presented with a new House trophy, a silver plate.



During the exam term the Library study places were booked up by students loaded down with textbooks and files, seeking a quiet working environment where they could get on with their revision. Another academic year has drawn to an end but we are planning more exciting events for 2008.

Mrs Carol Miller

The Luffield Group



The Luffield Group exists to give staff and pupils at Stowe, and at several of the surrounding schools, the chance to meet and work together once in a while, and to enrich the curriculum at the same time. Stowe is lucky in having such a wide diversity of good schools locally with whom to share such a partnership.

It was good to welcome Kingsbrook School, Deanshanger, back as a fully participating member school after a year or two on the edge; otherwise the Luffield Year followed its normal annual pattern. In November, Thornton College hosted a public speaking event in which groups prepared presentations on current issues to take to parliament. Tim Boswell, a local MP, was again on hand at the event's conclusion to hear their pieces and let them know how they would have gone down. Comments from the four Third Formers who went from Stowe - "I particularly enjoyed planning the presentations as it gave the chance to get to know the others" and "Debates were all interesting as you got a wider

range of views" – illustrate what a perfect introduction to the whole idea of Luffield this event is. Eight more Third Formers went to the Royal Latin School in Buckingham for a Science Day in February, then in April six of our Third Form girls went to Buckingham School to learn Lindy Hop Jiving, which they then taught to the others in time to give a Dance display at the Lyttelton At Home soon after. The year will finish with the three-day Arts Festival at the end of June (too late for The Stoic deadline) that will culminate in 200 students performing in a show in the Roxburgh Hall, featuring Dance, Drama, Choral Music, Wind and Jazz bands prepared at Stowe, alongside specially commissioned creative writing prepared at Beachborough and Art from Kingsbrook. Last year the theme was Hollywood, and an audience was welcomed into the Roxy by cut-outs of movie superstars before hearing some film music, and then the juxtaposition of some affecting creative writing emphasising the loneliness behind the dream with some exuberant dance and drama celebrating the impact of the movies and offering a pastiche or two of the kind of stories that we have come to recognise. Film often draws a wide circle in together and gives us a common experience in the same way as Luffield does, so it was a particularly appropriate theme.

Mr Stephen Hirst



PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

- Magdalen College School, Brackley
- Buckingham School
- The Royal Latin School
- Kingsbrook School
- Winchester House
- Beachborough
- Thornton College
- Stowe

Economics

Stowe Economists Enter the Bank of England's Interest Rate Challenge

Target Two Point Zero – the Bank of England/Times Interest Rate Challenge is the Bank of England's annual competition for schools. For the first time Stowe entered a team of four Upper Sixth Economics pupils to compete in an event attracting more than 280 schools and colleges from across the United Kingdom. The regional event took place in Kettering, Northamptonshire in November and we competed with seven other schools including the Royal Latin, Stamford and Bedford schools.

Like the Bank of England's own Monetary Policy Committee, teams must consider the factors affecting the UK's economic and inflation outlook and then have to decide what interest rate should be set to meet the Government's 2.0% inflation target. After outlining the main economic issues and giving their decision, the team is then questioned by a judging panel of Bank representatives from London and the regions.

Stowe's team of Tom Stanton (Bruce), Mukami Wangai (Lyttelton), Mia Hulla (Nugent) and Stavros Criticos (Walpole) gave a dynamic and comprehensive presentation, advising that the Bank maintain rates at 5%. Although the team was disappointed not to get through to the next round, the Stoics were impressive, received very positive feedback from the judges and were commended for their question answering.

The team and I would like to take the opportunity to say a particular thanks to Mr Russell Tillson who contributed so much time and energy to helping them. The Stoics thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of applying their economics knowledge in a practical way and the experience of questioning from the Bank's representatives.

Miss Francine Smith



Stowe Environmental Campaign

Reducing wastage is the prime aim of the Stowe Environmental Campaign. An establishment the size of Stowe uses a huge amount of power and water to say nothing of the teaching, feeding and residential resources. Inevitably there is a fair amount of wastage and we are urging all people connected with Stowe to be vigilant and proactive when it comes to reducing wastage.

Some simple things you can do

- 1) Turn off the tap when you are brushing your teeth (taps run at approximately five litres per minute)
- 2) Turn off music systems and computers off at the wall when they are not being used (some appliances still use nearly 50% of power when on standby mode)
- 3) Get into recycling. Paper, plastic, glass and cans can all be recycled.

**PLEASE SUPPORT
THE STOWE SCHOOL
MOBILE PHONE
RECYCLING
CAMPAIGN**

FOR EACH PHONE WHICH IS
HANDLED IN - A TREE WILL BE
PLANTED.

THE PHONE WILL EITHER BE
USED IN A LESS DEVELOPED
COUNTRY OR DISPOSED OF IN
AN ENVIRONMENTALLY
FRIENDLY MANNER.

The CarbonNeutral Company
preventing our climate

Stowe will be aiming to provide facilities and information for all these suggestions over the coming months but they need the support of all the people who use Stowe to help with the campaign

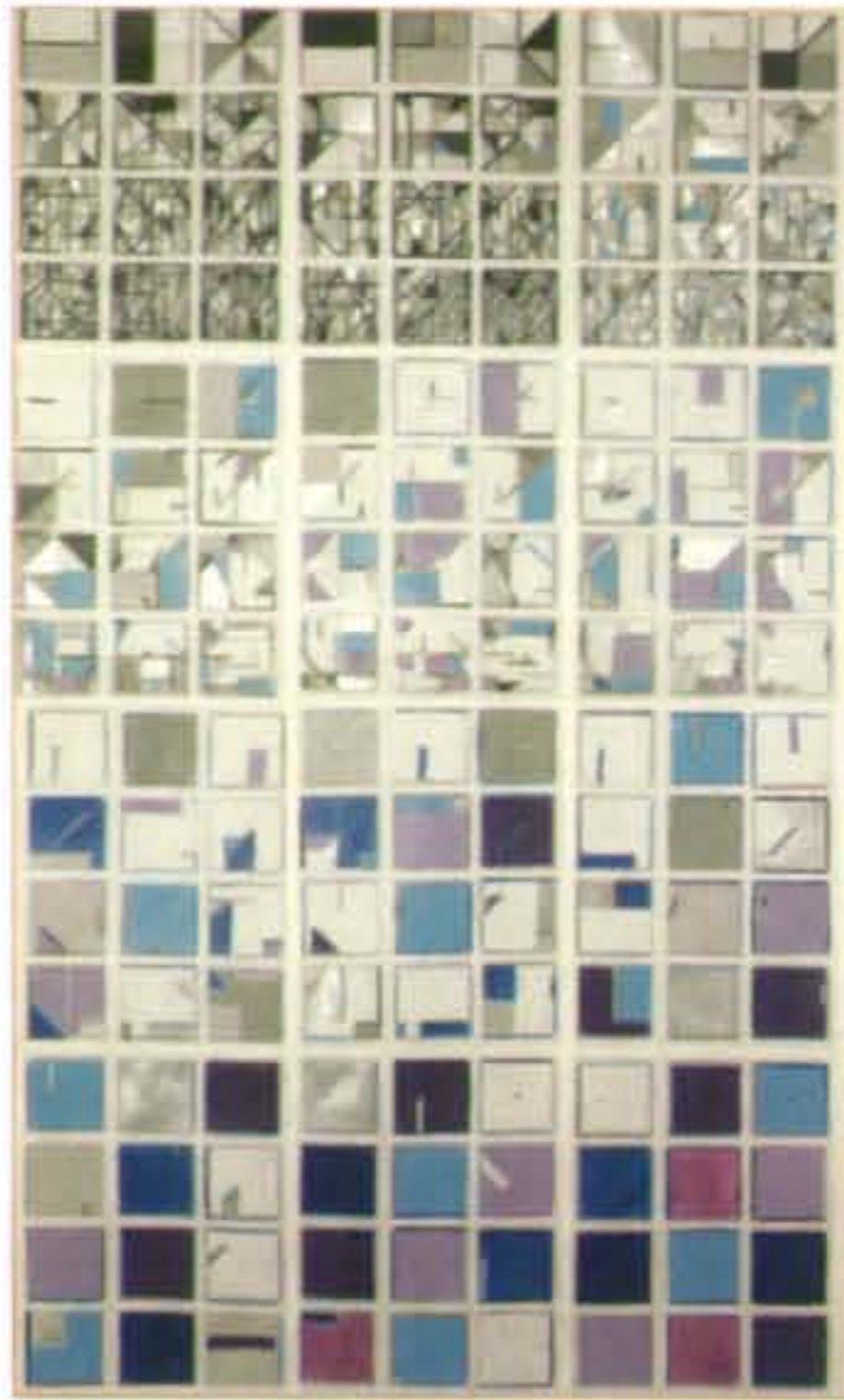
The Staff and Pupils of Stowe have been collecting mobile phones to be recycled. For each phone collected a tree will be planted as well as the phone either being sent to a less developed country or being disposed of safely. If you have an old mobile phone you would like to get rid of please leave it at reception c/o Dominic Mochan.

This is one of a number of schemes which we hope will help wastage in and around Stowe whilst also contributing towards a better environment.

If you would like any further information please contact Dominic Mochan (dmochan@stowe.co.uk).



A2 Emily Thornton



A2 Tatch Leboff



A2 Harriet Gates



A2 Amber Wyles



A2 Sarah Hemsley



AS Thomas Williams-Jones - Exam



AS Harry Salisbury



AS James Crawford



A2 Talia Collins



AS Chloe Ballantine

Art



GCSE Orlando Sheppard



AS Christabel Vernon-Evans



GCSE Elliot Barnes



GCSE Hugo Empson



AS Ludo de Ferranti – Exam



GCSE Helena Kealey



GCSE Laura Grossick



GCSE Luke Porritt



GCSE Bint Bencharongkul



GCSE Helena Kealey

Design & Technology



Charlie Empson

Planter and Arbour is testament to the amount of hard work he put in to his work. He gained 100% for his coursework and was awarded the Worsley Prize. This was an excellent year for A2 Coursework; Rory Brabant (Garden Chair), Charlie Empson, (Gazebo) and Oliver Travers (Drinks Cabinet).

The John Holland Prize for Design was awarded to Kit Dickinson for his excellent bookcase that was expertly constructed out of Oak and would look stunning in any environment. I would not like to calculate the number of loving hours that he spent on the construction. Other excellent projects this year were Sam Hunter (Work desk), William Walmsley (Garden Seat) and Ludo de Ferranti (Double Bed).

Graphic Design is now in its third year as a GCSE subject and the standard of work is continuing to rise. The numbers of pupils taking this subject has grown and competition for places is very tight. At both GCSE and A level the pupils have produced some outstanding concept models that cover many different aspects of interior and exterior architecture ranging from nightclubs to ornamental gardens. Particular mention should be given to Chloe Dorrington who received the Andrew McAlpine Prize for Technical Graphics for her project on redesigning a stable block and she came up with a very interesting horseshoe design. Other achievements were Patrick Ramsey's design of a Golf Club House and James Leet Cook's Model radio.

In both Resistant Materials and Graphic Design the variety and quality of work is improving all the time and there were some excellent outcomes. For the first time the overall design prize for the Lower School has been awarded to a Graphics student. It was decided that due to her own high levels of self-motivation, commitment and ability this prize should be awarded to Natalie McDaid for her interior design project. Other excellent projects this year at GCSE were Freddie Prendergast (BBQ) and James Hale (Horse Blanket drier).

The Department is proud to celebrate and share the achievements of all those Stoic's studying design and once again we find ourselves embarking on new projects that will form another splendid Speech Day exhibition next year.

Mr Mark Wellington

I hope that many of you were able to experience our Speech Day Exhibition this year. On display was the largest display of well design and constructed projects that I can remember. The quality of work continues to increase and the sheer scale of the finished constructions; demonstrate the high levels of creativity, innovation and patience demonstrated by the Stowe Design students. All of this is achieved due to the enthusiasm of the teaching staff and the pupils desire to do their best. Most of the construction work is carried out in the Lent term and I sometimes find it hard to believe that so much can be created in such a small amount of time. The relative calm and tranquil atmosphere of the displays lies in stark contrast to the energy, chaos and panic experienced by all involved as these excellent pieces of furniture, advertisements, models and prototypes gradually evolved over the academic year. I am sure that all Stoics would join me in thanking and congratulating all the Staff involved for their hard work and patience.

As well as celebrating the success of these practical elements the Department's is achieving some remarkable results by National standards. Last year, all A level candidates scored an A grade for their Resistant Materials coursework and Stowe is well ahead in any league table statistics for overall pass rates at GCSE and A level.

Jonathan McInnes-Skinner has proved to be one of the most dedicated students within the department and his Oak



Rory Brabant

Design & Technology



Jonathon McInnes-Skinner



Patrick Ramsay



Kit Dickinson



Chloe Dorrington



William Wahmsley



Sam Hunter



James Leet Cook



Oliver Travers



Ludo de Ferranti



Freddie Pridemogast

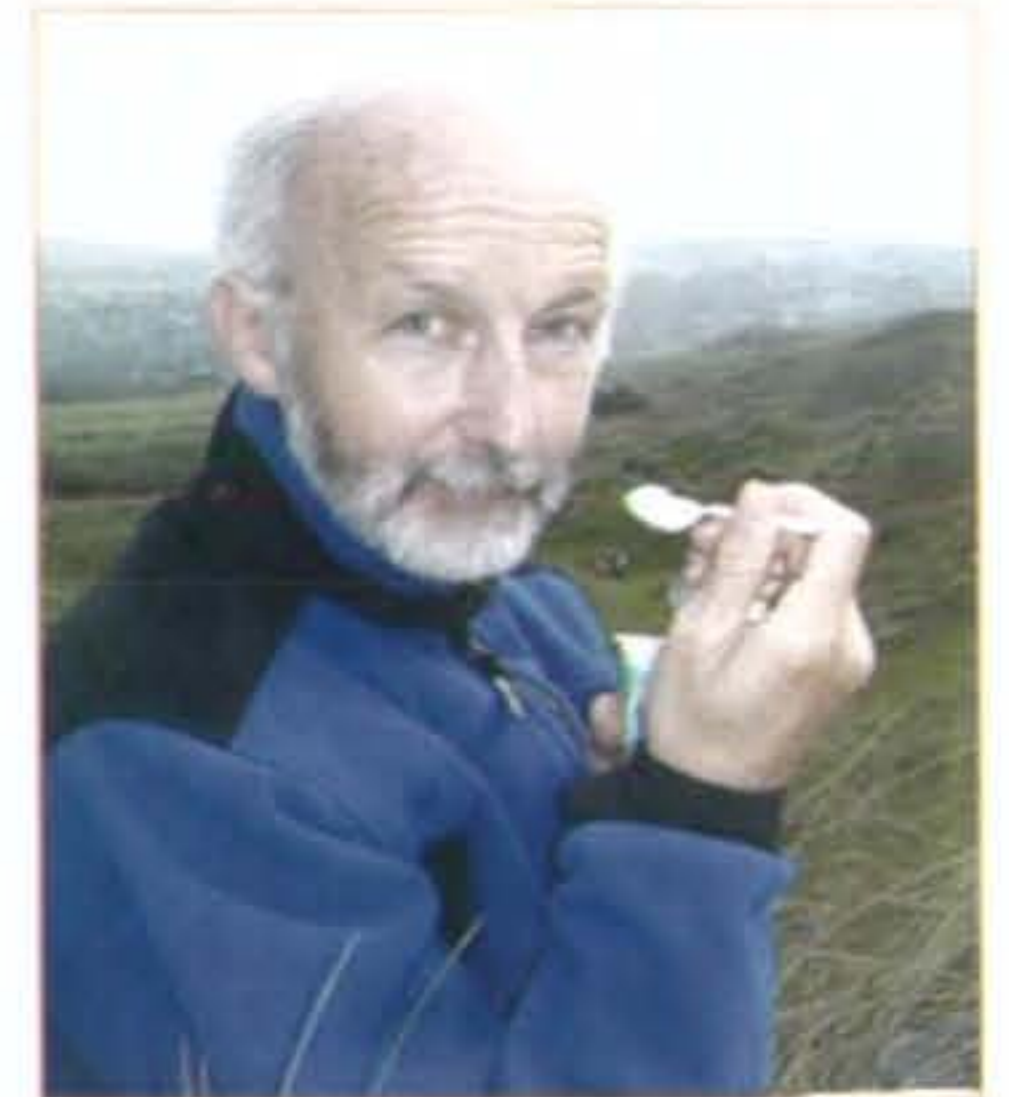


James Flate

Geography

A year in the life of the Geography Department:

The Geography Department is one of the busiest and liveliest departments in the school. Within the department we are at the forefront of using ICT to improve the quality of both teaching and learning and this year has been no exception. We have used Google Earth constantly, have turned our attention to making movies to introduce and elucidate case studies and we have even entered the realms of music making with our now legendary podcast rendition of the Izmit earthquake in Turkey set to the tune of "12 Days of Christmas". We are keen to use whatever medium is effective in helping our students to understand more about the world around them.



As usual, we have also been busy outside of the classroom with a wide range of

fieldwork activities, ranging from the 3rd year Microclimate investigation in the school grounds, to a 4th year trip to study the River Ouse at Water Stratford. We went back to North Wales with 53 Lower 6th students back in October to work on the dunes at Harlech, the beach at Criccieth and in the town at Porthmadog. (photos) As usual this was a hard-working and enjoyable trip, with excellent behaviour from the Stoics and lots of very good Geography being done towards AS coursework. Entertainment was provided in the evening by Azu Nsirim giving a wonderful rendition of "Amazing Grace", which prompted a Welsh love song about "Maffanwy" from the Director of the place we were staying. Further excitement was provided by Jamie Hirsch who was trying to impress someone who shall remain nameless with his marine-like ability to roll down an incredibly steep slope, only to break his collar-bone in the process.

This year has also seen the launch of the "GEEC" club (Geography Elite Extension Club). This has been set-up by Mr Durrant and Miss Branford-White and is aimed at really pushing the most able GCSE students towards those hard to achieve A* grades. This Club will become a permanent fixture and will begin its work in September with the brightest and best in the 4th year.

We also took a handful of the most able Lower 6th to visit Robinson College, Cambridge to give them a taste of what Geography might be like at the best University in the world (Head of Department's bias here...) We had an interesting time and although it is not likely that any of this year's students will apply, it gave them an idea of what Geography at University might be like.

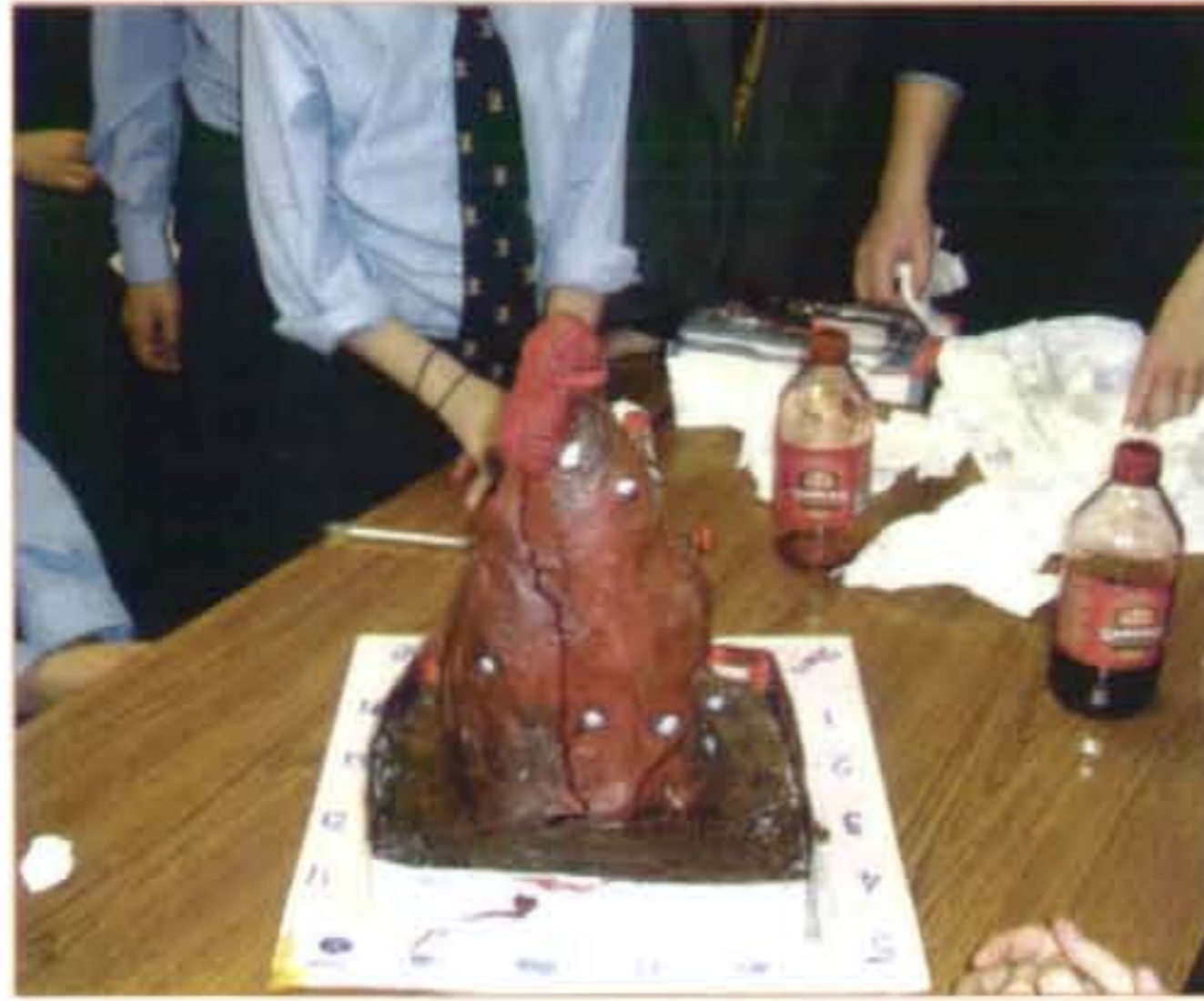
The success or otherwise of a department hinges chiefly on the staff within it and I am incredibly lucky to be running a department that is so strong and is packed full of interesting and motivating teachers. The experience within the department is considerable and two of us are involved

in external A level marking which is always helpful! Students who study Geography at Stowe will be working in a purposeful and stimulating department, one which will make them work hard and will give them every chance of success in their exams, as well giving them the opportunity to broaden their own horizons.

Mr Peter East



Geography



Geography Society

The Geog Soc continues to meet twice a term and this year has seen a variety of speakers both from within and without the school. The year began with a talk from our newest member of staff, Zoe Branford-White who gave us an excellent presentation on her travels in the Golden Triangle of Northern India (Delhi – Agra – Jaipur). Her talk was followed by a presentation by Head Girl, Mukami Wangai, who was anxious to challenge some of the stereotypes that westerners often have about life in Africa. Her talk was clear and challenging and left one with a clear impression of a continent that does face tremendous problems but that also has huge potential for the future. Clearly, good leadership in African nations is essential; perhaps some of this might come from Old Stoics in the future!

In the Spring term Mike Mason from an organisation called Climate Care came to address the Society on the "hot topic" of global climate change. The Stern report, the recent publication in Paris by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, news coverage and detailed documentaries about Global Warming all seem to be pointing to one conclusion: human activity, in particular the burning of fossil fuels and the generation of methane are now causing irrevocable damage to the earth's atmosphere.

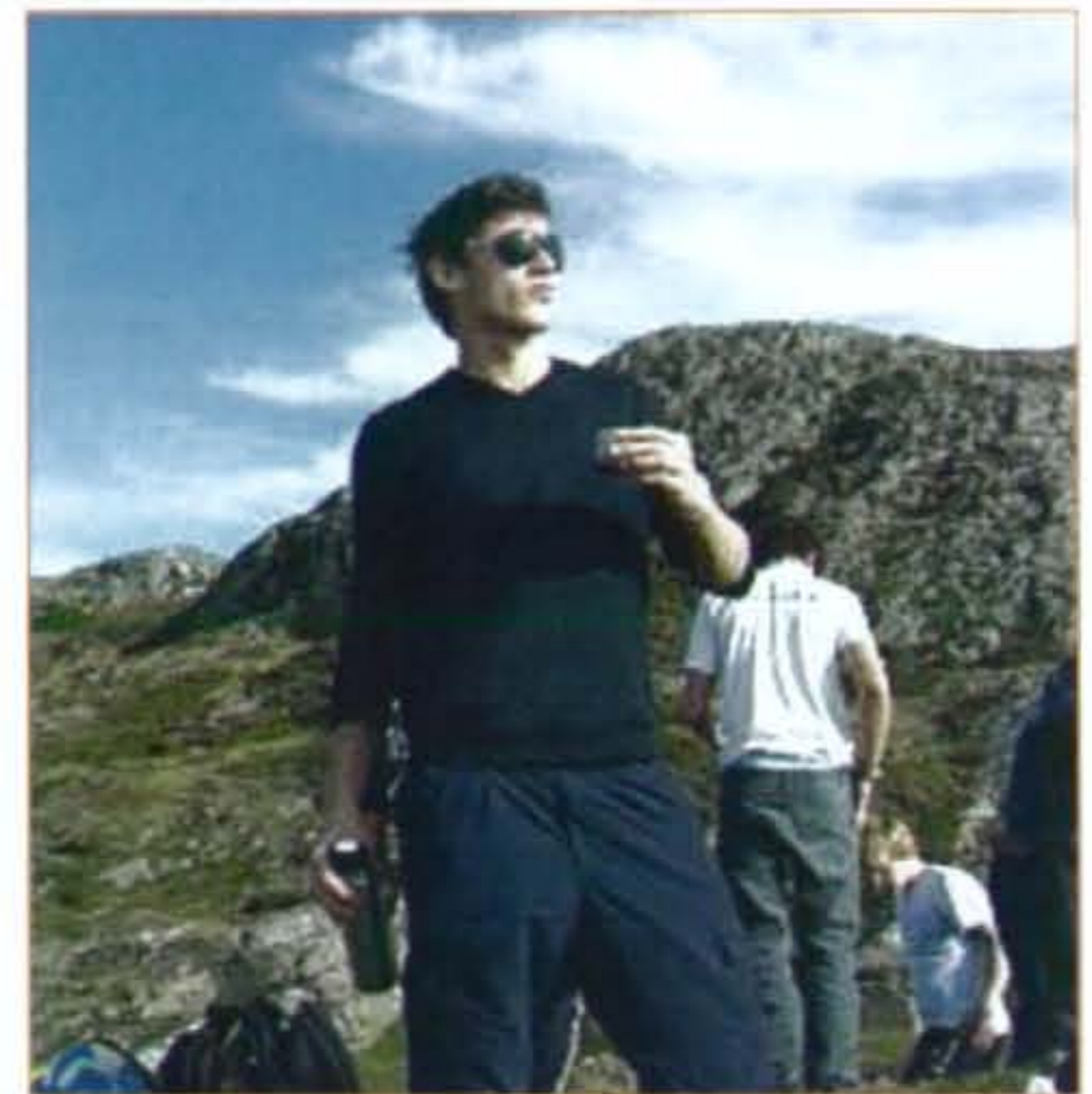
Climate Care is one of the world's leading carbon retailers. A visit to their website allows you to very quickly and easily calculate your carbon emissions and then, if you choose, to offset these emissions by making a payment to Climate Care. This money is then used to invest in a wide range of carbon-neutralising projects around the world.

Mike gave a very interesting and well-informed talk and was not slow to make the link between our individual lifestyle choices and the global problem of climate change. For example, leaving a TV or stereo on standby overnight because you are too lazy to get up and turn it off properly releases an amount of CO₂ that would fill 29 party balloons each and every day. Even boiling a kettle releases three balloons worth of CO₂.

Mike's conclusion was an interesting one because he said that we are currently the wealthiest generation ever to have lived on the earth and we will be the wealthiest generation that ever will live and the future will be determined by the decisions we make today. What car will we choose to drive? How many electrical gadgets will we choose to surround ourselves with? How energy efficient will we make our home and our school?

Clearly, these are challenging questions but the sense of urgency with which we must tackle them was very clearly expressed by Mike in his talk. The challenge is for each of us as individuals, for every household and even for Stowe School. Hampton School, London has recently become the UK's first "carbon neutral" school. Clearly, the nature of Stowe, with the huge mansion and ancient energy systems makes this a difficult challenge for the school, but don't we owe it to future generations of Stoics to at least give becoming carbon-neutral a very good shot?

The year was finished off with a presentation from Julian Nesbitt and Charlie Thuillier about their experiences on a recent field-trip to Honduras with Mr & Mrs Akam. Yet again, we were left with a clear idea of their enthusiasm for travel and the vital role this can play in broadening our horizons. Not a bad way to end the year for the Geog Soc!



Literary Society

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The Literary Society has had an immensely successful year. We were fortunate enough to begin the year with a talk by Dominic Stobbard, a producer and director of documentaries. Mr. Stobbard gave us an interesting insight into the amount of work that goes into planning, directing and shooting documentaries around the world, showing us examples of his own work including a scene from one of Bear Grylls's survival shows that Dominic had personally directed.

The Stowe World Book Day quiz was a great success, with many very challenging questions being put to a deeply concentrating audience by the Question Master, Dr. Miller. After a hard run of the literary gauntlet, it was Bruce house that reigned supreme and who won the day overall. A marvellous time was had by all.

We were lucky enough, this year, to receive Professor Vincent Gillespie, an Oxford Don and expert on the works of Harold Pinter. The Professor offered up much of his wisdom concerning the way in which Pinter goes about writing his

plays and on the significance of many of the devices that he uses within them, such as the 'silences' and 'pauses'. Post 1945 students were helped greatly in hearing the views of such a well respected man as Professor Gillespie, as they will be hugely relevant for their work on plays such as 'The Homecoming' and other Pinter plays within the A2 course.

The Literary Society celebrated William Shakespeare's birthday in style on the 23rd of April. Bill's Birthday Bash was filled with some of the greatest Shakespearian acts that Stowe had to offer, with brilliant musical performances from Craig Greene, Sebastian d'Agar, Lara Clare Bordeaux and a fantastic piece on the accordion played by Toby Marshall. On the dramatic front, we had marvellous spectacles displayed by Daisy Page, Letty Butcher and Beth Reilly as the Weird Women in 'Macbeth', followed by Mr Bayley as Macbeth himself. The show went on with Heloise Ramage-Hayes performing soliloquy Viola's from 'Twelfth Night' followed by Dr Miller as Shylock from 'The Merchant of Venice' threatening a very morose Antonio (Jonny Elfer) and Stuart Stevens and Alex Fisher in 'Hamlet'. We were also treated by Mrs Miller with a recitation of Sonnet 116. The celebrations made a marvellous evening and one that will be fondly remembered for a long time yet.

Our final speaker was our very own Peter Farquhar, head of English at Stowe until 2004, who gave a very insightful talk on 'Hamlet'. Mr. Farquhar explored the complexities of the language used in the play, and noted the relevance of the place of many of Hamlet's soliloquies in the text. This was hugely appreciated by the many members of Lit. Soc. who are studying this text for their exams this year.

The Lit. Soc. Leavers' dinner was a fantastic end to a marvellous year, with numerous memorable acts including the 'Total War' dialogue from 'Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?' by Jonny Elfer and Beth Reilly, Emily Ansell and Lara Clare Bordeaux singing 'Can't Help Loving that Man', Cressida Bonas and Fiona Cooper performing 'Fields of Gold' (both songs accompanied by Craig Greene as well as a finale of 'Good Night Sweet Heart', sung 'a cappella' by Lara Clare Bordeaux, Emily Ansell, Alex Fisher and Jonny Elfer. The 'Department Meeting' Sketch put on by numerous members of the Upper Sixth will also be fondly remembered by the English Department Staff, I am sure.

Jonathon Elfer
Secretary, Literary Society



Elite Athletes

The Elite Athletes Squad at Stowe has continued to prove that Stowe is a school producing top quality student athletes. The main function of the group is simply to talk through the pupils' progress targets and help them along with day to day management of time and training.

During the year, the group was spoken to by Sarah Bach, Stowe lacrosse professional and former captain of Stanford University's Division I side. Miss Bach spoke about the intensity and competitiveness required to play Lacrosse at such a high level and the differences between her experiences of Elite sport in America and ours at Stowe. "Comparisons between the importance placed on sporting success and the esteem sportspeople were held in were marked and the pupils were interested to reflect on the differences between the systems," observed the squad coordinator, Mr Craig Sutton.

Mr Sutton has been thoroughly impressed with the commitment to sporting excellence that has been displayed throughout the year.



"The outstanding attitude and motivation demonstrated by the members of the Elite Squad has been of the highest order this year," said Mr Sutton. "Each athlete juggles many hours of training on top of their already busy lives here and their contribution to Stowe Sport has been significant."

The key athletes in the squad have shown that this commitment to sport has also helped glean their leadership skills. "Most hold positions of responsibility in the senior teams and all are excellent role models for younger pupils to look up to," Mr



Sutton said. "The mature and enthusiastic nature of this year's group has made the meetings interesting and enjoyable."

During the academic year 2006-2007, a range of students achieved outstanding representative levels. Head Boy Rory Brabant was selected in the Scotland U19 Rugby Sevens squad. Brabant's teammates from the 1st XV - George Cootie, Nick Allen, Scott Browne and James Elkington - were all selected in the Independent School Barbarians rugby team.

Lacrosse captain Katie Kosciuczyk was selected to play for Midlands, Ben Smith was picked to play for Midlands Division Hockey U16, Jamie Hirst played for Northants U17 Cricket and Charlie Duckworth was named as an Amateur Category A Jockey.



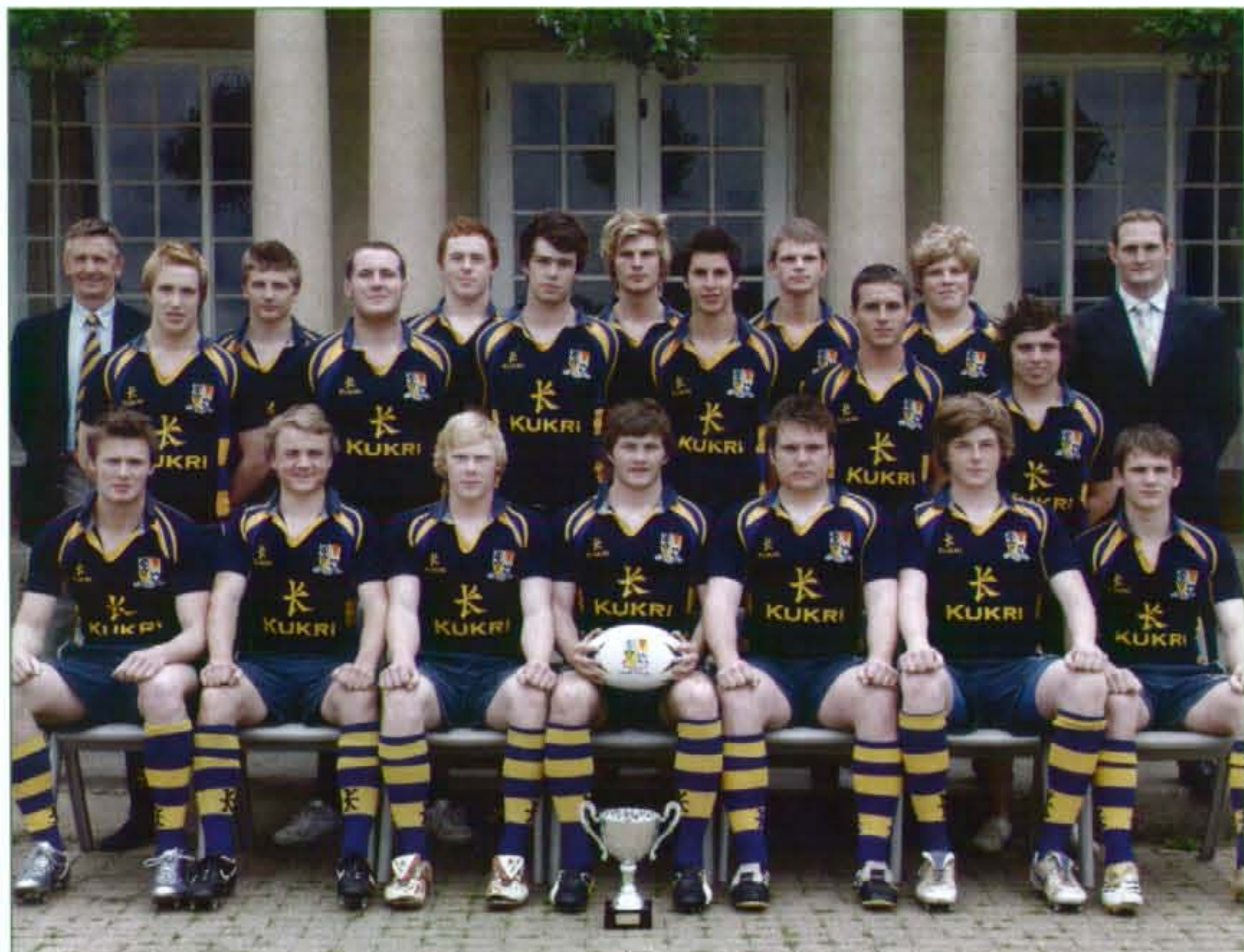
Squad Members 2006-2007			
Rugby	George Cootie Pat Ramsey	Tom Stanton Rory Brabant	Scott Browne
Cricket	Rory Lyon	Nick Allen	Jamie Hirst
Lacrosse	Katy Kosciuczyk Clare Jackson	Chloe Crisp Kate Macnamara	Lucy de Roeper Emma Duckett
Swimming	Sam Morris	Jonathan Wale	
Hockey	Ben Smith	Laura Grossick	
Athletics	Tristan Hirst		
Horse Racing	Charlie Duckworth (Jockey)		

Stowe Life



Rugby

1st XV - P 15 W 9 L 6 D 0



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prospective parents it seemed that we were to be the sacrificial lamb as the crowd stormed to a satisfying 30-0 victory.

The following week, however, saw us on the wrong end of a big score line. Losing George Coote on the eve of our match with St Edwards and then losing the skipper Tom Stanton five minutes into the match saw two of the side's talisman missing and although we turned round at half time only 10-5 down the second half saw an onslaught of punishing runs from the opposition midfield and we suffered our heaviest loss of the season 48-12. Three days later and we travelled to RGS High Wycombe in the Cup and once again a much stronger opposition pack dominated the match and we went down 29-5.

After two defeats on the bounce a lesser side would have crumbled but they steadied the ship before half term with a hard fought win over Abingdon. The visit, straight after half term, from John Cleveland was a crucial fixture. Defeat would have meant a bleak winter but a titanic struggle on the North Front saw Stowe defeat the Daily Mail Cup Quarter finalists 13-8. Although a last second try by Oratory robbed us of a draw, wins against new fixture Loughborough GS 28-0 and a comfortable and gratifying away win against the old enemy, Uppingham, 24-7 saw us to our last match of the season, where a very strong Bedford Modern side sprung a surprise defeat on us 21-15.

The School owes a great deal of gratitude to the old boys that are leaving us. We feared for our front row this year but Josh Wheeler at Loose head and Jim Elkington, Hooker brought more than just a first phase presence to their game. Both can handle a ball well and had a fair turn of speed and their combination in midfield leading to the winning try against John Cleveland will live long in the memory. Duncan Bennett and Freddie Porritt served their time in the second row with Duncan offering a destructive edge in the backrow when called upon.

Although not originally first choice options in the back row, Ben Reeve and Jack Fillery took the initial disappointment on the chin but without fuss knuckled down to deservedly earn their places and become a potent force in the side.

Every side needs a jester and in Scott Browne, at fly half, we had a man to entertain a royal court. His distribution and kicking skills have earned him a place in the Ulster Academy next season and although his defence still needs to improve he brought humour and mirth to the party. Often a tight call at fly half Nick Anstee stepped in offering similar qualities.



This was one of the best sides I have had the pleasure of working with at Stowe. Not only were they a group of lads who had plenty of ability but they were also a very mature, determined, enthusiastic and good humoured squad. The strength in depth this season was outstanding and it is a testament to their quality that the 2nd XV remained undefeated. Training was competitive and productive and I feel the spirit was very much engineered during these very intense physical sessions.

An excellent preseason got the side to appreciate the demands that were ahead of them. Playing the likes of QEGS Wakefield, Barnard Castle, Fettes, Edinburgh Academy and Filton College in some friendly 20 minute matches proved a success. Reaching the final in the Tynedale International Tournament rounded off an excellent week.

Bloxham provided the first opposition and as ever we huffed and puffed but never quite blew their house down. Against Oakham we narrowly lost our first match 7-3 and stuttered to a comfortable win against Mill Hill, after a poor start. The Royal Latin fixture allowed us to put out a weakened team before we travelled to Oundle.

The Oundle match is a traditional fixture that stirs memories for old boys from each school and as Oundle were celebrating their 450th anniversary with an open day for gathered. Fortunately, that was far from the truth and Stowe

Rugby

Others departing contributed cameo roles in the first team but had a huge impact on the success of the seconds. Hamish Hardie, Matt Payne, Jack Jefferson, Will Bond, Kit Arkwright, Dom Farr and Ed Dabney.

The management team of Tom Stanton, George Coote, Nick Allen and Rory Brabant were outstanding. Four characters exhibiting maturity, direction, control and selflessness led this squad and were a real pleasure to work alongside.

Rory Brabant is a major success story. He hadn't played the game until he joined in the Sixth Form, became Head Boy and then scored nine tries on the wing in his first full season. He has attracted the attentions of the Scottish selectors and has trials with the Scottish U20's seven a side squad.

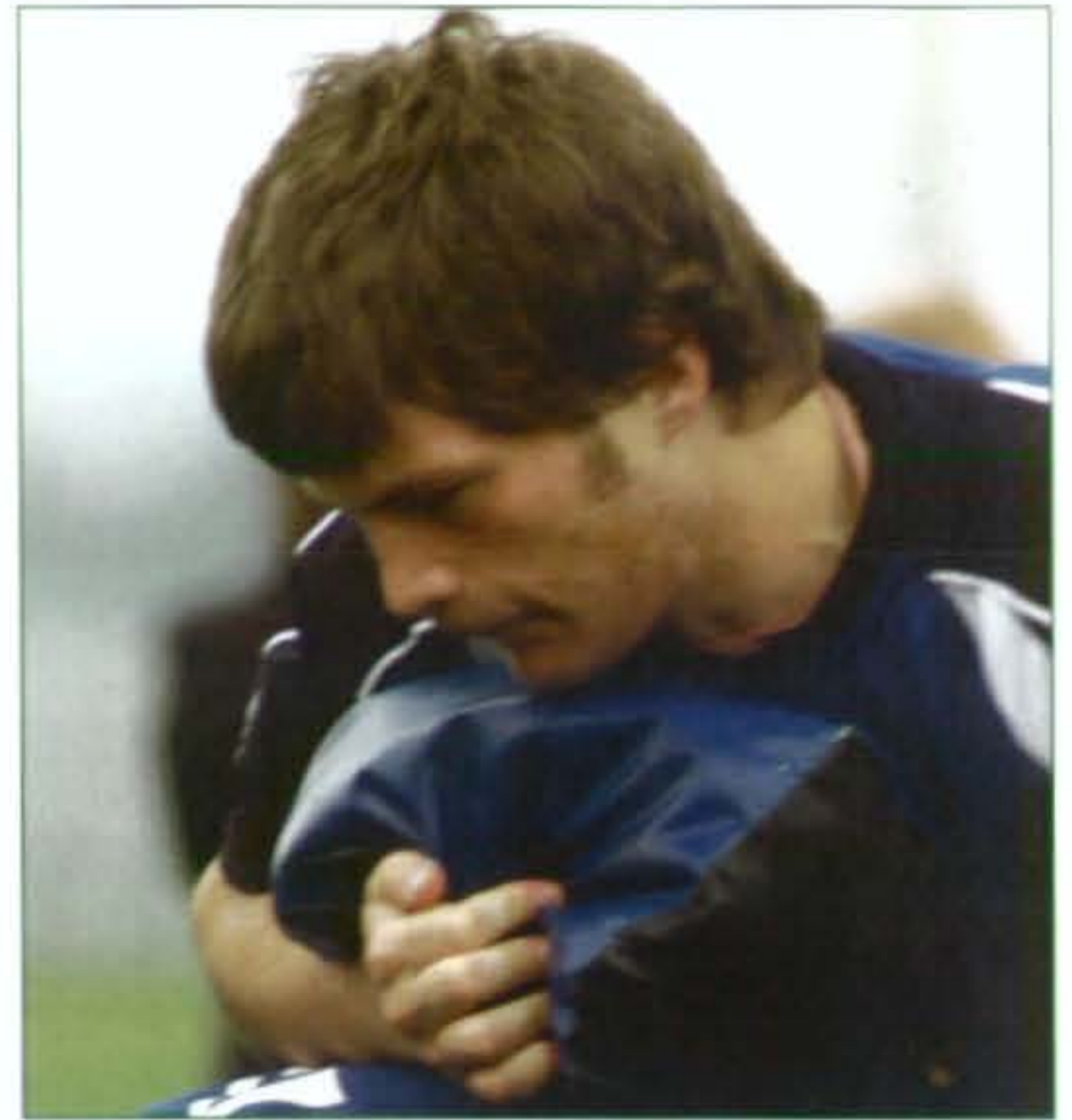
Nick Allen also arrived in the Sixth Form and has provided solidity in midfield allowing others to play off him. His support for the cause and his skipper has been unwavering and he has become a terrific advert for the School.

When I saw George Coote at a new boys day five years ago, he was a must have and he has not disappointed. In his final year he has blossomed into a creative, strong and talismanic scrum half. Scoring nine tries, he became the thorn in many opposition back rows. He has, I believe, the qualities to go on and earn a living from playing the game. If he is hot-housed in the right professional environment who knows what he might end up achieving.

There is something about the name Tom and captaining Stowe, Tom Laws, Tom Cleary and this year Tom Stanton. The 2006 version led from the front. He made it all the way to Division, he has an offer at Cambridge and I look forward to watching him earn his blue at Twickenham in the next few years.

My thanks to Mr Durrant and Mr Sutton who, yet again, brought their wealth of knowledge and positive influences to the squad, their efforts have been appreciated by the lads and myself.

Mr Alan Hughes



Senior 7's

The Stowe Senior 7's team had another very successful season, winning 10 matches out of 15. The team won their group at Rosslyn Park National Championship for the 6th time in 7 years, which included defeats against Dulwich College, Queens Taunton, Chichester College and Cranbrook. Our play off match was against a very strong Bryanston team, who proved to be stronger than us on this occasion. Very few schools in the country can match our consistency at this tournament. Another highlight was reaching the semi-final of the Windsor 7's. Victories here were achieved over Oratory, Windsor, Berkhamstead, St. Benedict's and Haileybury. In the semi-finals, a very tight match against RGS High Wycombe saw us tied at full time, but unfortunately they scored the sudden death try first. The team trained hard this year and included several players who had gained valuable experience playing for an Old Stoic 7's team called the 'Pink Panthers' during last summer holidays. The tactical awareness, work ethic and high confidence levels of the squad made for a very enjoyable and rewarding season for all involved. The outstanding players included Rory Brabant, whose blistering pace earned him the accolade of the seasons top try scorer with 23, and George Coote, who captained the side with commitment and intense competitiveness. Other particularly impressive contributions came from Scott Browne and Nick Allen. Lower 6th Formers Harry Wolrige-Gordon, Will Walker, Sam Hunter, Winston Reynolds and Pat Ramsay all show promising signs for a continuation of Stowe's strong reputation in 7's next year.

Mr Craig Sutton



Windsor 7's	-	Semi Final
Cambridshire 7's	-	Semi Final (Plate)
Rosslyn Park	-	Group Winners
Tries for	-	59
Tries against	-	33

Rugby



2nd XV

Congratulations to the 2nd XV for recording an unbeaten season. This is a tremendous feat when the strength of our current circuit is fully considered. A convincing victory over Oakham in our second match helped us to believe in our potential and from that point on the 2nd XV team's goal was set at the highest level possible –to finish the season without being defeated.

The team remained very settled this season, which allowed an effective leadership group to emerge, with Dom Farr taking overall control with the captaincy and Nick Anstee and Kit Arkwright leading the backs and forwards respectively. The attitude in training was competitive, well motivated and fuelled by a desire not to give an inch to the 1st XV. This led to some very lively battles in the Thursday practice games and certainly improved our confidence for the Saturday matches.

The back row of Sam Hunter, Henry Corner and Hamish Hardie were outstanding. Their ability in leading the defence, winning turn over

ball and actually scoring tries often made the telling difference. The back row moves named 'Chatham' proved to be virtually unstoppable. Ed Dabney and Will Walker formed a second row pairing who could both run like centres, as well as do the less glorious chores required by players in this position. With an experienced front row of Kit, Mat Payne and Jack Bartholomew/Max Housson, the very solid pack was never bettered and they created the platform for the rest of the team to work off.

Harry Hopewell proved to be an outstanding place kicker. His conversions were excellent and his passing at scrum half improved dramatically through the season and allowed the dangerous back line to threaten the opposition with the various combinations of moves we had worked on in training. Nick Anstee has all the skills a fly half could want. He can distribute with accuracy and kick for position when needed. He organised the attack efficiently, often sending the very consistent Dom Farr on a short line to either break through, or suck in the defence which allowing the fleet footed outside backs such as Tom Gladdle, Tristan Hirst and Charlie Empson plenty of space to show their deceptive skills. On the right wing the team possessed the sort of winger that defences just hate to see: Jack Jefferson is very powerful, can sidestep effectively and often timed his runs, especially off Nick Anstee's shoulder to perfection.

The team looked forward to every match with confidence and an expectation that something special could happen. The team's enjoyment was clear to see and led to a season we will all remember for a very long time.

Mr Craig Sutton

3rd XV

The season began well with an emphatic victory over Bloxham. It was a great blow to lose captain and scrum half Will Bond early in the season to the 2nd XV. Tom Gladdle made an impact at scrum half and utility back and his quality was also missed when he went up to the 2nd XV. Throughout the season the forwards toiled hard, none more so than Harry Nettlefold, 'Titch' Richardson and Julian Nesbitt. Nettlefold had an exceptional season at hooker and never once had what could be considered a 'bad' game. The forwards were unable to impose themselves as a unit and the lack of quality quick ball was a great frustration for a talented back line. Although not the quickest, Jimmy Bruce at fly half led the back line well. His total football skills came through and would surely have gained promotion into a higher team had he possessed a little more 'gas'. Marcus Dixon and James Gray forged a good partnership at centre. Unfortunately the team was unable to capitalise on the electric pace of Charlie Williams and Samson Steiger-White who would have scored a hatful of tries had they been given more opportunities.

Mr Isaac Michael

Junior Colts B

Played 11 Won 5 Lost 5 Drawn 1 Points for 214 Points against 189

Early in the Term I had visions of this team doing very well. A great bunch of lads with huge potential. However, it was not to be. Our A team were having a Daily Mail Cup run, which caused us to lose players. Sam Shepherd Barron had a long term injury, this proved a major loss. In addition we also lost Harry Raikes with a broken wrist which also was long term.

In consequence of the above, we did have some major finds, Ross Ritchie from Hooker to Fly Half (his choice) and Champ Panyarachun from the threes to Back Row. Webster Mugavazi did a great job as team Captain for most of the Term. Tolly Leech played almost every position on the Park (thank you Tolly) Players to note; Alex Wilshaw, Charlie Kim, Miles Warden, Mark Ioannou, Guy Merrill, Alex Bodian, Ify Euindu (when not in the As), Euan Welsh, John Blount, Hugo Harrison, George Burke and Thom Worsdell.

We took some good scalps, Bloxham 0-52 at Bloxham, St Edwards 43-8, Team picture on page 42. Akeley Wood 81-0, a great draw with Uppingham 19 - all and finally defeating Bedford Modern at Bedford 19-36.

Mr Ray Dawson

Rugby

Hittites

Great team, great players, great spirit, great games, even some great training sessions.

We won a few, lost a few, but enjoyed the game of rugby big time. Heartening it was to welcome individuals back to the game from whence they had strayed during previous years, and without wanting to name too many individuals (over thirty played), my thanks and praise to Cap'n Rollo who always put the team first – he was a great leader. I also feel the urge to mention the second row... Alex Paull and Ed Howlin were everything a coach could ask for in terms of big commitment, big courage, and big character, not to mention their freewheeling, slightly chaotic, rampaging mentality. The whole season was epitomised and, in a sense, condensed into the frantic sixty minutes that was our final game at one of the 'Rutland Triangle' schools. I have to say that on the skills front, they shaded us, but the team spirit saw the boys putting their lives on the line. Opportunism and shrewd thinking had given us the lead and then, like the custodians of the Alamo, we resisted wave after wave of wild assaults, but unlike Davy Crocket and the gang, WE WON! When the final whistle blew, I freely admit to a tear in my eye – it doesn't come much better than this. Thanks, lads, for the ride... I can't wait for the new season.

Rev Robert Jackson

5TH XV

The 5th XV took the field on three occasions, the first time we had been able to put out such a team for many years. This has been as a direct result of the popularity of Rugby with so many Senior pupils wanting the opportunity to represent the School team. Practice time was limited with most of the boys involved in other more pressing activities during the week, including the ever popular Senior House Leagues. Consequently the teams who took the field, twice against Oakham and once against Oundle, were a motley collection of fresh young Lower 6th, keen, fit and enthusiastic young men alongside some of the more elder statesmen in the community. However, the mix of talent and commitment worked very well indeed in terms of enjoyment on the field though sadly, could not provide us with a victory.

In the very first match of the season we came very close to defeating Oakham and only lost by three points. Tom Williams-Jones must be commended on his keen and efficient captaincy both on and off the field. Other members of the squad who performed very well throughout the season were Nick Anson, John Elfer, Hugo, Max and Gus Wiseman, Hugh Birchall, Freddie South,

George Beaty, David Nahmad and many others who played on one occasion at least (we had a really big squad to select from). Everyone played in good spirit, perhaps in too sportsmanlike a fashion on occasions allowing the opposition to score rather easily but on the whole, everyone really enjoyed their matches.

I do hope a number of the boys who play at this level go on to play social and recreational Rugby as they move on to University and beyond.

Mr Lionel Weston



Rugby



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Colts A

The stats for the 2006 U16 XV rugby season of played 14 with 6 wins and 8 losses at first glance make for disappointing reading. True, with a starting target of a 60% win rate, the Colts failed to meet their potential this year. However, when you look at some of the individual results there were some excellent performances which showed the true potential of this highly talented group of players.

The season included an opening match victory against Bloxham School, before consecutive losses to Oakham and Mill Hill. The main reason for these defeats was attributed to a lack of team cohesion and too many members of the squad playing as individuals. An early morning squad meeting was called to discuss why results had not gone our way and the resultant conclusion was that up until that point there lacked a team ethos. This analysis session seemed to ignite some team spirit amongst the squad and our next game showed much more continuity providing a 40-7 victory against Waddesdon School. Things were looking up.

The next game was definitely the game of the season, a home fixture on the North Front against Oundle. The game was finally decided in the dying seconds, where despite valiant defence from Stowe, a penalty was conceded and converted to make the score 15-17.

Stowe then defeated St Edwards 20-12, before narrow losses to Abingdon (H), John Cleveland (H) and Oratory (A). In all of these clashes, the Colts were slow to start, going behind early in the match. The Stoics then seemed to kick into gear and spend the rest of the match camped in the other team's half but unable to recoup the lost points. The Colts managed to alter their approach for the game against Loughborough Grammar, an extremely hard fought affair - the Colts showed some maturity in closing out the game in the final 10 minutes to win 19-26.

Throughout the season various Stoics were a part of the A team setup. However, there was a very good core to the team which meant stability in terms of key positions. Ben Manser and William Randall-Coath provided the corner stones of the pack, although Toby Dunipace deputised at prop (and occasionally hooker) on many occasions. Max Fossett's line out throwing and ability to spot interceptions were crucial. The second row was probably one of the most fluid areas in the squad with Angus Blayney, Toby Dunipace, Fred Lynch, Freddie Forrester, Felix Stevenson and Rob Barnard all playing there throughout the season.

One stalwart of the team and player of the season was Henry White; switching between open side and No 8, his commitment was unquestionable throughout the season and his work rate was phenomenal. Jack Rose put his hand up regularly to be considered for A team selection and he picked up Most Improved Player of the season.

In the backs, Will Anthony was a constant attacking threat from the base of the scrum. Angus Hay and Charlie Morris swapped positions regularly at number 10. Rowley Barclay showed his versatility regularly swapping between wing, where his electric pace worried defences, to flanker where his power and aggression gave the team plenty of go-forward. Harry Burke was dependable at inside centre offering good hands and organising defence. The remainder of the backs were a constant selection headache, not because of a lack of players, but rather too much talent and deciding who to put on the field. Marcus Fountaine gave the option of incisive running. Matt Constant offered pace, power and enthusiasm. Bint Bencharongkul offered amazing kicking skills both out of hand and off the ground, as well as having a devastating side-step. Finally Hugo Empson, whose "master of all trades" approach meant that often he was played in a variety of positions in the backs.

Overall the Colts developed hugely as a team throughout the season, even if this was not always shown in the final score. A large amount of this development can be attributed to the efforts applied by the boys in preparation each week. Although I think the take-home message is: in a game situation, you get out what you're willing to put in!

A huge thank you has to be given to the staff, Phil Arnold, Sean Hubert, Peter Platts-Martin and Chris Townsend who devoted a lot of time and energy in coaching the U16 squad as a whole throughout the term.



Rugby

Colts 7's

Winners Newark 7's Plate

Runners Up Bucks Invitation 7's

This season the U16's competed in three Tournaments, Newark, Bucks Invitation 7's and the Nationals at Rosslyn Park. At the beginning of March we travelled north to Newark, where the rain did its utmost to wash out the competition. After completing their pool rounds where Nottingham High School were the closest challengers, the boys met up with Woodhouse Grove who had beaten us at the semi final stage last year but some resolute defence coupled with excellent hands saw the side run out 28-0 winners. In the final we played defending Champions Worksop College where after some early pressure from the opposition Stowe took control of the game and never looked under threat having taken a 14-0 lead at half time. A final score of 33-0 sealed a superb effort from the whole squad.



© R & H Chapman Photography

In the Bucks 7's Stowe beat the current champions Warwick 12-10 in the group matches but never really reproduced this form in their other group matches, losing to Rugby, drawing with Akeley and beating Adams Grammar School, and although Stowe beat Aylesbury convincingly in the Plate semi final some inconsistent defence allowed St Edwards to take the Honours in the final.

Having sustained some crucial injuries in the Bucks tournament we ventured South to the Nationals where we beat Lymm High School and Bedford Modern. We were 19-5 up in the second half against our other remaining group opponents, a large but not very mobile John Cleveland team. We relaxed however and some poor decision making allowed them back in to beat us 26-19 and knock us out of the tournament. A productive season with silver to show and the promise of some good young 7's players to come in the future.

Squad: H White, R Barclay, R Speakman, J Prestidge, L Rust, F Forrester, A Hay, H Burke, W Anthony, J Wale, M Constant, M Fountaine, A Blayney, H Empson

Colts B

Played – 9

Won – 3 Drew – 1 Lost – 5

The 2006 season was certainly a disappointing reflection on the talent and application of the Colts B team squad. When at full strength, we were able to put out an exceptionally strong and competitive team. Unfortunately injuries in both the B team and the A team squad meant that this was a rare occurrence, really only three times in the whole season. That said those who played the majority of the games were superb in their approach. The team were lead by Angus Hay for two games, Charlie Morris for one and then when they got deservedly promoted to the A's, Xandie Trevor stepped in commendably. He was supported ably by some consistently strong performers, including Felix Parker, James Hale, Bertie Schiff, Rupert Hall and Robert Barnard. The Colts B's were at their strongest and most devastating against Mill Hill. Our strong centre partnership of Matthew Gibson and Jonathan Wale, with excellent support at pace by Hugo Empson punched holes in the opposition's defence regularly. The match was topped off with a wonderful team try by James Hale, after a length of the pitch team effort. This reflected the team's true potential, something which was sadly not repeated throughout the season.



Mr Phil Arnold / Mr Peter Platts-Martin



Rugby



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Junior Colts A

Staff: SHM, JLI, RTD, CB

P15 W8 L7 PF 275 PA 150

This was a good season for the Junior Colts where some demanding questions were asked of them in training and in their matches. The transition from 'games' to competitive matches proved to be difficult for some of them as they struggled with the self discipline needed to be more competitive as the sport becomes more demanding. Persistently late for training and ill tempered when things did not go well are just two indicators of a side that took a long time to develop into a hard working unit where everyone worked for everyone else.

Pre-season training was mainly focussed on skills and was well attended. It was clear from this that there would be plenty of enthusiasm within the squad. We played only 6 Home games out of the 15 matches played and came out with a winning season with 8 victories that could have been more.

A scrappy and ill disciplined win against Bloxham (12-0) gave pointers as to what work needed to be done. Early work on defence paid great dividends and against a strong physical Oakham side we narrowly lost 14-17. Mill Hill was a great disappointment where the team thought the game was over at half time and then gave up to allow a score of 19 – 41. Attitude and approach had to change and it did with a good 12-0 win away at Oundle the following week. Further victories were managed against St. Edwards (23-0), Abingdon (21-17), Waddesdon (46-0), Akeley (31-0), Lord Williams (13-0) and Bedford (51-3). Particular matches to remember include the defeat at Loughborough where a last second penalty was engineered and moved 20m nearer our posts to secure the win for Loughborough ((21-22); the defeat of one of Abingdon's best teams for years which left many in tears, and the final match where everything came together for a first class performance against Bedford.

Special mentions must go to: Jarvis Prestidge who grew more in stature as he started to play others into space around him; Ollie Childs who was relentless in his pursuit of the ball; Yuen Skelton who tackled aggressively; Will Richardson who became a good aggressive ball carrying forward; Luke Rust had to cover several positions; Sam Ballantine's aggressive sharp running on the wing always made ground; Ben Curley's kicking; Myles Johnson who forced his way into the team with his impact rugby and Ronnie Steadman who proved to be a good captain on and off the field. We were pleased with the development of the team over the season which was very ably supported by the B team players who had to cover for injuries on many occasions.

My sincere thanks to the hard work put in by the reliable Junior Colts coaches. John Ing and Charlie Barker who worked hard and effectively with the backs and Ray Dawson who strived to turn 'boys' into 'men' with the forwards.

Mr Steve Malling

Junior Colts B



© R & H Chapman Photography



Rugby

Junior Colts C

Played 6 Lost 5 Won 1

This was a team that suffered enormously from lack of numbers, not least because Patrick Barclay broke his leg in the first training session of term! Of the squad only nine or ten were regularly available for training sessions. The result was that every match day players would be drafted in from elsewhere and teamwork was difficult. Our opponents, on the other hand, could normally have fielded D teams and sometimes E teams, which meant, typical of rugby at this level, that we were always outsized as well.

Gigantic credit is due to the few, the "band of brothers" who stuck it out to the end. Albie did a sterling job as a captain and everyone who knows him will easily imagine how he fought every last ball and every last minute, never once giving up. Mention should also go to Alex Bodian, who captained the first two matches before promotion, and was equally dogged in his doomed pursuit of points.



We began the season very poorly with heavy losses to Oakham and Mill Hill, without our being able to put any points on the board at all. Nonetheless, Toby Clegg, Jack Carter, Will Siddeley and Cully Curwen in particular managed to remain positive throughout the games and kept personally making life difficult for the opposition – Toby and Will with their tackling, Cully through his fierce presence in the maul. Guy Thorold too made his strong presence felt on a number of occasions.

Later in the season, success awaited us under brilliant sunshine at the Oratory. We had at this stage played four games, conceded 217 points and scored none, so it was much needed! Tom Rook (Scrum Half) and George Dorrington (Fly Half) had worked hard on passing in front and taking the ball at pace, and George was beginning to show some real flair, alternating between releasing Jonty Scott and Alex Webster at speed, or chipping probing kicks into space. The Oratory were held up over our line four times, thanks in no small part to the way flanker Tolly Leech clobbered their Scrum Half, the way Charlie Murphy clung to the ball and the attackers like a limpet, and the way Prop Matthew Lockyer tackled out of his skin. Everyone sensed that for the first time all term here was a game in which they could not only compete, but which they might actually win, and the tempo grew and grew. In the backs, Alex Webster, Mika Vinokurov and Miles Warden proved an unbreachable wall, making full stretch, finger-tip tackles when all hope was lost. In fact it was Alex's day. By virtue of playing at 150% all game and chasing all loose ball, Alex scored two tries and Mika converted one. The final score was 12-5 and it may well have been the happiest day of the term!

Many thanks also due to Jacob Dennison and Simon Plunket who so regularly stood in to help make up the numbers and who always played with determination and good rugby sense.

Squad: Albie Mackintosh (Captain), Cully Curwen, Toby Clegg, Jack Carter, Matthew Lockyer, Guy Thorold, Charles Dedman, Tom Rook, George Dorrington, Alex Webster, Will Siddeley, Elliot Matthews, Jonty Scott, Raman Dhaliwal, Charlie Murphy, Mika Vinokurov, Jacob Dennison, Simon Plunket

Mr Bob Roberts

Yearlings C and D

The Yearlings C and D teams have been plagued by many postponed matches this season, and constant rain has seen at least 4 matches cancelled. Nevertheless, of the 3 matches played the C team won 2, playing an exciting brand of open rugby. Quick ruck ball won by the likes of Sam Strutt, Jamie Cockbill and George Leslie Melville often unleashed the scintillating set of backs containing such superstars as Ben Hackett, Brad Kim and James Dale for several tries against tough opposition. Ferocious tackling was also a feature of these squads, big hits regularly coming from Joaquin Munoz, Adder Birch Reynardson and Ashley O'Callen Smith. In training, many players have improved a tremendous amount, and do not be surprised to see some of these late developers playing A and B team in the near future. Mentions for great improvement go out to Ollie Clarke, Rupert Aslett, Kitt Smith and Charlie White. Overall, it has been a successful season in terms of developing players, and it was unfortunate that we had so little opportunity to unleash it upon more opposition.



Rugby



© R & H Chapman Photography

Yearlings A

P9 W4 L5

The Yearlings rugby after Christmas was a real stop-start affair for two reasons. The incessant rain caused matches to be postponed and at the end of January the School was in the depths of a flu epidemic which cost us another weekend of rugby.

Wins against Prince Williams, Mill Hill, The Leys and the Royal Latin showed glimpses of what the side is capable of and it was ironic that some of their best performances were delivered on firm pitches unlike the mud they had to contend with for much of the season.

The forwards will develop as they progress through the School. On occasions they were simply overwhelmed by the size of the opposition. Oundle and Uppingham in particular had huge packs which inevitably took their toll. George Corner, Tom Bishop, Ben Roe and Tom Rawicz-Szczerbo all showed moments of determination and character and once the other forwards have grown then they will feel physically more able to express themselves.

The backs on the other hand did have some physical stature and a good degree of flair but suffered due to a lack of quality possession.

Iggulden and Madojemu are two fast wingers and Iggulden in particular reads a game well and his defence was outstanding in the first match against Oundle. James Blackham at outside centre captained the side with Ben Roe and showed an eye for a break. After a spell at scrum half, Gus Hopewell moved to fullback. His footwork takes him through gaps others would not consider and he tackles well above his weight. Geordie Wilkes came in at nine after some consistent performances in the B's. Possibly the find of the season was Nicolas Du Bois De Montule who hadn't played before joining Stowe but has some extraordinary skills with a ball in hand. Finally if "tricky" Micky Platts-Martin can stay free from injury and illness he too could develop into an influential fly half.

I look forward to teaming up with this year group in the near future.

Mr Alan Hughes



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Yearlings B

After a frustrating start to the season, with a number of games cancelled or postponed due to snow and ice, the Yearlings B finally took to the field against QE Barnet. QE were a strong all round team who dominated the early exchanges and eventually ran out winners 14 – 29. Licking our wounds we returned to the training field and regrouped sufficiently to put a good performance together to beat the Leys by 36 – 17. One or two players were beginning to emerge as good prospects, particularly Nick Brown and Nick Langridge in the forwards and our outsides had solid performers in Nicolas Du Bois De Montule, Will Berner and Harry Hawkes.

It was, with a much depleted side, that we faced Oundle at Stowe in our next game and even though the many C team players who came up to the B's equipped themselves very well we could not stop an outstanding Oundle side from winning 5 – 64. Brad Kim, who was one of the surfacing C team players, played very well and established himself as a regular B team player.

Next followed Mill Hill, a scrappy game with not much attractive rugby played. Our pack played well against a big front five from Mill Hill, which according to the boys contained a girl – I'm not convinced! Our skill and pace from our backs, in particular Dom Noakes and Ben Barter, gave us a deserved victory 28 – 12. A spirited game against Uppingham with some outstanding tackling held them to a 20 – 0 defeat. Tom Woods in the centre and Francis Drysdale, our captain for most of the season, played well.

Another heavy defeat at the hands of Oundle away finished off what was a disappointing season in some ways. In training the boys were good fun, worked very hard and made excellent progress. A good team spirit prevailed. There is always next season and the promise of extra strength and fitness training to complement the obvious potential that this group of players have!

Yearlings B squad:

Nicholas Brown, Andrew Welford, Nicolas Langridge, Hector Macpherson, Alistair Moncur, Francis Drysdale, William Berner, Hamish Barnes, Thomas Wood, Ashley O'Callen-Smith, Brad Kim, Ben Barter, Edward Kealey, Andrew Gordon-Colebrooke, Felix Edelsten, Dominic Noakes, Oliver Sewell, Alexander Worth, Rory Hay, William Cowley.

Mr John Ing

Lacrosse

Senior Report



Outstanding victories have been achieved through intricate, high quality team work over Malvern Girls College, Marlborough, Uppingham, Haileybury, Godolphin, Malvern College and Alice Ottley. Our Tournament play has, however, been lacking in courage and determination and as coaches we are aware that there is a lot to be done if we are to achieve our potential next year. Defensively, Chloe Crisp and Emma Duckett have starred in our straight defence; Clare Jackson, Olivia Stevens and Lucy Rankin in midfield and Katie Kosciuczyk in attack. Lucy de Roeper's speed has caused many problems for the opposition as has Kate Macnamara's tireless running particularly in the last quarter of games. In the 2nd team Jess Waddington, Amber Stone-Brown, Rosie Money-Coutts and Thea Dorenberg have all been excellent.



Colours have been awarded to Emily Thornton, Olivia Stevens, Sophie Loyd, Kate Macnamara and Chloe Crisp.

Thanks go to our captains, Katie and Clare; they have been remarkable role models for both Lacrosse and Stowe. Next year's captain will be Chloe Crisp.

Junior Report

Our Juniors have gone through Home and Away matches this season recording only one loss in 10 full length matches against Malvern St James (5-6) in the dying seconds of the game. With year groups of 12-15 it is not always possible to play the girls in their own age group and so we have fielded a Junior A and a B Team against schools. This often means that we are playing girls in our 3rd year against other schools' U15 sides. Francesca Hutt, José Brake, Zara Nichols, Rebecca Elliott and Beeb Peile have regularly played up and featured heavily in the victories.



We have been fortunate to have had the benefit of Miss Bach's coaching this year and although she will be returning to America in the summer, we are aware of how much the Juniors have learnt from her. The future is exciting with at long last some of our home grown players moving up through the school teams. The fire power of Lillie Ziegler Pounds, the midfield strength of Rosanna Hedley and the defensive expertise of Tash Trevor will make interesting selection for the seniors next September.

Junior Colours have been awarded to Lillie Ziegler Pounds, Tash Trevor and Rosanna Hedley. Next year's captain will be José Brake.



Pictures: Roy Ottaway

Lacrosse



© Roy Ottaway



Stowe Lacrosse has seen a number of firsts this year:

- 3 Senior Teams, U16, U15, U14's have all represented Stowe in either full length or tournament games.
- We entered the Berkhamstead 8's and won a trophy.
- 4 players were selected to play County: Cassidy Uggla, Katie Kosciuczyk, Clare Jackson, Sophie Loyd. Katie co-captained Bucks.
- 2 players have represented their region: Cassidy Uggla played U15 East in the junior Regionals. Katie played U18 Midlands who won the regionals for the first time in 9 years.
- 5 of our players were selected to attend Centex Regional Training centres: Katie K, Emma Duckett, Tash Trevor, Josephine Peile, and Zara Nichols
- Stowe 1st Team went on tour to California over Easter and we have high hopes that the Juniors will mirror that same tour next year.

1st XII played 16, Won 13, lost 3
 2nd XII played 16, Won 9, lost 6, drew 1
 3rd XII/ U 16 played 5 Won 3 lost 2
 U15XII played 10 Won 9 lost 1
 U14XII played 3 won 1 lost 2



© Roy Ottaway



© Roy Ottaway

Hockey

Action pictures: Roy Ottaway. Team Pictures: © R & H Chapman Photography



Squad: C. Price, B. Smith, T. Wilson, O. Tett, W. Walker, H. Corner, H. Wolrige-Gordon, D. Farr, S. Scott, T. Gladdie, A. Blayne, M. Mackintosh, J. Bruce, W. Dunn, K. Jordan, R. Lyon, S. Rogge.

1st XI

Played	Wins	Draws	Losses
12	7	4	1

Coaches: R. S. Pickersgill and M. J. D. A. Walsh-Woolcott.

The season started very brightly this year for the first eleven with 3 wins out of 3 in early January against Bloxham, Harrow and Kimbolton respectively with 7 goals scored compared with only two conceded. Our only loss came at the end of January to Stamford – away and in the heavy hail that fell that afternoon. After a draw with Bradfield we were back to winning ways with a good away win at rivals St. Edward's. Another brief blip in form saw a draw with Abingdon just before half term and another after the break away at Rugby. The second half of term saw the side undefeated returning to winning ways beating Oakham, Shiplake and Bloxham again, in the penultimate match of the season, before drawing with Magdalen College School (Oxford) in our last competitive fixture.

It was a very successful season overall and according to the records, the best set of results for quite a few years. Thus, congratulations to all of the boys who represented the first eleven this season, some great performances to look back on, even if at times we made it somewhat hard for ourselves, eh boys?!

Special mentions must go to the leavers who all had very good seasons. Messers Gladdie, Jordan, Lyon and Price. A particular mention must go to the player of the season, Chris Price, who pulled off some of the finest saves, we all agreed, we had ever seen. 'Pricey', as he known in the team, saved us on countless occasions and is a top class keeper, who is set to play at the highest levels. Good luck, on that note, to all of the leavers, and here's to next season!

4th XI

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
9	3	6	0

Even the die-hard fans of the class of 2007 were admitting by the end that this was perhaps not the most successful season ever for the mighty 4th XI. It was nonetheless an enjoyable one from which a number of positive things can be taken. After a highly competitive trial at the start of term a confident team started off the season with an emphatic 4-0 victory over Bloxham. This was followed by matches against 3rd XI sides from Bradfield and St. Edward's, Oxford, who, in spite of the fight that Stowe provided, proved to be slightly too strong. We bounced back well from these setbacks and the last week of the first half of term saw a satisfying 2-0 victory over an Abingdon 3rd XI with a brace of clinically finished Matt Payne goals. The second half of term saw downward spiral in performance, however, as injuries and lack of training took their significant toll. The only bright spot in an otherwise gloomy run of form for the 4ths was the 3-2 victory on the Shiplake grass. Special mention must go to captain Matt Payne who led the team from the front with determination, humour and wholehearted commitment to the cause.



Hockey

2nd XI

The 2nd XI has had a reasonably successful term of hockey but they have just failed to tip the balance when it comes to the most important fixtures. They showed themselves to be a very close knit unit and the team spirit was superb but when it came to the tough fixtures, they would often lose sight of the basics and this cost us dearly.

We started the season strongly and were unbeaten in the first five games. The victory against Bradfield was particularly impressive as it was a very physical game but the discipline was good and this, ultimately, was the difference between the two sides.

The big match against St Edward's was a close affair and was only decided by an exceptional short corner routine by the opposition. Sadly, this led to a period of tough results for us against the likes of Oxford MCS, Oakham and Bloxham (who we had beaten at the start of the season). However an exceptional performance against Abingdon showed that we still knew how to win games with style and good hockey.

We had two goal-keepers over the season: Alex Jollivet is a very good prospect and should move up to the 1st XI in the future. Toby Dunipace stepped in for the last 5 games and did exceptionally well and is another good prospect. In defence the centre pairing of Richard Lamb and "Titch" Richardson was a revelation and their hard work provided the basis for many of our victories.

In midfield the partnership of Jimmy Bruce and Max Mackintosh was a good one and it is a great shame for Stowe hockey that Jimmy is leaving the school. Up front, Archie De Sales led the line with intelligence and has turned himself into a classy finisher.

We had a phalanx of fifth form who provided much in the way of strength and flair in the team and Morris, Anthony, Batchelor and Forrester will all be names which will be on the team sheets for the foreseeable future.

It has been an enjoyable season and I would like to thank Mr Pickersgill and Mr Walsh-Woolcott for their help and support during the term. Thanks also to Mr Arnold for umpiring some of the games.



3rd XI

This has been a very successful season in which the team has played some quality hockey. Undeclared against rival 3rd XIs the squad has only struggled when thrown in at the deep end against quality Colts A sides and has never once taken a backward step. Most encouraging of the victories were against Bloxham (home and away) and Rugby Colts A with superb displays put up against Oakham and St Edwards. The Team was excellently led by Nick Allen with maturing performances from Michael Warner, Harry Benyon and Jack Leech. Goal scoring was shared among Freddie Hall, Charlie Empson and Ludo de Ferranti. During the season quite rightly James Richardson and Samson Steiger-White demanded promotion to the 2nds. The attitude and commitment of the squad has been first class and contributed to a very enjoyable and competitive season.



Hockey



Senior Girls

Stowe girls' hockey has had its best season on record. For the first year Stowe was able to provide two terms of hockey due to increased squad sizes and a larger fixture list. This meant that the positive effect of the coaching in the first term shone through in the second, as was evident in our 8-0 defeat over Wycombe Abbey. Stowe recorded wins over Tudor Hall (3-2), Downe House (4-2) and Godolphin & Latymer (2-0), all of which were closely contested and competitive games. One of the team's greatest strengths was that they became a very close unit, resulting in consistency of play and morale always remaining high (even on cold and very wet evenings up on the Bourbon!).

Hockey colours were awarded to Libby Collins (Captain), Annie Waterer (Vice Captain), Cressida Bonas, Laura Grossick and Pippa Russell, who will be taking over as Captain. Libby and Annie have worked together to help

motivate, encourage and lead a team of highly talented girls to success. Pippa will have learnt a lot from them and shall apply her own leadership qualities to the forthcoming season. The coach, Miss Branford White, took pride in the fact the girls saw the positives in every situation, even in the face of a loss. She is looking forward to welcoming the new girls to the first and second teams and is hoping for another successful season with the assistance and support of the ex-Welsh International player, Mr Matthew Way.

Due to the success of our first pre-season training weekend, we are once again entered into the Pangbourne School tournament in September 2007. In 2006 we came a very close second to The Perse School, Cambridge. We hope to be in contention again this coming season. With the continuous development of Girls' Hockey at Stowe at both junior and senior level, we are increasing the reputation of Hockey as a girl's sport within the school. Hockey has been a part of the girls' lives at Stowe, through memory, friendship and success. It shall be sorely missed by those leaving, however we are confident that they are well prepared for possible club or university hockey and all of the coaching staff wish them every future success.

Miss Branford White, Libby Collins, Annie Waterer & Pippa Russell



Junior Girls

Stowe has had a very successful season with the Junior Girls. With a fresh influx of talent in the third form, the team has progressed in leaps and bounds. Having played nine matches over the course of the two terms and only losing twice to an older Bloxham side and a strong St. Edward's one, the girls should be very proud of what they have achieved. Also, at the end of last term, we played in the North Buckinghamshire section of the County Tournament and came second - a good start to the junior girls' career in County Tournaments. Congratulations to Zara Nichols and José Brake, who have been put forward for County trials and already train in the Buckingham Ladies Academy side.

Yearlings Hockey

The Yearlings Hockey in the Autumn term was a success. Stowe put out 5 teams with many of the players competing at the sport for the first time. Unfortunately our results did not do us justice. Highlights of the term included a whitewash of Mill Hill School including a great 5-0 victory by the A team. The A team also reached the Semi Finals of the County Cup before being beaten by RGS High Wycombe. Several players identified themselves as future stars and they included George Corner the A team Captain, Will Berner and Andrew Welford. We look forward to seeing them continue to progress over the rest of their time here at Stowe and ultimately represent the 1st team in years to come.



Hockey

Junior Colts A

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
10	3	1	6

I certainly believe that this Junior Colts A side has developed strongly throughout this season. They were apprehensive and showed little confidence on the ball in our first two games. After this, with some hard working training sessions under their belt, the squad started to show glimpses of their true potential. The first of these instances was against Bradfield, a very individually skilful side, who looked very threatening at times. Bradfield's skill and flair was matched equally by Stowe's determination and team play. Two goals by Archie Voorspuy helped Stowe to a hard earned victory, their first of the season.

The remainder of the fixtures before half term were against traditionally strong opposition, St Edward's and Abingdon. Both games were extremely good contests, with Stowe coming out with a close loss and a thrilling draw respectively. In these performances especially, the Stowe defence and midfield were gaining confidence and experience with each game together. This was emphatically shown in the 4-0 win against Rugby, a fantastic team performance.

Stowe then played a very strong Oakham side, which had to get a result to make it an unbeaten season. Stowe were unfazed by this and they duly set about disrupting the opposition's possession. Stowe were 1-0 up with five minutes to play, but unfortunately conceded two late goals to gift Oakham the win. This was a bitterly disappointing result and the whole squad were noticeably upset.

They responded in a fashion only this team could do, by beating Shiplake in an open and fast game of hockey. Unfortunately, the final two games against Bloxham and MCS Oxford, two technically strong sides, were both disappointing losses.

All in all, this Stowe JCA's side showed great promise, played with an excellent team spirit and rarely gave up without a real determined effort. The midfield epitomised this ethos, but the whole squad, including those who deserved their promotions from the JCB's, must take credit for this. I have thoroughly enjoyed coaching the JCA's squad this term and wish them every success in their careers in senior hockey, both at school and hopefully further a field.

Mr Phillip Arnold



Stowe JCA's. Back Row (from Left to Right); Harry Raikes, Jamie Knight, Miles Johnson, Mr P.R. Arnold – Coach / M.i.C, William Richardson, Jonty Scott and Ross Ritchie – Goalkeeper.

Front Row (from Left to Right); Archie Voorspuy, Sam Ballantine; Charlie Kim, Sam Shepherd-Barron – Captain, Oliver Trotter – Vice Captain, Thomas Benyon and Thomas Bacon. Squad Members absent from the photo; Oliver Childs, Ben Curley and Luke Rust.

Junior Colts B

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
7	2	0	5

The JCB season started very promisingly with a 2-0 victory over a good Bloxham side on the first weekend. Stowe utilised good tactics of attacking down the right wing using Ronnie Speakman's pace. This would be a tactic that worked well for most of the season. From then on it was to be a bit of a roller coaster season where the team struggled to put consistent performances together. There was a good win against Abingdon (Good goals from Josh Sainsbury-Bow (5 in total for the season) and Ronnie Speakman) but losses to St Edward's and Stamford. Going into the half way stage the team were well set having played 4 won 2, lost 2. However, the second half proved a half too many as we lost all three fixtures. It did not help that two fixtures, as well as several practices, were lost to the weather.

The team should take pride in the fact that their performances were greatly improved from that at Yearlings level and they are clearly moving in the right direction. Charlie Murphy, Joss Roupell, Jonty Scott, Ben Curley and Luke Rust all showed a big improvement this year and were rewarded with 'A' team call ups. Other players of note were George Burke (Solid at centre back), Will Siddeley (energetic in the midfield), Mile McConnell (tireless at right back), and Mark Ioannou (Lively). Thanks to all those who played for the Junior Colts B team this term.



Junior Colts C

This was a team which really enjoyed its hockey – playing to win but taking defeat well. Captained by the indefatigable Toby Clegg, the side never gave up and looked to play attacking hockey at every opportunity. Against Abingdon, for instance, victory was almost snatched from the jaws of defeat with spectacular goals from Clarke and Leech whilst in the Rugby game goals came fast and furious in a 5-0 drubbing. There was a narrow loss against an impressive Bradfield side and a determined effort against an Akeley Wood A team. Coming second to a very strong St. Edward's side was not as one sided as the score line suggests. Tom Rook was first to volunteer to be goalkeeper and he kept soundly and enthusiastically before Yuon Skelton demonstrated his ability between the sticks in dramatic fashion.

Stowe HC Coaches Role of Honour

Without the following people the boys and girls here at Stowe would not achieve so much on the Hockey field. I would like to thank them all on behalf of the Stoics.

D Mochan	P Arnold
Z Branford-White	T Hooker
M Way	A Lewis
M Bevington	P Board
J Knott	L Clewes-Garner
M Walsh-Woolcott	H Swayne
N Du Toit	R Pickersgill Head of Hockey

Cricket



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1st XI

The 1st XI has had a very successful start to the term, with seven victories including Uppingham and Radley and qualification into the last sixteen of the National Twenty/20 competition. The team has gelled quickly as a unit and everyone has played their part.

The season got under way with a pre-season 'friendly' against Reading Blue Coats. The match was drawn but Stowe showed glimpses of their batting form to come amassing 272 in 48 overs, skipper Nick Allen leading the way with 90 and useful contributions from Hirst (40), Wolrige-Gordon (36) and Mackintosh (46n.o.). Stowe took seven Reading wickets in reply with Rory Lyon the pick of the bowlers with 5 for 54.

The first Saturday saw Uppingham and the 1st XI's first win. Stowe took to the Uppingham bowling scoring 180 for 2, with Rory Lyon completing a century before lunch. There cannot be too many batsmen at school level who have achieved that. Uppingham were better after lunch and restricted Stowe to 260 for 8 declared.

After a solid opening partnership Stowe steadily began to take wickets but the draw looked the likely result

until Tom Wilson came on to bowl with 12 overs left. He tempted one Uppingham batsman to drive a ball back to him then got two in two balls to leave Uppingham 9 down. Harry Wolrige-Gordon finished off the innings and both he and Tom Wilson had three wickets apiece. Stowe won by the huge margin of 101 runs.

A win followed against Lord William's Sports College. Nick Allen's and Harry Wolrige-Gordon's 116 run partnership was the highlight of this match as Stowe posted 215 for 6 in 35 overs. Stowe won by 13 runs.

The big game against Radley started late because of rain and was reduced to 40 overs per side. Stowe bowled first with great discipline and runs were hard to come by. After 30 overs Radley were 90 for 4. A short break for rain allowed Radley to regroup and they resumed with greater purpose, eventually reaching 148 for 6 after their 40 overs. Rory Lyon was again the pick of the bowlers for Stowe with 2 for 25.

In reply, Hirst scored 54 and was in excellent touch but wickets steadily fell at the other end. After 25 overs Stowe were 100 for 5, still up with the run rate but in danger of being bowled out. Coote came in and played some enterprising strokes for 25 to put the Radley bowlers back on the back foot. However, when Coote fell with the score on 120 the game was put in the balance again. Tom Wilson and Tom Howgego both batted sensibly and steadily got us closer to the target. Although Howgego fell before the end, the game was won in the 37th over. Wilson 17 n.o. Stowe beat Radley by three wickets – a feat they had not achieved for 17 years.

Stowe could not keep this good form going against Oratory and lost by 41 runs in a Twenty/20 match. The game was notable for Harry Wolrige-Gordon who had an outstanding game only going for 19 runs in his four overs and scoring 65 off 39 balls with the bat.

Oundle was next and a mixed performance from Stowe with the ball meant Oundle scored 228 but were bowled out. There was another excellent spell from Rory Lyon, who bowled unchanged for 25 overs, taking 4 for 72. This was backed up by tight spells from Tom Howgego (2 for 28) and Harry Wolrige-Gordon (1 for 32).

Once again Stowe started their reply brightly with Lyon (46), Hirst (27) and Allen (26) all making starts. However, they were not able to convert into the big score required to win the game and wickets began to fall regularly. At 120 for 6 Stowe had no choice but to consolidate and try to get a partnership together. At this stage the noise from Oundle was at its highest led by their Captain. It worked against him however as our batsmen became more determined not to get out and there was a substantial stand between Max Mackintosh (20 n.o.) and Tom

Cricket

Howgego (41). They nearly saw it all the way through but Howgego succumbed a few overs from the end - Scott and Mackintosh then seeing it through.

The next day brought Twenty/20 cricket to Stowe in the group stages of the National Twenties competition. They played some tremendous cricket throughout the day, winning each of their three matches by convincing margins; beating Shiplake by 62 runs, Dauntsey's by 10 wickets and Abingdon by 36 runs.

Nick Allen was impressive throughout scoring a total of 143 runs and only being dismissed once. He also led the side very well. Rory Lyon was the best bowler taking 8 wickets for 55 runs including a five for against Shiplake (a very impressive feat when bowlers are only allowed four overs). Tom Howgego completed the rare feat of a hatrick against Dauntsey's and had superb figures for 4 for 8. These were the standout individual performances but everyone played their part and if they can keep this collective performance together for the rest of this tournament they have a chance of proceeding far in this competition.

The half term finished with a comprehensive seven wicket victory over the Old Stoics, with George Coote's 6 for 28 helping to bowl them out for 171. For the old boys, Archie Leon and Lester Smart posted half centuries. In reply, Jamie Hirst held the innings together to score an unbeaten half century, while George Coote completed a memorable day with a 21 ball cameo to finish 35 not out, in front of a bumper Speech Day crowd.



1st XI

Nick Allen (C)	Tom Wilson
Jamie Hirst (W/K)	Sam Scott
Rory Lyon (V/C)	Chris Price
Harry Wolrige-Gordon	Scott Browne
Max Mackintosh	Jack Fillery
George Coote	Olly Tett
Tom Howgego	Mark Thompson-Royds



2nd XI

This term started with great enthusiasm and unprecedented numbers of boys looking for a spot in the 2nd XI. After sorting out a team and captain (Mark Thompson-Royds) Stowe opened the season with a win at home over Uppingham. Harry Nettlefold was a deserved man of the match leading the way in all three disciplines of play batting, fielding and bowling.

Then the rain came and we had to abandon matches against Abingdon and Radley. Both games saw some play but didn't go beyond the first innings. When the weather cleared the 2nd's played some cricket but suffered narrow losses to The Oratory and Oundle. Alex Trotter and Alex Sainsbury-Bow have been consistent bowlers through the first half of this term. We are looking forward to more success in the remainder of the summer term.

Mr Damien Orr



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Cricket

3rd XI

At the time of writing, halfway through the term, the 3rd XI have only managed to complete two matches due some untimely weather. Our first game was against Uppingham on a tricky pitch on the Bourbon. Batting first, William Dunn (98) and Alex MacIntyre (54) helped us to a healthy 196-7 from our 30 overs. Uppingham were never really in the hunt after some dangerous bowling from Patrick Tillard and Henry Corner. Jack Leech (5 for 9) and Richard Lamb (2 for 22) cleaned up the tail with Jack getting a hat-trick. The fielding was excellent with catches held and boundaries saved through determination and good technique. Our match against Abingdon was abandoned with the opposition on 25-2 from 10 overs in a 30 over game. Perhaps another win was on the cards here. Finally, just prior to half-term we played Oundle, again on the Bourbon. Good bowling from all of the attack, but particularly Alex MacIntyre (3 for 6) reduced Oundle to 103 all out. Unfortunately with half the job done, our batting collapsed and we were all out for 68, with only Tom Gladdle and Richard Lamb providing any resistance to some straight bowling. It is testament to the health of cricket in the current Sixth Form that we have selection problems for the 3rd XI with many who are keen to play struggling to get a place. The standard of fielding is an indicator of the enthusiasm and quality of the team and I am sure that successes lie in wait beyond half-term. Mr Peter Last and Mr Matthew Way have thoroughly enjoyed running the side this term.



© R & H Chapman Photography

to see us to victory by five wickets. The squad were a pleasure to coach and their enthusiasm and talent should enable them to go onto to play a good level of cricket next year.

The following represented the Colts A team: C.Browne, W.Schofield, C.Morris, W.Anthony, F.Greenish, H. Empson, O.Tett, A. Blayney, M. Constant, F. Forrester, L. Porritt, B. Manser, F. Lynch, and T. Dunnipace.

Colts A XI

In a short season curtailed by the vagaries of the weather, this talented group of cricketers were frustrated in their efforts to display their talents, with only two matches completed.

In the opening match of the term versus Uppingham, Stowe declared before half time on 165-8 (Schofield 62, Greenish 42) in order to give us the opportunity to bowl Uppingham out. This risky strategy, however, did not quite prevail as Uppingham passed our total with the loss of 5 wickets and three overs to spare.

Our next match saw us travel to Abingdon, where we bowled them out for 97, but rain intervened at that stage and the match had to be called off. A similar story was repeated in the next match versus Radley with us on 62-4 (Morris 37), before the rain came.

In our final match we entertained Oundle. They chose to bat first in a 30 over match, and effective bowling reduced them to 136 all out (F. Lynch 3 wickets, Constant 2, Browne 2). In reply our captain Olly Tett scored a masterly 71 and he was ably supported by Luke Porritt's 41.



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Junior Colts B XI

We have seen much development in the Junior Colts team so far this Season. It has been a fluid squad with much competition for places. Several of our team have really pushed themselves to gain a starting spot in the A team and this has benefited the team as a whole. We started the season slowly against Uppingham where we lost after a poor batting display let us down leaving our bowlers only 54 runs to defend. Ollie Childs was the pick of the bowlers that day gaining 2 Wickets. Our next match was abandoned due to rain but we were in a commanding position. We performed gallantly against Oundle where an unbeaten 78 from Mark Ioannou helped us set them a target of 161. Unfortunately some poor bowling and a short boundary allowed them to knock of the target in 24 overs. The team is gelling well and we are certainly seeing an improvement in performance as the season progresses. Hopefully the rain will hold off for the rest of the season and we will be able to reach our potential and go forward to victory.

Cricket

Junior Colts A XI

Played – 3 Won – 1 Lost – 2 Abandoned / Cancelled due to rain – 3

After an incredibly sunny and productive pre-season weekend, Stowe began with a tough fixture away at Uppingham. Uppingham won the toss and elected to bat on a very good looking pitch. The Uppingham opening pair then put on 120 for the first wicket. A flourish of wickets at the end of the Uppingham innings, made the total in reach of the Stowe batting attack. A mix of poor shots and some excellent Uppingham bowling left Stowe 117 runs short, with 13 overs to go.

Unfortunately, rain put pay to our next few games. It was especially disappointing to be cut short in the game at Radley, as we had held them to 69 – 3 off 22 overs, with our best bowling and fielding display yet.

Oundle were our next opponents and a mixture of poor shot selection and application left Stowe defending a disappointing 132. Oundle knocked these off without losing a wicket, including an unbeaten hundred for one of their openers.

Our next game against The Royal Latin was much more encouraging. William Richardson and Ollie Trotter put on 150 runs for the first wicket, with Ollie eventually falling two short of his half century. William continued to hit the ball very hard and very straight on an excellent batting track and managed to reach his hundred with two overs to spare, finishing up on 106 not out. Stowe then bowled their opponents out for 119, with Sainsbury-Bow, Speakman and Johnson all picking up two wickets.

Junior Colts C XI

The Junior Colts C team have enjoyed a good season of cricket, mixing fun and development in their own unique way. Although the C team lost close fought matches against Oundle and Uppingham, their spirit this season has been unbreakable and some excellent performances were seen in both these games. Jarvis Prestidge wins a mention for his 5 wickets against Uppingham, which subsequently saw him promoted to the B team along with Max Pickett and Raman Dhaliwal. Good batting performances came from Yuon Skelton, Tom Benyon and Tom Worsdell. In the field, Webster Mugavazi, Tom Worsdell and Toby Clegg all proved themselves to be competent fielders, not to mention completely unafraid of the hard ball. Several players in the team also deserve mentions for massive improvements made as players. Charlie Kim, Jonty Scott and Tom Worsdell had never played cricket before this year, and all three have developed their bowling and batting a tremendous amount. Overall, despite two close losses, the C team have had a good season and have thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Yearlings A XI

The season started with a difficult fixture against Uppingham who had several County players in their side. Some good bowling kept their score down to 161, but our chase got off to a bad start and we had to settle for trying for a draw. A good partnership between Platts-Martin and Hood had all but seen us through and then some poor cricket led to a collapse and us eventually losing just 2 overs short of safety. Our next game saw a handsome victory against Stantonbury in the County Cup 1st Round. The rain affected the next three games. The Oundle match saw us bat through 35 overs but we were not positive enough with shot selection or running and we failed to set a challenging target. The County Cup game against The Royal Latin School was a thriller with the Latin winning by 3 wickets with only 3 balls to spare. It was a much improved bowling performance and I hope that the boys will build on this throughout the rest of the season. Some names to watch for the future are Archie Hood (leg spin), Gus Hopewell (wicketkeeper/batsman) and Will Berner (Capt).



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Cricket



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Yearlings B XI

It has been a promising start to the season for the Yearlings B cricket team. Though the results haven't been much to write home about, the beginnings of the 2007 season for this group of cricketers has featured in equal measure enthusiasm, commitment and a zest for the beautiful game...

The Uppingham match saw a strong home team bully their way to 204 all out. In spite of the dominance of the bat, however, Riley Curtis is to be commended on a fine display of seam bowling which earned him four wickets. The chase was all but over as we languished at 17-3 and it was a sorry lurch to an unconvincing 94 all out at the coach's Alma Mater.

The next match we could play due to rain was three weeks later at Oundle. Losing the toss and fielding the team showed great determination throughout. Riley Curtis again weighed in with four wickets with three for one in a thrilling over of straight full pitched bowling. In reply the batting display was immensely encouraging. With the coach urging simple batting and occupation of the crease, Tom Bishop (38) and Cameron Perske (31) showed tremendous application to the

task and put on 51 together before losing their wickets. In spite of these heroics a total of 208 in 35 overs against an accomplished seam attack in one of the strongest sporting years at Oundle in recent years proved sadly to be beyond the pail.

A highlight thus far from the coach's point of view has been unwillingness in an excellent group to give up in the face of strong opposition, an attribute which should stand the team in good stead for the rest of the season.



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Yearlings C XI

To date the side has played 3 games – Uppingham, Abingdon, and Oundle. The captain is Harry Hawkes who has improved in terms of leadership over this time. Although all 3 games have been lost, lessons have been learnt and the side has played much more as a team. There has been a good spirit and the players have supported each other on and off the field. This attitude should bear them in good stead for the second half of the season.

SQUAD – Hawkes, Gordon-Cumming, Hay, Brown, Biggett, Stanley, Hackett, Cox, Low, Atkins, Aslett, Langridge, Barter, Mason



© R & H Chapman Photography

Yearlings D XI

The Yearlings year group was seen by our Cricket Professional, Mr James Knott in the Lent Term which meant that much of the organisation of team groups was done a term in advance. Although this was very helpful in the preparation for the first match of the season; an away trip to Uppingham, Stowe had little joy on the pitch that afternoon. A hat-trick by captain Ben Hackett at the tail end of the Uppingham innings was the highlight of the day. Uppingham ended 175 all out but Stowe fell well short of that total in reply.

Not surprisingly Ben Hackett was promoted to the C team and has remained there since, along with Rupert Aslett, who is also a fine prospect. This, however, did not dampen the excellent spirit of this squad who, although limited technically, thoroughly enjoyed their cricket sessions. The application of Tom Rawicz-Szczerbo to his batting paid dividends in the next game against Oundle where he hit an impressive 14 runs before he fell caught behind to a fine delivery. He was well supported by Rupert Leyland (14) and both have the potential to work their way up into a higher team in the years ahead.

It was unfortunate that Oundle scored in excess of 200 runs which proved too many for Stowe in the end.

Alex Worth is a good striker of a ball and should go on to score a hatful of runs. Jamie Bailey and Will Assheton could develop into fine spin bowlers with continued application. Joe Doherty and Jamie Cockbill have good bowling actions and once they have developed their accuracy, the wickets will start to come. Others worthy of note for their enthusiasm were Miles Bailey, Barty Shepherd, Hector Macpherson and Henry South.

Fortunately, winning is not everything and I have thoroughly enjoyed coaching a group of players who have been committed, enthusiastic and willing to learn.

Mr Isaac Michael

Stowe Life



Tennis



1st VI

	Played	Won	Lost
Boys 1st VI	7	5	2

The Boys 1st VI have developed very strongly this year. They have recorded victories over MCS Oxford, St Edwards, Bloxham and Akeley Wood, and have lost just two matches to Oundle and Uppingham. The squad are extremely keen and would happily play all day given the chance! Their improvements in technical doubles play have been very pleasing and with 4 of them eligible for the 1st VI next year, the attitude is very positive. The team is currently: Harry Benyon & Sam Barnard, Champ Panyarachun & Freddie Hall, Dom Farr & Charlie Empson. Ned Boyd and James Richardson have also represented the team.

At present Champ & Freddie have won the most amount of games this season, but Harry & Sam are determined to end the year on top. There exists a very healthy rivalry between the pairs!

Coach: Mr Sutton

2nd VI & 3rd VI

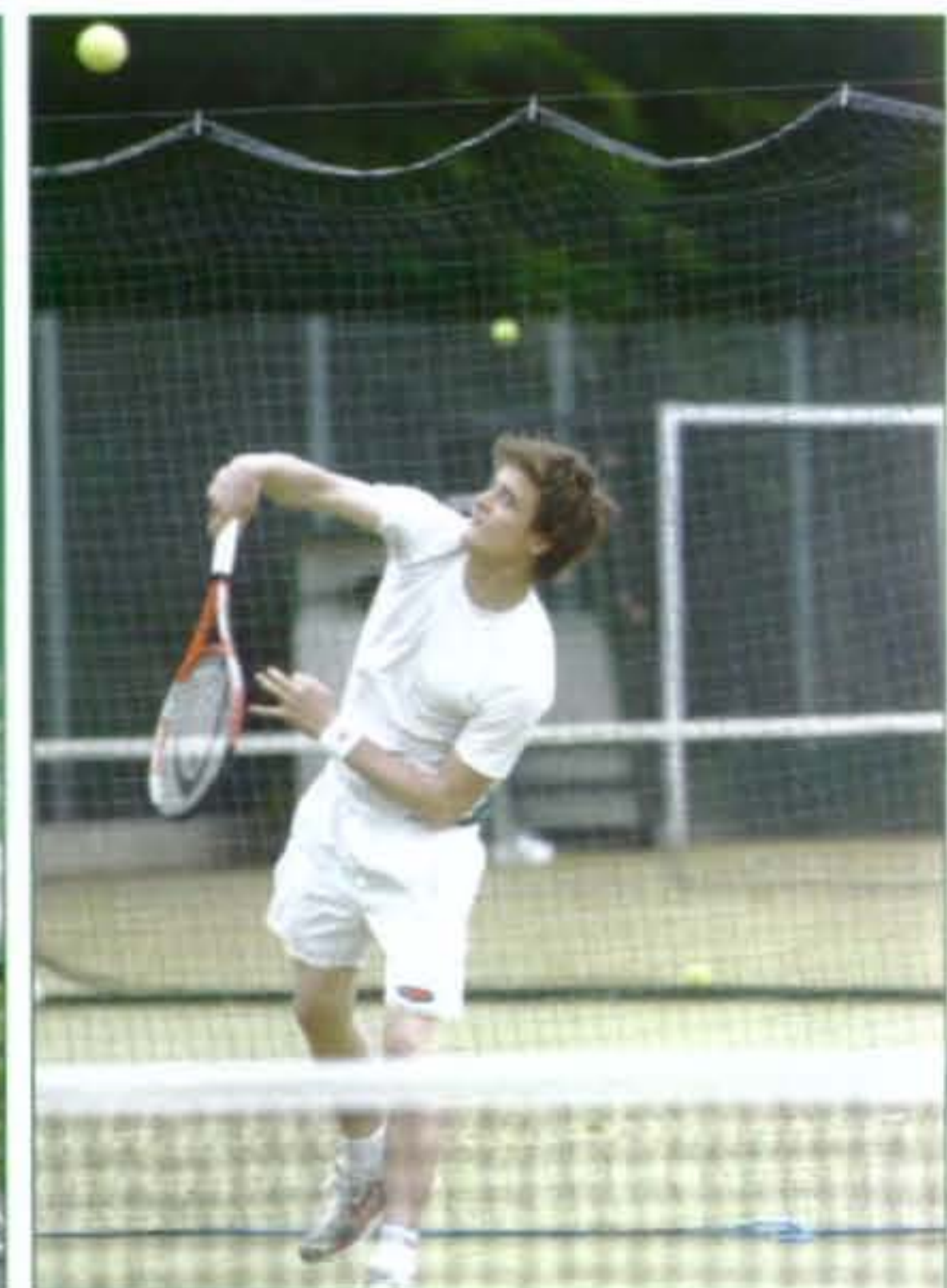
The 2nd VI and 3rd VI have been characteristically strong this year, with the 3rd team only losing one match. The strength in depth at the senior end meant that we were desperately trying to find a school who would play a 4th team against us, but none could raise a team. Players who have progressed particularly well include James Crawford, Harry Hopewell and Adam Clitheroe.

Coach: Mr Akam

Colts

The Colts A team drew against St. Edwards and the B team recorded victories over Oundle and MCS Oxford. Freddie Forrester played well and should develop into a good senior player next year and Freddie Hicks and Robert Cameron came through late in the term to form a strong third pair. Several players showed solid baseline techniques but need to develop more advanced doubles tactics and a stronger mental edge in order to close out matches.

Coach: Mr Hughes



Tennis

Junior Colts & Yearlings

An enthusiastic squad made the training sessions and matches particularly enjoyable with for these year groups. The boys were competitive throughout and represented a great example of good sportsmanship against some rather less well behaved opposition. Victories have been difficult to achieve, as only the bigger schools tend to play tennis at this age. Oundle and Uppingham were particularly strong this year, but the team remained positive. JC 1st pair of David Carter and Billy Harvey are starting to play very good tennis and Nicholas Du Bois De Montule has impressed all season.

Coaches Mr Walsh-Woolcott, Mr Dobson & Mrs McMahon

Senior Girls

Despite the fact that the results have not been favourable this summer, our standard has improved and we have even more girls playing and representing Stowe than ever. Four senior girls teams and three juniors have competed on a regular basis, but with only one win to show for it against Royal Latin, the season has been rather disappointing. I would like to thank Cress Bonas for her loyalty and enthusiasm as 1st team captain and mention a few girls who have performed particularly well.

Emma Duckett (5th yr) and Lucy Beaty (4th Yr) have played 2nd pair in the 1st team with excellent results.

Katie Kosciuczyk and Alex Edwards have played 1st pair in the 2nd team and have led from the front in all matches.

Grace Lavelle and Sophie Loyd have played 2nd pair in the 3rd team winning all but two of their sets against the opposition.

Junior Girls

Amongst the Junior Girls Captain Lillie Zeigler Pounds and Sophia Stainow, who have been first pair for the A team, have produced some great tennis but unfortunately not all of the results have reflected this. As they move up the age ranks and improve along the way, they will definitely be a force to reckon with.



Swimming

This has been a busy and successful term for the swimming team. Team wins against Oakham, Loughborough and a very pleasing second place in a six school gala at Harrow have been complemented by some outstanding solo swims.

School records continue to tumble. Sam Morris knocked four seconds off the 100m individual medley time, while Jonathon Wale broke the U16 100m breaststroke record. Astonishingly, James Blackham improved upon the U15 Butterfly record three times over three consecutive days.

Last week, a young senior team more than held their own in a field of 16 schools to clinch sixth place in the Otter Challenge Cup. On the following day in the competition for the Bath Cup, the pinnacle of the Independent schools' swimming calendar, the school competed well in a formidable line up.

GIRLS

The girls swimming team has performed well this season under the astute captaincy of Anna Blackham. They have enjoyed convincing wins over Haileybury and Berkhamsted. The girls have trained hard and have had good personal results.

Anna is now the fastest girl ever at 50m and 100m freestyle.

This high standard has rubbed off onto stars like Elle Horrock (next year's Captain), a talented girl in all disciplines and Chloe Crisp (Vice Captain) a guru at many sports.

In the junior ranks lies a powerful swimmer in the form of Francesca Hutt. Francesca has rewritten the record books over all events.

HOUSE SWIMMING

Temple again were out to prove a point as the house with the lolly. Algy Lendrum in his final year was out to set the standard. He won the Senior Boys 100m butterfly by a whisker from David Nahmad, last year's winner. Edward Colville, this year's team captain proved too strong for the rest of the field winning the backstroke. Multi-talented Sam Morris, who is again making his mark in swimming in a plethora of strokes, was the Senior title winner taking the 50m and 100m freestyle, IM and the Breaststroke. Temple House ran away with the relay events and retained the overall cup.

In the Girls competition, Anna Blackham was out to prove she was the new kid on the block. She dominated the freestyle and the individual medley and had high placings in the other swimming events to win the Senior Girls crown. Elle Horrocks took the Stewart cup home to Lyttelton and the Bisp cup went to Nugent's Kate MacNamara. Nugent remained the champion Girls' House, keeping the trophy for another year.

In the U16 competition there was a new Jedi knight in the form of Dillon Hudson from Cobham. He powered away at light speed to take the 50m freestyle, butterfly and individual medley, gaining the highest points tally in his swimming career so far. Milo Drake from Chatham was pleased to win the Backstroke though, knowing that his team would have the last laugh in the relays with a strong press gang.

The junior competition saw another versatile swimmer fight like a gladiator in the arena. Harry Hawkes (Walpole) destroyed the 100m individual medley record set 10

years ago, put the sword to the breaststroke as well as a good second in the fly giving him the prize at the junior level. James Blackham (Chandos), was satisfied to win the butterfly. Let us not forget the speed merchant Anders Palm from Grenville, who smashed the freestyle record in style.



pic: James Minchin-Mitchell



THE HOUSE CUPS	
Junior House Cup	Chandos
Inter Boys House Cup	Temple
Senior Girls House Cup	Nugent
Senior Boys House Cup	Temple
The Overall House Relay Winners Cup	Temple
The Inter House Stowe Champions Cup	Temple



pic: James Minchin-Mitchell



Swimming

Swimming Records broken this year
Sam Morris Senior Boys 100m and 200m Freestyle
Anna Blackham Senior Girls 50m and 100m Freestyle
Jonathan Wale U16 100m Breaststroke
James Blackham Junior Boys 50m butterfly
Francesca Hutt Junior Girls 50m Butterfly, 50m Breaststroke, 50m Backstroke, 50m Freestyle, 100m I M
Senior Boys 4x50m Medley Relay Ed Colville, Jonathan Wale, James Blackham, Sam Morris

Water Polo Teams

Senior Water Polo
David Nahmad (Cpt)
Sam Morris
Josh Hunter
Sam Hunter
Edward Colville
William Dunn(Goals)
Fred Wells (Goals)
Jonathan Wale
Ben Manser

Junior Water Polo
Tom Worsdell (Cpt)
Simon Plunket
Miles Warden
S Panyarachun
Miles Johnson
Yuan Skelton (Goals)
James Elliot (Goals)
Ashley O'Callen-Smith

Swimming Teams

Senior Boys Team	Senior Girls Team	U16 Boys Team	Junior Boys Team	Junior Girls Team
Matches: Won 7 Lost 3	Matches: Won 3 Lost 3	Matches: Won 10 Lost 1	Matches: Won 6 Lost 2	Matches: Won 3 Lost 2
E Colville (Cpt) A Lendrum S Morris D Nahmad J Hunter S Hunter J Wale	A Blackham (Cpt) M Wangai E Horrocks C Crisp F Hutt	J Wale (Cpt) D Hudson M Drake S Panyarachun M Warden	J Blackham (Cpt) A Palm H Hawkes R Higham A Charlesworth D White A Welford M Riches	F Hutt (Cpt) N Trevor K Robertson K Manser E Rix A Beaty



Stowe Life



Rowing

The weather in the Christmas term was very kind to us with the river at Northampton at a good height and little flow to disrupt our training schedule. The Senior squad consisting of six lower 6th and two 5th formers have trained on a regular basis both on the water and in the Gym. With Kathleen McKee joining us from Harvard, a rigid land training programme has been put into place and focuses on fitness and strength through the use of the Concept Ergometer. With these two programmes running side by side, both the skills and the fitness of the squad has improved a great deal. We have been fortunate to receive two new boats through the Project X-Oarsome (an Amateur Rowing Association driven project through the National Lottery) scheme to include a coxless quad (4X-) and a double scull (2X-). This together with our recently purchased coxless quad from one of the Cambridge Colleges has set us up very well for the rest of the year. As part of this grant, the club has also acquired another coaching launch essential to the coaching process.

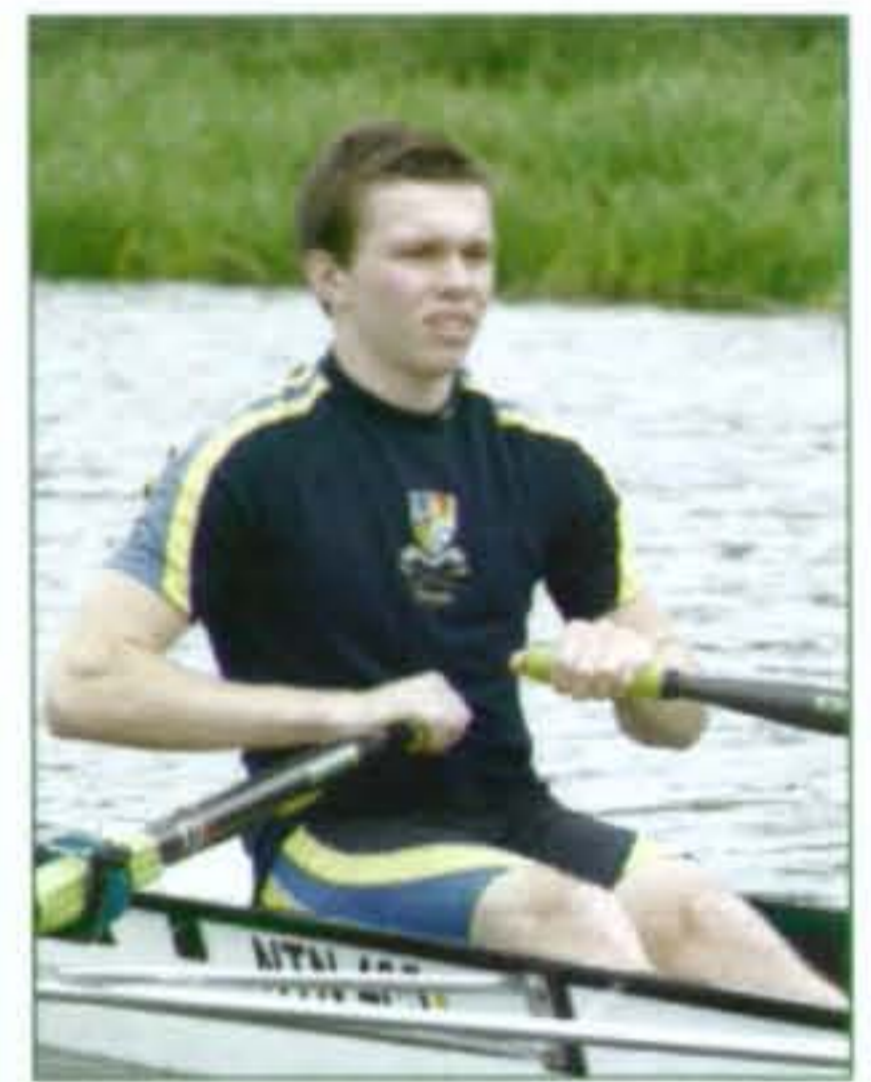
Our one and only Head Race of the term at Pangbourne was a success in that it showed a big improvement in times on last year and it was also our first event for two of the students in the crew. With a target set we entered the Northampton Head of the river, which is a timed race over 2,200m in January. Weather conditions were again good on the day and both the quad (Marcus Bennett, Ben Manser, Hugh Gallie and Conor Curtis) and double scull (Bennet & Curtis) both winning their events. These are the first ever wins for Stowe in rowing and is a superb achievement. Training continues this term and with several students to choose from for the crew, we are at present testing to see which members move the boat quicker over a set distance through seat racing.

At Stowe lakes, the Boathouse has been sorted out and reorganised. Those that are new to the sport are being given an introduction to sculling with relevant coaching, before they progress to the facility at Northampton. These students from all year groups are starting in single sculls and it is hoped that they will be able to develop the skills necessary before joining the main squad where they will row in bigger and faster boats.

Next term is the Regatta season and we are entering five different events including the Schools National Championships. The senior crew looks very promising and I am confident that we will do well in some of these events.

Mr Michael Righton

Pictures: Roy Ottaway



Golf

There are many games played at Stowe. These are sometimes categorised as major or minor sports; in some ways Golf, with all its diverse characteristics, benefits and opportunities, is an additional group without such a title being attributable. The result of a Golf match may be critical to the likes of T. Woods, but in the context of School life at Stowe when to play for the School may involve missing afternoon lessons (or indeed a whole day's school) then the outcome becomes less important. This year the team has enjoyed only modest success; several matches were cancelled – bad weather being the major culprit – but the majority of opponents encountered seemed to be unusually strong. In March, at Woking, in the Micklem we lost comprehensively to Eton but narrowly to Charterhouse. Ben Bannister (Chatham) has been a distinguished Captain of Golf, completing four years in the team, and I expect him to be a leading light in OS Golf in the future. Josh Wheeler (Walpole) was awarded his colours and other team members were Hugh Mackay (Cobham), Chris Price (Walpole), Stefan Rogge (Grafton) and Pat Ramsey (Chandos), who all played valuable roles.

Mr Richard Knight



Athletics



A short but hectic season kicked off with a trip to Bracknell for the Homfray Davis Shield match against Wellington, Eton, Epsom, Brighton and Marlborough. Both Rory Brabant in the 100m and Sam Hunter in the 800m ran particularly well. In the Intermediates the hurdling pair of Harry Burke and Balthazar Mattar began a season long contest for superiority. Whilst Dominic Noakes & Tom Wigan put down early markers in the Junior events.

The District trials followed on consecutive Wednesdays. Rowley Barclay proved the star turn on the track with a very quick 100m & 200m double. Sam Ballantine (Discus) & Matthew Gibson (High Jump) led the way in the field events. For the girls Laura Grossick & Yasmin Ashfar ran particularly well. Our Junior sprinters dominated proceedings. Dominic Noakes (400m), George Iggulden (200m) and Isi Madojemu (100m) were backed up by Andrew Gordon-Colebrooke, Adam Qazi and Ben Barter. In the middle distance events Cameron Cox and Tristram Cooke ran well paced races to qualify for the county championships. Whilst Ashley O'Callen-Smith surprised a few with his discus win.

A visit to Harrow and their impressive athletics facilities followed. The Juniors continued their good form losing out to the hosts but beating KES, Birmingham, Charterhouse and Haileybury. Henry Corner produced a season's best in the Javelin as did Tristan Hirst in the High Jump.



Inter-house Athletics

The Inter-house athletics was won by Cobham, thanks in no small part to their very strong Intermediate team, which dominated that age group. The Juniors was won by Chandos and Bruce took the honours in the Senior age group.

Good performances by Kate McNamara (Hurdles) and Monika Jurcic (Javelin) could not stop Lyttelton winning the Girls trophy, with Lucy de Roeper proving the star turn.



Cross Country



With a consistent effort across the board, Walpole managed to win the Stowe House Cross Country carnival for the sixth consecutive year on Sunday 26 November.

Event organiser Mr Tony McDaid was impressed with a range of individual performances and also declared that the effort of the Chandos third form – six students in the top 20 – produced a record score.

The hotly contested Senior Boys division was won by just a matter of seconds, with Cobham's Sampson Steiger-White narrowly defeating Bruce's Sam Hunter. Steiger White said, "It was such a tough race and I was so determined to win – I'm just really happy that I ended up in front."

Runner-up Hunter was customarily gracious in defeat. "I was so keen to win after the last two years (when Hunter twice won the intermediate division) but I was struggling at the end and Sampson just ran an excellent race," an exhausted Hunter said.

Lyttleton's Laura Crossick ran a sensational race, McDaid later noting that it is usually 'unlikely' for a fifth former to dominate an event like this in such an impressive fashion. Crossick finished one minute ahead of lower sixth former Lucy de Roeper and supporters witnessed their outstanding sportsmanship.

"For the first lap of the run I was the runner-up, so I kept cheering Lucy on because if it had have been me up front I knew I would have appreciated the support," Crossick said after the race. "Lucy is in Lyttelton as well, after all, so I had no problems with her winning!"

"I always think it's important to cheer someone in a race whether they're in front or behind you. Moral support makes a big difference, especially if that person is on the verge of stopping," said Crossick.



Harry Hawkes from Walpole was the victor in the Junior Boys, with Ben Smith from Walpole taking out the intermediate division. McDaid also noted the effort of Oli Trotter and Ed Howlin as stand-out or unexpected performances on the day.

"The best part of the day from my point of view was the number of staff who willingly give up an entire Sunday afternoon to stand out in such weather," McDaid said after the race. "Following the almost complete washout the day before, it looked like they might be letting themselves in for a real soaking."

It meant that some students took the time to cover themselves in mud or to take a dive through a puddle – an action that had some unfortunate consequences.

CROSS COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE TEAM

A smaller than usual contingent of runners ran for the school cross country team this year. A reflection perhaps on the country wide demise in youngsters willing to take on a sport where hard work is so integral for success.

In the autumn term we ran in a number of Chiltern League events, against some strong local club teams. Tristram Cooke ran particularly well, which made his DNF in the Inter-house race all the more disappointing.

After Christmas Alastair Bailey looked our strongest runner in the races leading up to the county championships, but he just missed out on making the team for the English Schools event. Next time out at the Tortoises relays Alastair discovered the vast gulf between good school runners and International quality as he struggled to cope with the pace set by one of England's best Junior Women 1500m runner.

Tom Osborne came through strongly in the second half of the season and ran well behind a strong brace of Old Stoics, Chris Hutber and Simon Gardener, in the final race of the term. Despite good support from Xandie Trevor and Andrew Consett the school had give second best to the Old Boys. The girls though, ably led home by Laura Grossick, managed to best the female Old Stoics.

Mr Tony McDaid



Basketball

SENIORS



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Squad: Nasiru Imam (captain), Will Bond, Harry Duncombe, Ian Peele, Jamie Gubbins, Jamie Hirst, Sam Hunter, Giles Hoare, Monika Jurcic, Ivan Spasov, Raffi Bilemjian, Yaerid Jacob, George Coote, Charlie Williams, JP Reynolds, Drew Leeman.

Played	Won	Lost	For	Against
8	8	0	569	252

The Stowe Senior basketball team completed a dominant season in 2007, remaining undefeated and securing a phenomenal percentage of 225. The side displayed outstanding defensive pressure, complemented by the offensive skills of Nas Imam, Harry Duncombe and Will Bond in particular.

Stowe defeated rivals Bradfield with unexpected ease before later accounting for a strong Eton side and destroying Rugby and Bradfield.

Coach Michael was particularly pleased with the side, describing the 91-19 victory over Bedford as "a very impressive performance in what has turned out to be an impressive season for this talented team."

Although captain Imam, Duncombe and Bond often dominated proceedings, Coach Michael noted that "the whole team deserved credit for the commitment and intensity showed" throughout the match against Eton in particular.

Even in matches where Stowe did lose fluency on offence, a spark was usually provided by Imam, whose ability to penetrate the opposition's zone defence was effective and damaging. Bond demonstrated a knack for hitting a range of crucial inside jump shots and Duncombe began to learn that his ability to shoot accurately from outside is the perfect complement to his inside game.

Ian Peele continued to make strong contributions and earned his eagerly awaited colours, while Jamie Gubbins became a formidable inside presence as the season progressed.

Most Valuable Player	Will Bond
Best Offensive Player	Harry Duncombe
Best Defensive Player	Nasiru Imam
Most Improved Player	Jamie Gubbins
Special Award	Monika Jurcic

Coach Michael is looking forward to the likes of Sam Hunter, Jamie Hirst and Giles Hoare leading the side next year. Hoare's confidence developed as he began to learn how to work with his back to the basket while Hunter's determination earned him plenty of rebounds. Hirst showed that he can exert defensive pressure at the level that Imam and Bond often exhibited, as well as becoming an ever-present threat on the fast break.



JUNIORS



With little experience at training, let alone playing in an official match, the Stowe junior basketball team was destined to enjoy a very steep learning curve. The pleasing thing to note is that a definite development was demonstrated during the season.

After losing the first match to Bradfield 3-44, some players suffered a huge knock to their confidence and the despondency was evident. Fortunately, led by the effervescent and enthusiastic Max Daley, the team applied themselves at training to becoming more adept at the basics of the game.

Azree Rashid, Andre Van and Aydar Sarsembayev proved that they have the skills to become good

basketballers in the future. David Christie-Miller may have lacked discipline at training on some occasions but he was without doubt the quickest learner on the side, top-scoring in his first match.



Squad: Aydar Sarsembayev, Max Daley, Oli Ayoub, Andre Van, Azree Rashid, David Christie-Miller, Luke Porritt, Fred Hicks, Alex Webster, Charles Gjafferi, Miles Warden, Champ Panyarachun, George Dorrington, Oscar Prince, Alex Johnston



Fred Hicks and Luke Porritt also improved and often scored at crucial times in later matches. The weight of the scoring was done by Champ Panyarachun who will be a key member of next year's squad, along with developing big men Alex Webster and Miles Warden. Oliver Ayoub also scored a number of points but often neglected the need to work effectively with his teammates.

With this rapid progress in hand, Stowe challenged Eton only to fall seven points short. Then, in the highlight of the season, Stowe managed to take the lead against Bedford courtesy of Hicks with just two minutes remaining. Unfortunately, they lost by two points but the scoreline was 49-51, a clear indication of the huge steps this squad had made during the season. Bedford

pulled out of the return match a week later, perhaps robbing Stowe of a chance to notch a potentially memorable victory.

Most Determined Player	Max Daley
Leading Scorer	Champ Panyarachun
Coach's Award	Azree Rashid
Quickest Learner	David Christie-Miller
Encouragement Award	Alex Webster

Fives

This has been a record year for Fives fixtures and use of the courts with sixty house games played and home and away fixtures with Eton, Berkhamsted, King Edward's, Lancing, St Olave's, Oakham, Uppingham, The Old Stoics and The Jesters.

Of the schools we play each year now, all but one are more established, and beat us at senior level, although our steady march towards being competitive in this scene has some momentum now, with a healthy growth in uptake at third form level and the development of some very useful players.

This year was the first time that the Stowe colours had been seen at the National School Championships in March. In the Under 16 boys' competition third former Isi Madojemu showed that he is a formidable contender for future years, playing with fifth former and future captain Jonty Irving. Jamie Bailey and Daniel Robinson played some good games in the Under 14 competition, however it was in the girls' open competition that Stowe really made news. Zara Nichols and José Brake won all but one game in the group stages, losing only to the second-seed Lancing and went through to the last sixteen on points difference but were then knocked out by a sixth form pair from Ipswich in a victory of patience and cunning over athleticism. Having had their championship hopes dashed the Stowe girls then went on to defeat all comers in the plate competition for those knocked out at the last sixteen stage, and won the plate in a tense final against Oakham, effectively coming ninth in this Under 18 national competition. It was a great achievement, especially for players in their first year.

The excellent coaching services of Mark Herring, gifted anonymously by a generous benefactor, have been a significant factor in the resurgence of fives at Stowe and he was a comforting presence in the crowd at the Nationals!

The future is bright for Fives at Stowe.

Mr Roderick Tait



Sailing

The sailing team has made an enthusiastic and effective start to the 2007 season. Strong winds have given plenty of opportunity for testing boat-handling skills on the 420s at Great Moor and experience of team racing has increased steadily. Beginners have also benefited from using the Toppers on the Eleven Acre Lake at Stowe.

Half the team was new this year, but soon proved their worth in match conditions. Harry McCorkell, the experienced captain, kept the team going in the demanding and exciting conditions at the Eastern Championships of the British Schools Dinghy Racing Association at Middle Nene Sailing Club this year. Some minor injury meant the team had to withdraw before end. In the other school matches, after a slow start against some outstanding teams, they won convincingly against Bloxham and Aldenham.

I am most grateful for the invaluable support of Stephen Hirst and a number of new colleagues this year, Rod Tait, David Critchley and Liz Chare.

The Helmsman's Tankard: Xandie Trevor

Team: Harry McCorkell, Hugh Birchall, Xandie Trevor, Pippa Russell, Anna Jackson, Freddie Vere Nicoll, Pavel Marinov.

Results: MCS: 0-2, Abingdon: 0-2, BSDRA Easterns: 14=, Bloxham: 6-0, Aldenham 2-1.

Mr Michael Bevington

Chess

The new lively element in the Chess Club has been a group of 3rd Years, with Cobham House prominent. Most members of the club took part in The British Land UK Chess Challenge, which has around 2150 competing schools. It is, however, an individual competition, not a team event. The first round is the school's own club competition and follows tournament rules. Our two qualifiers for the regional event, this year as last, were Natalie McDaid and Thea Dorenberg, currently in the Fifth Form (Natalie was one of the first two Lower School girls to enter Stowe). Our area Megafinal was held at Wycombe High School in High Wycombe on Sunday 29th April. Six rounds of 40 minutes, with clocks, were played during the day. Natalie won the tournament outright and Thea was runner-up, which means that they qualify for the next phase: the southern Gigafinal at Wellington College on weekend of 7th July. Assuming the girls' holiday plans allow them to participate, success in this tournament qualifies for entry to the Terafinal, which will produce the overall winner.



The girls have a track record of chess success for their school, and led Lyttelton House again to victory in the 2007 Inter-House tournament, as they did in last year's historic break-through win. The historic event in 2007 was Nugent House's first participation in the tournament (they have fewer girls to draw on), who beat a boys' house in the 1st round. Cobham, Temple, Bruce and Lyttelton were the semi-finalists, with Lyttelton beating Bruce 3-2 in the final, and with Clare Jackson again achieving the vital 3rd point on Board 3. The match might have been even closer if Edward Howlin, who had been winning his games on Board 2, had been able to play in the final. But he had to play in the Piano Competition, and the clash was not his fault.

We look forward to recruiting more new members to the club, and even keener House rivalries.

Mr Steven Thompson



Badminton

The year began with great hope for both the girls and boys chosen to play in the team this year. There were some very exciting matches but sadly no wins to mark our improved skills learnt through committed practice. The season certainly was a test for all playing as, although scoring some very sound games against all opponents, defeat is quite disheartening. Many thanks to all those who played for both girls and boys teams. The sides were ably captained by Steph Robson and Harry Benyon. Also many thanks to the other coach, Mr Dobson. We are already looking forward to next season with the help of captains - Gabriela Fidanova for the girls and Harry Benyon to continue leading the boys.

This 'IS OUR YEAR for victory' and I know we will seize every possible opportunity, even if it is only to beat our scores from last season.

Ms Kim McMahon



Karate & Fencing



November 2005 saw the introduction of Shotokan Karate to Stowe. run as a club it has proved very popular. We experienced our first international championship Kata competition on the 28th of October 2006 at Birmingham sports centre, the club fared well but inexperience in a major competition proved overwhelming and nerve racking. Students enjoyed the day as a whole and it was a good experience for one and all, we left vowing to do better at the better at the next event in 2007, which will hopefully see it held at Stowe - a first for the school.

Grading for the students went well in March 2007 with five distinctions and two merits being achieved (see picture). Ippon Ken Karate club offers a very varied teaching to its students under the guidance of Sensei Kath, observing tradition and giving beginner to black belt training, self defence and competition Karate which allows students to obtain physical fitness, of mind and body, competition and fun through whole hearted practice. Students experience personal growth and development, instructive wisdom, positive mental attitude, indomitable spirit and complete awareness of the

moment, which proves to be a valuable and constructive influence in their lives. Sensei Peter, who is a police officer, also gives instructions in practical self defence training against assault and attacks which accrue in everyday life.

We are looking forward to welcoming new members into the club in 2007 and also bringing home the instructors trophies and some medals from coming events to Stowe, which will be another first for the school. The students have a great wealth of knowledge to draw from within the club, not only from the instructors but advanced students and from what the club has to offer, last year we were pleased to have two visits from Sensei Dave Hooper 4th Dan black belt from Japan (the only westerner to teach Karate in Japan), to instruct students in his unique way, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed, we hope to see him again in 2007. This year we are looking forward to visits from our Chief instructor Cyril Cummins 7th Dan black belt. At seventy years of age he is an inspiration to us all and will prove a great experience, he will be overseeing gradings, competitions and holding courses for students.

It's been wonderful for me to see how the students have developed over the past seasons - the camaraderie, their willingness to learn and the way they welcome new students into their club is great to see. Add these traits to their enthusiasm and their spirit, the very essence of Karate.

Mr David Smith



Polo



This last polo season has been one of the most successful of the previous years. With a very brave Mr. Robinson at the helm, ably aided by Captain of Polo William Randall-Coath and 1st team member Billy Jackson-Stops, this last year has been a fantastic one to follow.

The winter season, with both a 1st and 2nd team playing matches, saw many emphatic wins and some extremely exciting games. The main appointments of the season, as with the summer season, were the SUPA National Schools Tournaments. The Intermediate day, in which Stowe entered our 2nd team, included William Walmsley, George Hanbury and Oscar Thornton, was a cold affair; however, the catering was most adequate! In an overall brilliant day, our boys, captained by William 'Tarquin' Walmsley, managed to come 5th in the top division, which is the highest any Stowe 2nd team has every got in the main Trophy.

The senior event saw our 1st team, consisting of Will Randall-Coath, Billy Jackson-Stops and Jack Berner, playing. Winning one and losing two of our matches was not what the boys had hoped for, however, we beat Bloxham School, who defeated them only the week before at Rugby Polo Club. In the end, Stowe came 6th in the country, not a mean feat at all.

So far, the summer season has gotten off to a good start, having beaten Shrewsbury School at both 1st and 2nd team level, on a remarkably wet May afternoon. The 1st team played 1st and started off with a 2 goal lead to Shrewsbury. With the only addition to the 1st team from the winter team being Ludo de Ferranti, they managed to put 5 goals on Shrewsbury, finishing the Chukkas 5-2? to Stowe.

The 2nd team match was a much more obvious and astounding win. After a short break between the two matches due to heavy rainfall, they set out on an incredibly wet pitch. The 2nd team, of Captain Will Walmsley, George Hanbury, Dominic Woods and Will Tobin, played 'off-the-stick', so there was no handicap difference, and managed to beat them an amazing 8-0.

All members of the Stowe Polo squad have high hopes for the coming season, and particularly the National Schools Tournaments coming up for both teams.

William Randall-Coath

Squash

National Schools Championships

For the first time in Stowe's history, a team was entered into the Under 19s National Schools Championships; a prestigious and popular event run by the governing body England Squash. Our squad comprised (in order): Will Bond (Cpt), Dominic Noakes, Ivan Spasov, Kit Dickinson, Jamie Gubbins, Luke Porritt, Will Scholfield and Chris Findlay.

Teams of five players competed in area leagues against other schools. Our area was particularly strong with Aylesbury Grammar, High Wycombe and Berkhamstead drawn as our opponents. Aylesbury (ranked third in the country for last year's event) had several county players and set about a clinical 5-0 victory. Noteworthy performances came from Kit Dickinson and Jamie Gubbins.

In the belief that we'd met our strongest competition we looked forward to the match against High Wycombe. Little did we know that High Wycombe fancied their chances against Aylesbury and so came our second (5-0) defeat.

Never daunted, the match against Berkhamstead (whom we knew to be another good team) was for pride; as we were now effectively out of the championships. Unfortunately, Kit was injured so Jamie had to move up the playing order and play at No 4 String with Luke Porritt earning the position of No 5 string.

Jamie narrowly lost his game 2-3, but it could have gone either way. Luke was caught napping and lost 0-3, so we needed to win all the remaining rubbers if we were to win the tie. Ivan Spasov played a measured match with accurate length and width; dominating his opponent for much of the rubber. With a slight lapse in concentration in the second game, Ivan won 3-1. Third Former Dominic Noakes set about a convincing defeat of his opponent. Whenever his opponent was behind him, Dominic played his stylish drop shots and invariably they were winners, helping him to a 3-0 victory. So with our first two ever National Schools matches in the bag it was down to Captain Will to do the necessary - Persto et Praesto.

Will made a convincing start easily winning the first game but the dramatic final match was taken to a fifth game. Fortunately for Stowe, the captain managed to win 3-2 and hand Stowe the match overall.

Berkhamstead were gracious in defeat as were Stowe in their victory, but then that's squash – highly competitive, but truly sporting. Although Stowe didn't progress to the next round, overall we performed very well (individually and as a team). The application of the practice drills was evident and to have won the final match was a credit to the entire squad for all their hard work – the National Schools Championship has provided invaluable Match Play.

Fraser Liversage
Squash Coach

1st V Squash

The squash team in the Lent term performed very well and won 5 matches out of the 8 fixtures played. There were some emphatic wins against Bedford, Berkhamstead, Bloxham and St Edwards. We could only play an understrength team against Oundle and Rugby and we lost marginally 3:2 in both matches. The encouraging development this term has been the emergence of very talented and promising young players in the Third and Fourth Forms who have played a number of important senior games and have had some creditable performances. With so many young players displaying the potential to become excellent squash players the next few years looks very promising for Stowe squash. The best senior player of the season went to our captain Will Bond and the most promising young player went to Hugh Stanley. Colours were awarded to Will Bond, Ivan Spasov and Jamie Gubbins.

Mr Panos John

Football

P6 W5 D1 L0 GF26 GA9

Football continues to thrive and is played by a large number of Stoics in various afternoon activity periods as well as inter-House competitions.

The 1st XI has had a very successful season and was undefeated in six games with five wins and a draw. After a very tough 2-2 draw against a much improved Old Stoic XI the team has gradually increased in confidence and has shown itself capable of playing an attractive passing game. Two convincing wins against the older and more experienced Buckingham University side were particular highlights and it is a great credit to the boys that we scored 26 goals and conceded only nine. Dominic Farr captained the side with authority and Duke Yuvacharskul was top scorer with 10 goals.

The Junior 9s competition was won by Chatham who were also victorious in the Senior 7s event.

All in all, an excellent season.

Squad: Ludovic de Ferranti, Rory Lyon, Duke Yuvacharskul, Rory Brabant, Charlie Roberts, Will Dunn, Harry Prince, Dom Farr, Kyle Jordan, Ed Colville, Abdul Kingibe, James Fraser, Hamish Hardie, Archie de Sales La Terriere, Giles Hoare.

Mr Alan Murray

Lyttelton

Housemistress

This year has been one of non stop activity and success in Lyttelton. I am delighted with the way the house has worked together under the leadership of Katie and Aggie.

The year started with 14 new lower sixth form and 14 new third formers and without they have been open and friendly. The first house event was the house singing which rounded off the art and drama festival before half term. Lara Clare Bourdeaux took on the task of finding a song " Ain't no Mountain High Enough" was selected. The result was excellent and special thanks go to the girls in the part song, Lara Clare, Talulla Barrow, Helena Kealey, Charlotte Matthews, Lucy de Roeper, Fiona Cooper and Ella Girardot, who rehearsed tirelessly.

As soon as half term ended the Cold Stream Cup training started very ably led by Clare Jackson. Clare eventually whittled the team down to Chloe Crisp, Natalie Mc Daid, Nellie English, Francesca Hutt, Amber Stone-Brown, Talulla Barrow, and Alexa Beaty. When the day dawned Clare was too ill to take part and the team were quite apprehensive. However gave it their all and were the very well deserving winners of the girls section, and fifth overall.

On Sunday 26th November the whole house went up to the Queens Temple to take part in the cross country. This is not everyone's favourite event but again the girls decided to give it their best shot and in the first 20 across the line, 15 were Lyttelton girls. So not only did we win overall, but Laura Grossick and Lucy de Roeper gave a stunning performance, coming in first and second.

The Lent term saw the first literary quiz and our team of Aggie Sutcliffe, Nellie English, Charlotte Matthews and Rebecca Elliot did us proud losing to Bruce by one mark. Charlotte Everitt and Ellie Rix also took part but we lent them to Nugent to give a fair age spread. The senior debate was won by Lyttelton and I would like to thank Clare Jackson, Tatch Leboff, Romilly Morgan, Amber Stone Brown and Rebecca Nicholl for their hard work and quick thinking on their feet.

We also won the senior inter house hockey and lacrosse so our silverware cabinet is bulging. Many girls took part in the interhouse swimming gala. I can't mention them all but Elle Horrocks and Lucy de Roeper brought back trophies and the junior girls swam against the boys and certainly held their own.

A small but talented cast ended the term with Blithe Spirit as the Lyttelton contribution to the house drama festival. Alexandra Melville, Georgina Breitmeyer, Helena Kealey, Nellie English and Lucy Millburn gave a stunning performance while Chloe Crisp, Arabella Reeve Tucker, Elle Horrocks and Thea Dorenberg managed the stage. Everyone who saw the play was impressed with the standard of their performance.

The Lyttelton At Home was the first weekend of the Summer term and we enjoyed having so many parents with us for a buffet lunch and a rather impromptu concert. This event epitomised all that is great about Lyttelton in that every girl contributed in some way to make the day successful. It is a pleasure to be involved in the lives of so many talented and inspiring young ladies.

Housemistress: **Mrs Judy Gracie**

Matron: **Ms Christine Tarr**

Under Housemistress: **Miss Lucy Clewes-Garner**

Head of House: **Katie Kosciuczyk**



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Head of House

This year in Lyttelton, as well as being exceptionally successful, has been extremely new and exciting. For the first time in Stowe history, Stowe has had girls in every year group and what a difference it has made to the atmosphere of the house and the whole school. Of course this dramatic change has taken some getting used to, especially for the upper sixth girls who have had to adapt themselves to a completely different environment in the house and also accustomed to a larger range of visitors to the house on the weekend taking over the common room and kitchen.

Once everyone had familiarized themselves with these slight alterations and it became a part of everyday life the house began to relax and bond across all the year groups. It has been so good to feel the unity of the house grow and develop as the year has gone on, and I think this was especially felt during the house singing competition.

The triumphs that the house has achieved have been due to a large contribution from all of the year groups. The junior part of the house took a very active role in the house swimming and sports day (much to the relief of the sixth form) and certain members of the sixth form shone in the debating and also the house play as well as leading the way in the hockey and lacrosse.

Putting the successes of everyone to one side it has been such a pleasure and a privilege to be not only a part of Lyttelton but also Head of House. Mrs Gracie especially, with the help of Miss Tarr and Miss C-G, has had a challenging task of bringing everyone together and has managed this with a calm and composed attitude (for the majority off the time!) and I don't now how she has managed it.

I would like to wish masses of luck to Miss CG as she will be leaving Lyttelton and Stowe at the end of this school year. Thank you for always being there for us and also there are a few girls who would like to apologise for any unexpected banging at your window extremely early one morning.

To all of Lyttelton House, it has been an amazing two years so thank you so much. Loads and loads of luck for next year!

Katie Kosciuczyk
Head of House



Bruce

Housemaster's Report

Bruce has been blest with an excellent staff team and Prefect team this year. Tom Stanton has set a superb example as Head of House and Senior Prefect, and has been ably supported by the House Prefect Team of Rory Brabant (Head Boy and Deputy Head of House), Charlie Thuillier (School Prefect), Krishan Thadani and Harry Prince.

We welcomed Gordon Oldham as our new Under-housemaster. He seemed like a man with a lot of energy so we gave him the 4th Form who have matched his energy levels all the way. Sadly we say goodbye to Jonathan Kingston who has been Bruce Under-housemaster and 4th Form Tutor in the past. It was great to see him in full flow at our 'At Home' Music Concert. We had some great performances which included the Bruce Band 'Collisions and Consequences' (Charlie Allport, Jim Elkington, Rupert Morgan & Max Rawicz-Szczerbo) who have gone on and competed successfully in 'Battle of the Bands' events around the country. Music and singing is very important in Bruce House with many house members in the school choir and various school bands. Bruce has strong representation at all music competitions as well as the informal concerts on a Wednesday afternoon.

This year, many of our actors have had lead roles in recent school productions – James Sindall (Senior Congreve) and Monty Lewis and Jonty Irving (Junior Congreve). Bruce was not to be denied in the inaugural Literary Quiz and came out winners. Freddie Wojnarowski, Tim Field, Jonty Irving and Edward Chantler were the team members. Our chess players were out manoeuvred in the final of the chess and lost narrowly 3-2. There was also narrow defeat in the Coldstream Cup as Bruce came a creditable 2nd in this gruelling CCF competition.

Charlie Thuillier won the Old Stoic Gap Year Scholarship Award and, Kit Arkwright and Oli Tilleard, winners of the Myles Henry award, gave a presentation to the whole school on their trip to a Ugandan village. Oli Tilleard is making his mark in the entertainment industry and is currently working in radio for Touch FM Banbury.

SPORT

Tom Stanton (Captain of the 1st XV) led the Bruce House Senior team to victory in the senior rugby competition. The team also included three other 1st XV players, Rory Brabant, Jim Elkington and Scott Browne. Having won the House athletics last summer Bruce went on to win an impressive seven cups this summer with impressive performances from Rory Brabant, Sam Hunter, Scott Browne, Hugh Gallie & Archie De Sales La Terriere. The Seniors also won the cross country which emphasised their dominance in senior sport this year. Bruce Juniors were not to be overshadowed and won both the 3rd Form and the Junior Fives competitions, the indoor tag rugby, the Junior basketball and the Junior table tennis. Mark Goodenough was the top marksman in the .22 shooting competition. Week in, week out we have the majority of the House enjoying competitive inter-school sport. Marcus Bennett (Captain), Conor Curtis and Hugh Gallie have taken to rowing like 'ducks to water' and have been extremely successful this year.

ACADEMIC

The top two TWO performers from each year group in house were

3rd Form – Dham Srifuengfung & Anton Melnikov; 4th Form - Champ Panyarachun & Ben Curley; 5th Form - Mark Goodenough & Craig Browne; 6th Form - Sam Hunter & Conor Curtis; U6th Form - Tom Stanton & Rory Brabant

Tom Stanton & Freddie Wojnarowski have been offered places at Cambridge and Oxford respectively.

Bruce House has enjoyed a fabulous year not so much through the winning of competitions and gaining of awards but through the friendly and supportive environment which encourages individuals to work collectively and at the same time fulfil their own ambitions.



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Bruce

A Typical Day for the Bruce Upper 6th

8:17 Get up

8:18 Oli straightens his hair and applies fake tan!

8:20 Stumble into chapel half dressed

8:25 Ian wakes up, realises he is late and adopts the covert technique of hiding from Mr. Michael in his cupboard (he usually gets caught!)

10:40 Break begins
Chase 3rd form to do post and papers
Everyone to the kitchen for a toast sesh!
Oli fries a couple of eggs
Vincent has his second shower of the day

11:10 Periods 4 and 5 begin

12:10 Lunch

12:30 Kit visits the tuck shop (again)
Kit and Scott decide to have a sesh on pulling down Stants's curtains (a daily occurrence that they know annoys him most!)

1:30 Periods 6 and 7 begin

2:50 Lessons end and afternoon begins!
Stants, Browne and Brabs do some form of rugby whether it is touch, 7's or 15's!
Eddy rounds up some people for a sesh on Allport
Prince hits the tuck shop to scab some money!
Max begins his afternoon activity of Myspace, Facebook, Bebo, MSN and in fact any internet blogging site!
Kit decides to find out if the 3rd/4th form have any spare tuck for sale before hitting the tuck shop!

6:15 Supper
Elky sees Miranda (again)

7:15 House meeting
Nominate an upper 6th to announce that they have lost an irrelevant thing i.e. a pencil sharpener!
Clap and cheer as loud as possible for any announcement

7:20 Fred Woja creeps in the door late. Everyone takes a loud, over-emphasised breath in between their teeth as Mr. Michael eyeballs him!!!
Krishan makes an announcement about something or other
Matron informs us of the weeks' problem from the laundry (generally sock bags, un-named items, shirt buttons or boxers in sock bags)

7:30 Prep
Visit Allport's nest (his bed) and black hole (the area of plague and bacterial breeding ground behind the radiator!)
Scott gives out some abuse but can't take any back
Stants and Brabs continuously tell 4th form to turn their music down

9:15 Prep ends
Prince goes off to see whichever girl he is currently seeing
Sanctions for the usual offenders (you know who you are!)
Watch sky and try to see how long it takes for a 4th/5th form to come and ask for us to turn it over from some poor fishing or mothercare channel!

11:00 Vincent has his 4th shower

11:30 Thuillier decides to practice his bongo drums and wake the house up

Midnight – crawl into bed after checking if anything nasty has been placed under your pillow!



Things we will miss:

- Matron
- Tuck shop
- Hughesy (Scott's hero!)
- Break time toast sessions (3 loaves between 12)
- Allport's nest and black hole!
- Sessions on Allport
- Allport's Tash

Things we will not miss:

- All 3rd, 4th and 5th form!
- Daily sanctions
- Chapel at 8.20am 4 days a week
- May bugs (Eddy)
- Settling
- "That will do for today"
- Continual nags to do shirt buttons up in the laundry!

Temple

This has been another excellent year which has been characterised by some excellent contributions from all the boys in the House. James Richardson has been superb as Head of House and, as is so often the case, the senior boys set the tone for the House. The senior team this year have been exceptional so a huge thanks to James together with Sebastian d'Agar, Alex Paull, Freddie Porritt and Algy Lendrum.

It was sad to bid Margaret Slack farewell as our Matron and we wish her well as she returns to her family in New Zealand. On the plus side it gave the boys a real opportunity to "strut their stuff" which they did in an array of ways. The House Play, a curious piece entitled "The Right Place", gave Hamish Eggins and Toby Dunipace an excellent arena to demonstrate their talent and they were ably supported by an extensive cast involving boys from every year group of whom Hugo Clarke performed a wonderful cameo as an old man. Alex Paull produced and directed to excellent effect. Thanks also to Jacob Dennison, Teddy Kealey and Ed Borland for their musical contributions and to the Upper Sixth for an entertaining and insightful interpretation of life in Temple.

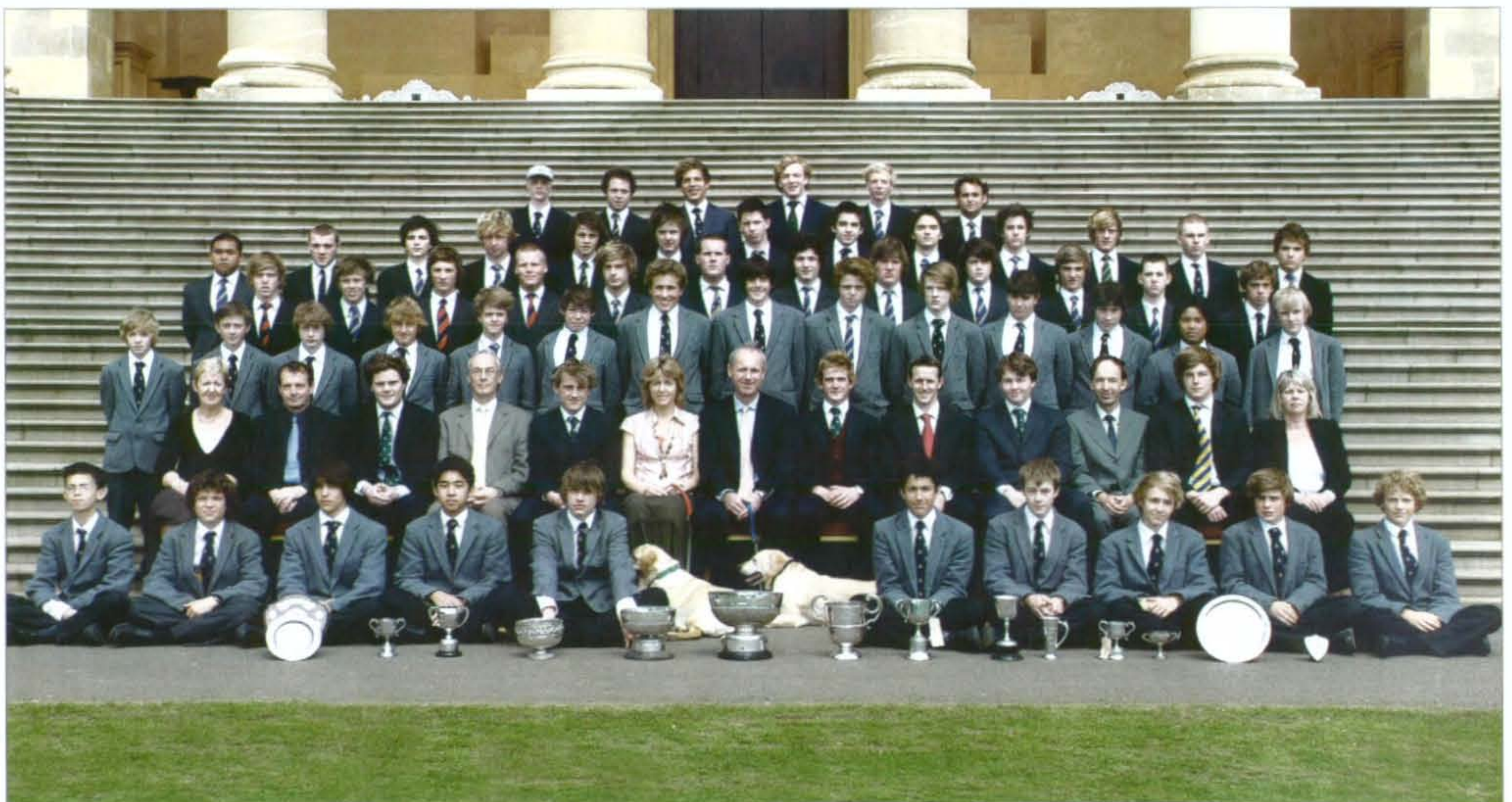
Sport always plays a significant role on the life of the House and through all three terms Temple has been very competitive. The seniors did well in the rugby leagues as did the intermediates in the cup competition, the juniors ran excellently in the cross country which augers well for the athletics championships in the summer term. Messrs Manser, Lendrum, Ballentine and Richardson out-stroked everyone in the indoor rowing and few could match Temple in the swimming gala with cups for relay, seniors, intermediates and as the overall winners. The School sent a team to compete in the British Schools Ski Championships and it was good to see Tom Rankin, Tom Haynes and Daniel Robinson returning in one piece having contributed to the win. Will Anthony has played successfully for Bucks Country Rugby and Alex Paull competed in the Public Schools Fencing Championship.

A highlight of the year is always the House Singing Competition and although we attempted to be 'King of the Swingers' we didn't quite manage it. However we had great fun in the performing but the real quality was produced by the Part Song ensemble (a McFly number 'It's All About You') who were again unlucky not to be properly appreciated by the adjudicator. Both seniors and juniors entered the Debating Competition with the juniors performing especially well and losing out to the eventual winners. The juniors seem well set on drama as well with Nick Langridge, Tom Haynes and Christain Selby all performing in the Junior Congreve "Gregory's Girl". In music any number of boys are in the school bands and orchestra and an increasing number are taking the opportunity to learn to play an instrument.

Congratulations to Henry Corner and Jack Leech for their appointments as School Prefects and a very warm welcome to Mrs Pam Dennison as our new Matron. The House is in good heart and whilst we bid farewell to our Upper 6th Leavers we also look forward to next year when we can build further on the firm foundation they have laid.

Housemaster – Mr Tony Lewis
Matron – Mrs Margaret Slack / Mrs Pam Dennison
Under Housemaster – Mr Phillip Arnold
Head of House – James Richardson

Mr Tony Lewis
Housemaster



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Temple



Temple Upper VIth Leavers 2007

A few details about the Temple leavers

F. Porritt (aka "Podge") : One of the 'safest' people you will ever meet- often referred to as "safe as a padlock". Chief Gamer. 1st XV rugby, School Prefect and House Prefect (in charge of the 3rd and 4th form), House colours (full)

Involved in all House sports especially as cricket and rugby captain. Planning to go to Leeds after a gap year.

E. Dabney (aka "Dabbers") : Plans in the future include maxi muscle advertising, hitting the X games in snow boarding and skateboarding, 2nd XV team rugby (unbeaten season), athletics team. Useful in House events especially rugby and basketball. House colours. Planning on going to Leeds.

H. Nettlefold (aka "Stinger") : Likes to make the most out of Stowe grounds, room cultivates interesting aromas. Would like to be the next Kelly Slater (best surfer in the world). House colours, 3rd XV rugby, 2nd XI cricket. Always involved in House activities. Planning on going to Leeds.

A. Paull (aka "TYRONE") : If you ever need anyone to work out the square route of an orange Alex Paull is your man. Tries hard on the sporting front (Hittite) but is most comfortable on the sidelines providing refreshments and moral support. Likes his food – Tuck Shop King! House Prefect, House colours (full), Directed the House play, constantly involved in all aspects of the House. Planning on going to Bristol.

O. Maitland-Walker (aka "Oli") : Would do well to invest in a VERY VERY LOUD alarm clock. Supports all House events as he has been unfortunate with injuries. Casualty Cup team and involved in Coldstream Cup preparation, Going back to Jamaica after school with gap year in hand.

D. Nahmad (aka "Pharaoh") : Almost due a third year 6th. Often seen making guest lists to club and centre. Occasionally does chapel, and bartering with the 3rd Form. School waterpolo captain and swimming team. House swimming captain, House colours. London bound to make his fortune and finishing school at Kaybar.

S. d'Agar (aka "Gaybar") : Trusted Prefect and disciplinarian. Recognisable from behind with the ever present rat tail, Football fanatic and Fifa pro. Keen musician recently passed grade 8 on Clarinet with distinction. House Prefect, School Prefect, House full colours (Full), Involved in all aspects of the House - excellent musical leadership, and keen to help. Going on to read Veterinary Science following a gap year in Malawi.

P. Hall (aka "Paddy") : Mr Mediocre has had problems with achievements and has more hair styles than David Beckham. Boxing and UFC world champion. Participates in all house events when needed, House colours, Tennis 2nd team, Always keen to help out with tours. Going on to Newcastle after a gap year (winner of a Gap Year Scholarship).

A. Lendrum (aka "Algy") : Would like to refer to himself as "skiing champion", House Flange who likes to wear fake tan and straighten his hair. Now the least sporting person in the House due to a rare heart condition, known for short flings! House Prefect (in charge of the 3rd and 4th Form). Vice Captain Stowe swimming, House swimming captain, involved in the House at every opportunity. Planning University post results and gap year.

D. Leeman (aka "Lippy") : Birdage and often seen around Nugent. Future NBA champion – minus the height. Seen most often with Harry and Ed in Housemaster's study – obvious favourites! Spent most of his 6th Form in Sanctions but never seems to be guilty. Messiest room in the

year but best impersonations are of his Housemaster. 1st team basketball and vital role in the House basketball also dabbles in a little rugby, virtuoso violinist of the Grappeli style. Due to read Business at Skidmore College in New York.

J. Richardson (aka "Titch") : Small man syndrome 'AMS'. Thinks he is always right! Recognisable by his swagger, puffy cheeks and new hair colour. Head of House, House Colours (honours), School Prefect, 2nds tennis, 2nds hockey

Coldstream Cup team for three years and captain this year, Casualty cup team for four years. Involved in all inter house events, House hockey captain. Leeds after a gap year.

James Richardson
Head of House



Grenville

We have had an extremely good year in most respects and Grenville have enjoyed success in all sorts of areas of School life. It is pleasing to see a fine crop of TWO grades from some of the new 3rd form and throughout the House there are plenty of boys who have worked extremely well.

In the first term I was delighted with Grenville's efforts in the both the House Singing Competition and the Coldstream Cup. The commitment of a number of individuals in these two events was extraordinary and although we didn't win either competition we certainly distinguished ourselves in both. Special mention goes to Hamish Hardie for his directing of the Unison Song and to Thomas Mitchell for his inspired leadership in the Coldstream Cup. Our 3rd form started the year very well, narrowly losing in the final of the inter-House Football. Grenville triumphed in the Junior Hockey and brought home the Cup, with more silverware coming from the Junior House Football Leagues.

After Christmas we started rehearsals for our House play – "The Crime Wave at Blandings Castle" adapted from PG Woodhouse's original writings by Colin Musgrave (father of James in the L6th). School plays can be pretty torrid affairs but this was slick, well acted and terrific fun. The production team of James Musgrave, Miles Crosby and Edward Crisford all deserve huge praise for pulling off this farce and inspiring their cast and entertaining their audiences so expertly. There were strong performances from our guests from Lyttleton (Lillie Ziegler Pounds and Ella Girardot) as well as from Nick Rewcastle, Alex Stevens, William Foyle, Edward Crisford and together they all supported the star of the show James Musgrave (the geriatric, but wicked, Lord Clarence Emsworth). A large amount of time, effort and emotion went into the extremely satisfying, pupil driven effort.

The Lent Term is short and sharp but a lot can be packed into it nonetheless. Our House sports teams all performed well and although our tally of cups was modest we are proud of our efforts in each event. We finished in strong positions in both Water Polo Leagues (Senior & Junior) and competed well in Table Tennis, Fives, Indoor Football and Squash. Our Junior Basketball team showed tremendous promise as it progressed right through to the final stages and our Senior team did well too. Real success came on the penultimate Sunday of term when the 3rd form won the indoor Cricket Cup. Our Junior Hockey team narrowly failed to qualify for the final stages but the Seniors made the final. I was delighted to award Kyle Jordan his House Colours for his outstanding captaincy and performance. Two other House competitions saw Grenville doing fine things: we were well placed in the Literary quiz and our Senior Debating team of Thomas Mitchell, Tom Fox & Miles Crosby defeated Bruce (last year's winners) on the way to losing narrowly to Cobham.

Amongst the highlights of the Summer (still unfinished at the time of writing) will be the Grenville Junior Tennis Team winning the cup and fine performances by the Junior Golfers. On Sports' Day we manage to collect enough points to come 4th overall; Kyle Jordan retained his Triple Jump trophy and Tom Mitchell claimed the Shot Put Cup. Other winners were Harry Burke, Nicolas de Montule and Ollie Trotter.

Grenville relies upon a fine team of Tutors, Prefects, Matron & other staff; I am grateful to all of them for their support, hard work and sense of humour. The departing Upper 6th – all 16 of them – will leave considerable gaps; we wish them success.

Housemaster: Mr Richard Knight

Matron: Ms Ann Turnbull

Underhousemaster: Mr Damien Orr

Head of House: Rupert Wynne



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Grenville

HEAD OF HOUSE

Below is a quick summary of our leavers' time at Stowe School:

Tom Fox- Most definitely the brightest Grenvillian and perhaps not the most talented sportsman, Foxys always gives his best shot when he's required to play for the house and also amuses us all with his encyclopaedic knowledge of comedy quotes!

Alex Gordon- Eck has given a lot to the house of over these years and quite rightly risen to the position of deputy head of house. Eck has always enjoyed CCF particularly the part that involved guns and is now planning a career in the army.

Hamish Hardie- Hamish has always tried to be a rebel sadly we still see him as the wannabe rude boy! He's a keen footballer and models himself on David Beckham - in fact, his love for the footballer is almost worrying.

Calvin Ho- Calvin has not been with us long but has already has greater number of TWO pluses than all of the upper 6ths collected over the past five years! He also has a lovely voice and delights us with his singing!

Ollie James- OJ is a solid member of the house unfortunately he has the major flaw of supporting Arsenal! OJ is a man of leisure who can often be found playing a (not so) quick 18 holes.

Piers Jameison- Piers has been with only for two years and as a house prefect he rules with an iron fist but is always approachable and generally good humoured.

Jack Jefferson- Jack has been a keen rugby player since his first day and just made it into the 1sts and 2nds rugby in 6th form (nice try! Note the pun!).

Kyle Jordan- the very opinionated Kyle always has a seemingly limitless amount of banter for the sports field which is mainly directed at the innocent ref. He also gained his house coloures quite rightly as he has done much for the house.

Daniel Kail- Once again a new addition to the house. We have big expectations about his athletics performance!

Johnathan Mcinnes Skinner- Skins has educated the entire house about sheep and what generally happens on farms (not much it turns out). Unfortunately he hasn't been involved with many house events as he spend most his time at the kennels.

Charlie Meredith-Owen- Dil boy is a good but reluctant sportsman and intelligent. Unfortunately he is a day boy and isn't with us much but when he blows through he delights us one and all.

Tom Mitchell- Tom thinks himself a bit of an alpha male unfortunately he is rather on his own on this point. He is another beagler and spends most of his time with Skins at the kennels. However, when he is around to play for the house he plays harder than anyone.

Poom Ratanakanok- Poom is another new boy to the house, a keen DJ and generally very involved with his music - we all expect his career to kick of soon. Hopefully this won't interfere with his married life as he got engaged late last year.

Ollie Travers- The house vandal hasn't really done much on the academic side of things. Instead he constantly entertains the house even when it's unwanted. He has utilized the social side of Stowe life to the maximum.

Alex Trotter- Alex is one of the best sportsmen in the house and has played for the 1st XI hockey and is a keen cricketer. Although in the shadow of Ollie Trotter, he has still done well for himself, ruling as a house prefect with an even hand.

Rupert Wynne- Rupert is head of house and therefore has outdone all of his older brothers in getting to this position. He has enjoyed dishing out the punishments as part of his job and now boasts a large array of standards hanging like trophies on his wall. Rupert has been the most consistent Water polo player within the house and has taken us to many a trophy in this particular sport and in swimming competitions. He is also a keen scientist and conservationist.

Rupert Wynne - Head of House



Chandos

Chandos has had a great year and the Upper 6th have a lot to be proud of. They have set the tone from the outset, with hard work, achievement and dedication being their watchwords. The examples that they have set, in all aspects of school life, have set the standard for future Chandosians to live up to and they will be greatly missed.

On the academic front, the House won the inaugural academic salver this year. This is a competition where the average number of plus grades per pupil was added to the average number of merits that each had gained - 9.3 and 4.1 respectively. We outshone all of the other boys houses (and Nugent) to win the boys competition. Well done to Edmond Lee for gaining the highest number of plus grades in the Lower 6th (46) and to Peuk Vadanyakul and James Blackham for gaining 69 and 67 plusses respectively. Craig Greene, Nicholas Johnston and James Elliott all gained a 'full house' of A grades twice during the year and Julian Nesbitt completed this feat on four separate occasions! The academic strength of the House was further highlighted by Nick Allen's 100% in his January module and our results in the General Knowledge competition: Nick Johnston won the cup whilst Elliot Barnes was runner up in the 5th Form section and James Elliott won the 4th form section.

Housemaster: Mr Barney Durrant

Matron: Mrs Clare Hill-Hall

Under Housemaster: Mr Matthew Pitteway

Head of House: Nick Allen

The XX Group (Junior Scholar's Club) was also well represented in the House as they presented research projects to the rest of the school. James Blackham looked at physical fitness and James Elliot performed a psychology experiment on the 3rd and 4th Form!

Craig's successful application to read music at Christchurch College, Oxford, was the highlight of our musical calendar this year, along with his performance of Grieg's Piano Concerto on Speech day. The House Unison and Part songs were another great success, and whilst we didn't receive a formal placing the standard of singing and effort that was put in is to be commended. The less formal side of our music has been displayed in the almost weekly dirges of 'Happy Birthday' and, as is now tradition in the House, mince pies were eaten and the Twelve Days of Christmas was sung when the Christmas tree was decorated in the foyer of the House at the end of the first term.

In terms of House competitions, we have performed very well this year and both the 3rd form and U6th in particular have led the way. The strength in depth has been shown in a number of whole house events such as the House Athletics, in which we won the Junior competition and were only narrowly beaten by Cobham for the overall trophy by 9 points. The great breadth of talent has been exhibited in the various cups that we have won, including ; The Academic Salver, Senior Basketball, Senior Squash, Senior Rugby Leagues, Senior Badminton, Junior Cross-Country, Junior Swimming, Junior Athletics, Junior House Rugby 7's, Junior 100m Sprint Relay, General Knowledge (Nicholas Johnston), Stowe Piano Cup (Craig Greene), Paul Harris Award for outstanding Musical potential (Craig Greene), Temple Design Competition (Elliot Barnes), Senior long Jump (Duke Yuvacharuskul), Intermediate High Jump (Elliot Barnes).

The following House awards were given out this year:

Full House Colours (cufflinks): Nick Allen, Julian Nesbitt and Craig Greene.

House Colours (tie): Nick Anstee, Will Bond, Harry Duncombe, J-P Reynolds, Harry Watson and Charlie Williams.

Half Colours (House socks): Ned Ponsonby, Mohammed Bahwan, Carlo Fountaine, Nick Johnston, Edmond Lee, Pat Ramsey, Gabriel Rawlings, Elliot Barnes, Oliver Cox, Charles Dedman, James Elliott, Suhail Bahwan, Ben Barter, James Blackham and Cameron Cox.

Congratulations to the following, who have all been 'Man of the Week' this year: Will Bond, Edmond Lee, Pat Ramsey, James Blackham, Julian Nesbitt, Suhail Bahwan, Ben Barter, Harry Duncombe, Peuk Vadanyakul, Andrew Welford, Charles Price, Oliver Cox, Nick Allen, Duke Yuvacharuskul, Richard Gordon-Colebrooke & Craig Greene.



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Chandos

A Legacy

A legacy is what the Chandos upper sixth will be leaving behind. It all started on one cold morning when a few prep school children had a look around the enchanting buildings and grounds of Stowe School - little did they know that they were starting an adventure of a lifetime. They were later in their lives destined to be re-united under the title of the Chandos third form, from the first day that they met a bond grew amongst them. They pulled together and worked as a team to overcome the hurdles of Stowe life and made it through the years without any major injuries. Well apart from Nesbitt's fingers and anything that Duke felt was worth a kick or two.

As they grew older, wiser and damn good looking if we may say so ourselves, they saw new introductions to the force like Ivan 'Krum' Spasov, Nick 'The Caveman' Allen and Craig 'The Showboat' Greene. But they did see some unfortunate departures as Nonny 'The Cabbage' Ohiaeri unfortunately could not hack the pace and had to drop out two years before the finish line.

Over our five years in Chandos house we have seen five different house masters with the likes of Mr Dalton, Mr Ruben, and Mr Hirst for a few weeks and even the big man himself Dr A Wallersteiner. However in the last two years a man carved from the very boulder that was rolled in front of our Christ's tomb emerged as the leader of this house of warriors, who was fit to lead us into battle against the demands of future life.

We all know why we were sent to this establishment apart from the fact that our parents don't love us, to get an education and to set us up for the outside world. This is something that we feel has been successful. We are all off to the great outside world and all feel that we are well prepared. Prepared, we may be for the outside world, but nothing was to prepare us for the start of sixth form and girls. They came thick and fast and we were not ready for the consequences of our actions. We found that it was greatly frowned upon to break wind in class. Upon entering the sixth form we discovered the joys of club and centre and also the joys of watching Watson dance and grind up against the wall. New friends were made and Duncombe had his first chance to talk to a member of the fairer sex.

Now that we are on the final stretch we can look back and think 'yeah, yeah, we did good' we have made friends that we will keep forever, people that we can rely upon and memories that will stay with us for the rest of our lives!

Nick Allen
Head of House

Chandos House Leavers '07:

Nick Caveman Allen	Charlie Haggis Williams
Julian Doctor Nesbitt	Craig The Showboat Greene
Nick Nose it all Anstee	Ned Nipples Ponsonby
Will Half Pint Bond	Ivan Krum Spasov
Harry Closet Watson	Duke Big Korea Yuva.....
JP Protein Reynolds	James Downhillin' Bentley
Harry The Gofe Duncombe	



Cobham

Housemaster's Report

This term the new boys included a new Housemaster who was just as nervous as the incoming 3rd Form and 16th boys coming into Cobham. None of us should have worried as the Cobhamites demonstrated the ready charm that seems to be a feature of Stowe and made us all feel very welcome. Certainly the boys quickly became used to James and Olivia charging around the House room disrupting games of table tennis and pool! It would be impossible to mention all the boys in such an article, but needless to say I am continually impressed and proud of the achievements and participation of the Cobham men in House and school life.

Housemaster: Mr Matthew Way

Matron: Ms Pamela Burgham

Under Housemaster: Mr Nathan Phillips

Head of House: Nasiru Imam

House Singing

Few of us will forget Azu Nsirim's entry into Stowe folklore with our Part Song in the Inter-House Music Competition. Arranged by Nathan Phillips, the ensemble sang 'The River of Dreams' with Azu in the lead role. Azu's performance was outstanding, but the other boys played their part with a harmonious background, the combination of which brought the Roxy to its feet.

Inter-House Cross Country

Everyone ran, be they svelte and fast or built for comfort rather than speed. Samston Stieger-White was victorious in the senior race after a lung-bursting sprint up hill at the end. Jamie Cockbill finished sixth in the juniors and Oliver Ayoub was eighth in the intermediate race.

Inter-House Rugby

A two trophy Michalemas Term in House rugby this year. Firstly, Ben Reeve (our only 1st XV player) led the seniors to a win in the Plate having seen off Grenville in a tough final. Our junior team (4th and 5th Forms) then won the Rugby Leagues. The latter competition requires good organisation to get a full team out for a match in each week of the term and much credit therefore goes to the Captain Andrew Consett. It is also worth noting that Max Housson and Harry Hopewell played for the unbeaten 2nd XV and that Ronnie Speakman captained the Junior Colts A XV and Ben Roe Captained the Yearlings A XV.

Drama

Probably our most experienced thespian, Stuart Stevens, again played a leading role in the Senior Congreve, 'Habeas Corpus'. In the House Drama Festival, our play, 'Forever Thursday', was home written (Rollo Pearson), directed (Nick Anson) and performed by a sizeable cast. Great credit goes to Nick and his fellow lead, Josh Hunter, for the entertaining and thought-provoking piece. We are also looking forward to seeing Gus Perkins-Ray play the lead role in Gregory's Girl, the Junior Congreve, later in the Summer Term.

Other Sports

Dillon Hudson single-handedly collected three trophies during the Inter-House Swimming Competition, the team ably led by perennial finalist, Josh Hunter. On Sports Day, excellent individual performances from Rowley Barclay, Ronnie Speakman, Samson Stieger-White, Balthazar Mattar, George Iggulden, Adam Qazi and Josh Hunter helped Cobham win the overall trophy. Importantly, many Cobhamites turned out to ensure that we had competitors in every event. Our Under-Housemaster, Nathan Phillips, and the age group captains therefore deserve much credit for their organisational efforts. It was a great win for 'Team Cobham'. In cricket, the Cobham senior teams almost pulled off two upset victories, ably led by Tom Wilson.

Cobham At Home

Our scheduled hog roast and cricket match fell victim to some appalling weather, but the clouds had a silver lining. We were able to have our roast on the South Front portico and then we were treated to an impromptu concert from our musicians. Needless to say Balthazar Matter, Gus Perkins-Ray, Azu Nsirim, Nick Anson, Josh Hunter, Ed Howlin and others stepped up to the mark in great style and parents were given a memorable afternoon.



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Cobham

What a year it's been for Cobham and its boys. We have gone from strength to strength in music, sport, drama and academics. Cobham boys have been in the mix of it all. We have won our fair share of House events, but have also been gracious in defeat when things didn't quite go our way. I have been honoured to be the Head of House. I felt that it was appropriate to mention the leavers, so that a public record remains of their time in the House. They are:

Pencho Dotchev. Aka 'The Russian'. Pencho (Bulgarian by origin), has always been an integral part of life in Cobham; the guy is practically a walking cinema. A House Prefect and sportsman, one who has come along way since heading the 'Bulgarian crew'.

Alexander Hawkings-Byass. Aka 'Bussy'. The vainest of us all, Buss is the glue that has held us together. If there is one common factor, if there is one common ground, one person who everyone knows, that person is Alex. A massively underestimated character, a person who is so lazy and unathletic that he has yet to even win his House Socks.

Edward Howlin. Aka 'Big Eddy'. A determined character whose musical talent has set him apart as an individual. Famous for his rugby feats for the Hittites and an essential part of the Cobham crew, one who will be missed.

Yaerid Jacob. Aka 'Yasser'. It once took Yaerid 40 minutes to open an un-locked box, but again he learned from his mistake. Yaerid has grown as a person more than any of us over the years, he leaves Stowe a House Prefect and President of the Stowe School Debating Society.

Nasiru Iman. Aka 'Nas'. HEAD of HOUSE. A talented sportsman, Nas was captain of the basketball team. Charming and far too good looking for the rest of us to cope with, Nas has been a true leader in our last year.

Hugh Mackay. Aka 'Braders'. Always one of the good guys, Hugh has done more than his fair share of house events. A successful golfer and House Prefect, Braders has always, even from the very beginning, been prepared to have his own views, to believe, not what everyone else believes, but what is right.

Rollo Pearson. Aka 'Caesar'. His time at Stowe has been a multitude of ups and downs. He co-founded what was dubiously dubbed the "Corkscrew Reserves". A talented sportsman, captain of the Hittites, Rollo will always be the wild Yorkshire man who, surprisingly, is one of the cleverest of the lot.

Thomas Prendergast. Aka 'Prendy'. Tommy has been an outstanding sportsman with an inexhaustible amount of energy. He has bled brown and blue, competing every year in every House event, including the gruelling Coldstream and Casualty Cups. Tom is a top bloke with all the right qualities to make it in the Army.

Stuart Stevens. Aka 'Stu'. Witty and quick, a true character and individual. Most notable of all his achievements have been those in the drama department with his

memorable performances across the years. A gifted actor and sportsman with a bright future both on the stage and off it.

.....and so it is that, with a heavy heart, we say goodbye to too many good people, too many good friends.



Chatham

Housemaster

Having arrived to glorious sunshine that seemed to endure up until well past half term, Jude, Lucy, George and I were treated to a wonderful introduction to Chatham and Stowe. My Head of House, George Coote, and Senior Prefects helped make the transition from Harrow Beak to Stowe Housemaster a very smooth one. George has been an inspirational Head of House and from the outset has set a fine example. As the first XV scrumhalf, a first XI cricketer, a leading chorister and academically a very hard worker, it is difficult not to be swept along with his enthusiasm. Deputy Head's of House, Benji Wills and Dom Farr, the other House Prefects: David Pitcher, Mark Thompson Royds, and Oliver Richie have been loyal and responsible to Chatham and me. With so many visitors to the House they have helped ensure that the fabric and character of the House be maintained and presented in the best light. I am very grateful to them all.

The year has seen the publication of the termly House magazine "A Brief Chat" grow in stature. Philip Pitcher, who also edits the House Website – a new addition – has maintained a very high standard and has put Chatham on the IT map with some style!

There have been many successes on the sporting front for the House. Not wanting to steal George's thunder, I will leave him to give account of these in his report.

There have been many highlights for me this year and far too many to mention them all. The Christmas dinner in Chatham house room, a Black Tie evening complete with appallingly funny sketches and entertainment from the boys and the obligatory National Anthem at the end of the evening, was terrific fun. Chatham at Home in the Lent term was a great success, with most of the parents attending and the boys entertaining us all with some very talented acts. George Coote was the undoubted star of the evening, leading from the front as usual with a number of songs as he fronted up the House Band. It was good to see the Third Form Jazz band in full swing as well.

There are some exciting developments planned for Chatham. The current Third Form dorm is to be refurbished and converted into larger study areas, where each boy will have his own study desk and area, rather than have a separate area where prep is done. This means that the house room, rather than be a prep room for the Thirds, can now be an assembly, entertainment and games room. The House library is being refurbished and will also accommodate a Day boy prep area. The corridor leading to the changing rooms will become the House Photographs archive and I am in the process of finding the missing years to make up the set complete. The concrete cladding which has started to occasionally fall from the portico will be repaired also this Summer. So Chatham will be clothed in the dreaded scaffolding for some time I'm afraid!

My final comments go to all those who have helped Chatham in some way over this year. I wish to thank all the academic tutors, particularly those that are attached to Chatham for duty evenings and to the Home team of Tally Kettler, Matron, and Rod Tait, Under Housemaster, his wife Alison and son George. My sincere thanks to them all.

Mr John Ing

Housemaster – Mr John Ing

Matron – Mrs Tally Kettler

Under Housemaster – Mr Roderick Tait

Head of House – George Coote

Academically we have had our fair share of success. Many merits have been awarded and the following awards have been made for exemplary work.

Commendations	Benes
Alastair Bailey	George MacEwan
Hugh Birchall	Guy Merrill
Toby Clegg	Ivaylo Nenkov
Alexander Fisher	Philip Pitcher
Tristan Hirst	
Billy Jackson-Stops	
Brad Kim	
George MacEwan	
Joaquin Munoz	
Harry Raikes	
Jack Sharp	
Hugh Stanley	
Oscar Thornton	
Theo Vicat	
Dominic Woods	



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Chatham

Head of House

This is my 5th and final year in the House and I will be sad to see the back of it. Chatham has always been known for its individualism and has always stood out as a dominant House within the School, generally putting in a strong performance in House events and often bringing back silverware. The new arrival of Mr Ing and family has done wonders for the House already and as he settles in I think he will take Chatham to new heights.

During the course of the year Chatham has been involved in all of the competitions available and has tried to put out the best side possible on every occasion. We have been involved in competitions from House table tennis all the way through to House rugby.

In the Christmas term the major sport was rugby. For the senior rugby competition we put out a strong side with 8 of the 10 players representing the 1st and 2nd XV at the weekends. Unfortunately we lost narrowly to a strong Bruce team in the final. We also appeared to have talent in the juniors for racket sports, being victorious in the junior House squash captained by Josh Sainsbury-Bow and the table tennis lead by Brad Kim.

In the Lent term hockey takes over as the major sport and again we produced two very strong teams for both the push hockey leagues and the main hockey competition. In the push hockey leagues we won, securing victory in the final week with a close win. In the main competition we won our group and cruised through the semi-finals with a 4-0 victory over Bruce. In the final we turned over a strong Grenville side with a 1-0 victory, an amazing individual goal from Will Dunn bringing home the cup. The Juniors put in a strong team as well, narrowly losing in the finals to Walpole in penalty flicks. The House swimming also took place during the Lent term; we brought home 7 cups with 5 of them being won by Sam Morris, who also broke the School freestyle record. Overall as a team we came in a respectable 2nd place.

During what we have had of the Summer term so far we have played two competitions and are still in the running for both of them. In the senior 6 a side cricket leagues we are currently in the semi-finals and are looking like a strong force. In the main senior competition we are currently in the final against Grafton and with four players in the 1st XI we are hoping for another victory.

I feel we have gone from strength to strength over the 5 years I have been here. With such talent coming into the 3rd Form every year it is hard to think that we won't be picking up more trophies next year as well.

George Coote



Grafton

The new year began with a number of changes in Grafton: the Fifth Form were greeted by smart new studies, and we welcomed two new tutors to the House in Mr Alan Hughes, 1st XV rugby coach and Head of Boys' Games; and Mr David Critchley, who took over from Mr Mark Edwards, both as Classics teacher, and Grafton tutor.

The 'class of 2006' moved on to a variety of illustrious institutions, with Exeter proving the most popular (Tom Tett, Dom Heath, Ben Howgego), while Edmund Jones won a place at Worcester College, Oxford. Other destinations were UCL (Manuel Poblador), Manchester (Sam Krajnyk), Warwick (Kevin Wen), Bristol UWE (Charlie Colville), Durham (Max Stevenson), Edinburgh (Leo Strutt) and Devon to be a jockey (Ed Cookson)!

The intake of new Third Formers (14 of them) was clearly a strong group, and the House was further boosted by two new arrivals in the Lower Sixth, and one in the Fourth Form.

Looking back over this year, there have been many highlights, a few of which deserve special mention here. First of all, and in pride of place, must come the victory in the House Singing Competition. The Part Song came second (many felt it should have won), with Jack Fillery, Jonathan Elfer, Freddie Alexander and Charlie Kim starring. However, the House Song, conducted by Jonathan, and accompanied by the debuting Marcus Beresford, was superb, and it was a great feeling for the House to do something so well as a whole. Those who heard the reprise at the House At Home might have been surprised at our success, but the 'real' performances were brilliant.

The House At Home was another highlight of the year, with the boys proving to be nearly as good at hosting as they were at eating the variety of delicious puddings. The entertainments were richly varied, from William Gordon Cumming's bagpipes, to Charlie White's violin, and the Upper Sixth song 'Imagine all the top buttons'. The drinks and food were first rate, but the best part for me was the easy atmosphere between pupils, friends and family, and the opportunity for people to get to know one another in a relaxed setting. We are also fortunate that the mansion provides such an excellent setting for a party!

The House Drama Festival threatened to be a challenge, with nothing of substance in place ten days before the performances, but ultimately it was a triumph. The three Greek tragedies, reduced to their minimum, and converted from tragedy to farce, allowed free rein to the actors and directors, and they took it to good effect. Again, Jonathan Elfer and Jack Fillery were to the fore, but they were very well supported by a

Housemaster: Mr Chris Townsend

Matron: Mrs Terri Bosman

Under Housemaster: Mr Dominic Mochan

Head of House: Jack Fillery



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Grafton



cast made up of Duncan Bennett (has a 1st XV forward ever been camper on stage?), Marcus Beresford, Jack Bartholomew, David Christie-Miller, Will Assheton and Tom Mason. Tom Osborne assisted back stage, and James Minchin-Mitchell helped out with props and planning. The highlight here was the fact that the boys put this together themselves, had to work hard to do so, but enjoyed what they had created.

Sport is always a large part of House life, and the list of competitions, and trophies seems unending. Grafton has once more enjoyed success in all areas, although the junior part of the House has probably been the most successful. We have dominated indoor football (victories for juniors, led by Raman Dhaliwal, and golden boot Charlie Kim) for the last three years, and this year was no different. We also won a Sixth Form indoor



competition. The water polo saw us do well, with victory for the juniors (Tom Worsdell and Simon Plunket scoring goals for fun), and second place in the seniors (led by Ed Colville).

The Fifth Form would not let me pass over their third successive House victory, although they pushed it close this time, relying on a penalty shoot out, which was our undoing in the hockey. The Third Form rugby players won their Plate competition, while we came a very creditable second place in the whole school cross country, and swimming competitions. Fives remains a strength, as we won at senior level, and came in runners up in the junior competition, while we await the senior House cricket final against Chatham with much anticipation.

In summary, we have won competitions in the following disciplines in the last twelve months:

Football, Rugby, Swimming, Athletics, Indoor football, Water polo, Table tennis, Singing, Cricket, Hockey, Clay pigeon Shooting and Basketball.

However, the most pleasing part has been the level of competitiveness shown in all areas, from Coldstream Cup, to senior rugby, or junior squash. This has been especially true in sports where we have not had the strongest teams, and we have relied on effort and commitment, and pride in competing for the house to come through.

While all of this, and much more, has been going on, we have also managed to achieve 75% AB grades at A level, 55% AB grades at AS, and saw all last year's Fifth Form achieve the hurdle for Sixth Form entry, which was hugely encouraging.

Hopefully, Grafton has also been a good home to the boys during this time, and a place that they are proud to belong to. I like to think that we expect high standards of all those in the House, and try to direct them to treat others with the same respect that they would expect, regardless of age or background. Ultimately that will be the measure of success as a boarding community.

Finally, my thanks go to all of the boys in the House for all their efforts and hard work for Grafton in so many areas, from the Third Form helping out with the House clearing, to the Sixth Formers taking prospective parents round. A particular thankyou must go to the Prefects, who have set very high standards throughout, and provided strong role models to the junior years. However, my biggest thanks has to be reserved for the tutor team (Mr Critchley, Mr Hughes, Mr Young and Mr Jeffreys), who spend so much time looking after the boys, and in particular to Mr Mochan and the indefatigable Mrs B, who have to endure sharing a building with sixty teenagers of varying moods and dispositions, but do so with great care and kindness.

Mr Chris Townsend
Housemaster



Housemaster's Report

As the GCSE and 'A' Level exams approach the cry of "hasn't this year gone quickly" becomes more frequently heard, and another academic year is shortly to end. And yet last September was not that long ago when 2/5th of the House changed, with the remaining 3/5th moving up a year and adjusting to their new status. It was a pleasure to welcome my first Third Year intake into the House and to oversee their initiation as Walpudleans/Stoics and their transition from prep school boys and 'big fish in a small pond' to 'a small fish in a huge pool'. I am struck by the diversity of characters and experiences of these boys and yet have admired how quickly and happily they have adapted and integrated. When they speak warmly of the senior members of the House I know for sure that Walpole is indeed a special House! On their behalf I would like to thank Chris Price who was given the particular responsibility of looking after their welfare.

I have also been struck by the spirit within each year group, with the Fourth Year boys and especially the Fifth Years establishing deep bonds of friendship, which will surely last well beyond school days. The Lower Sixth have shown greater maturity and understanding of each other as the year has progressed, and the Upper Sixth have moved seamlessly to assume the responsibilities vacated by last years Upper Sixth.

I must thank all the boys for their many and varied contributions, be it on the games field, in music, in art, in their willingness to represent the House, or through a kind word or gesture that is so important for the smooth running and happiness of a close community. The Head of House, Harry McCorkell, and the Deputy Head of House, Patrick Tillard and House prefects also play a key part. Above all I must thank our matron, Sheldine, for her concern, patience and guidance over 61 demanding teenagers, and my thanks also to the excellent Under-Housemaster Mr Richard Pickersgill and house tutors, Messieurs Weston, Ford, Akam, Last and Hogan, whose input into the House is much appreciated and valued. Finally, may I publicly thank the four ladies who keep the House tidy and clean – a miracle indeed, thank you, Sarah, Wendy, Anna and Alison, you are undoubtedly the best!

Housemaster: Mr Peter Platts-Martin
Matron: Mrs Sheldine Moran
Under Housemaster: Mr Richard Pickersgill
Head of House: Harry McCorkell

Mr Peter Platts-Martin
Housemaster



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Walpole

Head of House Harry McCorkell's Eight Memorable Moments of the Year.

1. Winning the Coldstream Cup...again
2. Winning the Cross-Country trophy...again
3. Mr. Ford
4. Mr P-M's memorable rendition of 'Hero' by Enrique Iglesias
5. Seeing all the 3rd Formers settle into the House so well.
6. Having a Walpudlean write the best supported House play.
7. Watching the House come together in the House Singing Competition.
8. Winning the Junior inter-house rugby cup.



Three Walpole 3rd Formers First Year impressions of Stowe.

When first arriving at Stowe I realised immediately that the school atmosphere was something that I knew that I would love to be part of. I felt immediately at home.

I did not find it too difficult to settle into Walpole. The staff and Sixth Form boys were extremely helpful and welcoming.

I felt immediately obliged to perform for my House and to do my best. Also relaxing in the grounds with my friends is one of the highlights of being at Stowe. I love the relaxed community feel of Stowe.



Nugent

As ever, this has been a year packed with surprises and upsets, tears and laughter, victories and near misses but without a doubt the strength of the House still lies in its unity and commitment to whatever it is the girls are involved in. We started the year with a melodic performance of 'Heaven' sung by Emily Ansell, Amber Wyles, Talia Collins, Cress Bonas, Eliza Winwood, Elly-May Barnes, Daisy Page and of course the multi-talented Monica Jurcic on the Electric Guitar. We were worthy winners of the Tustian Cup and perhaps naively thought that this was the first of many trophies that would be adorning our shelves in the common room. How wrong could we be as we underestimated the strength of Lyttelton girls. We might not have performed as well as expected on the sporting front, but our talent has been evident on the stage whether through the medium of acting or music.

Housemistress – Mrs Jayne Duckett

Matron – Mrs Di Olivier

Under Housemistress – Miss Stephanie Sherman

Annexe – Miss Francine Smith

Head of House – Emily Thornton

During the Michaelmas term when Senior Congreve performed Alan Bennett's well known farce, 'Habeas Corpus', our shy, undemonstrative Cress Bonas came to light as the cleaning lady, Mrs Swabb, alongside a flat-chested spinster played by Emily Ansell. The other three female parts were played by equally talented girls in Nugent-Daisy Page, Beth Reilly and Alex Edwards-as we were entertained by a script carrying all the hallmarks of Bennett's acerbic wit and charm.

As the year unfolded we were able to listen to the voices and musical talents of a combination of Lower and Upper Sixth in 'Unplugged' concerts, 'Informal Wednesday' afternoon concerts and finally, before Easter, the House Drama Festival. Beth Reilly and Alex Edwards directed 'Vinegar Tom' by Caryl Churchill, a play which focuses on the fear that witches can invoke in a rural community. Amber Wyles, Lettie Butcher, Olivia Fitzroy, Daisy Page, India Windsor-Clive, Lucy Fletcher, India Barclay, Monica Jurcic, Miranda Squire, Milly King, Rosie Money-Coutts and Emily Thornton are all to be congratulated on stunning, emotional performances.

On the sporting front, although we were beaten at hockey and lacrosse we were devastating in the pool for House Swimming Finals. Ably led by Anna Blackham, the captain of the Senior Girls Squad, we swam away with all but one of the cups, with honours going to Anna, Kate MacNamara, Chloe Ballantine, Lucy Rankin and Sophie Loyd.

In the exam room there were some excellent AS and A2 module results and many subject prizes were awarded to Nugent Girls on Speech Day. Mia Hulla remains our TWO Queen with an average of 12 plus grades and should also be mentioned for outstanding A grades in all her modules in January.

Finally, on a sad note we had to say goodbye to one of our Lower Sixth girls, Elly May Barnes. Her father Jimmy, and the famous Neil Finn, performed a memorable evening of Crowded House numbers as well as some of the Barnes' own material to a packed audience in the Roxburgh. The charity event raised money for the lax tour and SCOPE. Elly-May struggled with Cerebral Palsy whilst here at Stowe and decided at Easter to return to her family in Australia. I hear she is well and happy and our memories of her as a member of Nugent will be with us for many years to come.

My very sincere thanks goes to the entire Nugent House Team for their tireless work, enthusiasm and support over the year. Students and staff alike have been a pleasure to work with in my first year and I am confident that we have done everything with a smile on our face and a fervent belief that Nugent is a great House to belong to.

Mrs Jayne Duckett
Housemistress



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Nugent



Insight to a Nugent girl

Early Monday morning, the L6th are forced to go to breakfast with the words, 'You must have a good start to the week' ringing in their ears, where a stance is taken. For the unfortunate Nugentites who do not make it out of bed and to breakfast on time there is a forfeit: no Club or Centre this week and this can be highly damaging to a L6th's social life.

Monday morning chapel starts and finishes swiftly before the day's lessons start without much ado. Break time arrives, when the kitchen sees its busiest time of the day; the smell of burnt toast quickly emanates through to the Common Room and soon the kitchen is like the Antarctic as all the

windows are opened in an attempt to diffuse the smell and to stop the smoke alarm going off. Post and papers are usually done; if this duty has not been adhered to then various members of the U6th will most certainly have something to say about it. The Daily Mail is the most popular newspaper in House and there is the usual scrabble for the horoscopes which can be found in the middle section. Mid-morning lessons recommence and end.

Lunchtime begins. This is followed by the daily visit to the Tuck shop where the majority of the 6th Form boys can be found before afternoon's lessons begin. After a gruelling day of hard work, many find it necessary to consume all the chocolate spread in one sitting before activities start. The usual excuses are made - "I've got a cold/I've hurt my ankle/I've got loads of work -" before facing the standard English weather. The Nugent girl is rarely let off from lacrosse/hockey/tennis especially with the ever enthusiastic Mrs Duckett in charge.

Returning, clad in wet weather gear, the laundry becomes complete chaos, much to Mrs Olivier's dismay. The next hour for many, is spent showering and getting ready for supper. Supper is a raucous event and order is seldom kept. Socialising follows this. Prep starts and finishes and there is the usual search around House for those girls who are not working. Club and Centre provides a light relief, although the caffeine in the Coca Cola can be too much for some. Trying and failing to be in House on time after this finishes proves a problem for most.

Exhaustedly, the average Nugentite will climb happily into bed, although there is the usual chatter and patter - more like flat footed elephantine feet - which keeps some awake. A busy day has ended.

Emily Thornton
Head of Nugent



Creative Writing

F. Wojnarowski - Trouble in mind

WINNER: *Gavin Maxwell Essay Prize (SENIOR)*

I lie there, floating in the eerily calm sea, cold water lapping against my face as I stare up at a vast and uncaring blue sky - like a great second sea - rolling over my head. I am calm and at peace with myself, with the world and, perhaps, even with what I have done. I stare up at the mournful granite cliffs of the Brittany shore, the yacht, my means of escape from a hostile realm, bobbing beside me. I relish my new state of mind. I feel enlightenment at the tips of my fingers, amongst the seaweed and the cold and the debris of an ocean. The waves of plaguing self-hate seem to be gone. I feel ready for my new life, ready, once rested, to pull my form back into the little boat anchored beside me, and sail out into the endless blue plains of the Atlantic, and to the free haven of Columbia beyond. This time it will be different, this time I will find my place in the world. This, I realise - whatever follows - is the climactic moment of my life, spent in utter solitude and unbroken silence.

I am, I suppose, brilliant. I can play any tune I hear in passing on a piano. I can understand the complexities abounding in science and the world of nature. And yet I have never had a relationship that was not destructive. The paths my mind follows are like those of snowflakes: fascinatingly intricate and beautiful, totally random, and ultimately useless. I dream of Merringail, the woman I once loved, the woman who once obsessed me - the idea of her, far parted from her messy reality, elusive and beautiful. She left me, of course, as they always do, as everyone, even my mother has. I remember my mother the clearest of all, the soft and comforting caress of her arms, the hushed voice saying goodbye, my eyes slowly opening as I awakened to find her gone. For ever. I am not a 'people-person'; what I need I find within me. It is not that I don't love and am not loved, just that I seem... remote. No wonder Merringail said I had a shattered mind. And what, people might say, is the value of a shattered mind?

My mind, in one of its inexplicable jumps, switches suddenly from calm to worry, my meditation broken. What of the blood? Lying in the sea will not wash it off. Not its hidden residue, clinging to me and all I make, unappeased until I myself face death. My one act of anger and of hatred. It will no doubt resonate outwards, with reprisals against my people, and yet more blood. I do not know whether I care. All violence perpetuates itself.

I remember a day when I did not think so. When war for me was a pilgrimage and a crucible from which I must emerge. I volunteered to join my countrymen in Algiers. What horror, as men were moved around maps in HQ's back in Paris, and were sent staggering through the deserts. What slaughter our enemies unleashed, as we chased them endlessly across the desert. We caught them eventually. We had tanks and choppers and they had camels and their own feet. They were trapped, in an old and crumbling farmhouse, its terracotta roof and sandstone walls like some idyll of the Mediterranean. The beauty of the place filled me with awe and peace. My squads did not see this. I remember the harsh clatter of automatic rifles and the headlong rush forwards. Four of us had fallen, the sand kicked up from our running feet already settling on

their bloody faces. The men felt anger - the anger of our long journey, our hardships and losses. We came to the farm. The 20 or so enemies were dead, their resistance ended with the final loss of ammunition and energy. Their last bullets had been for themselves. They had committed the ultimate sin to their god: despair. Just farmers for the most part, eking out a living in this volatile nation, each with his own reasons for picking up a rifle. Inside the farm, the family who lived there emerged. They were crying softly. The devastation seemed to crush them, as their eyes took in more and more. So, we had not had our long awaited revenge, the final blow to our enemy had not yet been from our hands. The men looked at each other, their anger growing, and each saw his own wolfish grin reflected on the other's faces. And so they took the family, the father and the mother and the four children back into the house and closed the door. And then they threw in their long-awaited but never used phosphorous grenades. The blinding white sheets of flame erupted across the house to the screams of the family and the bestial snarls of triumph of the soldiers. I stood back and I realised how far man had fallen, as my comrades danced and whooped around the burning house like some stone-age hunters back from a kill in our early dawn. For myself, I would rather be a snake crawling on my belly than a son of man.



Image: *Toby Marshall*

It is no wonder such thoughts led me to treason. It was not until two years later that I felt the stirring of an idea in my head, still abstract, but terrible. I had a new and troubling obsession in mind. I did not believe in their religion. Not really, anyway. It was comforting, but my doubts stifled any ground it made in my mind. The mosque-goers mistrusted my blue eyes and my accented Arabic. They may have mistrusted my true reasons. They cared little. My guilt and anger had to be appeased. Their country had to be saved. Our aims converged. And so I found myself, walking through Paris wearing a thick woollen overcoat, though summer was at its most intense. The sweat poured off me in rivers that day. Fear burned through me. I felt the thick package under my coat. The shoppers and trendy café-goers gave me mistrustful looks, my pale face and sunken eyes marking me as an outsider. I felt little remorse at casting judgement on them. All action is a form of judgement, and these people were full of guilt. In the end I lacked the will to follow my plan. On entering the café, I slipped off my coat with its heavy package, and left it there. I still had too much to lose. Life, however unbearable, still seeks to sustain itself. I would not die.

But it was not remorse. I was gone, but the coat remained, unheeded amongst the laughing and the joy of innocent men and women. It ticked down to its eventual and terrible conclusion, one that I could not bring myself to stay and watch. I slunk away, wounded to my core.

How can I lie here on the water in anything approaching calm? I could say you have no right to judge me or my choices, you did not live my life, but I will not. What of those I have destroyed? I killed them, and yet I did not live their lives either. All judgement entails action, or it is useless. So act now, and destroy this ruin of a troubled mind, I think, remembering the revolver stashed beneath my pillow in the cabin. I know I won't. I couldn't before and I can't now. Life is still worth living, even when it is beyond repair.

TROUBLE IN MIND: *the Life of Susie Chambers*

WINNER: *Gavin Maxwell Essay Prize (JUNIOR)*

'Susie, you awake? C'mon lets take those pills like a good girl.' My pounding headache was not enough to block out the nurse's irritating, though relaxed, tone. My vision was still blurred after the last set of pills I had forcefully swallowed. 'C'mon, be a good girl and quickly take those pills.' Her tone wasn't as relaxed this time round. She always gets irritated when I make passive responses to her requests. Why did she have to call me 'girl' all the time? - I'm 35 years old. I'd much rather be called a young lady, it's much more... elegant. She's always said, 'Let's take those pills' like it was something we did together. I - not we - have been taking these pills for 12 years. They've been corrupting my body - not yours! Mine! If she was using the word 'lets' to sound more reassuring, it really wasn't working. I finally agreed to take the pills. I'd still not gotten used to doing this. I popped the two capsules down my throat, or at least tried to. As usual, they were stuck in my throat so I had to let the stagnant water I was given, as the nurse would say, 'do the trick.' After about half an hour I realised the pills had taken their effect and the drowsiness was the cause of my blurry vision. I began to fade away and soon I was caught in a deep yet surprisingly soothing sleep, or so I thought. . .

'You will be kept here forever and you will not see your husband and kids,' the awful woman said. 'Your life will become an extremely strenuous isolation period.' I woke up and - not to my greatest surprise - my pillows were drenched in my sweat. My heart was also beating three times faster than its usual speed. I had been having that same dream for twelve years. Before I came to this hospital I was married to a successful man of forty one, called Ryan Chambers. I also remember our having two beautiful daughters, Jessica and Stacy. Stacy, the older of the two, was eight years old. A beautiful brunette with blonde streaks; she was cheerful and up for anything. Jessica was a five year old who just loved to do what her sister did. There was a time when they were treated to ice creams and Stacy asked for the strawberry flavour. When it came to Jessica's turn, she said, 'Please, can I please have the swaberry one?' She excessively used the word 'please'. She was a good-mannered girl. She also didn't know how to pronounce the word strawberry. Oh! I miss my two beautiful angels. I began to shed tears. The thought of my seeing my angels asking for their mum or, even worse, forgetting my existence brought great agony to my heart. No! No! Ryan couldn't have left me for another woman, he loved me too much. He wouldn't do that would he? Would he?

I started rocking my bed from side to side, making a loud crashing noise. This was my only means of expressing my anger. The witch who called herself my nurse eventually came in. 'What's wrong dear, you hungry?'

I had a menacing look on my face. 'H-H-Hungry? You see how upset I am and you assume I'm hungry! Every single day of my life is spent in this stupid plain white room! No paintings, no TV, no furniture, just a white room and a bed! When was the last time the sheets were changed, anyway, they're beginning to smell just as bad as I do. Is that too much for your fat self to do?' I was on a roll, I said to myself. 'Are you too busy sleeping with all the doctors in this goddamn place to realise poor old Susie is living in a room uglier than hell?' I began to laugh. 'You ask whether I'm hungry? The only hunger I feel is to leave this hell-hole and see my family!'

'Uh oh, not this again. The pills obviously aren't working,' she mumbled.

'What! Have I been taking these pills so my mouth is kept shut?' The nurse had walked out. 'Come back here so I can kill you!'

'Doctor! Doctor! You've got to take a look at Susie. The pills aren't working and she is still talking about her family. I want to know what's going on because I can't take this any more,' complained the nurse.

'All right, I'll tell you. I didn't really want to say because I don't like talking about my patients, but this is a need-to-know situation. Susie has been here almost all her life. She had a good life up until when she was sixteen. At that point, her family was killed in a gas leak which eventually caused an explosion. She had been a diligent and intelligent worker in school, but depression forced her to get mixed up with the wrong crowd and she started taking cocaine. She was caught and expelled, and was brought here to recover. She never made any real progress, but twelve years ago, when she was 23, she started to believe she was happily married with a family. The mind created a scenario of happiness in her otherwise tragic life. The thought of having a family and being loved made her feel at ease. Then, she began to think the hospital was trying to prevent her from seeing her family. She is caught in a deep and deadly mental struggle. The dilemma is that if she was told she didn't have a family and was shown the records, the result could be even worse than what you have just witnessed.

The only way this problem can be solved is if Susie accepts that her supposed family has moved on and she should do the same. This is her trouble in mind,' explained the doctor.



Image: *Toby Marshall*

Khalid Abu

Creative Writing

"TROUBLE IN MIND" – or thinking about Zimbabwe

by Nellie English L6

I stared at the title, and once again the three words in bold black font swam blankly on the white paper. "Trouble in mind" ...nope, still nothing. It's for a short story competition, so I suppose I should write a narrative, bit of description, lots of action. I need a beginning, a middle, and an end. And a main character...but it has to be written in the first person, so that will have to be me. My story, starring me (or yours truly). That's where the problem lies, isn't it? I mean, it would be all right if I could write about little Nancy getting lost in the woods - lots of description there - or Melanie "troubled in mind" about her exams - that would be good timing. I could write an adventure: Timothy coming to the rescue when a plane is attacked by terrorists. Or I could be really imaginative and write a story set in a surreal, dream world, where people ride to work on giant fluffy purple hamburgers. I could - but not in the first person. 'Cos it's all very well to speak about Melanie, Nancy and Timothy, but when I begin to relate events as though they happened to me personally, it all becomes somehow artificial, and pretentious, in its obvious fabrication of the truth. The truth, "Trouble in mind"... How am I troubled in mind? Aside from all the initial, superficial and temporary things that spring to mind: exams, organizing summer holidays...oh, must remember to take laptop to ICT department and write thank you letters: what do I reach if I probe a bit deeper? I suppose that, for me, the word that surfaces after mental excavation...is Zimbabwe. It's my past, history, upbringing, culture, it's me. So Zimbabwe, in its current political turmoil, is, yes, a "Trouble" in my mind.

So many people, when they hear that I live in Zimbabwe, ask me, "What's it like there?" A simple question. But what on earth is the answer? What do I tell this person? Do I launch into a complex response, outlining the political problems, changes in the foreseeable future, reference to Zimbabwe's history, to explain what's happening today? They probably only asked to be polite. "Is it as bad as the press makes out?" Is it? On the one hand, no, it's worse. The printed statistics - maize production in ratio to population number, percentage of crime rate as compared to ten years ago - they're all so abstract. And the people who are really affected - small families struggling in the rural areas - in the press,

they're a number, a statistic, represented by one wide-eyed boy in ragged trousers, with hunger-sunken cheeks and a bloated stomach. In reality, there are thousands like him. And little girls too. And mothers...aunts...entire families struggling to cope with the alternating strikes of aids and hunger. Yet, on the other hand...no, it's not as bad. Sometimes, reading an article in an English newspaper, one would think that Zimbabwe was in the throes of a bloody civil war, that there are armed soldiers riding on tanks, openly shooting and bombing people in the streets. No, it's not like that. And then again, the response depends on who you ask. Ask that wide-eyed boy in the rural areas, "Is it as bad as the press makes out?", and you would probably find out how much of a struggle it is, what with his sister and mother dying of aids, his grandmother's crop being wiped out by the low rainfall, his father being unable to send money out from town because of rising inflation. Then, on the other hand, if you ask the fairly well-off business person, who lives in the leafy suburbs, in a big house with a swimming pool, they might tell you something different: that, ya, times are hard, it's such a struggle getting hold of Zimbabwean cash, and because they're redecorating they've had to go "Down South" (to South Africa) for most of their supplies.

So it's a difficult question to answer. The events in Zimbabwe have been down played, realistically portrayed, and exaggerated by the press. But, hey, you were probably only asking to be polite.

Now that I've left, sort of anyway, it's interesting to hear different people's responses to Zimbabwe. There are the questions that have become insiders' jokes among Zimbabweans, who scoff at such ignorance "Are there cars in Zimbabwe?", "Do you speak African?", "Are there houses in Zimbabwe?" Mind you, I don't want to over-generalise. Many of these were from my young cousins, whose age excuses them. If I were to collect all the different questions and assumptions regarding Zimbabwe, and apply them to myself, I would live in a mud hut, ride an elephant to school, with my pet lion trotting alongside, and wrestle a crocodile during my bath in the river.

In all seriousness, though, what's happening to Zimbabwe is my primary "Trouble in Mind". It saddens me so much to see Zimbabwe, once the proud breadbasket of Africa, sinking further and further into political turmoil.



Creative Writing

Blue

Blue, the happiest colour: warm seas, open skies. Blue, the saddest colour: dark skies, tears. Blue, the last colour I wanted to see on the small white stick. Blue, the colour that was there. It seems ironic that a small white stick made of plastic is the one thing that determines how you are going to live your life. It seems ironic that a small white plastic stick can destroy a family's peace, yet it seems that that the smallest things in life are really the things that most matter. It seems ironic that at the age of 15 while sitting on a loo seat looking at a small white plastic stick, that the colour that represents such pain and love is the one thing that is making any sense at all. Blue.

I was pregnant. P R E G N A N T. Preggers, knocked up, up the duff, bun in oven. Aged 15. Screw life. As I sat there, life began to become so real, a pains-taking agony. The only thing at that moment that would console me was to take my shaver, rip off the head and take out each individual razor. Then, slowly but with large force, drag each one down the length of my arm. Just to see the droplets of blood to reassure me that I was still alive. To reassure me there was something still worth living for. Life.

Teen pregnancies: you read all about them in the newspapers, never once thinking it could be you one day. 'Mother, aged 15, raising a child, no father to be seen.' Not once in a million years had I imagined myself in that situation, but now I am here. Slap bang in the middle of a nightmare that I wasn't going to wake up from. Real life hurts.

One party too many, one drink too many, one pill too many and I had ended up sleeping with Hugo. We had done it before, but this time I could tell we were too out of it even to consider protection. What would happen to me now? Go back to school with all the whispering and comments from behind my back? 'Look, that's the one that got knocked up. Sophia, that's her name, but who was the guy?' 'Oh I think it was Billy Hudson' 'No I heard it was Alex Weldon.' They don't know anything. Picking up blind comments, changing them, passing them on, twisting each word until it satisfies the gossiping crowds. I didn't think I would cope, probably have to leave, anyway. Hugo will have left me by then. What would happen to me? Go to some state school where no one knows me. Stop my GCSEs, do them later on. Start A levels when I am twenty. Pregnancy at 15 won't look great on my university CV. By that time I will have got into drugs, become an alcoholic, started injecting heroin and royally messed up my life. Maybe spend a bit of time in the big house, get out, then muck up again. Stop, stop, Sophia, stop. Clear the mind, clear it, cleanse it, empty it.

Meditation is the key to a calm and productive life. That is the rubbish we are getting taught at school. Taking your mind to a lower level of consciousness. Sit up straight, close your eyes and take deep breaths. Empty your mind of all thoughts and chillax. Just think about your breathing. Inhale and exhale, slowly letting yourself sink into subconsciousness. Thoughts seem to expand and evaporate, worries floating away like a constant trickle of water. The supreme feeling of complete relaxation.

As I let my unawareness embalm me, I was suddenly ripped out of

it and thrown back to surface level. My annoying ring tone was blaring out from my mobile and the fluorescent lights catching my eye. I rushed toward my small table where my phone was resting and lifted the shiny metal device. I slid up the screen and the image of Hugo appeared: a sudden strike of reality hit me like a lightning bolt. How was I going to tell Hugo? 'Oh yes, I am fine, just to say I am pregnant after that party.' I didn't think that would go down too well. I cursed under my breath and placed my finger on the green button. I brought the receiver up to my ear and a deep voice echoed down the line.

'Hey Phia, how are you after that party? Wasn't it great!' His voice made my eyes well up, and a sense of longing filled my body.

'I suppose it was all right. Hugs we need to talk, can you come to the house now?'

'Phia what's the matter? Are you all right? What is it?' There was urgency in his voice.

'Don't worry, just come over, I really need to tell you something.'

'Ok just coming, like leaving the house this minute, Phia I love you...'

I hung up before he could finish what he was saying. I couldn't handle the added pressure. If he said anything that would make me feel better, it would actually be making me feel more and more guilty for what I was about to tell him.

I went and lay down on my bed and looked up to the ceiling. My yellowing posters of Brad Pitt and Johnny Depp stared down at me with knowing in their eyes. I traced my hands over my soft, slim stomach and threw my fist to the bed in anger. Why were they judging me? They don't know me; they don't know what happened and what I am going through. Why do they have the right to judge? Have some compassion, people. Everybody is always judging; why don't they just learn? just take a look at the good things? I closed my eyes tightly to blockade nature's course for me, but you can't escape the future. It always catches up with you.

'Darling are you in there? Hugo is here to see you.' My mother's high-pitched voice squealed through the thin wooden door.

'Yes, mummy, I am here, tell Hugo he can come in.' The door slowly opened and Hugo walked in. He faltered briefly before walking towards the bed. His step seemed to slow as he got closer and closer to sitting down. He looked deep into my eyes as if trying to suss what I was about to tell him. He sat and grabbed my hand, holding it with a need for assurance. I couldn't say anything, so we sat staring into each other before he finally broke the silence.

'What is it? Phia, what is it? I can handle it, I love you.' He said it with ease and I knew he meant it.

'Hugs, I love you to, but there is something you need to know.' His grip on my hands tightened. I slipped my hand under the pillow and brought out the small white stick. I kept it concealed within my hand and allowed myself to take a breath.

'After the party I took a pregnancy test.' I opened my hand and let the stick roll around in my hand.

Hugs looked up to me and closed his eyes: 'What does it say, Phia?'

'Look for yourself,' I said slowly, and guided his hand over to mine. He picked it up and stared, confusion obvious in his face. 'I don't know what that means, it's blue.'

Josephine Peile



Image: King-ho Leung



Creative Writing

The Lost Mind

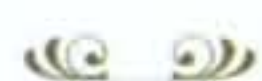
Where am I? I do not recognize this place. Its grey walls and door are not familiar to me. It is a place of total monotony. There is one light, built into the ceiling, set perfectly in the centre of the room. The door is exactly half-way between one corner and another, and is exactly half the height of the room.

How did I get here? My arms are across my chest, not held there though any force of my will, but by some constraint of my clothing. It, like the room, is monotonous, my torso covered in thick grey material, as are my legs. Everything around me is the same shade of grey, even the light from the ceiling.

Why am I here? I stand up and move to the door. There is no handle, only a bump of grey metal protruding out of a cushioned substance that covers the entire room. It has a small black circle in the centre, about the size of the end of a thumb. It is the only thing in the entire room that is not grey. I have no idea what it is or what it does. I stroke it with my fingers, and place my thumb on it. Nothing. There is nothing but silence and stillness. I shout out. Nothing.

What is going on? I shout out again. Still there is nothing but silence, a silence that seems to get deeper with every passing moment. A feeling of dread creeps over me, and I cry out again, this time with more desperation. Silence. I suddenly realise that there is no echo from my cries. The room is totally silent. There is no sound apart from my breathing and the quickening beat of my heart. I yell, as loudly as I can. I bang my fists in the soft padding of the door. I scream louder and louder, for as long as I can, until my throat burns in pain and my lungs gasp for air.

Nothing. I start again. Nothing. Soon I have to stop and catch my breath again. The air is stale and dull, and tastes grey like the room I am trapped in. Despair now fills every place in my body. I start shouting again, but I have to stop again to breathe. My eyes start to water, and I drop to my knees, so short of breath that I can barely stand up. Then I start again.



"When did he wake up?"
"About 20 minutes ago. He's been screaming ever since."
"Did he start straight away?"
"He looked around the cell for about a minute, then he went to the door and started screaming."
"How long had he been asleep?"
"About 16 hours."
"That's unusually little."
"He didn't move an inch in his sleep, he just stayed slumped there."
"Keep a very close eye on him."
"You think that he'll be any different from the others?"
"I don't know. Notify me if he does anything even slightly out of the ordinary."
"OK. I'll make sure that the guy on the next shift knows as well."
"Make sure that it's someone experienced. I want special attention paid to this one"



Where am I? I am at the foot of the door. My throat is hoarse and dry, and my chest burns from shouting. I lie perfectly still, staring across the room. My face is sticky, and my eyes are sore. The room seems to be even greyer than before, the light seems dimmer. My head is spinning, I try to stand up, but without my arms, it's near impossible. I manoeuvre my back to the wall, and push myself up.

What am I doing here? I wonder this to myself, as the room refuses to



Image: King-ho Leung

talk back to me. I remember nothing. I do not know why I am here, or where here is. I think hard. I see shapes, but they are indistinct, and like everything around me they are silent. I start to try to give colour to what little memory that I can conjure up. The room seems to have bleached everything the same shade of grey. The only human thing that remains about me is an encroaching hunger. Despair washes over me again, and I sink back to the floor.

"Sir?"
"What is it? Are you aware of the time?"
"I'm sorry sir, but you asked to be informed if there was any unusual activity in cell 382."
"I'll be down in a minute."



Where am I? I look up at the ceiling and ponder this very question, as well as the thousand others gathering in my mind. Where am I? So far, I know that I am in a small room, entirely grey, totally symmetrical, apart from the door in one of the four identical walls. I manage, after some struggle, to get up, and begin to pace up and down. I look for some sign of anything other than grey, but all I find is the small black dot on the door. It seems to glint at me, as though watching me like some hidden eye.

Suddenly a thought occurs to me, a memory becomes less grey.



"When did he start this?"
"He'd been sleeping for two and a half hours, and then he got up, walked about and started."
"Go and find Dr. Jengele, now"
"Sir!"

Then as the watchman hurried off, the man looked at the screen. The subject was walking about, and saying something:

"Richard? Richard, are you there? Can you see me? Can you hear me?"
He had never seen anything quite like this. Never had a subject done this before.

A man entered the room, bustling and hurried, showing a great deal of excitement.

"It started this soon?"
"Yes, about 20 minutes ago."
"Richard, this is incredible. This means that it worked, there is no other explanation - "
"Just because this is an isolated incident does not mean that the experiment - "
"Richard, think about it; there is no other explanation - "
"There are other possibilities - "
"He was the only one who reacted differently during the procedure."
"Well, what do we do? This particular area is your field."
"Richard... We need to consider... We need... I have no idea what to do!"



I sit down again, my head swimming. Why that name? "Richard". Who is Richard? What does he do? Where is he, and why should I think of him? I slump back down, now desperately hungry and thirsty. I resign myself to try to sleep again. There is nothing else to do, and the room is leeching me of all hope, turning me greyer by the minute. "Richard". It is all I cling to. It could be anything, a random word, a person, it could even be me. Maybe that is why I somehow seem to rely on, to depend on it. My eyes start to flicker, and the world of grey around me begins to turn black. "Richard". The word seems to become a slight hiss, a crackle. Or is that something I hear?

"Hello, subject 382."

Miles Crosby

Creative Writing

Winter

All is still, all is quiet
Nothing stirs in the forest.
The trees are stripped bare
Of their former wealth.
The Animals have fled and
Hidden from it, taking whatever
They could gather with them.
What they could not take,
They left for it to consume
As a fearful offering
To slake its insatiable
Hunger. It roams on a whim
Through its desolate kingdom,
Consuming what little
Warmth its subjects cannot
Take with them.

And yet

There is hope for them, when the great
Light appears over the horizon,
Heralding the end of its
Terrible reign. It takes fright
And flees from this new power,
Abandoning its kingdom. Then trees
Burst forth with new bloom,
Hunting down and driving away
The dark power's minions. The animals
Come forth and set about
Rebuilding.

John Graham 4th Year

A Traveller's Tale (A Country's Progression)

The country sweeps left again,
Proving fear amongst some generals.
A conspiracy evolves.

Assassinations on both sides
provoke an uprising with tremendous effects.

The slogan reads 'No Pasarán',
The people are determined.
The image will stand the test of time:
but will the people?

Battles ensue,
all are lost and won as a nation bends.

A dictator's rule over these souls bears a
sinister stain,
that seeps through the land and its
inhabitants.

A dictator's reign ends,
a world of censorship and tradition is leashed.
La Movida:
A wave of new life and expression hits.
Life is restored through democracy,
Through freedom.

Hope Caputo

Winner: Junior Roxburgh Verse Prize (JUNIOR)

A Traveller's Tale

A traveller's tale I present to thee
A pilgrimage to Canterbury.
Sacred among the knights of old
A virgin nun of type so bold
As to canter and delight in men,
Yet remain untouched. Then
And there the virgin's smile
Mocked me, mocked me all the while.

But still we strove, goal in hand
Sharing stories of the promised land.
Though knights were cold and days were
long.

Still she bewitched me with her song
And lips which bore her worldly prayer
And danced below her wanton stare:
A sacrilege, a sacred look,
Just one glance and I was took.

And as we played under the sun
I noticed not what had begun,
But saw instead the purest white,
Unspoiled as yet by sordid plight,
Picking flowers in the field
Together: nature's finest yield.
And thereupon I sowed my seed,
And she just smiled at the sweetest deed.

But after that she smiled no more
Smitten now for evermore
With the depths that hide within the night,
She knows must never be brought to light.
Thus she labours, as summer storms rage,
She knows how quickly young maidens age.
A traveller's tale, a travesty:
What is now in her - came from me.

Harry Burke

A Traveller's Tale

From the barn of rustic hue,
Beneath the walnut avenue,
From where his endless road began
Its snaking carving of the land,
It grasps his hand, pulls him along
Never back and ever on
In every direction he can turn
The horizon falls around him...

And now, with countless frontiers broken
He returns unheeded and unspoken
His feet have crossed the pathless earth
As he searched for wisdom and rebirth
In his dreams he journeyed bold
In his eyes the tiredness of a world
As he walks alone beneath the avenue
Of walnut trees of golden hue.
His life is spent in ceaseless steps,
The tragic joy of life and death
Burns in his distant eyes.

Fred Wojnarowski

Winner: Roxburgh Verse Prize (SENIOR)

Looking back, should I be thankful for it?
As I set off, the sun rose, born anew;
It lit the road ahead with rainbow palette,
Shone upon the saplings, every facet
Of Earth divided, struck in light and shade.
The road ahead was clear as clear can be,
The road was clear - or so it seemed to me.

Come midday the sky had spun frustration:
Clouds had covered the sun and dulled the
hues.

The shades of morning seemed all turned to
grey.

Yet time to time the sun would shine again,
Briefly breaking through the ugly mists
That seemed to strangle him. Brought it woe or
gladness?

A brief release which also set off sadness?

The sun fell swiftly as I travelled home,
Its radiant sunset smothered by hoary trees
Whose branches fell across its broad bright face
Like a grate. All the Earth seemed cold.
I walked too slowly and found myself
benighted.

So with stuttering steps I stumbled on,
Hoping I'd find home, now light had gone.

Looking back, should I be thankful for it?
My hopes of joyful travel come to nothing?
No. Not nothing. Rather let the bitter
Be the foil for little beauty. For this
Or any other walk, I will be Grateful.

Toby Marshall

A Traveller's Tale

I've travelled most parts of the world by now,
Those times have all gone, I have lines on my
brow;
Grey hairs chart the years and eyes that can't
see,
It seems like time's had its way with me.

As I voyage on to the great beyond,
My memory looks back to the times that have
gone,
Thoughts swirl like a tornado inside my head,
Of times of youth, not times of death.

The things that haunt me are the regrets:
The horror of war and dismembered friends;
The regret of a love, lost through ambition,
Beating emotion into submission.

Now too old to turn back the tide
The bitter regrets well up inside
I can't take it with me, don't know what's in
store,
Fear is knocking on my door.

George Baylis

Creative Textiles



Alastair Bailey Silk painting



Thea Dorenberg Silk painted jewellery bag +
Stitched Coiled Pot



Lucy Milburn preparing her collage



Alex Fisher Spotted fur dog



Rebecca Nicholl working on her patchwork quilt

As ever, Creative Textiles has been busy over this last year. Computer print T-shirts, batik, tie dye drapes and bean bags, silk painting, appliqué and fur fabric cushions, collage hangings, needle punching by hand and with the new machine, jewellery, beadwork and even a designer pair of trousers (the pattern being created by Edmond) - the list goes on. There hasn't been a shortage of projects for people to take on. And take them on they have, with mixed degrees of patience, elation, sometimes frustration and eventual satisfaction as they've done so. Whatever the problems we've encountered Mrs. M is there to help, always with a remedy and a remarkably level-head, no matter what we do to the equipment - most particularly with the sewing machines and wax pot melters.

The atmosphere has been the same as ever - relaxed and easy going. So much gets made, often to a background of music, and to a self imposed deadline. It's a great activity to just go to, to relax and to create something. The items that are made go on to adorn houserrooms, studies and even ourselves. Others are made as presents for nearest and dearest. It's all something that will come in useful somehow. It has been a good year in the relatively small, rectangular room in the Art block that houses Creative Textiles, and I have little doubt that the next year will be the same.

Toby Marshall



David Pitcher creating his batik



Bobbie Staden Wired bead necklace



Toby Marshall Fabric painting



Imogen Midwood Thread covered ring necklace



See-Ho Leung Applique cushion

Royal Navy Section Field Day *(Pictures: Mr D Critchley)*



Blue Swan training in Portsmouth Harbour during the RN Section Field Day, crewed by Thea Dorenberg, Helena Kealey, Charlotte Matthews, Hugo Clarke, Harry Batchelor, Bertie Schiff, Max Fossett, and Freddy Greenish.



RN Contingent Commander Rev R Jackson on Willen Lake



RN Section Field Day: Harry Burke at the helm during training in Portsmouth Harbour



Algy Lendrum on Willen Lake during the RN Section Expedition.



Amaryllis heads for lunch on the Isle of Wight during the RN Section Field Day crewed by Monika Jurcic, Xandie Trevor, Jonathan Wale, Hugo Wiseman, and Alastair Bailey.

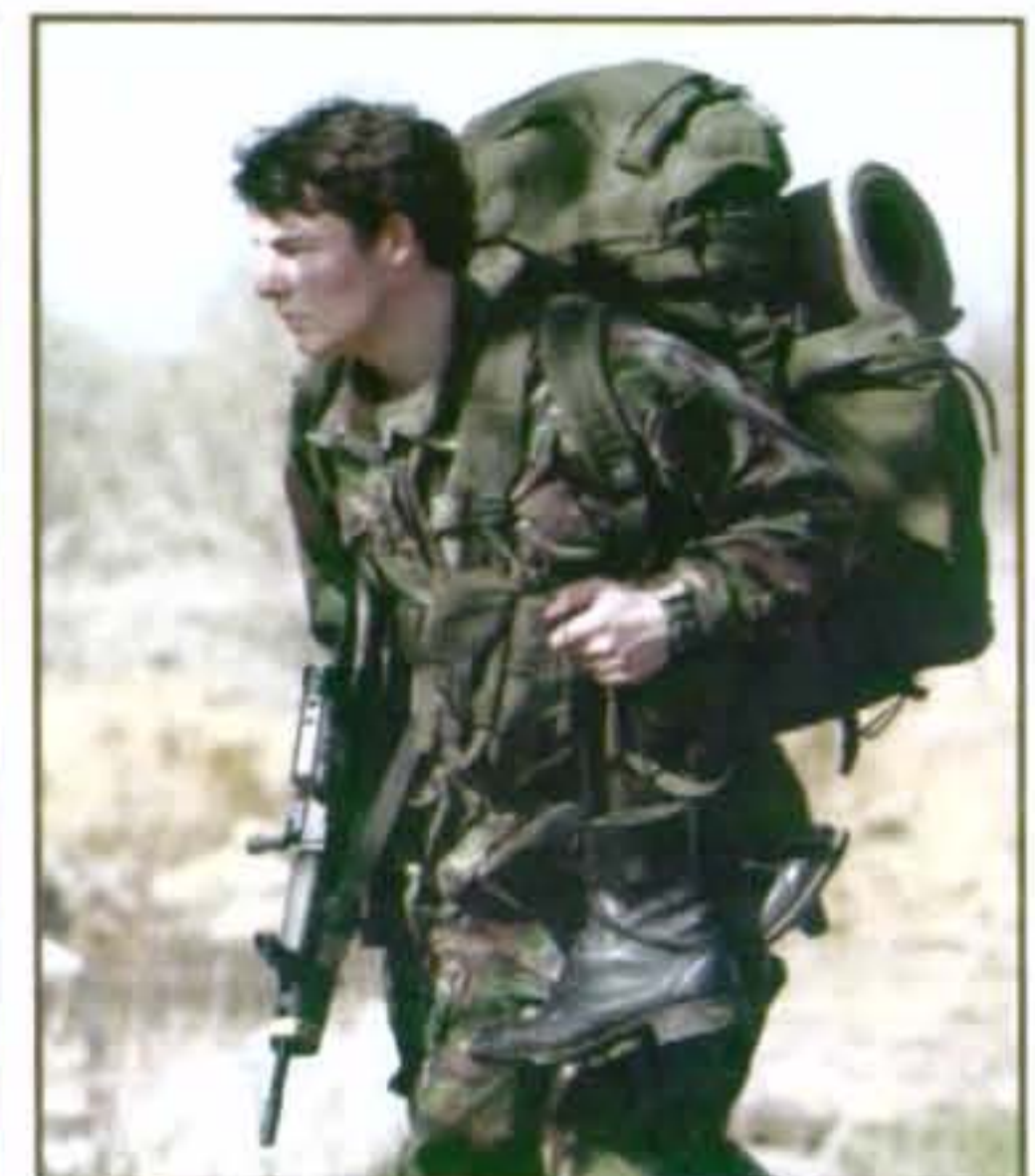


RN Catamaran



RN Packing up at the end of the day

CCF Patrol Day *(Pictures: R Ottaway)*



Junior Debating

The junior debating competition took place in three rounds from October to December 2006.

All eligible houses entered a 3-person team, often with members from across the junior year groups. The teams' performances were judged on a number of criteria, including debating skills, quality of argument, research and oratory, and every team who entered went to considerable effort to put up a good fight when it came to the competition itself.

The first round motion was "This house believes that the United Kingdom should become a republic" and all houses were able to participate in this controversial opener. There were some outstanding individual performances from students but it was the team performance which counted and Grafton, Grenville, Bruce and Chandos emerged victorious to take their place in the semi-finals held on 6th November. The motion of "This house believes that meat is murder" was another well supported and hard-won debate with a lot of feeling tied up in the motion from all teams. Interestingly both opposing teams took their debates and Grenville and Grafton went forward to the final.

In between the semis and the final for the inter-house competition, the junior debaters were invited to the Royal Latin to take part in their toughest challenge: two debates against what turned out to be Upper 6th form students, all of whom were experienced debaters and public speakers, and four of whom were Oxbridge candidates using the debates as part of their interview preparation! The two motions debated were "This house would abolish the honours system" which Stowe opposed and "This house believes reality TV is immoral" which Stowe proposed. The Stowe team of Phillip Pitcher (Chatham), James Gordon Reid (Chandos), Jonty Irving (Bruce), Charlotte Everitt and Laura Grossick (both Lyttleton) were well-researched and prepared for the formal part of the debate and held their own both in terms of their public speaking skills and dealing with the questions and put forward by the Latin team. Although both motions went against them, the independent judge made very favourable comments about their arguments and oratorical abilities. I was very proud of the team, and hope that such inter-school competitions can become a regular part of the calendar.

The inter-house final took place on 18th November: Grenville were represented by Harry Burke, Charles Toler and Robbie Cameron and Grafton by Felix Stevenson, David Christie-Miller and Tom Mason. Both teams argued well on the motion regarding reality TV, answered questions knowledgeably and dealt professionally with points of information. It proved a difficult decision for the judges and took some time to make. Grenville were declared the overall winners by a narrow margin, with Felix Stevenson of Grafton being commended as best individual speaker.

I would like to thank all those students who took part, colleagues who helped with the judging and housemasters who cajoled, prepared and gathered support. I look forward to the 2007 competition and urge all Stoics interested in debate or public speaking to get involved.

Miss Francine Smith



Harry Burke, Robbie Cameron and Charlie Toler from Grenville



David Christie-Miller, Tom Mason and Felix Stevenson from Grafton

Junior Debating at Stowe

Over the past two years at Stowe junior debating has flourished, initially under the direction of Mr Roberts and currently Miss Smith; with the inter-house debating competition and a visit to The Royal Latin Grammar School.

Junior Debating gives a valuable opportunity to all members of the third, fourth and fifth forms to explore and consider relevant, contentious issues of the modern world. These issues have covered a wide range of topics from "Should We Eat Meat?" or "Should Britain Become A Republic?" to "Is It Ethical To Carry Out Animal Testing?" The immense benefit to the participants comes in two main categories: academic and that of personal development as an individual. Academically the participants further their abilities to research, argue, persuade and advise which are all vital skills for GCSE Examinations. When thinking through each issue with great care, the participants are forced to think clearly and deeply for themselves and must explore their position in relation to the world and others around. As a result development as an individual is made.

The 2006 inter-house competition was fiercely fought by all houses and the evening debates were well attended. This reflects the Stoics' willingness to contribute and their supportive attitude. Ultimately, Grenville was victorious against Grafton in a competitive final, with Chandos in third place overall. The teams were led by Harry Burke, Felix Stevenson and James Gordon Reid. We have also been on an 'away match' when Miss Smith organised a debating meeting at Royal Latin Grammar School, this put Stowe on the map as a school with a junior debating section which, one day, will hopefully be as well regarded as the Senior Debating Team. It was a tough debate as the Stowe junior debaters were up against well-drilled, experienced Oxbridge candidates who were two years older. So although unfortunately both of Stowe's motions were unsuccessful, the judge did comment both motions were fought with valour and the Stoics gave the Oxbridge boys and girls a real run for their money. We look forward to next year's competition and the opportunity to really develop the debating and public speaking skills we have been learning.

James Gordon Reid, Chandos 5th Form.



Senior Debating



The opening Senior Debate of the year came towards the end of the Michaelmas term after the Junior Debating competition had finished, and saw Jonathan Elfer put on a bravura performance as Borat, proposing the motion that "Political correctness has gone too far." Kazakhstan would no doubt have been proud of its most famous son, who made fun of political correctness by being entertainingly politically incorrect throughout. He was supported by James Minchin-Mitchell and Gus Wiseman, and opposing them were Ed Howlin, Yaerid Jacob and Hugo Clarke. The motion was, unsurprisingly, carried after a good debate, though one which was not as well attended as it deserved to be.

The Lent term was filled by the Senior Debating Competition, which began with a preliminary round in which Lyttelton defended the honours system against Temple, whilst Chandos spoke on the same motion against Chatham. Lyttelton and Chandos went through to the first round, where they met each other debating the motion that "It is not worth hosting the Olympic Games". In this round, Lyttelton won through, as did Nugent over Walpole, Grenville over Bruce and Cobham over Grafton, all debating the same motion.

The semi-final required house teams to consider whether reality television programmes are a waste of time and money, and after a very close debate and considerable consultation from the judges, Lyttelton just beat Nugent, while Cobham defeated Grenville.

The final of the competition was held towards the end of term, and pitted Lyttelton against Cobham on the subject of the moral acceptability of experimentation on animals to develop products which benefit human beings.

Ed Howlin, Yaerid Jacob and Nick Anson put up a strong fight for Cobham but they were no match for the Lyttelton team. Tatjana Leboff, Romilly Morgan and Clare Jackson were strong throughout the competition, and with Amber Stone-Brown and Rebecca Nicholl ably substituting for absence on occasions, they won through to receive the cup.

It was good to see the houses taking all of these motions seriously, though not, I am glad to say, gravely. The standard of debating varied considerably, and some coaching in debating techniques would in future be very useful for Stoics, but in a number of cases pupils showed themselves to be very able speakers, and particular mention must be made of Clare Jackson whose debating talent is considerable.

Enthusiasm for debating amongst the Seniors remains restricted to a very few pupils, but we hope that with new speakers coming through into the Lower Sixth after taking part as Fifth Formers in the Junior Debating Competition, we will see an increased interest next year.

Dr. Rosemary Masters



Rebecca Nicholl, Romilly Morgan, Amber Stone-Brown, Clare Jackson and Tatch Leboff.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award



Introduction

This year we have doubled the numbers of Stoics involved in the Award Scheme, with 51 at Bronze, 19 at Silver and 25 at Gold. In addition, whether by helping run the Monday sessions or helping on expedition, we have managed at one time or another to rope in 21 staff, and at time of going to press we are only half way through the expeditionary year!

At Bronze level (in the 4th form) we have been on a practice expedition to Long Compton in the Cotswolds (18-19th March, snow, hail, icy winds – you name it!) and at Silver and Gold level (5th and Lower Sixth form respectively) we have been to North Wales (6th-9th October). All Bronze Awarders have in addition each gained a Red Cross Emergency Life Support and Sports First Aid certificate, all Silver Awarders have helped the National Trust around the grounds, and all Gold Awarders have been involved in various community service placements in and around Buckingham – as well as organising paper recycling here at Stowe. In the summer we will be off with the Bronze Award to the Peak District and with the Silvers and Golds to Scotland.

Mr Roberts

MARK'S GROUP

Our bronze expedition was exceptional and I think that we all gained valuable experience! We learnt a lot about ourselves. We learnt that the best way to survive is by working together in a team, and using each other to motivate ourselves to get through the weekend. The funniest moment was not being able to put up the tent because it was very windy and this was also the hardest. The best food was the lovely pasta which Ben cooked and the worst food on the trip was the pot noodle. The best quote was when Luke said "I am not gay. I am just experimenting!" The lowest point on the trip was the weather which was rubbish. Most of us couldn't feel our fingers. We learnt many valuable skills such as how to use the stoves and other useful skills. The group moral at the end was strong and we found ourselves closer at the end. We are now looking forward to the next expedition and taking our new skills onto a tougher challenge.



CASSIDY'S GROUP

At 7:00am on Sunday morning we got up, had breakfast and shortly after left for the bus. We collected our bags with all the necessary equipment we would need for our trip. At 8:30am we departed from Stowe and headed for Long Compton. On our arrival firstly we were assigned tents and our group worked together to put up both tents. Next we were given our stove, first aid kits and maps and shortly soon after we set out on the first day of our expedition. Our two group leaders were Mr. Walsh-Woolcott and Mr. Pitteway. The first expedition was quite cold at first but the weather gradually got better. When we arrived back we cooked our dinner, and got our sleeping bags out and our tents ready to sleep in. In the morning we cooked our breakfast, received our second set of routecards and set off on our second expedition. The day was long and by the time we got back we were all very tired. Back at the campsite we packed up our tents and cleaned our stoves. After we all had a meeting and the staff discussed the trip with us. At about 4:30 we collected any litter off the field and got on the coach. We were home by about 5:45.



The hardest moment of the trip was when we were lost and it started to hail. The best part of the trip was back at camp with all of our friends and our food was ok most of the time. The weather throughout was generally horrible as it rained, hailed and snowed. Lessons we learnt were to bring more food as we started to run out towards the end, but the staff cooked us all an enormous bowl of pasta and then apple pies with custard which was good, and to bring more layers as we found we got cold at times, but in the end we had fun nevertheless.

OTHER LONG COMPTON HIGHLIGHTS

- Convincing Vango to ship us their latest tents in time for the trip and before any of the nation's shops got them but then not knowing exactly how to put them up when it was windy and cold!
- Tom Haynes heroically frying his group's bacon as it snowed on the pan

Long Compton (Bronze) March 2007

After some final gathering of kit on the Saturday afternoon we set off early Sunday morning to Long Compton in the Cotswolds for a two day expedition. It was set to be a cold weekend, so we all expected the worst.

After setting the tents up in some high winds and a light flurry of snow, we knew that it was going to be an exciting weekend! It was a lovely walk on the first day as we tried out some micro-navigation and 'reading the contours' skills. We got back late that afternoon - and went straight to the Trangia for a hot drink!

With some heavy showers of snow that night we woke up to a wet and slushy campsite that following morning, and got prepared for the day ahead. We left relatively early so we could get back just after lunch. It turned out to be another successful day with a little more in the way of snow and hail, none of which dampened or chilled our spirits. We got back just after lunch as we predicted and had a lovely second lunch of pasta, prepared by the staff. After the camp check we set off home after what was a very enjoyable weekend!



By Philip Pitcher, Student D of E Co-ordinator

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award



SOUND BITES

"Overall I thought that the trip was very full of learning. I learnt that all fields look the same. I also learnt that the weather in the countryside is worse than the weather in the city." – Hugo Tobin

"The worst food would probably be our VERY overcooked pasta and eating ginger nut biscuits until we felt sick." –

"We learnt many lessons on the expedition but the most valuable lesson was probably how to tell north from south on the compass!" –

"Without a doubt the two heroes were Miles and Raman, because when Simon dropped the map in an arctic hailstorm, those two bravely risked their lives to dive onto the map, chasing it for almost a mile. But we wouldn't have got anywhere without Simon and James reading the map."

"Great fun, especially the hailstorm and watching Raman trying to get down the incredibly steep slope." – James Elliott

"I never want to camp near the devil horses again" – Alex Webster

"The lessons we learnt was to make sure that we only brought what was needed. Some of us ended up with extremely heavy bags. At the end of the expedition we felt pleased with ourselves and relieved." – George Garrod

"I enjoyed sharing a tent with Luke and the night life was buzzing." – Ben Curley

"I need coco pop" – Champ Panyarachun

"It snowed, it hailed, it rained but we survived and this made us stronger individuals." – Khalid Abu

"The trip has improved my ability to enjoy myself while carrying heavy weights on my back." – Elliot Matthews

"The trip enabled me to use my skills to the highest of my ability. Although it was tiring I did enjoy it and I am looking forward to the real thing in the summer." – James Bell



North Wales (Silver and Gold) – October 2006

Four Gold groups and three Silver groups arrived at a campsite in Trawsfynydd one dismal, blustery evening and set about pitching their tents and cooking dinner in the spitting rain.

The following morning they were off to walk between the Rhinogs, up the Roman Steps and into the farming country on the Welsh coast. This was to be a learning experience. While some groups (Henry Corner, Alex Georgallides, Tommy Williams-Jones, Richard Lamb, Stephen Percy and Jack Leech in particular) were boasting of their comprehensive four course breakfasts – porridge + raisins, bacon, cereal bars and baked beans – others had not done so well and struggled a little on the walk as a result!



The day was fair and everybody made good progress in the morning. Later on though tiredness began to be an issue and there were many lessons learnt – in particular about the importance of keeping energy levels up, and keeping concentrating on the map! Back at the campsite, Azree Rashid, Olly Ayoub, Nella O'Brien, Anna Cottee-Jones, Sam Scott, Tom Wilson, Henry Corner and Jack Leech were displaying the best set-up tents in all of Wales while around them, after a long day, much food and hot chocolate was being eagerly consumed.

The second day's walk, down to the coast, was much easier, with the downhill gradient and psychological advantage of a glistening sea in front. Last Day Legs made short work of the miles and everyone arrived in Tal-y-Bont with a sense of achievement.

What was most gratifying to the leaders was seeing the way each group grew in self-confidence, professionalism and understanding. While some people learned some hard lessons and others enjoyed the just desserts of being well-prepared and motivated, the important thing was that by the end of the trip the thirty-nine Stoics who came to Wales went back with a great deal more skill and awareness than they had come with.

Mr Bob Roberts

Huge, huge thanks to all staff involved

Mr Pitteway, Mr Pickersgill, Miss McKee, Mr Peratopoullos, Ms McMahon, Mr Shackleton, Dr Chare, Miss Owen-Frawley, Mr Young, Mrs Lawrence-Thorne, Mrs Sheard, Mr Smith, Mr Tillson, Mr Board, Mr Walsh-Woolcott, Miss Bach, Mr Johnston, Mr Rose, Miss Morle, Mr Coleman and everyone else who has pitched in and made it happen!

Coldstream Cup

You know it's that time of the year again; it dominates every conversation and, indeed, most of the spare time of competitors. Yes, it can only be the Coldstream Cup. For what else would people voluntarily get up at 7am for in order to go running or practice their marching routines?

This year training took place as assiduously as ever, and the competition was carefully analysed by, well, the whole school, in the weeks beforehand. But really it comes down to performance on the day.

In this competition, teams of eight members from each house compete and are placed and scored accordingly for each event: the assault course, a run including a swim through the 11-Acre lake, shooting, and finally a marching drill and team inspection.

It was a tense and hard fought competition this year, reflected in the closeness of the scores, but in the end it was the assault course that won it for Walpole and lost it for Bruce and the run which won it for Lyttelton, where their time set a new girls record.

The highlight of the day was, as ever, the marching and inspections on the tennis courts watched and cheered on by most of the school as well as the visiting Coldstream Guards, who were extremely impressed with the high standards. Seeing the precise marching routines and immaculate turn-out of the teams made the rest of us realise just how much time and effort had gone into this day.



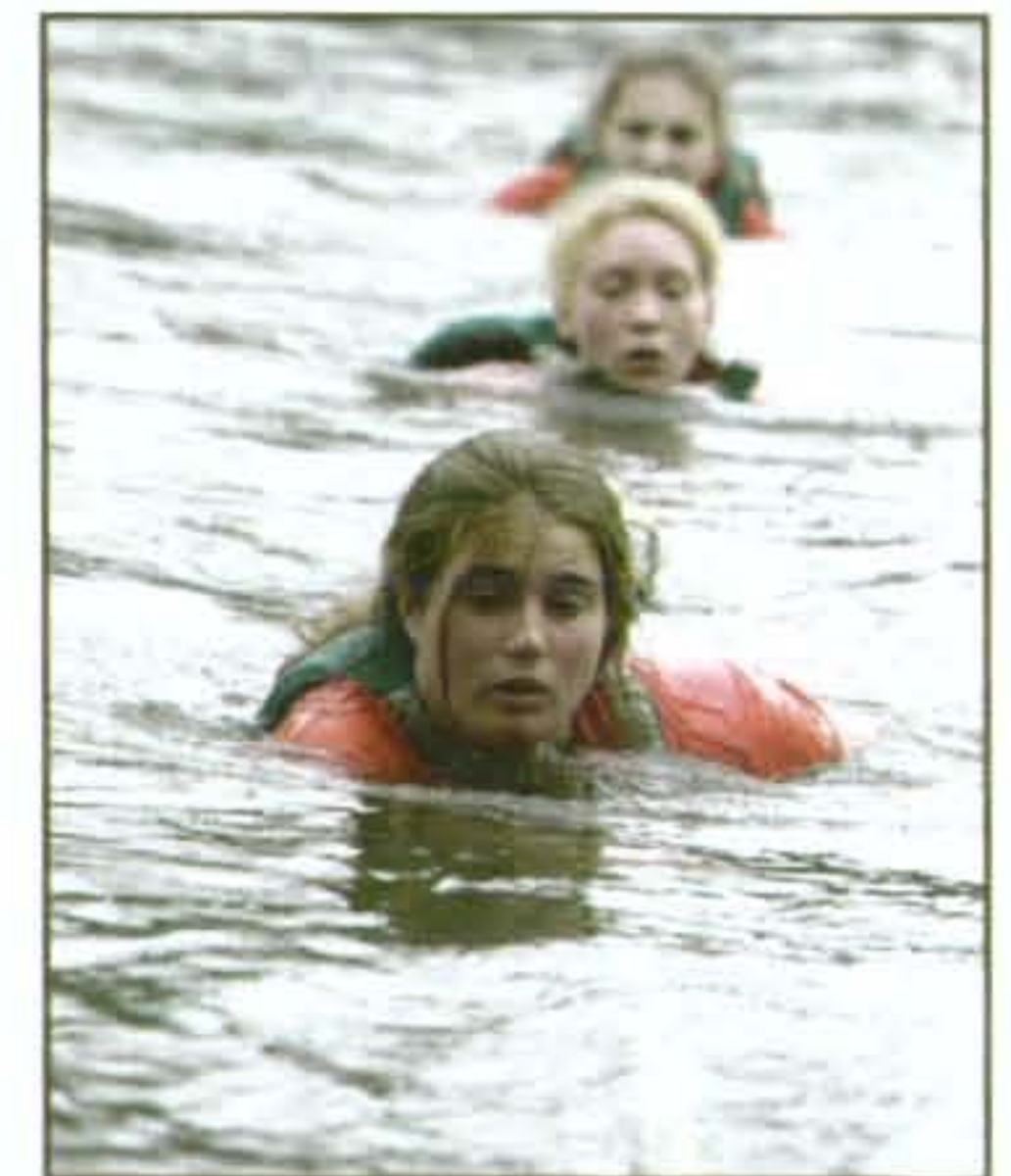
This is a competition unique to Stowe, and is much loved by the school, shown by the hours of work and dedication put in by team members, and the support from everyone else.

In the end though, there has to be a winner, and this year it was Walpole, who won overall for the second year running, and Lyttelton as the highest placed girls' house. Krishan Thadani got the Nulli Secundus Cuo for best CCF cadet, Chris Price won best turned out cadet and Anna Jackson did the best drill. But I'm sure that every competitor- no matter how much they hated it at the time!-was glad to be part of this distinctive and challenging competition.

Rebecca Nicholl



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© Roy Ottaway

Team	Turn Out	PTS	Drill	PTS	Obstacle Course	PTS	Run	PTS	Shoot	PTS	Total	Final Place
Bruce	25	9	27	10	2.28.26	3	23.03	9	24	9	40	2nd
Temple	21	5	21	2	2.08.37	9	23.34	8	28	10	34	3rd
Grenville	21	5	22	3	2.25.19	6	22.53	10	23	8	32	4th
Chandos	18	1	24	7	2.27.29	5	25.25	1	14	1	15	10th
Cobham	22	6	23	4	2.14.98	8	24.13	5	18	2	25	7th
Chatham	21	5	20	1	2.27.33	4	24.47	2	22	7	19	9th
Grafton	19	2	25	8	2.24.75	7	24.36	3	20	4	24	8th
Walpole	27	10	24	7	2.06.59	10	23.36	7	22	7	41	1st
Lyttelton	25	9	24	7	3.39.37	1	23.48	6	22	7	30	5th
Nugent	23	7	27	10	3.10.11	2	24.18	4	19	3	26	6th



Coldstream Cup



© Roy Ottaway

TEAM CAPTAINS

Bruce (Krishan Thadani)

I'm really happy with the result because I knew that Bruce would do well this year with all the effort we put in - 7.15am every morning! - so we were happy with the result but, of course, would have loved to win the overall competition. The effort that the team put in was outstanding!

Temple (James Richardson)

Temple had a good result in the competition, especially considering all of the misfortune with last minute team alterations. We were an inexperienced team but performed well gaining a creditable 3rd place. The drill let us down but we put in a strong run and assault course time and followed it up with a 1st place in the shoot.

Grenville (Tom Mitchell)

Grenville put in a lot of work. We started well on the day and this only improved as the competition went on, coming top in the run, and were pleased with our performance although we had hoped to do better.

Chandos (Humphrey Wood)

It was hard work, and although we may have not had the best performance, it was definitely worth the effort.



Cobham (Tom Prendergast)

As usual the competition was great fun, and even though we didn't do as well as we had hoped everyone tried their best. It was an experience for the newbie's and a repetition of hell for the ones who had done it before, but it was still enjoyable.

Chatham (George Coote)

Chatham had lots of problems during training with quite a few late injuries and changes to the team. With the shuffling of callers and the right hand marker it was hard to get a real grip on the unity we needed during the marching. We were disappointed with our position but will pick our selves up and put in a stronger performance next year.

Grafton (James Gray)

Yeah, it was alright.

Walpole (Harry McCorkell)

We were delighted to win as the competition gets harder ever year, as teams start training earlier and earlier. This showed clearly this year with the difference of one second separating first from second place. I could not have asked more of my team and I have never been so proud to work with a group of individuals, especially considering that some had never competed before. I can only finish by wishing the team the best for next year, the hat trick would be unbelievable.

Lyttelton (Clare Jackson)

The Lyttelton team were very happy with our performance, especially in the run and the march where hours of hard work finally paid off. We were of course delighted to have beaten Nugent to the best girls prize for the first time in three years and hope that we can carry this momentum on to next year.

Nugent (Catriona Beadel)

Through the triumphs of dedication, commitment and a sense of team, we felt we did the best that we could do, despite losing to Lyttelton. Not least during the actual competition, but during the months leading up to it, we had a gruelling, but ultimately incredibly fulfilling experience.

Corkscrew Society



Corkscrew has enjoyed an active and thoroughly enjoyable year. Set up as a Society exclusively for Upper 6th formers, it provides an opportunity to discover something about the world of wine. By their own admission, nearly all our members this year started the year with very little knowledge, but steadily bits of vocabulary and snippets of information have been soaked in. We've had the benefit of some terrific visiting speakers: an Introduction to Wine Tasting with Richard Jones from SH Jones & Co; an excellent canter through some fabulous Australian wines with Ben Collins from Bibendum; a very memorable evening of fortified wines – Port, Madeira and Sherry – with Ben Campbell-Johnson, the cousin of one of our members, Patrick Hall; a fascinating evening with Julien Cuisset from his family's vineyard, Chateau Grinou, in France; and perhaps the most memorable of them all – a tasting of Chateau Leoville-Barton wines with its proprietor Anthony Barton (Grafton '48). An Irishman by descent, he brought a wonderfully refreshing approach to wine, eschewing much of the pretentious ramblings of some of the wine aficionados. Mouths watered and jaws dropped (not simultaneously) at the sheer quality and market value of his wines (the latter being a constant point of interest for Corkscrew's members!).

The final event of the year was a formal dinner in the company of Nicholas Hawkings-Byass – Old Stoic, current parent, former director of Gonzales Byass, and founder of the Society some years ago.

Mr Colin Dudgeon



Richard Jones from SH Jones in Banbury with members of the Corkscrew Society (pic: Charlie Thuillier)

Student comments about the year in Corkscrew...

"I have always enjoyed drinking wine but the society has given me an interest far beyond that. The speakers throughout the year have been articulate and really conveyed their love of the subject. The Leoville-Barton was breathtaking." (Harry McCorkell)

"Every session we would have a different speaker from the wine trade, enlightening us on many aspects of wine. Anything from how to enjoy it, how to taste it, how to store it, the cultivation of the grapes, what wine goes well with different foods and different occasions. The year has been incredibly insightful." (Charlie Thuillier)

"The best society ever: you are able to socialise, have fun, relax... and of course try some of the finest wines in the world. I love it." (Imogen Midwood)

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Community Service suffered a blow this year with the illness of Mrs Lawrance-Thorne, who was away from school from October onwards. Mr Young stepped straight into the breach, however, and in the subsequent months Stoics continued their activities in the local community under his guidance.

Showing customary commitment, the Stoics immersed them a variety of placements; helping in charity shops, including Oxfam, the Willen Hospice shop and at the Red Cross. Several Stoics offered their services at care homes, whilst others worked directly with elderly members of the community in their homes, helping with gardening, odd jobs, or just providing company. Some local schools benefited from assistance too, aid with after school clubs proving popular.

The now traditional Christmas party took place in December, with 170 guests from the locality – those visited by Stoics in their own homes, others from sheltered housing, nursing homes and day centres - and with around 50 Stoic volunteers to help out. Music was provided by the Jazz Band, conducted by JCG, whose retirement this year meant that it was his 14th and last Community Service party. JRK and PAL added to the entertainment and led some rousing community singing, while Father Christmas of course made his customary appearance. Our thanks yet again go to Mary Price and her many helpers for the superb tea served to the guests, and to all the Stoics who wrapped gifts, prepared cards for Bingo and managed not to eat too many of the chocolates.

Dr Rosemary Masters & Mr Iain Young



Crossfire



Crossfire exists to give every Stoic the opportunity to investigate the claims of Jesus Christ as revealed in the Bible and a chance to find out what being a Christian is all about.

Meetings are very informal and open to everyone, whatever your age or background. The meeting happens in the Blue Room each Friday after prep and after some drinks and chatting there is a short talk from the Bible given usually by a visiting speaker. There's loads of time to hang out, eat doughnuts and chat before and afterwards. Each week there is a different speaker to whom there's a chance to ask questions after the talk.

We have had an excellent year at Crossfire with usually around 40 Stoics coming along each Friday evening. The year kicked off with a series called 'God's King' which investigated the claims of Jesus through Mark's Gospel. The Lent term featured a more topical series entitled 'Jesus and...' in which many aspects of life, including sex, the world and image, were explored in the light of the Bible's teaching. 'The Power of God' was the theme for the Summer term, using the book of Romans to get to grips with the message of Christianity.

Crossfire is a great meeting. Its warm, friendly and welcoming atmosphere is striking whenever one walks in the door. It is open to all – regardless of year group, House or interest. And at Crossfire there is an opportunity to look at the big questions of life that rarely get a look in during the hectic run of a normal school schedule. Depending on the standpoint of each individual Crossfire rarely fails to leave Stoics intrigued, challenged, engaged or encouraged.

Mr Henry Swayne



What they said about Crossfire:

"Great to meet other Stoics of different year groups in a relaxed atmosphere. And great to learn more about the most important thing in life, a relationship with God."

(Monty Lewis)

"It's really good to meet with a variety of different people and listen to talks which make you think about things which really matter. A nice divergence from school life and great fellowship."

(Becca Nicholl)

"Crossfire – legendary."

(Clare Jackson)

"A wonderful opportunity to share our experience with God and to grow in our relationship with Him."

(Mukami Wangai)



Chapel

My fifth year at Stowe and so my fifth report for the Stoic and as the years progress, a challenge emerges that is exacerbated by years... how on earth does one avoid trotting out a catalogue of the year's activity which, to a man on a galloping horse, looks just like the one before and the one before that?

Interestingly, I actually mark the passage of the year using the measure of Sunday Chapel. This year, we have enjoyed a wide variety of preachers which kicked off with Cobus Visagie, an ex-Springbok, Saracens tighthead prop – a big man indeed, but also surprisingly gentle though I daresay I have not had the dubious pleasure of propping against him. In fact the year, quite accidentally, took on a sporting theme with two football club chaplains (John Boyers of Man Utd and Simon Stevenette of Swindon Town), Stuart Weir of Veritas, a sporting charity, and Phil Williams, director of Christian Surfers UK. If the year began with 'muscular Christianity', it emphatically ended on the same note. Martin Parish, a weightlifter, squatted untold kilograms whilst his friend, ex-bodybuilding Adonis, Ian MacDowell, told us about his journey from steroid injecting, gun toting, nightclub bouncer to a Christian working for Tough Talk, speaking in prisons from Russia to Texas with Milton Keynes somewhere in between.

At this point, I need to mark the passing of two immense servants of the Chapel. Jonathan Kingston is the most willing, competent, flexible, cheerful organist I have ever met – a man whose ability is emphasised by the lack of any need to draw attention to it. His boss (now there's a brave description), John Green, has been a rock in the midst of everything musical and whilst I lay no claim to being a music aficionado, I have attended Cathedrals and the like in my time, and the Chapel choir he has built and sustained over the years rivals the best.

One of my lasting memories of the choir will forever be their verbal sparring at the Choir Christmas Dinner. I still remember the look of utter astonishment on the face of the Headmaster when, attending his first such event, he heard his organist begin to slag off his Director of Music in the somewhat forthright manner that is a well known trait of all scousers, before then listening to the equally unsympathetic riposte, delivered with all the unsubtle bluntness of a man of Cumberland.

Confirmation this year, just as last year, and the year before, and the year before that, progressed to its rightful conclusion in May when the Bishop of Buckingham did the honours. The Lenten Addresses, as ever, slotted into their allocated space in the calendar.

Even though I am trying to avoid repeating the offerings of previous years, needs must that I extend a huge word of thanks to Jennifer Locke for all the work she puts in. It's a real shame that she's off to Francis Holland – she'll leave a large gap – her quiet reflective approach has been a first rate foil to my somewhat hearty approach. We've been a good team and I'll miss her. Happily, I still have Henry Swayne, my assistant, who has contributed marvellously not just to the work of the Chaplaincy, but to Stowe as a whole.

In the midst of constant change and variation, there is a constancy that is deeply reassuring and that indeed enables one to thrive in the midst of such flux. The rhythm of the year establishes comfortable boundaries, and as for the one who underpins it all, who is the God of history and the master of time, what can possibly compare?

Rev. Robert Jackson

THE CLASSICAL SOCIETY



In November a group of Sixth-Formers saw the powerful performance of Sophocles' play, Oedipus the King, by the Actors of Dionysus, at the Castle in Wellingborough. With a versatile cast of four they evoked a strong sense of Oedipus' quest for his own identity. A false fire-alarm, leading to the evacuation of the theatre half way through, added to the drama. The Sophoclean theme built on the vigorous production of Antigone at Stowe earlier in the term.

Dr John Taylor, the Head of Classics at Tonbridge School and author of several linguistic texts which we use, gave a thought-provoking talk in January on Homer's Odyssey. John is known to the Headmaster from his time at Tonbridge and to me from Oxford. In May we were privileged to enjoy a wide-ranging review of the world's greatest books, with especial attention to the classical prototypes, from Professor Anthony O'Hear of Buckingham University (pictured). This link came through David Critchley who joined us in September and is also a mentor for the Buckingham University education department. We now look forward to the finals of the Third Form PowerPoint Presentation competition.

Mr Michael Bevington

Music



STOWE PIANO COMPETITION

The newly-restored Bösendorfer grand piano played host to a wide variety of musical styles in Stowe's Piano Competition, from Mozart and Chopin to jazz and original compositions. Guest adjudicator Anthony Williams, Head of Keyboard and Instrumental Studies at Radley College, offered insightful and inspiring advice to all the pianists.

The winners of the Novice Class were Guy Thorold and Rory Mitchell, who played Bastien's Saturday Night and Hall's Railroad Blues. Guy recovered well after a hesitant start and Rory performed from memory. Alexander le Clercq won the Elementary Class with a sensitive performance of Elissa Milne's Ashes; second place went to Sam Hunter, who included jazz improvisation in his performance of Tim Richards' Barrel House Blues. Mark Ioannou brought some driving jazz rhythms to the Lower Intermediate Class with his performance of Josef Makhholm's Blue Tuesday, and Robert Higham gave a sprightly performance of Kabalevsky's Dance

to take second place. The Intermediate Class was won by Toby Marshall, who performed his own composition, Jazz Prelude. Second place went to Alexander Bodian, who gave a mature and thoughtful performance of Mozart's D minor Fantasy. Rosanna Hedley and William Randall-Coath tied for third place. Augustus Perkins Ray won the Higher Intermediate Class with a communicative, authoritative and memorised performance of Bartok's Sostenuuto. Edward Howlin and Jacob Dennison shared second place, giving musical and convincing interpretations of Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata and Chopin's Prelude in E minor. Sebastian d'Agar was placed third with Edwin Roxburgh's Moonscape. Craig Greene won the Advanced Class and the Stowe Piano Cup with a spirited account of Mozart's Sonata in A minor. The winners of the Duets and Chamber Music Prize were the piano trio of Augustus Perkins Ray, Balthazar Mattar and Jacob Dennison. Congratulations to all the performers, and thanks to all the family and friends who attended.

Miss Hilary Ford

School Concert with an American Theme

Stoics and Parents witnessed a quite spectacular concert signifying the end of a highly productive Easter Term. The Chapel was once again filled to capacity as the Chapel Choir, Chamber Choir, Symphony Orchestra, Wind Band, Brass Group and Jazz Band and came together to perform to an enthusiastic and energetic audience.

The Brass Group under DJA opened the concert and impressed all with their powerful and arresting sound in Fanfare for the Common Man by Aaron Copland. Two orchestral items followed -- Soundtrack Highlights including Harry Potter's theme and The Patriot by John Williams and Gershwin's ever popular Rhapsody in Blue with Craig Greene as piano soloist. Next to take centre stage were the Chamber Choir with a sparkling rendition of Duke Ellington's I'm beginning to see the Light and a performance of O Happy Day that would not have sounded out of place in the gospel churches of the American deep South. Azu Nsirim was the vocal soloist who performed with great flair and imagination captivating his audience. After a quick change, the Wind Band presented the theme to Klaus Badelt's Pirates of the Caribbean, before the renowned Stowe Jazz Band performed Alexander's Ragtime Band and Richard Rogers' The Lady is a Tramp with Toby Marshall's vocal talents delighting all.

The Director of Music awarded the Gilling Lax Instrumental prizes and we were delighted Mrs. Rosemary Stormont, parent of two recent Old Stoics, was able to present the first ever Stormont Percussion Prize to Alexander Bodian.

As has become customary, a patriotic and grande finale ensued in the form of Sousa's Stars and Stripes Forever march followed by a jaunty and exhilarating arrangement by John Rutter of Down by the Riverside with audience, choir and orchestra.

As the concert's Grande Finale, the Stoic audience, Orchestra and JRK on the mighty chapel organ thundered out Eric Coats' Dambusters' March and Parry's much loved Jerusalem in true end of term fashion. A huge thanks must go to our Director of Music, for co-ordinating and leading such a huge event, his final whole school concert in fact, as well to the performers themselves for putting on such a spectacular concert. I would imagine everyone who began the Easter break immediately after attending this event felt extremely proud to be associated with Stowe and its great talent so clearly evident.

Mr Jonathan Kingston



Music Report

As the news of my retirement became known, many colleagues suggested that this should be the best year ever and that it should end in a spectacular fashion! Actually all any Director of Music wants is to maintain standards, improve where possible, and hand the department over in good shape to the next generation. However, that doesn't mean that there haven't been some outstanding and memorable moments over the year and there have been some notable successes. More students than ever have gained Grade 8 and a majority with Distinction, and we were delighted with our Oxbridge results in terms of places and choral awards. As I write Stowe looks forward to welcoming Simon Bowler, a former Director of Music at Bryanston, to take over in September.

One of the key events of the Autumn Term was the House Singing which this year opened the Arts' Festival. The judge was Christopher Scott from Sussex House, an old friend of Stowe, and once again it was extremely difficult to pick a winner from the range of talent on show. I was absolutely delighted by the standard and the good humour of the audience which all made it a very special evening for everyone. I was very impressed by the amount of work which had been done by the Stoic musicians themselves without the aid of staff. In the end Mr. Scott awarded first place to Nugent for the Part Song and Grafton won the unison Song and was awarded the Fanshawe Cup as the overall winner. One of the things which I so enjoy in this competition is discovering new musical talent and what a discovery we made in Azu Nsirim whose solo in the Cobham Part song had the whole audience spell bound. During the Arts Festival we also had the pleasure of attending two music master classes, one by the renowned singer Christopher Keyte and the other a Percussion workshop by "Maraca2".

At the end of term, Dinner 'n' Jazz was as popular as ever. Not many will now remember that this event began with just a handful of tables in the Temple Room; it now occupies most of the main floor of the mansion. My thanks as always go to the catering staff who put on a delicious dinner for us all to enjoy whilst still coping with feeding the whole school three meals on the same day. I will miss greatly the Jazz Band as it is one of the groups I established when coming to Stowe and has grown from five players to a large Swing Band over the years and has produced some very fine players many of whom are now active in the world of Jazz music.

There was some consternation when the new Fire Regulations meant that the chapel was no longer allowed to seat more than 750 for the Carol

Service. A decision was made that the junior years would attend the Carol Concert on the Saturday, and thus Seniors and Parents could still be together on the Sunday evening. The number of candles also had to be drastically reduced but the atmosphere was still magical with garlands of small white lights, and the less hot and crowded building actually made it more resonant than in the past. The Choir, despite having lost many stalwarts from last year, did make the Service a very memorable one, and perhaps to coin a phrase, it was "the best ever". Throughout my time at Stowe the Chapel Choir has been very special to me and I would like to thank all those who have sung with the choir for the support and enthusiasm which they have shown. They have enormously enhanced the Chapel Worship and their singing has been very much appreciated. This year I would particularly like to thank Lara-Clare



Music

continued...

Bourdeaux for all her wonderful solos and the other heads of choir Emily Ansell, Jonathan Elfer and Sebastian d'Agar for what they have done in leading this ensemble.

This year's Prep School Choral Day in February, which was without doubt both biggest and best. Indeed it is now hard to fit in parents and visitors at all! Most Stoics have little idea about what goes on at this, apart from seeing hordes of little ones queuing for lunch or at the tuck shop, but no-one could fail to be blown away by the sound of 600+ voices singing "Zadok the Priest". Other music that was performed at this Choral Evensong included Dyson's setting in D of the Evening Service and as an introit they sang "Love Divine" by Howard Goodall (OS). The Stowe Prep School Choral Day now has a national reputation and many other senior schools try to follow our model. We have schools taking part from as far away as North Yorkshire and for many it appears to be one of the highlights of their musical calendar.



In addition to the Prep School Choral Day we also have also held a Swing Day in the Michaelmas Term and an Instrumental Day in the Summer Term which have been equally successful and very much appreciated.

The Orchestra had two appearances in the Spring Term, the annual concert in January and then at the end of term. The first Orchestral concert included a most enjoyable performance of Shostakovich's Second Jazz suite directed by RJSS. The Lent Term ended on a spectacular note, with the whole school joining the Choir in an arrangement of "Down by the Riverside", before the now traditional rendering of the "Dambusters" and "Jerusalem", but many will also remember "Rhapsody in Blue" both for the skill shown by the Orchestra, and the virtuoso solo performance from Craig Greene. We wish him good luck as he tries to decide on his future whether it be at Christ Church, Oxford or the Scholarship to the Royal College of Music. Whichever he chooses he will still be studying with Dimitri Alexeev. I am sure that many will be following the future of this young man with a great deal of interest.



There have been over eighty musical events during this academic year and it has not been unusual to have three events in one week. The weekly concerts and recitals have remained a feature of our musical life. We have had Sunday Concerts given by the Music Staff and a stunning Piano Recital by Craig Greene. The "Scholars' Concert" in late January was another memorable event. It was so good to see so much young talent on display this year. First there was the group of third form trumpeters, and then the Piano Trio of Fourth Formers (Gus Perkins-Ray, Balthazar Mattar and Jacob Dennison). Later in the term the Trio went on to win the Ensemble Class at the Banbury Young Musicians of the Year" competition. This group already excellent should be really outstanding in a few years' time.

Music

continued...

Just in case you were wondering what I will remember from my time here, there have been some notable highlights: the first Carol Service in 1991, several evensongs at St Paul's Cathedral, performing Allegri's "Miserere" in the Marble Hall for Prince Charles, the Music Masters' Conference in 2001 (the first time that it has ever been held at Stowe), one especially perfect evening for the summer outdoor jazz at the Temple of Venus, the 75th Anniversary Service in Chapel when we sang a specially commissioned work by Howard Goodall "Ring out ye crystal spheres" and some wonderful musicals including "West Side Story" and "Les Miserables".



So I leave Stowe with many happy memories of working with some wonderful young musicians and a very committed music staff. I hope that I leave the department in good heart and in good order ready to develop as the school expands and Stowe at last has a new Music School.

Mr John Green



I finish by quoting from some of the comments made by Music Staff from other schools who attended the 2001 MMA Conference: I hope that they speak for us now and in the future:

- *I'm so impressed with your musicians but especially by the large number in the Chapel Choir. What opportunities and foundations you are giving for life to these young people.*
- *I was most impressed with the enormous quality and quantity of Music at Stowe.*
- *I must have been to hundreds of conferences in my time but to none more wholly enjoyable, thrill-filled and enlightening than yours. From first to last the gathering was filled with rapturous music ... unforgettable was observing that joy on the faces of your pupils.*
- *Congratulations on a great conference! There was such variety and such a high standard of performance in such a wide range of music.*
- *I wanted to say particularly how much I appreciated the work of the choir. You have obviously built something quite special with this extremely willing and committed bunch of people.*
- *What a spectacular feat the Stowe experience was! It was a joy to see, and hear, so many pupils participating in musical activities.*



Music

MUSICAL HIGHLIGHTS - HOUSE SINGING FESTIVAL

Saturday 14th October, 2006

Adjudicator: Christopher Scott, (Director of Music: Sussex House)

PART SONGS

Chandos:	Any dream will do	Andrew Lloyd Webber
Grafton:	When the night fills my song	Bedouin Sound-Clash
Lyttelton:	Say a little prayer	Burt Bacharach
Grenville:	Mr Tambourine Man	Bob Dylan
Bruce:	Afternoon Delight	Starland Vocal Band
Temple:	It's All About You	McFly
Nugent:	Heaven	Jim Vallance
Walpole:	Tribute	Tenacious D
Cobham:	The river of dreams	Billy Joel
Chatham:	Hero	Enrique Iglesias

UNISON SONGS

Chandos:	Let it be	Lennon & McCartney
Grafton:	Wherever you will go	The Calling
Lyttelton:	Ain't no mountain high enough	Ashford & Simpson
Grenville:	Sweet Home Alabama	Lynyrd Skynyrd
Bruce:	Rawhide	Washington & Tiomkin
Temple:	I Wan'na Be Like You	Robert Sherman
Nugent:	You can't hurry love	Dozier & Holland
Walpole:	Y.M.C.A.	Village People
Cobham:	Our house	Madness
Chatham:	With a little help from my friends	Lennon & McCartney



MUSICAL HIGHLIGHTS - ENSEMBLES CONCERT

Wednesday 30th November 2006

Junior Trumpet Trio: March, Gavotte and Rigaudon

(Teddy Kealey, William Berner, Geordie Wilkes)

Wind Quintet Le Petit Negre

(Christabel Vernon Evans - Flute; Charlotte Matthews - Oboe; Sebastian d'Agar - Clarinet; Gus Perkins-Ray - Horn; Emily Thornton - Bassoon)

Piano Trio: Trio in D minor Op.49 (Andante con moto tranquillo)

(Balthazar Mattar - Violin; Jacob Dennison - cello Augustus Perkins Ray - Piano)

Oboe Trio: Trio sonata in G minor RV 81 (Adagio - Allegro)

(Alexander Thompson, Charlotte Matthews & Emily Thornton)

Piano Duet: Sonatine Op3 No1

(Edward Howlin and Krishan Thadani)

Flute quartet: Eine Kleine Nachtmusik KV 525

(Yasmin Hughes, Eleanor Horrocks, Christabel Vernon Evans, Anna Jackson)

Saxophone Group: Black and White Rag

Baby Elephant Walk

(Beth Georgiou, Tatch Leboff, Rebecca Nicholl, Nick Anson, Matthew Williamson)

Piano duet: Eine Kleine Nachtmusik KV 525

(Craig Greene & Gus Perkins-Ray)

String Quartet: String Quartet no.4 in F major (Adagio-Allegro)

(Beth Georgiou & Balthazar Mattar - Violins; Robert Secret - Viola; Jacob Dennison - cello)

Senior Trumpet Group: Fanfare for St Edmundsbury

(Craig Greene, Toby Marshall, Mathew Payne)

Wind Octet: Arrival of the Queen of Sheba

Alexander Thompson - Oboe; Charlotte Matthews - Oboe; Alex Le Clerq, Sebastian d'Agar, Humphrey Wood - Clarinets; Gus Perkins-Ray & Debbie Arscott - Horn; Emily Thornton - Bassoon)

Claude Debussy

Mendelssohn

Antonio Vivaldi

Carl Maria Weber

W.A. Mozart

George Botsford

Henry Mancini

W.A. Mozart

Pietro Nardini

Benjamin Britten

G.F. Handel

Arts Festival



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Directors Report

The second annual Stowe school Arts festival ended triumphantly with a stunning performance from some of our talented musicians and singers with their own 'unplugged' showcase. This event was the last of over 20 which have been held in and around the school in a range of venues throughout the day and night from 14-17 October. A real eclectic mix of theatre, stand up comedy, magic, illusion, dance, singing, art lectures and exhibitions were on offer to the Stoics throughout the festival.

The participatory workshops have been the most successful where the Stoics have been able to work first hand with our visiting professionals. 'Stomp', the wonderful troupe from Brighton who are currently enjoying world wide fame with their own unique take on the 'rhythm of life', were superb as they encouraged and demonstrated their skills and talents. The Pretty Good Girl Dance Theatre worked for two days with a group of students culminating in a presentation on Sunday afternoon in the Roxy.

Trading Faces, a theatre group who specialise in masks, came for a two day visit with their piece 'The Living Gallery' and created a most imaginative work incorporating famous art works which our student actors 'stepped into' to become a part of the painting.

There has been tremendous energy and enthusiasm shown by all Stoics who have made an effort to access the wide variety of workshops and performances and the overwhelming comment which kept coming out was 'That was awesome!' Now I'm not too sure whether I am up to speed with the nuances of teenager-speak... but I think that means it was good.

*Nick Bayley
Director of Drama and Festival coordinator*

LOADED

I went to see this play with trepidation, it being a "drama", I expected to be moved, and perhaps slightly bored. However, Loaded turned out to be an immense success, a gritty melodrama with scenes that made all the Stoics in the theatre sit up in their seats, such as when the actors started firing at the audience! It was powerful and raw, with a small but brilliant cast of actors who had starred in shows such as Coronation Street and Doctors.

The play was set in a harsh Sheffield background, and centred round the lives of four struggling mechanics, and their slow descent into crime. Fast moving and powerful, the intense pathos of the rocky relationship between two of the characters, was relieved by light humour provided by the other two.

On the whole, Loaded was a riveting performance which captured the audience's attention until the poignant climax.

Nellie English

Paper Boat

On 12th March 2003 at exactly 1pm Perrier Best Newcomer Nominated comedian Tim FitzHigham paddled under Tower Bridge and smashed a 383 year old record to become the first man in history to take a paper boat 160 miles down the River Thames. In doing so he raised over £10,000 for Comic Relief. His adventures were televised all over the world and published every day in the Metro newspaper. Three years later, on the 16th October at exactly 8pm, Tim Fitzhigham was standing in the Roxburgh in front of a crowd of Stoics waiting to be entertained.



With an excellent mix of facts and comedy, Tim retold his story of how he broke the record set by one of the Queen's watermen, John Taylor, in 1619, by sailing 160 miles down the Thames. Snail racing, gaffer tape and Sir Matthew Pinsent all featured, resulting in endless hysterics for the rest of the night.

Tim Field

Stomp Workshop

After arriving to a stage of empty water bottles, sweeping brooms and metal bin lids, the group were all somewhat dubious to say the least. However, after the initial reluctance to be the first to learn the 'broom triple step', everyone was ready and willing to dive in and learn the answer to "well how exactly does someone 'play' a water bottle?! As professionals in the actual show Stomp, the two performers leading the show were fascinating to watch as they performed their routines, and attempted to teach them to us - the amateurs. After an hour and a half of learning the endless possibilities of household objects, we had all overcome our complete lack of rhythm, and were able to leave with the ability to perform some pretty impressive routines!

Grace Lavelle



Arts Festival

Total Vocal

As part of the Stowe Arts Festival, a group of us had the opportunity to experience a vocal workshop with Sheridan Coldstream. Sheridan trained in musical theatre at The Guildford School of Acting and to work with him was a fantastic experience for anyone interested in the performance industry as he has performed in numerous professional shows, television programmes, films and commercials. Sheridan has also coached students for TV shows such as the BBC's 'Steps to the Stars' and ITV's 'Stars in their eyes' and 'Pop Idol'. The workshop focused on vocal improvisation and the techniques of Musical Theatre and Jazz singing. It was performance orientated and there was the opportunity to sing as a soloist or as part of a group. We worked on the song 'Look at Me' from the musical *The Witches of Eastwick*, with the focus on harmonies and how we would perform the piece. After the main workshop, a group of us stayed for some extra coaching on musical improvisation. Working with Sheridan was a fantastic experience and there was something for everyone. Those of us striving for a career in the performance industry found the workshop truly inspirational and others, who just wanted to have fun and develop their confidence thoroughly, enjoyed the experience.



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Emily Ansell

Unplugged Concert

This year's unplugged concert was a success of the highest order. Both the junior and senior audiences, who were separated so as to make more comfortable seating in the scenic Temple Room, enjoyed ten acts which revealed the breathtaking musical talents, which rarely have a chance to manifest themselves in a popular form, of our very own home-grown Stoics.

The spectacles, ranging in styles from chart hits such as *America* by Razorlight, performed by the incredibly talented Fibretone, to Ella Fitzgerald's *Dancing Cheek to Cheek* set to a singing-dancing duet by mincing Amber Wyles and Cressida Bonas accompanied by the skilled piano playing of Cat Beadel, proved to be highly entertaining, musically impressive and, thanks to Tristan Hirst and Toby Marshall's performance of *The Hippy Song* (by Tristan Hirst), very amusing.

Jonny Elfer



Wendy Cope Poetry Recital

During the Arts Festival, highly recognised poet Wendy Cope spoke to members of the Stowe Community, and gave a recital of some of her award-winning poetry. Cope, who is renowned for her well known poetry collections such as, "Making Cocoa for Kingsley Amis", "Serious Concerns" and "If I Don't Know" was famously voted in a 1998 BBC Radio 4 poll as the listeners' favourite to succeed Ted Hughes as Poet Laureate. Some of the poems enjoyed included the humorous "Flowers", the witty "He Tells Her" and, after an audience request, "Tich Miller".

Cope discussed the context in which she had written several of her poems, and therefore why she had written them; she also spoke about the many poems she has been commissioned to write, particularly at the beginning of her career, such as a number of poems to accompany new paintings in galleries.

It was especially interesting to understand from her point of view how she feels, while writing poetry, that she would like the audience to interpret it. Such points as this were explained after the recital, as everyone was offered the opportunity to ask questions and have a greater understanding of how a poet's mind actually works.

Grace Layelle



House Drama

This year all ten Houses participated in a very successful Drama Festival that took place across the final weekend of term. Three venues were used (the Dobinson, the Roxburgh Hall and the Temple Room), and total audience figures exceeded one thousand. The Houses put together a tremendous variety of works, with the Chandos film proving a particularly popular show. Both Lyttelton and Nugent also pulled in large crowds, but the undoubted crowd favourite was the Walpole play, put together by King-ho Leung, and his cast. The invention of the Stoics (performers, writers and directors) was evident to all, and the quality of the shows did not disappoint. A huge thankyou must go to Mr Bayley for his tolerance, and Philip Pitcher and Ed McClean for their calm and organisation. However, the biggest thank you goes to all who took part, and sacrificed so much time to entertain the crowds so well.

Mr Chris Townsend

NUGENT – *Vinegar Tom*

When we initially started rehearsals Beth and I both considered changing the play - rehearsals for the first month were awful. However, I am glad we decided to persevere because ultimately the whole cast did a fantastic job and I do not think that I can make any individual acknowledgements as it was a collective effort. Vinegar Tom was a little more hard hitting than the rest of the House plays and is reminiscent of Arthur Miller's 'The Crucible'. Although rehearsals were draining at times for the whole cast we also had great fun and enjoyed putting time and effort into the play. I would like to thank all those involved and congratulate everyone on a successful and enjoyable performance.

Alex Edwards



TEMPLE – *The Right Place*

Temple House produced their version of 'The Right Place', a play by David Campton. The cast put a lot of effort into the House play, rehearsing at many occasions during their lunch breaks, under the direction of Mr Lewis and Alex Paull. Key performances came from Hamish Eggins, Toby Dunipace, Hugo Clarke and Algy Lendrum with the much appreciated support of Teddy Kealey, Louis Staden, Ben Manser, Ashley O'Callen-Smith, Christian Selby, Rogan Allport, Drew Leeman, Ed Dabney and Harry Nettlefold. A regular structure of rehearsals resulted in plenty of time for the play to come together so that the cast had time to perfect their performance. Their first performance was a success as a house event, although their second performance for the school had a disappointing turn out from Stoics.

Alex Paull

LYTTELTON – *Blithe Spirit*

We were going to do 'Oscar Wilde's A Woman of No Importance' in the Music Room, but this proved a bit ambitious for some of the large cast so we did Noel Coward's 'Blithe Spirit' in three weeks flat, because it offered such perfect parts for the keenest cast. The girls did well to learn their lines and get everything organised so quickly: Nellie English overcame a few inhibitions to make a superbly eccentric and comic Madame Arcati in hippie dress and pink wellies, Alix Melville was maddeningly and unflappably assured as the late wife returned to irritate her widower husband, played by Helena Kealey, and second wife Georgina Breitmeyer, both of whom provided the anchor performances that gave the fifty-minute play its certainty and style. Lucy Mullen's gormless maid raised a few laughs as well as the dead, and Arabella Reeve-Tucker, Elle Horrocks, Chloe Crisp and Thea Dorenberg all helped with lights, prompts, falling pictures, flying jugs and poltergeists. Special thanks to the Melville family for so many of the props!

Mr Stephen Hirst

BRUCE – *Bruce House Cabaret*

The Bruce House Cabaret was inspired by Victorian Pier Shows in seaside towns, these shows often had a variety of acts which included singing, dancing, reciting of stories and poetry and stand up comedy. We tried to recreate each of these in turn, in order to keep the Victorian theme alive, the performers thought all dressed the part, this included priests cassocks, ladies dresses and some terribly over the top wigs. The performers involved were: George Baylis, Jonty Irving, Monty Lewis, Will Randall-Coath, and James Sindall. Acknowledgements must go to George and Monty for stepping in at the last moment, and to Mr Oldham for his last minute help.

James Sindall

GRENVILLE – *The Crimewave at Blandings Castle*

This year's Grenville House play originated from the idea of having a comical farce. We decided upon P.G Woodhouse's 'The Crime Wave at Blandings Castle', but P.G Woodhouse writes in prose. However, we soon overcame this setback when Mr. Musgrave offered to script it for us. All years bar 5th Form were involved, including two members of Lyttelton. The cast consisted of:- Ed Crisford (Beach the butler), Ella Giradot (Lady Constance), Lillie Ziegler Pounds (Jane), Alex Stevens (George), William Foyle (Lady Julia), Nick Rewcastle (Mr. Baxter) and James Musgrave (Lord Emsworth). There was also a huge amount of work behind the scenes from Miles Crosby. In the end, despite total despair from almost everyone involved, it all came together. The performances went very well, (even though there was one major slip up!), and William Foyle was particularly memorable. Acknowledgements must go to Mr. Walters who kindly helped us at the last moment. Mr. Bayley, who organized the Drama Festival, and of course Mr. Knight, who supported us throughout.

James Musgrave & Miles Crosby

House Drama

CHANDOS – *Two and Two Makes Five*

The story was based on ideas from and written by Charles Price but was ably assisted by Editor and Co-director Richard Gordon-Colebrooke. At first glance shooting a film seems a lot less difficult than all the time it takes to produce a play but in fact in some ways it takes more time. In our film we had to compose a script (which took about two to three weeks to compose), then assemble a cast. The cast consisted of Nelly English playing Amy, Alex Melville playing Sophie, John-Paul Reynolds playing Simon, Charles Price playing Chris and Alex Cameron, Jess Waddington and Richard Gordon-Colebrooke playing 'the Boss,' Patricia and Chris and Simon's manager Mark. Also not to mention our small yet nimble crew Humphrey Wood and Hope Capurro. On the production aspect of the film we had three weeks to shoot all of the film then approximately another three weeks to edit the film.

The whole cast and crew would like to thank Mr Bayley for letting us use the costume department and Mr Durrant for enabling us to use the General Office. The feedback we had from the viewers was very positive and for the first ever production of any sort of film for the House Drama Festival in its history it was certainly a success and one that we shall wish to build on next year.

Charles Price

Chatham – *Life Walks With You*

'Life walks with you', was a play devised by the idea of the street life and culture that young youths go through and the hard times they face due to corruption and other challenges. The play followed the life of two youths who steal cars to feed their addiction. Tom and Max start off as best mates and are inseparable. By time through taking drugs their addiction takes over and their greed and pride split them up. Max rapidly declines with his addiction wanting more and more but there is one problem, Tom. So when on a job Max leaves Tom for dead, luckily Tom scrapes through with an inch of his life and comes back to deal with Max and what he has done by shooting him this finishes the dramatic play off with a storm. Tom: Oscar Thornton, Max: Rory Marchant. The play was directed by both Oscar and Rory with Phillip Pitcher leading the lights and sound.

Oscar Thornton

Grafton – *Greek Tragedies*

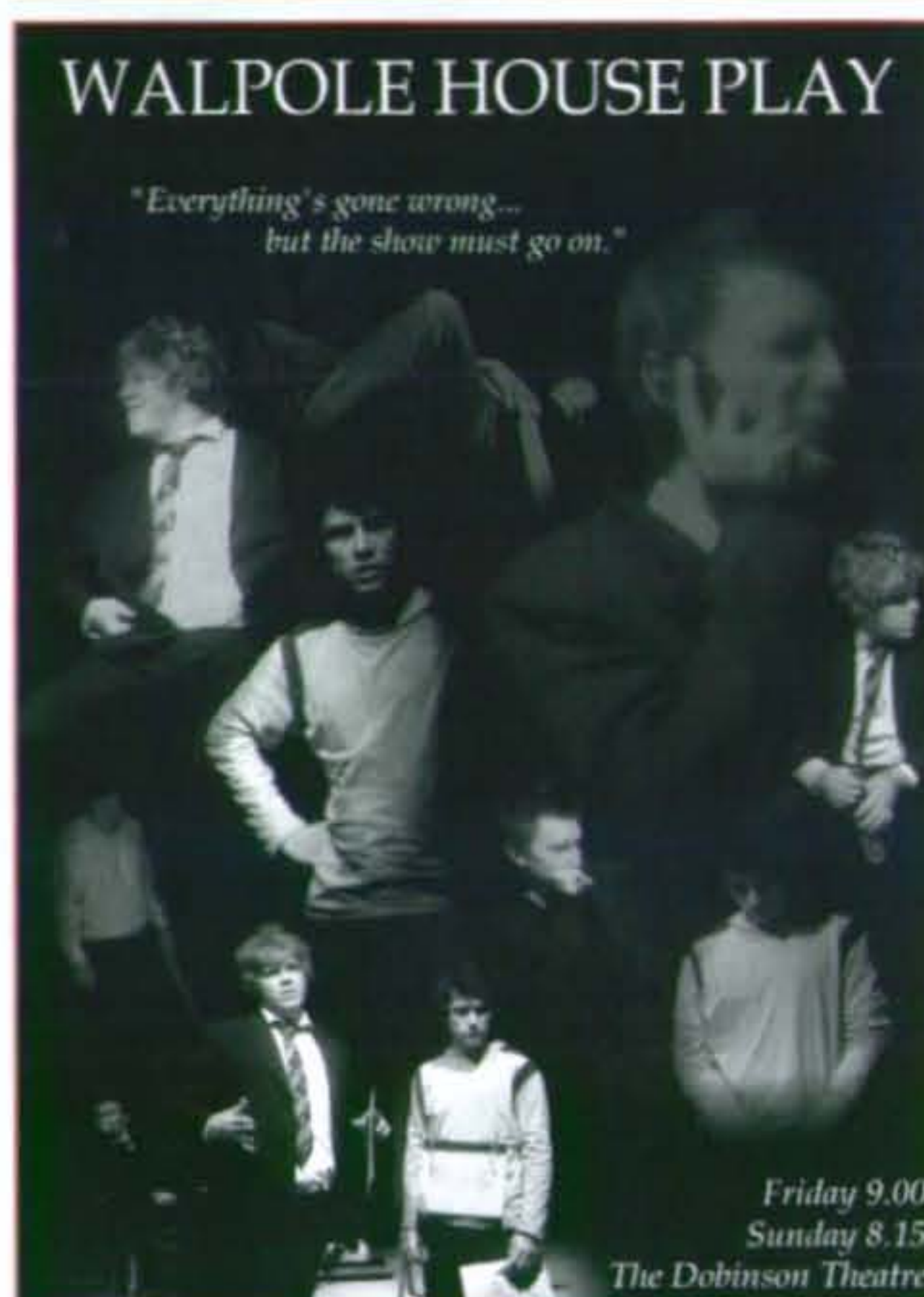
Grafton House took on the challenge of performing three Greek tragedies (by Euripides) in under half an hour, and succeeded. The Medea, Hippolytus and Electra were performed as never before, through the ingenuity of Jonathan Elfer, and strong performances from the whole cast, but particularly Jack Fillery and David Christie-Miller. Despite a trial run for the Medea at the At Home in February, the plays finally came together in the last week of exhaustive rehearsal, much laughter and ultimately two very satisfying performances to big audiences. Tragedy became comedy in the hands of the Reduced Tragedy Company. Cast: Jonathan Elfer, Jack Fillery, Duncan Bennett, Jack Bartholomew, Marcus Beresford, David Christie-Miller, Tom Mason, Will Assheton. *Acknowledgements:* Mr Bayley, James Minchin-Mitchell, Tom Osborne, Philip Pitcher

Mr Chris Townsend

COBHAM – *Forever Thursday*

This year Cobham's House play was 'Forever Thursday' written by Rollo Pearson (a Cobham boy himself). It told the story of a businessman who died in a plane crash and on going to hell was tortured by a demon and made to relive his life. Much fun was had by all in the build up to the production, it was also the first production any of us had done without any teacher assistance. All the people in the play helped to direct and use their imagination for ideas but special thanks must go to Josh Hunter, Max Housson and Harry Farnsworth for all their help

Nick Anson



WALPOLE - *Untitled*

Untitled was an avant-garde Stoic written play aiming to widen the boundaries of school drama whilst being a satire of different issues in the School, e.g. the struggle to put on a play and the unique humorous taste of the Stoics.

The play is about three actors being let down by a missing actress, and starts to perform a

play with no plot but only some last minute decisions made by the playwright. Brilliantly performed by Toby Marshall, Mathew Payne and Jack Peile with their excellent sense of comic timing, the three actors start to question the ability and instructions of the playwright and the essence of drama. Stage Manager - Alexander le Clercq; Lighting & Sound - Christopher Price; Written & Directed by King-ho Leung. With special thanks to Mr Bayley, Mr Hirst, Mr Weston and Mr Platts-Martin.

King-ho Leung

A2 Drama

Picture the scene. It's early March. The Drama department area is awash with costumes, make up, bits of not quite learned script and frantic Stoics fighting over who is next into the Dobinson as 'it must be our turn by now'. Yes, it's A2 Drama practical time! If I had a pound for every last minute request I get for a piece of 'really good music that will fit our devised scene' or 'can we quickly nip down to the wardrobe' I would indeed be a rich man, but hey - it's worth it.

The 21 A2 students who undertook the exam this year did themselves and me proud and our visiting examiner was simply knocked out by the range and scope of work on show. We had some tasty, meaty chunks of Shakespeare, Wilde, Chekhov and Goldoni for the pre 1900 text first course choices and a veritable feast of modern drama for the more contemporary work. Once again most performances took place in the Dobinson (such a flexible and useful space) as well as in the smaller studio, the Marble Hall and Music Room.

Emily Ansell, Libby Collins, Emma Christie Miller and Alice Thomson had great fun with their saucy *LYSISTRATA*. It was almost 'Carry On Greek Comedy' but worked superbly. Beth Reilly and Katie Kosciuk were the picture of charming English roses in *IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST* until they realized that they both fancied the same man and then the sparks began to fly! Lara Clare Bourdeaux and Max Rawicz-Szczerbo contrasted their sensitive and emotional *SEAGULL* with a very funny and tender *BAREFOOT IN THE PARK* while Oli Tilleard, Talulla Barrow and Amber Stone Brown did a great job at tackling the spirit and frustration of Miller's *VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE*.



Katie Kos/Beth Reilly in Importance Of Being Earnest



Alex Fisher/Stuart Stevens in Women in Black

George Coote and Fiona Cooper certainly got the pulses racing with their hot and steamy *STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE* while Cressida Bonas and Rory Brabant were sensational as Laura and Jim from *THE GLASS MENAGERIE*. Stuart Stevens and Alex Fisher were brave to stage their *HAMLET* extract in the splendour of the Marble Hall and Miranda Squire, Alina Nixdorf, Ian Peele and Nas Imam were utterly convincing in the brutal and harrowing *CLOSER*. Once again the range of devised work on show was nothing short of magnificent and for me was the absolute highlight of the two day experience. The quality and complexity of the piece created by Fiona, George, Rory and Cressida for example would grace any stage anywhere, anytime.

Credit and thanks to all who took part. It was quite a time!



Fiona Cooper/George Coote in Miss Julie



Cressida Bonas/Rory Brabant in Glass Menagerie



Libby Collins/Alice Thomson/Emily Ansell/Emma Christie Miller in Lysistrata



Fiona Cooper/George Coote/Cressida Bonas/Rory Brabant

AS Drama

One of the best things about the AS level Drama and Theatre studies course is that in their first term together the Stoics are thrown together into a practical assessment which is always very stressful yet ultimately extremely rewarding. This year the set text which we decided to explore was *A MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM*. Working in a group of no more than four and no less than two, a selected scene or extract from the play has to be planned, prepared and performed. Favourite bits seemed to include the four young lovers in the wood as well as the conflict between Titania and Oberon. Special mention to James Sindall, Jess Waddington and James Musgrave for their take on the fairies and to Milly King, Lettie Butcher, James Fraser and Tom Wiggett for their 'lovers' scene imaginatively staged in traverse (that's audience on two sides for the uninformed).

Themes and ideas from the set play are then further developed in a self devised piece of theatre which often throws up some exciting and challenging work. Oscar Thornton, Josh Hunter and Alix Melville were superb in their piece about a dysfunctional family whose little boy dreams his days away and Rory Marchant, Camilla King and Sophie Loyd wrung every ounce of emotion out of a father living on the edge. Thanks must go to my colleagues Victoria Ryan and Chris Walters for helping prepare the students for their practical performances and to all 24 Stoics who put in the energy and enthusiasm.



Oscar Thornton as Puck / Josh Hunter as Oberon



James Sindall/James Musgrave from their devised scene



Lettie Butcher (Helena) James Fraser (Lysander)



Josh Hunter, Oscar Thornton and Alix Melville in their devised scene



Milly King (Hermia)

Mountain Language

'Mountain Language' by Harold Pinter

Performed May 21/22, Dobinson Theatre. Directed by Nick Bayley

This short but deeply harrowing play was presented by six of the very best A2 Drama and Theatre students for a two night run in the Dobinson Theatre. This was no easy ride and audiences were left in no doubt by the message of the play: torture is obscene, the domination of human beings by other human beings is obscene, and cruelty is obscene.

Nick Bayley set the tone of the production from the moment one entered the studio. Dimly lit and smouldering from a haze of smoke, the actors were already on stage and caged behind eight foot high meshed panels which divided the audience from the stage area. The stage floor was full of rubble and stones. This was a grim and desolate place where the milk of human kindness had ran dry long, long ago. In four gruelling scenes we see a young woman and her elderly female companion humiliated by brutal and sadistic guards because they do not 'speak the language of the capital', the son of the older woman, who is locked away in this cesspit of a prison camp, is badly punished for answering back and by the end the women are shocked and frightened into silence and submission, perhaps for ever.

Cressida Bonas, winner of the 2007 Andrew Croft performance prize, was utterly convincing as the young woman. Her steely determination to win back some dignity from the fascist bullies was nothing short of remarkable. Cressida was ably supported by Alina Nixdorf, winner of the 2007 A2 Drama and Theatre Studies prize, as the elderly woman. Alina had very little dialogue to say but her reactions and portrayal of the traumatised woman were quite superb. Stuart Stevens was nasty, brutal and totally believable as the Sergeant. Rory Brabant played the Commanding Officer as cold and calculating and had just the right tone to portray a seriously warped and deranged mind. George Coote used his physical strength and power to play the Guard. He was threatening, intimidating and very scary! Nas Imam was the lifeless and damaged victim who had to endure the pain and torture of the brutal guards. Nas gave a stunning performance and his intimate scene with Cressida when they are reunited in his cell was one of the highlights of the production. Technical support was given by King Ho Leung and Phil Pitcher, both regular stalwarts of the Theatre crew.

Mountain Language was a cold, stark and challenging piece of theatre. Great credit must go to all those involved in the performance and also to those Stoics who came to see it on both nights. I think it could well become one those 'I was there' moments and certainly all those who did see it were moved and disturbed by what they saw. Cruel theatre? Angry theatre? No, it was just great theatre!



Pictures: Mr Alan Longworth



Senior Congreve

HABEAS CORPUS - DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The gloriously vulgar farce 'Habeas Corpus' by Alan Bennett ended its three night run in the Roxy on Saturday November 11th. By that time the 18 strong cast and crew had entertained and enthralled the vast majority of the school plus many parents and visitors who were gushing with their praise.



It was certainly a great night out as the audience were confronted by a series of OTT stereotypes all of whom had the common aim of seeking out and fulfilling their lusts and desires. As the title implies they were all trying so hard to 'have the body'. From James Sindall, playing the wicked Dr Wicksteed, we had a most accomplished performance. His comic timing was superb and the pantomime dance at the end a real treat to behold. Daisy Page captured the spirit of the frustrated wife perfectly as she quickly changed her affections from Sir Percy to the hapless Mr Shanks. James Musgrave sustained his performance as Dennis the hypochondriac son so well despite the huge laughs he was getting from the audiences. His bendy, physicalised performance was so entertaining to watch.

Emily Ansell played Connie the dowdy, flat-chested spinster who is resigned to having to settle 'for lemon tea and neutered cats'. However when her 'up top appliance' arrives she transforms into an eye catching heart throb. Cressida

Bonas moved beautifully around the stage as the nosy parker, Mrs Swabb. She is the one who knows 'all going outs and coming ins' - she even knows when they 'change their undies'. Cressida controlled the action so well, acting as a narrator and onstage scene-shifter - the baggy Nora Batty-style tights will be an abiding memory for me!

Bethany Reilly played Lady Rumpers, the arrogant white settler brilliantly. The way she hit the same inflection every time she said her daughter's name was a real clever moment and her long War-time story was a treat each night. Stuart Stevens built up his Sir Percy character perfectly for the inevitable fall from grace and his scenes with Emily were a joy to watch. Alexandra Edwards quite literally



turned heads with her

performance as Felicity. She had all the essential qualities of the desirable young woman down to a tee and it was little wonder that some of the Stowe boys came back each night to watch the show!

Oscar Thornton had a fantastic gift of a part playing Shanks the salesman. His 'wideboy' approach contrasted superbly with the more upper class characters on view and his desperate attempt to 'feel' his way to finding his client brought shrieks of laughter from the audience. Jonathan Elfer was simply brilliant as Throbbing, the thrusting young vicar. He gave a master class in comic timing and everyone who saw the show commented on his sensational performance. Throw in a great cameo from Toby Marshall as Mr Purdue and you have eleven young actors at the top of their game. The direction and pace of the play was just about right from Nick Bayley, our 'thrusting young' (if only!) Director of Drama, though on occasions the awful acoustics of the uncompromising Roxy theatre made audibility a little hard for the best of us.

It is refreshing to see that Stowe does not 'play safe' with its theatrical presentations. The wonderfully produced 'Les Miserables' will stay in the memory for a long time but so will 'Habeas Corpus' for different reasons. The Stowe audiences loved every moment and it was clear from the way the cast performed on stage that they all had a fantastic time being in it. As one audience member said on Saturday night; 'They all deserve a huge pat on the back.' I would agree wholeheartedly with that so let's assume we have all been patted, hugely.

Mr Nick Bayley



Habeas Corpus

What they said



Emily Ansell (Constance Wicksteed)
 "I must, I must, I must increase my bust!"
What was your most memorable moment?
 "The adrenaline of opening night and trying not to laugh while rehearsing with Jonny Elfer!"



Alex Edwards (Felicity Rumpers)
 "Don't touch me!"
What was your most memorable moment?
 "I'll always remember Jonny yelling 'Slut!' and Beth pushing me over as we left the stage one night."



Toby Marshall (Mr Purdue)
 "You don't need trousers where I'm going, I've just taken 50 sleeping pills!"
What was the most enjoyable aspect of Senior Congreve?
 "I got on well with all the cast, and its great doing such a fun play when you can have a laugh with friends at the same time. I'll never forget seeing Beth wipe out Alex during their exit at the beginning of Act II."



Daisy Page (Muriel Wicksteed)
 "To hell with symmetry, how that touch revives me!"
What was your favourite moment during Senior Congreve?
 "Jonny Elfer's ad-lib effort to add 'Slut' and just becoming involved with Drama at Stowe."



James Sindhall (Arthur Wicksteed)
 "He whose lust lasts, lasts longest."
What was your favourite thing about being involved in Senior Congreve?
 "I enjoyed the audience response and working with such a fantastic cast, crew and director."



Oscar Thornton (Mr Shanks)
 "The balance, dear lady, is almost perfect. Almost, but not quite. Still, that is what I am here for. May I...?"
What was your most memorable moment?
 "Almost getting naked in front of the whole school and watching how everyone acted backstage before they went on, especially Cressida Bonas!"



Cressida Bonas (Mrs Swabb)
 "Hoover, hoover, hoover!"
What was your most memorable moment?
 "Oscar Thornton wearing those silly boots."



Jonny Elfer (Canon Throbbing)
 "It won't be sin because we'll be married and free!"
What pick-up line would Jonny Elfer use?
 "Ten tonne polar bear... well, that broke the ice. Hi, I'm Jonny."



James Musgrave (Dennis Wicksteed)
 "I've got Bretts Palsy... three months to live."
What did you enjoy about Senior Congreve?
 "When Jonny added 'Slut!' and being involved with such a funny play."



Bethany Reilly (Lady Rumpers)
 "Out of my way you pert slut!"
What was your most memorable moment?
 "Jonny flashing beneath his cassock... on stage!"



Stuart Stevens (Sir Percy Shorter)
 "At last, someone else with a title."
What was your most memorable moment?
 "The exciting conclusion of the World War II taboo night with Lady Rumpers."



King-ho Leung (Production Manager)
What aspect of Senior Congreve did you appreciate the most?
 "I thought the pink made the show different to Les Miserable and provided a gay feeling... as in happiness."

Dr Anthony Wallersteiner
 "An irreverent, rollicking, boisterous farce which cruelly exposes the hypocrisy of the so-called permissive society. The cast made this period piece from the 1970s sparkle once more, reminding us that Alan Bennett's gift for writing finely-tuned observational comedy was apparent long before The History Boys"

Rory Brabant – Head Boy
 "I thought it was fantastic, a brilliant display of talent and thoroughly enjoyed by many of the students. It looks like it would have been great fun to be a part of the show."

Mukami Wangai – Head Girl
 "I thought it was absolutely hilarious and the performers were all of such a high standard."


Parent
 "Superb ensemble acting. One of the best plays I've seen in ages."

Parent
 "You simply forgot that these were 17/18 year olds, they were utterly convincing."

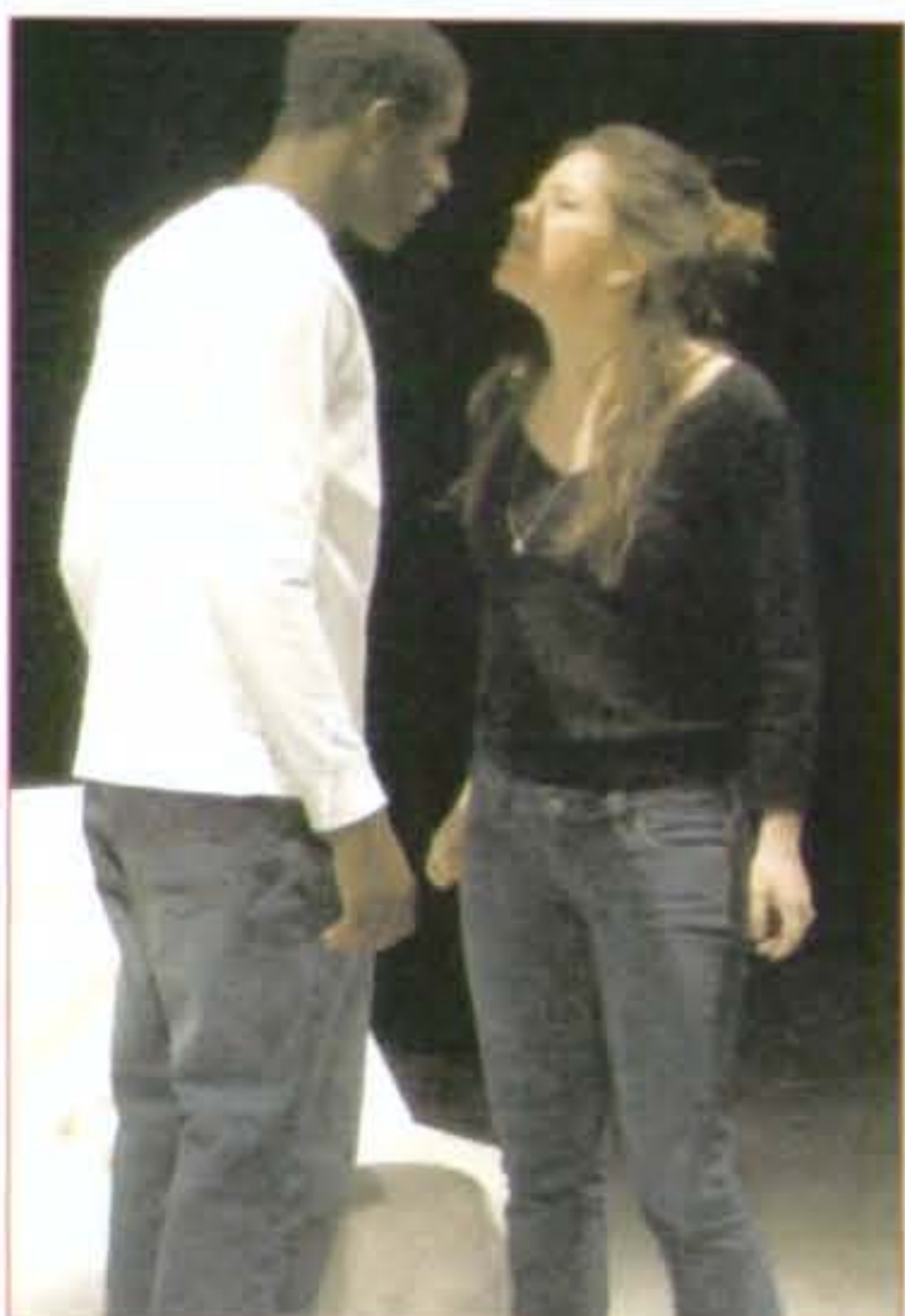
Parent
 "I've paid decent money to see far worse on the stage at Milton Keynes theatre from so called professionals!"



Walpole House Presents
 (Untitled)
 A Play by King-ho Leung
 Starring:



Marshall Payne Peile
 Dobinson Theatre: Friday 9pm
 Sunday 8.15pm
 ***** "A Triumph of Modern Theatre"



Barcelona Hockey

We left England on the Sunday of half term looking forward to six days in Barcelona and three matches against Spanish hockey clubs. We arrived and went straight to our hotel where we set up camp for our stay; this gave us the rest of the day to go out and get some lunch and find our bearings in our new location.

The business section of the trip began immediately and on our first full day in Barcelona we had our first training session on a water based Astroturf pitch. Not only was this a luxury we don't get to experience at Stowe but most of us were pretty rusty considering that we had not played for quite a long time.

We went into our first game, aware that Club Teresa would be tough opposition and, due to a typically long coach journey, we only had a short period of time to warm up. Club Teresa were probably the equivalent of a midlands side in England and dominated the game. They were very experienced and had been playing with each other for many years and Stowe suffered a honourable

3-0 loss. There was much to take from this match as we learnt first-hand how a good team distributes the ball around all areas of the pitch.

We were closely situated to the centre of Barcelona and so the day trips included visits to the Olympic Stadium and Barcelona Football Club's stadium the New Camp. Both were extremely impressive, helped by the good weather, even though Sam Scott insisted on wearing a Chelsea shirt in the stadium just after Chelsea beat Barcelona the previous week. This was not a great idea and resulted in him being heckled by a host of four year old Spanish kids.

Our next training session was in the Olympic stadium, on the pitch used in the 1992 Olympics. Following our previous defeat, Stowe trained hard and later that day we took on our second fixture, FC Junior. After a satisfactory warm up, we started well with accurate passing and good movement, resulting in a good goal scored by Harry Woolridge-Gordon.

Towards the end of the game our heads dropped and the opposition scored three more goals to lead comfortably. However, we fought back in the last minutes and Sam Scott scored two more late strikes to secure a final score of 3-3.

We went into our final match looking for a win against Club Egara, we started well scoring two goals in the first half including one fantastic finish by Kyle Jordan. However, in the second half we again let our heads drop and they equalised to deliver a 2-2 result.

We would like to thank Mr Pickersgill, Mr Arnold and Mr Mochan for their help and organisation in providing and guiding an extremely enjoyable tour. There is little doubt that this trip has helped us with our hockey and given us valuable experience.

Tom Gladdie, Dom Farr and Sam Scott



Back row l-r; A Trotter, C Price, A Jollivet, A De Sales, T Gladdie, K Jordan, D Farr, T Wilson, S Scott. Front row l-r; H Wolrige Gordon, R Lamb, F Stevenson, H Pilleau, M Warner, F Greenish. Front - W Walmsley



Pictures: Mr Arnold

Ski Trip - French Alps

British Schools Ski and Snowboard Championships 2006



On Wednesday 14th of December 22 Stoics departed London Gatwick travelling to Grenoble, France to attend the Base camp group British school ski and snowboard championship. Stowe competed against two other schools Wellington and Ardingly. The first two days consisted of training and learning for the competitive days ahead. During the evenings there were many events organized both tactical and sociable, the Sixth Form very much enjoyed their trips to the town!

Sunday saw the first day of competition; it began with the Slalom and this proved a very strong area for Stowe as many of the team completed the race very successfully. With our very own Nicolas de Montule (Fourth Form) winning the event. After a short lunch break many students warmed up and refuelled for the next event, the Parallel Slalom. The Parallel was Stowe's most victorious event with the Stowe A's winning the overall competition in a close final with the extremely talented Wellington A team. The Parallel Slalom even catered for staff with fantastic skiing from Mr Mochan and Mr Phillips. All competitors returned to the hotel



extremely tired - not even the Sixth Form and teachers made it out! Luckily Chris Southwell, the pro snowboarder, was available to give us an insight into what pro winter sports are really like.

On day two of the competition the schedule was as follows: Giant Slalom followed by the Freestyle competition... The Giant Slalom is a much faster run however it was no problem for our 22 Stoics with Nick taking the gold again. Later in the afternoon the freestyle competition went ahead for those brave enough to compete. Our very own Stowe girls were among these skiers with Pippa Russell achieving the longest jump award. Mr Arnold also found this event extreme fun as he wouldn't even stop after the instructors had asked him twice! The competition was rounded off by many group photos by the professional photographer.



As this was the final night it was the last opportunity for socialising. The theme for the night was 80's, many teachers found this a great opportunity to bring out their wigs and high heels along with other interesting choices of wardrobe. After the festivities it was time for the awards. Stowe A team won many medals and the overall cup, other personal awards included Nick's two gold medals and his Oakley hoodie for most successful skier, Monika Jurcic also collected the bravery award, James Leet Cooke also took away the best dressed 80s ski outfit, and Daniel Robinson was awarded a hat from organizer Andy.

Having got up to leave the resort early the next morning we were greeted by a seven hour delay at



the very small Grenoble airport, however Mr Arnold managed to keep spirits high in the fantastic creation of Trolley Football, by the end of this game we had rules, regulations and fair play conduct! When we finally managed to board the aeroplane we were all very anxious to get back home. We all said our goodbyes to friends made on the trip, and those who we weren't going to see until the next term. All that leaves us to say now is a great big thank you to Mr Arnold, Mr Phillips, Miss Smith, the whole base camp group and with special thanks to Mr Mochan for organising such a successful and enjoyable trip, we are all looking forward to next year!

Monika Jurcic

California - Lacrosse



Whilst the rest of the school were packing their bags ready for the Easter holiday, Stowe 1st Lacrosse team was preparing to make history as the first Stowe Lacrosse team to venture across the pond and take on the Yanks at a sport they are notoriously good at. We arrived in San Francisco several passports short (which were later found) and checked into the hotel before sampling America's finest cuisine (Subway sandwiches).

Stowe played five matches, the first against Foothill High School in Pleasanton, San Francisco. After a sharp intake of breath at the sight of the very, very large pitch and several protestations at the American's insistence that we wear goggles that make even the good looking Stowe girls look like a Dr Who villain, the team got off to a good start with the score tied at 5-5 at half time. Unfortunately the team were slightly unaware of the harsh U.S rules - we received four yellow cards and a red card and lost the game 14-7 (blame it on the jet lag). Performance of the match came from Eliza Winwood who put away five goals.

The next big event came with the hospitalisation of player of the decade and certified genius Clare Jackson, who managed to freak the team (and especially Mr Orr) out by the severity of her migraine, throw up in the host family's car and run up a hospital bill to rival the US weapons budget.

Without the expertise of Clare, the team came up against California High in their next match. At this point we were starting to get the hang of the rules, but despite playing well in patches we were still not firing on all cylinders. We then

played St Ignatius and were drawing 7-7 at half time until we ran out of steam and lost 15-12.

Day Four took us to Stanford Uni where Miss Bach took us on a guided tour around her campus. The sports facilities were incredible and it gave the team the opportunity to see what was available to American University students. It was then time to hop on a plane to San Diego increasing our carbon footprint. We then proceeded to visit every out of town shopping mall in Southern California in order to exploit the good exchange rate and so several members of the team could burn themselves on the tanning beds and get manicures.

Then came the climax of the tour- we actually won a game, against Bishop's School. It was tight, tensions were running high, Charlotte Everitt made an awesome last minute save but the victory was sweet despite the injury of Georgia Harrison who subsequently had to be pushed round in a wheelchair for the remainder of the tour.

We then went to the zoo where the most mature and sophisticated members of the team got their faces painted to look like zoo animals. Mrs Duckett had to rescue Mr Orr who was being manhandled into a cage after one of the keepers mistook him for an escaped gorilla.

Our final match was against Torrey Pines High School, who were undoubtedly the strongest opposition of the Tour. They started better than us and the score at half time meant we were down by eight goals. However, an excellent second half with sterling performances from Chloe Crisp and Emma Duckett in defence meant we drew the second half with three goals each.

Finally, a trip to Universal studios before we flew home where some got their pictures taken with Spiderman and Tallula Barrow got sexually harassed by Woody Woodpecker.

At the airport Emma Duckett decided to try and upgrade her seat after a bout of illness in the airport. However, Virgin reacted by banning her from flying and the Duckett family were forced to spend yet another night in Los Angeles before flying home the day after.

Thanks go to Mr Orr, Mrs Duckett and Miss Bach for taking us and to Clare Jackson for writing this article!

Attacker of the tour- Britain's finest,
Katie Kosciuszky

Defender of the tour- *Duckett Jnr*

Next year's Captain- *Chloe Crisp*



Rome – History of Art



On 15th October twelve Stoics led by Mr Robinson and Mrs Fox departed to Rome to discover why the city is known as a centre of the arts world and to see for ourselves the painting, sculpture and architecture that we had spent much of the last year learning about. After a four o'clock wake up call there was little time for recuperation as we were soon off to find our first (of many) churches. On the walk into the centre of the city from our hotel it quickly became clear that Rome is unlike any other city I had visited before. Every corner you walk round has some important work of art to think about and every church door, no matter how insignificant it may appear, masks some incredible altarpiece or ceiling. The trip rule being, "never walk past a church with an open door," it was clear to see why it was important to take the chance to look inside as we entered the Church of Sant' Agostino. This inconspicuous looking building, houses the "Madonna of the Pilgrims" by Caravaggio, and to

find a work by a master in somewhere that I could have so easily just sauntered past actually came as quite a shock but this quickly made us realise that this is what is so special about Rome. That to find the most beautiful, affective works of art, you don't have to stand in a queue with everyone else to enter a gallery - there are equally impressive sights to be found in the little back street churches which will remain, to those without an expert tour guide (Mr Robinson), relatively undiscovered.

After an eventful day and our early start we decided it was time to sample the other delights of Rome and we made our way to the Piazza Navona en route to supper, before which we stopped to observe Bernini's "Fountain of the Four Rivers" amongst the throng of street entertainers.

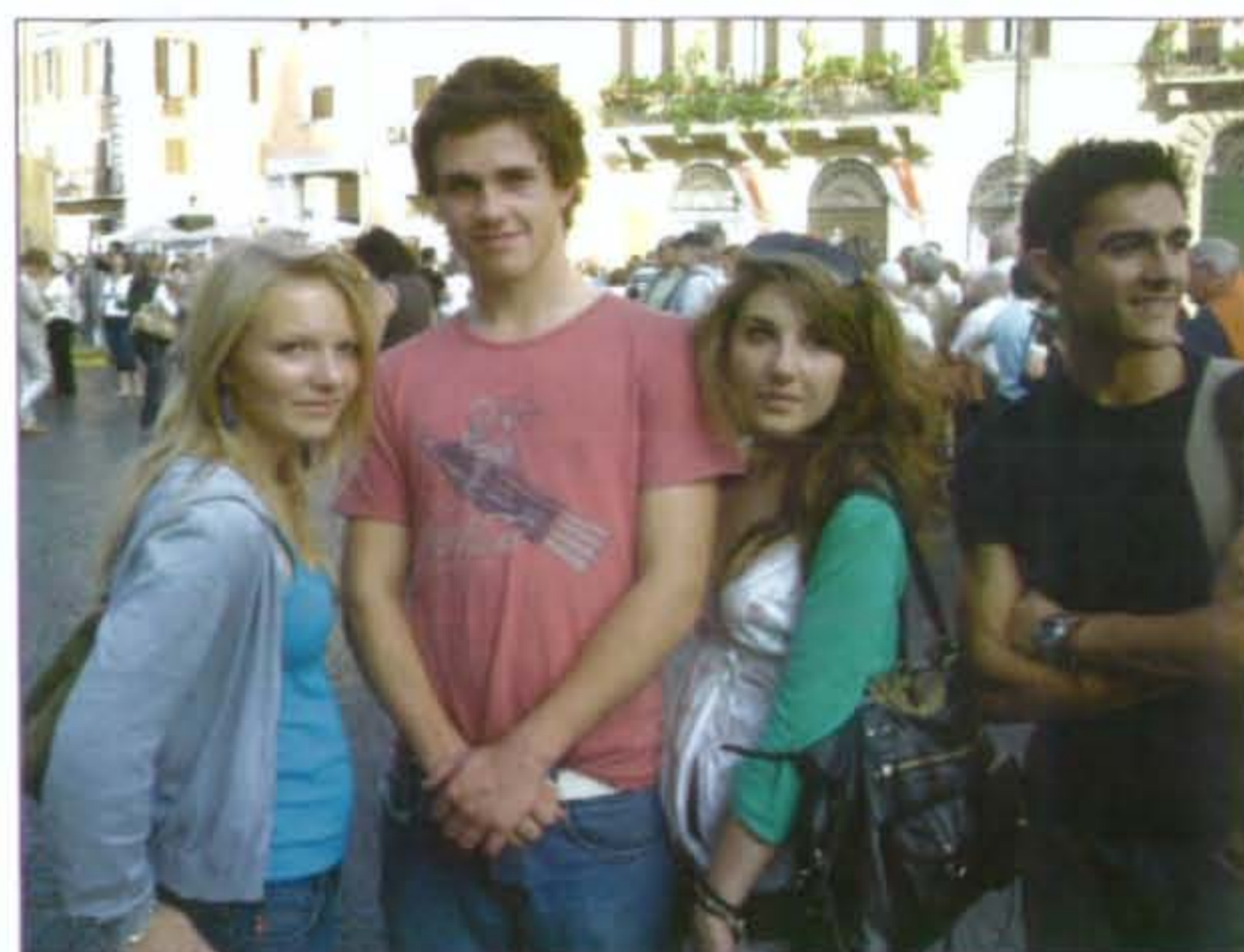
The first day had quickly put into perspective the amount of art the city would hold and the excitement it had to offer, over the next four days we never ceased to be amazed at what we would see but the highlight of the trip, for me had to have been St Peter's. We visited this in the afternoon, having been earlier to the Vatican to look at the paintings in the gallery, including works by Poussin and Caravaggio and the famous Raphael Stanze as well as Michelangelo's famous Sistine Ceiling. The most overwhelming point of the trip was entering St. Peter's for the first time - the whole sense of scale was magnificent and the sculptures we had studied became more significant. The Cathedra Petri and the Baldacchino along with the chapel of the Holy Sacrament and its unity of the arts were the most impressive sights for me, along with the Bernini's papal tombs and St. Longinus which is the statue celebrating one of the four most important Christian relics.

Over the five days we also visited the Pantheon, Colosseum, structures in the Roman Forum and Trajan's column to look at Classical Roman sculpture and architecture, and Exhibitions such as that in the Palazzo Barberini, where we also marvelled at the famous ceiling, and a Baroque exhibition which provided an insight into the topic we are studying this year. The art in the Villa Borghese also proved to be an amazing collection, particularly the Bernini sculptures that we have just studied and Raphael's famous and recently-cleaned Entombment. The churches we visited were all unique but equally impressive in decoration. We saw Bramante's Tempietto and the Spanish Steps; we stopped to look as the pope emerged under his canopy after papal mass and on our last evening we stood on the roof of the Castel Sant'Angelo (the Mausoleum of Hadrian and papal fortress) in magical minutes to see the city and St Peter's light up as it became dark.

During the trip there was also time to indulge in shopping and many an entertaining lunch and supper which gave us time to discover the other cultural side to the city and to sample some of the other things it is so famous for (when in Rome...!).

I thoroughly enjoyed visiting such a unique city and whether it was throwing a coin into the Trevi Fountain to ensure a safe return to the Eternal City, the evenings out, or finally experiencing any of the painting, sculpture or architecture we have studied, I had an amazing, truly memorable time.

Aggie Sutcliffe



New York Art Trip



We all departed from Heathrow airport at 6:00 in the evening on our way to some of the best art museums in the world, in New York.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art was first on the list. This is known as one of the biggest and most comprehensive galleries in America, true to its reputation it contains items ranging from the Middle Ages to works examining Freudian psychology. One of the most interesting exhibitions held here was a series of German Portraits from the 1920's, entitled "Glitter and Doom" which highlighted the changes of society in a post-war Germany.

Our next museum was the Whitney Museum of American Art. This museum contained one of the most contemporary collections in New York, a mixture of Abstract Expressionism and studies on the figure. Highlighting this was the modern style of architecture that the building was designed in.



Next came the Guggenheim, this building consists of a spiral from top to bottom, down which you walk to see the art on display. This unusual design looked amazing from inside and allowed us to view easily the works on display. The main exhibition was entitled 'Spanish painting: 'El Greco to Picasso', this included old age Vanitas to work from the Spanish Civil War. This was an interesting view into the traditional Spanish culture mixed in with more recent work.

The Museum of Modern Art was the last museum we visited. Like the Whitney it contained an extremely contemporary catalogue of art. This included abstract films, made by Bill Viola and allowed us to see works by Jackson Pollock, who is so highly praised by the art department.

You can't go to New York without shopping, and so at the end of our first day we ventured to 5th Avenue, whilst the last day was spent in SoHo enjoying all things American.

Every night we were taken out to eat, on our first night we dined in a Mexican restaurant which treated us to the traditional tacos but also fried cactus (nicer than you'd expect). Japanese was next and although not everyone was pleased, the candyfloss machine was a hit. Last but not least was the pizza restaurant which has not changed since the 50's, it served delicious stone baked pizzas.

Whilst working hard and looking at art for the various projects the art students are doing and history of art students are studying we did have a lot of fun.

Therefore, on behalf of all the students who went on the art trip, we would like to say a big thank you to all the teachers who gave us this opportunity; Mr Johnson, Miss Campbell, Mr Young and extra help from Mr Williams and his wife.

Hope Capurro



Myles Henry Award

CREATION OF THE MYLES HENRY AWARD

The greatest gift in life we have is the ability to give. Possibly the most valuable thing one can give is time. Back in 1939 a young man by the name of Myles Henry was Head of Chatham House. He was coming to the end of his time at Stowe and heading into a world in turmoil. Myles was leaving Stowe only to meet with a world at war. He was an intelligence officer in the parachute regiment where Myles exercised his education and leadership skills he gained at Stowe.

He lost his life in 'Operation Market Garden' during the Allied advance in World War Two at the age of 22 and the Myles Henry Trust was created in his name. The fund was set up to encourage Stoics to experience another culture via travel and participation but most importantly to give something to the communities which they visit.

This year (2006) Kit Arkwright and Oliver Tillard were the recipients of the award. They were selected from a wide range of applicants after an excellent presentation. The plan these young men delivered about teaching in Uganda was interesting, feasible and original.

Mr Damien Orr



MYLES HENRY AWARD – OUR EXPERIENCE



After being inspired by Sam Seccombe and Phil Gallimore we thought it would be a great idea to enter and do something that would be a new experience to both of us and really try and make a difference to other people's lives. We went out at the start of August to help out at a local primary school, in Uganda, to teach maths, English and sport in the afternoon. Ndali lodge, where we were staying, is situated in a stunning location in rural Uganda, 20 kms from the nearest town, Fort Portal.

Our main focus of the trip and the reason why we came all the way to Uganda was to teach at the local primary school and meeting the children for the first time was an experience in itself. As we approached the school we saw some children playing around outside but as we got closer more and more children arrived until there were literally all 800 students from the school surrounding us within their eyes absolute amazement. We had brought over educational posters and some sports equipment for the children and the first activity we did with them was basketball. That was really the only team game they could play up at the school as the ground wasn't suitable for football and other sports.

We played football on a pitch two kilometres away, taught them two brand new sports – rugby and cricket – and organised various tournaments for them to compete in. We presented the winning team with some sugar cane, some of the local produce which we had bought from a local trader earlier that day.

On our first full day of teaching we were thrown in at the deep end and put in front of a class of over 100 children. It was quite a shock to see them all and when they greet you it is slightly embarrassing as we had no idea how to react. We mainly taught maths and English but we tried to make the lessons more fun by bringing in games such as hangman and a general knowledge quiz. What stunned us most was their eagerness to learn, when break came they would prefer to stay in class and listen to us teach, rather than mess around outside - not exactly what you find in a school in England! Then again, this was partly caused by the fact that some of the pupils had to run for two and a half hours just to get to school. It certainly puts into perspective a Stoic's lethargy when they cannot be bothered walking to breakfast in the morning.

We had tremendous fun on this trip and working with the children was an amazing and eye opening experience. It just made us think how lucky we are in the lives that we lead and the opportunities that we are given at Stowe.

Kit Arkwright & Ollie Tilleard



McElwee Scholarships

McElwee Travelling Scholarship

The McElwee Travelling Scholarship was established in 1979 in memory of Bill and Patience McElwee. Bill had been History Tutor at Stowe for many years, but both had given much of their time, energy and attention to several generations of Stoics who were fortunate enough to benefit greatly as a result.

A small group of Old Stoics and other friends appealed for funds to provide a Travelling Scholarship to be awarded to two or more Stoics in their final year at Stowe, which would enable them to travel anywhere in Europe during the summer holidays to study some aspect of European culture or history.

Since it was established 27 years ago, 155 Stoics, usually travelling pairs, have set off in the summer to many varied destinations and experiences that they will never forget. The purpose and destination chosen should have a strong emphasis on culture and/or history within greater Europe (including Russia) or the Mediterranean Littoral. Florence and the Renaissance; The Chateaux of the Loire, Santiago da Compostella, Minoan Crete, The Battlefields of the First World War, The Journey of Garibaldi, The Romans in Tunisia, William Kent and the Grand Tour, The Holocaust, Moorish Spain, The European Guggenheim Museums are all good examples of successful and interesting journeys made over the past twenty years.

But as David Part (Chairman of the McElwee Trustees) says: "Much as they may have enjoyed their travels, however, none can begin to appreciate what the name McElwee means to those who were taught by Bill and welcomed by Patience to Vancouver Lodge. Together they transformed our school days, for which many still have reason to feel deeply grateful."

In September 2007 we celebrate the centenary of Bill's birth and a reception will be held in London to honour the contributions of both Bill and Patience to the lives of so many Stoics. A full account of those celebrations will be given in the next edition of *The Stoic*. Below are brief accounts by those awarded the McElwee Scholarships in summer 2006.

Mr Crispin Robinson

Ed Colville & Jamie Gray (Sicily)



Having decided upon Sicily as our desired destination we applied for the McElwee Travel Scholarship, which is open to all Lower Sixth Formers. Our inspiration to visit the vastly historical Mediterranean island came after visiting its neighbour Malta, with our good friend Sebastian Bianchi only a year previously.

We were delighted when we were announced as a winner of the Scholarship and could hardly wait to set off. When the date of August 9th arrived we set off to Heathrow airport, to (hopefully) land in Palermo, having gone via Rome, only a few hours later. We had booked ourselves into a bed and breakfast in the capital of Palermo. With three nights in Palermo on our hands we crammed a fair amount in. On the first day we not only took the morning to study local architecture in the city, including Palermo Cathedral and great Arab Norman buildings erected around 9-12th century such as Cappella Palatina and La Martorana, but we also ventured out of Palermo to the hillside town of Monreale where we located the Castellaccio Castle and San Martino Abbey as well as viewing the famous mosaics. On our second full day in the city we visited the Duomo as well as again venturing off to a local beach area named Santa Flavia. We enjoyed a delicious lunch off the side of Via Roma.



Our third day sent us southwards to the infamous Agrigento, the home of the Valley of Temples. This was the focal part of our trip as we got a first-hand site of the incredible Temple of Concord, on which Stowe modelled its own Temple of Concord and Victory overlooking the Grecian Valley. With only two nights planned in Agrigento we managed to also gain experience of ancient churches including that of Purgatorio (St. Lorenzo) as well as having the privilege of a guided tour, from a local elderly woman, of S. Spirito.

Despite Jamie becoming increasingly ill by this stage, and with no luck with our health forms in local pharmacies and exchanging traveller's cheques, we battled on to our third town of Siracusa, on the south east of the island. We sadly only managed to stay one night here, rather than our planned four and only managed to visit the church and Catacombs of San Giovanni. We were unaware prior to our travels that in Sicily one has to be over eighteen years of age to exchange traveller's cheques and therefore found moving around on the island extremely difficult.

Although Jamie became ill and our finances were limited due to the exchange problem we did thoroughly enjoy ourselves. It was a shame though to leave the island earlier than planned because of these problems and miss out on the rest of Siracusa and a night's stay in Enna. However we had an excellent time and strongly recommend any Lower Sixth Former to apply as you will undoubtedly experience another side of history, culture and life.

McElwee Scholarships



Rebecca Nicholl & Catriona Beadel (Russia)

After months of meticulous planning and finally managing to obtain visas, we set off on our adventure to Russia's imperial capital, St Petersburg. Any visit to St Petersburg must surely begin with the Winter Palace, former home of the Tsars and current home to the Hermitage art gallery containing over three million works of art. The sheer size of it was unbelievable, as were the elaborate and golden state rooms.

The other imperial Palaces at Peterhof and Tsarskoe Selo were also incredibly elaborate and both contained beautiful, but very different, gardens. For us, one of the highlights of the trip was St Isaacs, an enormous cathedral with covered with 100kg of pure gold and an interior so spectacularly beautiful that it rendered us completely speechless. Other cathedrals included the Church on the Spilled Blood, which was covered in incredibly detailed mosaics, and the Peter and Paul Cathedral, resting place of the last Tsar and his family.

We spent one magical evening at the Mariinsky theatre - we thought we had managed to buy tickets to a Russian ballet, but it turned out to be an opera which we couldn't understand, but nevertheless managed to enjoy! Over the two weeks we were there we gradually became more familiar with Russian customs, such as the hairy driving of Russians in general, the curiosities of the Cyrillic alphabet, the street beggars everywhere and brides at any site we happened to visit. The buildings in the city were simply spectacular, and at every turn of corner you would be surprised by something else.

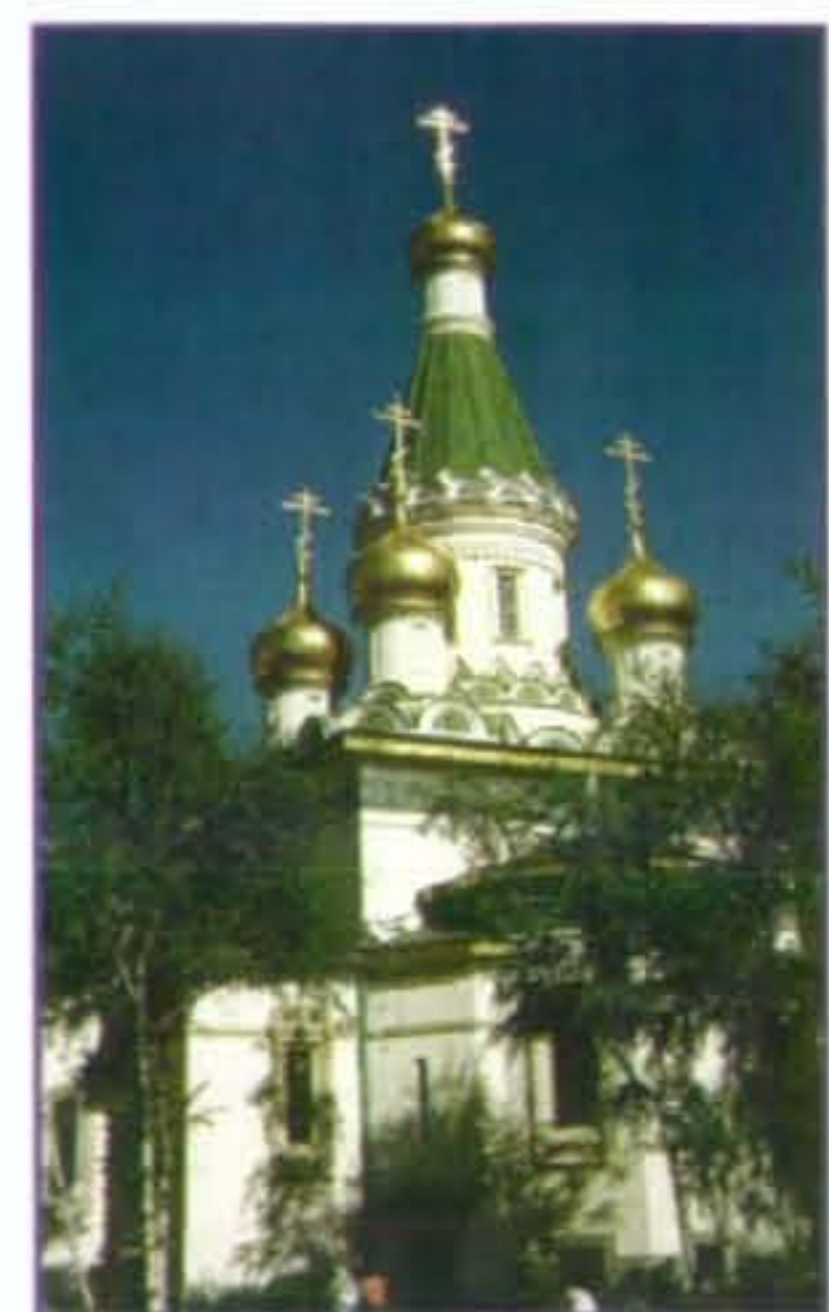
Russia lived up all our expectations and was so much more amazing than we ever dared to dream of. Neither of us can wait to return, but until then, we'll have to be content with our fur hats and matryoshka dolls!



Lara-Clare Bourdeaux & Imogen Midwood (Bulgaria)

We were kindly granted a McElwee Travel Scholarship which enabled us to explore Bulgaria last summer. The theme of travel for our trip was "Mountains, Monasteries, Festivals and Fragrances; a discovery of Bulgarian culture." Before our departure we both made an effort to learn the Cyrillic alphabet, which was a great advantage during the two weeks. Despite the language barrier, we managed to find our way around some of Bulgaria's most beautiful places, including the city of Plovdiv and the coastal towns of Nesebâr and Varna.

We spent the first two days in Sofia, the capital. The highlight of this city for us was the Cathedral of St Alexander Nevski, adorned with stained glass windows, icons, frescoes, and grandiose chandeliers. We visited many similar churches during our stay, but we found nothing to compare with the Rila Monastery, situated in the mountains south of Sofia. During our three-night stay here we explored the monastery and the beautiful surrounding countryside. We visited the impressive monastery church, which held a stunning 10 metre wide iconostasis, covered by a mass of intricate carvings and gold leaf. The Friday of our visit was the festival Saints' Day of St. John of Rila, therefore the monastery was inundated with tourists and pilgrims, finding their way to the chapel of St. John on the mountainside, as well as the tiny dark cave where he lived.



In Plovdiv we discovered winding cobbled streets lined with beautiful renaissance timber-framed houses and Byzantine style churches. These were complemented by Ottoman mosques, reflecting the significant Turkish influence on the city. We explored the charming coastal town of Nesebâr, complete with its bustling streets;

numerous perfume stalls, and brightly decorated ancient Byzantine style churches. Further North in Varna, as well as finding the beach, we visited the stunning Thracian Treasures exhibition in the Varna Archaeological Museum, the gold artefacts on display dating back to the 4th century BC. We visited an orphanage in Rudnick, a small village outside Varna, which housed 40 children, some with mental and physical disabilities. We spent the afternoon working and playing with the children, and we found it moving to see the dedication of the staff who work on such low salaries, in relatively poor conditions. This worthwhile experience showed us that despite Bulgaria's tourist development in preparation for becoming a member of the EU, their poverty is still rife.

We have both returned from this fantastic trip with a renewed feeling of independence and an enriched awareness of a completely different culture, as well as the desire to tackle many new countries.



McElwee Scholarships



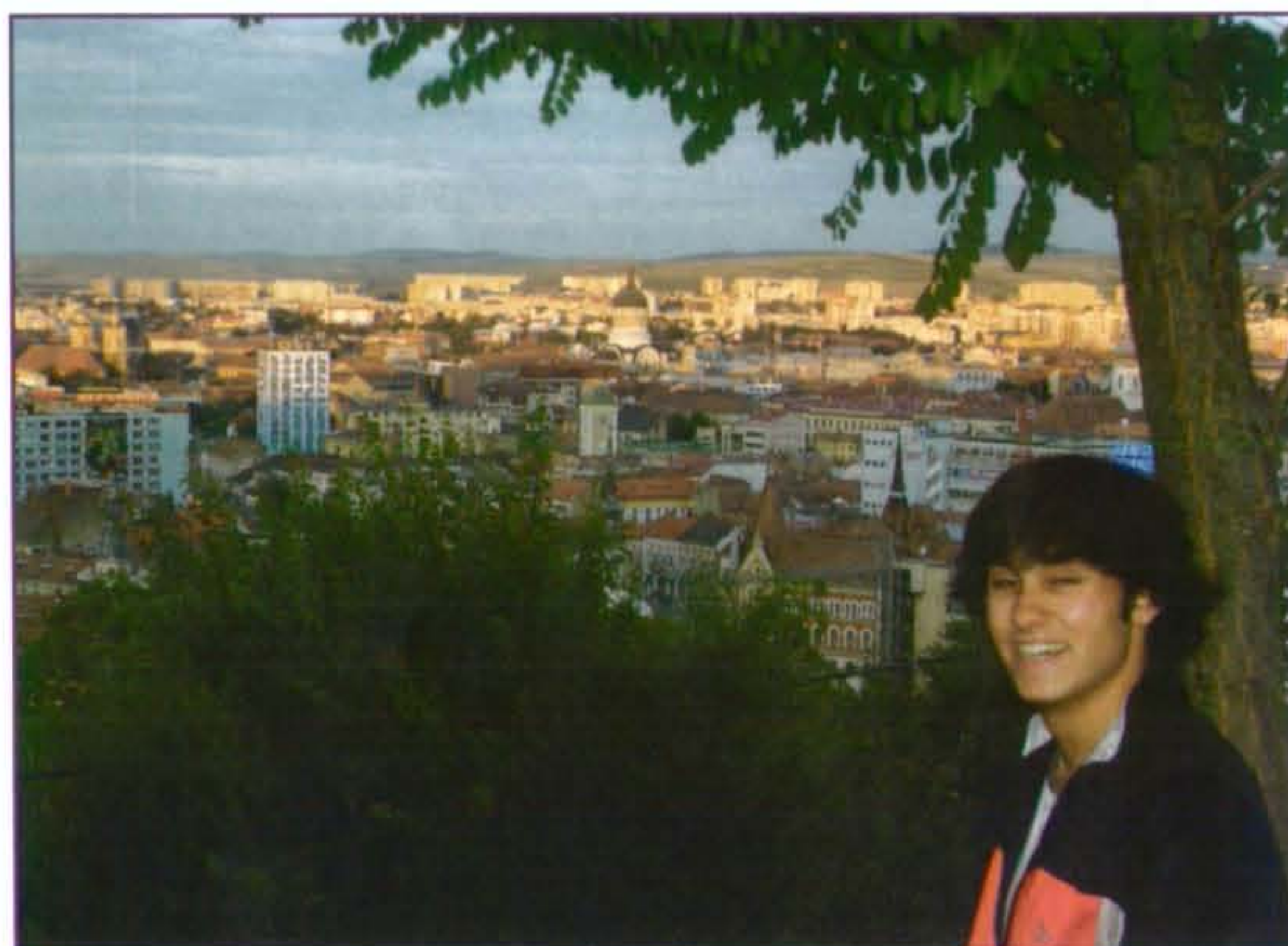
Jonny Elfer & Stuart Stevens (Transylvania)

Our McElwee journey was a brief trip around Transylvania. We chose Transylvania because we knew almost nothing about it. It seemed like the perfect choice. We therefore decided to go out there to see what this relatively unknown country was really like. When we arrived in Cluj we would have been lost after staring at a map (in Hungarian) for about half an hour. Thankfully, however, we were saved by a guardian angel.

Enter Amy. This Hungarian English student, who had heard us speaking English, once we had told her our plight, bought us tram tickets, got us on the next tram, searched the streets of Cluj two hours for our hostel, asking for directions along the way, before finally getting us safely to our destination. She then offered, after we had settled in, to come back and show us around the city for the evening. We were absolutely blown away by the generosity of Amy, but it was a theme that was to crop up many times in the trip. The people were simply some of the nicest we had ever met.

In Cluj the next day, we spent time looking round graveyards (looking for my grandfather's grave), Cathedrals as well as a number of historical buildings such as the House of King Matyas. We also spent a brief spell in the Cluj Botanical Gardens which, apparently, are 'world renown'.

Early the next morning we set off for Sighisoara, a town which is literally built up a mountain around a citadel. It is supposedly the birthplace of Vlad Dracu, who you'll all know as Dracula. The house in which the dirty deed is supposed to have been done has been turned into a restaurant. We also got to see the usual sprinkling of churches and cathedrals, as well as the Medieval citadel and the clock tower at the town centre.



The next stop on our trip was Brasov, a large fortress town which built deep in the Carpathian Mountains. There were many traces of medieval Hungary, such as the enormous Black Church, and the plethora of towers and gate houses dotted around the city walls, as well as some neo-classical influences where it had been repaired. We were most impressed by the fortresses that were designed to protect the people of the Brasov. The first was Rasnov, which seemed to continue to show evidence of the Romanians fascination with pots, chests of draws and torture machines. We also saw the famous Bran Castle, where Dracula is supposed to have had his lair. We also saw the fortress church, a monastery within an enormous fortress.

The next day we set off for Sibiu, a large Saxon town. In Sibiu, the buildings tended to have a far more Baroque style than any of the other towns we had visited. The city had also been home to the great art collector, Count Bruckenthal. His house had been turned into an enormous art museum.

Our experience in Romania was a fantastic one. We saw one of the most culturally varied countries in the world, with an enormous range of architecture, hugely colorful local history and delicious food. But what really made the trip for us was the kindness, friendliness and generosity of the Romanian people.

We would like to thank the McElwee trustees for their generosity in giving us the funds and opportunity with which to do all these things, for without them it would have been impossible.







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