

the Stoic



Stowe School 2007/2008

The Year of the Royal Visit

I FEEL THAT THIS ANNUAL PUBLICATION has now reached a point where it truly addresses the breadth of activities and opportunities available to all Stoics. The underlining values of this publication are that it provides concrete, tangible evidence of the achievements of all and sundry at Stowe for the given academic year.

Composing a magazine might create a number of frustrating moments but one positive is that the end product is something that can be physically nursed. I am never sure if any student that I have 'taught' has actually 'learnt' what I wanted them to. Yes, I can watch with pride as a basketball team improves exponentially and I can check on academic results... but opening the first box of freshly printed school magazines allows an editorial team to have proof of an achievement that will last as 'long as men can breathe and eyes can see'.



On that note, it seems appropriate to mention the student editors – Craig Browne and Laura Grossick. They are absolute superstars and complete assets to the school. Miss Vicki Edwards will be assuming the role of editor next year – I am sure she will welcome any feedback or suggestions at vedwards@stowe.co.uk.

There are sections I would have liked to include: a pictorial segment on the Common Room; a similar section on support staff to give them the credit that they deserve; and sections on each academic society. The Royal visit rightly usurped my idea of a competition for a front cover photograph, a contest that I hope can take place in the future.

For the first time in my three editorials, it seems right to say something about the school that I am leaving. I really do think it is a unique, supportive and beautiful place to work or to study. I watch with intrigue, as each year the Upper Sixth students cry out with indignation and become racked with cynicism, believing they are the first students to have ever felt that way. Coincidentally, as the weather improves, so do their moods and the majority then shift to feelings of nostalgia, pride and thanks and even become nervous about the world awaiting them. Perhaps these same emotions can be applied to staff, as well!

With an editorial, I'm effectively blessed with the opportunity to provide some personal thank yous related to my position, rather than just the magazine. I would like to thank Dr Paul Miller, Head of the English Department, for giving me the opportunity to work as a Teacher of English at Stowe. Similarly, I should thank the Headmaster and also gratefully note that even though I have felt overburdened by this publication, Dr Wallersteiner encouraged me to take a livelier route with the magazine and then was generous with his compliments regarding the final product. I hope that the Headmaster, governors, Stoics, staff, parents and prospective students and parents, all enjoy reading this edition of The Stoic.

Mr Gordon Oldham



I HAVE THOROUGHLY ENJOYED adding my two cents worth to The Stoic over the past year. Initially I didn't appreciate the obscene amount of work and effort that was required to produce what I think is a fairly decent mag but my attitude soon changed. With Mr Oldham cracking the whip, Laura and I were kept well motivated, even when stress reached record levels. Not that anything was handed in late... I hope more Stoics take part next year – it is actually quite fun and rewarding – and, finally, goodbye and good luck to Mr Oldham. Job done.

*Craig Browne (Bruce, L6th)
Student Editor*

MY FIRST YEAR WITH THE STOIC HAS BEEN ABSOLUTELY BRILLIANT. In an attempt to kick start our journalistic careers, Craig and I both made the decision to apply for editors – perhaps my most sensible judgement thus far in the year – and I have immensely valued the knowledge and experience gained from such a varied magazine. Also, perhaps most intriguing, is the knowledge that it is not just Stoics who do not hand in their work 'on time...' Mr. Oldham has kept us on our toes throughout the year, and thankfully it has passed by with minimal stress. It has been great working with Mr. Oldham, whom we shall miss and I wish him the best of luck for the future. Finally we look forward to welcoming Miss Edwards next year, whom I am reliably informed will bring jelly babies and chocolate to our editorial sessions – bonza.

*Laura Grossick (Lyttelton, L6th)
Student Editor*



Queen's Temple

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PHOTOGRAPHY

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Stoic

The Royal Visit



IT WAS CROWNED 'a wonderful and truly memorable day for Stowe,' and indeed the Royal visit was something of a marvel. Preparations for the occasion spanned for months beforehand and it is a credit to Colin Dudgeon that the event ran so smoothly. 'The first letter was sent to the Palace nearly 18 months before the visit itself.' Mr. Dudgeon said. 'Final confirmation came five months before the day.' It is no wonder therefore that planning was a 'fairly intense exercise,' particularly in the last couple of months.

The 29 November 2007 was most definitely the most action-packed day in the Blue Book thus far. Many flocked from the local area including the second Maids Moreton Brownies, and Stoics were assembled in Houses along the North Front as the Royal Party touched down in their helicopter. 'The Queen's late arrival from Milton Keynes didn't present a major problem and the good weather made all the difference.' Mr. Dudgeon said. Upon arrival she was greeted by Emma Curley, who is the youngest girl in school, who presented her with a posy. This paved the way to a day packed full of events, starting off with lunch in the main House. Entertainment for the receptions held after lunch included performances from Balthazar Mattar, 5th Form Music Scholar, who played his own composition on the violin, and other performances such as singing from Charlotte Matthews and recitals from the String Quartet. A welcome address in the presence of staff, Stoics, parents and guests was given in the chapel, led by the Headmaster. It was then that Her Majesty moved onto the new girls' boarding house which was named Queen's House in her honour.

The Duke of Edinburgh on the other hand saw another side of the school, remaining in the House initially to see a demonstration of interactive technology in the classroom and then learnt about Stowe's expanding facilities in a visit to the library. He then met Stowe's members of the Duke of Edinburgh award, where Charlotte Everitt, Lower Sixth Gold Duke of Edinburgh student said: 'The Duke seemed a lot more down to earth than I was expecting him to be and talked to everyone in a really friendly way...he seemed like he had a great sense of humour too.'



The Queen was also led on a tour of the grounds meeting Third Formers, National Trust staff and volunteers on the way, whilst the Duke watched CCF demonstrations and met some of the rugby and lacrosse players on the North Front pitches.

Eventually, The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh met up again at the Temple of Concord and Victory to plant two commemorative trees, continuing the tradition set by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert in 1845.

With timely precision, as it began to get dark, staff, pupils and guests gathered onto the North Front to say farewell as The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh departed. This completed a busy day, certainly a reflection of the busy and diverse culture that Stowe brings to its pupils.

Laura Grossick (Lyttelton, L6th)

What they said.....

"It was probably one of the most significant occasions in a Stoic's career. It's something that all of them will remember. I don't think it gets much bigger than having the reigning monarch and her consort coming to your school and spending as much time there as the Queen did. It was a real honour, a privilege and hugely enjoyable."

Dr Anthony Wallersteiner, Headmaster

"Just standing there, in front of the helicopter, waiting for it to land, next to the Lord Lieutenant, I realised that I was part of probably one of the biggest days in the School's history."

Will Randall-Coath (Bruce, U6th; Lord Lieutenant's Cadet)

"It was a great honour to play for The Queen and a real privilege. It was brilliant, really exciting."

Balthazar Mattar (Chandos, 5th; Music Scholar)

"I don't think I've ever pushed, cajoled, persuaded, almost shouted at as many important people as I did on that day, but everyone enjoyed it!"

Colin Dudgeon (Campaign for Stowe Director; Event organiser)

"I felt really proud to be a Stoic. It was really an important day for Stowe."

Lucinda Sewell (Queen's, 3rd)

"The whole day just gelled really well, the atmosphere in the House was amazing... it was a brilliant day."

Alice McNair (Queen's L6th; Head of House)

"For everyone that was at the School on that day, it will be a day to remember. Singing the national anthem, with everybody singing at the top of their voices, it raised goosebumps."

Ed Cutting (Walpole, U6th; School Prefect)

"Meeting the Duke was extraordinary. It was surreal to meet him in real life."

Rosanna Hedley (Lyttelton, 5th)

"It was a once in a lifetime experience."

Gus Perkins-Ray (Chandos, 5th)

"It was a magical experience - I felt so privileged."

Lara Simpkin (Lyttelton, L6th)



The Royal Visit

The Headmaster's address:

Stowe School Chapel, 29 November 2007

Your Majesty, Lords, Ladies, Gentlemen and Stoics

It is a great honour to welcome you to Stowe, a seat of learning for 84 years and before that the home of the Temple-Grenville family, the last dukes of Buckingham. Stowe embodies beauty and liberty and there is an unbroken chain of ideas connecting Stowe in the C18 with Stowe in the C21. The ducal palace and the gardens - now restored to their former glory by the National Trust and Stowe House Preservation Trust - speak to us of the confidence of the Enlightenment and celebrate the capacity of the human spirit to transcend the here and now.

80 years ago, on 13 June 1927, Queen Mary laid the foundation stone of this splendid chapel which was built on the site of the Temple of Bacchus. The 1st headmaster, JF Roxburgh, was probably right to have had his doubts about the wisdom of leaving a temple dedicated to a Roman god most closely associated with the excesses of wine, powerful irrational impulses and fertility rituals in a school of 600 adolescents.

Over the years the School has established a reputation as a leading boarding school - now a fully co-educational boarding school - which has always encouraged pupils to develop their academic potential while nurturing excellence in sport, music art and drama. Stoics are not moulded into conventional all-rounders without weaknesses or eccentricities and they live in a community which encourages creativity and intellectual risk taking. The School is proud of its Christian heritage and culture of social responsibility: there are absolute values and clear distinctions between good and bad, right and wrong. We live in a community which fosters tolerance, common sense and trust and Stoics are prepared to take their place in an increasingly competitive and complex world.

Not since Queen Victoria and Prince Albert visited for 3 days in January 1845 has Stowe had the great honour of hosting the sovereign and her consort. The Royal Party enjoyed banquets, concerts, receptions and some excellent shooting. The estate accounts record that Prince Albert shot a princely bag of 180 hares, 109 pheasants, 1 snape and a couple of rabbits for good measure. Locals would have enjoyed more rustic past-times such as competitions in eating vast quantities of hot-hasty pudding, smoking half an ounce of tobacco as quickly as possible, diving for silver in barrels of flour and playing a football game without boots and with arms tied behind their backs (the new England football manager might take note of this technique in practice sessions). This afternoon's activities will be of a more conventional kind as Stoics take part in lacrosse, rugby, rowing and Combined Cadet Force exercises. Current Stowe eccentricities on display include something called Visual Education and the endangered sport of beagling.

Your Majesty, it would be impossible to present you with all the wonders of Stowe in such a short visit. Nearly every temple and garden ornament is calculated to honour a British Worthy and spur us on to future emulation. Today we render our profound respect to Your Majesty and offer our warmest congratulations to you and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh on reaching the great landmark of 60 years of married life. We hail your appearance among us with the most heartfelt pleasure and we have chosen to mark this historic occasion by naming the latest Temple to be built at Stowe, Queen's House, in your honour.

As a token of our appreciation I would like to call on Guillermo and Lucinda to present Your Majesty with the original auction catalogues of the ducal estate and the contents of the mansion when they were sold in 1921 and 1923.

The chaplain will now lead us in a prayer of thanksgiving to celebrate The Queen's visit to Stowe.

Before we depart for the formal opening of Queen's House, Her Majesty has asked me to award the School an extra day's holiday which will be added to the first exeat in January. I am sure that all Stoics and members of staff join me in thanking you for granting the School this additional holiday.

Dr Anthony Wallersteiner, Headmaster



Stoic



Headmaster's Speech

FROM THE HEADMASTER:

Chairman, High Sheriff, Governors, My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a very great pleasure to welcome you all on this festive day when we celebrate the achievements of Stoics over the past year and reflect on the effervescence and evanescence of youth as we wish the Upper Sixth the very best of luck in their A Level exams before they launch themselves on an unsuspecting world. Watch out Rock, Polzeath, Ibiza, Sydney, Bali and Bangkok! The Leavers' of 2008 have a special place in my affections as most of them arrived fresh-faced and full of optimism five years ago at the same time as I did - equally fresh-faced and full of optimism. I admit that I've worn less well than the class of 2003 - but that's what being headmaster does to you. But take a look at the governors sitting behind me - that's what having me as headmaster has done to them. I offer this year's Leavers my warm thanks for their company and my good wishes for all that comes hereafter.

This last year has fair claim to go down in the chronicles as one of the more exceptional years in the development and success of Stowe. On the academic front, our successes in public examinations - which are only part of the totality of things - was very pleasing last summer. At A Level our excellent Upper Sixth Formers of last year achieved a 100% pass rate with 70% of them achieving A and B grades. This is a significant increase on 60% in 2006, building on a steady success from just 48% in 2004. One Stoic, Calvin Ho, achieved a remarkable 6 A grades last summer which nicely compensated for some lesser offerings elsewhere while 32 others achieved at least 3 A grades. GCSE results improved this year with the A* and A pass rate rising to 34% with Harry Burke achieving our first clean sweep of 10 A*s. My thanks to the members of staff for their commitment, dedication, love of teaching and superb efforts to raise academic and intellectual standards across the whole school. In the words of a press release from the newly relaunched Department for Children, Schools and Families: "as leading knowledge navigators you are mission critical to achieving robust and effective discharge pathways from the secondary phase of the intensive learning scenario."

Other schools may boast of better facilities, but what matters most is people as individuals - each a person in his or her own right, unique and unrepeatable, every one with an innate potential for goodness and greatness. Stowe strives to be the seed-bed for the individual, nurturing pupils to aim for high standards of service, care and compassion in an atmosphere of friendliness, openness and acceptance. This is not just idealistic wishful thinking. We can all just about remember what it was like to be irrational, hot-tempered and uncommunicative. It is difficult for parents to grasp how the sweet-natured, affectionate and trusting child deposited on the North Front steps at 13 can so quickly turn into an unrecognisable volcano of hormonal rebellion - ready to erupt at a moment's notice.

The signs are easy to recognise: first the low groans of protest whenever you ask them to do something and an uncontrollable urge to use sarcasm whenever possible; second the elongated vowels used in words like "oh pleeease" or "soorry"; impaired mobility follows as the victim adopts a slow shambling gait; concentration is only possible if it involves information being filtered through a flickering screen; clothes are deliberately torn and dirty with low-slung gravity-defying trousers. But do not despair, Project Teenager is a roller-coast ride and if we all work together we will arrive safely at the other end. The transformation into zombie-like figures from *Shawn of the Dead* is reversible and, at the moment when they seem to need you the least, they in fact need you the most. They require you - and us - to make a stand about the principles that we regard as fundamental. That's why rules and guidelines - while they can sometimes appear petty and frustrating to Stoics - do matter. Fortunately, the storm clouds and dark moods are transitory and there is light at the end of the tunnel. The sons and daughter who you thought were lost forever will return as brilliant and charming young people. The sort of person you might want to have a pint of Ruddles with in a pub - or these days a cinnamon dolce frappacino in Starbucks. Anyway, it will have been worth the wait.

A good school will offer many opportunities for personal enterprise and creative development which constitutes the broad education of the rounded individual. Our sportsmen and sportswomen combine high levels of participation with substantial success in rugby, hockey, lacrosse, netball, squash, tennis, swimming, basketball, golf, rowing, athletics cross-country, fencing and fives. Stowe ended the last cricket season at the top of the School's League Table and the Lacrosse team had a magnificent run of victories which culminated in a stunning win over Wycombe Abbey in the last match of the term. Damien Orr, our brilliant lacrosse coach and Grenville tutor, is leaving Stowe on a high and will be a very hard act to follow. Stoics routinely take part in county, regional and national competitions and we find ourselves in the happy position of accepting transfers from other schools which cannot match the breadth and depth of our sporting excellence. Special mention this term should go to the swimmers who have enjoyed their best season for many years with seconds being knocked off many long-established school records.

"If anything under Paradise could set me beyond earthly object Stowe might do it" wrote Alexander Pope two hundred years ago. This was to him "as near an approach to Elysium as English soil and climate will permit, for what art and opulence can command is here collected". Stowe continues to inspire creativity and innovation in the arts as can be seen in today's exhibitions of paintings, design projects and creative textiles. It was heartening to see the Arts Festival expand into the Arts and Science Festival with lectures on sharks, plants, global warming and genetic engineering balancing the more familiar diet of plays, dance workshops, concerts and musical masterclasses. One of the highlights was the performance of Messaien's Quartet for the End of Time - perhaps the most hauntingly ethereal work in the canon of twentieth century chamber music. There will be a further and final metamorphosis this autumn as we have now settled on the Stowe Festival which means that we can celebrate art, science and even bring sport into the mix.



Headmaster's Speech



Chairman Christopher Honeyman Brown

This year's talented Senior Congreve cast staged a memorable double bill of *Six Characters Looking for an Author* and *the Real Inspector Hound*. It was nice to hear that even Tom Stoppard, a former parent, wrote in to say that this was an unusual and imaginative coupling of two very different but nevertheless complementary plays. A few hundred yards away from this marquee stands a statue dedicated to the dramatist William Congreve representing an allegory of the dramatist's craft by depicting a monkey holding up a mirror. Our Congreve performers held up mirrors to reflect on the nature of theatrical reality while questioning some fundamental assumptions about art and life. On a lighter note, the two Lionels - Bart and Weston - equalled the superb West End standards set by *Les Miserables* in 2006 - with a joyous staff-pupil production of *Oliver* which starred Chris Walters as a worryingly convincing Fagin and a suitably waif-like Charlie Winton as Oliver.

The musicians have continued to flourish with fine performances in this morning's orchestral concert. Add the constantly high quality of singing from the chapel choir, marvellous jazz and wind bands, a weekly showcase of talent in the Music Room on Wednesday afternoon, the countless rock bands that form and then dissolve - citing artistic differences - and you have all the elements of a seriously musical school. My sincere thanks go to Huw Jones who as Acting Director of the Music Department has maintained the high standards which we have become accustomed to in recent years.

The highlight of the year was of course the opening of the new girls' boarding house by Her Majesty the Queen on 29 November, a glorious golden day and an inspiring occasion when something very valuable and central was stated or re-stated about the Stowe community. Not since Queen Victoria and Prince Albert visited for 3 days in January 1845 has Stowe had the honour of hosting the sovereign and her consort. The Stoics were magnificent and one could not

mistake the strong sense of shared pride as the Queen and Prince Philip spent the afternoon sampling the astonishing diversity of Stowe. They were charmed by the friendliness, warmth and openness of the Stoics who were in turn charmed by the royal couple's graciousness, dignity and good humour. Queen's House is a superb building, and it works: the quality is such that we have almost forgotten the difficult months of stress and uncertainty caused by the contractor going into administration. The challenge of finding alternative accommodation for 47 girls and coping with the knock-on effects of a much reduced medical centre is not something that any of us would wish to re-visit and I would like to echo the chairman's words in thanking all the parents for their patient forbearance as we wrestled to find solutions to these problems.

It is not just the big eye-catching projects like new boarding houses and all-weather pitches that should be celebrated. In a few minutes you will hear the newly restored chimes of the school bells above the North Front entrance and as you walk around this afternoon taking in the exhibitions and displays, peer into chapel and visit the quiet space for contemplation which has been forged out of the ante-chapel. If you're going to the swimming pool, be sure to admire the state-of-the-art timing system and electronic notice boards. Look at the newly restored lantern and weather vane in Cobham Court and the re-rendered stucco on Nugent. Because of the scale of the work that is going on at Stowe we sometimes forget to notice the small, almost indiscernible improvements that are transforming our environment. Thank you to all those who have contributed so generously to the Campaign for Stowe making the changes - both large and small - possible.



Headmaster's Speech

For the future, an immediate task is to steer a course through the difficult waters of government legislation. Government policy towards independent schools reminds me of the well-known definition of metaphysics: "a blind man in a darkened room looking for a black hat which isn't there". On the one hand, the government wants to share our DNA - something that most biologists and PSHE teachers would probably warn against - and expect independent schools to form civil partnerships with the Academies. On the other hand, our charitable status remains under threat from the splendidly named Dame Suzi Leather and her Charity Commissioners. I will not add to the reams of comment on the Commission's activities other than to observe that one of the hallmarks of a Stowe education is to be able to distinguish true argument from false and have a proper respect for the relation between evidence and conclusion.

Rigour has been sadly lacking in the Charity Commission's deliberations thus far. That education is a charitable purpose and a public benefit which enriches individuals, communities and society at large has been settled law since 1891. But now the class war is being fought by more subtle means and the issue centres on whether school fees restrict the charitable benefits to people who can pay. The charity commission is not persuaded by the argument that independent schools save the state £2.4 billion a year, against charitable tax benefits of around £100 million a year. Neither does the Commission answer the question why it is more charitable for a state school to spend taxpayers money than an independent school to be funded by parents paying fees out of taxed income. I see nothing elitist in parents making huge personal sacrifices to provide their children with the education of their choice, while others choose to spend their money on expensive cars, second homes and holidays on exotic islands.

The government should not penalise the best - but elevate the rest and the assumption of egalitarian educationalists that if Stowe declines, a state school will benefit is not based on empirical reason or sound logic. Ronald Reagan once said that the most feared words for a small business are: "Hello, I'm from the government and I'm here to help you". Independent schools must resist being suffocated by a welter of centralised government directives and we must rebuff all legal, economic and political threats to our existence.

Dr Anthony Wallersteiner
Headmaster



This year's Speech Day guest was the Right Honorable John Gummer, MP for Suffolk Coastal. John was as a Cabinet Minister under both Margaret Thatcher and John Major, serving as Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and then as Secretary of State for the Environment. He has had sixteen years of ministerial experience - one of only five people in the last two hundred years to have held such a long tenure. John played a key role in the Convention on Climate Change and was elected chairman of the Environment Committee of the OECD by his fellow ministers. Friends of the Earth describe him as the best Environment Secretary Britain has ever had.

Head Boy for 2008/2009	Felix Stevenson (Grafton)
Head Girl for 2008/2009	Laura Grossick (Lyttelton)
Richard Branson Prize for Enterprise	Henry Longton (Bruce, L6th)
Stoic Prize	Mr Mark Wellington



Stoic

IT IS A GREAT HONOUR TO BE STANDING HERE speaking to you today at the end of a memorable five years at Stowe, a time in which I have become deeply attached to the school but, more importantly, the community around me and my close friends within it. In my five years here I have witnessed considerable change at Stowe and the progression of not only the school, but the personalities and characters of Stoics. It is the variety of people that most decisively dictate its success. It's the archetypal ideal that Stowe doesn't merely churn out a straight As student, blinkered to anything more than a world of material desires. Instead, Stowe produces an all-rounded individual with the humility for life ahead of them - a development which I feel is the gem of a Stoic's education.

I remember the advice family members gave me before arriving at Stowe, repeating the well know cliché of being a 'large fish in a small pond' and having to realise that I would now become 'a small fish entering a far bigger pond'. As a thirteen year old boy I tried to overlook this potentially daunting prospect... but, I can clearly recall my first speech day and the feeling of being a tiny fish in a seemingly vast ocean of social networking, Range Rovers and lavish picnics. But over the years my opinion on things have changed, and I now see a close knit community full of diverse and interesting people that I have had the pleasure to get to know. For me this was highlighted earlier this month, when I was invited to the Old Stoic Dinner in London, and realised then how special it was to be part of the lucky few that have all shared the truly unique education Stowe has to offer - an environment full of friendships that I would encourage all Stoics to treasure and hold on to, leaving here with far more than business contacts.

I have a number of people to thank for guiding me through my time at Stowe. Firstly, I wish to acknowledge my friends, who have made my time here most worthwhile, especially those in house with whom I share countless memories.

Thanks also to my mum and dad and, in particular, my twin brother Josh. Josh has remained a close family member and friend, not to mention, as a Cobhamite, one of my fiercest competitors, who has stood with me throughout Stowe and in life. His different interests and opinions have helped me to see things from a different point of view and for that I am thankful. My Housemaster Mr Michael has always kept me grounded yet continued to encourage me. He has been an asset to Bruce and will be missed as he is leaving the house at the end of this year. I would also like to take time to thank this year's prefects' body for the dedication and hard work that they have put into the school over the past 12 months. And finally, thank you to the staff, not only the common room but all the support staff as well.

This last year, although it has gone by so quickly, has been my most enjoyable. Yes, the Rugby season was disappointing, but again it's the range of activities that are available and can be enjoyed that have made my time so unforgettable. I am also not allowed to forget the Royal visit... or the drama surrounding the late completion of Queen's boarding house. Most of all, the year has been one to remember due to the role I've been lucky enough to fill.

It is undeniable that we are all in a privileged position here at Stowe, having a wealth of opportunities that are readily available but it's how you approach and embrace these 'opportunities' that is most important. How you spend your time here, the way that you want to. This is how the Stoic ideal of true individuality is born. On this basis I would urge all Stoics to always aim to be first, even if it's only yourself you are beating; to remain positive; to encourage the good in yourself and in others around you; and to reach out and grasp all the opportunities that come your way, because they will not grasp you.

Finally, to my fellow Stoics now coming to the end of their Stowe career, I hope that you will all take the fond memories with you and not become weighed down by the feelings of frustration that inevitably accompany the last years of school. All that has proved to us is that we have matured throughout our time here and that we are now ready for the bigger challenge that awaits us. We have become big fish ready for a still larger pond. So I wish you all the best of luck and success in the future.

Sam Hunter (Bruce, U6th)



Head Girl

I HAVE EXPERIENCED MANY SUCCESSES throughout my career here at Stowe, but it's not these I wish to reflect on today and it's not these of which I am most proud - it is, in fact, my failures. I have learnt what it means to not succeed here at Stowe, but by this statement I am not saying that Stowe has failed me. Instead, it is quite the opposite, it has taught me not to be afraid to fail, to challenge my abilities and to reach out of that comfort zone that for many years I called home.

In the past two years of Stowe I have tried to involve myself in as much as I could; some things I succeeded at, others didn't go to plan, but it is these failures I look back on now and realise, that have turned me into the person I am, the person that can say with 100% certainty is ready to travel and explore the world, go off to university and live an independent life.

We are challenged every day here at Stowe, be that in the academic classroom at the extremely capable and dedicated hands of the common room, the sports field aided by our team of selected pros or even during social times, getting to know and accept those whom we will be sharing our lives with for our length of time here at Stowe. My advice to you all is to use these challenges as opportunities, even if you fail. Try a hard extension question, or attempt running a quicker time; try and befriend a fellow stoic whom you've never spoken to before. It will be what you learn from not achieving these goals that will shape you into the individuals that will leave Stowe knowing they are ready. After all, if your life is free of failures, you are not taking enough risks.

Leavers: we are now embarking on the biggest risk of all - independence. It is for us all to make of it what we want. For those of you who don't feel ready, as I wasn't just a few months ago, do something that means you will.

Stowe this year has challenged its boundaries by completing its third girls' boarding house, Queen's House, making the 29th November one of the most memorable days of most of our lives. Throughout my year as Head Girl I have felt particularly proud of being a representative of the girls of Stowe. I feel that our presence is being acknowledged, recognised and valued in a school where co-education was a wild idea just a few years ago.

As a famous headmaster JF Roxburgh once said: "All pupils will know beauty when they leave Stowe." This isn't from many Saturday nights of practicing fake tan application, but from realising the privilege we have had to attend such a school as Stowe. I would personally like to thank my parents for their tremendous sacrifice of allowing me this experience of being a member of the Stowe community.

I would also like to thank the Prefects - I thank you all for your hard work and the time you've all spent on your duties this year. I also thank you for making my role effortless without your support this year would not have run as smoothly as it has or would not have been half as much fun. I would like to thank Dr. Wallersteiner for appointing me as Head Girl; I hope I have not let you down but confirmed your decision in choosing me for this role. Mrs Duckett, my Housemistress, I thank you for putting up with my strops during times when I was feeling the pressure. Dr. Chare, Mr Jeffreys, Mr. Tearle and Mr. Way - you have all made an impact on the person I am today through guidance and confidence in me, thank you. And last, by no means least, I thank my closest friends, you all know who you are; without you all my time here at Stowe would not have been half as enjoyable, some of my greatest memories I have shared with you and I hope in the future there are many more to come.

On a final note: leavers, let us not leave Stowe with simply a network of contacts available to us for business. Let us leave with a network of friends available to us for life.



Monika Jurcic (Nugent, U6th)

Stoic



IRENE ANDREW

Irene Andrew came to Stowe as Secretary of the Careers Department in 1995 (after a temporary position in 1994). Since the New Year she has been acting Head of Careers. In fact, from the outset Irene was a vital part of the Careers/UCAS team, and the exceptional service that she has given to the school and countless Stoics over the last 13 years has not only included the efficient despatch of voluminous administration; beyond that, Irene has dispensed a great amount of wise and practical advice to pupils when they have turned up unannounced at the Careers Centre in the absence of myself and/or the Careers master of the day. Whatever the secretarial demands, Irene kept her door open and would gladly interrupt some business to see if there were any lost-looking souls in the Careers Centre room.

That Stoics often understood and appreciated her kind helpfulness was evinced by their awarding her their accolade of the member of staff that they most wished to honour in 2005, when the Head Boy spoke eloquently about Irene to the audience on Speech Day: 'Irene's dedication to the business of the Careers Centre has been founded on her belief that this work is for the benefit of pupils, both directly and indirectly.'

Irene was instrumental in organising and ensuring the continuation of the Careers Seminar programme, a series of talks to Stoics on a great diversity of occupations and vocations by those expert or distinguished in their fields. In her communications with, and hospitable treatment of, the many friends of Stowe and Old Stoics who give of their time to pupils, she has won a great deal of good will for the school over many years. Irene Andrew will be remembered affectionately by many Stoics, and, of course, her colleagues.

Mr Steven Thompson



SIMON COLLINS

In 1982 an Assistant Master to teach Physics was appointed. Simon Collins came to Stowe as a former Head of Physics in Hong Kong. With the original intention of completing a two year contract, Simon finally draws a line under this after 26 years of loyal service! Simon's family fell in love with Stowe where his daughter Amy and son John benefited from a Stowe education.

Over this period of service, Simon has found himself in many roles. He has been a Captain in the CCF, Master in Charge of Shooting and 5th XV rugby coach. He has been involved with sailing, coaching junior soccer, softball and a driver for Golf, Community service and Polo. He has been an assistant Housemaster in Cobham and Grenville, Sixth Form Tutor, Careers Master for 8 years, Director of Science, Maths and Technology and eventually Head of Science. During his time at Stowe Simon has also taught Applied Maths, Electronics and Astronomy!

As one of several strings to his bow he has also helped to write the new version of Advancing Physics for September 2008 and he intends to continue to examine it in his retirement.

As a colleague within the department, I first met Simon when he came back from an exchange year in Australia; the department had changed Exam boards and courses at A level. Simon supported this and continues to make major contributions to the evolution of the subject nationally and within the department. Simon's enthusiasm for the subject as he approaches retirement can still be easily observed; as a reassuring presence in lab.51, I cannot imagine opening the door and finding him not there!

On behalf of the school and all Stoics taught by Simon I would like to thank him sincerely for his tremendous contribution and influence at Stowe. We wish Simon and Julia a long, happy and fulfilling retirement.

Mr Steve Malling



CERI FIDDES

Ceri arrived in Stowe in September 2006 and took over the reins of the Mathematics Department (pun partly intended as she is a horsewoman of some repute). Sadly, she leaves us only two years later to return to her previous school Millfield, but it is clear to all that the Maths Department has been whipped into great shape during her time with us.

It is Ceri's absolute integrity, professionalism and reliability that are her trademark. She has relentless enthusiasm and the Department's public exam results have thrived under her tight leadership and management over the last year or so. Ceri commands a great deal of respect from the students and those who are taught by her speak very highly of her indeed. Her professional approach is widely recognised; she does not tolerate lame excuses and the introduction of daily morning detentions for those rather less keen on their Maths has worked very well.

Ceri's love of Mathematics is also apparent in her role as deputy leader of the UK International Mathematics Olympiad Team and her holidays (some may add "busman's") have been spent organising and running trips across the world, the most recent to Vietnam. On a smaller scale, she has also developed links with surrounding prep schools nearer to Stowe.

She has been a popular and successful sixth form tutor, attached to Lyttelton and has immersed herself in the wider extra curricular life of the school, working hard with the swimming team in particular. Her departure from Stowe is a major loss and Millfield's gain but we wish her much happiness and success in her new venture.

Mrs Sally Akam



SAM HALPERT

Sam was the 17th Stowe Harvard Fellow during the 2007-08 academic year. Studying History and Literature Sam graduated cum laude and on arrival at Stowe found himself teaching the First World War to Third form historians. He gained an understanding of Stowe's architecture and landscape gardens by taking Visual Education classes and also taught Music Appreciation and 6th form Politics. Outside the classroom Sam kept busy helping out with Duke of Edinburgh, Third form drama, the Current Affairs discussion forum and ran the XX Club Scholar's programme. He sang in the Chamber Choir as well as helping out with duties in Walpole House and also took a main role in the musical "Oliver". The many students Sam came into contact with will remember his care and his enthusiasm and we wish him well and thank him for all his hard work as he returns to the US in July to take up a post in research and development of on-line education.

Mrs Carol Miller



TALLY KETTLER

Before joining Stowe in September 1992, Tally worked part time in a surgical practice as a qualified nurse and also for the Prudential Insurance Company. Although Tally regards her early years in Chatham as some of the most Golden for her and Stowe, she has not lost her enthusiasm for the job. Her natural leadership and formidable administrative skills have been greatly appreciated, by the four housemasters she has served. Skills that were quickly recognised with her appointment as the representative Matron. Tally has represented the interests of the other Matrons thoroughly over the years, She has helped to maintain the very high level of medical and pastoral care, that all the matrons provide at Stowe.

In her time at Stowe she has helped out with the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme – an experience that she always talks fondly of.. As Chatham's matron she will be sorely missed and fondly remembered for her genuine concern for the well being of the boys in Chatham. A very good judge of character, Tally could spot a case of "ijustwanttohaveanafternoonoffitus" a mile off! Although well known for her no nonsense style, Tally's dealings with boys was always with a smile and genuine compassion. As the latest in the line of Housemasters that Tally has worked with, I feel privileged and very fortunate to have had the support from her over the last two years. We wish her and Gunner a long and happy retirement to her lovely house in Bedford. I am sure that her two sons James and Charlie and families will look forward to seeing a lot more of Tally in the future.

Mr John Ing



ELSPETH MORGAN

Having graduated from Bristol University with a 1st class honours degree in German and French, Elspeth completed her PGSE course at Oxford University before Elspeth joined Stowe and the Modern Languages Department in September 2006. In her two years in the languages department she has taught German to all year groups and exam classes and has taught French to GCSE. She organised a very successful study tour to Munich in October 2007 and as well as teaching some literary texts to our Oxbridge group, she has set up a languages film club as an additional activity for Stoics. Elspeth has also been involved with Stowe's swimming and the Community Service programme

and has been an excellent tutor to the 4th form girls in Lyttelton. Although we are sad to say goodbye, we wish her all the very best in her new job in London.

Ms Tracy Hooker



GORDON OLDHAM

A graduate of Monash University in Australia, Gordon Oldham came to Stowe at that most difficult of times for a teacher: the start of the public examination term (Summer Term, 2006). The GCSE and A-Level results published four months later confirmed that, in Gordon, Stowe was very fortunate to have secured the services of such a talented English teacher. During his total of seven terms at Stowe, his pupils have found him energetic, enthusiastic and versatile, while his colleagues in the English Department value him as a good friend, while owing much to him in his role as ICT Co-ordinator.

Gordon quickly formed a successful working-partnership with Isaac Michael, both in Bruce House and on the basketball court. As Under Housemaster and 4th Form Tutor, Gordon played a major role in pastoral care and in improving TWO scores among the junior boys in the boarding-house. At the same time, Gordon was developing the less experienced basketball players into a confident and successful squad, providing a supply of fresh talent for Isaac's first team.

With considerable experience of journalism and publishing before his arrival at Stowe, Gordon was the obvious choice to take over the editorship of The Stoic, which he has developed into what the Headmaster has described as the best school magazine that he has ever seen. Reader, if you seek his monument, look around you.

We wish Gordon every success and happiness on his return to Australia. A popular figure in the Common Room, he will be much missed, even by those of us who had to face his broad grin every day as a result of the performance of the England cricket squad in the last Ashes series against Gordon's home country.

Dr Paul Miller



DAMIEN ORR

As Damien sets off for a new life in Germany I want to pay tribute to him for the revolution that he has engineered here at Stowe over the past four years. His own sport of Lacrosse, the ancient sport also of many traditional English girls' schools, has become an integral part of the 21st century Stoic's life. In the past few years at Stowe the game has grown in popularity and teams of all age groups (13-18) are now revered throughout the UK, thanks to his organisation and orchestration. Damien is a top player and by his example and persistence his demands for high standards from his players have been met; coaching Lacrosse at Stowe has brought him into close contact with the girls; he has nurtured them, listened to them and brought them to fulfil their promise, not only for the School but also in some cases at Regional level. He hands over a legacy to his successors which will surely be hard to follow.

In addition to a full involvement in the Cricket – 2nd X1 coach – Damien has also been a regular in the Staff teams at whatever sport is in season. He is a lover of film, an avid follower of US sport, an occasional golfer, a critic of all incompetence and a seriously fussy eater. He has also contributed to the school via his role with the Skills Department. Within Grenville House, where he has been a fine Under-Housemaster, he has had to deal with some seriously taxing and testing tutees. He has developed a sixth sense with regard to his dealings with boys and he has also managed his communication with parents well. Although he is fiercely patriotic he has lived, survived and even thrived, as an Australian at Stowe; he has brought integrity, passion and fun to all our lives and as he takes Louis with him to his next venture we wish him every success and happiness.

Mr Richard Knight



SUSI PLUMMER

Susi Plummer joined Stowe in September 2001 and her great gifts as an ICT teacher and trainer have played a significant role in raising the ICT skills of both Stoics and staff. She has been at the core of Stowe's advances in ICT education and she has always relished a challenge – introducing ECDL, the British Computer Society's e-type qualification and DIDA. The key to her great success is that she really cares about those she teaches, never accepts second best and inspires confidence in everyone who comes in her direction for training.

Susi is a highly valued member of the Chandos House team and in her role as 3rd Year Tutor has helped many Stoics to settle quickly in to their time at Stowe. She is a popular tutor who challenges her tutees to make the most of their time at Stowe and to strive to do their very best. Her meals out for those doing just this was an indication of her commitment to her tutees and were greatly enjoyed by the participants.

Junior girls weekly group lunches were one of her initiatives in the early days of co-education. Her role as a sympathetic, yet challenging "Agony Aunt" was appreciated by all the girls concerned as they knew that she would always follow up their concerns and speak out on their behalf. This smoothed Stowe's path to becoming a fully co-educational school and provided valuable feedback of the girls' experience in the early days.

Susi has great style and presence and her sense of humour will be missed by all as will her energy and innovation. She will not be moving far though, as she is taking up the post of Head of ICT at Beachborough School. We wish Susi, her husband Simon and her children Oliver and Imogen all the very best for the future

Mr James Tearle



CAROLYN SMITH

Carolyn Smith came to Stowe in June 1984 to work as a receptionist where she soon proved herself to be very well organised and extremely technical with the Telecoms system. Her extended technical ability was gained after she received trade qualifications in the W.R.A.C. which was further augmented by being a Tele-Communications Officer with Humberside Police. Carolyn has proved herself to be very flexible and has adapted to many changes at Stowe, including the relocation of reception on at least two occasions.

Carolyn is one of those quieter members of staff who reveal very little about herself until you become a good friend and I feel I am lucky in that I would put myself in that category although I am Carolyn's Line Manager. Carolyn is a deep thinker, with a good mind and a dry sense of humour. Carolyn is also very accurate in her work and this added to her strong work ethic are traits which will be sadly missed by me and many others in the School. She has always been loyal and always clever in finding an owner for those unaddressed letters and parcels that arrive so frequently at Stowe.

Many a wayward pupil has been put on 'the right track' by Carolyn who will now retire but it is very obvious that her active mind will see her getting involved in some activity in the very near future.

We wish Carolyn well in a long and happy retirement and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Carolyn for all she has done for the School over the last 24 years.

Mr John Wilmot



FRANCINE SMITH

Francine is living proof that one can totter successfully (on most occasions) along the dangerous stone slabs of Plug Street. She has been the star and leading light of staff karaoke, cajoling even the most recalcitrant member of staff to leave his BBQ and open his throat. She appeared most recently in the staff-Stoic production of *Oliver* as Mrs Sowerberry, and before she leaves us in June she will take to the hay bales for the staff barn dance on Speech Day evening and then more decorously, the Leavers' Ball. But there is much, much more to Francine than her vivacious and fun-loving personality.

She has been a highly successful Head of Economics and Politics, inspiring the whole spectrum of Stoic abilities on the intricacies of macro- and micro-economics. Furthermore, leading cultural and economic visits to Central Europe with the Pitt Society or Washington DC with the politicians, she has lectured in public, lead us through the country lanes (and buses) of central Europe, educated her colleagues and students, found the good restaurants and still win at Scrabble in the middle of the Danube! We wish her well as she moves on to Northampton High School for Girls as Head of 6th Form and no doubt we and the coven shall not lose touch with her.

Mr Crispin Robinson



VALETE - STEPHEN HIRST

Steve Hirst's contribution to Stowe has been immense and varied. Steve joined the English Department in 1985 from Lancaster Royal Grammar School, where he now returns as Assistant Headmaster. Steve's penetratingly analytical intellect combined with an imaginative warmth of approach and a natural authority to make him an exceptionally distinguished teacher of English. These qualities were further shown when he directed plays, particularly 'Measure for Measure' and, with Fiona Baddeley, 'Hamlet'. His own play, 'Cultured Rebels', played to packed houses in the Dobinson Theatre and reflected his sharp wit and acute insight into school politics. He has been a mainstay for school sailing, hockey, rugby, has regularly assisted with the Duke of Edinburgh treks in the Scottish Highlands, ran the annual Luffield Conference for local schools and undertook the unenviable task of monitoring the pupils' newspaper, 'The Voice' as well as editing 'The Stoic'.

But perhaps Steve will be most fondly remembered for his remarkable success as the Housemaster of Chandos. The ethos of the House during his reign was exceptional. He had the total confidence of boys and parents, many of whom, now long since departed, still remember those days with huge affection. Steve combined a relaxed and friendly atmosphere with an almost omniscient but utterly caring vigilance.

In due course, Steve was promoted to the post of Director of Studies, where his administrative and diplomatic gifts were energetically deployed. During his first five years as Director of Studies, Stowe moved up the league tables at an average speed of ten places a year, from 276 to 227. Subsequently, he has assumed responsibility for staff development, a post which has played to his gift for dealing with people.

We wish Steve and his delightful family, Sheila and his three sons, Ben, Tristan and Jamie, every happiness and success in Lancaster.

P.A.S. Farquhar



THE ACADEMIC YEAR, 2007-08, started on a high with Stowe celebrating record breaking results at A level. Last year's U6 Stoics achieved a 100% pass rate at A2 this year with 70% of them achieving A/B grades at A level, a marked improvement on 2006's already good 60.7%. This increase marks a steady and significant improvement over the last four years and Stoics and teaching staff should all be congratulated on their efforts. Individually, four Stoics achieved 4 or more A grades while a further twenty nine achieved 3 A grades. The girls performed particularly well with 85.6% of A2 results at A/B grades. In addition, at AS level, there was a 95.4% pass rate, with 50.9% at A/B grade. Four students achieved four A grades. Fourteen further students achieved three A grades. Finally, at GCSE we saw respectable A*/A grades but this is the main area of the school's academic performance where we would like to see improvement and since last summer Stoics have delivered visible signs of GCSE success. In Maths and the Sciences we have learned to

play the exam system of modules and re-sits so that Stoics achieve their best marks in 4th Form and early in the 5th Form, thus reducing the number of exams that they sit in the summer and with module marks already banked. A similar pattern has emerged in the AS & A2 modules.

It is important though to understand what Stoics, indeed, all school children now go through as part of the Government's drive with targets. Public exams start earlier every year (GCSE Art started on 16 April; GCSE Oral exams began 22 April and all GCSE exams run through to 23 June). At AS Level, on the other hand, though there are Orals from 1 May, exams are heavily concentrated, some Stoics having all their 12, one hour papers in one week, and some unfortunates having two or three of their AS subjects (3, one hour papers per subject) in a day and a half, plus, of course, extra time (25%) for some exam candidates. This creates an intolerable burden and extreme pressure on the L6, aged only 16-17. It also means that we teach only to exam syllabuses, the freedom to enjoy a subject in a year without exams, now a distant memory. Yet even more exam changes are being introduced this September, with the number of A Level exams cut from six to four, though, significantly, the content is not reduced. More changes to reduce coursework and further alter GCSE Specifications are planned for 2009 and 2010 just as we absorb the changes at A level. How long do Education Ministers remain in office and how many have ever been teachers and therefore have a clearer idea of the effects of constant change on the teaching profession and our children?

Yet education is not solely about exam results provided that Stoics strive for excellence and that they should also give their best and take responsibility for their work and results. With groups like the Headmaster's Essay Society, Colloquium, The Pitt Society, the Senior School are well-provided with intellectual societies that stretch and challenge outside the prescribed syllabus. Similarly, the XX Group for junior scholars aims to make learning fun and enjoyable for its own sake, stimulating individual Stoics to read, research and think more for themselves. It is now the belief of Western Governments that school leavers may well have 14 or 15 different jobs in their lifetime, often in areas that we cannot even imagine today and we should prepare them well for such a world, where thinking, planning, IT skills, presentation, leadership, teamwork etc matter just as much as grades on paper. Thus as a boarding school, the Stowe games and activities programme flourishes, sometimes in uneasy relationship with the academic, but in the strong belief that a rounded child is a happy child and that developing the Stoic's commitment and excellence in areas where he or she will succeed is the best education we can offer.

Mr Crispin Robinson, Deputy Head (Academic)

Third form students at work



Stoic



Chloe Ballantine

Interests: Almost everything and everyone.

Funniest moments at Stowe: Receiving an apology letter from a certain someone regarding a tazer gun. Daisy Pulls it Off (Nugent House play). **Plans for the Future:** University at the end of the year to read the best subject ever - GEOGRAPHY! Search, find and reel in a soulmate. No screaming brats- the world is doing a pretty good job at overpopulating itself - I'd hate to contribute to that! **Prefect Privileges:** As usual - Monday prefect suppers! **Any other comments:** "On the Magic School Bus...Step inside - it's a wilder ride! Come on - ride on the Magic School Bus!!"



Hope Capurro

Interests: Friends. **Plans for the future:** Reading Spanish at University and hopefully travelling afterwards.

Funniest moment at Stowe: A class trip to London with Mr Irvine. **Favourite prefect privilege:** (fluorescent) Coloured jumpers! **Any other comments:** It's been really great, thank you for the memories.



Chloe Crisp

Interests: Playing lacrosse and messing around with friends. **Funniest moment at Stowe:** Meeting and befriending Bella Reeve-Tucker **Plans for the Future:** 15 months of nothing then maybe University.

Favourite Prefect Privilege: Monday nights!!!

Other Comments: I've had a fantastic time at Stowe, with lot of laughs and fun to remember.



Conor Curtis

Interests: Cars, travelling and rowing. **Funniest moment at Stowe:** Would just have to be every 6th Form dance, they've been hilarious fun! **Plans for the future:** Taking a gap year to Central/South America and Africa before doing French and Spanish at Manchester University.

Prefect Privilege: Prefects' supper - makes Monday something to look forward to!



Ed Cutting

Interests: Shooting, fishing, real estate, history. **Funniest moment at Stowe:** My funniest moment at Stowe was in 3rd Form, summer term. Someone had had the bright idea, to start a fire in the dorm. It took three days for John Moule (Housemaster then in 2003, of Walpole) to calm down enough to speak to us as a Year Group.

Plans for the future: I am hoping to go to Oxford Brookes in September and read Business of Real Estate, with an aim of doing Commercial Investment in the City.

Prefect privilege: The best Prefects privilege is definitely making the final cut of 27.

Other comments: Stowe has been a very pleasant experience. Although every Stoic complains about things from time to time, it's not until it's gone that you realise how much you enjoyed your time and start to miss the place you thought you never would. I am very proud to be an Old Stoic, and I'm pleased I'm not an Old boy from anywhere else!



Kit Dickinson

Interests: Hunting and Shooting. **Funniest moment at Stowe:** Watching Eddie Murphy DVD's at the kennels

Plans for the future: Starting Cirencester in October. Hoping to hunt and shoot as much as possible.

Favourite prefect privilege: Prefects' supper

Other comments: I have had a fantastic five years at Stowe and wouldn't want to have done anything different.



Gabriela Fidanova

Interests: Tennis, friends, movies...having fun. **Funniest moment at Stowe:** It has been lots of fun as a whole

Plans for the future: Going to university to do Management next year, hopefully in London.

Prefect Privilege (favourite): The bright coloured jumpers and prefects' supper. **Other comments:** I wish all the new prefects luck with the big lunch queues and all the hungry kids leaving cups and mess. It was very nice for me to be a part of such a wonderful community like the one in Stowe.



Laura Henderson

Funniest moment at Stowe: Mrs Duckett chasing after Sam Scott and Beaumont after they tried to throw Jess into the Nugent fountain.

Plans for the Future: University and then who knows.

Favourite Prefect Privilege: Prefects' Christmas supper.



Harry Hopewell

Interests: Rugby, tennis, friends

Funniest moment at Stowe: Being in a room next to Will Walmsley,...that says it all.

Plans for the Future: Hopefully Durham University where I will be reading Geography.

Favourite Privilege: Prefects' supper.

Prefects



Josh Hunter

Interests: Friends, sport, Cobham. **Funniest Moment at Stowe:** Probably seeing Mr. Cowie fall in the pool at a swimming match... several swimming matches. And loads involving Dr James in the Fourth Form.

Plans for the Future: A Gap year going to Sydney and then hopefully Exeter University.

Prefect Privilege (Favourite...) allowed out until 11:00



Sam Hunter

Interests: Rugby, basketball, water polo. **Funniest moment at Stowe:** House Dance, dressed as Gene Simmons.

Plans for the future: GAP year in South America and then university to study architecture... make lots of money!

Prefect Privilege (favourite): Prefects Mess



Anna Jackson

Interests: Talking **Saddest moment at Stowe:** Realising all my jokes are burnouts

Plans for the future: I am going to become a Doctor in Southampton **Favourite prefect privilege:** Walking on the grass...obviously **Any other comments:** Oh my word I did not write this! love you all!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Monika Jurcic

Interests: Music, friends, sports, traveling, spontaneous events ! **Plans for future :** Gap year including a 3 month tour of Brazil working with the community in Rio, then three months exploring Fiji, Thailand, Malaysia, and Australia. After this will go to university to study chemistry then hopefully post graduate medicine **Fav prefect privilege:** Monday suppers **Funniest**

moment at Stowe: falling down the marble staircase in a ball gown during the coldstream cup dinner and chipping my elbow



Beattie Kirchner

Interests: Hockey, having fun with my friends. **Funniest moment at Stowe:** Playing dinosaurs with Matt Constant, protecting our eggs, scaring off other dinosaurs and not realising Sutton was watching us!! **Plan for the future:** I'm going to study art at City and Guilds next year and then hopefully University. **Prefect Privilege (favourite):** Prefects' supper! **Any**

other comments: I've had an amazing 2 years at Stowe, had some really good times with everyone which I will remember for a long time! Happy days!



Max Mackintosh

Interests: Rugby / cricket

Funniest moment at Stowe: Bombing of the Palladian bridge!

Plans for the future: Billionaire / Celebrity fisherman...

Prefect privilege: Definitely walking on the grass!



Patrick Ramsey

Interests: Rugby, golf, watching Greys' Anatomy, art, reading. **Funniest moment at Stowe:** Making the Chandos House film

Plans for the future: Study Architecture at Newcastle - billionaire by 27. **Prefect privilege:** No Library study periods.

Favourite Stowe quote: "What's wrong with wearing boxers two days in a row" Matt Williamson



Will Randall-Coath

Interests: Polo, music **Funniest moment at Stowe:** It has been lots of fun as a whole.

Plans for the future: Hopefully film-based work or study and something that involves music.

Prefect Privilege (favourite): Definitely the Prefects' Supper.

Any other comments: I've enjoyed every minute and I wouldn't change it for the world.



Gabriel Rawlings

Interests: Rugby, watching Grey's Anatomy, breaking wind. **Funniest Moment at Stowe:** Making music video with Pat and Nick Anstee. **Plans/Hopes for the Future:** Be a billionaire by 26 (just to beat Pat).

Favourite Prefect Privilege: Being in the Stoic

Any Other Comments? Yes.



Mike Tarr

Interests: Surfing (my favourite sport), music **Funniest moment at Stowe:** Mr Philips' (fireworks) Mr Malling's lessons throughout 4th and 5th Form **Plans for the future :** Go to university, get married.

Favourite prefect privilege: As Chapel prefect (being able to walk across the Chapel grass made my job in setting up the chapel less time consuming); Prefects' supper.



Marcus Bennett



Harry Benyon



Henry Comer



Jack Leech



James Mitchell-Mitchell



Harry Wolridge Gordon



Dominic Woods

Stoic

FROM THE HOUSEMISTRESS:

This has been one of Lyttelton's busiest and most successful years to date and I certainly am thrilled with everything we have achieved. Six new girls joined the existing Lower Six as for the first time girls wrote GCSE at Stowe last year. The 12 new Third Form girls started with a swimming gala, where Lyttelton put up a good fight and I was impressed with their speed and style as they came in second. Competing against all the boys' Houses and one girls' House was daunting. We then went on to win the inter-House table tennis, senior badminton, senior hockey and senior lacrosse. Laura Grossick won the senior cross country and Loochie Trevor won the junior cup. Many cups were received in the inter-House athletics and we won the shield for girls' Houses. The silverware cabinet is bulging. Nellie English and Charlotte Mathews got through to the finals of the senior debating competition and impressed the judges with their quick thinking.

During the House singing, the prefects led the House in a cheerful rendition of "Build me up Buttercup" - we received third place for that. The girls in the part song, Charlotte Mathews, Helena Kealey, Lucy Milburn, Rosanna Hedley, Chloe Crisp and Nellie English, worked harmoniously to produce a second place.

The Coldstream Cup is the major House event in the Autumn. Chloe Crisp, Laura Grossick, Natalie McDaid, Jose Brake, Chessie Hutt, Rosie Hayward, Josephine Peile and Alexa Beaty worked tirelessly on marching, shooting, the assault course and general fitness. They amazed themselves and everyone else by winning the competition ahead of all the boys' teams. Girls have not won for ten years, and only once before in Stowe history. The excitement as we dressed for the formal dinner was contagious.

Senior Congreve was watched by the whole school and Olivia Stevens, Nellie English, Alix Melville, Lucy Gallimore, Lucy Milburn and Rosanna Hedley gave fine performances. There have been many social events but the main two were the senior dances and the junior discos. There was a tangible buzz in the House as everyone got into their best, or fancy dress, to attend. The Queen's visit to Stowe caused much excitement and the Lyttelton girls played their part admirably.

In the Lent term Helena Kealey produced and co-wrote the House play which was a parody of The Queen's visit. Many girls took part in this funny and entertaining production, but Zoe Partridge, Lucy Gallimore and Camilla Carr Smith stole the show with their amusing portrayal of typical school boys. We also won the literary quiz with Nellie English, Charlotte Mathews, Ella Girardot and Cornelia Prior showing a good general knowledge, and we lent Lucy Millburn and Willa McFadden to Nugent which helped them win the second place.

In addition there have been many music concerts, sports matches and expeditions. The academic results so far have been excellent and I am constantly impressed by how hard most girls work. Before the exam candidates left we had a great "at home" with many parents and it is always encouraging to see how well the various age groups work together. The House team, Beattie Kirchner, Arabella Reeve Tucker, Alix Melville, Chloe Crisp and Georgia Harrison have ensured that the routine ran smoothly and their collective effort is much appreciated by staff and girls alike. Good luck to all the leavers and do stay in touch.

Housemistress	Mrs Judy Gracie
Matron	Mrs Pat Robson
Under Housemistress	Miss Sarah Ross
Head of House	Beattie Kirchner



Mrs Judy Gracie





What sort of days will the U6th girls from Lyttelton leave behind?

Most mornings Matron will wake us for breakfast and as the 6th Form roll back over for another 20 minutes in bed before Chapel, the 3rd, 4th and 5th smarten up and put their tweeds on before marching up to breakfast. After a couple of strenuous lessons, break time arrives and 60 girls go back to House for a serious toast session- sitting in the kitchen catching up with each other and the latest gossip. Twenty gossiping minutes later, crumbs brushed off, jumpers on and it's off to 4th and 5th lesson.

Lunchtime begins and the post and papers arrive, 6th Form read their horoscopes whilst eating pesto and pasta and the 3rd, 4th and 5th Form trundle up to the main mansion for a tasty treat. So after a long chat over lunch and Friday's fish and chips demolished, it's back to business and lessons begin once again.

Activities start, and it's not long before the excuses crop up for those who fancy a nap and a film-watching session before supper, rather than athletics. As the chocolate spread and bread begins to run out, flocks of orange from Lyttelton begin to make their way to the holy land that is the tuck shop.

After supper, most of Lyttelton are back in House for Hollyoaks to start at 7 o'clock. By 7.30pm, Mrs Gracie is desperately trying to get our attention to start stance but we are all far too hypnotised by the wonder of the complicated plot line. When stance finishes the House settles down for prep. By 9.02 the 4th Form have already dressed up in their "new rave" outfits to celebrate one of the group's birthday with music on at full blast in the common room. By 10.30 the 3rd and 4th Form are tucked in and fast asleep, with the 5th and 6th Form in each other's room having a quick chat about the day before they head to bed.

My last two years at Stowe could not have been more fun and I will be sad to be leaving it all behind. The first day arriving at Stowe in a completely new place in the middle of nowhere could be a daunting experience for us all but we have all done pretty well. Once everyone has put their feet on the ground and started to get the swing of Stowe there is a bond throughout the different year groups.

Lyttelton has been a very successful House this year within the junior and senior competitions, with everyone putting in their best. A special mention must go to Elle Horrocks and Chessie Hunt for their amazing efforts in the House swimming competition.

Putting the success of everyone aside it has been such a pleasure and a privilege to not only to be part of Lyttelton but also to be the Head of House. Mrs Gracie has been great to all of us, when we have a problem we all know that she is there 100% to help us out. Mrs Gracie, along with Mrs Robson and Miss Ross, have coped with big changes and challenges in Lyttelton this year, and it's a credit to them as to how settled and calm the House has remained all year.

Thank you to the House prefects, Bella Reeve-Tucker, Chloe Crisp, Georgia Harrison and Alix Melville for all their hard work this year. Lyttelton has been amazing fun over the last two years so thank you. Finally I would like to wish the leavers and the whole House best of luck for next year.

Beattie Kirchner



Stoic

SADLY OVER THE COURSE OF THE YEAR we said goodbye to our cleaners, Dawn Barrett after over 25 years of service and Marion, Sixth Form Tutor Simon Bowler went in November but before then he managed to inspire half the House to play Diplomacy. Also moving to pastures new from the student body were Kenneth Loi and George Dorrington, and we wish them well as they continue their studies.

We welcomed new cleaners Mandy Morton and Angela Martin who gave the boys great support at the Christmas party. Carolyn Alary and Robert Christian have shared duty nights in House and have been tremendously supportive at House events over the course of the year.

Bruce has been blessed with an excellent staff team and Prefect team this year. Will Randall-Coath has been an outstanding Head of House and Senior Prefect, and has been superbly supported by the House Prefect Team of Sam Hunter (Head Boy and Deputy Head of House), Tim Field and Richard Lamb. Although not House Prefects we have valued the contributions of our other school Prefects: Marcus Bennett, Conor Curtis and Kit Dickinson. The following should be congratulated on being elected School Prefects 2008/2009: Jonty Irving (Senior Prefect), Craig Browne and Monty Lewis. Jonty should also be congratulated on being awarded a scholarship to Sandhurst.

The re-vamped Bruce entrance hall adds to the warmth and feel-good-factor to all who live in and visit Bruce – thank you Matron! The 'Wii' room when mentioned has provoked some very quizzical looks from prospective parents and seem quite relieved when then realise it is the room where Brucites can play Nintendo Wii. These additional and improved facilities have been welcomed by the boys, however, they have been most impressed with their two new flat screen TVs in the House Room and Sixth Form TV Room.

The two pianos and drum kit in House get extensive use as our musicians hone their skills. The Brucites have to make do with guitars and other easily transportable instruments for serenading outside Queen's House. Once again Bruce has had excellent representation in the school choir, chamber choir, orchestra and jazz band. Head of Choir, Will Randall-Coath also did a great job preparing the House Part Song while Sam Scott led the way in the Unison Song.

James Sindall has had another outstanding year on stage in the Senior Congreve with Monty Lewis and Jonty Irving making significant contributions. The cast of the House Play 'The History Boys', directed by Jonty Irving should be very proud of their achievements and Bruce are very grateful to Felix Stevenson (Grafton) for his contribution.

Bruce competed well in the Junior and Senior debating competitions and alas, was not able to retain the Literary Quiz trophy. However, Imran Momen followed his 2nd place in the Headmaster's Recital Prize by being awarded first place in the Third Form Classics Powerpoint Presentation along with Matthew Corless.

In sport Bruce boys have been busier than ever in their representation for House and school. On one Saturday in the Summer Term we had no less than 47 out of 64 Brucites representing the school in various interschool fixtures and that did not include the many who accompany Head Huntsman Kit Dickinson to drag hunt with the beagles. On the first weekend of term the 3rd Form were pipped in the final of the soccer, therefore it was no surprise that they went on to do so well as a year group this year. Henry Stockdale sealed an impressive victory in the Junior Cross Country. Bruce Juniors, led by James Barnett, dominated the swimming, winning the 3rd Form relays in the first term and then scoring a massive 78 points out of a House total of 122 to help Bruce win the Overall Swimming Cup. Sam Hunter won the Senior Breaststroke Cup.

Bruce also dominated the Fives and table tennis winning Third Form, Junior and Senior team competitions in both sports.

Bruce also won the Junior and Senior 3 v 3 basketball competitions and School captain Sam Hunter smashed the individual scoring record by hitting 57 points against Uppingham. Five Brucites graced the Colts A rugby XV in what proved to be a very successful season. Archie De Sales La Terriere had an eye for goal as he top scored for the soccer and hockey 1st teams. Richard Lamb had an impressive season in defence for hockey. Just before representing the 1st XI hockey in the Lent term Sam Scott returned from the Barbados cricket tour as man of the tour and is a key member of the 1st XI side this summer. Hugh Gallie and Conor Curtis won the J18 double sculls at the Cambridge Head and Hugh has been exceptional in House and school athletics this season. In the Inter-House competition Hugh won Cups in the 200m and 400m. Other cup winners were Archie

Housemaster:	Mr Isaac Michael
Matron:	Miss Ann Lake
Under Housemaster:	Mr Gordon Oldham
Head of House:	Will Randall-Coath





De Sales La Terriere – high jump and hurdles; Sam Hunter - 800m and Cosmo Arends – shot putt. Others winning their events were Tom Rawicz-Szczerbo, James Barnett and Alex Miarli. Bruce finished a creditable 2nd in all age groups with the Juniors just half a point from 1st place.

The achievements and contributions of Brucites over the course of the year to Bruce and the school community are far too numerous to be able to mention them all. As Jenny and I come to the end of our 8 years in Bruce we would like to thank all the Bruce parents, staff team and boys for the tremendous support we have enjoyed. The warmth and generosity on display at our farewell on Speech Day, which was beautifully organised by Ann Lake (Matron) and Gordon Oldham (Under-Housemaster) reflected what the Bruce community is all about. It has been a privilege serving Bruce and a period of our lives we will look back upon with much fondness.

Mr Isaac Michael



TWO year group winners in Bruce are as follows:-

3rd Form: Imran Momen; 4th Form: Dham Srfuengfung;
5th Form: Champ Panyarachun
Lower Sixth: Mark Goodenough; Upper Sixth: Tim Field

Speech Day Prize Winners

Sam Hunter	Basil Williamson Prize
Edward Chantler	J F Roxburgh Prize for English Verse (Junior)
Tim Field	John Webster Prize for French (UVI)
Craig Browne	J G Riess Prize for German
Alexander Bodian	Robert Houghton Prize for Internet Achievement
James Sindall	Dudley Baker Prize
Dham Srfuengfung	Ian Jenkins Prize for Drawing and Observation
William Randall-Coath	Ian McCarey Chorister Prize
Conor Curtis	Stowe Parents' Gap Awards
Hugh Gallie	Stowe Parents' Gap Awards
Sam Hunter	Stowe Parents' Gap Awards
Champ Panyarachun	David Sandhurst Prize for Significant Academic Improvement
William Randall-Coath	Old Stoic Goblet for Service to the Community
Henry Longton	Richard Branson Prize for Enterprise

Other Prize winners included:

Alexander Bodian, Stormont Prize for Percussion;
Tim Field, Bene Prize;

and Commendation Prizes to Marcus Bennett, Alexander Bodian, Tim Field, Mark Goodenough, Anton Melnikov, Dham Srfuengfung and Alex Miarli.



Stoic

FROM THE HOUSEMASTER:

Parents often ask what it is that characterises a particular House. The summer award of the Tancred Trophy perhaps epitomises the spirit of the Temple. The Trophy is named after a Private Tancred who is reputed to have carried a fallen fellow soldier to safety whilst under extreme fire and somehow not been awarded a medal for bravery. At Stowe this unsung hero is the focus of a CCF team event involving a range of tasks over a period of weeks. This year Temple are very proud to have won the event with Messrs Wilkinson, Dennison and Rankin to the fore. Such an ethic is set from the top and by that I refer to the senior boys. Henry Corner has led the House with great pride and distinction – he has led from the front and not just in individual achievement but also as a team. Henry has been 1st XV Captain for the year as well lead the Coldstream Cup team through that extremely demanding competition. Henry has been more than ably supported by a team of senior boys including Jack Leech (Deputy Head of House), Ed Benson, Alex Georgallides and Tommy Williams-Jones. We thank them for all that they have done and wish them well for the future.

Housemaster:	Mr Tony Lewis
Matron:	Pamela Dennison
Under Housemaster:	Mr Philip Arnold
Head of House:	Henry Corner



Messrs Schofield, Eggins and Allport : An Inspector Class...but not just yet!



Senior Cricket XI

The challenge set down from the top has certainly been picked up by the juniors who competed so well in all competitions but especially in the hockey and badminton as pictured. Individuals also stand out with Alex Jacobs playing 1st VI for Stowe Tennis as a 14 year old and together with Arthur Hobhouse they are seeded 1 and 2 respectively in the Yearlings' Tennis. The inters also personify the team ethic with gifted individuals winning their division in the swimming championships and Will Richardson representing Bucks at U16 County Rugby. With victory in the swimming relays we see yet again the willing contribution of boys in every year towards the common goal.

Particular highlights this year also include the House Song so ably led by Will Anthony and the House Drama Festival in which Toby Dunipace and Hamish Eggins led a combined effort of a wonderful adaptation of JB Priestley's "An Inspector Calls" - if you missed it you missed a real treat. An accident of fate led us to hold a House Picnic at the beginning of the summer term which also involved a highly competitive and enjoyable Dads 'n Lads cricket match – miraculous for two reasons. Firstly that whilst the whole of the British Isles was under a deluge we suffered sunstroke and secondly because the Dads pulled off a famous victory (although perhaps even more miraculous was the boys inability to catch the ball!). Special thanks go to Scholfields – father and son – for setting a wonderfully enjoyable tone for the occasion.

Music continues to figure strongly with almost a third of all boys in the House either playing instruments or/and participating in Stowe ensembles, bands and the like. It is good to see the likes of Ed Borland and Jacob Dennison combining more mainstream interests such as Jazz Band or Orchestra with rock band performances in the Roxy and hopefully Cobham Court. Of all the talented musicians perhaps James Larter stands out with his ability to make solo percussion sound absolutely incredible.



Matron offers summer remedies ably assisted by the 5th form



Kit Finclay hits the Triple Jump



On a sad note we are sorry to see Carol Miller move on from the House where she has been the Third Form Tutor for the last five years and we wish her well as she takes up tutoring in Lyttelton as a girls' House. Also Phil Arnold has decided to step down as Under Housemaster after four years in residence but we are delighted that Phil will stay with Temple as Fourth Form Tutor in September. Thank you to both for all their commitment and energy which has meant so much to so many Temple parents and boys. We look forward to welcoming Tony Chan as Under Housemaster and Third Form Tutor from September 2008 and Damien Blewitt who as Head of Maths will figure as a 6th Form Tutor. The summer sees other dramatic changes for Temple with major building works revamping the junior areas so that from September 2008 the 3rd and 4th Form will enjoy a variety of study dorm accommodation. This will also enable us to improve the social provision with in the House. Therefore the House ends the year in good heart with much to look forward to in the coming academic year.

Mr Tony Lewis



Yearlings Hockey



Yearlings Badminton



Head of House leads by example



Dads 'n Lads Cricket



Coldstream Cup heroes

Stoic

FROM THE HOUSEMASTER:

Grenville has enjoyed a successful year and morale has remained high. It was excellent to welcome so many parents and friends to our "At Home" earlier in the year: their provision of such scrumptious puddings was particularly appreciated. A highlight of the entertainment, put together by Miles Crosby, was the Grenville Part Song: Sam Barnard's fine arrangement of "Lola" by the Kinks was performed by Freddie Hall, Sam Barnard, Edward Crisford, James Musgrave and David Carter; parents and friends in attendance were spell-bound by it. Sporting success throughout the year has been regular and the shelves in my study are now sagging with silverware. Particular mention should be made of our two star swimmers – Alexey Grabarnik & Anders Palm (pictured right) – who claimed no less than 9 trophies between them. On Sports Day this year I was most impressed with the 3rd Form who won the sprint relay cup; obviously they were inspired by Harry Burke's triumph in the individual 100m. During the year Grenville also won squash, football, hockey and basketball honours. Three members of the House were involved in Senior Congreve, notably James Musgrave who took a leading role in Tom Stoppard's "The Real Inspector Hound"; James then went on in the Lent Term to play a memorable "Artful Dodger" in Oliver!

At Christmas time we gave Mrs Ann Turnbull (Matron) a heartfelt send-off to new pastures in Kent; her enthusiastic and caring support for almost a whole generation of Grenvillians meant that her departure was a moment of great sadness. In January we were delighted to welcome our new Matron, Mrs Emma Whitehead who, along with Tarka, has already settled in very effectively and is making her presence known.

A small, tight-knit, group of Upper Sixth Formers has given the House a sensible and thoughtful lead. Alex Jollivet has been efficient and solid in his role as Head of House; he has organised things well and has delegated tasks sensibly to those around him. Will Walker has served School and House sports' teams with huge commitment and talent – in rugby, hockey and golf in particular – and he has been held in high esteem throughout the community. Miles Crosby has shown loyalty and dedication to us all; he has carried a wise head upon his young shoulders and many of us have valued his friendship enormously. Freddie Hall and Sam Barnard have dominated the tennis scene throughout their time at Stowe and they have also contributed a huge amount musically too. The Grenville 6th Form has been a contented group this year and they have worked together well; as one year group moves out to encounter the real world another moves into Grenville to join us. We look forward to the new arrivals in September.

Damien Orr (Under Housemaster) joined Grenville five years ago and his departure at the end of this year will leave a big hole. He has been hugely concerned for his tutees and he has looked after them with endless patience, energy and kindness. Their battles have been his battles and he has worked relentlessly to gain the best from each and every one. We wish him every success and happiness as he moves to Germany along, of course, with Louis.

Housemaster:	Richard Knight
Matron:	Ann Turnbull/Emma Whitehead
Under Housemaster:	Damien Orr
Head of House:	Alex Jollivet



Mr Richard Knight



Most pictures by Leo Gauvain



Stoic

FROM THE HOUSEMASTER:

After the successes of last year, it was always going to be a tall order for the Upper 6th to top them. However, they have done that 'in spades' and should be very proud of all that they have achieved this year. The House has gone from strength to strength and this has been, in large part, down to the superb leadership and example that they have set. No more is this more in evidence than on the academic front and it was especially pleasing that, in the last set of TWO grades, Edmond, Pat, Gabriel and Marcus all made the top 10 on the Upper 6th's effort league – that is 1/3 of our year group! Humphrey, Pat and Edmond also made the top 10 for the attainment league. In addition to this, nine of the twelve leavers gained A grades in their January modules: Henry, Carlo, Richard, Nick, Edmond, Pat, Gabriel, Matt and Humphrey.

Gabriel has run the House superbly well, with a balanced viewpoint and leading by example. He is an optimist and an enthusiast and there can be little better combination in inspiring those below him to succeed. Matt, Nick and Pat have been well suited to their respective tasks. Pat has led the sporting charge, captaining the Stowe Golf Team and playing rugby for the Independent Schools' Barbarians. Marcus has also contributed greatly to House sport. He has played in virtually every House match and contributed greatly to our successes. However, none of these can rival his feat in the final set of TWOs – a true example of what you can achieve with hard work. Henry's module results have also shown this, and he has surprised us all at times. Henry has the 'likeable rogue' character down to a tee and he plays it well – it will be odd not having him here next year.

Perhaps the highlight of the extra-curricular was Richard and Charlie's sequel: 'Two and two makes five ... 2'. They were able to build on the success of last year and it was the only piece in the Drama Festival that was sold out on both nights – it was so popular that an extra night was created and Richard ended up selling the DVD and raising money for charity in so doing. Charlie has also excelled in both his fencing and on the RAF front.

There have been many other highlights throughout the course of the year. On the musical front, Matt worked hard to create a good House song and has excelled on the rowing lake. Humphrey was the cornerstone in our Part song and continues to gain distinctions in each karate grading that he takes. These two sum up the year group well, with every one of them able to succeed on so many different levels. Who could forget the look on Carlo's face when he gained an A grade in his Business module, or the look when coming up the final straight of the Coldstream Cup run.

Edmond's TWO record is one of the finest in the School and yet he has still been able to take Creative Textiles off curriculum and gain entrance into some of the top London fashion schools.

Mohammed has contributed to many of the league and House matches throughout the years, but it is his ever cheerful presence in the House and computer knowledge that will be missed the most. Nick most aptly sums up the 'Renaissance Man.' His academic record speaks for itself but it is a mark of his character that he has also contributed to every House competition going: from the Coldstream Cup to basketball. If all Stoics were like him, or all year groups like this one, we would be a very lucky School indeed.

Mr Barney Durrant

Housemaster:	Mr Barney Durrant
Matron:	Clare Hill-Hall
Under Housemaster:	Mr Matt Walsh-Woolcott
Head of House:	Gabriel Rawlings



Chandos

WE DON'T LIKE TO BOAST (modesty is probably our best quality), but we are, without a doubt, the best House academically in the Upper Sixth. The facts don't lie. We've swept the board in TWOs and a new 'triple plus' has been introduced for the likes of Edmund, Gabriel and Pat (even though he doesn't do real subjects). Even Carlo has pitched in with his first ever 'A' grade in recent months. Nick is captain of the athletics team and gets 'A's without even working.

Our prowess extends beyond the classroom as well, as Chandosians set sporting standards for the whole School to follow, with representatives in at least 8 different first teams from the Upper Sixth (Marcus even became healthy enough to make first team tennis). Charlie only just missed out on fencing for Team GB for the Beijing Olympics, Humphrey's karate has already hospitalised three people since Christmas and Matt tries really hard at rowing.

But it's in front of a computer screen that Chandos' superiority really shines. Henry and Mohammed have demonstrated true dedication in their pursuit for a perfect win on Pro Evo Soccer. They have cast off all academic commitments to train tirelessly 7 days a week.

Credit must also go to Richard 'Spielberg' Gordon-Colebrooke, not just for having the longest name in House, but also for singlehandedly producing, directing and editing this year's blockbuster movie *Two and Two Makes Five... 2*.

So what next for these talented individuals? Whilst Henry, Marcus and Gabriel drop out to do gap years, the rest of us will be packing our bags for sunnier climates (Newcastle, Durham and Edinburgh amongst the highlights). Studying subjects as diverse as Zoology, Renewable Energy, Architecture, Ancient History, PPE and Land Management, we are confident that we will all go on to greatness.

Nick Johnston, Pat Ramsey and Gabriel Rawlings



© R & H Chapman Photography

Stoic

From the Housemaster:

This has been a very successful year for Cobham. Ably led by a talented Upper Sixth, the House has won its fair share of competitions throughout the three terms. All these things are good for morale and the boys have demonstrated excellent House spirit in the way that they have gone about all the events, win or lose. We welcomed a new Matron this year in Eve Collins, who has quickly settled in and to a man, I think we would now be completely lost without her ever-giving generosity. Huw Jones became our new Under-

Housemaster and he quickly made a successful impact on our House Singing performance. Huw is the Assistant Director of Music and it is good to have someone with his enthusiasm and talent to serve that element of the House. As ever, we are all bowled over by the depth and range of the talents of the Cobham boys, as the paragraphs below will testify.

Housemaster:	Mr Matthew Way
Matron:	Miss Eve Collins
Under-Housemaster:	Mr Huw Jones
Head of House:	Samson Stieger-White



Michaelmas Term

Three Cobhamites immediately spring to mind. Abdul Kingibe, a long-standing football enthusiast and 1st XI player, led the seniors to victory in the Inter-House Soccer. Tom Wilson, our best cricketer, was named Captain of the 1st XI for their tour of Grenada and Balthazar Mattar played his own composition to The Queen during her visit to Stowe. However, a look at the newsletter for the term also reveals that Cameron Perske won the Junior Badminton Singles, the 4th Form, led by Ben Roe, won their rugby tournament, the seniors were runners-up in their competition and Ronnie Speakman of the 5th Form was selected for South West Divisional rugby. I am now worrying about my word limit, because turning the page I remember the Inter-House Cross Country, where Samson Stieger-White came first for the second year in a row and Josh Hunter came second, helping the seniors to win overall. Jamie Cockbill and Robert Downer-McGlone were the leading Cobham boys in their age groups. I cannot let this term pass without mentioning the Coldstream Cup. The team are pictured on these pages and they did very well to come 3rd overall and to be jointly, the leading boy's House. Last, by no means least, the highlight of the term for me was the Inter-House Singing Competition. The Part Song of 'You Raise Me Up' sung by William Walmsley, Adam Charlesworth, Gus Perkins-Ray (who was outstanding), Azu Nsirim, Balthazar Mattar and Josh Hunter were fantastic and they won this category. With second place in the House Song with 'Perfect Day', we won the overall trophy. A truly whole House success.

Lent Term

The short and sometimes cold and dark Lent Term was enlightened by our performances in the water. It is always good when a Stoic who has put a lot into an area of school life, gets due reward and so it was with the Inter-House Swimming when Josh Hunter matched individual success with almost single-handedly winning the senior element of this competition for Cobham. Added to this he led the seniors to the Saturday Water-Polo League title for the second year in a row, with John Beaumont and Nick Anson also featuring heavily in this success. This term also saw the selection of School Prefects and it is gratifying that we have four next year in the forms of George Hunter, Freddie Prendergast, Xandie Trevor and Azree Rashid.

Summer Term

Tom Wilson, Captain of Cricket, led the Boys to victory against the Fathers on what was a sunny Sunday in May for our At Home. It was a lovely occasion and very well supported by the Cobham parents. During the At Home, I had great pleasure in announcing to the whole Cobham family, that Sports Day, two days earlier, had been a successful occasion for the House. Indeed, we won the Junior, Intermediate and Senior trophies and thus the overall crown. Robert Downer-McGlone, Adam Qazi and Josh Hunter all led their sections of the House by example and Samson Stieger-White and Rowley Barclay won individual trophies for their events. Added to two relay cups, it was eight trophy day for Cobham and a great way to round off a very successful year.

Mr Matthew Way



Stoic

FROM THE HOUSEMASTER:

The beginning of the academic year heralded the much anticipated work on the cornices and the House in general. We were not to be disappointed – the scaffolding eventually came down and revealed some excellent restoration of Clough Williams Ellis' magnificent south facing façade. The photo archive and House room have transformed the House and Chatham's special individual character continues to shine through. We are very grateful to Richard, Janine and Ben Bannister for their generous donation that made this possible. Coupled with improvements to the 3rd Form dorms and Library, Chatham had a massive fillip to start the new year.

Harry Wolrige Gordon, Head of House, has been outstanding this year and helped enormously with the smooth running of the House. A talented sportsman, Harry has commanded respect from the other boys. He has an easy languid style and he has been a wonderful ambassador for Chatham and Stowe. My huge thanks go to him and the rest of the House prefects; Dom Woods, Max Mackintosh, Hugo Wiseman – also in charge of the drinks machine enterprise, Sam Morris, Freddie Shirley, Jamie Hirst and Giles Hoare. They have all been very busy organising and doing duties in the House, running teams and finding time to study too!

Academically we have had our fair share of success, with an impressive 535 merits, 25 commendations and two benes awarded to date, complimented with an ever increasing number of boys rewarded for good TWO results. As I write this report the boys are revising for their GCSEs and A levels with confidence and happy in the knowledge that they already have some decent grades 'in the bank' from modules already taken.

The new boys in the House have settled well, with the Third Form forming a strong group and the new Sixth Formers finding their feet so well, that two of them have been appointed School Prefects! The other "new boy" and his delightful wife Sally have also settled well. Ed Surrey has quickly established himself as an excellent Under Housemaster and I am very grateful for all his support over this year.

There have been many highlights over the year, alongside the many sporting successes highlighted by the Head of House in his report.

- The particularly good entertainment post the Christmas dinner and hearty singing of the National Anthem will stay long in the memory, made perhaps more pertinent as the previous rendition was to The Queen herself in November.
- The dedication of the Leonard Cheshire stained glass windows – it is such an honour for Chatham to house the wonderful memorial to an incredible man.
- Our contribution to the House Arts festival, "George" by Derek Rickman. Ed Abel Smith directed, produced and starred in an excellent production that was very well received.

To mention but a few....

The close of this year marks the end of Tally Kettler's long and loyal service to Chatham as our Matron. Tally bids farewell after 16 years and will be sorely missed by the boys and I. Tally will always be assured of a warm welcome in Chatham where she has given so much of her time and thoughtfulness.

I am very grateful to the attached Tutors in Chatham; Rod Tait, Steve Malling, David Ardley, Debbie Arcscott, Brian Johnson and, even though he is an even busier man in his new guise as Deputy Headmaster, Crispin Robinson, who has found some time to support Chatham. I could not run the House without them and I appreciate all their hard work.

With the ongoing development plans for renovating the remaining study bedrooms and the Portico to be repaired over the Summer aligned with the other development plans, Chatham remains very dynamic and an exciting House to be a part of. I very much look forward to next year and the prospect of further successes.

Housemaster:	John Ing
Matron:	Tally Kettler
Under Housemaster:	Edward Surrey
Head of House:	Harry Wolrige Gordon



Mr John Ing



Chatham

CHATHAM HOUSE 2008

This is my fifth and final year in the House and I am very sad to be leaving. During the summer the House had been refurbished and was looking perhaps the best it has ever looked. Mr Surrey and his wife joined the House and have settled very well. They are always approachable and available to chat.

Chatham has always been well known for its individualism. We have always stood out as a dominant House within the School, generally putting in a strong performance in House events and often bringing back silver wear.

Early in the Christmas term we won the senior golf with Dom Woods winning the competition in a play off, scoring a birdie appropriately on the Chatham hole.

We also won the senior and Fifth Form Rugby tournaments with some outstanding play particularly from the senior players, Giles Hoare, Jamie Hirst (and Harry Wolrige Gordon – Mr Ing's addition!). Perhaps stealing the limelight was 'new boy' David Devlin Jones. A creditable second place in the junior squash added to what was a successful term for Chatham. In the Coldstream Cup we achieved a very respectable 6th, with quite a young team this augers well for the future. Harry Bannister came in 2nd for his age group across the School for cross country which was a very good effort.

In the Lent term and hockey, Chatham showed again the strength in depth with our seniors winning and the juniors losing in the semi-finals on penalty flicks! In the inter-House swimming competition we missed Sam Morris but Milo Drake swam very well. Perhaps our best result was the senior team winning the medley relay. Our table tennis expert Brad Kim did very well getting to the semi finals - losing to the overall winner. One of the highlights of this term was the senior basketball team with some strong play from Anthony Harbin, Adam Clitheroe and the outstanding player of the tournament, Jamie Hirst. This strong line-up that contained many School team players won through a high standard competition to win the tournament.

So far in the summer term we have got to the final of the 6 a-side leagues which we won last year, unfortunately we could not repeat last year's performance and lost narrowly. Sports Day and Athletics was another good day for Chatham with Will Dunn winning the senior triple jump and leading the House to an excellent 4th in the seniors. As I type this report we are due to play into the final of the senior House cricket and our juniors are looking forward to defending the junior title.

As a House we continue to go from strength to strength and everyone has done the House proud this year in whatever activity this was. And the House will only get stronger and bring in more trophies next year.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr Ing and his family and Matron. All their hard work has been much appreciated. Matron - who has been at the House for many years and is retiring at the end of this term, deserves a special mention. She puts in a lot of work which is unseen and is very much the heart of the House. We wish her all the best for the future.

Harry Wolrige Gordon



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Stoic

GRAFTON BEGAN 2007 IN GOOD HEALTH, with numbers rising to 63. The tutorial team remained strong, and the lists of those wanting to join the House continued to increase.

The positive mood in the House was helped by some outstanding results. The House achieved 82% A/B grades, with Ed Colville, Jonathan Elfer, Jack Fillery and James Gray gaining all A grades, and Kelvin Korn and Jamie Gubbins achieving A or B grades. This sets a standard for the new intake of 13 Third Formers, 2 Lower Sixth, and 1 Fifth Former.

The year has contained many highlights. On the sports fields, Grafton has had numerous successes. We were winners of three league competitions: Rugby (led by George Beaty), Football (Charlie Roberts) and Water Polo (Sam Strutt). The rugby was the most exciting, as the result came down to points difference. Angus Hay and Stefan Rogge were both key contributors. The football competition came down to a nail biting contest with Walpole, with Grafton sneaking a 1-0 victory, after a controversial penalty award to Tommy Howgego. The water polo was dominated from throughout, with Tom Bishop and Sam Strutt vying to score most goals. Sam in particular has also developed into a brilliant swimmer.

We were victorious in badminton, totally dominating, thanks to Harry Benyon (singles champion, and school captain), and the unbeaten pairing of Malcolm McCorquodale and Jamie Randall. Some individual performances are also worthy of note, with Hubie Leese finishing second in the junior cross country, and runner up in 800m and 1,500m races on Sports Day. Ben Rimell won the junior 400m race, while Sam Shepherd-Barron stole the show with victories in cross country, 800 and 1,500m, to make an outstanding hat trick. He also led the 5th Form team to victory in the rugby, with a brilliant all round display.

Other successful competitions have been senior debating (runners up), with a team of Gus Wiseman, James Minchin-Mitchell and Felix Stevenson; junior debating (also runners up), where Freddie Benyon almost did enough to win it, along with Tom Mason and Barney Curran. The Third Form finished runners up in hockey, Rob Hill leading the way, while the stand out performance this term was the senior cricket. Having disposed of Cobham and Walpole, Grafton faced a very strong Chatham team, and conceded 99 for 2 in 10 overs. Marcus Beresford was outstanding in the field, and Jamie Randall not far behind. The chase looked daunting, but with Charlie Roberts and Tommy Howgego playing well, the foundation was laid for Olly Tett's assault. It came down to needing six off the final ball, but Olly was bowled attempting the hit, and Grafton were narrowly beaten. The Coldstream Cup also saw a strong performance, with Harry Benyon leading a committed squad to within two points of success. Richard Hay ran a very successful Clay Pigeon Squad, with A and B team tied in fourth place.

Success in these competitions is important, but only part of the story. Even more encouraging is to see the enjoyment gained from the games of cricket on the lawn each evening, involving members of every year group. The nights when we barbeque on the lawn, and again, the House mixes with each other, also reflect this happy atmosphere. This was seen in the Odds v Evens competition, when the entire House competed, in a variety of disciplines, from debating, through sudoku and stick cricket, to football and basketball. With Harry Benyon (706) marshalling the evens, and Marcus Beresford (711) the odds, it was a superb tussle, ending with an excellent House supper. The Evens edged this year's title, although Oli Heath would not forgive me if I did not mention his Sudoku title.



Richard Hay has been a tireless servant of School drama, and was rewarded with his first line in a Senior Congreve production! Tom Bishop (Junior Colts) and Jack Bartholomew (1st XV) were voted player of the season by their coaches. The following won prizes on Speech Day: Freddie Benyon, Simon Plunket, Peter Chong, Michael Tarr, James Minchin-Mitchell and George Beaty.

However, standing above these achievements must be that of Felix Stevenson, who has been announced as Head Boy for 2008-9. I cannot imagine anyone could have been more deserving, and am confident that Felix has the right combination of strength of character, integrity and desire to make a difference that will make him an outstanding Head Boy.

Finally, a few thank yous. To the Upper Sixth who will be leaving soon, thank you for your commitment and loyalty and your efforts on behalf of Grafton. To the Tutors, who work so hard, Mr Critchley, Mr Hughes, Mr Young, and Mr Jeffreys), a huge thank you. To Mrs B, thank you for everything. Without your care and attention to every detail, the life of the boys would be far less enjoyable, and my own life would be impossible! Finally, to Mr Mochan, who is moving out as Under-Housemaster (continuing as a House Tutor), a huge thank you for your support in everything to do with Grafton. I know how much the boys have valued you, and how much you will be missed next year, although I am delighted that we have such a strong replacement in Mr Hayden. Good luck in your new home.

Mr Chris Townsend



Leavers 2008

Jack Bartholomew – House Prefect, 1st XV rugby player, senior figure with the Beagles, an excuse for everything, but willing to help with anything.

George Beaty – captain of House rugby leagues, winner of the Louis Strauss prize, superb commitment.

Harry Benyon – captain of school badminton and tennis, School Prefect, Deputy Head of House, and one of the best guest players for the staff football team!

Marcus Beresford – Deputy Head of House, and dedicated House man. Guitarist for two house songs, including our triumph in 2006.

Ludo de Ferranti – 1st team for polo and football, and a fine sportsman in all sports. A true country man, always to be found somewhere in the grounds with his dogs!

Tommy Howgego – 1st XI cricket (2 years). House Prefect. Capable in the classroom, although happy to be moving on in Business studies.

Malcolm McCorquodale – 1st team tennis, 1st team badminton. Malcolm turned himself into a very capable racket sportsman, as well as enjoying his cricket. Someone who has made the most of opportunities at school.

James Minchin-Mitchell – School Prefect, and winner of the Cumming prize. James is a great supporter of school tennis, running the singles competition, and a fine debater.

Jamie Randall – 1st team badminton, and a fine artist. Jamie has contributed much in House with his humour and kindness.

Charlie Roberts – Head of House, 1st team cricket, captain of 1st team football. A fine head of House, who cares about others, and very proud of his House.

Michael Tarr – School Prefect, winner of a Headmaster's Special Prize. Originally an A team sportsman, but latterly a House sportsman. Michael ran the Alpha group at Stowe, holding regular meetings for up to 50 Stoics.

Gus Wiseman – here for two years, but made his mark with his strong political views, his willingness to debate, his constant lateness, but also his academic flair.



Stoic

BOARDING SCHOOL IN THE IMAGE of Tom Brown's schooldays is a distant memory in most cases and this year Walpudlians have benefited from their newly refurbished House which has brought improved and new accommodation to most boys. The 4th Years now benefit from having their own individual rooms with a washbasin (only one other boys' house offers single rooms for the 4th formers), rooms previously occupied by Upper Sixth formers, while many of the Sixth Formers have new rooms as well as their own common room. Many of the Walpudlians have also enjoyed the dedicated snooker/table tennis room and the smaller and cosier houseroom with reputedly the largest TV screen in the school!

Housemaster:	Mr Peter Platts-Martin
Matron:	Miss Sheldine Moran
Under Housemaster:	Mr James Hayden
Head of House:	Tom Wiggett

And yet the distinct identity and spirit of the House has remained. The loyalty of the boys to each other and their house has been evident whenever the house has fielded a team. Our trophy shelves remain full, this year with the addition of the senior debating cup won by our team of Winston Reynolds, Freddie Forrester and James Fraser. In recent days the senior cricket team won the league knock-out overs cup defeating the favourites; the junior debating team of James Bell, Billy Harvey and Alex Wilshaw have just won junior debating competition, so completing the 'debating double'; our shooting team of Ed Cutting, Alex Robertson and James Hemsley have won the inter-house shooting trophy; our 3rd Formers are seeking the treble by adding the cricket cup to the football and rugby trophies they have won. The Coldstream Cup team, superbly led by Johnnie Puxley, came within one point of retaining the trophy for an unprecedented third year.



The House acknowledges the role played by our upper sixth formers, and adversity and success has forged a close knit group of senior Walpudlians. Whether attendance by the whole house, in house shirts, in the debating final or witnessing all year groups playing cricket on our improvised cricket pitch at the front of the house or seeing all ages and most of the house playing football on our Walpole lawn, it is clear the Walpole spirit is alive and in good health. The House spirit was also much in evidence at our recent 'at home' which centred around a cricket match and hog roast.

To single anyone out would lead one to readily highlighting many of the boys for their inestimable contributions to the House or to the school but space does not permit, so I simply would like to place on record, on behalf of the House, our gratitude to Tom Wiggett, head of house, the house prefects and all the upper sixth formers for their many and varied contributions to house and school over their five years. They move on with our very best wishes to forge their paths in life, drawing upon their experiences at Stowe to assist them find personal and professional fulfilment.

Mr Peter Platts-Martin



Walpole Head of House

"Walpole till I die." - Need I say more? This chant sung by some 21 Sixth Formers heard in both Club and Centre on a regular basis, drowning out whatever rubbish is playing on the speaker system, sums up the type of House we really are: passionate, determined, united and certainly unique. From academic scholars to 'rugger-buggers', Walpole has an eclectic mix of people, which contributes to its exceptionally individual nature as a House.

Despite the remarkable range of characters within the House, Walpudlians maintain an intimacy with each other that can only be seen within families, - and this is why I feel so proud to have been Head of House for the past year.

Most people when thinking of Walpole will recall a Housemaster by the name of PPM, a South-African Matron and 60 odd boys having a blast within a boarding House. Although this may be true to some extent, on a serious note Walpudlians have always prided themselves on having a tremendous House spirit - first encouraged by the former Housemaster John Moule, from whom Mr Platts-Martin our current Housemaster has continued a similarly keen support for House spirit. No matter what the event or who is taking part, if a member of the House is involved, you can be assured there will be a troop of Walpudlians there to show support.

This is best demonstrated at the final of the Senior House Debate. Typically one of the more subdued competitions, with a few quiet spectators watching what usually tends to be an intellectual and restrained affair. Not the case however, when the Walpole team took to the floor. Winston Reynolds, Freddie Forester and James Fraser, joined by the entire House, dressed in Walpole shirts, took on the girls of Lyttelton and their feeble excuse for a support team. Not only winning the competition but also demonstrating Walpole's incredible passion no matter what the event is.

On a personal note I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in the House from the pupils and my friends to the House staff for giving me the opportunity to be Head of House and for supporting me throughout the year. It has been a pleasure to be responsible for the House. Thank you also to my Deputy Head of House James Leet-Cook and all my Prefects for their continuous support throughout the year. Being Head of House has given me a sense of responsibility and I have learned an awful lot and gained many great memories during the year. Finally, as I started, it will always be for me "Walpole till I die!"

Tom Wiggett



HOW STRANGE IT FEELS TO BE SAYING FAREWELL to a group of U6 who arrived in Sept 06 at the same time as me, their Housemistress, and their Matron. We have grown, matured and developed together and I honestly believe that the end product is one that all girls and staff can be proud of!

The last 12 months has been packed with energy, determination, successes and failures, but most important of all, friendship. I am lucky to have a strong, supportive staff team who bring an understanding, patience and a sense of humour to all House discussions. It is therefore with a great sense of loss that we say goodbye to Francine Smith who has single handedly, at times, managed the annexe with strong guidelines, but a real sense of fun for the last two years. She moves from here to run the Sixth Form at Northampton High and takes with her our thanks for all she has done in Nugent.

The year started with a new and slightly timid group of Lower 6, who had a somewhat quieter feel to them, compared to the year above! Although I have to say they were every bit as talented! Trophies eluded us many times during that first term although no one could have doubted the effort put in by various groups. House Singing, Coldstream Cup and Cross Country all seemed to slip away at the final hurdle, but I congratulate all those in House that took part for their effort, determination and desire to succeed.

The Lent term took a turn for the better as we won back House Hockey, Lacrosse and defended Swimming under the brilliant captaincy of Chloe Ballantine. Chloe has continued to swim for School and encouraged a lot of girls in House to train on Friday evenings, much to the delight of swimming coach, Stewart Cowie! Just recently we successfully defended the Sailing Cup with the brilliance of Pippa Russell and Anna Jackson and also the Netball Cup with some tactical play from our captain Grace Lavelle.

On the academic side we have had some excellent module results with 4 girls gaining 100% in the recent set of exams: Lucy Rankin, Chloe Ballantine, Sophie Loyd and Rebecca Elliott. Throughout the year our TWO's have been excellent with numerous girls performing well on every occasion. Honours go to Heloise Ramage Hayes, Chloe Ballantine, Anna Jackson, Lucy Rankin, Taisie Grant, Floss Hopewell and Susie Shilling. Many subject prizes were also awarded to Nugent girls on Speech Day and of course special congratulations must go to our own Head Girl Monika Jurcic for being such a fantastic role model for girls at Stowe.

The drama element in House, under the guidance of Nick Bayley, continues to play a massive part in our lives. Senior Congreve in November saw Milly King, Lettie Butcher and Daisy Page perform in Pirandello's Six Characters. The atmosphere created by the cast was breathtaking as the tale of betrayal, sexuality and death unfolded on stage. With a more light hearted touch we also saw for the first time the talents of Lily Hanbury as she performed in 'The Real Inspector Hound'. This brings me on neatly to our House Play, 'Daisy pulls it off' as many girls acted and directed the humorous tale of Daisy as she strives to settle and become accepted at her new school. Spectacular performances by Daisy Page, Jess Waddington, Bels English and Lily Samengo Turner were appreciated by many parents, staff and pupils.

Last, but not least, a mention should be made about our two music scholars, Beth Georgiou and Floss Hopewell whom I am sure many of you have heard perform on several occasions. They have entertained us at informal music concerts, the end of term service, Dinner 'n Jazz, Summer Jazz, the Oliver! production and of course at our own 'At Home'. We are lucky to have the talented voice of Floss for yet one more year, but our best wishes go to Beth who leaves us to continue her musical prowess at University next year.

Mentions must also go to those who have been awarded House Colours this year:
House Prefect Team, Lucy Rankin, Rosie Chance, Milly King, Kate Macnamara, Pippa Russell, Nella O'Brien
Colours also awarded to Daisy Page, Monika Jurcic, Laura Henderson and Anna Jackson

Special congratulations goes to those who have been given Prefect status or above: Monika Jurcic (Head Girl); Laura Henderson, Anna Jackson (Senior Prefects); Chloe Ballantine, Hope Capurro (Prefects). 2008/09: Abby Webb (Senior Prefect), Sarah Worssam, Harriet Nicholls, Vicky Elliott, Becky Elliott, Floss Hopewell.

May I take this opportunity to thank all those in Nugent who help day in day out to make it an enjoyable place to work. Our Matron, Di Olivier for her tireless work both for the girls and my family. Liz Chare and Francine Smith for their help and support and for the entire duty team who turn up with a smile on their face and do duty each week and cope with the varying mood swings of sixty teenage girls and one elderly Housemistress!

Housemistress:	Jayne Duckett
Matron:	Di Olivier
Under Housemistress:	Elizabeth Chare
Annexe:	Francine Smith
Head of House:	Lucy Rankin

Mrs Jayne Duckett



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A day in the life of Nugent

Morning arises, the chapel organ chimes,
 And already it's Hope and Humphrey time.
 Nugent rushes in, five minutes late,
 Except for Antonia who's not even awake.
 Head Girl's in her element, reading the reports,
 But the boy standing next to Monika is always in her thoughts.
 A sudden gasp of realisation from Milla and Kaplan,
 They've forgotten their fifth layer of fake tan.
 The bell is ringing, lessons begin,
 A whole day of Crisford makes Waddington grin.
 Fresh coffee is made, cashmere is worn,
 Maigrot in her chair, content, comfy and warm.
 Singing is heard, it sounds like a klaxon,
 No one looks up, shut up Jackson!
 It's an hour till lunch, but Kate won't eat a thing,
 Because she's waiting for Bill to bring her Burger King.
 Tensions break out, there's not enough toast,
 A big slap for Chrissy, she's eaten the most.
 It was such a cringe for none other than V,
 She ate a lettuce leaf and then needed to pee.
 Henderson's baking and organising private lunches,
 For all the eager Nugent House munchers.
 Lessons begin again, yet someone's lost their book,
 But it won't be hard to find with all the pictures Milly took.
 Grace turns her head and the boys all stop to stare,
 They all want to be with her, they don't think it's fair.
 Pippa goes sailing as activities start,
 The first girl Captain, she's making her mark.
 Nella starts her run she does everyday,
 While we all lounge about, unlike her, we will pay.
 The piano calls to Beth, she can't keep away,
 But not from her music as Marcus is here to stay.
 Home time has arrived, Ballantine boards the bus,
 It's very, very magic, but not for us!
 Heloise is driven home, unable to stay,
 Will she ever come to Club, the Upper Sixth say?
 Chance wants to go to supper but she knows she can't,
 She hasn't tidied the annexe yet and so she shan't.
 House meeting begins, Butcher's in a strop,
 There's not enough quiet, ginger yells at them to stop.
 Head of House Lucy tells everyone to chill,
 Thinking of the next text to compose to Will.
 Daisy's on a diet and on the phone to Bucky,
 Hoping that this weekend she might get lucky (getting out of school)
 Cottee has another admirer; she doesn't know what to do,
 Should she take him on a walk and follow it through?
 Loyd's forgotten her graphics prep, her heads in the clouds,
 But being stalked by Rory, doesn't make her proud.
 As soon as preps over, Kate can go and display,
 Her affection for Barty with obscene PDA.
 As her skirts get shorter, so do her boys,
 But we've learnt to live with Calkin's chattering noise.
 Everyone's asleep, but Dangerfield lies awake,
 She's still worrying about one girl who didn't get enough cake.
 With everyone snoozing, we just want to say:
 We'll always miss Stowe at the end of the day.

Jess Waddington, Lettie Butcher and Anna Coffee-Jones



Stoic

OUR BEGINNINGS IN STANHOPE WERE RATHER HUMBLE –

Lóth found themselves in dorms of 4 rather than the smart singles with ensuite that they had been anticipating and the 3rds' dorms were more 1950s than cutting edge. But unified by a sense of adversity – and, let's face it, we were hardly slumming it, the Maintenance Department had worked wonders – Queen's House (on tour) was born. The lack of an Upper Sixth meant that the Lower Sixth, who had been at Stowe for three days longer than the 3rd Form, had to take a leading role. Not easy when they were trying to make new friends themselves, not to mention learning to decipher Stowe vocabulary such as stance, TWOs and merits and find the elusive Plug Street. The girls now look back on their term in Stanhope very fondly – stacks of toast, the largest House room in the School, House singing rehearsals aplenty and boot polishing for the Coldstream Cup all contributed to a real sense of community.

The 29th November was an obvious highlight. We welcomed Queen's parents, gasped as Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness Prince Phillip made their spectacular entrance and enjoyed a feast of our own before moving to the new building to await its official opening. The atmosphere was electric, not only because we were so excited about meeting our very special guest but also as it was to be the first time that the girls and their parents were allowed to look around the new building. Containing the girls in the House room for an hour was no easy feat! When Her Majesty did arrive, the girls lost the power of speech but their smiles said it all. The shrieks of amazement and excitement later on that day as they ran down corridors exploring their new home and sat on their window seats watching the world go by were a fitting end to a truly magical day.

We finally moved in at the beginning of the Spring Term and the girls settled quickly into their new surroundings. Queen's is gradually looking more like home as we adorn the walls with Stoics' art work and learn to make full use of our excellent facilities. I think the building works and it helps to make the girls the friendly, enthusiastic, determined and high achieving bunch of individuals that they are.

The Lower Sixth may contain a few sporting heroines but for many their prowess is in the classroom (we secured more than our fair share of Lower Sixth prizes), the art school or on the musical front. A number of those who have been House Prefects this year have been appointed School Prefects and I know that they will be superb as they have already done such a good job in House. Equally, I have confidence in those new to the role of House Prefect – their diverse talents and appreciation of each others' strengths make them a force to be reckoned with.

Our first cohort of 3rd Formers is incredibly impressive. They work and play hard and set themselves very high standards. They show real guts and determination on the sports field – if only there were cups for junior athletics (and for getting more than 20 pluses in TWOs...) and regularly take on Lyttelton 4th form (they'll certainly remember that penalty flick that won us the hockey for some time to come). But they also shine in so many other spheres of school life – music, drama, XX club, dancing in the House room on a Saturday evening. They are full of drive and zest and I very much look forward to watching them make their mark on Stowe.

Housemistress:	Mrs Jane Hamblett-Jahn
Matron:	Ms Anne Reading
Under Housemistress:	Miss Zoe Branford-White, Mrs Jenny Nelson
Head of House:	Alice McNair

Mrs Jane Hamblett-Jahn





Queen's House report

This year Queen's graduated from their campsite in the san, to become the envy of the School, living it up with ensuites and 4 - yes, 4 - plasma screens. We grew from the elusive N.G.B.H. (New Girls' Boarding House) into a fully fledged part of the Stowe community, with our very own orange home to prove it - eventually. Though the sauna and indoor pool turned out to be a myth, the much awaited building itself, in its glassy, Travelodgesque glory, is the perfect home for your typical Queenite. It even got the royal seal of approval...

House spirit was born in our cramped, probably quite germey, initial living conditions, tested by our collective ignorance of all things 'Stoic', and confirmed by our rapidly growing trophy collection.

Chapel was well and truly rocked by our very smiley version of the very catchy 'Follow me' - and the less catchy, more controversial rendition of 'Hail Holy Queen' ('cause, well, the title says it all). House unity, at this point, consisted of canny L.6th utilising the incredible talent of the much braver, more enthusiastic 3rd Form.

We proceeded to establish ourselves as further threats to the far too complacent Nugent and Lyttelton with demonstrations of our sporting prowess: 3rds kicked butt (and balls) at junior soccer; we sweated our way to cross-country victory, collecting cups for both senior and overall; our ad-hoc hockey team proved worthy components for pretty much the whole of the 1st team; and House swimming, despite lycra-induced reluctance, resulted in yet more accolades.

Our talents, however, span the whole of Stowe life, so we like to think Mrs. H-J agrees. Great pride is taken in our collective academic awesomeness, with Apollo reporting a daily flurry of merits, commendations and (sometimes) Benes - albeit mostly from 3rd Form.

Any assumptions that us Queen's girls are just spoiled, talented and intelligent were well and truly quashed by our riotous House play. We clearly know how to have fun. Be this inappropriate window-dancing, giggly midnight feasts with 3rd Form, evasion of all social contact in favour of Chester's latest or simply gossiping with our Housemistress.

And thus, Queen's has settled in, forging our own identity and making substantial inroads into our clinical Ikea haven. The standard has been set. Good luck to the New New Girls' Boarding House - you will have a LOT to live up to...

Written by Alice McNair and Lucy Brooks



Stoic

THIS YEAR, STOWE'S LIBRARIANS HAVE SEEN MORE STOICS

pass through the library doors than any other, encouraged by the recent addition of the highly successful ante-library. This is a new area where stoics can go to relax and read their favourite fictional novels ranging from books by JK Rowling to Robert Harris or just sit down and read one of the 34 periodicals that Stowe offers to Stoics. The ante-library has also given more Stoics the opportunity to work in the comfort and warm surroundings of the library's outstanding design that is exclusive to Stowe. "Moving the fiction and magazines out to the ante-library has created much needed space in the State Library," said Mrs Carol Miller, the School Librarian and I think it is true - the ante-library has been a highly popular and practical change to the library's layout.

Mrs Miller is planning on expanding the library's range of reading material as more people join the School. The addition of the DVD section to the library has been a huge success amongst Stoics and they are planning on increasing the size of the already vast range of DVDs.

"I have always been looking for new ideas to attract Stoics to the library," said Mrs Miller enthusiastically when she was asked if she was planning anything else for the Library for the next academic year. The expansion of the library into the corridor leading into various boarding Houses was imperative as more people, Stoics and teachers alike, begin to use the library more often. The ante-library and the library itself has become an academic hotbed for a majority of Stoics from all year groups.

As the library gains more and more popularity by the day, the literary quiz has sustained the success it received last year as Dr Miller continues to challenge even the most intellectually advanced Stoics with his literary questions. This has been the second year the literary quiz has been in existence at Stowe and it has proved to be an enjoyable and challenging event for all Stoics.

Jacob Dennison, captain of the Temple Literary quiz team, said, "The quiz was highly challenging but enjoyable. Temple came in at a very commendable 4th place."

The School is a very hectic environment for all Stoics as they have A levels, GCSEs and various other exams to worry about. I know I have plenty of revision to do and for myself and many other Stoics, the library is the peaceful work area that we need. The library offers Stoics the chance to alleviate the pressure of these exams. The library is a calm and gentle place where anyone can unwind and read the newspaper or write the History of Art essay that's been in the back of their minds all week. The library is a safe academic haven for all pupils of the School. I am a frequent library user and I can honestly say that it is one of the most, if not the most outstanding room in the whole School.

Edward Borland (Temple, 5th)



TOP 5 MOST BORROWED BOOKS

- The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini
- Lirael, by Garth Nix
- Archangel by Robert Harris
- Being Freddie by Andrew Flintoff
- Bravo Two Zero by Andy McNab



MOST POPULAR FILMS

- Hotel Rwanda
- A Beautiful Mind
- Saving Private Ryan
- Touching the Void
- A Bridge too Far

XX Group

THE XX GROUP IS A SMALL GROUP OF STUDENTS selected from among the Third and Fourth Forms for their high achievement in classes and their enthusiasm for their studies. Selection of this year's Third Form members proved particularly difficult, and the 2007-2008 group involves more students than in previous years. Most of the meetings this year have gone toward work on long-term projects which each member has chosen based on his or her own particular interests, with topics which run from modern history to scientific ethics to fashion. The students have been very willing to work at making the library serve their own personal needs, and their abilities as researchers have grown over the course of the year. In addition to their projects, the group has been involved in several special events, including a holiday dinner, trips away for book-hunting and orchestral concerts, and catered study sessions.

Mr Samuel Halpert



Stoic



Literary Society 2007-08

The Literary Society has had yet another immensely successful year, hosting a varied and exciting range of guest speakers and events.

We started off the year with one of the most memorable performers to date: Jim MacCool. During the evening Jim performed extracts from the Ionan Tales to Celtic music. It was an hugely entertaining evening, and a favourite with most Stoics I'm told!

Our next speaker was the well known British novelist and radio dramatist, Jonathan Smith. Mr Smith, a previous Writer in Residence at Stowe, gave an excellent and engaging talk on taking liberties with real lives in literature. He spoke consistently clearly and was wonderful at holding the Stoics' attention and answering their questions about the various moral dilemmas he had faced as a novelist. I was extremely impressed with how well the Stoics engaged with Mr Smith, and the variety of interesting and well thought out questions they asked in the discussion at the end of his talk.

The following month, Joanna Friedman, a Fulbright scholar, came to give a talk on the "The Representation of Time in The Tempest." Ms. Friedman showed an expert and impressive knowledge of the play, offering much wisdom about the complex and problematic issue. Moreover, she managed to stay focused despite a minor incident involving the Grenville Third Formers flooding an upstairs bathroom, causing water to come dripping into the Music Room where she was speaking! In spite of this, the evening was a success and Ms. Friedman was rewarded for her stoical attitude by a wonderful supper in the Blue Room afterwards.

Our next speaker, Mr. Daniel Rosenthal, an associate tutor for the British Film Institute, gave a talk on the various issues that arise when trying to depict Shakespeare's plays in film. Mr. Rosenthal accompanied his talk with several extracts from well known films, such as Baz Lurhman's Romeo and Juliet as well as lesser known interpretations of Much Ado About Nothing and The Tempest. The talk was well received as it was extremely helpful for the AS students studying Much Ado this year, and was of course a helpful follow-up to the talk from the previous speaker who had discussed The Tempest in depth.

On Thursday 6th March, the World Book Day Literary Quiz took place; a whole school event, and my personal favourite! With Dr. Miller as the quiz master, a series of difficult and diverse questions were fired at the contestants. Lyttelton stole the lead in the third round, going on to beat Nugent by one point! A wonderful time was had by all. My thanks to Mrs Miller for organising the event and Dr. Miller of course for a superb bunch of questions!

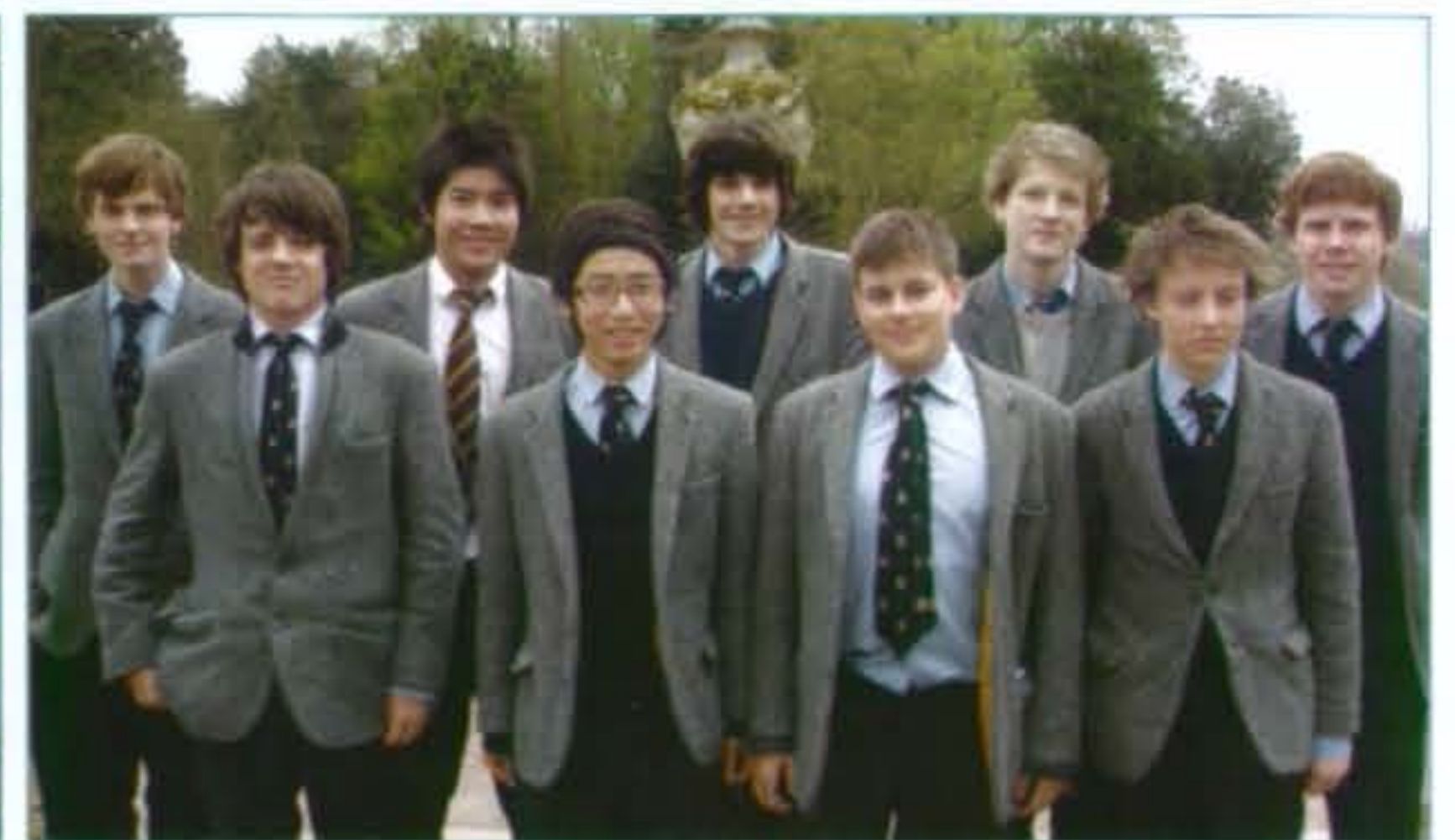
On 9th May, Dr Michael Woolf gave a fascinating and insightful presentation on 'The Other New England: Multi-Cultural Literature.' During his presentation, Dr Woolf explored the concept of physical diversity in culture, both in art (such as the confrontation in Trafalgar Square between the famous 'Alison Lapper Pregnant' statue representing cultural change, and the patriotic and imperialist statue of King George IV) and also through change in people. Zadie Smith's 'White Teeth' was used as an example of literature which confronts change. She was said to embody the ideas of multi-culturalism and fluidity of identity through both character and location, exploring what Englishness really means. This was a thoroughly stimulating and enjoyable talk.

We look forward now to the Upper Sixth Leavers' Dinner, during which a number of performances will be put on by final-year students. This should be an extremely entertaining evening.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank the English Department very much for all the time and effort they put into organising events for the Sixth Form.

***Daisy Page, Nugent, U6th (Secretary, 2007-2008)
[with a contribution by Laura Grossick, Lyttelton, L6th]***





THE GEOGRAPHY SOCIETY 2007-2008

The Geog Soc aims to meet twice a term and this year has been run by Chloe Ballantine, Pippa Russell and Nella O'Brien. We try to have a variety of speakers both from within and without the school. The year began with a talk from Chloe Ballantine who spoke about the changes that have taken place in Hong Kong since the handover from the UK to China back in 1997. Chloe put together a really interesting talk that was supported by an excellent PowerPoint presentation.

Our most colourful and noisy Geog Soc in living memory was next. This was the visit to Stowe of an ex-parent (Suzy Lyle), accompanied by a Zulu friend and a drummer who had brought with him 30 or so Africa drums. We heard much about the project that Suzy runs in Embo in South Africa, which is called Amathuba. Many were moved by the stories Suzy told and some Stoics have taken up sponsorship of individuals in the Embo community and others have expressed a desire to spend part of their GAP year in South Africa working for the Amathuba project.

The presentation itself was colourful and included a demonstration of a Zulu dance. This provoked much discussion afterwards as one of the themes covered in the Upper 6th year is the "commodification of culture" and some Stoics were of the opinion that a "performance" like this did little to promote true Zulu culture! It was certainly good to stimulate such topical debate and the evening ended with many staying beyond for an impromptu drum workshop to round off the evening.

The final presentation of the year was given by Dr. Adrian Parker, a member of the Geography Department at Oxford Brookes University and former tutor of Miss Branford-White. Adrian spoke about why Stoics might want to consider studying Geography at University and gave many useful tips about how to select an appropriate course and University. This gave students a good insight into the attractions of a Geography degree and reminded us that, other than chemists, Geographers are the graduates most likely to find work having completed their degree! Hopefully many more Stoics will follow in the footsteps of this year's geographers, many of whom are intending to study the subject at University in the next few years. Before too long, we hope to be able to invite some of these people back to speak at the next generation of Geog Soc meetings.



Mr Peter Last

Every week throughout each term, the Geography Department announces their 'Geographer of the week'.

This year, winners have been:

Verity Waterbury (Nugent)

George Leslie-Melville (Grenville)

Arabella Midwood (Lyttelton)

Inca Curwen (Queen's)

Tanya Prytula (Lyttelton) & Will Walker (Grenville)

James Elliott (Chandos)

Tom Haynes (Temple)

Cassidy Uggla (Lyttelton)

Broghan Smith (Bruce)

Octavia Trevor (Lyttelton)

George Corner & Henry South (Temple)

Fred Biggart (Grenville)

Hugh Stanley (Chatham)

Jamie Hirsch & James Leet-Cook (Walpole)

George Baylis (Bruce)

Geography Elite Extension Club



GEOGRAPHY SOCIETY

Last September, the Geography Society met for their first evening of the year. Chloe Ballantine spoke to us about the changes that have occurred in Hong Kong since the hand over in 1997. It was very interesting to hear about a topic that we know very little about and is not covered on the syllabus. It was good to have a fellow pupil speak and Chloe spoke very well, providing an excellent and colourful presentation.

Chloe gave us the background information about Hong Kong and helped us realise what the hand over was all about. She also mentioned noticeable changes such as the removal of the face of Queen Elizabeth II's face on post stamps and banknotes and the phasing out of the traditional red Royal Mail Pillar Boxes in favour of Hong Kong post boxes, as well as an increase in air pollution.

It was a great start for the Geography Society of 2007/2008.

Pippa Russell and Chloe Ballantine (Nugent, U6th)

Business Studies

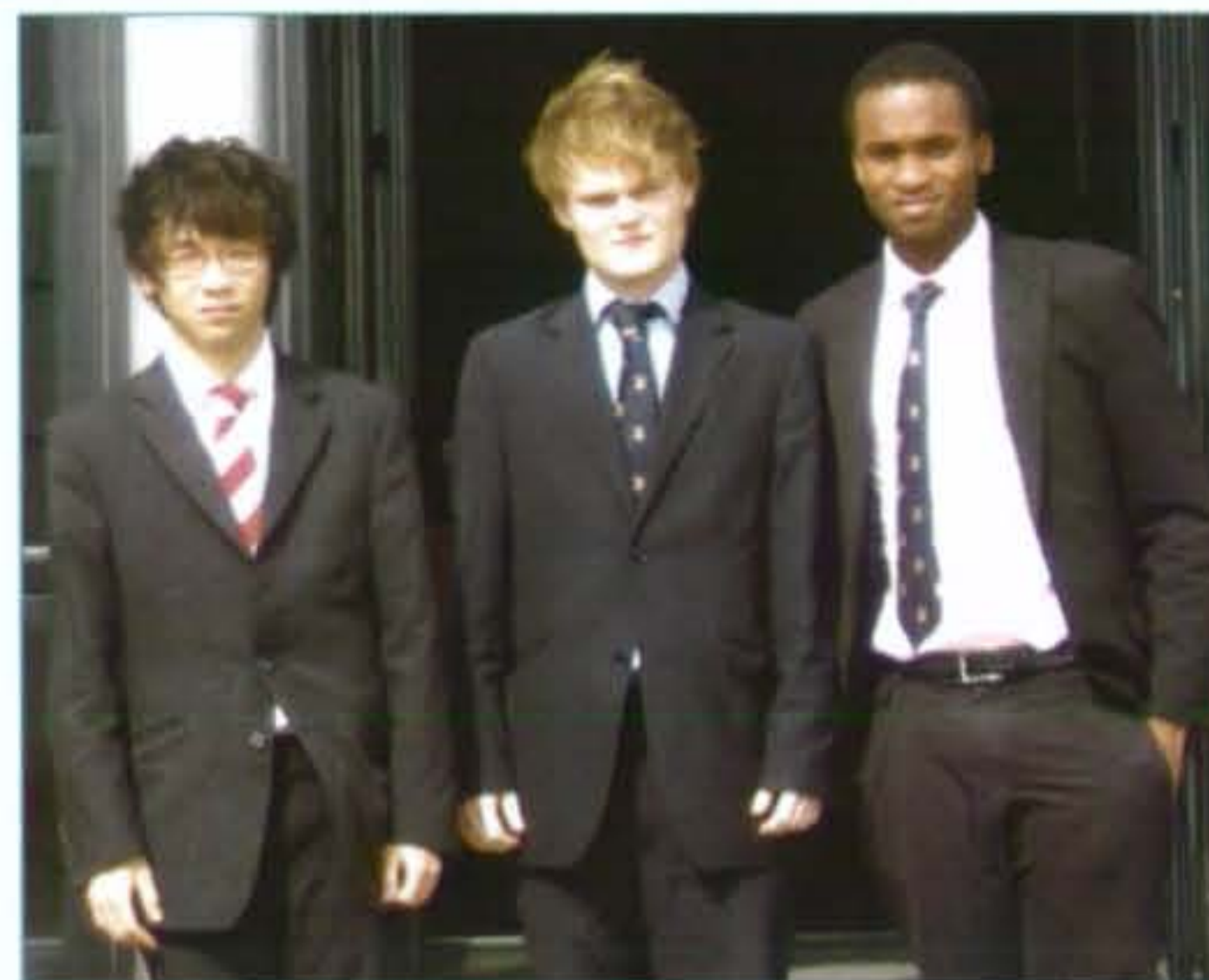
IN OCTOBER, THE BUSINESS STUDIES Department took 12 Stoics away to Newcastle for its annual tour of North East industries and businesses. On the way up to Newcastle we stopped at the National Coal Mining Museum where we took a tour of a mine. It was interesting to see the sort of environment where over a million Britons worked in less than a hundred years ago, and the tour was conducted by an ex-miner. The Stoics learned a lot about the conditions miners faced as well as the reasons for the miners strike of the 1980s - a topic they had studied in lessons.

In Newcastle we had a lecture on Business and Management courses in Higher Education from the Professor of Business Studies at the University of Newcastle, and this gave a lot of Stoics an opportunity to ask questions about the courses that many of them are opting to study. From Newcastle we visited Abbey Well, an up-market water company in Morpeth. As well as the tour of the production plant and bottling facility, we were also invited to participate in focus groups to assist with the launch of a new marketing campaign. This gave the Stoics an insight into the work of marketeers and how they develop their plans.

Finally, we visited the Barbour factory in South Shields. We were fortunate to receive a talk from the Director of Marketing on how Barbour has developed itself from a 'country set' and workmans clothing company, to a highly profitable fashion company over the last few years. The talk was very interesting and a lot of the Stoics then rushed over the road to snap up the deals on Barbour clothing in the factory outlet store!

All in all it was an excellent trip and we all learned a lot from visiting these very diverse organisations.

Mr Panos John and Mr Matthew Pitteway



Edmund Lee, Hugo Wiseman and Azu Nasirim:
CIMA Business Studies Finalists 2007

Classics

THE CLASSICAL SOCIETY

In September the Sixth-Form students studying Classical Civilisation or Greek saw a lively performance of Euripides' Bacchae at the Lyric Theatre in Hammersmith. It presented the ambiguous nature of Dionysus' power very effectively, complete with live pyrotechnics, and the black chorus of Bacchae gave a powerful dynamic to the ensuing tragedy.



In January Mr Andrew Morrison gave a talk on the Greek Trireme, supported by the TV documentary on the story of its recreation. The inspiration for this project came from his late father, Professor John Morrison, who had devoted much of his retirement in Cambridge to researching and then helping John Coates to build and trial the replica. The opportunity for Mr Morrison's talk came through James Musgrave, a grandson of Professor Morrison, and currently in the Upper Sixth in Grenville House. It was good to welcome to the talk and supper afterwards two of Mr Morrison's sisters, making it quite a family affair.

Current Sixth-Formers travelled to London's Bloomsbury Theatre in February to see Hugh Viney, a former Stowe classicist and Head Boy now at Imperial College, playing the lead role of Agamemnon in Aeschylus's tragedy of that name. With a commanding presence he carried off the part well in a stylised and unusually static performance.



The finals of the Third-Form PowerPoint Presentation competition produced some high-quality entries on a wide range of topics. The winners, chosen by Mr P. Last who kindly acted as adjudicator, were Imran Momen and Matthew Corless. They delivered an impressive discussion on whether we can trust the legends associated with the fall of Troy.

Mr Michael Bevington

Stoic

STOWE ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS

Between May and October of last year, Stoics, staff and parents were invited to hand in their old mobile phones so that they could be recycled for charity. The first 250 phones have now been processed and 250 trees have been planted at the Donkleywood renewable resources forestry scheme. We are still collecting phones and any which you might have can be left c/o Mr D Mochan at the Stowe School Reception.

In addition to this, Miss Ross has set up a Green Team activity which seeks to raise awareness of environmental issues in the school. They are undertaking to improve the recycling facilities in the Houses and have started by placing can bins around the school.

Mr Dominic Mochan



ABOUT THE PROJECT

Donkleywood was once home to a native woodland called Duncan's Wood which was made up of ancient oaks. This was cleared at the end of the 18th century for sheep farming. Remnant pockets of original woodland remain onsite and the project will link these together to create the largest native woodland scheme in the Northumberland National Park. This will make an important contribution towards the National Parks plan to increase the area of native woodland cover in the park to 4%. Donkleywood will be planted with a range of broadleaf tree species, specifically birch as well as some aspen.

Donkleywood is on the Western edge of the beautiful Northumberland National Park, recognised as one of the finest landscapes in Britain. As well as being home to some unique habitats and the nationally-endangered red squirrel, unique historic buildings like 'bastles' (fortified farmhouses) and the exhibits at the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site are a testament to Northumberland's sometimes troubled border history. Further to the west lies Kielder Water – the largest man made lake in Europe – with its walking, cycling and horseriding trails.

From www.carbonneutral.com

What can we do to help the environment?

Oliver Sewell, Cobham, 4th - Use more renewable energy

Hope Capurro, Nugent, U6th - Use bicycles more often

Kit Cowan, Cobham, 4th - Recycle more so that we can stop mining for new materials. This should reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

Anton Melnikov, Bruce, 4th - Stop using fossil fuels and reduce emissions to prevent the greenhouse effect continuing.

Titus Bridgewood, Bruce, 3rd - Firstly we must raise awareness and understanding about the problems.

Josephine Chung, Lyttelton, 4th - Use more public transport and fewer cars.

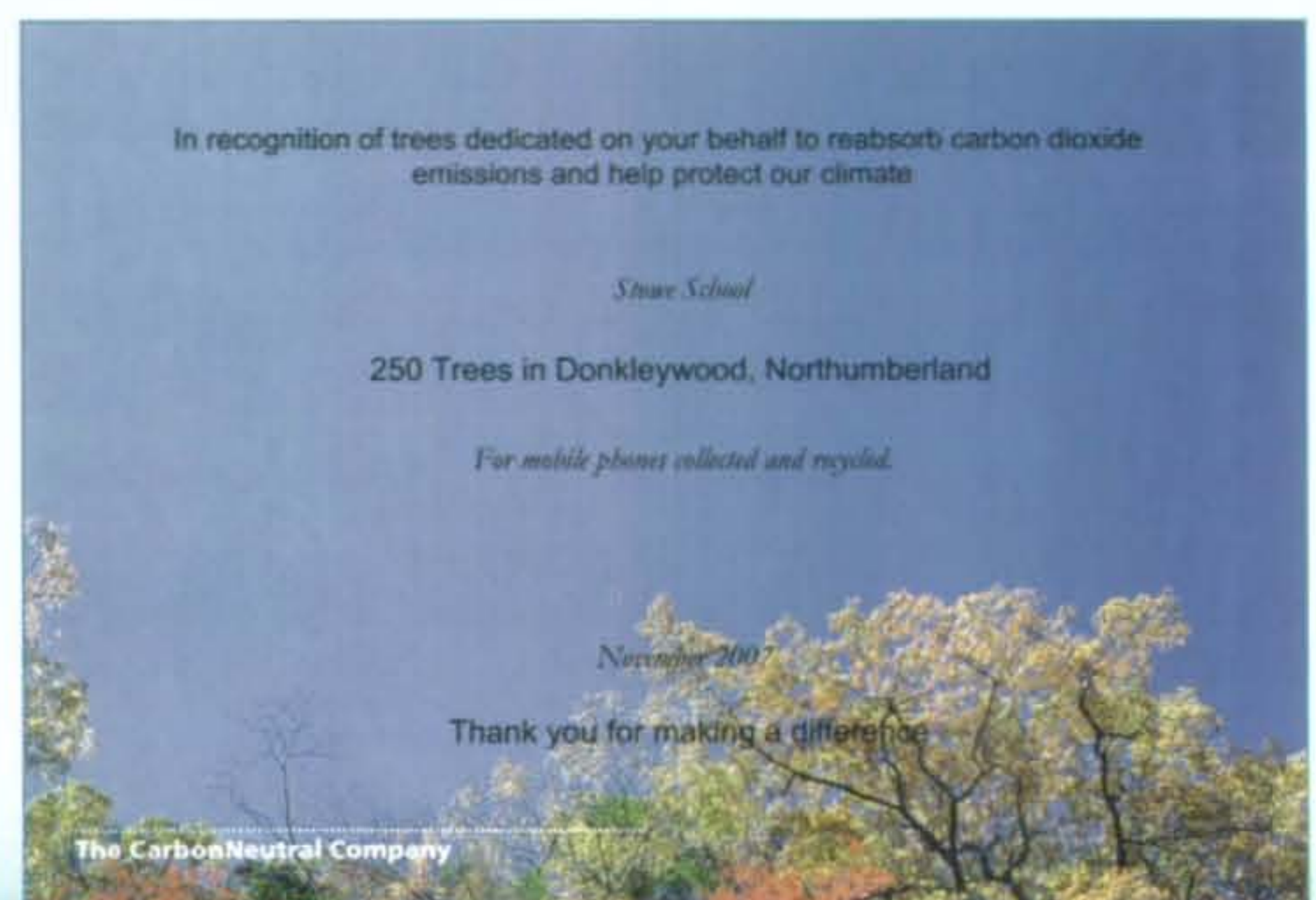
Ross Ritchie, Walpole, 5th - Stop using fresh plastic bags at the supermarket. This compromises our future!

Gus Perkins-Ray, Cobham, 5th - Recycling bins should be used more.

Harry Benyon, Grafton, U6th - Recycle more paper...the possibilities are endless!

Mr Alan Murray, Geography - Don't start a new piece of paper if there is still some room and don't throw away unused paper.

Mr Nick Bayley, Drama - Turn off lights and close windows when not in the room. Particularly in the boarding Houses!



PITT SOCIETY 2007/08

This year's Pitt Society included 24 members of the Lower Sixth whose AS Level subjects included Economics, Politics, History or History of Art. The Society aims to offer students a cross-curricular analysis and discussion of economic, political, historical and cultural events and ideas based on a particular broad theme. This year's theme was 'Poland, Prussia and Germany' and some of the presentation topics are listed below.

- Nazi Branding
- PoWs & Allied escape lines
- The 1936 Berlin Olympics
- Bismarck and the German Empire
- 'Cabaret' & pre-war Berlin
- Otto Dix
- EU Expansion

Each student is required to give a short presentation to the group and questions and discussion follow facilitated by Miss Smith (Head of Economics & Politics) and Dr Smith (Head of History).

At the end of the academic year students are given the opportunity to visit some of the places discussed and this year's trip will depart on 30th June for 5 days in Berlin followed by 3 days in Krakow. Next year's Stoic will contain a full report of the trip!

Miss Francine Smith

Monday 30th June	Dept London / Arrive Berlin (lunchtime arrival) Exploring central Berlin
Tuesday 1st July	Day trip to Wittenberg or Leipzig
Wednesday 2nd	Morning – Bauhaus museum Afternoon - Reichstag, Brandenburg Gate, Ku'dam
Thursday 3rd	East Berlin, Checkpoint Charlie Museum, Modern Art Museum
Friday 4th	Transfer to Krakow Old town square
Saturday 5th	Day trip to Auschwitz
Sunday 6th	City exploration – castle, cathedral & town
Monday 7th	Dept Krakow / Arrive London

Mathematics

ON WEDNESDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2007, a team of the School's four best mathematicians, Nick Johnston, Natalie McDaid, Mark Goodenough and Tom Zhai, travelled to Warwick University with Mr McDaid for the STMC. This was the first time that there has been a Senior Team Maths Challenge, and none of our team had ever competed in the Junior one either (which has been around for a few years), so we had very little idea of what would happen or how it would work. Luckily this was true of the other teams too, so we weren't at a disadvantage.

The STMC consisted of three rounds. The first round was ten questions to be solved by the whole team. The second was a "crossword" puzzle, except done by solving equations and problems not clues. The final round was a 'Relay', in which team members handed over their answers to the next team member for use in their problem. In the end the Stowe team came second, only narrowly missing out on going through to the second round of the competition to be held at Cambridge in February. However, the competition gave us an opportunity to try our hands at some more challenging maths than we normally encounter, competing against some of the top mathematicians in our region, so it was an enjoyable day despite this disappointment.

Mark Goodenough (Bruce, L6th)



Harriett Clitheroe and Oliver Jackson



Michael Illingworth and Rebecca Dale



Natalie McDaid, Nick Johnston, Tom Zhai and Mark Goodenough

TEAM MATHS CHALLENGE

On Wednesday 23rd April two of our Third Form pupils, Harriett Clitheroe and Michael Illingworth, teamed up with two of next year's Third Form (currently at Ashfold School), Rebecca Dale and Oliver Jackson, to take part in a UKMT Team Maths Challenge at Wycliffe College near Stroud.

Thirty seven teams took part, from a wide variety of schools. The competition took place over four rounds. The first round consisted of ten tricky puzzles. The second round was like a cross word, but using numbers. This was made more difficult because half the team were given the down clues and the other half the across clues, with communication forbidden. In the third round teams were paired up and played against each other to spot a pattern in a sequence of numbers. In the final round questions had to be answered as fast as possible and this involved a lot of running around to give in solutions and to get the next problem.

The competition was fierce. Some teams were extremely good and picked up close to full marks. The Stowe team performed very well in every round and scored high marks, finishing in ninth place.

Dr Ceri Fiddes

IT IS NEVER EASY COMING IN TO HEAD a Department that is already leading the way regarding examination results (the strongest in the school for several years across GCSE and A-Level). The challenge lies not only in maintaining (and improving) the excellent external examination grades, but also in developing and educating those in and outside of Stowe as to what, exactly, good Design education is about. It certainly is not only about manufacture (although the artefacts produced are what everyone understandably focuses on). Designing is an intellectual activity; a challenging one.

This year has once again seen a large number of varied projects and wonderful endeavour from Stoics. We teamed up with the Art Department to have a joint show of work in the Marble Hall and surrounding areas on Speech Day. The aim of this was not to replace the Design Department exhibition (which also went ahead), but to take some examples of work across graphics and resistant materials up to the main hub of Speech Day to allow those who would not normally venture down to the Design centre to see first hand what the Stoics following courses in Design actually do.



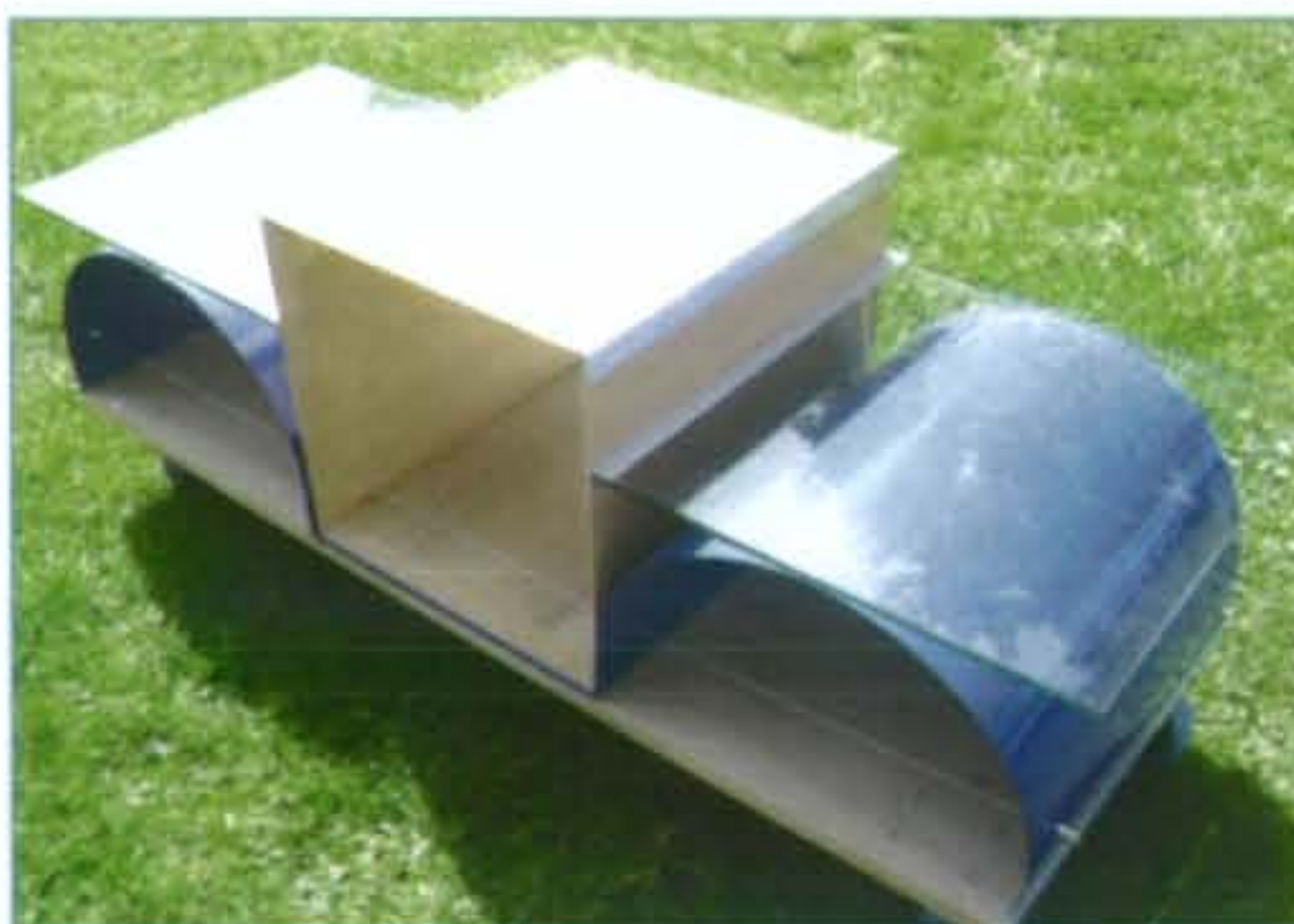
Tom Osborne 'Helix' - Table in Steel, Walnut and Glass



Richard Lamb - Outdoor Seating in Concrete and Timber



Susie Shilling - Nugent House Room Concept



Tom Worsdell 'Wing' - Coffee Table in Steel, MDF and Glass



Patrick Ramsey - Architectural Model



Sergei Ghanza - 'Spring' - Rocking Chair in Steel and Leather



Mika Vinokurov - 'Squirrel' - Seat design in Steel and Timber

Not a weekend or activity slot went by where all members of staff were not on hand to educate, guide and work with the Stoics on their design and manufacture. On behalf of all the Stoics who pass through our Department, I must say a massive personal thank you to all the team involved – Mark Wellington, Costas Peratopoulos, Steve Grimble, Alex Eve, Lisa Ash, Jan Lane and Brian 'Dangermouse' Rogers (our cleaner). They work tirelessly on behalf of all the Stoics and give so generously of their time to ensure that the work is not only complete but done so to a high standard.

This year saw over 130 Stoics studying for external exams. Numbers are increasing and we will be developing the Department by having an additional design classroom to cope with the increase and to provide more dedicated space for Stoics and staff to work effectively. Plans are also afoot to extend the main workshop area too.

It is always so difficult to single out Stoics for awards. Kit Dickinson (Bruce) deserves a medal for slaving on his impressive 'Sportsman's Lodge', whilst others can be singled out for creating innovative and challenging concepts. Tom Osborne (Grafton) designed and manufactured a wonderful steel, glass and timber coffee table for his GCSE and Patrick Ramsey (Chandos) produced a very contemporary piece of architectural modelling pulling on influence from the Bauhaus. It is great to see Stoics beginning to experiment with a broader range of materials within their work as well. Richard Lamb (Bruce) has typified this with his concrete and timber seating design for outside use. However, prizes must be awarded and the following deserve congratulation for their selection: Worsley Prize Graphics: Ed Lee (Chandos); John Holland Prize for Design: James Hale (Chatham); Andrew McAlpine Prize for Graphics: Natalie McDaid (Lyttelton); Friends of Stowe Prize for Design: Euan Welsh (Chandos).

Pictures paint a thousand words so please enjoy the work displayed on these pages. Do come down and see the work that we do. The subject has changed significantly in recent years and many of you will be surprised at what Stoics actually do in Design! We look forward to you visiting the Design Department in the coming year.

Mr David Ardley

ROTARY DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY AWARDS

On 3rd March Mr Ardley and Mr Eve took 16 Stoics across all year groups to compete in the 2008 Design & Technology competition held at Aylesbury College. The challenge (in teams of four) was to design and build an opening bridge that spanned a hypothetical river crossing and could carry a set load. There were twelve other schools represented. The day was fun, challenging and ultimately rather rewarding. Stowe came away with 1st and 2nd place in the senior section, the prize for best Design portfolio and we also scooped top prize for best overall. A really successful day! The money won was used to purchase some frames to put examples of Design work around school. A big thank you to all involved and congratulations to the winning teams of Josh Lowe (Temple), Henry Longton (Bruce), Luke Davison (Bruce), Emma-Claire Bailey (Queen's), James Hale (Chatham), Rowley Barclay (Cobham), Natalie McDaid (Lyttelton) and George Beaty (Grafton).

Mr David Ardley
Head of Design



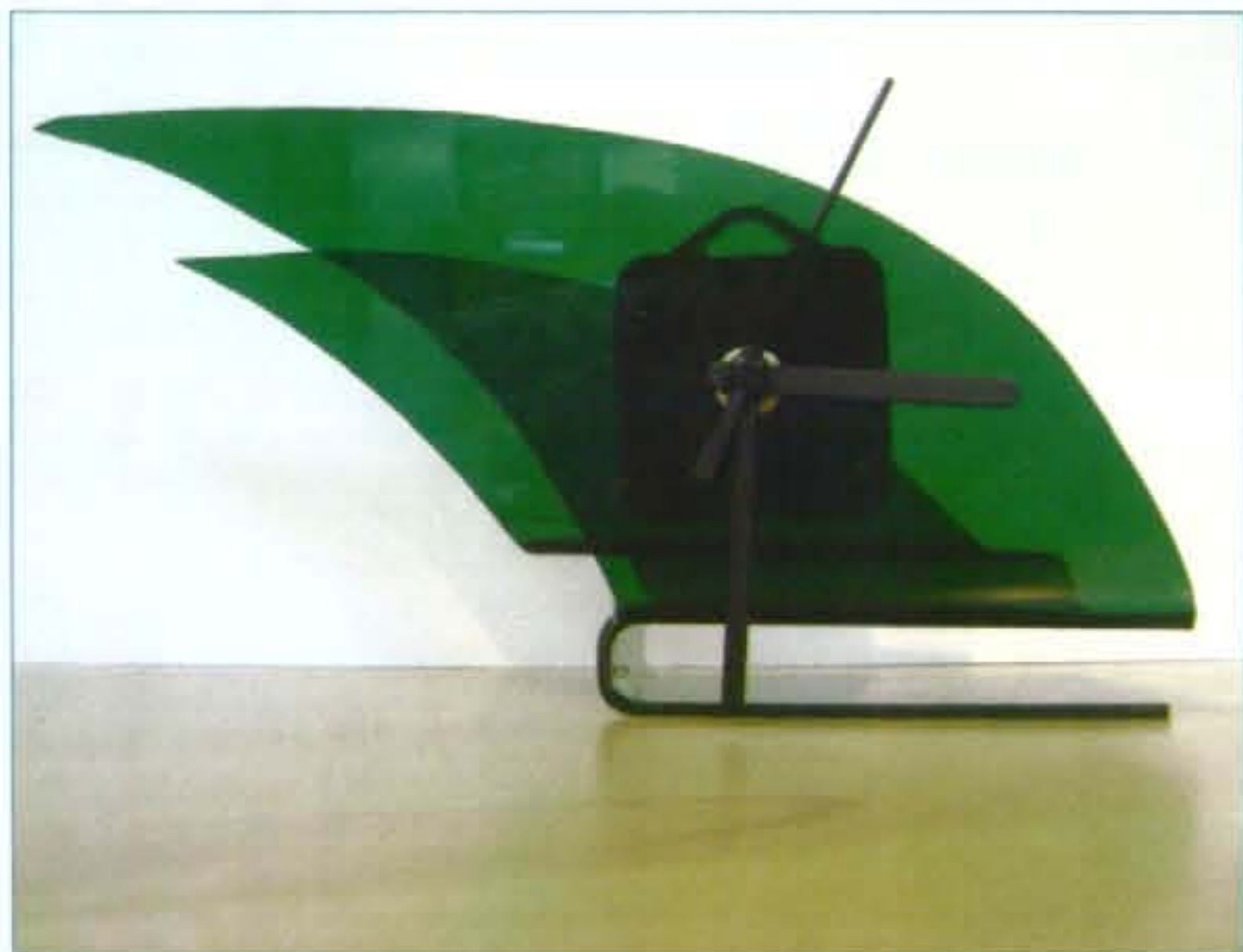
Giles Hoare - Bar in timber and acrylic



Ludo de Ferranti - Outdoor Seating Unit



Olivia Palmer - London Office Redevelopment



3rd Form - Timepiece Design Acrylic



Henry Longton, Emma-Claire Bailey, Luke Davison and Josh Lowe



Jack Berner - Coffee table design



The junior team

Arts and Science Festival

THE 2007 ARTS AND SCIENCE FESTIVAL, held in mid October welcomed back some companies and artistes who have worked with us before, as well as some new faces.

The participatory dance workshops were a big hit with all those involved. On the Sunday afternoon, Clare Louise West from danceconnect ran two back to back Street Jazz sessions. It was very 'routine' based but she gave the Stoics the opportunity to improvise around the themes and ideas she had presented earlier in the session. On Monday we welcomed the hugely popular and energetic 'Pinkie', a Hip Hop choreographer from Milton Keynes. This young woman was sensational and had all 30 participants sweating buckets by the end of the session! She led by example and treated all the Stoics to some of her own 'moves' at the end. Whatever she puts on her early morning cereal I would thoroughly recommend to anyone feeling a little lacklustre or tired! It was a pleasure to watch the Stoics working and responding so well to a person they had only just met a few minutes earlier. Tuesday saw the visit of Salsa Oxford and the two workshop leaders took our 16 couples through some Latin /Cuban salsa moves. This was another super session thoroughly enjoyed by all!

The Reform Theatre Company from Sheffield came back to us with a new play called 'Like a Virgin'. It played to a packed Dobinson on the Monday night and had all the audience in floods of tears at one moment and howls of laughter the next. I thought the way in which the company tackled the death of the main character to cancer and the loss felt by her family and friend was sensitively handled and the Stoics, who know a good piece of theatre when they see one, responded maturely and sensibly.

Tuesday saw 'Hoof' playing in the Roxy to a packed and expectant audience of over 300 Stoics. Billed as 'spontaneous theatre full of side splitting comedy' I had made a point of telling everyone how good it was going to be! Sadly I felt, along with the vast majority of Stoics, that it was just a little too clever and too surreal for its own good. A series of interlinked sketches were supposedly improvised on the Hoof! but for this cynical old Drama teacher I could most certainly see the joins! Still, can't win 'em all and we had the Unplugged concert to look forward to later on Tuesday night. Throw in two good, day long theatre workshops for the 4th year Drama sets and their Lower 6th counterparts, and one had a varied and eclectic mix which would appear to have gone down very well!



My thanks to Rory Akam, Brian Johnson, Jenny Nelson for their help in organisation and to Liz Capurro and Housemasters for helping channel the Stoics to where they should be. At the time of writing I am not quite sure whether it is 'roll on next year' or 'hang on Headmaster, let's think carefully about another event!' No doubt time will tell but I know that whatever is put on the majority of Stoics who come to see the performances and participate in the workshops will enjoy their experiences and remember with fondness the opportunities given to them.

Mr Nick Bayley



SCIENCE

THIS WAS THE FIRST YEAR that science featured in the yearly Stowe Arts Festival and the lectures and events proved popular with Stoics, with the majority benefiting from their experiences – even those who may have felt slightly press-ganged!

Richard Peirce from the Shark Trust based his talk around the precarious state of shark populations around the globe and the parlous state of British sharks in particular. The Shark Trust are involved in shark research and attempting to dispel the ridiculous tabloid press driven 'jaws' myth by educating people about the key role sharks play in the health of the oceans and their almost exclusively non-threatening nature. Stoics



Arts and Science Festival



witnessed some disturbingly gory footage of the barbaric practice of shark 'finning' for the oriental food trade and there is obviously no justification in consuming 'shark fin soup' when sharks are de-finned and thrown back into the sea to die.

In a wonderfully dynamic and joke-laden performance Timothy Walker, Director of the University of Oxford Botanic Garden, told us in no uncertain terms what plants have done for us. Whether it is in their role as 'producers' at the bottom of every food chain or providers of medicines and industrial raw materials, plants are essential and we need to take plant conservation more seriously – especially with the unpredictable effects of global warming to look forward to.

The genetic engineering day run by the ever enthusiastic and entertaining John Scholar from NCBE Reading allowed A level biologists to extract, amplify, and identify chloroplast DNA from a variety of common salad plants. This process highlighted the variability of some DNA sections and how the information gleaned can be used to identify plant groups and their ancestry. An exercise in gene identification and sequencing then followed using gene mapping websites.

In 'Superstrings' Professor Brian Foster led us through the intricacies of Einstein's Super-Relativity theory and enlightened us about Einstein's love of music. The talk was interspersed and illustrated by the wonderful violin playing of Jack Liebeck. Whether all the Stoics attending now know a good deal more about space, time and the origins of the universe is, perhaps, a moot point, but they cannot fail to have been impressed by the performance!

In the final lecture, Richard Tuckett, Professor of Chemical Physics at the University of Birmingham assessed the atmospheric gases that contribute to global warming. It is obvious that the regular suspects (carbon dioxide and methane) are joined by a range of others, with perfluorocarbons having a disproportionate effect to their concentration in the atmosphere.

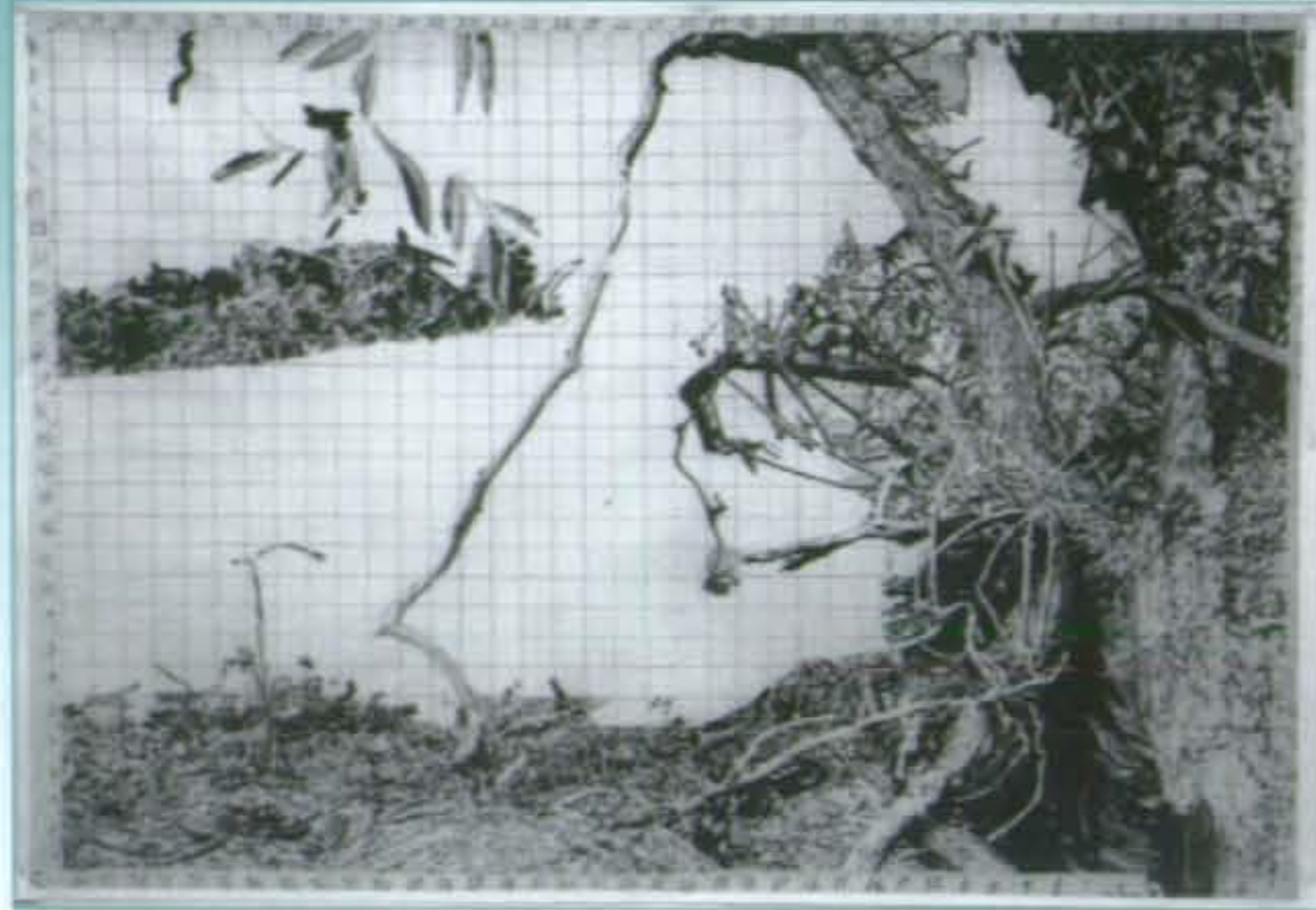
Mr Rory Akam



Stoic



Cafés and Restaurants - James Crawford



Exploring Natural Forms - Jamie Randall



Car Stack - William Walmsley



Sheds - Dominic Woods



Cafés and Restaurants - Hope Capurro



Descent - Emerald Dangerfield



Repetition - Antonia Murphy



Drapery - Christabel Vernon Evans



Form - Bint Bencharongkul



Cafés and Restaurants - Lucy de Roeper



Brush - Annabel Calkin



Sheds - Ludo de Ferranti



Exploded View - Susannah Shilling



Erode - Tommy Williams-Jones



Still Life - Tools - Champ Panyarachun



Jetsam - Simon Plunket



Traditions - Rosanna Hedley



Architectural Space - Freddie Hicks



Everyday Objects - Charlie Cary



Roadside Café - Alexandra Price

The International Dinner

ON THE EVENING OF 17 JANUARY, all of the International students had their annual International Dinner in the Temple Room. Eighty-nine pupils from 17 countries were invited as well as all of the matrons.

Min-Kyung Shin and I, both from Queen's House, arrived at the dinner, dressed up in our traditional Korean and Romanian National costumes. I think everyone was quite taken aback when we entered and we received plenty of applause. Mrs. Hill-Hall (Chandos matron), also looked charming in her Spanish costume.

Mr. Longworth, our English teacher, as well as the organiser, did a fantastic job of capturing the moment with his camera.

Our splendid catering staff combined the cuisine of three international dishes. Paella was delicious as well as the vanilla ice cream. The fact that nothing was left after seconds denotes the quality of the food.

The entertainment was maintained at the highest standard by a guitar duo led by Mr McNulty accompanied by Ollie Clark (Grenville 4th). Ollie gave an absolutely professional performance and he delighted us with his remarkable musical aptitudes. His rendition of the "Sultans of Swing" captivated the attention of the guests.

We would like to thank everybody for the wonderful evening we had and we would like to have special dinners like this in the foreseeable future. Most of all a special thanks goes to Mr. Longworth for all his efforts, not only for the dinner, but also for his help doing EAL with many of the international students.

Ioana Moldovan (Queen's L6th; Romania)



International dinner – What they said...

"Thank you very much for the International Supper you organised for us. We had a great time and we think it was a brilliant idea to gather all the international Stoics."

"The idea of gathering all of us is great because it makes us remember that we should not change even though we are in a different country; it allows us to remain who we are."

"We had great fun! Next time I think we boys, are going to come up with something. We might even turn up in our National costumes."



Interview with Stephanie Inden, Germany; Radina Nedeva, Bulgaria; Alexey Grabarnik, Russia)

How do you find life at Stowe?

"I like life at Stowe because we have a great variety of sports to choose from, but there is also a great opportunity to make new friends in another country." (Stephanie Inden-Germany)

"I like Stowe because it is different from other schools that I have been to in the past and gives you many opportunities towards the future." (Radina Nedeva- Bulgaria)

"In my opinion, the opportunities at Stowe are great and basically you can realise yourself in many different areas; in my case I want to specialise in economics." (Alexey Grabarnik –Russia)

What are the differences between your country and England?

"Our school, in Germany, is not a boarding school. Also, in my country, we do not have a monarchy system, but a 'Kanzler' one." (S. I.)

"I think the people and the culture are different from the Bulgarian ones." (R. N)

"In Russia it is more difficult to study and we can do up to 10 A levels, so it is much harder. On the other hand, in England, knowledge can be more applicable." (A. G.)

What do you think about food in Stowe?

"I really like fish & chips and the salad bar in our school. English tea with milk is my favourite." (S.I)

"I think that Stowe tries to provide us with different food and most of it is good." (R.N)

"I like the fact that you can eat as much as you want and it helps me to recover after my swimming sessions." (A.G)

Pictures by Mr Alan Longworth

STAFF WEAKEST LINK CHARITY EVENT

This year I decided to do something slightly different to last year's: 'Staff Stars in their Eyes' with a charity event entitled, 'Staff Weakest Link'. It involved eight contestants who were: Dr Masters, Mr Mochan, Rev Jackson, Mr Dobson, Miss Smith, Mr Hughes, Mr Halpert & Mr Pitteway and Mrs Laurence-Thorne as the quiz master! The event was a great success raising over £1,200 for the 'Stickler Syndrome Support Group' and was an entertaining night out as well. My thanks must go to Mr Weston and the rest of the 'gang' who worked behind the scenes to make it such a success!

Philip Pitcher, Event Organiser



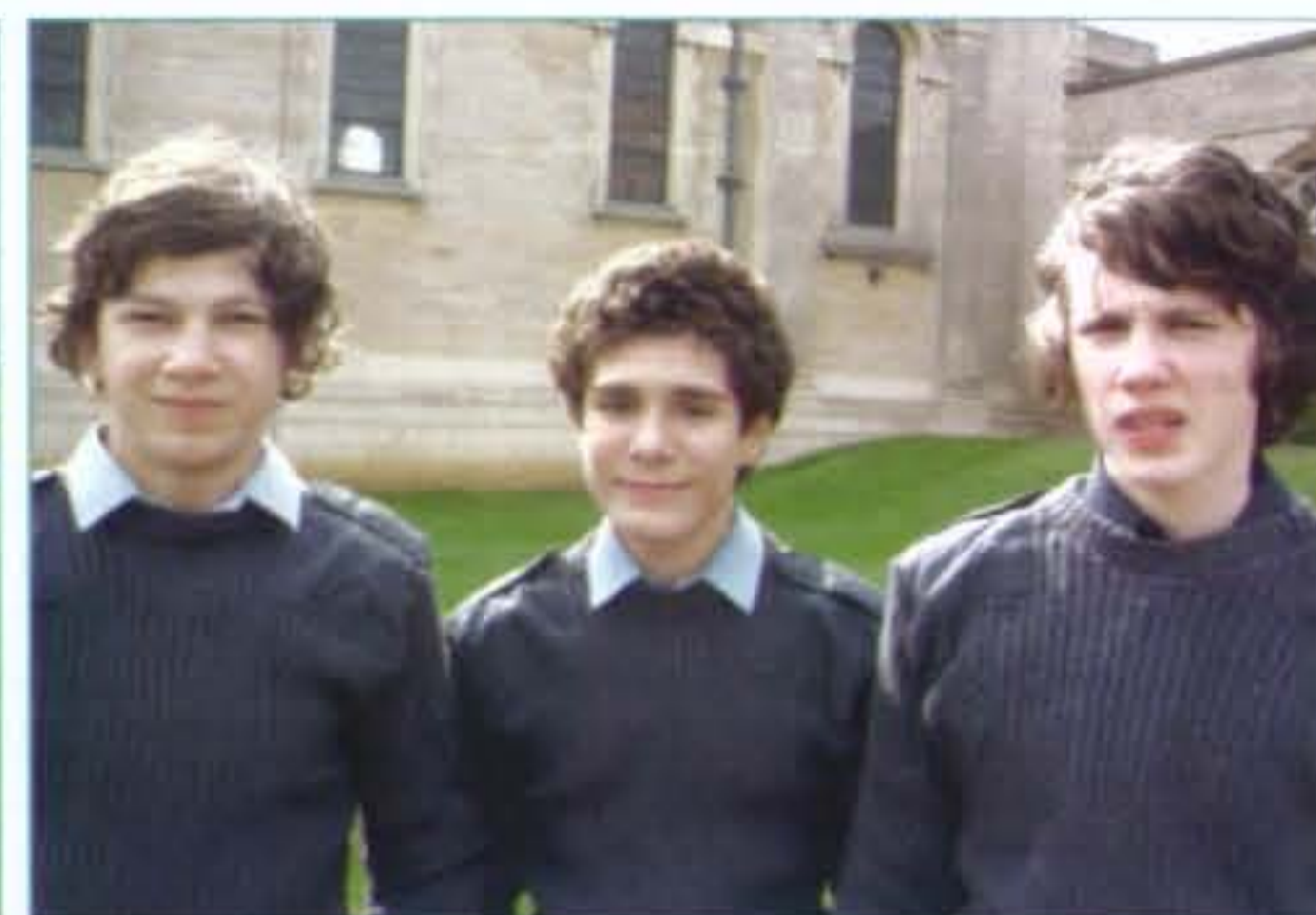
POETRY & DRAMA DISCUSSION SOCIETY

One of the most recent societies to be started at Stowe has been a great success amongst the sixth form students. The aim of the Poetry and Drama discussion society was to allow lively discussions of poems and plays, without being restricted by time or subject specifications. As such, it was possible to allow as much time as needed to be spent on the analysis and debate of plays or poems as the group felt necessary. The relaxed and social atmosphere often provided an environment which promoted amicable debate and the sharing of opinions.

This year, amongst many others, such texts as Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* Samuel Taylor Coleridge's *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, and William Shakespeare's *Titus Andronicus* have been read and discussed by the group; often leading many of the students to discover interesting information about the texts. Also with many of the students attending being from AS or A2 English sets, numerous individuals within the group have found the discussion a useful aid their A level studies. So, I urge those who are able to join to do so.

We look forward next year, to being able to invite current 5th form students and 4th students to join the society, which meets on Friday evenings (Michaelmas and Lent terms) and Monday after activities (Summer term). However as this year moves towards a close, we have to say goodbye to our Upper 6th students - we thank Jess Waddington and Miles Crosby for their continued support of the society, and their input has been very much appreciated. As well as this I thank Laura Grossick and Edward Abel-Smith for their input. Thanks also to other students who have also been attending the gatherings. I look forward to bringing more news to The Stoic on the society's progress in next year's edition.

Philip Pitcher (Chatham, L6th) - Society Founder



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. In their honour, therefore, a small group of Old Stoics and other friends appealed for funds to provide a Travelling Scholarship which would enable Stoics to travel in Europe to study some aspect of European culture or history. In the nearly 30 years since its inception over 150 Stoics have visited many varied destinations and had experiences that they will never forget.

In September 2007 we celebrated the centenary of Bill's birth and a reception was held at Brooks's, London, to honour the contributions of both Bill and Patience to the lives of so many Stoics. Edmund Neville-Rolfe's painting, *Bill and his Historians in the Cathedral Square, Coutances, Normandy (April 1938)* by Edmund Rolfe (O.S.), was on display at the Reception where it was much admired by many of the guests. It now hangs in the History Library at Stowe.

Crispin Robinson
Deputy Head (Academic)

BILL MCELWEE CENTENARY

Thursday 13th September 2007 marked the centenary of Bill McElwee's birthday, so the Trustees of the McElwee Travel Scholarships decided to hold a party, at Brooks's Club in London, for all those who remember Bill and Patience with affection and gratitude.

Over a hundred of Bill's pupils and their wives were invited and fifty six Old Historians and their ladies and a select few from Stowe, including the Headmaster, attended the reception in the elegant Great Subscription Room at Brooks's, as one guest observed "a highly appropriate venue".

The 'old guard' of pre-war Historians was well represented by Edmund Neville-Rolfe, Robert Kee, Peter Ward, Anthony Quinton and Peregrine Worsthorne, who spoke most eloquently and amusingly of the very special McElwee era at Stowe.

Harriet Hall, Bill and Patience's daughter, responded and said how moved and grateful she was that the McElwee Scholarships had been so well supported by Old Stoic Historians and how hugely successful the awards had been.

The evening was clearly much enjoyed by everyone.

David Part (Bruce, 1950)
Chairman of the Trustees
McElwee Travelling Scholarships



Daisy & Laura



WE ARRIVED IN ROME EARLY after an eventful Pitt trip, and somehow managed to navigate our way to our hotel. Intrepidly we then set off to explore, expecting to find some quaint pizzeria or coffee place nearby. What we actually found was a great deal more impressive.

Round the corner from our hotel was the Colosseum. Despite having seen the Colosseum before, neither of us had been inside and we were both overwhelmed by its scale and architectural splendour.

The next day we decided to visit the Vatican. This would not have been a problem but for our lack of Italian. I am embarrassed to say that between us the only thing we could say in Italian was "my heart bleeds out for you." This may have been useful in whatever opera Daisy learnt it from but when trying to explain that we wanted tea not coffee it proved, unsurprisingly, unhelpful.



Firstly, we went inside the Basilica of Saint Peter. This was, for Daisy, an important site because she was going to studying the monuments by Bernini which are located inside and outside this great church. The Baldacchino over the tomb of the Chief Apostle, the Throne of St Peter to represent papal power and supremacy etc were just two of the objects which were to become even more familiar in subsequent months.

After touring the Basilica we queued for tickets to the Sistine chapel and this also included the Raphael Stanze, which contained paintings such as 'Fire in the Borgo,' 'Liberation of St Peter' and the 'Mass at Bolsena'. The Sistine Chapel is a chapel in the Apostolic Palace, the official residence of the Pope, in the Vatican City. The most disappointing thing about these rooms was that they were very busy due to the sheer number of people; we agreed that we would go back when it was less busy.

On the third day we took a bus into the city again and looked round the Piazza Navona which holds two of Bernini's fountains, including the Fountain of the Four Rivers. The piazza is now full of painters, clowns and magicians. We had a relatively relaxed morning there before heading over to look at the Pantheon. The impressive scale of the concrete dome, the rich polychromatic marble panels of the walls and altars was really memorable. In the centre of the Pantheon is an oculus; a circular hole in the ceiling which allows a brilliant shaft of light to illuminate the church. It is a stone's throw away from the lesser known, but equally impressive, church of Saint Ivo, built by the Baroque architect Borromini. Borromini, like Bernini and Pietro da Cortona was part of the High Baroque Movement and his architecture is full of movement and drama. In the evening we headed for the small church of Santa Maria della Vittoria. From the outside the church is very unimpressive and at first I was unsure we'd got the right one. However, when we finally got inside and saw the magnificent Bernini sculpture of 'The Ecstasy of St. Theresa' in the Cornaro chapel we were both thoroughly overwhelmed. The statue is both intensely moving and extraordinarily beautiful. It is carved from white Carrara marble and is set against a back drop of bronze shafts which seem to illuminate it. In actual fact Bernini enclosed a hidden window behind the sculpture which adds unexplained or 'divine' light to the group. We both agreed that this was by far one of our favourite elements of the trip and would thoroughly recommend going to see it.

The next day we packed up our bags and headed for Termini station where we managed through my somewhat limited Italian and Laura's ferocious map pointing to get tickets for the train to Florence. Once there, we faced the mammoth queues of the Uffizi, taking three hours to get in. Once inside however, we realised it was well worth it. We saw Botticelli's 'Birth of Venus' and Caravaggio's 'Medusa' to name but a few of the remarkable pieces. We were disappointed though to find the floor which contained Leonardo's sketches had been closed for refurbishment. We'll just have to go back!

We also saw Michelangelo's David in the afternoon and it is the David alone that almost certainly holds the title of the most recognizable statue in the history of art. On the morning of our second day we looked around the famous Ponte Vecchio market and then went onto look at the Duomo. After lunch by the river we went to the Medici Palace, a magnificent Renaissance palace designed by Michelozzo for Cosimo de' Medici, of the great Medici family. The elegant courtyard with its classical architecture and sculptures still summed up the spirit of the Florentine Renaissance some 500 years later.

Before we left we met up with a friend of Laura's who has been studying history of art and portraiture out there for three years. Talking to her proved to be extremely beneficial as she managed to field all my questions about living and studying abroad whilst reading history of art. I am now looking in to history of art courses where it is possible to study in Florence for at least year.

Finally we would like to take this opportunity to once again thank the McElwee Trustees for giving us this incredible chance and for all their support and the teachers who have helped us.

Laura Henderson and Daisy Page (Nugent, U6th)



Nellie & Beth

MCELWEE TRIP: AMSTERDAM 2007

Amsterdam is a city we've always wanted to visit, and in the beginning of last summer, thanks to the school, Beth and I were given the opportunity to visit it when we won the McElwee travel award. Although there were countless cities we could have chosen to apply for, Amsterdam stood out for us; we were curious to find out more about the Dutch culture, and with the surrounding cities of Haarlem, and the Hague, it offered a plethora of art and architecture for us to see. We went for just over a week, which gave us time to visit both Amsterdam as well as the nearby town of Haarlem.

We tried to maintain a sense of variety and change throughout our trip, from our accommodation, which ranged from comfortable hotels to seedy hostels, to the events of each day, alternating active sightseeing with passive relaxing. For the first few nights, we splashed out, staying in a four star hotel. We compensated for this financial splurge for the rest of the trip, which we spent in several rather grotty hostels, in one, we had to share a room with about twelve people. But on this kind of trip, you spend so little time in the room, we thought it pointless to spend our money on expensive accommodation. Although we were only there for a week, we managed to fit in a huge amount of sight seeing, seeing all of Amsterdam's major museums and tourist attractions, such as the Rijksmuseum, Van Gogh museum, and Haarlem's Frans Hals museum. We also visited the more obscure sights, such as the Vondelpark and Waterlooplein, a large open air fleamarket that was refreshingly tourist free, and a strange, hidden away Psychology museum in Haarlem. Although some of the bigger museums had large entry fees, they were worth the expense. The Rijksmuseum was one of the main reasons we picked Amsterdam to visit; it holds the largest collection of Rembrandt paintings in the world and is itself an impressive building in the centre of Amsterdam. The nearby Van Gogh museum is also the largest of its kind, and the modern building reflects the artist's work.

Of course, Amsterdam is known for more than just its large collection of Rembrandt paintings; Beth and I also took the opportunity of the trip to visit some of Amsterdam's more quirky tourist attractions / sights.

Amsterdam is a very picturesque city, a combination of the modern with the ancient, with its leafy canals winding through and linking the contemporary architecture with the tall old-fashioned canal buildings. It depends hugely on its thriving tourist agency, so visitors were well catered for, there were information offices and helpful stands full of leaflets and maps at every corner. Although Amsterdam had its fair share of consumerist shops, where in most European cities the centre would be lined with busy global name shops, here we found that the city centre was a large square, and instead of shops there were open air cafes and restaurants, and constant live entertainment from dancing to bands. It was also very chaotic, on the streets; cars, bicycles, trams and people all fought for space.

We strongly recommend applying for the McElwee award, not only is a great opportunity to experience the culture of a city of your choice, but the independence is wonderful, and will help in preparation for your gap year. Go to Amsterdam!!

Nellie English (Lyttleton, U6th) and Beth Georgian (Nugent, U6th)



Sam & Harry



HAVING DECIDED UPON GREECE as our desired destination we applied for the McElwee Travel Scholarship. The reason that we choose Greece is that we are both doing Sports Science at A2 and we thought that it would be great to see what the Olympics brought to Athens in 2004 and also the history of the Olympics when it first began in 1896.

When the 31st of July arrived we met at Luton airport knowing that we had a great 8 days of exploring ahead of us.

Stage 1 complete we had reached Athens, but our first problem had arisen; we had no idea where our youth hostel was. Luckily we got talking to some fellow travelers, who just happened to be staying in the same place as us. This start to the journey was to set the tone for the whole trip.

Day one, we awoke early on the roof. We were to stay in Athens for the next few days. To Athens we ventured, coming across many delights, the 2004 Olympic stadium, where Sam used his combination of French and English to charm a cleaner in letting us into the main arena where many of the greats have played. The Temple Of Zeus, with its high over powering columns lay ahead of us. The next day we set off early so we were not climbing the Acropolis in the intense heat of the day. The views of the Parthenon and the views of Athens were stunning. The afternoon saw a trip to the flea market where Harry brought a traditional goat herding outfit and rug and Sam bought a bow and arrow and sunglasses!

Early 5 o'clock start to catch the train to Olympia - 6 hours long - on which Harry just slept and Sam had to make sure we got off at the right place which we almost did not. Olympia, we had arrived, tired and hungry. We were slightly put out when we found that Olympia was not that exciting. The morning brought a visit to the 2000 year old Olympic ruins, which were an amazing feat, we spent the day there, running around the old race tracks.

After an interesting experience in Olympia we had a couple of days spare and thought that we would do our own bit of island hopping. We consulted the Lonely Planet of Greece and came up with the island of Zante to visit which is a small island on the west coast of the Peloponnese. So we embarked, with a small mistake of a 4km walk in 30 degree heat and then eventually we got to the north of the island. It was a great few days and then headed back to Athens to finish off our exploring.

Our first task back in Athens was to visit the Archaeological museum. After that we went to the stadium of the 1st ever official Olympic Games in 1896. This was very different from what we imagined. The stadium was big and decorative. We then had one more night left, we decided to go to an island called Aegina. This was a small island south of Athens. Our final day arrived, we wanted to explore Aegina. After a fantastic day of site seeing and swimming, our trip had finished and we went back to the airport.

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 not been possible and I advise anyone going into the Lower 6th to apply for this scholarship since it is a great experience.

Harry Farnsworth (Cobham, U6th) & Sam Scott (Bruce, U6th)

Stoic



Gap Year Scholarship

HAVING ATTAINED ONE OF THE OLD STOIC SOCIETY'S very generous travel scholarships I was able to get away traveling sooner than would otherwise have been financially possible. There was nevertheless nearly a delay when I lost my passport, with all my visas, in London 3 days before departing; fortunately I still made my flight!

After leaving school I spent the summer labouring, and had a brief trip to southern Morocco with friends before heading off to Nepal with Volunteer Services Nepal (VSN); I would be on the School and Community Maintenance Programme. After narrowly avoiding being scammed out of my entire gap year funds in Delhi, I arrived in Kathmandu during the Hindu festival of Dasain – talk about being thrown in at the deep end, mass animal sacrifices and sadhus trying to tikka me on every corner.

VSN ran a very comprehensive training programme, beginning in Kathmandu before moving to a local village for an introduction to living with a Nepali family. Training covered everything from how to eat with your right hand, and what to do with your left, to the basics of the Nepali language as many of the host families would speak no English.

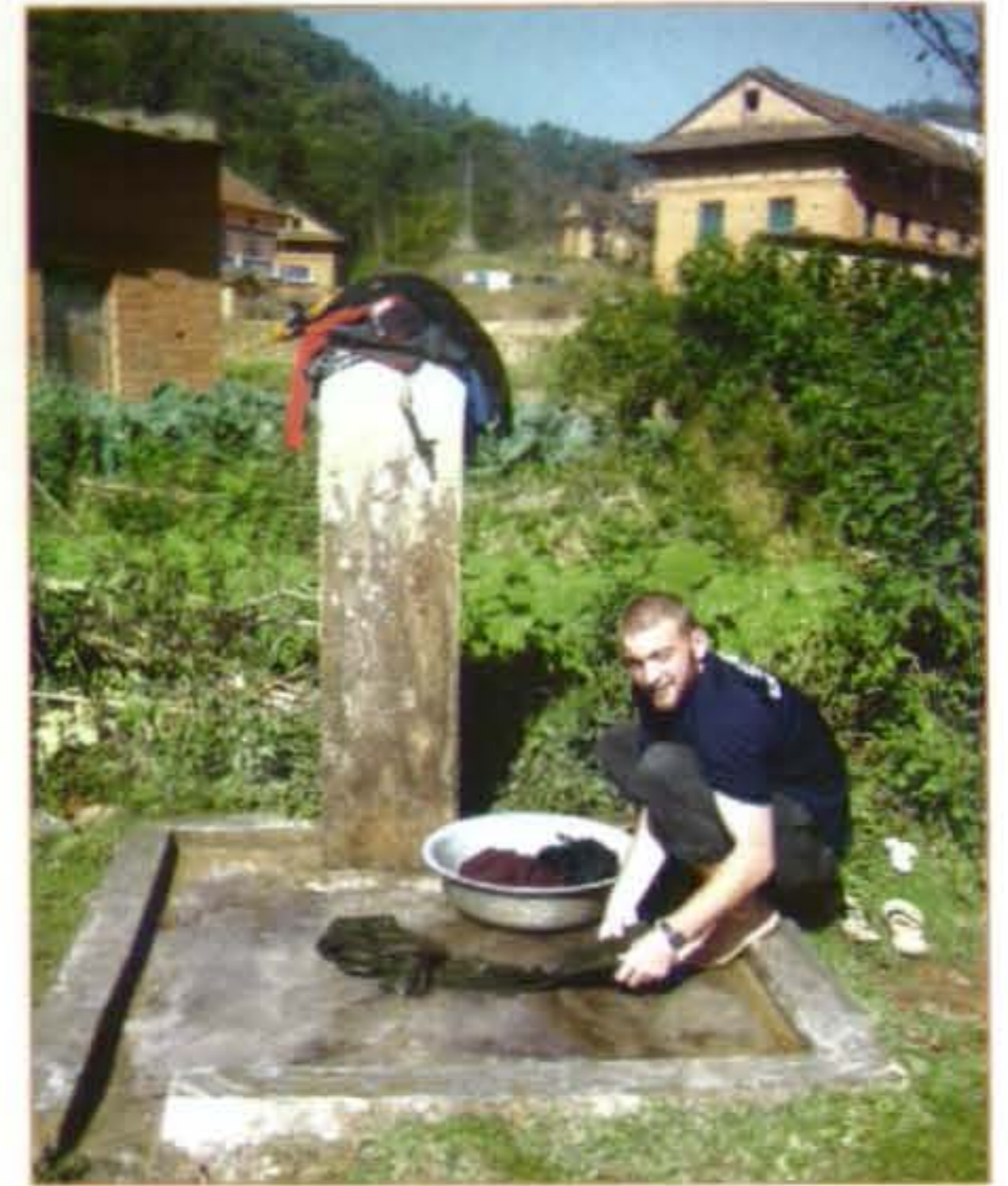
The Karki family, who I was living with, had two mothers who, along with the three daughters did all the work, around the home and in the fields. The hajur-aama (grandmother) died whilst I was in the house, and I would have curious distant relatives wander into my room to meet the newest member of the family – they truly took me on as one of their own, I was included in festivals and was given a name to rhyme with the other two brothers, Arja. We ate twice each day sat on the floor. Meals consisted of VAST quantities of rice and plenty of spinach (which I loathed before going!).

In terms of volunteer work, projects varied from practical (planters for orphanages supported by VSN without gardens to grow their own vegetables), to entertaining (see-saw), to the impossible (turning a hillside into a football pitch – diverting a road in the process and building retaining walls from rice sacks... all with shovels!). On top of this we were based at the local VSN orphanage; when the children came home from school they would love to 'help'. This typically disrupted work so much that we resorted to football, cricket, or any other means to wear them out, of course this was never the case and we inevitably spent hours rounding the now hyper kids up to wash before supper.

My plans originally had me in Nepal for 6 months (5 months volunteering and 1 month trekking and white water rafting in the Himalayas). However I learnt a hard lesson about finishing a course of antibiotics and after my first month in Nepal I came down with a severe bacterial infection, which never completely went away. After a few months of this a doctor advised me to go home, and so shortly after a Christmas memorable for all the wrong reasons, I returned home. Saying goodbye to the children at the orphanage was the hardest part, as volunteers they called us daai (big brother) and it was like having an ever cheerful troop of younger brothers and sisters.

After working behind a bar for a few months I flew back out to Hong Kong, to pick up my travels where I had left off. I met up with a fellow Old Stoic and in penguin costumes we had a fantastic time at the Hong Kong rugby sevens, bumping into several others at the tournament totally out of the blue. From there we flew to Hai Nan (China's answer to Hawaii) and onto Beijing, where we saw the Great Wall, and partook in the popular Chinese tradition of karaoke! After a brief tour of some of Australia's principal cities and Southern Victoria it was time to part ways again, as I flew onto Los Angeles alone. After a few days seeing the sights and visiting Universal studios I met my TrekAmerica group and spent a week camping through the deserts of south-western USA, taking in the Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, the Golden Gate bridge and Alcatraz; Having seen the sights of Washington D.C. I stayed with a friend in Massachusetts who I knew from my time in Nepal, and saw a real high school graduation and the house parties that follow! My last stop was New York City where I met up with a few Danish friends from my TrekAmerica tour to see the sights.

I spent the summer back in Gibraltar working in a very relaxed pub and spending plenty of time enjoying the Mediterranean climes whilst the UK was under several feet of water! All in all a fantastic year, which definitely set me in good stead for meeting a wide variety of friends at university this first semester and having many life experiences to relate to.



Will Bowkett (OS Grenville '06)



Stoic

Grenada Tour Dinner

CRICKET STARS HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR CHARITY



On Friday 12 October, 180 people enjoyed an evening with three ex-England cricketers; Allan Lamb, Graham Gooch and Alec Stewart. The evening was organised to raise funds for the School's cricket tour to Grenada last December and the cricket related charity, 'Chance to Shine.' Several other famous cricketers joined us at the Dinner as well. Guests could rub shoulders with Ed Smith (England & current Middlesex Captain), David Capel (England & Northants), John Batty (Surrey) and Mark Nelson (former Stowe Pupil and now first class cricketer for Northants).



The evening began with a relaxed gathering in the Marble Hall and the guests sipped champagne before being called into the State Dining room for their dinner. They enjoyed a four course meal, superbly prepared by our own catering team, before John 'Fingers' Fingleton, the former Stowe pupil and renowned auctioneer, began the auction. He worked the room superbly and our guests were in generous mood - the auction eventually raised over £11,000.

Following the auction was the Question and Answer session with our three guests of honour. They waxed lyrical on a number of cricket topics including their favourite captain, favourite batsmen, most feared bowler and their views on Geoffrey Boycott! A very good time was had by all and the evening raised a substantial sum of money, which helped to make the tour a great success.

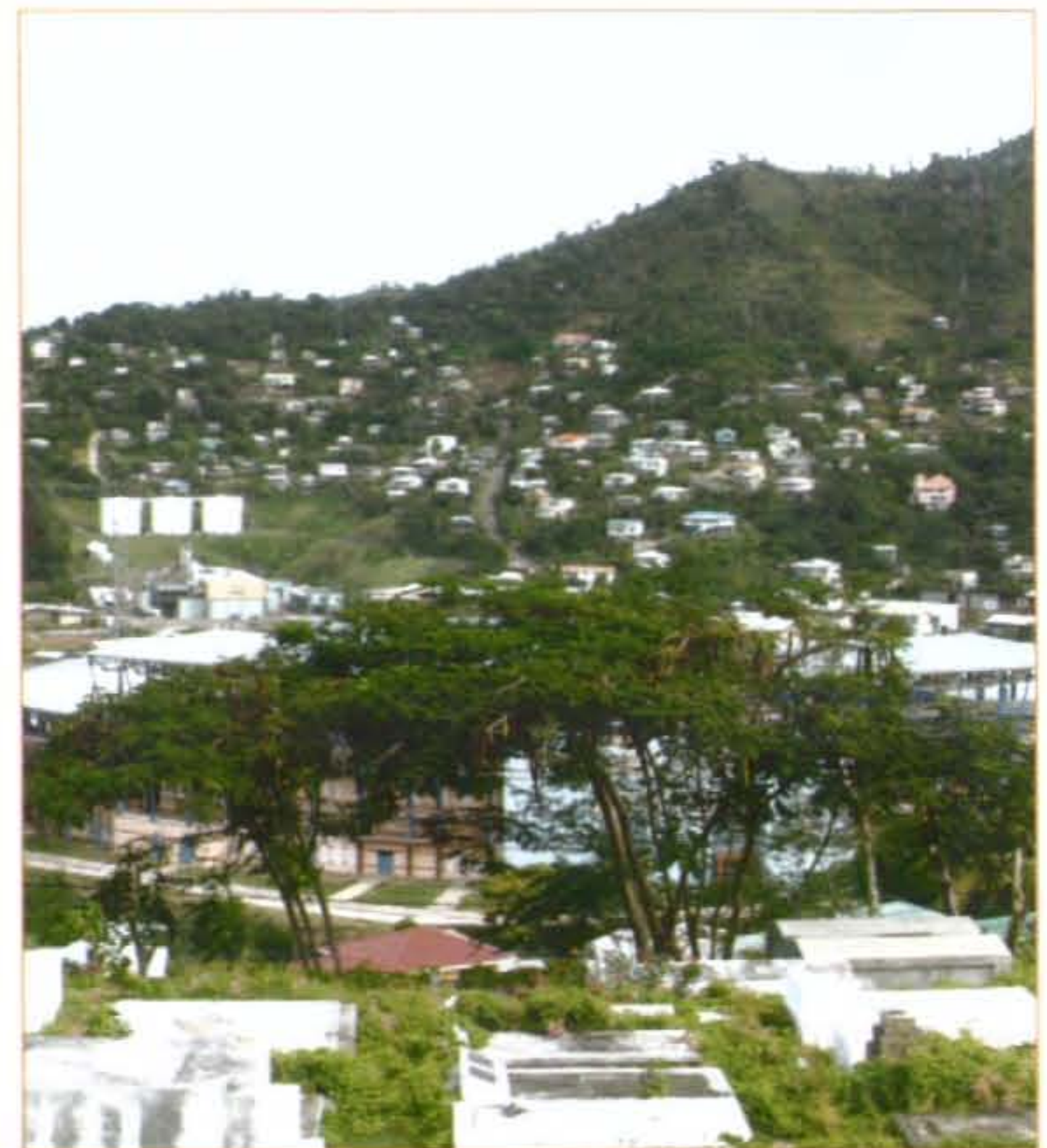


I would like to thank our guests of honour for coming to Stowe for this event and I would very much like to thank all Stowe parents who helped to get tables together and provided some auction items. The auction and raffle raised over £11,000.

Mr James Knott

AUCTION LOTS - the wide range of lots included:

- Limited edition World Cup Rugby ball
- Irish World Cup Sweatshirt
- Signed Northants CCC bat 2007
- Signed Grant Flower (Essex & Zimbabwe) shirt
- Jack Russell limited edition painting, signed and framed
- Week's holiday in Cape Town
- Signed and Framed Kevin Pieterse picture
- Xbox 360
- Signed and framed Sir Garfield Sobers picture
- Signed Alistair Cook (Essex & England) shirt
- 1981 Sshes (Botham's Ashes) t-shirt signed by Ian Botham
- Football signed by the current Manchester United team
- Signed Monty Panesar picture (framed) & signed Monty Panesar shirt
- Alan Knott MCC Touring cravat and bat
- Week's holiday in Cyprus
- Graeme White playing kit (Old Stoic and current Northamptonshire CCC player)
- Signed bat from Shane Warne, one of the Wisden's top five cricketers of the century & two Cricket Balls signed by Wasim Akram and Shane Warne
- A Weeks holiday in a villa in France. A Located in Loire sur Nie, near St Jean D'Angeley (nr Cognac).
- Holiday at the fabulous Half Moon Bay Hotel, Rose Hall. Montego Bay, Jamaica.



Grenada Cricket Tour



Each player who went to Grenada wrote a quick line on 'What they thought of the tour?'

Jamie Hirst (Vice Captain): *I thought Grenada was a very interesting, friendly and enjoyable place to play cricket.*

Tom Howgego: *It was a fantastic experience and we all had a great time.*

Angus Blayney: *Never again will I eat chicken and rice!*

Craig Browne: *Thought all of it was brilliant; from getting my feet burnt, to playing at the International stadium as well as Blues the bus driver and his 5 wives and 15 kids (or whatever it was)!*

Ben Curley: *Good tour, good laughs, good banter!*

Olly Tett: *I had a great time and it was a brilliant experience! I would very much like to visit Grenada again!*

Will Scholfield: *Unbelievable experience.*

Charlie Morris: *I still love KFC with the "LADS".*

Harry Wolrige-Gordon: *It was a really good, fun experience. Except the travel out there!*

Sam Scott: *I enjoyed Grenada and in particular my personal success on the pitch.*

Charlie Roberts: *Good fun and a great experience.*

Ben Manser (water boy): *I thoroughly enjoyed my experience and the opportunity to see a contrast of playing styles across the world.*

Max Mackintosh: *The standard of cricket was awesome and we had a great time.*

DURING THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS the First XI cricket team toured Grenada in the Caribbean. We had a bad start when our flight took off and then landed back at Gatwick an hour later due to a technical fault. We were then notified of a 26 hour delay and British Airways put us in a hotel in Brighton.

We eventually got to our hotel in Grenada at 1:00am the next morning which was 5 o'clock English time. We woke early and headed to our first match. We won the toss but due to a lack of application and jetlag we were bowled out cheaply batting first and then lost by three wickets. Man of the match was Tom Howgego for his 11 runs and bowling figures of 4 for 20. The other notable moment was Jamie Hirst's superb one-handed catch.

The second match saw a huge turnaround. We played at the national stadium which was a once in a lifetime experience. From a private gym to a 20,000 seater stadium, the facilities were second to none. Stowe bowled first against a Combined Schools XI. After they got off to a good start, Sam Scott spearheaded the attack taking five wickets. Combined with some good bowling at the other end and some tight fielding we restricted them to 153 all out in the 40th over.

Chasing a par score, Will Scholfield's time came. He batted brilliantly with maturity and patience, virtually carrying his bat for 67. Max Mackintosh and Charlie Roberts were the two batsmen that built the biggest partnership with him, each scoring highly valuable twenties. But it was Will Scholfield who got man of the match for his marathon two and a half hour innings which saw us home.

The next day we went on a catamaran cruise around the island in which outside bet Mr Knott was the first to chunder. That evening we took part in a quiz with Repton in which Stowe were victorious in a table and team competition over our opposition who were over confident that they'd beat us.

This relaxing day brought us to our third match. We won the toss and batted. After a middle order collapse, it was over to Sam Scott again to rescue us with an excellent 60 not out to give Stowe a chance. Our bowling and fielding wasn't spot on but we stuck at the task really well only to lose by one wicket in a nail biting finale.

We then played what was to be our last game which we won comfortably in a rain hit match. We batted first and got a big score of 238 for 7 off 35 overs, Harry Wolrige Gordon was the main contributor with a classy 78 which also earned him man of the match. In reply, they were in all sorts of trouble when the rain came and Stowe won via the complex method of Duckworth Lewis.

The last two days involved chilling on the beach and doing some water sports. On behalf of the team I would like to thank the three coaches - Mr Knott, Mr Arnold and Mr Mochan - who enabled the tour to be great fun and successful. And last of all I would like to thank all of the players who went for their contributions to the success of the tour.

Tom Wilson (Cobham, U6th), Tour Captain



PLAYERS OF THE TOUR

Best Bowler:
Tom Howgego
(Best Bowling:
4 - 18 vs. Mount Rose)

Best Batter:
Will Scholfield
(Highest Score:
67 vs. Combined Schools)

Best Fielder:
Craig Browne

Most Improved Player:
Charlie Roberts

Overall Player of the Tour:
Sam Scott

(Best performances:
60 not out vs. Grenville &
5 - 17 vs. Combined Schools)

Stoic

PITT SOCIETY VISIT BUDAPEST, VIENNA AND PRAGUE

The Pitt Trip 2007 departed London on 1st July and over the next 10 days, travelling through Hungary, Austria and the Czech Republic, we encountered a fascinating diversity of culture undreamt of by most.

BUDAPEST

Starting in Budapest we visited the Liberation monument (at the top of the Gelert hill) and old Castle area in the morning before heading out to the Statue Park, where there is a collection of many large scale and impressive statues and monuments from Eastern Europe's Communist past. Here we talked about the importance of symbolism, sculptural analysis and the impact of politics and history in Hungary and other Communist countries. The next day we experienced a wake up call far earlier than we would have liked, then headed to the lobby in anticipation for the day ahead. In the morning we paid a visit to the spa baths at the Gelert Hotel, still magnificent despite its faded 1920s glamour; we experienced Hungarian body massages followed by a dip in the Turkish baths and much frolicking in the wave pool. After this relaxing morning we visited the luxurious Hungarian Parliament buildings where we witnessed the changing of the guard and the crown jewels, before spending our last night enjoying the food and nightlife of Budapest. The following day brought a trip down the Danube on the state of the art Hydrofoil as we embarked on a long, adventurous journey to Vienna.



VIENNA

Upon arriving in Vienna, we headed straight into the city to explore. For our 'meeting point' we chose the beautiful St Stephen's cathedral in the city centre, a work of art in itself, which gave Mr Robinson the opportunity to teach the less cultured among us about the beauty of Gothic architecture and that night we sampled some of the excellent local cuisine and headed for an early night in order to be up early for a day trip to Melk Abbey. A famous Benedictine Abbey on a bluff above the Danube, still a functioning Abbey and school, Melk was perhaps the single most beautiful place we encountered during the whole trip. The whole group was taken aback by the ornate baroque abbey, particularly by the church and library- both of which were stunning. The next morning we headed to the Judenplatz - to view and discuss the Holocaust memorial; although it was an emotional experience for many, it was thoroughly insightful and very worthwhile. After this we visited the nearby Sigmund Freud museum,

a thought-provoking yet very entertaining experience, which housed many of his ideas and theories and gave us an opportunity to acquire a lot of new knowledge regarding ideas of psycho-analysis. We ended up spending most of our afternoon exploring the museum and would have happily stayed for longer, as there was so much magnificent art to appreciate, but the Live Earth concert was beginning very nearby and we were very keen to be there!

PRAGUE

We arrived in Prague in the late afternoon. Once settled into our hotel on the outskirts we headed straight back into town to orientate ourselves. We were taken to the Old Town Square where we were met with an extraordinary array of architecture and beauty. The square felt mystical and little about the old city was modern. We then headed over to the Charles Bridge where again we were met with the most spectacular sights of the River Vltava and Castle district.

The following day we had the trek of our lives - well two treks really. First we had to make it up a rather steep hill to get to Prague Castle and St Vitus Cathedral; on reaching the top, as you pass through the main gates, the dramatic cathedral of St Vitus looms into view. What had been initially a Romanesque rotunda (founded by Wenceslas I, Duke of Bohemia, in 925 AD) had been transformed over several hundred years, with a number of architects working on it, into a spectacular Gothic cathedral. Once inside, the immense scale of the cathedral really becomes extremely noticeable. The highlight was when the entire group made their way up to the top of the Great Tower to see the famous view of the city of Prague, (some suffering from vertigo and claustrophobia took a bit longer to reach the top!) The exhilarating journey up the stone steps could not have prepared you for the sights that you saw on reaching the top; the whole of Prague was laid out before our eyes.

The next day we went to visit the Jewish Quarter and Memorial Ghetto of Prague. It was a day of reflection and remembrance for the Jews that suffered under the Nazis; they were at first isolated from society within

the city, then secondly sent to the outskirts to live in ghettos or holding camps and then the Final Solution saw the extermination of millions of Jews in the death camps. The Terezin Memorial, on the outskirts of Prague continued to bring us towards the reality that was faced by millions of Jews living in Prague during WWII - the rainy day continued to add to this sombre day of remembrance and we left the ghetto with a greater understanding of the atrocities Jews lived through during this period.

The Pitt Trip was a great opportunity to get to know other cultures as well as other fellow Stoics. We have come back with a greater understanding and perspective of the world and we would like to thank Mr Robinson, Miss Smith, Mr Ford and Miss McKee for the help in the organising and conducting the trip. Many fond memories will remain.

Grace Lavelle, Emily Kaplan and Chloe Ballantine (U6th, Nugent)



Germany

GERMAN STUDY TOUR TO MUNICH, OCTOBER 2007

Sunday

At 3.45am we set off to Stansted airport. As we arrived at Munich I noticed that the land was very hilly compared to Berlin. Later on we took a bus tour around the town centre. We sat in an open top double decker listening to information about the buildings: it was really fascinating but quite chilly! We all took lots of pictures, eating sweets on the way. We had an hour break visiting the church and eating food. We then travelled to the youth hostel and checked in. We had supper, then took a tour outside and some of us played rugby.

Zara Nichols, Lyttelton 4th



Monday

Today again was extremely busy. For breakfast we had ham and cheese sandwiches. This is quite unorthodox in England but in Germany it is the norm. We travelled by S-Bahn to the Munich Olympic stadium. It was very interesting, and our tour guide was very helpful in answering questions and, fortunately for all of us, spoke fluent English. We then climbed the Olympic tower. I say climbed, it was more of a "take a lift" – all 187 metres of it. We could see the whole of Munich from the top. From the tower we proceeded to the BMW museum. Back at the hostel the meal was perfectly filling.

Balthazar Mattar, Cobham 5th



Tuesday

We left the youth hostel by eight to go to the Deutsches Museum (German museum). This was in Munich, and we travelled there by train. We then took the train to Dachau, and then took a bus to the concentration camp. This was very moving and sad. However, it was also very interesting, and I do not regret going. We were there for quite a few hours, and our tour guide was very emotional about it, which was also very sad. We left to go back to the youth hostel quite late, and did not arrive back until about seven, where we were lucky to get supper.

Teddy Kealey, Temple 4th



Wednesday

We woke early and left the hostel at 8.00. Our first stop was Linderhof, a castle owned by Ludwig II, where we had a tour of the magnificent grounds and rooms. Next we went through the town of Oberammergau, stopping briefly to take in the decorations on each house (where scenes from fairy tales had been painted) and quickly moved on to Wieskirche, a church, famous as a site of pilgrimage. Next was Neuschwanstein, another castle, equally if not more breathtaking than Linderhof. After our tour, we began the gradual descent down to our bus and sped off to the centre of Munich. We found a small but cosy pizzeria and celebrated a wonderful trip to Germany, returning to the hostel late at night.

Orlando Sheppard, Walpole 16th



Thursday

We first had our breakfast, then we had to clean our room (a little bit messy after five days) and finally finished packing up. We went to the main station to leave our luggage to go shopping. I didn't buy that much because I had already spent all my money during the week! It was the only day that it has rained. We arrived at the airport... and the plane was an hour late! Eventually the plane arrived safely in England. After collecting our luggage, short scenes to say good bye and thank you for the trip to everyone, I took the train back to London.

Charles Giafferi, Grafton 5th



VISIT TO THE GERMAN CHRISTMAS MARKET, BIRMINGHAM, DECEMBER 2007

On Sunday 3rd December, we, and all the rest of the German 3rd form classes and a few 4th and 5th formers also taking German, went to central Birmingham to a festive German Market. The market sold a variety of German food including sweets, Knobi Brot (garlic bread) and German alcohol. There were also a few fun fairground rides; of course, all of us had a go on them. The trip was designed to experience German culture and improve our knowledge of the German language. It was an excellent and fun day out for all of us!

Michael Illingworth & Ben Nichols, Cobham 3rd

Stoic

FISHING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Due to a request from a small group of Stoics, I set about organising a fishing trip to British Columbia on the western sea board of Canada in July 2007. This was never going to be a big group as it goes against the whole concept of getting away from it all. The group was intended to give some fathers the opportunity to fish for salmon and spend time with their sons and generally have a good time.

We departed from Heathrow on the long haul flight to Vancouver, where we transferred to a local cloud hopper to Terrace/Kitimat Airport close to the Alaskan boarder. Spirits were very high with the prospect of catching monster salmon and seeing bears and Bald Eagles while out on the river. The aircraft came in low over one of the rivers we were to spend some time on and hearts sank. The river was very high and very coloured... not good if you are a salmon fisherman! However, we remained optimistic and were picked up by our guides for the week and taken to the Lodge, a stunning three story log chalet set overlooking a wilderness with snow capped mountains in the distance. Some mornings, moose could be seen wandering in the field below the Lodge before breakfast!



The next morning it was decided to head off to a river called the Kitimat. This ran quite clear and was at a good height. Once at the river we got into our rafts with our guides and started to float down the river. As we had divided into groups of three, we set off and stopped and fished at different well known hot spots. James Davison in my group was into a fish on a spinner almost instantly, but lost it as it got into shallow water. I then hooked and lost a fish on the fly, but on the next cast hooked and landed a 25lb King salmon. The rest of the day we hooked and usually lost a couple of fish, but the rafting down the white water was an experience all on its own. That night we got back to find that we were the only group to really contact fish and the hope was that tomorrow would be more productive.

The next day, we split up and one group camped for a couple of days on the Skeena, a very large river and one of the most prolific in Canada. The group hooked and landed many Pacific Salmon including Sockeye, Pinks and the occasional King salmon. Lunch was usually around the camp fire with a fresh red (Sockeye) salmon barbecued on the grill. The group would then change around and take it in turns on the Kitimat or camp on the Skeena. Each evening the group at the Lodge would meet for dinner and exchange fishing stories and tips for the next day. Some evening we would go down to the town and fish along side all the locals in a style which they call 'Combat fishing'. This has to be seen to be believed - anglers fly fishing virtually shoulder to shoulder. There is an unwritten set of rules about fishing in this spot, which was one of the most productive locations on the whole river. Anyone violating these rules ran the risk of a major confrontation with the locals... something not to be recommended!! Luke Davison and George Riddick hooked and caught their first Pacific salmon on the town beat and, once caught, set about catching many more on our daily excursions to the more remote and beautiful sections of the river. One of the more memorable sights was watching two very large Bald Eagles fighting just above our heads for the salmon roe that the anglers had discarded.

As the week progressed, the fishing got better and better. The river had dropped significantly and the skills of the boys improved both in terms of their Spey casting as well as the ability to land the soft mouthed Sockeye on barbless hooks. By the end of the week, we had landed something in the region of 150 salmon. Several big King Salmon up to 30lbs were landed and all returned to the river so they could spawn later in the year. Overall this was a very successful trip and plans are now being made for our next trip to Alaska in August 2009!

Mr Michael Righton



George and Graham Riddick



Return of the King

LOWER 6TH NORTH WALES GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

On Sunday 14th October 50 of Stowe's finest Geographers – and a few devoted professionals and Mr Last - embarked on an epic, and at times treacherous, adventure into the mountainous depths of hell – the hills of North Wales. This bus journey lasted five hours however, with box office hits such as V for Vendetta available for our viewing; the time moved more quickly than Jamie Robson in a cake shop.

By the time we arrived at Plas tan y bwlch, a welcome serving of exotic Welsh delicacies, including fish and chips, were presented to us, despite the stale smell of sweaty teenagers trailing our rowdy mob.

The first evening was spent taking notes and listening intently to an hour-long advertisement for tourism in the Snowdonia National Park. The lecturer was Angharad, a native.

Day one was spent on the vast and, despite what the Geography teachers may say, barren psammosere (sand dunes) at Harlech. For most, this was the 'dodgy' project by the end due to the obscene amount of analysis completed using transects, pictures of plants on a card and a rather primitive clinometer (slope angle measurer). All were cheered up however by a picnic in the rain and several near-death experiences of students ploughing into cattle troughs or plummeting down the dunes with only Mr Incredible himself (Mr Durrant) keeping fresh and dry. That evening, like every other evening, was spent toiling through the day's coursework before popping down to the bar for a cheeky chat (or something stronger in Mr Murray's case) and chilling with the teachers who, after a while, seemed almost like normal people.

After catching up on some sleep due to the extraordinary amount of work the likes of Jamie Hirst did, we moved swiftly onto our next coursework... counting pebbles at Criccieth beach... nice. After a walk of colossal proportions along the pebble beach, which was pleasant apparently, each person had measured 40 pebbles each. We then hiked up Black Rock only to find a horrific labyrinth of gorse and other spiky vegetation on the other side. This, Mrs Akam claimed, was the footpath down. Everyone made it down safely despite Miss B-W's best efforts to leap to her death. Once back at HQ, spiritual awards, due to the tight Geography budget, were awarded for prettiest pebble – which looked like an eyeball, and strangest pebble – which looked like a nipple. The evening ended in the usual way with a night of fun before the intrepid Bruce House posse, led by the bearded legend himself, meandered back down the road in the minibus to the 'luxury' accommodation and temperamental shower that awaited them.

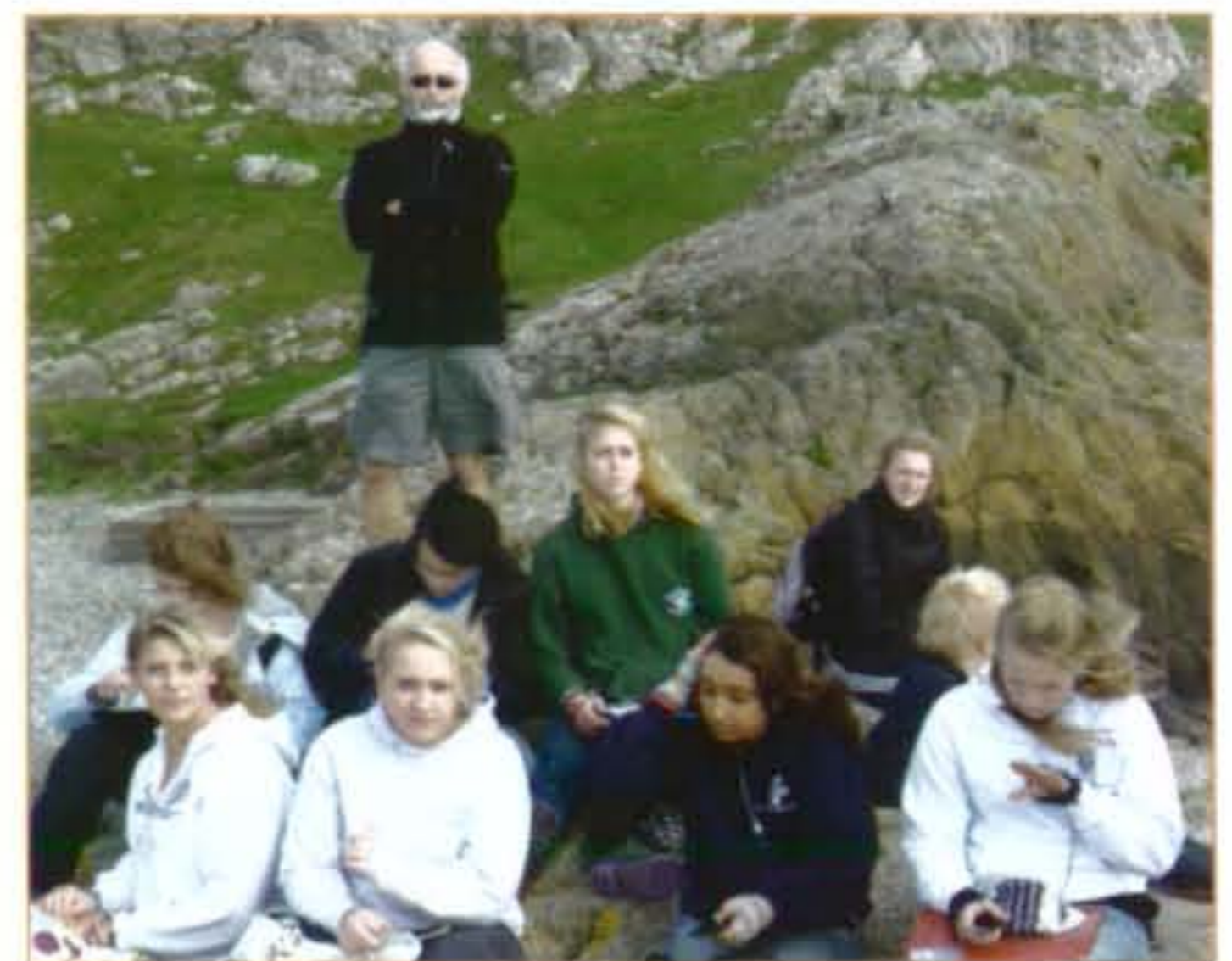
With the new dawn came new opportunities. A study of the local town Porthmadog allowed Jamie Robson to stock up on extra food and everyone else to meet the non-sheep population of the region (there weren't many). Prior to the beginning of the work, Mr Murray managed to mow down an innocent cone in the minibus. After a short, sharp session meticulously counting pedestrians and making up environmental quality scores, everyone headed back to finish this final project. After a final episode of coursework finishing, the bar filled and the table tennis table became the focus of the social gathering. Once the final evening ended, the girls returned to their en-suite boudoirs and the boys to their rickety wooden beds.

The next morning the multi-talented Mr Grimble arrived in the bus (Jeff's, of course) ready to complete his 10 hour round trip back to Stowe. You'll be delighted to know that the films were better on the return journey, despite the best efforts of the DVD player on the bus.

Craig Browne, (Bruce L6th)



Lunch on Black Rock



Mr Murray and his girls (and Dhanat)



View from Plas Tan y Bwlch

Highlights included:

- Enthusiastic Geographers, who clearly don't get out much, saying "I wish I could go back next year"; "Holiday of a lifetime" or even "Best fun I've ever had."
- Smokers getting busted by Angharad, a potential Mr Townsend.
- Gale force winds... all the time.



"I am Maximum Durrantus and will not be moved by any Welsh gale!"



Cool shades and pink welly lines – classy!



You see? (Geographers are cool!)

Stoic

UPPER 6TH EASTER TRIP TO MADRID

Tuesday 18 March

On a not so bright (pitch black), but extremely early morning, four Stoics and two of the most fun-loving members of staff - Mrs L-T and Mr Dobson - clambered into the minibus. After ensuring that most importantly we all had our Spanish dictionaries, but also our passports, Dr Masters somewhat foolishly volunteered to drive the sleeping students (and nattering staff) to Heathrow airport. We made the plane in good time, of course, and boarded a pleasantly empty BA flight across the Atlantic to Madrid, where our bags were among the first to arrive! Luckily the nearest metro was only a lift-ride away, and we soon found ourselves at 'Barrio del Pilar', where we were to stay – only 15 minutes away from the centre of Madrid. Here we were warmly welcomed by our Spanish hostess and were left to unpack before we decided it was instead time to search the streets for local 'bares'! We went into the city centre and had tapas in the Plaza Mayor, then went to see a cathedral and the Royal Palace, before having a sherry at a traditional tiled bodega and then returning to collapse into bed after our long day.

Wednesday 19 March

After a good night's sleep and a traditional Spanish breakfast, hot chocolate and biscuits, the group set off for el Museo del Prado to see certain 'obras maestras' by Rubens, Velazquez, Goya and Caravaggio, to name but a few. One couldn't help but draw comparisons with a Stowe dormitory, the walls of a grand building, adorned with nudes... somewhat more inspiring though.

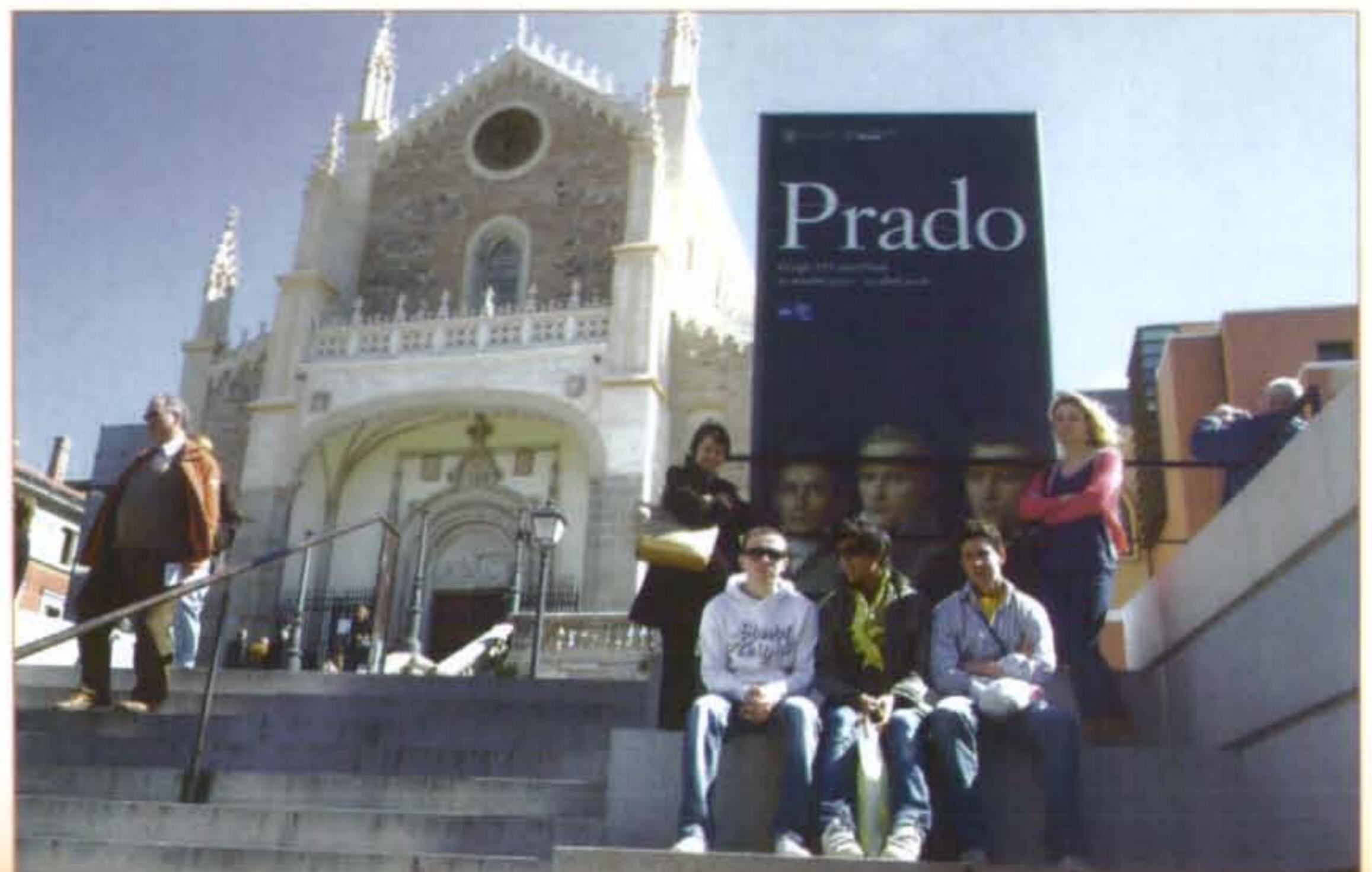
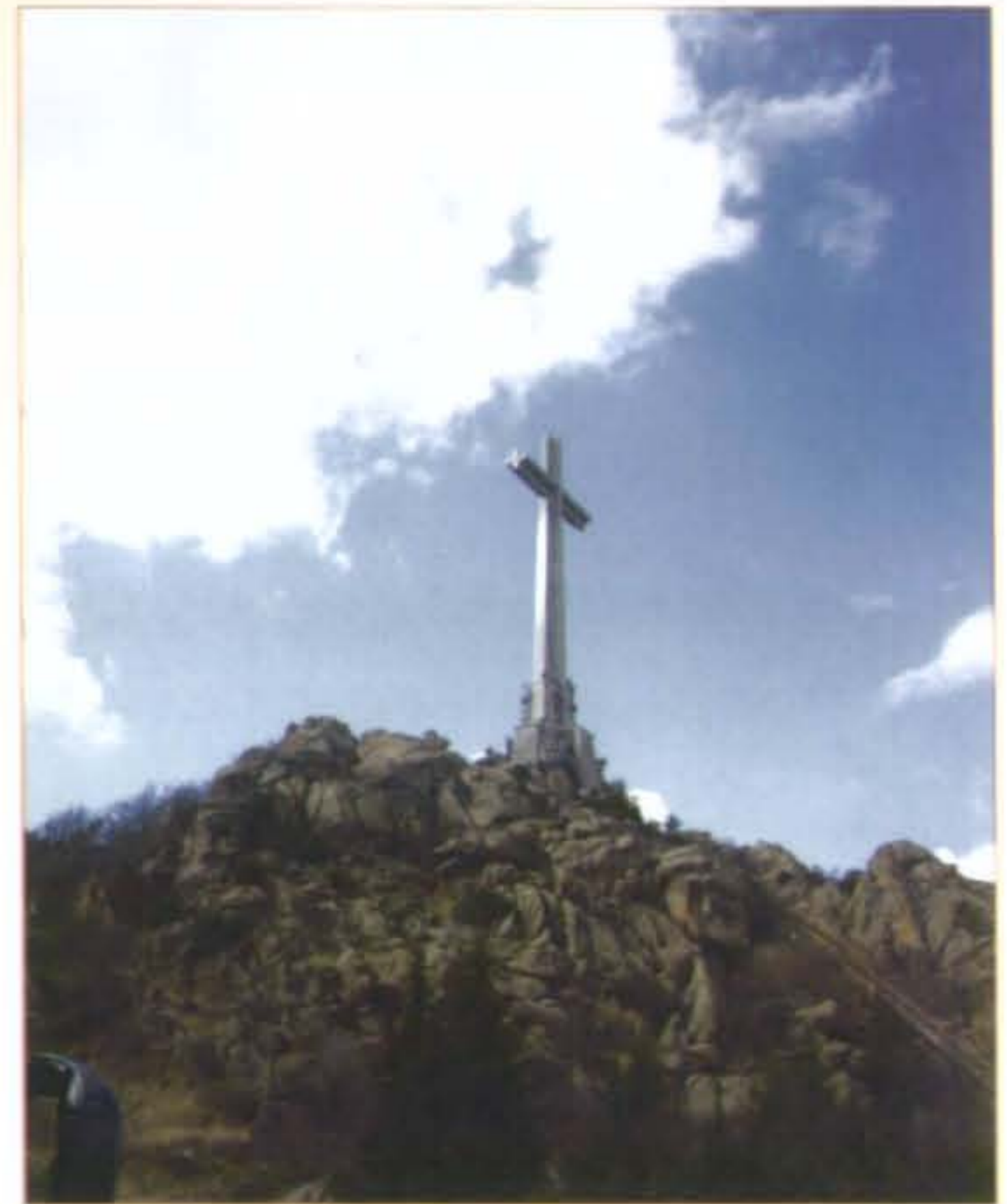
Two hours later four extremely cultured stoics emerged back into the streets of Madrid, ready to catch the bus to San Lorenzo de El Escorial, a long and arduous bus journey to the north of Madrid, but an ideal nap time nonetheless. The main attraction of El Escorial was the sweet shop, there was a monastery turned boarding school too which housed the tombs of deceased Spanish royalty. However, time was short and the sweet shop provided ample enjoyment before our connection bus to La Valle de los Caídos, the fantastic monument that houses Franco's tomb, along with that of other Nationalists. The mausoleum itself is an incredible piece of architecture, carved by Republican hands into a rock face. It is so vast that it can be seen for miles. It has oft been mentioned that Franco was perhaps compensating for one of his own shortcomings. Returning to Madrid a weary bunch, we dined, and wine, before heading home to Barrio del Pilar for some much needed sleep before yet another day of adventure in Toledo.

Thursday 20 March

We all met at the usual metro station once again at the early time of 9am and set off for the bus station, excited, but not as excited as Mrs L-T, about our forthcoming day out in the town famous for its deadly weaponry. This is of course the World Heritage Site of Toledo, to the south of Madrid, which was the capital of Spain many centuries ago and also the site of the military training academy of Alcázar, so a key area during the Civil War. Having slept for the most part of the bus journey, sprawled across the back row, we were somewhat in a daze when we walked through the outer walls of the town and saw the streets rising up the hill in front of us. More strenuous exercise! Stopping at every other shop on the way to gawk at the knives, samurai swords, guns, armour, axes and so on, we arrived in the Plaza Mayor and posed for a few photos in front of the cathedral. Unfortunately a couple of the key historical tourist attractions were closed due to renovations but we were still able to admire much of the Arabic influenced architecture...and the bars. We had lunch sitting on a wall next to the Alcázar but the highlight of the day had to be the famous Zocotren which took us on a pleasant, if rather bumpy and uncomfortable, ride around the outside of the town, giving us excellent views of the entire town perched on its hill and the rivers surrounding it on three sides. We returned to Madrid in the late afternoon, taking our second siesta of the day on the way.

Friday 21 March (Good Friday)

We woke up ready for another day filled with fun and freaky facts about Madrid but also a bit saddened by the fact that it was the last full day in the Spanish capital. We were greeted by another hearty breakfast of warm milk, cocoa and some dry biscuits and some bocadillos filled with air



Madrid

for the road. We hopped on to the metro in a leisurely fashion, perhaps a bit too leisurely in the case of the teachers. We headed off into the middle of the city where Mr Dobson was the chief navigator for the day - the only day!

We arrived at el Museo Reina Sofia, and joined a mile long queue and had some time to sample some coffee from the local traditional Spanish coffee shop called El Star Bucks. Once we got past the hordes of buskers (2) we were inside only to find that we could not take our air filled bocadillos and apple in with us. So we stuffed them into Elle's bag and carried on. The gallery was immense and remarkable in that we had to show our tickets to someone every time we wanted to visit a different floor. As we did not have our tickets we were restricted to Picasso, Dali and a lot of modern art from several Spanish and international artists, not bad. The highlight was seeing Picasso's Guernica, a symbol of the terror, death and destruction suffered during the Civil War in Spain and the indignation and disgust of the artist towards it. It shows mostly innocent villagers dying and a soldier in half with a sword in his hand which would be useless against the accuracy of the Luftwaffe.

After we left the gallery enlightened and full of eagerness to learn about more Spanish art Mr Dobson and Mrs L.T took us to the park and sat us down at one of the cafés in the sun.

When we came across the boating lake and saw the Spaniards splashing about in small boats it was suggested that Conor and Hugh (Stowe's best rowers!) should have a go but they both agreed that we didn't want to cause another Armada incident!

Saturday 22 March

The day for us to leave sadly came much quicker than expected, and all six of us lugged our suitcases onto the metro for the last time. Conor and Hugh were considerably chirpier than the rest of us however, since for them it was the beginning of a Hispanic holiday, and we somewhat begrudgingly said our goodbyes as they continued onto Salamanca.

Al fin y al cabo the trip was an incredible success, although the endless visits to Spanish bars and restaurants did become increasingly strenuous, and we hope that all future Modern Languages students will get to share the same "Spanish experience"!

Conor Curtis, Tim Field, Hugh Gallie (Bruce, U6th) & Elle Horrocks (Lyttelton, U6th)



Stoic



POLITICS TRIP TO WASHINGTON DC FOR U6TH STUDENTS

Fortunately, our departure from Heathrow at 6.30am was from Terminal 4, not the infamous T5 and negotiating the rigours of US immigration control provided the only difficulties of the trip. Our hotel was located in the middle of Pennsylvania Avenue, a gentle stroll to the Capitol building in one direction and the White House (far smaller than Buckingham Palace!) on our right. The first exploration of the northwest corner included a conversation with some Secret Service agents who answered our tourist questions enthusiastically. That evening the city was very busy as there were various sporting events going on and after meeting up with Miss Sherman and Miss McKee (former Harvard Fellows) we came back to the hotel for dinner.

Our first full day in Washington started with a brunch in the bohemian area of Dupont Circle and the Stowe reunion was complete with the arrival of Mr Robinson, who was in Baltimore. On a damp and cold day, we visited the Air and Space museum of the Smithsonian galleries on the National Mall. Items on display included President Lincoln's top hat, R2D2 and other items illustrating aspects of American history and culture. The night culminated with supper in Georgetown, the oldest part of the city.



On Monday we went to visit the Congress building on Capitol Hill, accompanied by Mr. Halpert (current Harvard Fellow). We had a guided tour around the main public areas of the building, ending with a viewing in the gallery above the chamber for the House of Representatives. It was a great opportunity seeing the inside of the US legislature close up, especially the chamber where the representatives debate policy. After lunch, we visited the Washington monument, the triumphal WWII memorial (opened in 2004), the more sober and thought-provoking Vietnam and Korean memorials, the reflecting pool and ending at the impressive Lincoln memorial. We also went around the tidal pool to see the Roosevelt and Jefferson memorials. After doing some work and discussing essays on Congress, that evening we went to a baseball game at the city's brand-new stadium, the Washington Nationals against the Florida Marlins.

Tuesday was a busy day and we started off by queuing to get into the National Archive; this impressive building houses millions of documents relating to US history, but we were there (along with hundreds of others) to see the original copies of the 'Charters of Freedom'; The Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. In a specially designed exhibit with dimmed lighting were the original parchment documents, their writing so faded as to illegible in parts, but it is fascinating to think that these documents were the foundation on which the USA was built, and decisions in courts across the country are still predicated on. In the afternoon we went to meet with a representative from the National Right to Life Committee; 'reproductive rights' and we were fascinated to find out the workings of such an organisation and the tactics it uses to try and influence government policy. Appropriately, we supped on K street, where most of Washington's professional lobbyists have their offices.

On Wednesday morning we had a meeting with Jon Thompson, a representative from the Republican National Committee. We discussed some aspects of "party politics" in US as well as the campaign and policies of John McCain. It was interesting to learn about the role of the 'national' party who are much smaller and less powerful than their UK counterparts and whose influence on candidates, policy and influence on voting can be very nominal. After this we walked over to the Supreme Court which is the highest court of appeal in the U.S and "guardian of the constitution". After lunch we headed across to the C-Span studio which is a political news station and met with Steve Scully who is the presenter of the morning political broadcast.

Thursday involved a bus trip where we saw the Washington monument, built in memory of 1st President George Washington, the infamous Watergate building, Embassy Row and the National Cathedral. We then took the bus to Arlington National Cemetery, the burial place of thousands of US soldiers from as far back as the civil war, as well as President John F Kennedy, his brother Robert and the tomb of the 'Unknowns'.

We would like to thank Mr Tillson for arranging the meetings and Ms Smith and Mr Way for organising and accompanying us. We had a great time!

Josh Hunter (Cobham, U6th), James Hemsley (Walpole, U6th), Richard Gordon-Colebrooke, (Chandos, U6th), George Hanbury & Ed Crisford (Grenville, U6th).



Myles Henry Award

HOPE CAPURRO AND MONIKA JURCIC TRAVEL TO MALAWI

Our plane departed from London Heathrow to Blantyre, Malawi on the 9th of July 2007. After months of planning, we were ready to embark on the journey we'd been so eagerly awaiting; and after a 19 hour journey to Malawi via South Africa we were finally in Blantyre, our home city for the next couple of weeks.

Our aim out in Malawi was to teach music, art and games to the children of the local orphanage that we had organised to visit through a company called Quest Overseas. Upon arrival we found ourselves two bags down and one contained living essentials like sleeping bags, mosquito nets and soap! The other however contained over 150 new donated instruments, posters, t-shirts, hats, books, stickers, games and art supplies that unfortunately we never got back.

We had also taken out with us, three brand new Yamaha guitars and many t-shirts and hats separately, however to our annoyance they were seized by customs minutes after landing in the small Chileka airport of Blantyre. Our trip was not going to plan but we still continued hopeful and positive!

We spent our time mainly in one orphanage named Chimamwe. Chimamwe Orphanage belongs to a network of orphanages run by the Joshua Orphan Care Trust, who work closely with Quest Overseas. The trust was set up by a remarkable lady named Sylvia, who we were lucky enough to work with during our stay in Malawi.

Whilst our instruments went astray we decided we would use the money we'd been given through donations to buy art supplies for the orphanage as well as new chalk for their very small black board.

The orphanage consisted of one room with brown walls and so whilst working at the orphanage we volunteered to help redecorate. We proceed by painting the English alphabet with matching pictures, shapes, and by donating an illustrated map of the world, we turned the four walls of Chimamwe orphanage into a fun learning centre for all who go there. We also had the children help decorate one wall, each placing a hand print in the colour of their choice on the wall.

Throughout these days of DIY work we had great fun working with the youth group of the village where we were helping with our decorating, and after our efforts we were rewarded with traditional Malawian food at the house of the village Chief given to us a thank you for our hard work.

Weekends were ours to spend seeing Malawi during which we met the Quest group; a group of young people for 16 to 20 out in Malawi building a school for the Joshua Trust. We joined them on an outing to a 5 star gourmet meal in an Italian restaurant wine included, all for under £5! We also followed them out to one of the remote villages were they were building the school, so we pitched in and joined in the brick lines. One highlight of the trip was a Safari at Liwonde National Park. Here we took both boat and jeep safaris to enjoy the wildlife and landscape that make Malawi so beautiful.

On our trip we decided we would try as many Malawian traditions as possible, including speaking as much of the language as we could, eating the traditional foods, chewing on sugar cane, riding the local Blantyre express buses and haggling for goods in the infamous African markets.

Malawi was definitely an eye opening experience for the both of us, especially since it is the country with the highest percentage of AIDS sufferers in Africa. Knowing that our orphans had lost their parents through this wide spread disease and in some cases suffering from it themselves, put a lot into perspective for us. In Malawi the life expectancy is currently 36 years of age. This was hard to believe when we were researching the country before our trip however we did see the reality of this: every day a funeral would take place in our small village. Although all of these features made our trip emotional, the sheer happiness and hospitality of the people in Malawi will a lasting memory.

We are both extremely grateful to the Myles Henry award for giving us this opportunity of a lifetime; along with them we also thank Mr. Righton and Irene Andrews for their help and support.

For those ever debating on travelling to Malawi, we thoroughly recommend it, just remember to put all essentials in your hand luggage!



Hope Capurro & Monika Jurcic (Nugent, U6th)

Stoic

BATTLEFIELDS OF BELGIUM FOR THIRD FORM STUDENTS

The Great War was truly great. As early as Autumn 1914 the conflict that was meant to be over by Christmas was already being referred to by the French as Le Grand Guerre. The war convulsed Europe and gave vent to political forces which were to shape the twentieth century. As with all study, nothing can beat getting out into the field whether that is viewing an archive, interviewing a survivor or visiting the site where the action took place. With this in mind, eighty-four 3rd year pupils headed to the battlefields of the Western Front in March. Having studied the key military engagements of the war, the chance to visit the Somme and Ypres provided the students with a chance to apply their understanding by exploring the trench systems and bunkers that survive.

In a busy three day visit students had the opportunity to explore trenches at Beaumont Hamel, visit Tyne Cot, the largest British cemetery on the Western Front, and attend the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate. The trip had a profound impact on the students especially at Thiepval on the Somme where the names of over 73,000 men who have no known grave are recorded. Inevitably most students found a namesake. I have been out to the battlefields of the Great War on numerous trips. There is always something new to see. For modern European historians a visit to Europe's killing fields is an essential learning experience and the students returned to Stowe from a trip that they will never forget.

Dr David Smith



(Photography: Mr Richard Pickersgill)

Old Stoics

FIFTY YEARS AGO, WHEN STOICS CREATED BABY DOLL

When Old Stoic Tim Dyke wrote to the Editor of the 'Motor Sports Magazine' about a recent engineering quest of his, his actions would have seemed quite standard to him. Maybe a 1950s audience would have thought so too, however looking back on it now almost 50 years later, one can truly recognise that Stowe and life in general, are very different places to what they were back then. Most notably, it should be said that the document was a typewritten letter, now whether it be simply youthfulness and modern minds, but to many current Stoics it may seem strange that conversation hasn't always been held through a Facebook message (or other such necessary evils).

It was whilst Tim was in Cobham when he and his Section from the "Internal Combustion Engine" part of the Cadet Force decided to renovate a dilapidated, vintage car affectionately named "Baby Doll". Baby Doll was a 1926/7 Morris Cowley and was in desperate need of repair. "Through the years it had gradually succumbed to harsh treatment" Mr Dyke had written. Not too surprising considering it was left "at the hands of countless generations of school boy drivers"- most probably the sort of similar driving you encounter in Buckingham on a Friday evening. So although the driving hasn't changed since then, Friday afternoons are certainly a little different. I'm not sure how Mr Dyke and his troopers would have reacted to the idea of cookery or dance classes, both recent introductions to the seemingly endless activity list of ours.

Summer 1957 and the group of spirited young lads, including Tim himself accepted the challenge to repair Baby Doll (ironically she had been laid to rest the week before by the same group of boys- the same sort of indecisiveness we see to this day.) "The challenge was 'on.'" And it appeared so was their quest for necessary equipment. They used all the measuring equipment they could "beg, borrow or steal," Mr Dyke had written. Well, not much change there, then. The boys fought through their lack of equipment. Some may compare this to the will power shown by current Stoics when battling through the annual (and somewhat dreaded) cross-country course- although hopefully this quest will have a certain ending. Only a slight problem came to light...how were they going to get the engine in? "We enlisted the help of a dozen small boys," Mr Dyke wrote. It seems the use and abuse of third form has been a continuous tradition. Studs were then bolted into the wheel, and then all too soon came the time for the road test. Mr Dyke recalled the incident in his letter: "All kinds of unwanted advice" came from the boys. "We drove off in style," Mr Dyke later recalled, in fact such so called 'style' can still be seen on weekday afternoons with sixth form driving lessons up to this day. The lack of a silencer on the Sabbath caused some distress to some local residents, although this didn't caution them and on the whole the journey went well.

"At last we had got somewhere but a lot was still to be done," Mr Dyke wrote. But the quest was coming to an end. Just as the thrill of being able to ride the car came about, so the time came for the end of term and the car was still not fit for licensing. So the gardens continued to be their proving ground. The lack of front-brakes, handbrake and floorboards all added to the excitement of their trial run. By the time Mr Dyke left in 1959 he said that the "sections inexpert attention" had continued to work on the final product.



So from wreck to racing car, (okay, almost), the boys certainly accomplished a mountain of a job. Not to mention the amusement in it all: "We had as much fun modifying her as if she had been a real thoroughbred vintage car," Mr Dyke had put in his ending paragraph. "A vintage car with a very much post vintage propulsion unit." The photos certainly reveal a lot. I wonder how many people react like this to their current activities.

So okay, maybe Stowe won't let you modify cars anymore, and you definitely won't see sixth form boys racing around the grounds in vintage cars anymore, but it's good to see some aspects have stayed the same. So in some senses the car is very much a modern day interpretation of the buzz surrounding Stowe and its future, a sort of historical and cultural diamond, with a very much 'post vintage,' or modern approach to creating the perfect individual.

Laura Grossick (Lyttelton, L6th)



Stoic

MUSIC REPORT

As I write this, an eventful and massively successful year for the Music Department is rapidly drawing to a close. With the departure of a Director of Music, the Assistant Director and the Head of Strings in 2007, this year was always going to be a one of regeneration and change. It was a year we welcomed three new staff – Mr Daniel Bhattacharya (Head of Strings), Mr James Reed (Musician in Residence) and Mr Adam Balkwill (Part-Time Teacher of Music) – in addition to myself! Despite these moving times and dramatic changes, the musicians at Stowe have delivered exciting repertoire in abundance: wonderful concerts week after week, a musical feast fit for a Queen (literally), a remarkable Advent Carols Service, an ambitious programme of prep school visits, four memorable performances of *Oliver!*, and several enlightening excursions to London. As I burn the candle at both ends in the Roxburgh Hall, normally planning the next big concert with only the mystery 'Roxy rodent' to keep me company, the one thing that never fails to keep me inspired and refreshed is the wonderful group of Stowe Music Scholars. It is primarily these individuals to whom we owe this extraordinary year of music-making.

Our weekly Wednesday recital series for the year kicked off with a varied recital by the full-time Music staff, providing us with the opportunity to show off our skills on instruments of our choice (or mashing our way through piano duets in my case!). The next major musical events of the Michaelmas Term revolved around the 2007 Arts & Science Festival, which featured a rousing performance by the GUS brass band, a very poignant performance of Messiaen's Quartet for the End of Time which the whole school experienced, and numerous instrumental workshops. The first day after Half Term, we then took a group of lucky Stoic string players to a student concert at the Royal College of Music in London, followed by a much-needed meal out in Kensington. That week was also the week of House Singing, and undoubtedly the House Stances were overtaken by last-minute vocal rehearsals! The Cobham boys were the victors of the competition this year, bringing down the house with both a passionate performance of Groban's *You Raise Me Up* as the Part Song and the charity hit *Perfect Day* as the House Song.

As Christmas approached, so did the much-awaited Queen's visit, Dinner & Jazz, as well as the staple Christmas Concert, Advent Carols, and Choir Dinner! The Queen's visit was a marvellous day for Music at Stowe, with Fifth Form Music Scholar Balthazar Mattar composing a piece, *Andante Espresso*, especially for the occasion. This was performed for the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh after lunch by himself, Mr Bhattacharya and Miss Ford. A specially-composed grace was also beautifully performed by Daisy Page, Charlotte Matthews, Emma Bailey, Florence Hopewell, Mr Halpert, James Gordon Reid, Augustus Perkins Ray and William Randall-Coath. Dinner & Jazz was a wonderful success, as usual, with a full house attending and the Stowe Jazz Band on top form! With Buckingham's rather disappointing Christmas lights in full flare, Stowe's Chapel Choir were anything but disappointing, as it performed admirably twice, in what was a busy weekend, at the Christmas Charity Concert and the Advent Carols Service. They were, however, rewarded duly at Choir Dinner, which was also attended by our guest organist for the occasion, Mr Jonathan Vaughn.

Lent Term marked the start of Mrs Nelson's visits of key prep schools across the country – with the aim of publicising Music and specifically Music Scholarships at Stowe. She, Miss Ford and Mr Bhattacharya took numerous musical Stoics around the country to destinations as far afield as North Yorkshire with glowing reports coming back of the performances that were given to the prep school children. This term also demanded an intense rehearsal schedule for *Oliver!*, culminating with four nights of incredible entertainment and riveting performances in late February (it was going to be three but the show was a sell-out!). Other highlights of February included the annual Prep Schools' Choral



Beth Georgiou, leader of the Orchestra, participating in a strings masterclass at the Arts & Science Festival





Balthazar Mattar improvising at the piano

Festival, the Stowe Party for Donors, and a visit from the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama String Orchestra. The Choral Festival, which has now been running for over ten years, was this year directed by guest conductor Hilary Davan Wetton, who did a sterling job. March saw a fascinating visit from accomplished African musician Tunde Jegede, before the term finished off in style with an extremely high quality end-of-term concert.

One of my mentors once told me that for any Director of Music, the first three weeks of Summer Term are the most gruelling of the academic year. As I have recently spent hectic days chasing, collating, and marking a mass of compositions and polishing recordings for our GCSE and A-Level students, I would have to agree with him. But the busy times of Summer Term were balanced by wonderful opportunities to entertain and delight. The Annual Piano and Woodwind Competitions, invited a host of high-spirited musicians to compete for first place; the top prizes went to Charlotte Matthews and Beth Georgiou respectively. We were also treated to a Percussion Day run by internationally-renowned group Backbeat Percussion, whose innovative workshops captivated many of our percussion students. We now look forward to the Speech Day concert, during which Beth Georgiou, one of our Upper Sixth Music Scholars, will perform two movements from a Bach Violin Concerto, accompanied by the Stowe Orchestra.

So, in summary, there are many memorable moments to cherish in what has been a busy year. Music is thriving at Stowe, and I am very fortunate to have a wonderfully dedicated group of staff and a very willing and talented group of Music Scholars and Exhibitioners alongside me. However, the physical resources are more than a little basic and we do need a new Music School, and I will be certainly looking to push the campaign for this further next year, with 2012 still a realistic target date for completion. Even with our current resources though, we are enjoying increased uptake academically (our AS set next year is very likely to be in double figures for the first time in years), and I am also thrilled that both of the current A2 students, Beth Georgiou and Sam Barnard, are going on to pursue Music at college and university respectively when they leave Stowe this summer.

Mr Huw Jones
Acting Director of Music

A WORD FROM THE MUSICIAN IN RESIDENCE

The term 'Musician-in-Residence' probably doesn't mean much to most people. In fact, until I came to Stowe, it didn't mean much to me either! However, once I'd arrived, it was clear that things were going to be a little more lively than I'd anticipated. I had expected much of my musical responsibilities to revolve around Lorimer's magnificent chapel. Playing for morning worship on Tuesdays and Thursdays, hymn practice on Fridays, and Sunday Chapel were my anticipated focus, with plenty of time to learn new organ voluntaries. This was not to be the case, though, and a significant amount of time was spent in the music school helping instrumental students prepare for aural tests for Associated Board and Trinity Guildhall examinations, overseeing detentions and music clinics, and sorting out boxes – 35 in total – of sheet music strewn around the department and untouched for as many years. And then there's the attachment to a boarding house. We didn't have flat screen televisions and Sky when I was at school, but the well-equipped day room in Grafton provided many happy hours during duties in the house – midweek and at weekends. The family atmosphere of the house, cultivated by the housemaster, his family and the much-loved matron, was supportive and caring, and the boys were, without exception, polite and welcoming.

Many schools today have a musician gap year student, presumably to expose potential academic music teachers to the world of education, and to interest them in giving their lives over to nurturing the musical talents of future students. At the end of the year I will be returning to Durham to complete my degree, and will not be entering the world of education after graduating, but that is no reflection on my time at Stowe. These have been a fascinating and educational couple of terms, and ones which I will remember for many years to come.

Mr James Reed
Musician in Residence 2007/08

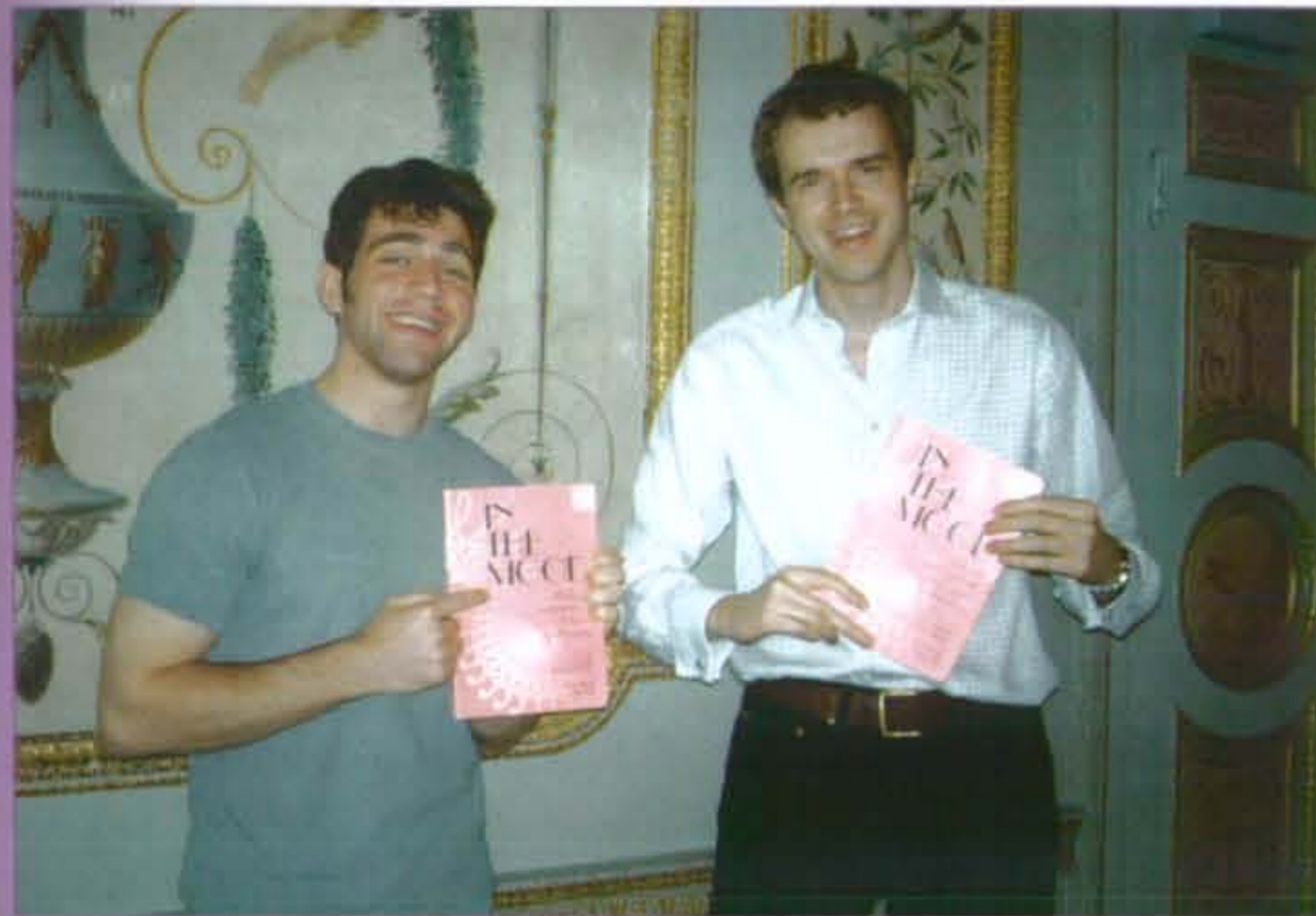




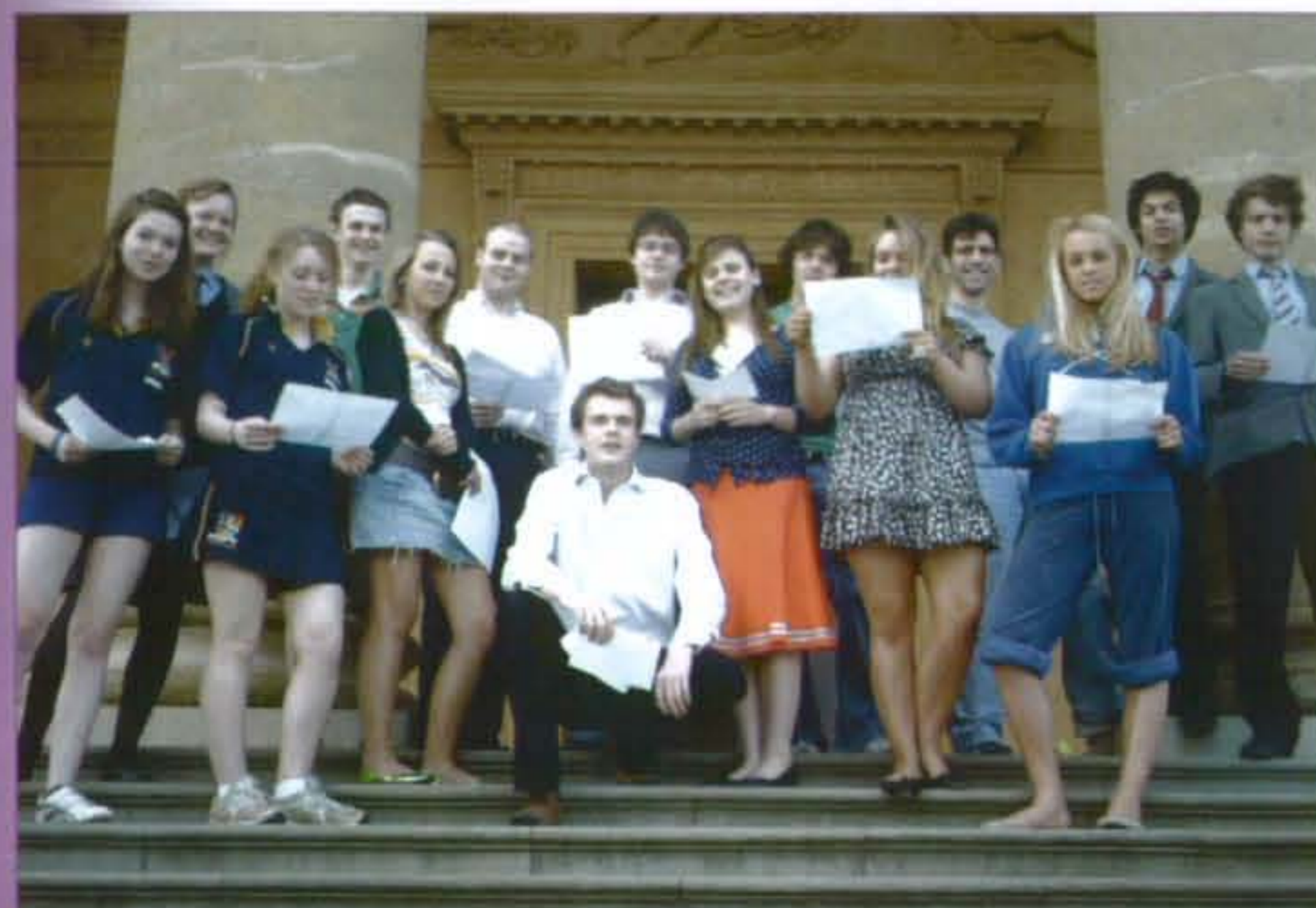
Beth Georgiou and Sam Barnard, our A2 Music Scholars



Helena Kealey and Hope Capurro, back from sport for Chamber Choir



Mr Halpert and Mr Jones posing before Chamber Choir



Mr Jones and the Chamber Choir, singing madrigals on the South Front

A Music Department Prep School Visit

On a wet Wednesday afternoon, a group of musical Stoics set off from their school in Buckinghamshire to promote Music at Stowe School. This group contained skilled flautist Florence Hopewell and talented oboist Charlotte Matthews, both members of the Lower Sixth, accompanied by Jennifer Nelson (Head of Woodwind) and Hilary Ford (Head of Keyboard and Accompanist in Residence). Taking the train to Euston and then the Tube to a location in Wandsworth, we arrived at Northcote Lodge Prep School, a distinguished London prep school, in comfortable and cosy surroundings, the former school of English pop musician Luke Pritchard from British band 'The Kooks'. As soon as we arrived, we could tell that the school valued music very much and was very interested in the happenings at Stowe, being members of the annual musical event, the Prep Schools Choral Day, started by John Green over a decade ago. After a cup of tea, we made our way down to the school's dining room, to give short demonstrations of each of our instruments, the sounds they make, and we each gave an example by playing a piece, starting with Mrs Nelson showing the group of about 250 students an extraordinarily complex and difficult piece, after which a discussion was held about the clarinet (the instrument that Mrs Nelson was playing). Following that (which was quite difficult) came an interesting discussion about the oboe (given by Charlotte), a show-stopping performance of Bring Him Home from *Les Miserables*, given by Floss Hopewell, and some educational points about the style of music and piano technique given by Miss Ford. I played a short piece on the French horn, and gave a demonstration on how to play the horn, as there were no students that played it at that school. I also talked about the art of song-writing and gave an example by singing one of the songs I had written. After the demonstration, we held a jazz improvisation workshop (led by Mrs Nelson) for a selected 14 or so pupils. I think (and hope) that they all enjoyed it, and got something out of it, as Floss, Charlotte and I did too.

Soon, it became dark and it was time to head back to Stowe. When we arrived at Euston station, we had something to eat, and as we were eating our fish and chips, it gave us all time to reflect on what a productive and effective day it had been. It is important to consider that carrying out days like this is very important, as these children's future could mean that they are to come to Stowe because they are impressed with what goes on musically, as well as everything else. I believe that the promotion of music at any school will really help a child's mind to engage in whether or not they wish to come to a particular school. From the reactions of students at Northcote School, all of whom being very polite and kind, it was easy to tell that some of their attention was diverted to our school, and I hope that some will now consider looking at Stowe as a possible secondary school, because of the number of talented pupils at Northcote Lodge. A special word of thanks must go to Mrs Nelson for organising the whole day, and to Miss Ford, for giving all her time and help to a day which I really enjoyed, and I really felt that I got something out of it, as well as many of the members of Northcote Lodge.

Augustus Perkins Ray
(Cobham 5th)



William Randall-Coath, Head of the Choir and recipient of the 2007/08 chorister prize, with Mr Jones

Results of the Annual Piano Competition

Adjudicator: **Tom Poster**
 Novice Class: **1st Hubert Leese**
 Elementary Class: **1st Yemurai Soper-Gwatidzo**
 1st Alexander le Clercq
 2nd James Larter
 3rd Georgina Sladen
 Lower Intermediate Class: **1st Emily Beatty**
 Intermediate Class: **1st James Gordon Reid**
 2nd Florence Hopewell
 Higher Intermediate Class: **1st James Bevington**
 Advanced Class: **1st Charlotte Matthews**
 2nd Augustus Perkins Ray
 3rd Caroline Harington

The 2008 Stowe Piano Cup was awarded to Charlotte Matthews.

Results of the Annual Woodwind Competition

Adjudicator: **Paul Harris**
 Novice Class: **1st Jack Palmer**
 Joint 2nd Pippa Farr and Kit Cowan
 Lower Intermediate Class: **1st Daisy Simpson**
 Joint 2nd Isi Madojemu
 and Jasper Simpkin
 Intermediate Class: **1st James Bell**
 2nd Hamish Barnes
 Higher Intermediate Class: **1st Oliver Sewell**
 2nd Hannah Jackman
 Advanced Class: **1st Beth Georgiou**
 2nd Charlotte Matthews
 Cup for Outstanding Potential: **Beth Georgiou**
 Most Creative Performer: **Oliver Sewell**
 Contribution to the
Woodwind Department: **Matthew Williamson**
 Highly Commended: **Rowan Brogden and Alex Le Clercq**
 Commended: **Hannah Bassett and Hannah Maxwell**



Mr Balkwill, our new part-time teacher of Music.



Senior Congreve

SIX CHARACTERS LOOKING FOR AN AUTHOR

The Senior Congreve for November 2007 saw two contrasting pieces being produced. The more serious and thought provoking *Six Characters looking for an Author*, by Luigi Pirandello, and the lighter more farcical comedy of Tom Stoppard's *The Real Inspector Hound*.

The first half of this exciting double bill was *Six Characters looking for an Author*, a classic of European theatre. A theatre company are rehearsing their new play when they are interrupted by a family of "characters" asking for their yet to be completed story to be told. Although there is initial confusion surrounding the relationship between the 'characters' and 'actors', the plot unravels to show how disturbed the family of 'characters' really are. The questions of 'truth and illusion on stage' were handled really well and it was soon made clear that the 'characters' were far more believable and truthful than the 'actors' who only played at acting out emotions.

Well deserved applause must go to all the "Characters", who commanded the stage with powerful performances. The Stepdaughter, whose feisty arguments exposed the family secrets, was superbly acted by Milly King, with her cackling laugh and cool stage presence. Her heated and passionate outbursts complemented the undercurrent of anger and seething fury of the Father, captured by James Sindall. The rest of the 'family' lived up to their roles, with the weeping Mother played by Lettie Butcher, the sullen teenage son by Cosmo Adrends, and the two mute children, sensitively portrayed by 3rd formers Madeleine Webb and Sing-To Gauvain.

The group of "actors" were led by Ed Abel Smith and Nellie English as leading man and lady respectively and also included Laura Paine, Chris Lord, Lucy Gallimore, Olivia Palmer, Gus Perkins Ray, Nick Rewcastle, Lucy Milburn and Rosanna Hedley. Although their parts were smaller, their comic flamboyancy ('Absolutely fabulous darling!') complemented and contrasted the sombre subject matter and seriousness of the 'characters'.

The go-between was the Director, played by Alexandra Melville, whose questioning role helped clarify the plot for the audience. For both 'characters' and 'actors', the performance was demanding; the entire cast remained on stage for the duration of the play, and speaking or not, this meant non-stop acting the whole way through; pretty exhausting all round.

Although it was feared that the complexity of the subject matter may have confused an audience unfamiliar with the text, and perhaps some Stoic boys may have been disappointed not to have a repetition of last year's raunchy *Habeas Corpus*, nevertheless the play was widely appreciated by all who saw it. The mere fact that the play was carried off mishap free is a tribute to the director and his excellent cast, after hours of rehearsals that went on past tuck shop closing hours...it's hats off to Mr. Bayley, who managed to maintain a fun and relaxed atmosphere in the rehearsals leading up to opening night.

Nellie English (Lyttleton, U6th)



Senior Congreve

THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND

After a very intense first half of the Senior Congreve in November, we were able to lighten the mood with a comical rendition of Tom Stoppard's *The Real Inspector Hound*; a well-known satirical play within a play that again explores the theme of reality and illusion.

At first we are introduced to Moon, played by James Musgrave who played a "second string" theatre critic. He is quickly joined by Jonty Irving who practised his womanising skills as Birdboot, the second theatre critic. Both did their utmost to get into character, this included putting what appeared to be the entire contents of the Bruce house kitchen down Jonty's shirt, all in the name of theatre.

The play being reviewed is set in the "somewhat isolated" country residence of Muldoon Manor where we have an over the top "whodunit" style murder mystery. The clue lies with the body sprawled across the side of the stage, expertly played by Tim Field, who had to endure three nights of playing dead.

The other characters that featured in this somewhat Agatha Christie style parody were Simon Gascoyne, the "very nice" newcomer to the area who appears to have had relations not only with the lady of the house, but also her rather unwelcome guest Felicity Cunningham. Harry Farnsworth was ideally cast as Simon, whilst Liv Stevens played the fabulous Lady Muldoon to perfection. Lily Hanbury captured her role as Felicity, the not-so-innocent flirty "friend" of Lady Cynthia, and we also met Major Magnus (Monty Lewis): "The crippled half-brother of Lord Albert Muldoon who turned up out of the blue from Canada just the other day." Monty had the audience, as well as most of the cast, in stitches due to his ramblings and his spontaneous wheelies.

Additionally, we had Mrs Drudge, the charlady of the house played by myself, Imogen Brabant. I believe the most fitting comment regarding my character was her likeness in movement to a "hatching dinosaur"; odd but strangely appropriate.



As the play progresses the Inspector Hound comes in, to unsuccessfully solve the mystery; Oscar Thornton took this role and the Inspector became increasingly bizarre with each performance, complete with swamp boots and all.

Ultimately, after much character swapping, several mysterious shots from off-stage, two confused card games and a very odd repetition of half of the play, we were finally able to discover who the "Real Inspector Hound" actually was. The audience, although sometimes baffled, appeared to thoroughly enjoy the performance. However, none of this would have happened without the expertise of Mr Walters. After a great deal of effort and a series of desperate rehearsals of that complex card game, he managed to pull off a spectacular performance that will hopefully be remembered within the rich history of Congreve at Stowe.

Imogen Brabant (Queen's, L6th)



Stoic

Junior Congreve 2007

GREGORY'S GIRL

A few weekends ago, I finally sat down to watch the film of *Gregory's Girl*, a play which I, and a great deal of others, performed in last June in the Roxburgh Theatre at Stowe School. Yes, our version did differ somewhat, but it captured memories for me, good, enjoyable times last summer. A spectator whom I walked into the Roxy towards the end of June last year may have had trouble recognising the surroundings.



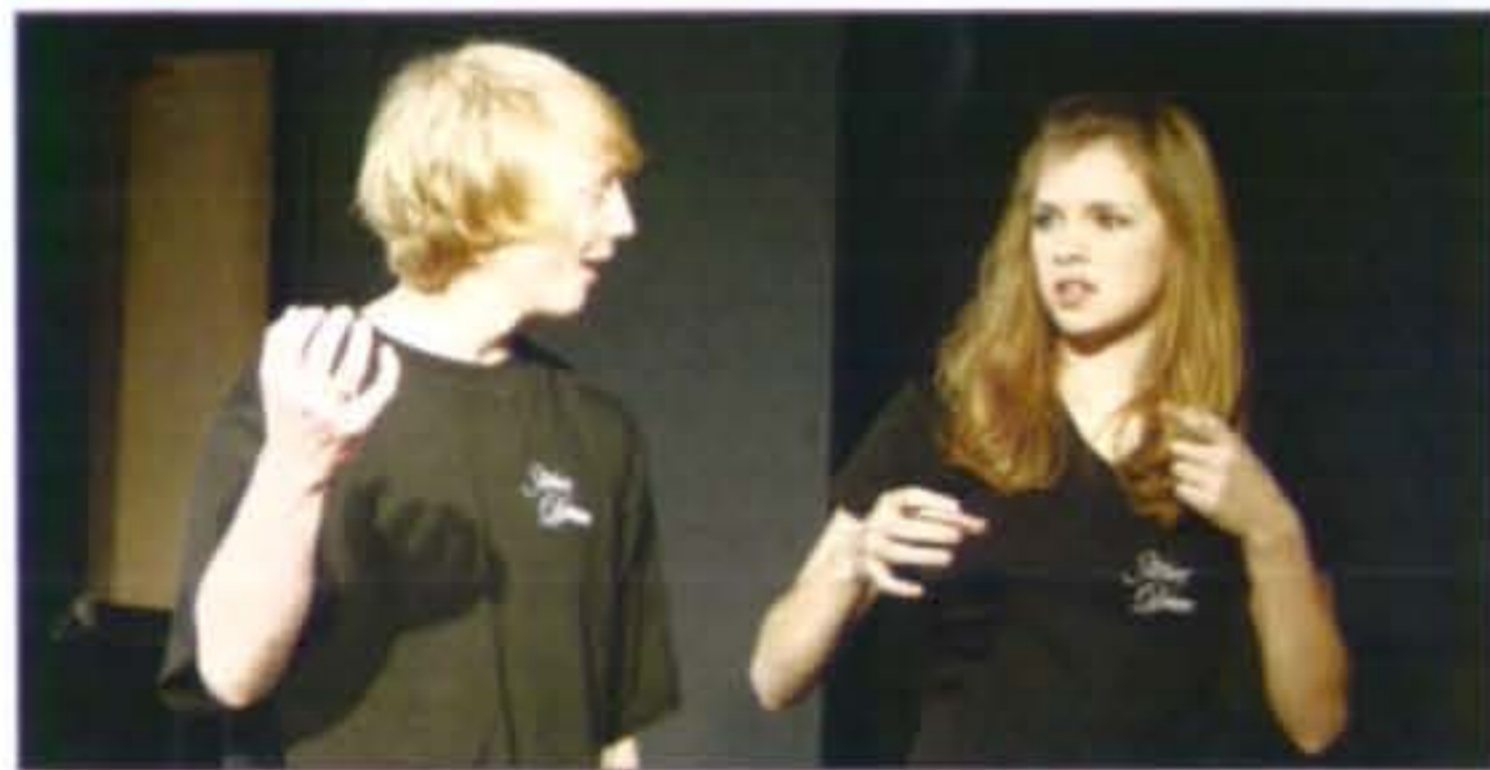
The theatre had been transformed into a huge football pitch, set in traverse (with the audience seated on two opposite sides) as another of Mr. Nick Bayley's brilliant and original staging ideas. Many a sunny day last June, about 30 actors/actresses would walk to the theatre to rehearse in what would become the Junior Congreve of 2007, *Gregory's Girl*, a story of adolescent love, betrayal and desperation. Set in a Secondary school, it charted the events of spotty, lovesick Gregory as he went out to capture the girl of his dreams, but ended up with an unexpected surprise. Taking part in the play was an endless journey of laughter, tears and intensive hard work for all the 3rd and 4th Formers who took part. Playing Gregory was enjoyable, if not excruciating at times (at one point in the play I had to dance on my back) and many have since cited me as being much like Greg (not sure whether to take this as a compliment). Ella Girardot did a fantastic job of playing Dorothy, the girl who Gregory desperately tries to woo, but fails miserably. A courageous sports coach was brilliantly portrayed by James Bell and Gregory's sexually distressed friend was played by Charles Deadman, who also did a great job.



I think everyone who took part really enjoyed the whole experience, and Mr. Bayley kept us all in high spirits and directed the whole play brilliantly well, and without him none of it would obviously have happened. I am sure that the audience who saw it on any of the three occasions enjoyed it and saw how much work went into the whole production. It just shows how artistically productive the school is in all aspects of the spectrum (music, art, drama), at both ends of the school. Having only just seen the entertaining and witty film, I can say many things were different, but comparing the two, I think it's clear that everyone who worked on the production – the actors, director, technicians, and everyone else – didn't do a bad job at all...

Gus Perkins Ray (Chandos, 5th)







Laura Paine and Robbie Cameron in Huis Clos

ON NOVEMBER 30TH 2007 the 26 AS level Drama and Theatre Studies students took part in their major practical assessment of the course. This unit, worth 40%, requires the Stoics to work together in a group of no more than four and no less than two, on selected scenes or extracts from a set text play as well as devising their own work which explores some of the themes and ideas thrown up from their study and understanding of the play.

This year I gave them HUIS CLOS by Jean Paul Sartre, a classic of post war European Drama. Set in Hell we see three contrasting characters, two female and one male, thrown together in a lavishly decorated and furnished room where they are to spend eternity. From a polite and subdued beginning where the mysterious Valet sees to their every whim, we watch each character gradually disintegrate as their true stories, secrets, lies and pain are revealed. They realise that each of them will act as the torturer for each other and despite their pleas and protestations there is no escape or relief from their own private hell. As one character says, "There is no need for red hot poker and devils. Hell is other people."

All the HUIS CLOS scenes were exciting, challenging and brave and I was impressed with how different they all were. Monty Lewis, Florence Hopewell, Alex Cameron and Steph Inden set their piece in the Music room and enhanced the atmosphere with eerie red lights and a smoke machine. We had very naturalistic performances set 'end on' to more stylised and symbolic versions staged in 'traverse' or 'in the round' in the Dobinson Theatre. Other impressive performances came from Olivia Mulhall, Olivia Palmer, Cosmo Arends and Edwin Maganjo who explored the darker side of the intense relationships and Lilly Hanbury, Chris Lord, Ed Abel Smith and Lily Samengo Turner who concentrated upon the rivalry and bitterness between the two women.

Among the many superb devised scenes, special mention must go to Olivia Johnston, Robbie Cameron, Max Daley and Laura Paine with their hilarious, physicalised take on the pressures of office life, Jonty Irving, Imogen Brabant and Filly Wadlow who moved us all with their story of loss and regret and Hamish Eggins, Georgia

Lowther, Poppy Regan and Freddie Forrester who wrung every ounce of emotion out of memories of some of the victims of the 7/7 attacks in London.

It was a great day of challenging, relevant theatre enjoyed by all who came to see it. The results from this unit, 17 at grade A and 6 at grade B, were a testament to the hard work and commitment of all the students involved and they should feel proud of their achievements. Thanks also to Chris Walters for his great work with the students and his commitment to the work of the department.

Mr Nick Bayley



Edwin Maganjo and Liv Mulhall



Florence Hopewell, Monty Lewis and Steph Inden in Huis Clos



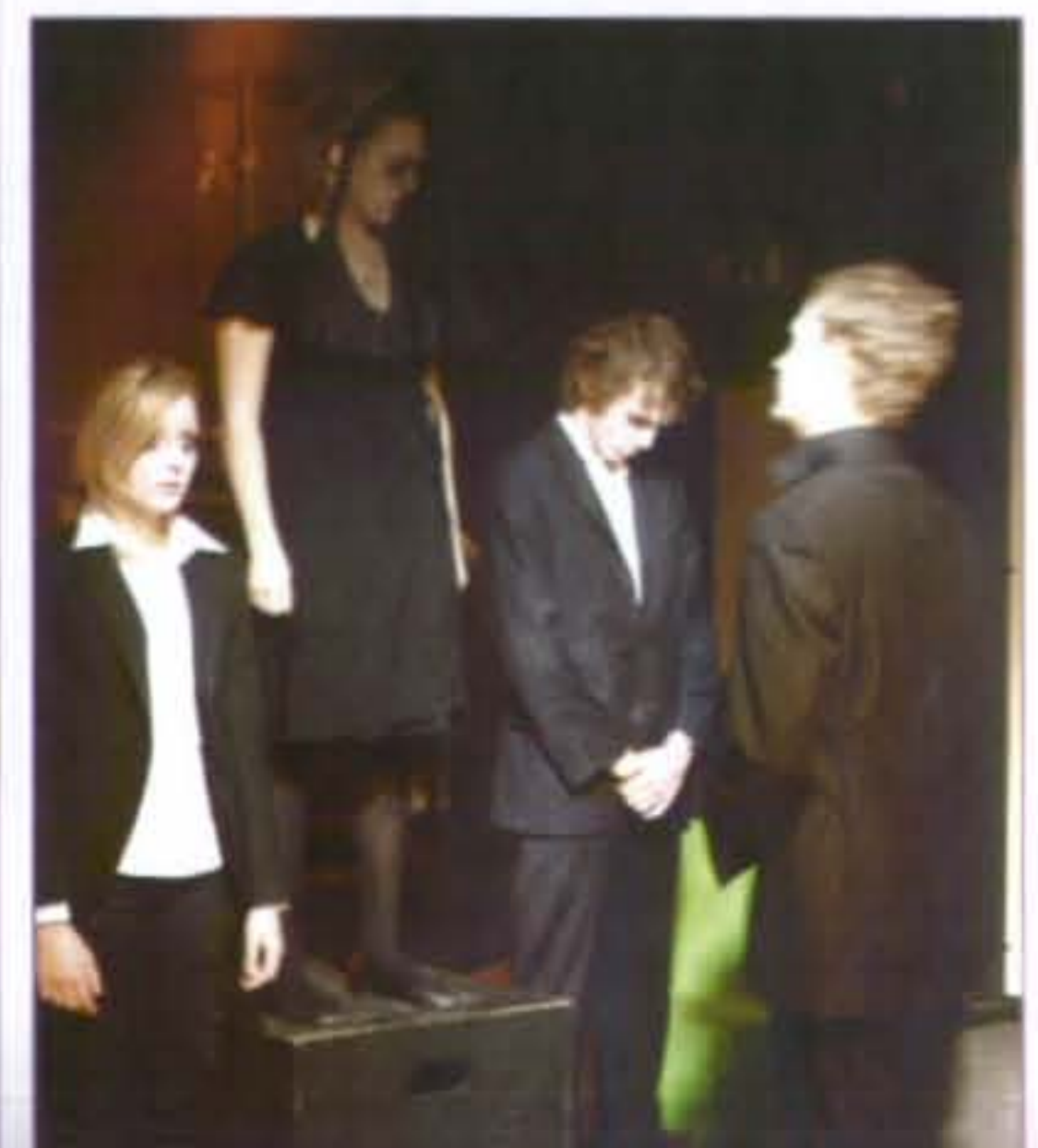
Lily Hanbury and Lila Samengo-Turner in Huis Clos



Robbie Cameron, Max Daley, Laura Paine and Liv Johnson in their devised scene



Georgia Lowther in her devised scene



Lily Samengo-Turner, Lily Hanbury, Ed Abel Smith and Chris Lord in Huis Clos

A2 Drama



Tom Wiggett, Josh Hunter and Alix Melville in Entertaining Mr Sloane



Milly King and Georgie Brietmeyer in Closer



Georgia Harrison, Lettie Butcher and James Fraser in Pygmalion



Max Housson, Rosie Chance and Nick Anson in their devised scene



Harry Farnsworth and James Sindhall in The Importance of Being Earnest

THE A2 DRAMA PRACTICALS have become something of an annual treat within the Drama department. Every year our creative and competitive Stoics try to think up different ways to stage and present their work, each trying desperately to out do each other with 'alternative' venues. Although no one has yet managed to top the splendid Three Men In a Boat staged in the school swimming pool three years ago, this year we had pieces set all over the school in theatres, state rooms, the Chapel and the less than lugubrious surroundings of the 6th form club.

Over two days in early March our 20 upper 6th students produced their pieces which for exam assessment purposes includes having to perform in a group of no bigger than four and no less than two, on an extract from a pre 1900 play, another from a post 1900 play and one piece of their own self devising linked to a theme set by the exam board. Themes explored this year included: 'Take away the mask and you will reveal the truth' (Pirandello) 'Drama is a Human Being in a Mess' (Heathcote) and 'Oppression'.

We had our usual eclectic mix of world theatre classics ranging from *The Mysteries* with James Musgrave, Rory Marchant and Ed Crisford to *The Country Wife* with Nick Anson, Max Housson, Rosie Chance and Milla Howe to *She Stoops to Conquer* with Alix Melville, Tom Wiggett and Josh Hunter to *Miss Julie* with Milly King, Georgie Brietmeyer and Oscar Thornton to *Pygmalion* with Lettie Butcher, Georgia Harrison and James Fraser and the inevitable *Importance of Being Earnest* with Sophie Loyd, Liv Stevens, James Sindall and Harry Farnsworth

Throw in along the way scenes from *East* with James Sindall and Harry, *Entertaining Mr Sloane* with Alix, Tom and Josh, *The Glass Menagerie* with Lettie, Georgia and James Fraser, *The Dumb Waiter* with Nick and Max, *Taste of Honey* with Milla, Rosie, Sophie and Liv, *Educating Skinny Spew* with James Musgrave, Rory and Ed and *Closer* with Milly, Georgie and Oscar and we had extracts from plays that would grace any repertory season that even Kevin Spacey would be proud of at the Old Vic! Experiments were made in staging styles ranging from the more traditional 'end on' to work in the round 'traverse' and 'promenade'. The challenge had certainly been met and I was delighted with the end product from the majority of the Stoics involved.

However, once again some of the very best work was, in my humble opinion, left to the devised scenes, which provided exciting, original theatre never seen before or since. The subject matter ranged considerably from the overtly comic to the Brechtian inspired political comments to thought provoking stylised dramas exploring damaged relationships. Credit must go to all the students involved and for those brave souls who came to support them as an audience. I know it is a pity that work of this quality cannot be shared with a wider audience, but exam arrangements and the sheer pressure of time here at Stowe make it almost impossible to manage.

Mr Nick Bayley



Liv Stevens and Sophie Loyd in The Importance of Being Earnest



Georgia Harrison, Lettie Butcher and James Fraser in their devised scene



James Sindhall and Harry Farnsworth in East

Stoic

THERE ARE TWO PRACTICAL COMPONENTS to the Drama GCSE exam, both of which involve working in small groups. In December, they were given a piece of music, *The Bogus Man* by Roxy Music, and asked to interpret that in any way they chose in order to create an original piece of theatre. Some used the music itself as inspiration; more chose the ideas that the title suggested, focusing on the idea of being false (with perhaps a hint of the bogey man too). As ever, the range of ideas that sprang from this single stimulus was remarkable. We had pieces on deceitful politicians (what cynics we have amongst us); on con artists being conned; on the false face put on by a television personality; on a vengeful figure from the past – Gus Boman. Two pieces used the image of a supernatural voice, luring their victims to a grisly end.

In May, the pupils tackled extracts from scripted plays. One class took three extracts from the political farce, *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*, while the other presented a variety of classic pieces of drama, old and new: *The Dresser*, *The Government Inspector*, *Woman in Black*, and, perhaps inevitably, *Blood Brothers* – every year we seem to have another version of *Blood Brothers*.

On both occasions, the pupils rose to the challenge before them, of creating dramas which could hold the attention of the audience. None disgraced themselves; some created stunning pieces of theatre; all will have memories which will stay with them forever – who would not remember the performances they took part in when they were young?

Mr Chris Walters



Gus Perkins-Ray and Lucy Milburn in their devised piece



Gus Perkins-Ray and Christian Selby in their devised piece



Ben Curley, Alex Wilshaw and Khalid Abu in *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*



James Bell, Webster Mugarazi and Charles Dedman in *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*



Jacob Denniston, Ed Borland and Tom Rankin in their devised piece



James Elliott, Ella Girardot and Charles Murphy in *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*



Christian Selby and Jacob Denniston in *Woman in Black*



Lillie Ziegler-Pounds and Lucy Milburn in their devised piece



Jack Simpson in *The Government Inspector*



Ella Girardot, James Elliott, George Bayliss, Charles Murphy in *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*



HOUSE DRAMA FESTIVAL

The House Drama Festival of 2008 proved a triumph of diversity, with a total of nine productions being staged in the space of three hectic days, between three venues. The majority were well attended, with the Chandos film (a sequel to last year's production) receiving an extra showing because of demand. Charlie Price and Richard Gordon-Colebrooke worked tirelessly, with the final cut completed minutes before the first performance. Other personal highlights were the take-off of the Queen's visit by Lyttelton (Helena Kealey and SGAH), and an excellent version of Lone Star by Grenville. However, it was the range that was most impressive, and the work put in by all the casts and crew. A huge thankyou must go to Philip Pitcher and Richard Hay, as well as Ed McClean and Mr Nick Bayley who worked above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that everything worked.

Mr Chris Townsend

LYTTELTON – THE ROYAL VISIT By Mr Stephen Hirst and Helena Kealey

Directed by Helena Kealey and Laura Grossick

This year Lyttelton House, with the assistance of the brilliant Mr Hirst wrote its own house play, based on the Queen's visit to Stowe. The play cruelly catalogues the Headmaster's (genius) league-table-climbing strategy of introducing girls into the school. This scene was followed by one depicting a visit where the Queen (Cornelia Prior), upon arriving, discovers that the boarding house has still not been built, is forced to open the projected image of one and ends with a toilet seat placed accidentally on her head by a very flustered headmaster (Rosanna Hedley) and jealous Chairman of Governors (Lucy Milburn). The girls used this opportunity to demonstrate how 'safe' Stowe boys (authentically played by Zoe Partridge, Camilla Carr-Smith, Lucy Gallimore) might teach the others (i.e less safe) how best to 'pull girls' with the 'walk' the 'look' and the 'chiefting talk' to new boys (Natalie McDaid, Thea Dorenberg, Marina Tacheva.) The Housemistress (Helena Kealey) teaches a spectacularly awful 'specially prepared song' for the Queen and rants a list of impossible instructions to the third formers (Lara de Keyser, Annabel Duthie, Isobel Kenney-Herbert, Lucinda Sewell, Octavia Trevor and Imogen Voorspuy) who end up fighting in the confusion.

Special thanks go to Mr Hirst and Laura Grossick who made the play happen!

Helena Kealey (Lyttelton, L6th)



BRUCE – THE HISTORY BOYS By Alan Bennett

Directed by Jonty Irving and Monty Lewis

An unruly bunch of bright, funny Sixth Form boys in pursuit of sex, sport and a place at University. A maverick English teacher at odds with the young and shrewd supply teacher. A Headmaster obsessed with results and a History teacher who thinks he's a fool... sound familiar?

In Alan Bennett's play, staffroom rivalry and the anarchy of adolescence provoke insistent questions about History and how you teach it; about education and its purpose; about relationships and their propriety; and about the spirit in which we conduct our lives.

Cast: Cosmo Arends, Kirk Blair, Alex Bodian, Isi Madjojemu, James Barnett, Craig Browne, George Baylis, Chris Lord, Jonty Irving, Luke Davison. Monty Lewis, Felix

Stevenson. With thanks to: Henry Stockdale (lighting and sound), Ed McClean (for use of his motorbike), the staff at the General Office, the Drama department and Mr Michael and Mr Oldham (for assistance and censorship).

TEMPLE – AN INSPECTOR CALLS By J.B. Priestley

Directed by Toby Dunipace & Hamish Eggins

Temple house, with help from Nugent, joined together to produce what turned out to be a clear, crisp and entertaining performance of Priestley's *An Inspector Calls*. After days of dedication the cast pulled together a performance which displayed a real quality of acting as well as a certain individual style to each role which had not been seen before. Directors and actors formed together as a team to produce a great show for staff and Stoics alike. In a play like *An Inspector Calls* props and special effects cannot do the job needed to pull of a spectacle. Quality acting was required and quality acting was achieved by every individual. Cast: Rogan Allport, Lily Hanbury, Olivia Johnston, Will Schofield, Ashley O'Callen-Smith, Hamish Eggins, Toby Dunipace

Many thanks to Mr Lewis, Mr Arnold, Pamela Dennison and also to Mr Townsend for organising the event.

QUEEN'S – HENS Directed by Imogen Brabant

Preparation for the first ever Queen's house play may have resembled any Saturday's mad make-up and hairdressing pre-centre session – in actual fact, the whole *Hens* experience was possibly more riotous, and much more fun. The audience were treated to a Stoic interpretation of Liverpoolian disco at its best, complete with (attempts at) Scouse accents and '70s soundtrack (courtesy of Mrs. H-J!). Queen's girls gave an energetic performance, embracing their roles, and developing quite an aptitude for improvisation. Many thanks go to the audience for their enthusiasm, the cast for their hilarity, and all those who bought calm to the backstage chaos.

Lucy Brooks (Queen's, L6th)



House Drama



CHANDOS HOUSE FILM: TWO AND TWO MAKES FIVE II

Directed by Charles Price and Richard Gordon-Colebrooke

The story this year saw Chris leave his home to take on a tyrant lord, who wanted to control everyone on his land. An organisation in the area (known as "The Black Sheep") was determined to stop this from happening and a secret battle between the two sides was raging. Once the Lord instantly fell in love with the leader of the rebel group he kidnapped her. It was up to Chris and the other members of the rebel group to save her.

We had a full cast and crew with a completed script by the end of the Christmas term, and by the start of the Easter term we had begun the filming. The amount of time that was taken to edit the film was huge: every spare moment in the weeks running up to the festival was used and Co-

Director and Editor Richard Gordon-Colebrooke did an extraordinary job in making the film what it was. The time taken from the creation of the script to the final product was approximately a month and two weeks.

The film itself was a great success, with an extra third showing enforced due to sell out crowds. We would all like to take this opportunity to thank: Mr Durrant for helping with the scheduling for filming, Mr Bayley for lending us costumes and props, Phillip Pitcher and Ed Mclean for lending us lights and Mr Grimble for lending the 6th form club out to us when we needed it.

Charles Price (U6th). Writer, Producer and Co-Director

CHATHAM HOUSE PLAY: GEORGE – A LIGHT HEARTED DRAMA By Derek Hickman

Directed by Edward Abel Smith

Our play, directed by Edward Abel Smith, was set in a small hospital ward with a concussion patient called Mr Smith (Edward Abel Smith) who had lost all memory. With the help of the Nurse (Jack Palmer), the male sister (James Hale) and the support from Mr Ward (Guy Merrill), the two doctors in the hospital; Dr Patel (Jasper Simpkin) and Dr Radlett (Mickey Portlock) decided to kill off a character in Smith's head, who he believed was in the bed next to him, called 'George'. To make it realistic they employ three hospital workers to act as the family of 'George': the spaced out Lizzie (Harry Bannister), the posh Mr Beadle (Will Berner) and the alcoholic Jock (Albert Mackintosh).

Thanks to all the cast for their dedication and the technical crew: Philip Pitcher, Frederick Vere Nicoll, Andrew Atkins. Also, Mr Ing for his help, Mrs Kettler for the makeup, Mr Weston for help in finding us the play, the great audiences we had on both nights and especially Mr Townsend for co-ordinating the festival.



WALPOLE – UNTITLED Directed by Alex le Clerq

The Walpole house play was written by Walpudleians along the theme of what could happen if we did literally sit down five minutes before the performance and think of a few random themes and scenes. The play balanced topical themes with light hearted comedy to make the audience think more about the background of life at Stowe and what they might do with their time here.

NUGENT – DAISY PULLS IT OFF By Denise Deegan

Directed by Olivia Mulhall

During the spring term a number of Nugent girls were rehearsing our House Play. We decided to perform the over the top and jolly hockey sticks play *Daisy Pulls it Off*. Our main character, Daisy, was played by the very talented Daisy Page and her two sidekicks Dixey and Trixey were performed by Bells English and Lily Samengo-Turner, respectively. Daisy moves to a new school called "Grangewood School for Girls" and as the play unravels a number of obstacles and problems are thrown her way. Those problems include a nasty Syble Berlington (played by Jessica Waddington) and the hidden treasure. All the actresses involved were dedicated to their parts and brought nothing less than 100% of enthusiasm to this light hearted and comic play.



GRENVILLE – LONE STAR By James McLure

Directed by Harry Burke

Thanks must be given to the cast of Blake Woodruff, Robbie Cameron and Nick Rewcastle for the tremendous effort they all put in during rehearsals which brought this year's house production of Lone Star up to such a fine standard. Blake seemed born to play the role of Roy, a stupid, overweight Texan hillbilly, and had the audience in stitches throughout with some wonderful comic timing. His performance juxtaposed brilliantly that of Robbie's equally entertaining portrayal of Ray, a Vietnam war vet who returns only to find he has lost all that ever mattered to him, and they created a quality double act. Nick tied everything together with his amusing role as Cletis, who had a commendable ability to ruin everything he touched. Harry Burke proved a dedicated and surprisingly adept director. Thanks also to Kieran Hagan and Leo Gauvain, on lights and sound respectively, and to Will Prideaux and Alex Hambro-Rabben, for helping with the set.

Stoic

ALMOST 1100 PEOPLE WERE TREATED to three rousing performances of *Oliver!* between the 28th February and the 1st March in Stowe's very own Roxburgh Theatre. After 'Reviewing the Situation' Director Lionel Weston felt that, as so may people were "very complimentary, I would say it went very well."

Having been at Stowe for 29 years and close to retirement, Mr Weston "wanted to produce a musical which included staff and pupils" and so he chose *Oliver!* as it was likely that it wouldn't be a "new challenge musically" for the juniors. One of the first, yet most enjoyable things Mr Weston did, was to go "trawling around charity shops" in search of props and costumes. He then decided to "plan in detail the rehearsal schedule" to ensure that the denouement was "enjoyable for everybody."

For the Director, the most enjoyable part of the production was "finally watching on stage, the culmination of all the hard work and effort that everyone had put in." Of course, one can only imagine how rewarding it must have been seeing a performance of this magnitude coming together so smoothly after months of hard work.

After working on many projects and shows Mr Weston was "hesitant to compare *Oliver!* to previous performances" simply because "each production has its own memories and prevailing sense of satisfaction." Despite having directed a number of musicals and plays, Mr Weston hasn't appeared in too many as, in his own words: "I am not an actor or a singer."

With there being "more people involved off stage than on stage" there are too many 'unsung' people to mention however, Mr Weston was quick to thank his wife of 38 years, Maggie who "has had to contend with quite a lot" from her seemingly calm and pacifistic husband. Mrs Weston won't have to deal with too much in terms of play-related frustrations in the future as Mr Weston claims *Oliver!* was "intended to be my swansong before I retire." Mr Weston was also eager to promote the "camaraderie which naturally comes from this team effort" as one often finds that "relationships have been enhanced considerably" thanks to working in a different role.

The memory that Mr Weston will remember this musical by is when "Fagin's silhouette moves away in the distance." Why? I hear you ask. This image suggests that "one never knows in life what is just around the corner." So as Mr Weston, like Fagin, begins to "move away in the distance" towards life after Stowe, he appears intrigued by what challenges await him in the future.

So, the Director was delighted by the end product and there was no need for him to say 'I Shall Scream'. If you as Stoics don't 'Consider Yourself' lethargic and aren't content with claiming 'It's a Fine Life' then do something about it! Next time, think to yourself, 'I'd do Anything' to get involved.

Craig Browne (Bruce, L6th)



WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT A VICTORIAN workhouse would bear so much resemblance to a modern day boarding school? Perhaps it was something to do with the fabulously apt casting of this year's staff/ student musical: an adaptation of Lionel Bart's *Oliver!*

Yet again Mr. Weston pulled it off, with three energetic nights of performances, each time to a full house.

It was enjoyable to see such a range of staff, from teaching to non teaching, performing alongside a group of eager third formers. Nancy and Bette played by headmaster's secretary Kate Greaves, and third former Harriet Easdale provided stellar performances as foils to Mr. Walters' suitably sinister and very Jewish Fagin; James Musgrave lived up to expectations as the brilliantly Artful Dodger.

The fantastic set, designed by Mr. Irvine of the Art department, gave the audience a real insight into the dark times endured by those dwelling in the slums of Victorian London. The performance was accompanied by that well known score, with stunning passages played by solo violinist Beth Georgiou.

It is fair to say that *Oliver!* was a triumph that has left us all wanting more!

Tim Field (Bruce, U6th)

CAST

Oliver	Charlie Winton
Mr Bumble	Peter Last
Widow Corney	Ro Masters
Noah Claypole	Sam Halpert
Mr Sowerberry	Ed McLean
Mrs Sowerberry	Francine Smith
Charlotte	Vicki Edwards
Artful Dodger	James Musgrave
Fagin	Chris Walters
Nancy	Kate Greaves
Bet	Harriet Easdale
Bill Sykes	Steve Hirst
Mrs Bedwin	Ann Payne
Mr Brownlow	Nick Bayley
Dr Grimwig	Colin Dudgeon
Old Sally	Cathy Day
Fagin's Gang:	Ned Rodger, Jack Clubb, Hannah Maxwell, Geordie Wilkes, Tom Wood, Emma Curley, Anna Carter, Lucinda Sewell, Henry Rudd
Workhouse Gang:	Oliver Plunket, Ed Robinson, Oscar Cole, Leo Gauvain, Gareth Browne, Lucy Ing, Madeleine Webb, Caspar Wallersteiner, Molly Davison, Eliot Bayley
Chorus:	Paul Miller, Alan Longworth, Alex Eve, Matthew Pitteway, Stewart Cowie, Liz Capurro, Hazel Browne, Carol Miller, Roland Johnson, Augusta Pitteway

Oliver!



FOR THREE NIGHTS FROM THE 28th February the Roxburgh Hall was packed to the rafters for a much-anticipated production of *Oliver!* Director Lionel Weston orchestrated the event superbly with excellent support from a cast consisting of pupils and staff, both teaching and non-teaching alike. This was a one-off opportunity for pupils to watch their most/least favourite teachers in completely different roles, such as the frightening Bill Sykes played by Mr Hirst, completely out of character (wink wink). Another notable performance came from Mr Walters as Fagin, portraying the rather amusing villain, well, amusingly.

The younger members of the cast, in Fagin's gang and the Workhouse gang, opened the performance with a terrific rendition of one of Lionel Bart's classics, "Food, Glorious Food" and clearly enjoyed themselves throughout. A special mention must go to Charlie Winton who did very well to cope with his prominent role in the demanding schedule of songs in *Oliver!*

Highlights of course include Mr Last and Dr Masters 'flirting' with each other, all an act obviously, and hilarious cameos from Mr Cowie and



Mr Pitteway brought the house down. However, it was clear one of the stars of the show was Kate Greaves, the Headmaster's PA, who pulled off her performance as Nancy as if she'd been doing the show for years.

Mentions must go to Mr Jones and the musical combo who delivered a sound (excuse the pun) performance on each night. The many people who worked tirelessly backstage to ensure the high quality performance went efficiently and to plan also deserve many congratulations on a wonderful performance that was enjoyed by all.

Craig Browne (Bruce, L6th)



THE ROYAL VISIT

On 29th November 2007 Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh visited the school, and we were greatly honoured that His Royal Highness The Duke made a special point of visiting representatives of the school Duke of Edinburgh Unit, and inaugurating a cup to be handed out annually on Speech Day to the boarding house most active and successful in the Award.

His Royal Highness was quite specific about the wording on the cup, which is shown below, and made it very clear it should be a substantial cup. Making sure we had exactly what His Royal Highness wanted meant that in the event the cup was delivered to the school by a taxi at 10 o'clock at night on the day before the Royal Visit! Ace Awards of London deserve thanks for their utter dedication to the task.

Participants in the Award scheme will earn 1 point for being involved, 3 points for completing their Bronze, 5 points for completing their Silver, and 10 points for completing their Gold. Monika Jurcic, the only member in the school to have completed her Gold Award this year, is putting Nugent in the front running for the cup, although a host of completed Bronze awards due to come in over the next few days could change things!

During the course of his visit His Royal Highness showed great interest in what people were doing for their parts of the Award, and was keen that the school should develop more sorts of expeditions – such as canoeing, and horseback ones. It was a great, great honour for His Royal Highness to have given us his time and support, and will live with us for the rest of our lives.



His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh presents the cup to Mr Isaac Michael



Duke of Edinburgh Award Co-Ordinator Mr Bob Roberts with His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh

Bronze

Bronze Final Expedition, Birchover (Peak District)

10th-12th June 2007

Last year, after the final deadline for The Stoic, 51 Bronze Awarders embarked on an expedition to the Peak District. This was perhaps the most remarkable expedition at Stowe of the last two years. It did not hail, snow or deluge. Instead, we had glorious sunshine. For various reasons 4 people dropped out over the year, but the remaining 47 managed to complete both expeditions and pass that stage of their award. This included Lucy Beaty's group, who volunteered to go away for a re-assessment to prove to their assessor that they were right, he was wrong, and they were worthy of the Award – which indeed they were.

The weather on this expedition was so good that it turned into something of a summer holiday – at least, while at the campsite. Football, volleyball and general chill-out were the orders of the afternoons, with some staff-student boules for the more cultured, but of course there were the days to get through first. Alex Wilshaw struggled a bit to get out of bed, and the hot sun may just have pushed the navigation team of Simon Plunket and Ella Girardot to their limits!

The external assessing team included the chief of Buckinghamshire Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Bob Dicker, so it was very gratifying when everyone passed and the Stowe D of E unit got a stamp of approval.

Thanks to: MP, RSP, KMM, CP, ERC, MWW, EB, HEOF, LM, CC, CB, AB



Baylis, Clark, Lockyer



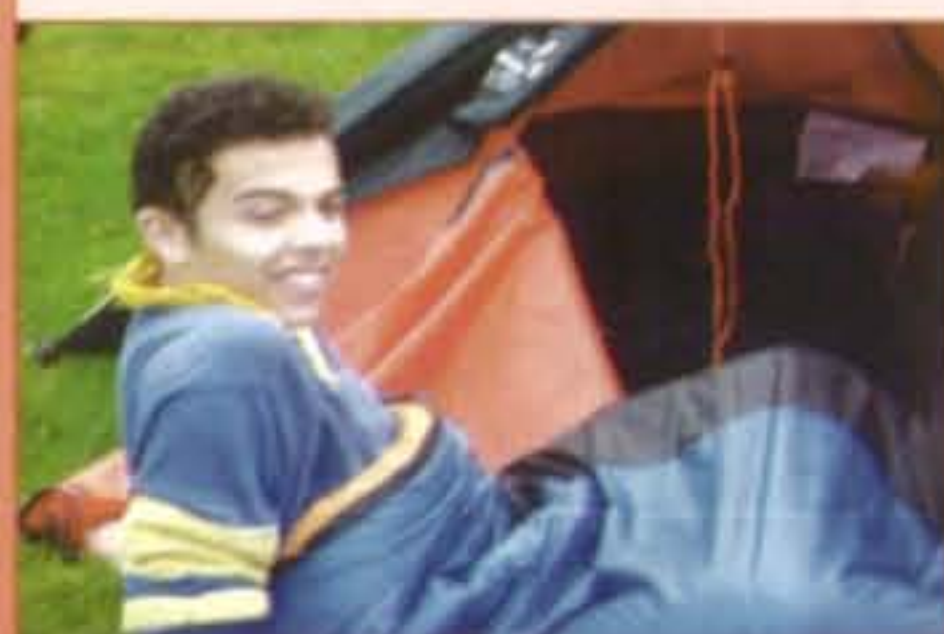
Happy Girls



Webster ready to go



Simon and Ella



Alex Wilshaw



Map Reading



Mr Pickersgill



Jack Ryan



Georgia Critilos

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award



Bronze Practice Expedition, Long Compton (Cotswolds) 20-21st April 2008

Originally the expedition was planned for 9th and 10th of March, but the Met Office forecast a spot of severe weather – as you can see on their map:

So in the end we went out in April, and although it was a bit nippy and there were occasional brief showers, the main rain held off until everyone was in their tents. If last year's 4th form were good, this year's were outstanding. They were better prepared in every way than any Stowe Bronze Awarders for a long time, perhaps best illustrated by Isi Madojemu whose food included a whole roast chicken!

General nutrition across the campsite was of a very high level, and thanks should go to Mr Pickersgill, Mr Walsh-Woolcott and Mrs Roberts for the highly effective resources they prepared on this area.



Cooking

Highlights of the expedition included Alexa Beaty out of her tent after curfew and trying to escape staff detection by crawling back to her tent – with her headtorch on! Perske's group were also amusingly victimised by a phantom church which appeared miles out of place and led them off their 8 mile route and straight back to the campsite. However, the quotation of the expedition has to go to Isi Madojemu who, frustrated with cleaning his stove, was heard complaining that he had scrubbed it so hard his hands were black!

Rory Hay, Isi Madojemu, Gus Hopewell, See-ho Leung, Ed Birch-Reynardson (Adda), Rebecca Elliot, Louis Staden and Teddy Kealey all won prizes for expedition excellence, and David White won the Best Expeditioner prize for simply being the most professional all round. Long Compton Mill, incidentally, has come down the centuries as the home of the Salmon family. The current owner, Mr Herrick Salmon (related to the poet Robert Herrick) remembers operating the mill in the war.



Lip-Lickin'

Our thanks to Mr Pitteway for overseeing the Bronze Award, and RSP, CP, KMM, MD, MWW, SH, RC, CC and Mr Pitcher for coming on the expedition.



Seeho Leung



Adda Birch-Reynardson



Stoic

Silver and Gold

In this section we look at the 12 Gold and 33 Silver participants doing their awards this year and their practice expedition to Dartmoor, and the 24 Gold and 25 Silver participants of last year and their final expedition to the Cairngorms.

Silver and Gold final expedition to the Cairngorms, June 2007

The signs were ominous. The whole country was hit by floods, many towns were under water, and it was the wettest June in the Cairngorms since records began in 1914. Our four Gold groups and two Silver groups had to walk 50 miles and 30 miles respectively, and flooded watercourses were a real risk. A great deal of careful preparation went in, but in the event, fortunately, the flood waters receded on the day we arrived, and we enjoyed mostly fine weather.

There was one victim of the water, though. Wet socks got the better of Pippa Russell sadly although they did give her the chance to prove herself one of the bravest girls ever to be part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. Mr Roberts happened to catch sight of her blister at the end of her second day's walk. Pippa had not complained of it, and was hoping to complete the next two days and 25 miles with it! Early the following morning, though, even she had to concede defeat.

The Silver route was so boggy that it took one group two days to cover what was meant to be one day's walking, and when the other group (walking the route in reverse) heard this they made the sensible decision to turn around and return to camp a safer way. The Duke of Edinburgh Award Cairngorm panel ratified this decision and both Silver groups, as well as all four Gold groups, passed their expeditions.

Thanks to MP, RSP, ERC, MWW, SR, LM, CC, JR, MR and NA for making the expedition possible.

Completions on target for the End of Term!

- 44 Bronze
- 3 Silver
- 4 Gold



Passing rucksack across river



Corner group camp by river



Pippa and Nella



Windswept and happy



Malcolm, mindblown, Scotland



Pippa's Blister



Tommy W-J happy at camp



Harry happy on the hills

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award



Xandie's group from below



Bronte and dawn tents



Clark's group mad



Adam Clark



Tash Trevor



James Bell



Pitch!



Philip Pitcher, the Student Duke of Edinburgh's Award Co-ordinator, has made such an impact on the Award Scheme at Stowe that it is only fair he makes his mark on these pages too. From designing the D of E website at Stowe to preparing the display for His Royal Highness, from receiving letters from external assessors who thought he ran the unit to being called Mr Pitcher by the fourth form Bronze Awarders, from teaching navigation and map-reading in classrooms to leading his own group of younger participants on expedition – his support and personal strength of character have been beyond equal. Here he is in his own words:

The Duke of Edinburgh award at Stowe has once again been great fun to be involved with. Although the expeditions would deem to be the most enjoyable side of the award, getting closely involved in 'student co-ordination' has been a great experience. This side counts as my service, and entails the organisation of a team of Stoics to ensure that the Award runs smoothly, as well as supporting the staff involved in the Bronze section, and helping out on their expeditions! Having the role of "Student Co-ordinator has hugely developed my ability to lead and work as part of an adult team. I have a lot to thank for the award, and look forward to continuing in my role next year.

Pitch is currently in the Lower Sixth and we are delighted to know he has been confirmed a Senior School prefect for next year. Without him the Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Stowe would be much less than it is.

We also need to voice our huge thanks to Ms Sheard for her utterly voluntary and untiring contribution behind the scenes to help get the Stoics' logbooks filled in.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award at Stowe is run by Mr Bob Roberts

Stoic

STOWE BEAGLES

Well, what can I say? The beagles have had an extremely busy two years with an extremely successful season last year led by the quality team of Patrick Tillard, Fred Rolt, Thomas Mitchell and Jonathan McInnes Skinner and our kennel Huntsman Phillip. The 2006 season started off with a bang with a very enjoyable trip to Northumberland, with three days hunting in the October half term. This trip always gets the hounds more adjusted to hunting after a hot and lazy summer. After a troubled previous year (what with the ridiculous hunting ban coming into force) things seemed to be on the way up! Over 5 couples of puppies entered the main pack and hunted well (one of which being Grafton, puppy show winner, walked by the headmaster!). The hounds had also adjusted well to the change of quarry, from hare to rabbit and an aniseed trail. After the trip to Northumberland hunting seemed to get better and better, with excellent days of sport being shown by Patrick and his deputy, Fred. As home was blown on the final day of the season at South Fields House, the two up and coming joint masters knew they had a job on their hands to compete in the next season.



We had a very humorous end of season dinner and a big thank you goes to all of the supporters who came; two quality speeches were made by Patrick Tillard and Mick Wills Huntsman of the Grafton Fox hounds. Unfortunately the Hunter trials had to be cancelled because of wet weather, however I would like to thank Mr and Mrs Strangman for their generosity not only for letting us use their course but for all the tireless effort they put into the running of the beagles.

Over the Easter holidays the hounds were kennelled in Wiltshire with one of our whipper-ins looking after them, as our new kennels were being built.

A big thank you has to go to the School for the funding of these.

We had an auction later on in the term and over £11,000 was raised for the new kennels. This was then followed by a puppy show with Mr Charles Carter MFH and Mr Patrick Darling MFH judging. Five couples of dog hounds were shown and four and a half bitches were shown, the judges chose Greysoke walked by Mr and Mrs Jeffrey as best dog hound and Dabchick as best bitch walked by the Rolt family. Supreme champion went to Greystoke. Again the hunt ball was a big success and we had a record number of people attending; tickets were sold out by March!



We took hounds to Peterborough hound show and got a second place in the veteran class with Tatler (one of the oldest hounds in kennels). However, as it was an extremely hot day, many hounds did not perform to their full potential, as seen by the lack of rosettes.



This season has been an extremely mixed one. Firstly, we were delayed from hunting because of the foot and mouth restrictions. We were given the go ahead to start hunting, however the restrictions came in again as hounds were loading up at the meet.

After cancelling the trip to Northumberland as there was no way the restrictions were going to be lifted, hounds had to sit in kennels and after Phillip's tireless effort at getting the hounds fit over the summer, was all wasted. However, we finally got the go ahead and some extremely good days have been seen, especially Mantles Heath, where, though the scent was not perfect, hounds seemed to fly and left their huntsman miles behind. We have been very fortunate this season as we got the honour to parade the beagles in front of Her Majesty the Queen and though of course I am biased, it was clear to see she would have happily stayed and chatted to us all day!

We all had an extremely enjoyable time in Wiltshire in the Lent term half term, where we took the beagles to hunt in the Wiltshire and infantry country and Palmer and Marlborough countries. We ended hunting on



Beagles

a high when we had a joint meet with the Eton Beagles. The hounds ran well and out of the two schools it was clear to see that Stowe were turned out better and were much more enthusiastic about hunting rather than socialising. I would just like to thank all of our supporters, Clive and Mark Haynes, Bill Boswell, Ann Davey Turner, Archie and Freddie Ingle, Mr and Mrs McGee and of course Chris Coad. Also to all of our land owners and hosts of meets who are so generous to the Stowe beagles. I would also like to thank all the boys who have helped out down at the kennels and during the hunting season, also to my joint master, Kit Dickinson. Also thank you to the school for all their countless support and our trail layers who we didn't see a huge amount but we knew who they were!

Finally, thanks to our kennel Huntsman Phillip and his wife Lucy for all their help behind the scenes and especially to Phillip for giving us this opportunity to hunt and let me hunt over the last years.

Jack Bartholomew (Grafton, U6th)



Stoic

CCF ARMY SECTION

Woah! What a year. We started on a real low. In one fell swoop we lost both our RAF officers as Jonathan Kingston and Nathan Phillips performed a formation fly past as they headed out over the Oxford Water for the last time. They had built the section up in a big way, and the cadets were now officer-less. Happily, Rod Tait, having had a commission in the Royal Marines four years ago, decided to get himself an army commission in the CCF. Clearly, he has for some time desired to complete the set and as at the time of writing, it appears that he has just about bagged this somewhat unusual hat trick - his RAF commission is about to be gazetted.

Zoe Branford-White and Emily Campbell are helping him to deal with his new charges. We have also been somewhat low in the army section as well, not so much in terms of numbers - Henry Swayne, Lydia Ogilvie, and Ed Surrey have been enthusiastic in their commitment to the CCF - but in experience. This lack of experience has been somewhat ameliorated by the input of the mad cavalryman from Swanbourne School. Simon Nelson-Lucas is the housemaster there. He is also the proud owner of two vintage Landrovers which he drives over to Stowe and uses for light reconnaissance tasks to the huge satisfaction of the cadets who accompany him. His commitment is limited by his responsibilities at Swanbourne but he is valued when he comes.



The RN Section is the one that started off in a strong position - David Critchley was joined by Fiona Quiddington and they are now enjoying greatly improved numbers, not to mention the use of seven brand new canoes. Beyond David, the crusty old gentlemen of the CCF are Ray Dawson, Steve Malling and myself. I reckon we have seventy plus CCF years between the four of us (and the medals to show for it), and I reckon we'll be going for some time.

One of the two main events of the year were our visit from the Duke of Edinburgh. No doubt there are pictures in this publication of that memorable afternoon in November - didn't we look smart! Anyway, Prince Phillip seemed to enjoy himself. It was also a memorable day for Will Randall-Coath who is our senior cadet and holds the singular honour of being appointed as a Lord Lieutenant's Cadet. In this guise, he accompanied the Royal Party from the moment their helicopter touched down on the North Front. Then, in March, we had our biennial inspection. This is a lengthy and suitably prying process designed to establish our level of competency right across the board. Various individuals from the different services, and with different areas of expertise wrote up their inspection reports and as a final stage, the Military Secretary, Major General Nick Cottam, joined us on our Field Day. He reported: "All detachments of the CCF were on a full programme of activities... and were being robustly and usefully conducted in spite of very poor weather. I liked what I found. The Stowe CCF definitely has atmosphere." Happily, our Brigade Commander concurred and so our public grant will continue.

Finally, as the year nears its close, I will say my thanks to those who are leaving. To those in the U6 who have stuck with us through thick and thin over four years - Thank you - without you, the CCF would grind to a halt. To Henry Swayne, thanks for the two years - greatly appreciated... and to Fiona Quiddington - your two terms seemed like far more - it was good to have you, and sorry to see you go. The Contingent moves on into waters both charted and uncharted... life is fun!

Major, the Rev'd Robert Jackson L/RACLD

Major, the Rev'd Robert Jackson L/RACLD



THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE YEAR FOR most members of the Section was a thirty-minute flight in a Grob Tutor single-engine aircraft with six Air Experience Flight at RAF Benson. The weather was varied on the day and flying conditions for some were interesting, with plenty of turbulence and the occasional disappearance into a cloud. Having a close look at the space-age particle accelerator at Harwell from the air was a bonus for the OC!

The keenest (and luckiest) few have had a couple of opportunities to get into the air in Valiant powered gliders with 613 Volunteer Gliding Squadron at RAF Halton too. Those who have done this first flight are mostly desperate for more and there should be no shortage of Stowe applicants for the coveted gliding scholarships next Easter and summer.

The cadets in the Section are of a high quality this year with over eighty percent earning and wearing their First Class Cadet badge after only half a term in light blue and on their way towards the award of Leading Cadet.

Training has included the acquisition of some infantry and weapon handling skills and the study of the history of flight and the RAF, principles of flight, airmanship and navigation, and an enjoyable visit to the superb RAF Museum at Hendon.



Grob Tutor



Fit Lt Tait RAFVR (T)



Pic: Alexey Grabarnik



Pic: Alexey Grabarnik



Pic: Milly King



Pic: Milly King



Pic: Milly King

Stoic



Guy Merrill at the helm of STC Amaryllys



Helena Kealey enjoying kayaking



Euan Welsh watches out while Guy Merrill helms



Marcus Bennett, Guy Merrill, Euan Welsh, DJC and FLQ visited HMS Endurance in Portsmouth at the end of September, shortly before she sailed for the Antarctic.



Ross Ritchie at the periscope tracking the target, Theo Vicat standing by to note the bearing



Euan Welsh and Helena Kealey on board STC Amaryllys



Stoics visit RFA Fort Victoria 10 March 2008



HMS Endurance (Stowe School's affiliated ship) photographed from STC Amaryllys during the RN Section's October Portsmouth Field Day

THE RN SECTION now numbers fifteen cadets. A visit to HMS Endurance in September was followed by a day's afloat training on the yacht Amaryllys in October, and a visit to Portsmouth in March. In June we visit RNAS Yeovilton, where we hope to fly. A grant from the MOD has enabled us to buy seven kayaks, which can now be seen in use on the 11 Acre Lake. A big thank you to Mrs Quiddington, to our visiting instructors, CPO Jed Stone and Sergeant Kev Sidford, and to the taxpayer for our kayaks!

Lt D J Critchley RNR CCF



A Christmas card from HMS Endurance - it's not every day that Stowe receives mail postmarked Antarctica

PORTSMOUTH TRIP

The RN Section left on Sunday evening and headed off to Portsmouth. When we arrived at HMS Excellent we went into supper where the seamen eat. We then marched down to HMS Bristol where we would be staying overnight. After a quick safety briefing, we headed off to our messes where we had to make up our bunks. Afterwards we went to the games room which was amazingly well fitted out for a warship. The next morning at 0630 all the lights came on and we got up. We marched up for breakfast in a hailstorm which woke us all up quickly. We then visited RFA Fort Victoria, a large supply ship, where we had to watch out for the fork lift trucks carrying stores around. For me the highlight of the tour was the aircraft hangar. Next we visited Action Stations, and we started with an action-packed film about how the RN deals with terrorists. Here you also get to try lots of hands-on activities, including a climbing wall and a helicopter simulator. After a quick lunch we arrived at the Submarine Museum for a tour of HMS Alliance with a guide who had served on similar submarines, and saw how cramped and uncomfortable it would have been to serve on such a vessel. Finally we collected our stuff and headed back to Stowe. Thanks to the RN for a great time!

Hugh Tennant (Grafton, 4th)

ROYAL NAVAL SECTION VISITS HMS ENDURANCE

On 28 September 2007 myself and Guy Merrill from the Royal Naval Section, with Marcus Bennett from the Army Section, Mrs Quiddington, and Lt Critchley, visited the ice patrol ship, HMS Endurance. She deploys each year from Portsmouth to the cold and ice of the Antarctic summer where she carries out operations. Her job is to survey the sea bed, to make it safer for other passing ships, to monitor the ice caps, and - since Antarctica is becoming a very large tourist destination - to help ships in distress.

When we arrived on board, there were many displays lined up for us, which were performed by the crew. We got a tour of the ship where at each part they demonstrated what would happen: fire drill, where crew members put out a fire on board the lower flight deck; and puncture drill, where a Chief Petty Officer demonstrated how to fill up a puncture in the hull and stop the leaking with only a few pieces of wood. We were hoping to go to sea but unfortunately the engines had a fault. However we looked around the engine control room which was extremely complex. The final thing that we saw was an outstanding display of teamwork involving one of the ship's helicopters and a rigid inflatable. The helicopter was dropping people into the inflatable and recovering them while both were travelling at astonishing speeds.

It was a fantastic day and well worth going but it could have never happened without Lt. Critchley and Captain Bob Tarrant, the CO of HMS Endurance, who organized it for us.

Euan Welsh (Chandos, 5th)



Coldstream Cup

COLDSTREAM CUP 2007

The Coldstream Cup remains one of the highlights of the Stowe calendar, with almost a dozen pupils turning out in support, and you can understand why. Stoics are allowed to fire guns and, if they win, receive refreshments of an alcoholic nature. Just reward for completing the immensely challenging tasks that make up the Coldstream Cup. Many participants however, are driven by the intrinsic rewards after experiencing pain. Lots of pain.

The pride gained from taking part is a result of sweat, tears, more sweat and very occasionally blood. According to Ray Dawson (organiser of the event) another result of the monumental effort put in by participants is that "standards continue to improve year on year" which is encouraging for the future of the Coldstream Cup.

The competition began, as always, with the obstacle course in which Cobham stole the show taking an early lead however, it was Lyttelton who caused the biggest surprise breaking the girls record with a time of 2minutes 36.15seconds. Next followed a run that Ray Dawson believes "has everything". A run that separated the girls from the boys. Strong runs from both Lyttelton and Nugent brought them into contention, with Nugent winning by over 1 minute, however it was Cobham who were still out in front.

Year after year the shoot proves to be a difficult event as it comes a matter of minutes after finishing the run. Bruce managed a respectable score of 24/30, however this ended up being the winning score with most houses failing to hit the 20 mark. Cobham were the only other house to get more than 20 and so stretched their lead further going into the final phase of the competition. The Coldstream Cup had become theirs to lose.

Before concluding with their drill routine each house was graded on their turn out. Lyttelton and Nugent again grabbed the first two places here and, with Cobham

throwing away the tournament, moved into a share for the lead overall. An incredibly tense round of drill routines ensued allowing teams to shine like the medals on an army uniform, or embarrass themselves with an array of mistimed steps and seemingly random strategic formations. Bruce and Lyttelton both shone in the drill giving Lyttelton a much deserved win overall. Ray added "You only had to watch the drill of Bruce House to see the improvement in standards" and the judges clearly agreed with him giving Bruce an excellent 28/30 for the drill.

The winners were announced in Stowe's Marble Hall along with two cadet prizes. The Nulli Secundus Cup for most committed cadet was awarded to Will Randall-Coath of Bruce and the award for Best Turned out Cadet went to Taisie Grant of Nugent. A horrendous shriek then erupted from the Lyttelton team on being presented with the Coldstream Cup. Ray agreed with a lot of onlookers in that "the girls doing so well shows that this is a real competition" whilst also supporting the format in recent years: "We continue to make changes, normally after suggestions from Stoics and Housemasters."

An exciting day was ended when the winning team joined members of Stowe's CCF and visiting army staff for dinner in the main mansion. "A great night was had by all and I would encourage Stoics to enter the Coldstream Cup in the future as it teaches many important lessons in life!" One presumes that Ray meant teamwork was one of the lessons learned. At Stowe this couldn't be any truer as teamwork remains a vital cog in the Stowe School machine.

Craig Browne (Bruce, L6th)



Coldstream Cup



WINNING CAPTAIN

Coldstream Cup this year was, as always, hugely exciting! The training was long, hard and especially time consuming, as any past competitor could tell you. But as always the end product was amazing right from getting muddy in the assault course to marching pristinely in the tennis courts. No matter where you come it will certainly be a day that many people will remember for years, not just for the enjoyment of competing but because you can say that you competed, that you clambered the assault course, that you jumped in a lake, that you fired a rifle after an exhausting run, that you marched in front of actual military personnel. Being a member of Lyttelton team made me proud, the team consisted of Chloe Crisp, Laura Grossick, Natalie McDaid, Alexa Beaty, José Brake, Rosie Hayward, Francesca Hutt and Josephine Peile. This year was a true feat for the girls, with both Lyttelton and Nugent beating all of the boys' houses. Queen's, who have never competed before, also participated fantastically. All the houses provided great competition and friendly rivalry, there were even some records broken on the day.



Natalie McDaid
(Lyttelton, L6th), with
Chloe Crisp (Lyttelton, U6th)



TEAM	TURN OUT	PTS	DRILL	PTS	O/CSE	PTS	RUN	PTS	SHOOT	PTS	TOTAL	FINAL PLACE
BRUCE	21	7	28	11	2.40.00	3	24.10	4	24	11	36	3RD =
TEMPLE	24	10	27	9	2.06.97	10	24.35	1	17	4	34	6TH =
GRENVILLE	16	1	11	3	2.24.68	6	24.33	2	13	1	13	11TH
CHANDOS	17	3	11	3	2.28.20	5	23.33	6	15	2	19	10TH
COBHAM	17	3	11	3	2.03.53	11	22.20	9	21	10	36	3RD =
CHATHAM	24	10	20	6	2.22.79	7	24.20	3	18	5	31	8TH
GRAFTON	19	4	22	7	2.15.72	8	24.08	5	20	9	34	6TH =
WALPOLE	20	6	15	4	2.14.72	9	23.18	8	19	8	35	5TH
LYTTELTON	24	10	28	11	2.36.15	4	22.18	10	19	8	43	1ST
NUGENT	28	11	24	8	2.43.90	2	20.54	11	19	8	40	2ND
QUEENS	20	6	17	5	3.05.10	1	23.20	7	16	3	22	9TH



COLDSTREAM CUP: LYTTELTON
NULLI SECUNDUS CUP: WILL RANDALL COATH, BRUCE
BEST TURNED OUT CADET: TAISIE GRANT, NUGENT
NEW GIRLS OBSTACLE COURSE RECORD: LYTTELTON 2.36.15



Stoic

"This is the fundamental principle of true education. The task of the teacher is to prepare the pupil for the time of separation, which must come, so that the pupil may find within himself such resources as enable him to follow the direction in which the teacher has started him, without further aid."

Thus wrote Archbishop William Temple back during the dark years of the Second World War. Those words adorn the wall of my study where I can be reminded again and again why I am a school chaplain. It is easy to lose sight of the broad purpose of education when excellence in these areas is not conveyed in Daily Telegraph league tables, or in sports results, play productions, nor Grade 8 passes. One of the tasks I set for the Chaplaincy at Stowe is to ensure that these more esoteric goals of education are constantly on the agenda and not left to chance.

Chapel is a robust platform from which to tackle these, and a variety of other matters, and I remain deeply indebted to the staff who bear this burden with me. They are invaluable in as much as Chapel would not be what it is without them. Wise and timely words are generally the order of the day – I hope one day to have a recording facility so that I can create an anthology of the best for such would be a most beneficial read. On Sundays, we have been blessed by the visiting preachers who continue to be varied in both background and outlook. The Veb. Julian Hubbard, the Archdeacon of Oxford, challenged our notion of belonging, and Barry Woodhead, an ex con, drug dealer, and thief, told of how he finally found real belonging in Christ's Church. Peter Knight gained his first England cap with Lionel Weston a couple of years ago, and he is now vicar of the Claydons whereas Luther Blacklock continues his sporting career as the senior pro at Woburn. Paul Kerensa is a mainstream comedian whose Arts festival offering in the Roxy was an interesting, very funny (and sometimes outrageous) alternative to Sunday chapel. Fr Alexander Sherbrooke, the Priest of St Patrick's Soho, spoke of God's restorative love as he witnesses it in Soho, whilst his near neighbour, the Rev'd Rico Tice of All Souls, Langham Place, invited the school to explore that restorative love for themselves. Rico delivered the Lenten Addresses this year which were on the theme of God's Grace, and were well attended on each of the three nights. Indeed, we all felt privileged to have received Rico's ministry in this place.

This year, as with last, I have enjoyed working with Henry Swayne, my assistant, and strictly speaking, I ought to be saying good bye and eulogising with gusto about all he has given to the Chaplaincy and to the school, but in a sense, I can't because although he is giving up as Chaplain's assistant, he is staying on at school to teach History and Politics. That said, Henry has been good to work alongside, and he has left his mark and will continue to do so over the years to come – so glad you're staying!

In the meantime, the work of a chaplain goes way beyond the function of chapel, and not only have I endeavoured to support the Christians at Stowe, but equally important, I hope I have played my part in helping absolutely everyone at here to feel a valued part of that community. It is so easy to overlook less glamorous members of the community without whose work, the school would not function. I sometimes get teased for it, but in Chapel on Sundays, I make sure we always pray for people such as the caterers, the cleaners, and the ground staff... the Stoics must not be allowed to take them for granted. After all, what we have here in our somewhat peculiar environment is society in a microcosm and this means that there are many lessons that can and must be learnt outside of the classroom. Stowe does indeed have wherewithal to deliver the most important lessons in life. If I started with a quote from Archbishop Temple, then let me end with one from Sir Jonathan Sachs, the Chief Rabbi:

"...to defend a nation, you need an army; but to defend a civilisation you need education."

Reverend Robert Jackson



Creative Textiles



Edmund Lee: Dress for London College of Fashion Interview

SINCE STARTING CREATIVE TEXTILES with Mrs Cammish, I have worked on several dresses and skirts ranging from broken zips, re-hemming and even making one from scratch.

On entering the Art Block, Classic FM can be heard so Mrs Cammish must be in. A warm smile greets you along with an enquiry about your day followed by "Now, what do you want to do, today?"

There is something for everyone in Creative Textiles. Lucy Milburn is making her little sister a dress, Bobbie Staden a fashionable personalised bag and Emma Curley is making an elegant purple dress for herself. Fashion boards and screen printing are especially popular with Mrs Sharpe, on Thursdays. Edmund Lee has been working on a Fashion Portfolio, making a painted dress and jacket. He has accepted a place at the London College of Fashion in September. Most students worked on costumes for the production of Oliver and the stage make-up.

It is such a varied activity where you can find your own style and be creative. Thanks to Mrs Cammish and Mrs Sharpe for all their hard work and extra help.

Charlotte Matthews (Lyttelton, L6th)



Charlie White and Kit Cowan



Rachael Millard: Evening Bag



Bobbie Staden: Bag



Charlie White: Pillow



Rachael Millard: Collage



Max Sanderson



Lucy Gallimore: Silk Painting



Lucy Milburn: Collage



Suhail Bahwan



Lucy Milburn and Anna Brodskaya

Stoic

Community Service



COMMUNITY SERVICE CHRISTMAS PARTY

The annual Community Service Christmas party got off to a flying start this year with tremendous music from the Stowe Jazz Band, Azu Nsirim, Flossie Hopewell and Gus Perkins-Ray who charmed our guests with their performances. This was just as well, as last-minute illness prevented LEW from calling the bingo. The task was taken over by REM with, it must be said, more enthusiasm than flair. Two good games were had nonetheless, and after Mary Price's fantastic spread at tea, Father Christmas (this year in the shape of a rapidly-recruited APL) made his usual appearance. Despite his misgivings at being catapulted into this starring role at the last moment, APL was a great success, and was accompanied by a swarm of little helpers. The presence of staff children and grandchildren at this event is much appreciated by the pensioners who come along, though coming face to face with Father Christmas is for some of the little ones a rather awe-inspiring experience! Very many thanks must go as ever to the many Stoics, staff and Matrons who helped behind the scenes with transport, tea and sundry other tasks, making this one of the best parties in recent years.

Dr Rosemary Masters



The months I spent doing community service did make me think about life and relationships with others. Going to the old folks home each week sometimes was something to really look forward to as you could talk freely to them and learn from them as, because they didn't have many current stories, they told us of their experiences from earlier in their lives. All in all, I definitely think that the time I spent doing community service was time well spent.

Alex LeClerq (Walpole, U6th)

Over the course of two academic years I have been working for my Duke of Edinburgh award. One of the components required to achieve this is community service and I have visited, on a weekly basis, a care home and a elderly people's houses. During these sessions I have generally just kept them company, helped clear up, did gardening and ran minor errands for them. From this experience I have learnt to help those in need and learnt to appreciate that it takes very little effort for someone like me to help a great deal for those who are not just elderly but in poor health or struggling in life. I believe that this is one of the most important components of the award scheme.

Tommy Williams-Jones (Temple, U6th)

Over the past two years I have been involved in Community Service as part of my Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. For the first year I went and visited a lady called Betty, she always made sure she had stocked up on cakes and J2Os before our arrival, but I think that she really enjoyed having someone to talk to and for us to tell her everything that we had been up to that week. We also learnt a lot about her life and the amazing things that she had done and experienced. For my second year I helped out at Grenville Primary School in Buckingham, this ranged from outdoor games such as football and skate boarding, both of which the children told me that I was told I was rubbish at, to colouring and making dens in the classroom. Overall, I have enjoyed Community Service and feel that I have made a small difference to someone's day as well as trying to entertain lots of small children.

Fenella O'Brien (Nugent, U6th)

I have thoroughly enjoyed working in Oxfam for my community service. It has certainly increased my experience of working environments and it has also improved my awareness of how a charity organisation works. I am proud of the fact that I helped to run an Oxfam shop when this store was only staffed by one paid person.

I also worked at an old people's home which I also thoroughly enjoyed. Talking to the elderly people every week was a very different experience and gave both them and me a chance to talk someone that we might otherwise never meet.

Harry Salisbury (Cobham, U6th)

Current Affairs & International Relations

CURRENT AFFAIRS WAS INTRODUCED to the Activities Schedule in the Lent Term. One of the principal founding rules of the group was that it should be open to Stoics from all year groups. Our first topic was the Democratic Presidential candidate race and the potential first female or first black US President. We invited Sam Halpert, our Harvard Scholar to participate in the discussion and provide us with some inside knowledge. He obviously enjoyed our company so much he has been part of the team ever since! The group has grown from small beginnings and has proven to be one of the highlights of our week.

The group discusses events which are grabbing the headlines at the time, as well as looking at the issues which provide the background for many international actions. Our discussions have included the current situations in Kenya, Russia and Zimbabwe, the political, social and moral issues surrounding the Olympics, as well as topics such as Culture – looking at what defines our cultures and how they impact on world events; and the Internet – the good, the bad and the ugly!

Mrs Liz Capurro & Mrs Jane Hamblett-Jahn



Picture: Tom Rankin

STUDENT PERSPECTIVES

WHEN I FIRST HEARD ABOUT CURRENT AFFAIRS I was intrigued and very enthusiastic about joining. In one of the sessions we discussed cultures and how they have a very big impact on who we are as people. As Stowe is a very culturally diverse community, that was a very interesting topic and being an international student, it was also a very personal discussion. We talked about everyone's culture and how things such as food and language are very definitive things within some people's culture. For example in Africa where there are all kinds of food which differentiate some of the tribes from others and for some people, something as menial as food is very important. We also discussed the fact that because of intermarriages and cultural diversity there tend to be some identity crises for people who are born of a certain origin.

However, due to one reason or another they have to move elsewhere and they have had to change to adapt to the different cultures and fit in. There are plenty more interesting topics in the current affairs that allow free discussion and provoke thought which is why I thought it was a very useful way to spend my Friday afternoon.

Daphny Natangaza (Queen's, L6th)

AS POSSIBLY THE ONLY RIGHT-WING, pro-republican, pro-war in Afghanistan member of the Current Affairs group I have to be careful not to tread on anyone's toes, still I enjoy listening to the other views even if I disagree with them.

As my personal motto says: "Sure I have different opinions from yours, but life is boring without enemies."

The group is certainly a fun one to be in, and I recommend it to anyone.

Charlie Toler (Grenville, 5th)

CURRENT AFFAIRS HAS PROVED to be much more diverse and relevant to everyday life than I had initially expected -and somewhat more lively than the name would suggest. The issues broached so far this term have been: the internet, which left us reconsidering our Facebook addictions and gossipy emails; Zimbabwe, complete with back-to-basics explanations to involve the whole group in speculating about hot issues and, finally, the media. Cue much time with noses in papers (and in some cases, Heat magazine) all in the name of research... Bring on the discussion!

Lucy Brooks (Queen's, L6th)

CURRENT AFFAIRS IS AN ACTIVITY to stimulate a Stoic's thoughts on a number of crucial issues that are important to us both as students and a society. We have discussed a broad range of issues such as cultural identity, which in an increasingly diverse society is very important. With many people from different backgrounds in the group the discussion was varied, with everyone having a different view on what it means to be British in the 21st Century. We have also discussed issues such as the Beijing Olympics and the situation in Zimbabwe following the recent election. Thanks to Mrs Capurro, Mr Halpert and Mrs Hamblett- Jahn for running such an interesting activity.

Hugo Wiseman (Chatham, U6th)



Stoic



IT HAS BEEN A TERRIFIC YEAR FOR CROSSFIRE

during which we have all been amazed afresh at the Lord Jesus Christ. The curtain was raised in September with a rip-roaring journey through John's Gospel as we investigated the identity, mission and call of the 'Real Jesus'. We were often surprised, regularly challenged and always amazed at how what the Bible says of this God-man so radically differs from the world's perceptions.

Along came the Lent term and with it a memorable series entitled: 'The Great Escape: Lessons from God in Exodus'. We held onto our hats as we travelled with God's People out of Egypt following the amazing Passover rescue story, through the Red Sea and towards the Promised Land with Moses, constantly finding out more about the great God who directed this extraordinary story. Mark Edwards, erstwhile teacher of Classics and all-round hero, came back for a Crossfire Easter special at the end of term where he explained the Cross of Christ on the first Good Friday simply but brilliantly.

We're just off the mark in the summer term with a more thematic series entitled, 'How can you believe in...'. I quote from the term card:

Some of the Christian claims are very difficult to believe, aren't they? People coming back to life after three days? God is loving despite all the suffering in the world? Prayer actually changes things? You can believe that what the Bible says is true?

'Come off it, mate'

Well if you're a person who is very sceptical about such claims as these why not come along to Crossfire this term to hear whether what the Bible actually says about these things is true? It might be that Christians are completely off their rockers after all. But it might be that these things are actually true. Do come along to find out.

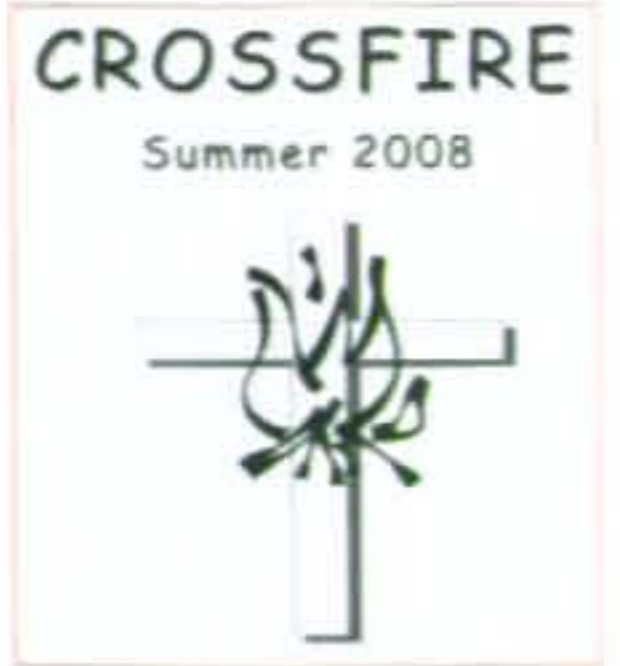
You may consider yourself a Christian already but would like to hear how these questions are answered so that your faith in Christ can be strengthened.

Whatever you think we'd love to see you at Crossfire this term. Prepare to be surprised.

It promises to be another cracker with theatre companies, slideshow evenings and summer BBQs after half term thrown into the mix.

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. It has been a great year in doing that.

Mr Henry Swayne





Winner Roxburgh Verse Prize Junior Division

REFLECTIONS

What are reflections?
Are they the essence of the world?
Or a gateway to a parallel dimension?
Or maybe they're simply clones of reality,
Devoid of all life and charm.

Why Reflections?
What purpose do they serve?
You cannot pull money out of a lake,
You cannot pull yourself out of a mirror,
And you cannot pull diamonds through windows.

How do reflections exist?
Does the universe project a copy of itself
In an attempt to be noticed?
Or does the universe try
To snare humanity forever?

Where are reflections?
They are all around us,
They are in our minds.
They are other people.
Reflections cannot be traced.

Edward Chantler (Bruce, 4th)

Winner Roxburgh Verse Prize Senior Division

REFLECTIONS

In this mirror I see a face.
It is cold and there are bags beneath the eyes.
But there is a little smile, showing crisp white teeth.
Around the cheeks lies sharp brown stubble.
On the stubble hangs yesterday's aftershave -
Strong, musky, sweet:
I would taste it on my tongue, could my tongue still taste.

The hair is a mess-
Greasy, dishevelled-
Like straw on the head of a scarecrow
In last night's Armani suit.
It blocks the face from the light
As if ashamed,
But even in shadow the spots are there,
Scars of an adolescence
Not yet escaped.

Behind the face is a bathroom:
The towel I wiped the sweat away with
Lies discarded on the floor,
The loo that greeted me this morning
Sits silent by the wall:
None of it is mine.
The door is ajar, and the crack reveals
A bare ankle, perfect, still.
No longer a maid, she sleeps in the morning
Whispering snores. Some little tiger.
A lover never before mine.
A woman after all, after all these years.

My eyes are fixed blankly on the glass
But they ignore the eyes staring back at them.
Familiar horrors lie hidden within
That they are keen to avoid.
I see the face seen by my very last lover,
So why am I so afraid?

Harry Burke (Grenville, 16th)



REFLECTIONS

Each white horse which ripples means something to someone.
No one white horse is shared.
But like in life nothing can last forever;
Not even a wave.

I sit, and watch one horse gliding towards me,
As if it were a messenger bringing back false hope.
False hope which tempts you to past happiness,
But nonetheless untouchable hope.

A baby cries, as if his horse is bringing tragedy.
A boy embraces his long lost friend who is in the form of a wave;
Others keep their pasts secret; they don't want to face it,
But mine stares at me. Dead.
My past contains this area, these people, this sea.
Long days were whiled away here.
Days that cannot be brought back.
That life is dead now.
All that remains is a white horse;
Which ripples meaning something to me.

Eloise Melville (Queen's, 3rd)

REFLECTIONS

I look into the flowing water,
My face merges to a younger version.
I see someone smiling back at me;
A smile free of sadness. Different now.

The smile splits
Into the smiles of my parents,
So far away.
Now.

I long to be with them,
to see their smiles
Just once more.
The faces change to ripples
As a tear hits the water.

As the ripples fade
Feelings of emptiness
And loneliness wash over me.
I have no-one.
No-one left to comfort me.

Harriet Clitheroe (Queen's, 3rd)

REFLECTIONS

Reflections
She stands behind the glass
Glaring back at me
Copying my every move
Good times hardly there
In the back of her mind
Floating faintly like a feather
But bad times embedded
Displayed in her eyes
The sorrow hidden beneath
That watery smile

Reminiscing the years gone by
Regret, guilt and anger
Overpowering the feelings of
Happiness, excitement and love
Where did her life go wrong?

She stayed there
Eyes still fixed on me
Vision blurred by a waterfall
I feel her pain
And she reflects it back.

Charlotte Phillips (Queen's, 3rd)

REFLECTIONS

In the mirror I see the yellow paint on the wall behind me
Cracked and peeling, revealing faded, flowered wallpaper beneath:
A guilty secret hidden from the world's eyes behind these walls
Like others before it, and more to come.

The lower wall is invaded by grimy, green tiles
Patches bare and grey; what remains, cracked and broken,
like so many promises.
They seem to watch me,
Condescending, judging, almost pitying.

To my right the door stands firmly closed
Shut against... something. But what, exactly?
Locked in? Locked out? Who knows?
Does it even matter?

The bare bulb hangs scornfully above my head.
The light emitted is harsh, highlighting
Sunken eye-sockets, pale skin, pink lips;
The cuts on my cheeks standing out bright
Against the white background, the purple
Bruise like a cloud shadowing my eye.

My lank, dirty blond hair falls in matted strands
Over my face as I look
Down.
My fingers:
The blood under my fingernails is all I see.
Not the striking blue veins
Nor the prominent bones -
But the blood

What have I done?

Rebecca Elliott (Lyttelton, 4th)

WINNER: GAVIN MAXWELL PRIZE JUNIOR DIVISION THE PAST BREAKS IN

JULIA WANDERED ALONG THE PATH weaving its way through the park. The light breeze made the hem of her red dress ripple, showing off a few more centimetres of brown thigh. The trees unevenly lining the path deigned every now and again to give shade to those people choosing to cut through the park on the way back from work. She delighted in the breeze cooling her hot face; even though it was only May, the sun was shining and it had been hot for days on end. As she rounded the corner she stopped walking and broke into a smile.

From her point at the top of a small hill she could see all the way to the end of the park: the full, green trees with leaves reaching up to gather the last of the day's sun, the emerald grass so green it could have been fake, the splashes of ruby, fuchsia, aquamarine and violet granted by the flowers. Each flower bed was probably carefully set out by some conscientious garden designer in order to maximise aesthetic pleasure, though the effect was inevitably lost on most of the general public. The whole scene looked plastic, yet so real, as if a child had set it up on their bedroom floor to play with; the flower beds were so close by that she almost felt she could pick them up and move them...

"Scuse me love, could you move? I gotta get these two home before they start throwing tantrums." Julia snapped back to reality at the harsh sound of the woman's voice and moved to one side of the path.

Waiting for her at the bottom of the dip she could see Nate. His back was turned away from her, his thumbs pushed into the belt loops of his faded Levis. Julia just looked at him for a few seconds, imagining his smell, his eyes, his touch on her thigh as he -. She broke out of the reverie and set off running down the hill to meet him. He turned around as he heard her footsteps and smiled as she jumped into his arms. As he swung her round, her long blond-brown hair tickled his cheeks as she kissed him on the nose. He laughed as he put her down.

"How was your day?" he asked as they started walking.

"Same old. My therapist thinks I should do that regression thing, you know? So that I can finally get past it apparently!" she replied.

"What do you think?" Nate asked, concerned. "I mean, you seem pretty fine to me. It can't make it get worse can it?"

"I think I will do it," Julia mused, "then after that I can forget about it completely. I hope it doesn't! I mean it's not like there's no risk but still, loads of people say it works. It's something to do with reliving the experience then forgiving and forgetting it, or some sort of crap like that!" Julia said carelessly. Even though she said it casually Nate could detect the hint of fear in her voice and how she was trying to cover it up. He put an arm around her.

"You don't have to do it if you don't want to. And it's OK to admit you're scared. Do you want me to come with you?"

"No, it's OK. It's weird but I feel that if I can do this on my own, I can do anything. I think it will help me get past it."

"Sure, it's not weird," he said gently. "When is it?"

"If I want to do it they've left a slot open for me tomorrow, but I've got to ring Dr Muller tonight or else they'll give it to someone else," she said, contemplatively. "If I did do it then at least I'll never have to see that psychiatrist ever again!" she said jocularly, then added, "Or that bitch of a receptionist!"

"I don't think she really thinks you're a nutter!" Nate had heard all about the receptionist many times before, and all about Julia's paranoia that the receptionist thought she was mad.

"She does!" Julia said emphatically. "She thinks I'm just as bad as the other weirdos in that place!"

"Aren't you being a little bit hypocritical, sweetie?" he asked, knowing that being called a hypocrite would prompt an annoyed reaction from Julia, who couldn't bear to think of herself as a hypocrite.

"Oh, but you have seen them, Natie! I've never seen weirder people! They're all depressed for no reason - or only a little bit sad cos their dog died or something and they only go to get drugs to make them feel better when they don't really need them at all but cos they're rich they just pay the therapist to prescribe them -" She was cut off as Nate turned and kissed her hard on the lips. He pulled back and looked into her eyes.

"Sorry," he whispered, "you just weren't making much sense!"

"Sorry! I'm just glad that the day has finally ended and I've finished work and therapy and I have time to spend with you!" She punctuated the last word by squeezing him under the ribs then skipping forward a few steps out of his reach. She turned to look at him while walking backwards. Nate smiled as he watched her. They had only been together for less than a year but they had been friends since secondary school. After Julia was raped and beaten by an ex-boyfriend, Nate and choc chip ice cream were the only things that got her through the recovery. Nate had been the only man she'd trusted after the incident and with his help she had slowly begun to regain everything she'd lost. Somewhere during the recovery process Nate had slipped from being a support and carer into being a boyfriend - probably one night when large amounts of alcohol had been consumed in order to dull painful memories, and sex had seemed like a good idea. It had been this that finally made Julia let go of her mistrust of all men and concede that all guys weren't evil and out to rape her.

He watched her brush her side-swept fringe out of her green eyes as the summer breeze whipped her hair around her head into a halo, lit by the six o' clock sun behind her. Her face was scrunched up into her thinking face. Julia ran back to walk beside him, slipping her hand into his back pocket, leaning up to kiss his cheek.

"So..." she said suggestively, "we've got hours until we have to be at my sister's for dinner. I wonder what we could do with that time..." Nate looked down at her, thinking about how much she'd changed in the past year. When he had been looking after her she had been a wreck, whimpering whenever she heard a sound, always convinced that John was going to come back and get her. She hadn't been able to leave her flat, refusing to cook anything herself; maybe that was why she now trusted Nate so much, because he'd done everything for her and hadn't let her down.

"What, you mean a jumbo game of scrabble?" he said, feigning innocence.

"Only as long as it's strip scrabble!" Julia whispered in his ear. "Come on!" Julia started running towards an exit, dragging Nate behind her by the hand. "The quicker we get home, the more time we'll have!"

"Ooh, not Monopoly as well!" Nate called after her jocularly. "The excitement is almost too much!"

At work the next day Nate was thinking about Julia instead of working. She had told him not to be worried, but he couldn't help feeling anxious. He had tried to call her at nine thirty, just before her ten o'clock appointment, but her phone had been turned off; probably normal and what she'd been told to do but it still made him nervous. Then during his lunch break he had rung her mobile and their home phone, but both had rung and rung then gone to voicemail. He had left messages on both asking her to call him back but so far he'd had no reply. He had become increasingly worried as the afternoon progressed, but there was little he could do about it until five thirty. It was probably nothing and she was fine, and just had forgotten to take her phone with her wherever she was.

As he was walking home from the tube station Nate forced himself to remain calm. He made himself walk at a sedate pace, trying to convince himself that everything was fine, but he still felt nausea in the pit of his stomach. What if it had gone wrong? What if she was at home now crying, or worse, wandering around London confused and vulnerable? He took his phone out to call her again, walking more quickly. But what if, on the other hand, she was fine and was at home right now making dinner? Maybe it had gone perfectly and she could now completely forget about John. He put his phone away and compelled himself to slow down.

By the time he'd reached their flat, Nate had been through every possible bad scenario in his mind - she'd killed herself, killed someone else, run away to another country - and had concluded that nothing could be as bad in reality as what he'd been thinking about. He put his key in the lock and just stood there for a few seconds, thinking about what he was going to encounter.

He opened the door with trepidation, and his heart sank into his stomach. Even though he had been expecting something to be wrong, he hadn't realised until then how much he was really hoping and believing everything was fine. The lights in the flat were off, the curtains were drawn, there was silence throughout the flat, only broken by rasping sobs coming from the bedroom. He stepped into the room, crunching broken glass beneath his feet. He looked around and saw that the picture he'd bought for Julia last Christmas was smashed, but still hanging on the wall on the other side of the room, a shoe sitting forlornly below it. He picked his way slowly across the living room, stepping over smashed plates and pieces of cutlery on the floor, heading towards the half-open bedroom door, dreading what he was about to see.

He pushed it open and for a moment he allowed himself to believe that everything was fine as the wailing stopped. He couldn't see Julia

but could hear noises coming from the other side of the bed. In the dark he could make out the outline of a hunched figure cowering behind the bed. He went over to the curled up form and was taken aback as Julia hurled herself at him, scratching and screaming. He fell backwards onto the bed as the force of the attack took him by surprise, and hit his head on the backboard. He grabbed Julia's wrists and held them. He pulled her close to him and hugged her, forcing her arms into her sides.

"WHAT ARE YOU DOING JOHN? GET OFF OF ME! HELP ME SOMEONE!" Julia screamed.

"Calm down Julia, I'm Nate, not John. John is gone, that was a year ago!" Julia carried on kicking at anything she could reach and thrashing around in Nate's arms, but he still held on to her.

"DON'T TRY THAT ON ME, JOHN. I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING! LET ME GO!"

"Julia, calm down, stop shouting. It's me, Nate!"

"I DON'T KNOW ANYONE CALLED NATE! GO AWAY. HELP ME SOMEONE! I'M BEING RAPED!"

"Julia, stop it, settle down. I'm Nate. I haven't done anything to you. Stop thrashing."

"YOU WON'T GET ME THIS TIME! I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!" Nate just held on to her to stop Julia hurting herself, not really knowing what to do. "FUCK OFF! LEAVE ME ALONE! JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!" Julia yelled, though quieter than before. She fell still in his arms as if she had resigned herself to her fate. She sounded as if she was exhausted and had just given up hope. The sobs racking her body now had less volume and sounded more pathetic than desperate. Nate just held Julia in his arms until her tears subsided.

Rebecca Elliott (Lyttelton, 4th)

WINNER: GAVIN MAXWELL PRIZE - SENIOR DIVISION THE PAST BREAKS IN

Oh god isn't it so great to be alive? Elation is rising up through my body. The world is turning so slowly and I am bored. I swear to you, I'm invincible. You can't touch me. Go on, fire a bullet at the back of my neck - I won't notice. I've got to get out into an open space; here I can barely breathe. Everything is so slow. Someone press fast-forward. I'm so full of power, I could do anything. Right now. Dare me. I want to feel...

Alive... I wish I wasn't. I can't make myself get out of bed, but at night it's so hard to sleep. I don't know anything anymore. The world outside moves too fast. It's just passing me by, turning its blank, expressionless face. It's as if I am just lying here, waiting for everything to fall apart. Maybe it already has. There was another shooting last night and I keep wondering...

What would happen if I jumped? I bet I could without a scratch. I can hear your voice, telling me to calm down. You think I'm talking too fast and too loud. Well why don't you just go away, boy, I don't want to listen. Your mouth is moving, but no words really come out. I'm shutting you out. I haven't slept for days. I just have so much energy I can't even...

Understand the point of it all. You don't even want to know me anymore, do you? I don't know why you hate me so much. I've been thinking about dying more and more in the last few days. I have no energy. I don't want to eat. I don't want to hurt like this anymore. Every bone in my body aches and when I open my eyes...

All I can see are bright colours, merging together. I don't need you, I've told you. Who are you anyway, telling me you love me? You are nothing. You want to fix me, you say. You are just jealous you're not as strong as me. I'm fine and I've drunk a whole bottle of whiskey. Your problem is you just don't understand and anyway, I met another guy last night. I didn't keep his number, he was not important. I can feel everyone looking at me. God, does this car not go any faster? Bloody traffic lights; I'm going through red! I just want to...

Do it. I'm going to kill myself tonight. I can't understand it. I love you so much, so why is it you are angry with me? It's hurting so much I crawl across the floor. There's a bridge by my house. If you go past it, you can get on to the railway tracks. I don't deserve to be here, not now my heart has been broken. There's blood on my face and my eyes are lined with insomnia. I step over some broken bottles. Whisky. I never drink, though, it might numb the...

Excitement is running through my veins. I'm driving with music loud and the windows open and the wind blowing through my hair. Who's that in the road? Idiot! Just walking, trying to flag me down. He must know I'm going one hundred and ten and accelerating. I smash...

My way through the fence and onto the main road. Something bad has happened. It's in the air. I see you lying there by a headlamp of a car. Lying in a pool of your own blood. It's a blur. Everything is...



Creative Writing

Blood-spattered windshield. And now he's gone. Well, you were getting frustrating- claiming that you loved me all the time. Claiming you wanted to help me get better. Look at the state of...

The car? It's my car. I stand by the door and I cannot understand how it got there. I don't remember why I am here. I'm scratched, bleeding, scared. You are only...

A human. It doesn't matter. I better run from the blue lights and sirens. I dash down to the bridge by the...

Railway is cold. All I do is wait. Without you I have nothing. It is getting so dark and...

A train is coming. It is so loud. Not loud enough. It is okay, it will go right through me. See, I can prove it to you all. He was mortal and I am invincible. I know...

I only have a few seconds, so I just want you to know I am sorry and I will always love you...

Beth Georgiou (Nugent, U6th)

THE PAST BREAKS IN

I've been having the nightmares again. They would go away for a while, maybe a year, and everything would be fine. Then something would trigger them. It could be a noise, a picture, a word. Sometimes I would have them during the day. I would be doing something, and then I would be in the room again. Sometimes they would last for seconds. A fleeting scream, a door slamming. Other times they would last longer. I would see and hear everything.

It started about two weeks ago; I got a postcard from Washington. I don't know anybody there. I looked at the picture on the front. Then blank. But they were different this time - worse. Normally they were disjointed: random images and sounds strung together. Now they were clear, sharp. I could touch the steel walls of the room. I could feel their dead, cold sting. Everything was so real. The two voices, the bright light, the fear. It was like a terrible memory, but almost too real to be one. They're more frequent. I black out every four or five hours. Before, I got maybe one a year. The last two weeks it has happened several times a day. The same nightmare again and again. It's longer too. A week ago I was out for three hours. Collapsed on the floor, trapped in the room again. I was out for three hours, and all I remember was the nightmare. The room, the voices, the fear.

I try to piece together understanding of what this means. The room; I have never been in it. Been in rooms like it, when I was in the service; but not that room. The light: bright and harsh and white. So searing that it burnt the back of your eyes. The voices; one sharp, laced with authority, but with an edge to it, like there was fear there. The other, small, panicked, high. Bursting with fear, so much so that it became a scream. Fear - it saturated the room, engrained in the steel walls, clinging in the stale air, a mixture of sweat and terror.

Was I there? Was I one of the voices? Is this a creation of some hellish quarter of my mind? Or did this happen? Is this some repressed memory of my past, breaking into my sanity? I don't remember. I have never seen the room. I have never been in it. It can't be real. Does this have something to do with the service? I've heard rumours. People who had to have years of therapy because of what happened to them. But they were all involved people. I never did any of that. I wouldn't want to. The stories that trickled down through the ranks, about what went on in secret. We laughed and joked at the time, to hide our fear.

I never needed therapy. It's been seven years since I left. Most people said I got off easy. Most people need at least some therapy to get over it. Even if it is just paperwork. You saw some nasty stuff there. Are the nightmares some residual horror of some of the things I saw? But I can't shake the feeling of dread. Why suddenly so many? Why for so long?

The postcard. If only I knew what happened to it. When I woke up it was gone. I searched the entire house. The bins, the shed, everywhere. It was gone. I asked the postman if he remembered what the picture was. He hadn't delivered a postcard. Maybe I'm going mad. Maybe there was no postcard. Maybe I imagined it. Maybe all this - the nightmares, postcard, everything - is a symptom of some terrible madness. Perhaps I should have had therapy. Perhaps there is something wrong. Maybe I should call the service. They could help. Perhaps they could arrange something. Ten years of loyalty can't go unrewarded. As soon as I get into the house I'll call them, for the first time in seven years.

It stopped me like a brick wall. The air forced out of my lungs. Heart beating. Adrenaline rushing. Fear. A postcard, from Washington, face down on the doormat. I won't touch it. I'll give it to someone. They can tell me what's on the front. It sits there, urging me to look. What is on the front? There is nothing on the back except my address, and the Washington postmark. What is the picture? It could be nothing. It could be nothing to do with anything. It might be harmless. I turn it over. Blackness

Miles Crosby (Grenville, U6th)

Stoic

A DROP IN THE OCEAN

It is carried by two sullen men,
Their weather-beaten faces resigned.
As it passes the crowd, one man reaches out
To trace the ancient carvings on its dark outer shell
With the tips of his fingers.

Chains are let loose and rattle to the floor;
One fluid motion brings it to the edge.
The men draw in a deep breath,
As it plummets to the depths,
Waiting for the crashing, splintered cry
That confirms it has fallen to the waves

Hector Macpherson (Walpole, 4th)



THE BOTTOM OF THE GLASS

The bottom of the glass
Is the shape of a circle
And if I look though it
Everything changes

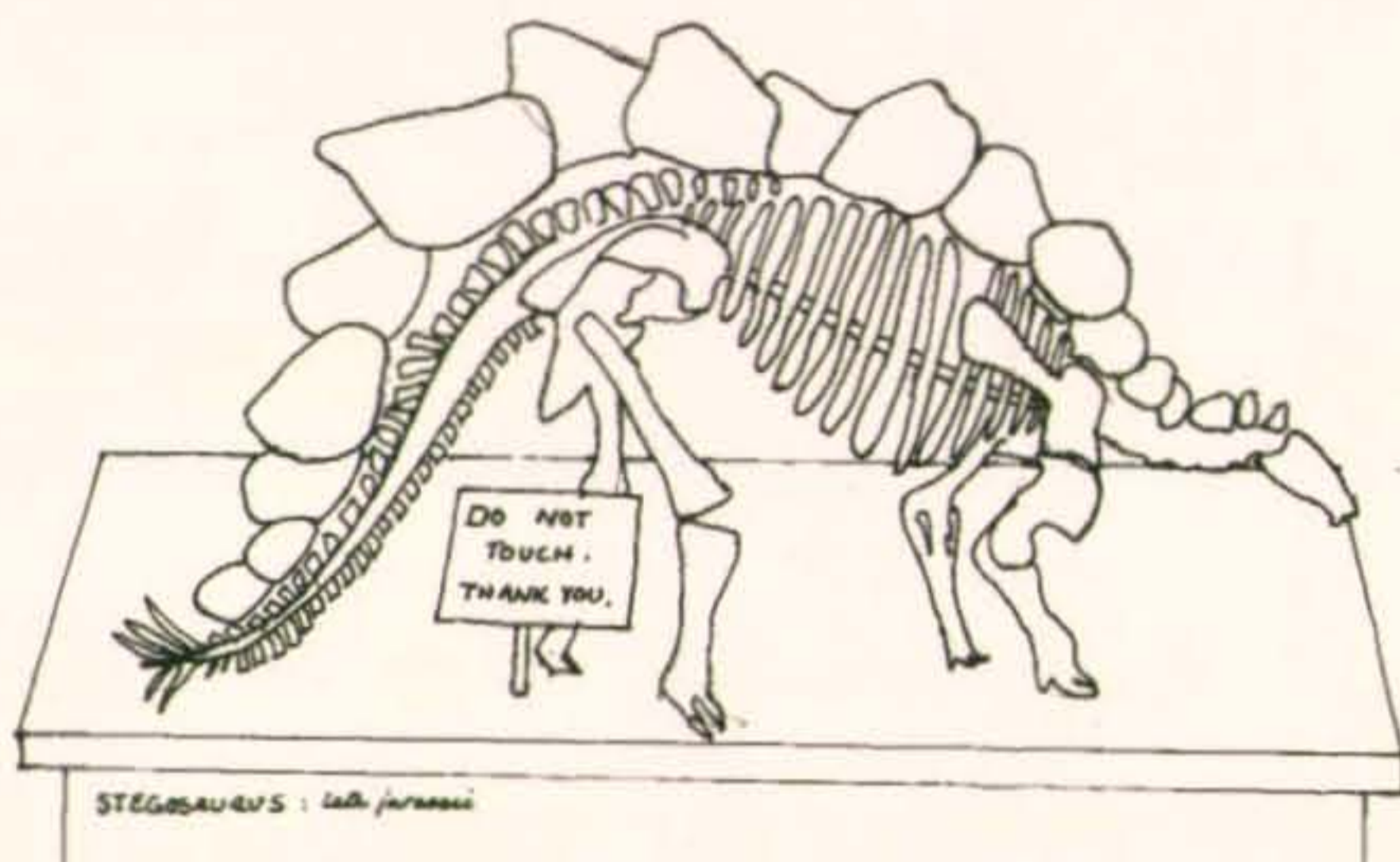
You become
A strange alien being
With a forehead
That outweighs the rest of your body

Meanwhile your hands have shrunk
To the size of birds feet
And you are looking worryingly
Like a tyrannosaurus rex

If I look to the left of me
The bartender has become
Rather skeleton like
With a big bulge half way down his middle

And as the small waitress
Becomes the size of a walrus
Looking through the bottom of my bear glass
I wonder if I'm drunk

Hope Capurro (Nugent, U6th)



THE TROUBLE WITH MUSEUMS

The trouble with museums is: you can't touch.
An indecipherable history is laid before you in a glass cage,
But you can't touch.

Children rush past followed by apprehensive parents:
'Susie behave!'
And tour guides push past with superior looks on their faces
With their impressive but 'around about' facts.
The know-it-alls who like to impress the whole room
with their knowledge
Although only talking to one another.
Meanwhile the young couple in the corner are finding
each other much more interesting,
Whilst a group of young students laugh at a naked statue.
And all this time you are stood before a piece of history,
And you can't touch, surrounded by the modern world,
You can't touch the indecipherable history before you.

The problem with museums is:
They are modern boxes, containing the old.
The problem with a modern box, is history
Becomes untouchable.

Hope Capurro (Nugent, U6th)

URBAN SKYLINE

Aluminium birds circle overhead waiting to land
To spill their guts, feed and set off again on another journey
Like wheeling vultures hovering over dying prey.

Metal boxes ferry various numbers of tiny people
From one place to another
Like workers ants shuffling along in purposeful columns.

Unhealthy smog covers the city
Smothering the noise until only a rumble is heard
Like an all-enveloping fog across the sea.

Skyscrapers rise through the cloud:
Tall, concrete sentinels standing guard -
Termite mounds, housing unknown inhabitants

A fake glow ascends from the sprawl
Filling the skies with synthetic orange light
Like no natural phenomenon.

Our best ideas are copied from nature,
Yet the ugly skyline has nothing natural about it:
Concrete, metal, plastic and glass
Retaining no innocence or purity, as nature intended.

Rebecca Elliott (Lyttelton, 4th)

ASSOCIATIONS

There are more links in the brain than atoms on the earth – or maybe atoms on one person. The exact measurements didn't matter. Nor did the analogy itself, considering that most of 9W were not listening to Miss Chubb's chemistry lesson...

Josh was straining to gaze out of the window. There was nothing to see – it being lesson time, the playing field was devoid of the usual throngs of uniformed adolescents. But the rivulets of rain cascading down the glass transported him away from S13, all the way to Niagra Falls. So vivid was Josh's imagination, he could almost feel the pounding water. Classroom whispers merged into splashing and dripping... With the sounds of water filling his head, Josh became increasingly aware of his bladder. Looking at the clock he fidgeted; everyone knew Miss Chubb never let you go to the loo during lessons.

Next to Josh, head slumped on desk, paper pushed haphazardly aside, Anna was deciphering the years of secrets carved into the table. SJ 4 SAM. I H8 SCIENCE. KATE IS A SLUT. BUSTED FOREVER... With each confession, she was swept away to her own respective experiences: The crushes too private to be admitted, yet easy to write on a desk; the seemingly infinite double periods of tedium, with Miss Chubb's monotone; girls she hated; bands she'd seen – anything other than atoms and bonds.

Kyle was twitching. Having already sat still for 48 minutes, his patience was being severely tested. Surreptitiously checking his mobile, he wondered idly what would happen if he just got it out and phoned someone... Or what if he just stood up and screamed... Or started removing his clothes... Or singing? Would Miss Chubb and his classmates continue regardless – perhaps giving him confused looks? Would all come to a standstill? Maybe he'd be sent out... It's the type of thing he'd always get the urge to do – but some kind of doubt held him back. And, mind miles away, dreaming up distraction techniques he'd never dare execute, Kyle's eyes rested on Rachel.

With her face screwed up in a sort of cross confusion, she was the depiction of concentration. Her mouth moved as she mentally counted the atomic mass equations. Rachel had listened attentively for the previous 51 minutes. She now knew exactly what the colour was of the residue produced by oxidising sulphur, and was currently calculating the relativity of iron and helium. She was the only pupil to have actually registered the brain/atom comparison. And, being quite a perceptive girl, she'd thus registered the sheer distractibility of the human mind... Looking up momentarily from her lined paper, she scanned the room, wondering what links were being made in the minds of her classmates while she calculated oxygen's proton count... Nothing as interesting as chemistry, she thought, with a smug satisfaction.

Lucy Brooks (Queen's, L6th)



DAY AT THE RACES

Nellie English won the runner-up prize in the under-19 Martin Wills Memorial Trust Writing Competition for a story with a horseracing theme. Nellie was presented with a cheque for £250 and was given a day at the Newmarket Races, rubbing shoulders with the legendary jockey Lester Piggott, among others.

Horseracing is a something that many people enjoy; a happy social gathering where families, single men and women, even pets, gather to enjoy good food and drink over a long and pleasant afternoon. Oh, and some horses run around a track at some point too.

I remember my first horse race as if it were yesterday. I was unenthusiastic and reluctant about the whole thing, the idea of standing around in the hot Zimbabwean sun, watching a crowd of people cheering themselves hoarse while a bunch of poor animals are raced to exhaustion, all for big men to make big bucks. However, some friends of mine are absolute fanatics, and frothing at the mouth in their enthusiasm, they dragged me along.

So I stood there, armoured in my scepticism, looking on at the scene that unfurled before my eyes. It was fascinating really, the way that people group together at events like this. Like animals, we move instinctively towards our own crowd. So that's what it all came down to, all the cliques, leagues, classes: beast instinct. So simple, and yet so true. It was, from a sociologist's point of view, a goldmine. I imagined bespectacled nerdy professors in lab-coats jumping up and down in glee at discovering such a scene, where humans grouped together like herds of animals. In the heat of the African sun, people reflected their Safari counterparts.

The first herd was the hippos. Plump, fat, and exceedingly obese men, were huddled together in a glistening, rolling whole. These were the gamblers, the business men, whose sole reason for being there was to line their pockets. They could reel off facts and statistics about the horses and jockeys, yet not point them out from the line. With bellies bulging as much as their wallets, they wallowed in the heat of the afternoon sun. Dotted here and there in the herd, was the odd thin man, a stray who'd wandered in and subsequently been trapped in the surrounding rolls; escape exits were blocked by podgy elbows or the odd prominent buttock. So they stood, grinning nervously, and hoped they would not be eaten in the more exhilarating moments of the race.

These men were all lined up in the leafy shade of the purple flowered Jacaranda trees. It was a prime spot; close enough to the barbecue, or "braai", to obtain ample portions of hot dogs and greasy chips, and a mere stone's throw from the all important bar. Also, they were close enough to the stands, that when the race began they could shuffle over to watch from good viewing positions.

They stood, and joked, bald heads glistening in the afternoon sun, sausage fingers rolling over the notes in their pockets, as they talked about whom to back in the race. Which jockey and why. They feigned small talk with their hippo guffaws and cheerful jokes, but the seemingly trivial conversations were laced with agenda, as they tried to lure tips out of each other. After all, they joked tensely, what's a secret or two between friends? It's only a race anyhow.

From the betting hippos wallowing in their money mud, my eye travelled up the field, alighting not on a herd this time, but a flock. The Wives. A riot of colour and fluttering movement. Dressed in their Sunday best ("This old rag darling? Oh I just threw it on this morning!") and made up to the nines, they perched on chequered blankets and sheets, amongst lavish picnics. However, the food if admired and cooed at, was not eaten; their beaked heads bobbed back and forth as they picked instead at the crumbs of gossip and scandal. They twittered in shock

Stoic

and squawked in gleeful horror, as revelations of the various members of the flock came to light. Only behind each other's backs of course, as after a few gin and tonics, one by one each woman made her wobbling way to the toilet, knowing full well the eyes and smiles would soon turn to cocked eyebrows and the classic line, all familiar to female lips: "Well, I don't mean to be a bitch, but..."

Periodically, members of the flock would strut to the herd underneath the Jacaranda trees, and, singling out their amply proportioned better half, would exchange a cold beer and cooing smile, to peck out some money from sausage fingers.

Alongside their shingly sweaty hippo husbands, the flock also fiercely guarded their offspring: The Monkeys. Strange that plumed and groomed birds could produce riotous impish creatures, but so be it. Must be the hippo blood. But they ("Loved") their little monkeys, ("to bits darling"), in fact they ("never") let them out of their ("sight"). And with a birds eye view, this does of course mean that the children can, while their feathered mothers glug wine and vie for the pecking order, play for hours unsupervised around many corners of many buildings.

As the pack of monkeys, chattering in high pitched screaming voices, scurried along farther and farther from their doting mothers' eyes, they were regarded with icy disdain by the jockeys. Being of the baboon herd, the jockeys were close in physical stature with the screaming pack swinging through the trees, but their wizened wrinkled faces showed their supreme wisdom and age.

They were not all old, but wrinkles reigned supreme throughout this pack, through the stress of their existence. Being a jockey was no easy life for a baboon. Day in and day out, they raced. They galloped, they warmed up, they groomed, and they mucked out. But more than anything, they raced. And hey, they won big time: medals, trophies, plaques. But did they get the fame and glory? No. Was it the hippos, the monkeys, the birds? No. It was the bloody horses, of all godforsaken animals!

In between races, while the jockeys were shunted off to sit on the grass, and given cold sandwiches and warm beer, the horses stalked mincingly to their Hollywood caravan style stables. There, in the style of the true Prima Donna celebrity, they whinnied commands and snorted complaints, and their every need was catered for: sweet oats, fresh hay, water at the perfect temperature, and they were groomed adoringly. The horses, I noticed with a flash of inspiration, as I picked my way among the herds, were the only people of the lot.

That was my first horse race. I enjoyed it thoroughly - the excitement, the drama, the adventure of it all. Who won did you say? No idea, I wasn't watching the horses!

Nellie English (Lyttelton, U6th)



SIR GOBO TAKES ON THE COOK'S THEOLOGICAL CONCLAVE WITHIN THE NAMING COMMISSION. PART ONE

There was a town, simply called – 'The Town'. It had been built a long time ago, but was still referred to as 'The Town'. Although a naming committee existed, it was difficult to name the town owing to petty squabbles and rivalry. In fact, the task was almost completed by the end of the week; however, at the end of the week is the weekend. In other words everybody gets smashed. So at the beginning of the following week they would start again – and so would never really get round to it.

The structure of bureaucracy in the town consisted of the Naming Commission and the Culinary Service for the Naming Commission. There was not much of a law in the town. Seeing as nobody had got past the naming of the town, they hadn't yet moved on to laws. The only rule – generally considered to be the universal rule of the whole universe - is that everybody hates Mondays. In fact, the town's theologians, who were also cooks who 'theorised', as they called it, were in doubt as to the existence of Mondays, in general. The reason for this was very logical. Most of Sunday was spent in bed. Either they were knocked out, or so helpless that they could neither move nor think. By the time they had recovered on Monday, The Cooks Theological Conclave within Culinary Service for the Naming Commission were in doubt of the existence of Monday, for if Sunday's existence was in doubt, so was Monday's - in fact, following a logical thought pattern, so was every day. However, because of the one rule - that everyone hates Mondays - and the general thought that Tuesdays were rather pleasant, the Cooks Theological Conclave within Culinary Service for the Naming Commission's (CSNC) main objective was to provide enough evidence to abolish Mondays altogether. Unfortunately the theologians were wrong' there was one exception in the universe: Sir Gobo loved Mondays.

Sir Gobo was a strange creature; he was a goblin. His title was self-styled; he was in fact the sheriff of the town and liked to believe he was very important. In fact he was sheriff of a town, which had no name and no laws. So he didn't really have much to do. He was the strangest goblin of a large goblin community. All the other days of the week caused Gobo to feel damn depressed, apart from Mondays.

Gobo was ugly. All goblins are like this (and strictly conform to all stereotypical views) but Gobo was actually greedy, arrogant and repulsive. I mean hideously repulsive. This is not a gross misplacement of hyperbole. In fact he resembled the bottom of a hippopotamus *giganticarticus* – a creature that grazes near the town that does not even look remotely like a hippopotamus, but just miraculously happens to have an almost identical name. However, it is most definitely bigger and fatter than a hippo; in addition its front end is positively uglier than its rear end. Due to this disfigurement they close their eyes when drinking water and, as a result, often fall in and drown, or end up slightly mucky. They also stick their heads in the dirt when another of the species is close; they find themselves that disgusting.

Take this hippopotamus *giganticarticus*, cover it in bulbous pubescent warts, simmer in primeval soup, paint sickly green and reduce to a quarter of the size and you have Sir Gobo. Not surprisingly, Gobo was rejected, given the strict guidelines of Goblin society: to provide a decent breed that would look disgusting enough to put you off your food, but not so disgusting that you would be sick. In this fashion the Goblins would be able to serve the same plates of food to different people without globs of puke on them. You might think that because of this effect the Naming Commission never ate - since it is the Goblins who are the waiters for the CSNC - as they would constantly be put off their food. And yes, they never did eat, voluntarily anyway. They were force-fed by the Goblins, which seeming a horrible task to the other residents of the town, was gladly taken up by the Goblins. In fact, they hugely enjoyed it, being a bunch of sadistic bastards. Their whole position was actually a ploy – the force-feeding of the Naming Commission. However, Gobo was of the 'I would serve you food but you'll be sick' category. He therefore was rejected by the Goblin society. He didn't even live with his mother.

Humphrey Wood (Chandos, U6th)





Pic: Leo Gauvain



Pic: Leo Gauvain

LACROSSE REPORT 2007/08

Lacrosse has moved forward again and again over the past couple of years at Stowe but the feeling was that this year it needed to see something special. Much anticipation surrounded the arrival of our first lacrosse scholars and seeing how our home grown talent would perform when the opportunity was given.

1st Team:

Chloe Crisp (captain) and Katherine McNamara (vice) took on the role of leading a team that brimmed with potential. With our senior players having the experience of a tour in the US last year and a strong induction of players in the lower sixth, including, for the first time, lacrosse scholars, the outlook for the season was very good. Pre-season was of a high standard and our performance in the now traditional Berkhamstead 8's demonstrated Stowe's potential being delivered.

After recording victories over Haileybury and Malvern College early in Michaelmas term, the first big challenge of the season came when Stowe travelled to Cheltenham Ladies College followed by another road trip to St Helen's & St Katherine's school. These games were tough and the team recorded back to back losses however the team played very well and learned a lot from the experience which produced momentum for the Midlands Tournament on October 6th.

Tournament play had been a struggle for Stowe in recent times but the good showing at the pre-season eights and a tough but hard working start to the season gave the team a lot to be confident about. The confidence spoke volumes as all that separated Stowe from the title was a one goal losses to the Champions St Helen's & St Katherine's. A memorable 2-2 draw with Buckinghamshire county arch-rivals Wycombe Abbey being the highlight of the day.

The rest of Michaelmas term saw Stowe go on a winning streak over schools like Alice Ottley, Marlborough College and Uppingham.

Victoria Elliott, Chloe Crisp, Sophie Loyd, Katherine McNamara, Lucy de Roeper and Georgia Lowther all were selected to the Buckinghamshire county lacrosse team which won the Midlands county championship. In all Stowe finished the Michaelmas term with much to be proud of but confident it could do more in the upcoming Lent term.

The Lent term was set up with the most challenging fixture list Stowe has ever had. St Swithins, Downe House, Wycombe Abbey, St Helen's & St Katherine's and the National Schools Tournament at Sherborne School for Girls. Over the two day tournament, Stowe produced winning records on both days but notable games included a 1-1 tie with Berkhamstead on Friday and a 3-0 victory over Farr Cup winners St Paul's on Saturday.

As for the home and away games St Swithins, Downe House and St Helen's & St Katherine's proved slightly too strong for Stowe to overcome but the last game of the season was a different matter.

Well established in the world of lacrosse in Buckinghamshire and nationally, Wycombe Abbey School has long been an adversary that the 1st team has been keen to defeat. That chance came on Saturday March 15th 2008 when Stowe hosted Wycombe for the first time in a home fixture. The game could not have been scripted and played any better. Every member of the team did their job to a standard that bought a famous victory for lacrosse at Stowe. When the final whistle blew Stowe had lead the game from start to finish and recorded not just a victory but the achievement of a set ambition for the season. The togetherness of the team in victory is something none of the team members or coaches will forget.....

Captain for 2008/09: Victoria Elliott

Lacrosse

2ND TEAM:

Senior players Jess Waddington, Rosie Chance and Chloe Ballantine formed a nucleus of the most successful 2nd lacrosse team to represent Stowe. Only losing two games over the entire season as well as supplying a constant stream of players up into the 1st team the 2nd's more than did their job this year. Very much unheralded throughout the year the members of the 2nd team should all be extremely proud of what they achieved.



JUNIORS:

The 2007/08 junior lacrosse season was nothing short of an amazing achievement by all the girls involved. Stowe ran an under 15 team, two under 14 teams and even on two occasions ran an under 16 team.

Jose Brake was an outstanding captain of the under 15 team which produced another winning season. The success of the under 15s trickled up the ranks and saw four girls represent the 1st team at National Schools: Francesca Hutt, Zara Nichols, Rebecca Elliott and Jose Brake.

Charlotte Philips led her under 14A team to an undefeated season in the home and away fixtures as well as very strong showings at the Midlands and National Schools tournaments.

The under 14Bs also produced an excellent season and finished a very credible 6th place in the Midlands Tournament, just one place behind the Stowe under 14A team.

In each of the three years of junior lacrosse being played at Stowe every team has produced a winning record - an excellent achievement!

Mr Damien Orr



Pic: Leo Gauvain



Pic: Leo Gauvain



Dominic Woods, Pat Ramsey, Will Walker, Stefan Rogge, Nickleby Evans

GOLF

"You ask, what is our aim? I can answer in one word: it is victory, victory at all costs, victory in spite of terror, victory, however long and hard the road may be ..." Winston Churchill May 13th, 1940

THE GOLF SEASON STRADDLES THE WINTER MONTHS and Stoics are afforded the chance to play matches against rising stars from similar schools on many superb courses. The aim is always to compete to the very best of our ability; as a team, this year, we have fallen short of victory on each occasion ... individual triumphs have been many and outstanding shots have been played, but overall victory has eluded us.

In March, five Stoic golfers set off to Woking for their annual attempt to retain the much coveted Micklem Trophy. We knew that the task would be hard as some of the other schools' players were related to current European Tour players ... one school, for example, had five players with handicaps of 3 or better! Stowe

played some excellent golf and in our first round match against Charterhouse three of the five matches finished on the 18th green. It was a very close encounter but results did not go our way, which was frustrating, and then we went on to lose to a strong Eton side the following day as well.

There has been no lack of determination this year, nor lack of enjoyment, but consistency has been in short supply. With a wonderful facility on our doorstep at Stowe it is a shame that we cannot hone our skills more successfully and take on our opponents more confidently. Coaching at Buckingham has proved as popular as ever and plenty of boys have learned to play this year. Colours were awarded to Pat Ramsey and William Walker.

Senior Golf Team from: Pat Ramsey (Captain), Stefan Rogge, Nickleby Evans, Will Walker, Dominic Woods, Jack Rose, Jack Palmer, Hugh Gallie, Charles Price, Alex Savage.

Mr Richard Knight

CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING

There has been real enthusiasm and dedication this year from all our shooters. The sessions on Wednesday and Friday afternoon have been well attended (in whatever weather), and they are run by our three local coaches, Mssrs Lockwood, Harris and Spademan, who come in from outside.

Our team captain has been Ed Cutting (Walpole), with Dominic Woods (Chatham) as vice-captain.

The highlight of the season came in the spring term, when, on Saturday 8 March, we took a team to the Warwick Schools Challenge. This is an annual competition which Stowe has won twice, once in the 80's and last year (2007). Warwick School, the hosts, having won it seven times in the last ten years, are always strong favourites.



This year, there was a strong field, with twelve teams taking part from schools across England. I am delighted to say that we won it again this year, for the second year running, bringing the shield away just a few hours after having handed it back! The Stowe team scored 184 out of 250, beating the second-placed team by nearly twenty points.

The five members of our team were:

Ed Cutting (captain) (score 39/50)

Dominic Woods (39/50)

Jamie Robson (39/50)

Nick Ugland (34/50)

Richard Hay (33/50)

Ironically, it was our reserve, Alex Robertson, who shot as an individual, who top-scored with 40 out of 50. Before the end of the year, we hope to have further shooting fixtures against Marlborough and Cokethorpe.

Mr Peter Staples

CHESS CLUB

In addition to our loyal 3rd and 4th Formers, the club is also pleased to welcome as a regular member, Anna Brodskaya, who won the play-off game against Natalie McDaid for the club championship. Both Anna and Natalie, together with Anton Melnikov (4th Form), represented Stowe in the UK Chess Challenge regional megafinal, held at Wycombe High School on 12th May. All three played stoutly, Anna and Natalie winning a trophy for being the best placed girls in their category. These two L6th Lytteltonians, in addition to Thea Dorenberg, will give Lyttelton House formidable strength on boards one to three in next month's Inter-House Chess Tournament. Lyttelton have won the competition in the previous two years. Nonetheless, it is not a forgone conclusion, as there are some strong players in the boys' houses.



Natalie McDaid, Anton Melnikov and Anna Brodskaya

Mr Steven Thompson

Polo

STOWE POLO HAS, ONCE AGAIN, had a fantastic year. With the Winter Arena season well behind us, the wins and losses are still with us, including one fantastic match against Radley and a rather more disappointing one against Bloxham. However, along came the SUPA National Tournament, and Stowe finished 8th in the Top Division. Although two places lower than last year we are still proud of our achievements at the National Level.

The summer has now started, and, so far this season, we have had two matches. Due to poor weather, we have not been able to play as many chukkas as we would like, but we are assured summer is well on its way. The first match of this season was a 1st team match against Cheltenham College, widely recognised as the best school team in the country. A team consisting of Will Randall-Coath (Captain), Ludo de Ferranti and Harry Raikes went out, unfortunately still in the arena, and managed to draw 10-10 against one of the most formidable teams in the UK. The 2nd team, of Will Walmsley (Captain), Dom Woods, Olivia Robinson and Max Dodd-Noble went out against Shrewsbury, and for the first time in the season outdoors, and won 8-2½, with some lovely play from all, but especially Woods. Olivia, of course, is the first female Stoic to represent the school in matches and she has formidable talent which augurs well for future successes.

We look forward to another successful summer season with many school and national matches before the end of the summer term. The three U6 leavers: Billy Jackson-Stops, myself and Ludo de Ferranti, will make their last but exciting appearances for Stowe A team this summer, ably supported by the Berner brothers.

Sadly, Mr Robinson will no longer be able to be Master i/c Polo because of his duties as Deputy Head though he will continue to support Stowe's Polo teams. More positively, we welcome Alex Hancock (O.S.) to be our Stowe coach, mentor and organiser in chief and we look forward to many successful matches under his guidance.

Will Randall-Coath (Bruce, U6th)



WILL RANDALL-COATH WAS AWARDED The Duval Cup by the Schools & Universities Polo Association for commitment to schools' polo, services to the running of Stowe Polo and politeness and sportsmanship both on and off the field. He has been a marvellous Captain of Polo who has always ensured that the School team represents all that is the best of Stoics - polite, writing letters of thanks to the Headmasters of schools whom we have played, talking relaxedly with fellow polo players, teachers, parents and teenagers alike. He has been a great support and guide to me and I wish him well in his polo career.

Mr Crispin Robinson

Riding

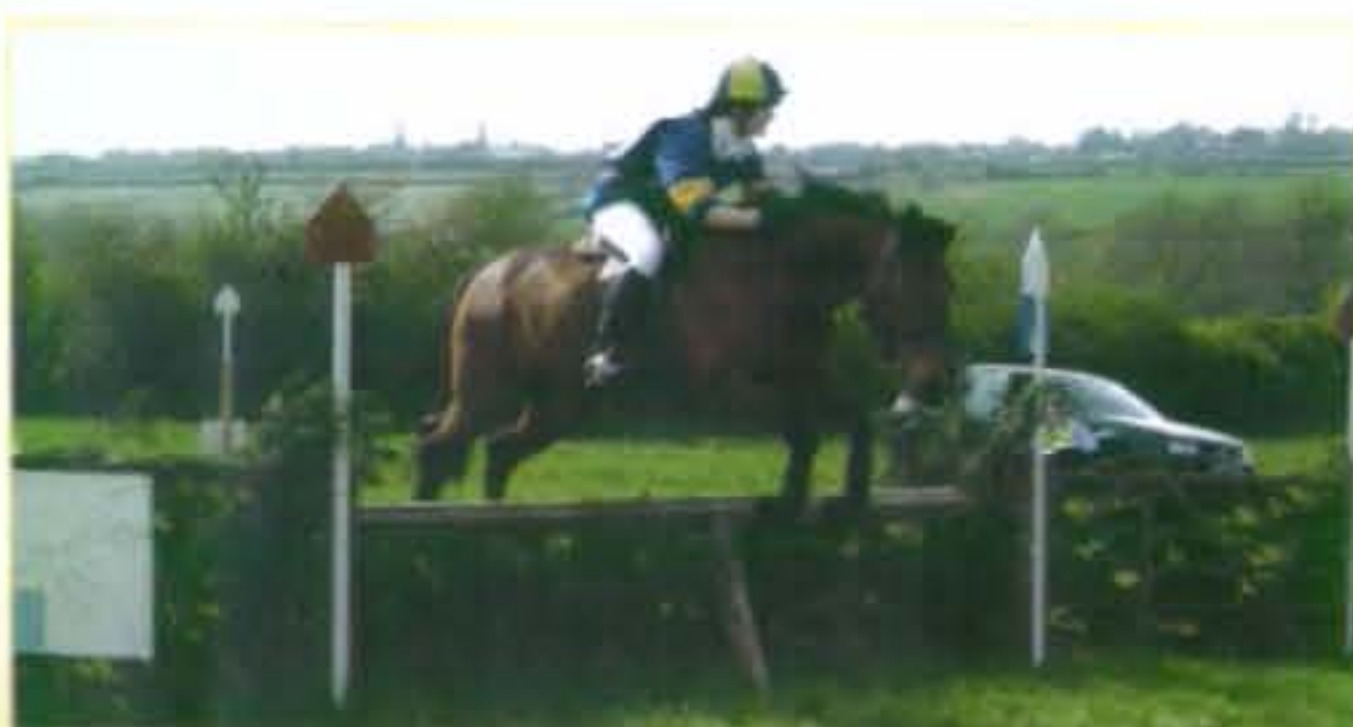
STOWE'S EVENTING TEAM MADE ITS DEBUT at the National Schools Cross Country Competition held at Gawcott on Monday 5th May. Thirty one school teams from a wide area competed over a tough course at Primrosehill Farm.

The aim of the competition was to clear all the 24 fences taking as many as possible of the large bonus options to score maximum points. It was also important to go through the timed gate section quickly.

The team was made up of Filly Wadlow, Charlotte Cook, Taisie Grant and Jessica White. With the best three scores to count, Stowe scored maximum bonus points and good gate timings which put them in third place, narrowly beaten by Uppingham Community College and Bloxham.

At the prize giving it was mentioned that the organiser's father, old Stoic, Mr L Strangman (on whose land the competition takes place) was particularly pleased to see a Stowe team taking part.

Filly Wadlow (Queen's, L6th)



Stoic



The J18 quad at the National Schools Sculling Head at Henley



Conor Curtis and Hugh Gallie training at training camp in Ireland



Jack Clubb 3rd form cox racing at Cambridge Junior sculls

WITH ROWING NOW IN ITS THIRD YEAR AT STOWE, our performances promised to reflect the progress made in the squad given the improvements in resources and experience.

The Senior Quad was back with 4 out of 5 of last year's crew taking to the water. After a preparation aimed at developing individual skills and fitness, we finished 3rd and 4th at Pangbourne in the Junior 18 Double sculls events.

Over the Christmas break, the Senior Squad went on a training camp to Ireland where time was spent training with Trinity College Dublin, who kindly let us use their boats for the duration of the trip. The squad rowed between 20-25 miles each day and Chandos matron Claire Hill-Hall provided sustenance of the gourmet variety during breaks.

On our return, our next event was the Cambridge Junior Sculls, where the J18 double (Hugh Gallie and Conor Curtis) won their event. In March our main event was the National Schools Head of the River at Henley. We have never competed in this event and it is the Premier event nationally for both schools and clubs. Stowe proved that we becoming a force to be considered by the bigger clubs, finishing fifth out of the 16 rowing schools.

In May, the Ball Cup held at Eton Rowing Lake (The site for the 2012 Rowing and Canoeing Olympics), we put out our biggest ever squad, including J14's, J15's, J16's and J18's. We had some very encouraging results including a 3rd place in the J14 coxed quads, 3rd in the J18 doubles and our best ever performance, winning the premier event the J18 coxless quads (Curtis, Gallie, Matthew Williamson and Jonathan Wale).

With only the latter part of the Summer Term left, we have still to compete at Bedford Star and Peterborough, with the hope of yet more good results.

News on the development side, our base at Northampton Rowing Club is about to commence the rebuilding of the old boathouse. This will allow better room for boat storage, as well as an ergometer room, showers and a meeting room and will hopefully be ready for the start of the Michaelmas term.

I have great hopes for our present 3rd Form, who are making excellent progress and we have sufficient numbers to produce some good crews in the future. Their recent performance in the Ball Cup was encouraging and with continued training we should be able to produce a crew that will compete at the highest level.

Finally, a special thanks to Rod Tait, Dr Liz Chare, Alan Longworth and Lydia Ogilvie for their help in coaching this year.

Mr Michael Righton

Sailing

The sailing team has proved a cheerful and determined crew who have worked hard to achieve success. They performed respectably in the Eastern Championships of the British Schools Dinghy Racing Association at Middle Nene Sailing Club, with one win and two losses before races were abandoned from lack of wind. This placed them about 11th out of 15 teams, including some of the strongest in the country. Some of the team found the windy conditions against Rugby difficult. In more manageable conditions against Bloxham, however, they succeeded in winning with a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in the third race. They were also able to show team tactics in dealing with the leading opposition boat.

Pippa Russell has been an assured captain and deserved her wins in both the Housematches, ably supported by Anna Jackson also in the Nugent U6th, and in the individual Helmsman's Tankard. It is interesting that this year's team includes someone from every year-group in the school and is fully mixed.

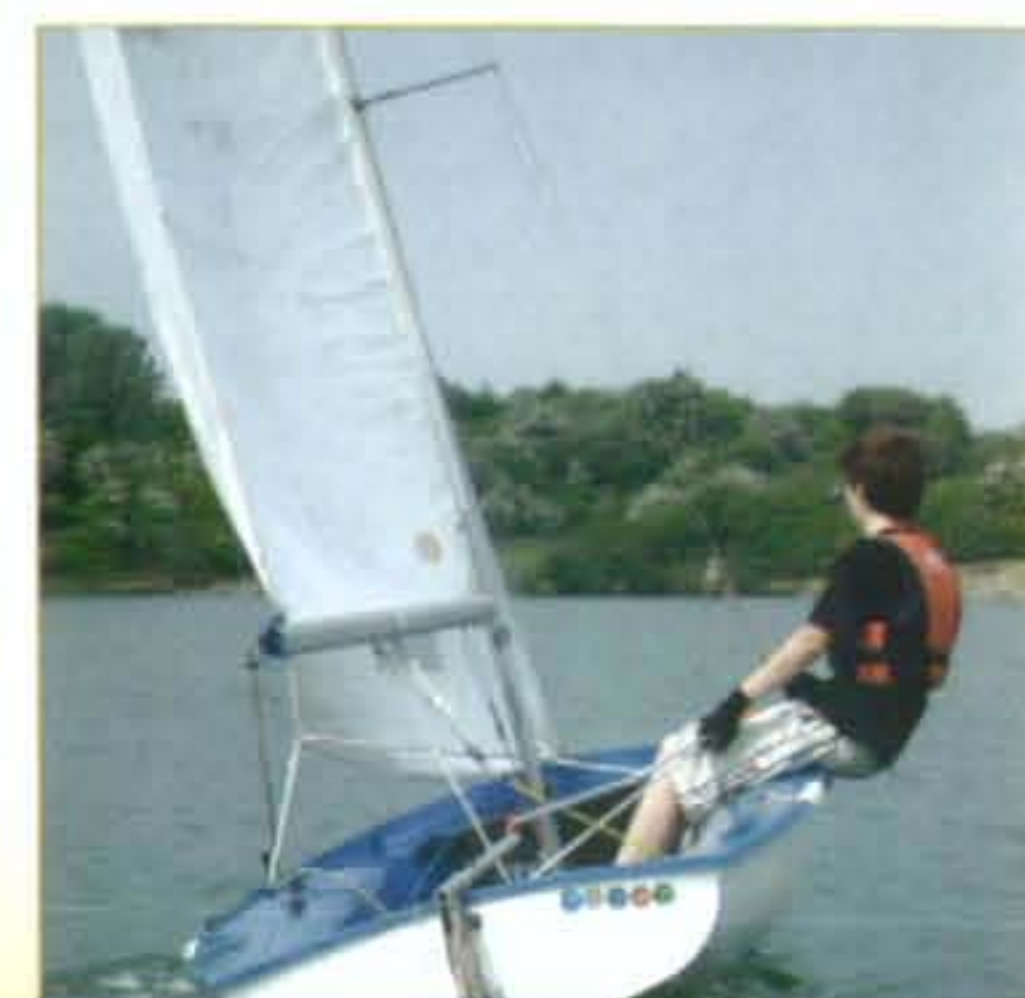
I am again grateful for the invaluable support of Stephen Hirst, David Critchley and Rod Tait.

Housematches: Nugent
The Helmsman's Tankard: Pippa Russell
Team from: Pippa Russell, Anna Jackson, Xandie Trevor, Euan Welsh, Freddie Vere Nicoll, Jeronimo Villar, Albie Mackintosh.
Results: Rugby: 0-2, BSDRA Easterns: 11/15; Bloxham: 2-1.

Mr Michael Bevington



Daisy Simpson and Daniel Capurro (his first time!)



Freddie Vere Nicoll



Badminton

THE 2007 SEASON FOR THE BADMINTON TEAMS has been a great experience. Very few matches resulted in an overall win but the team spirit still remained afloat. The captains, Harry Benyon and Gabriela Fidanova, worked very hard to ensure that there was always a team to represent the school for every match. I am very grateful to them and their commitment.

Late in the term we were lucky enough to find a coach to start helping our play improve, targeting the weak spots that gave the opposition the winning edge. He is a young man in the U6th at The Royal Latin and has done all the appropriate qualifications to be a coach as well as prepare for his A levels. I would like to thank Krishan Talsania very much for all his help. He will be off to university next year but will be able to join us for the start of the season in Autumn, 2008.

The captains for next year are Rachael Millard and Craig Browne. Many thanks to all the boys and girls who attended the sessions and special thanks to Mr Simon Dobson for his efforts in organising the girls' squad.

Mrs Kim McMahon



I-r: Alex Savage, Billy Harvey, Harry Benyon (2008 captain), Jack Simpson, Craig Browne (2009 captain).



Fives

FOR THE PAST TWO TERMS, FIVES HAS CONTINUED its resurrection within the school. New Third Formers gained experience of the game in House introductory lessons with the coach, Mark Herring. The usual players also gained more experience under Mark on Friday afternoons. The result of all these training sessions has been a significant improvement in the 1st pair (Jonty Irving, captain, and Isi Madojemu) and the production of an extremely talented pair of third form players (Arthur Hobhouse and Theo Gregson). The loss of Tristan Cooke from the team at the beginning of the season was a blow to the team, and he has been sorely missed.

The team also continued its style of match play from last year, focusing more on gaining experience from more developed teams and enjoying the matches, rather than winning them. This year, the team has played home and away fixtures with Eton, King Edward's Birmingham, Lancing, St Olave's, QES Barnet, Summerfields and The Old Stoics. Stowe pairs have also been involved in The 'Aldenham Tournament', the 'Eton National Fives Ladder Competition' and the Nationals (where the 1st pair were knocked out by Berkhamsted in the second round).

Jonty Irving (Bruce, L6th)



Jonty Irving and Isi Madojemu

Basketball

SENIOR BASKETBALL

Played 10 Won 7 Lost 3 Points for: 542 Points against: 400

Stowe's U18 basketball team began the season attempting to replicate the exemplary form of last year's team by going the whole season unbeaten. In the opening match against Haileybury, Sam Hunter began to show his potential as not only a scorer but as a leader, as the team fought hard to record a 45-21 victory. Mr Michael, aka Coach Carter, described the game as "physically demanding" and suggested that the team was going to have to "work hard all season if they were to emulate last year's success".

The second game of the season saw Coach Carter gather some new recruits to the team to take on a heavily improved Rugby team. Debutants Michael Platts-Martin, Nick Du Bois De Montule (both in 4th form), James Fraser and Patrick Ramsey all had good games but it was the more experienced skills of Jamie Hirst and captain Sam Hunter who showed their talents by scoring 19 and 21 points respectively. The following weeks saw the team record a further two victories over Pangbourne and Akeley Wood in closely fought matches. There were good performances from Ollie Ayoub and James Fraser who shared the point guard position in both matches due to injury to key player Jamie Hirst.

The team had made an impressive start to the season and were looking cohesive but they were aware of the threats that their next opponents, Bedford, held. Bedford started the match strongly and used height and speed to gain the lead. Stowe fought back and showed good spirit and determination especially from Adam Clitheroe and Giles Hoare working the boards and supplying the ball to Hirst to lead an attack to come within two points of Bedford. Unfortunately a lapse in concentration and some poor discipline allowed Bedford to secure victory.

After a narrow loss to a strong Bradfield side, Stowe then faced a strong Uppingham side but were the victors in a pulsating match, 84-73. Captain incredible Sam Hunter played the game of his life, scoring a magnificent 57 points, smashing the previous record of highest points scored in a match by any Stoic. In the next match Stowe capitalised on the renewed spirit and continued the winning run by beating Oakham 78-41 in a comfortable victory that saw the whole team bar one player get on the score sheet - sorry Ayoub! Unfortunately, the season ended with a narrow loss to Eton.

The senior members would like to extend their gratitude to Coach Carter and a certain referee from down under (Mr Oldham) for their dedicated time and coaching and for making the season enjoyable. The senior members of the team leave with their heads held high and with confidence in the younger members of the squad to continue Stowe's good basketball record, with particular attention sure to be paid to the upcoming talents of Andre Van, Ben Manser, and George Gvilava. Colours were also awarded to the senior members of the team, they were Jamie Hirst, Giles Hoare, Pat Ramsey, Adam Clitheroe and James Fraser. Sam Hunter had already been awarded his colours last year having represented the team on a regular basis.

James Fraser (Walpole, U6th)

JUNIOR BASKETBALL

Played 4 Won 2 Lost 2 Points for: 134 Points against: 133

After early losses to Bedford and Bradfield, the juniors continued to show an impressive rate of development during training and in victories over a team made up of members from the senior squad. This proved the perfect preparation for a 56-20 defeat of Oakham. During this dominant display, guards Mark Ioannou and Brad Kim distributed the ball superbly and Alex Webster was helped to a team high 24 points, shooting an amazing 75% from the field. Champ Panyarachun turned in another impressive performance (14 points).

The junior side then defeated Eton 39-34, largely based on three spirited (if intermittent) bursts. Miles Warden looked ready to dominate the match but foul trouble restricted him to 10 points in just 23 minutes. Panyarachun continued his superb season (15 points, six steals) and Ioannou and Kim were dedicated in their efforts to pressure Eton's ball-handlers; John Carter started for the first time and grabbed some useful rebounds; Mika Vinokurov put in another determined effort and James Elliott, Charles Gafferri, Ivo Nenkov and Rory Hay all proved that they are ready for more court time.

Stowe finished the season with consecutive victories, a testament to their exponential improvement that has made them a pleasure to coach.

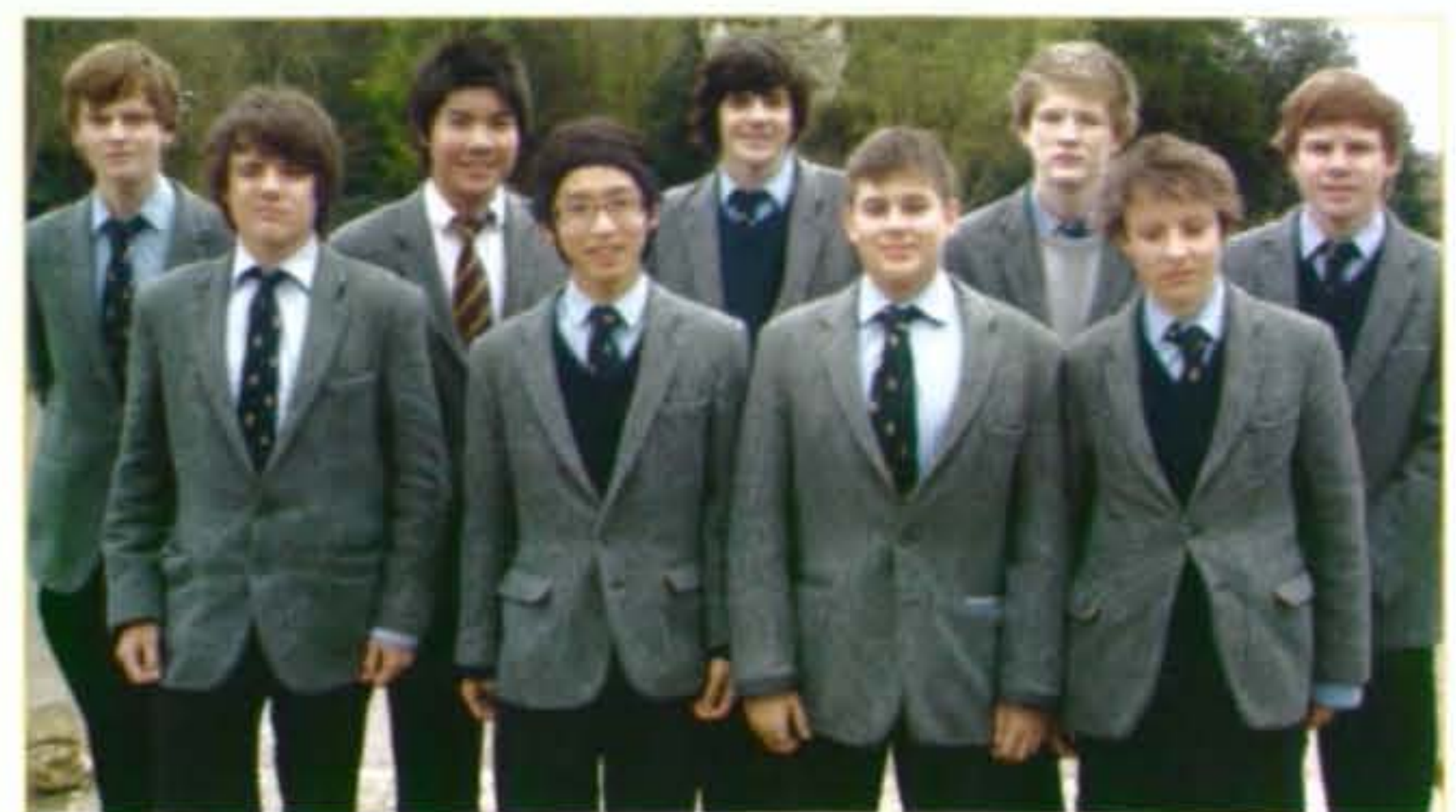
Mr Gordon Oldham

© R & H Chapman Photography



PLAYER AWARDS:

Most Valuable Player:	Sam Hunter
Best Offensive player:	Sam Hunter
Best Defensive player:	Ollie Ayoub
Most Improved players:	Pat Ramsey & Adam Clitheroe
Special Awards:	Spasimir Vladimirov (table officiating) James Fraser Jamie Hirst



PLAYER AWARDS:

Most Valuable Player:	Champ Panyarachun
Best Offensive player:	Alex Webster
Best Defensive player:	Miles Warden
Most Improved players:	Mark Ioannou, Ed Borland
Special Awards:	Brad Kim, James Elliott

Stoic

Squash 2007/2008

Squash has maintained its standing this academic year as both a competitive team sport and vibrant recreational activity.

For the team, the squash year at Stowe begins with winter training in the Michaelmas term. As always, a dedicated core of Stoics across the entire age-range of the school attended weekly training with our visiting professional during the long winter evenings.

This year Stowe was proud to field both a senior and junior side, although it was more difficult to find opponents at the junior level. The senior team ended the season with a credible 4 wins out of 7 matches played. The geographical position of Stowe allows us to encounter a range of opponents. The 1st V lined up against some fearsome opposition (the Bedford side proved a real challenge, although Stowe's players put up a highly commendable fight). Other matches allowed our top players to dominate, with the juniors showing excellent promise for next year.

Squash colours were awarded to the two players who captained the side during the season – Kit Dickinson and Josh Sainsbury-Bow. However, all the regular players in the squad deserve special mention for their commitment, expertise, enthusiasm and above all their sense of decency and fair play in what can be a tense sport.

Those players who took part as regulars in the team include Tom Wilson (unbeaten during the season), Petko Pishinov, Alexey Grabarnik, James Saunders, Daniel Robinson, Hugh Stanley and Jessica Noakes.

The recreational side of the game has flourished at Stowe, and it has been pleasing to see so many Stoics pick up a racquet for the first time and find enjoyment of the game at a range of ability levels. The squash department is happy to lend players a racquet to get them started, and the number of new players who find a genuine enthusiasm for the sport after a few sessions is always surprising.

A number of new players also requested technical coaching in order to further their game – a sure sign of increased participation for the future! It is a feature of the squash department that coaching is available by arrangement throughout the year, and that entry to the team trials and training sessions is open to all. Squash is an easy game to start, but technical proficiency takes dedication.

Next year's season promises to be full of new challenges and opportunities. Plans for the 2008/ 2009 season include entering a team for an open schools' tournament and also a trip to either the British Open or a Masters Tournament to see how it really should be done!



I-r. Alexey Grabarnik, Daniel Robinson, Kit Dickinson, Jess Noakes, Petko Pishinov, Hugh Stanley, Mr Roland Johnson

Mr Roland Johnson

Football



This has been a fine season for football at Stowe – not only in terms of competitive matches but also the general high quality of performance and positive attitude shown by scores of boys during frequent afternoon activity sessions as well as various inter-House competitions.

1st XI highlights include a hard-fought 5-4 win against an enthusiastic and fast-improving Old Stoic XI as well as a 15 goal thriller which saw the team defeated 9-6 by a much older and stronger Buckingham University side. Nevertheless, the team has played with great craft, industry and focus and have most certainly made great strides over the course of the season.

Top goal scorer for the 1st XI was Archie de Sales with six goals but a special mention must go to captain Charlie Roberts who, after making his first team debut in October 2005, has not missed a single game.

Mr Alan Murray



Pictures by Leo Gauvain (Grenville, 3rd)

Cross Country & Athletics

The Cross Country club has had a varied and interesting season. We are unusually placed in being eligible for both the South of England Schools Championships and the Midland and Northern Event. The club has competed in such diverse events as the Chiltern League, which is the biggest Cross Country league in the country with up to 1000 runners, right down to a mob match between just Harrow and ourselves.

Both the boys and girls teams finished their league campaign in 4th place in a division containing 18 clubs.

For those new to racing this term, such as Elena Kasche and Thomas Mathews, the relay events have provided a new challenge. At Coventry, our girls produced the 2nd best result ever by a Stowe team in 9th place; the boys were left to prop up the table in 33rd. However, in the last week of term the boys, in particular Hugo Harrison and Daniel Carvalho-Mobaraki, showed how much they had improved over the term, finishing 11th in the Malvern Hills.

The girls' run at Wellington was the outstanding performance of the term, with particular thanks to Rosanna Hedley and Zara Nichols who added the extra numbers needed to complete the team. We came home in the silver medal position having led for much of the race.

In the various championship races the boys have battled valiantly, led from the front by captain Monty Lewis and Tom Osborne, making a real improvement as the term has gone on but the girls have always been up near the front battling for top places. Here again the girls team have been lucky to have both Octavia Trevor and Natalie McDaid prepared to give up their Sundays to help out when needed.

At Harrow, for the former event, Laura Grossick had a great run to finish as the 15th individual and lead the team to 10th spot overall. The MANISCCC race was run on a flooded course that turned to a muddy swamp with a gale blowing on the exposed sections. Liz Eden led from the front on this occasion with an excellent top 10 individual placing helping the team to a terrific 6th place overall. The boys again battled bravely with solid runs from long time club members Nickolai Ugland, Xandie Trevor and Andrew Consett. With no drop outs from our eight we were amongst a small group of just six schools to finish a complete squad, if a little further down the field than in past years.



Pictures: Roy Ottaway

AWARDS

The Hugh Cairns Trophy for the best trainer goes to **Tom Osborne**
The GLP trophy for the best runner of the term goes to **Laura Grossick**

Colours were awarded to:

Laura Grossick, Liz Eden, Elena Kasche, Monty Lewis, Xandie Trevor, Nickolai Ugland, Andrew Consett and Daniel Carvalho-Mobaraki



Pictures: Leo Gauvain

HOUSE CROSS COUNTRY (Individual)

- Junior - **Henry Stockdale** (Bruce)
- Junior - **Octavia Trevor** (Lyttleton)
- Inter - **Sam Sheperd-Baron** (Grafton)
- Senior - **Samson Steiger-White** (Cobham)
- Senior - **Laura Grossick** (Lyttleton)
- Overall winners - **Chandos**

HOUSE ATHLETICS

Junior	Cobham	Queen's
Inter	Cobham	Queen's
Senior	Cobham	Lyttelton
Overall	Cobham	Lyttelton



Pictures: Leo Gauvain



Stoic

1st XI

It was a tough term for senior hockey as for the first time this season there were Colts teams running along side the already existing 1st, 2nd and 3rd XI. This perhaps took away some of our previous strength in depth, however it did mean that the U16s could remain together for one more season's development together before stepping up next year to join the senior sides. It was a great season for the U16s who look more than capable of joining the current 1st XI for next years 1st XI - some of them having debuted right at the close of the season and looking impressive which bodes very well for the future.

The 1st XI played some excellent hockey at times this term but inconsistency and some tougher than usual opposition meant that results often didn't reflect the hockey played. Captain Harry Wolrige Gordon led by example and was the player of the season giving his all every game and scoring some important goals including a sweet strike into the roof of the net away at Shiplake. Archie de Sales la Terriere stepped up from 2nd XI last season and became an electric 1st team forward, scoring many goals including a brilliant half volley against Repton. Richard Lamb must also receive praise for a rock solid season at the back, never giving his man an easy game.

Oli Tett missed much of the season through injury and his experience of playing 1st team defence was clearly missed. However, watch out for names like Ben Smith and Freddie Forrester who were crucial first team players with a year still to go as well as new addition Nickleby Evans. We'll be looking at these and others to step up and lead the team next year.

Despite a less than perfect season, it has still been over three years since the 1st XI lost to rivals Teddy's and there were some top performances, notably a fine first half display against possibly the best U18 side in the country and a superb come back against Stamford to win 4 - 2 having trailed 0 - 2 at half time.

Thanks to all those involved, and we wish the leavers good luck for the future.

Mr Richard Pickersgill & Mr Walsh-Woolcott



New Astroturf

2008 saw the completion of the second Astroturf. This facility will provide a much needed coaching and playing opportunity for all the Stoics involved in hockey. It has been completed to National League standard and the development has allowed us to incorporate a new seating area for spectators. We hope that this fabulous facility will allow us to progress our hockey provision at Stowe still further. Many thanks to all those who donated money and made this project possible.

2nd XI

Like the Curate's Egg, this was a season that can best be described as 'good in parts'. After a slow start with disappointing losses early in the term the progress picked up and peaked in a scintillating display against an unbeaten Oakham side. After a first half where our hockey was in parts sublime, a 4-1 lead was pegged back to 4-4, a state of affairs which required one of those magical sporting moments and the goal of the season with a minute to spare. Other notable highlights were the 5-1 thrashing of Shiplake alongside the equally dominant, if ultimately frustrating, 1-1 draw against Repton. Consistently good performances at the back from captain Henry Comer earned him a deserved call up to the 1st XI and the unabated attacking threat of Freddie Hall on the right also deserves a mention. Beautiful, passing hockey was the order of the term for the class of 2008 - even if finishing goals off and a more watertight defence might have secured more wins.

Mr Henry Swayne



National Success for Stoic

Abby Webb has played for South of England at U16 and U18 and was selected vice Captain of England at U16 the year before she came to Stowe in her sixth form. She has represented Bucks at U16, U18 and U21 and has recently been invited to England U18 trials.

Abby has shown incredible commitment to her Hockey this season by juggling boarding school life and competing at a high level. There could be no better role model for our 'sporty' younger students and indeed all our pupils.

Mrs Jayne Duckett

Pictures: Roy Ottaway

Hockey

COLTS

This was the first time the Stowe had put out an U16 team for a number of years. The thinking behind this is that it allows the boys another year of playing together as a team and working on developing cohesion within the group. If this year is anything to go on, then the next two years of hockey at the school will be very successful. The boys trained very hard and despite not really having strength in depth, we managed to cover all the positions on the pitch. The core of the team was the midfield partnership of Trotter and Shepherd-Barron. They are dynamic in attack and strong in defence and their efforts over the season led to both of them getting into the 1st team for the last few games. The defence was made up of Richardson, Johnson, Scott and Benyon and developed from the old school tacklers to being an attacking force on their own right. We had a revelation in goal, Miles McConnell, who came from nowhere to be close to the best keeper in the school and it was a shame that he season was cut short through injury.

Up front, we had a mix of guile and pace. Voorspuy and Kim were, at times, utterly ruthless and it was a delight to see them work together. Luke Rust was another find this season and he certainly made the most progress with his skills. Other players during the season were Childs, Knight, Sainsbury-Bow, Murphy, Ballantine and Clegg.

There were many good games over the season but two stood out. The 2-1 defeat of St Edward's was a fantastic result but the game in which the team showed the greatest fighting spirit and improved skills was the 5-5 draw against a very impressive Repton side. With ten minutes to go, Repton was ahead 5-3 with two minutes to go before Stowe captured an extraordinary draw in a brilliant match.

Mr Dominic Mochan



JUNIOR COLTS A

The Junior Colts A team faced a difficult season this year. After a number of defeats at Yearling level, it was over a year until they came back onto the Hockey pitch as Junior Colts. As a result we were slow to start and the traditional opening fixture against Bloxham proved too much. It was pleasing to see the spirit and determination the boys showed in the second half of this game, as Michael Platts-Martin and George Leslie-Melville forced the game into a tense finish. The next couple of games proved difficult too and despite excellent performances from Adam Qazi, Cameron Cox and Tom Wigan in defence, we ended up losing.

The highlight of the season was clearly our away game against Repton. On an excellent water based pitch against a very strong side, the JCAs played their best hockey of the year. Repton scored twice thanks to two outstanding pieces of individual skill by their centre forward. Player of the season Adam Qazi quelled the centre forward's influence and the team forged forward, snatching a consolation goal to create a more buoyant mood.

Geordie Wilkes was outstanding as captain for the whole season, acting as a tireless role model in midfield and rallying the team well in times of need. Up front, Nic Du Bois was always a threat, with excellent support from Hamish Barnes and 3rd Former Ben Housson. The midfield worked incredibly hard throughout the season, with special mention going to Will Berner, Gus Hopewell, and Louis Staden and goalkeepers George Corner and George Low did extremely well.

Mr Philip Arnold



Stoic

JUNIOR COLTS B

The Junior Colts Bs had a very successful season winning six matches, drawing one and losing three. The season got off to a bright start when we defeated Bloxham on the new astro pitch. Their coach described them 'as the best side he had ever had' so to go three nil up within the first 10 minutes was particularly pleasing. Overall it was the team work ethic that saw them through. Defensively, Will Cowley, Ashley O'Callen-Smith, Teddy Kealey and Nick Langridge were a solid quartet. The midfield changed regularly between Perske, Roe, Welford, Newman, Madojemu and Wigan, but special mention must go to Ben Housson who finished in the 'A' team despite playing up a year group. Hugh Stanley had a knack for scoring goals and his able wing man was Harry Hawkes who had a fine season. Overall, an enjoyable and rewarding season – well done to everyone who played.

Mr James Knaff



YEARLINGS A

Despite the Yearlings A struggling to get the desired results they developed well over the season. The team at times played some expansive pass and move hockey but it was a lack of consistency and a tendency to leak early goals that was our downfall. In difficult conditions they showed a huge level of commitment and promise that we look forward to seeing in the future as they progress up the teams at Stowe. The team was well led by Henry Rudd, and he was ably supported with top performances from Rob Hill, Jasper Simpkin and George Neville to name but a few.

Mr Richard Pickersgill

YEARLINGS B

The Yearlings B suffered from the age old problem of having too many players who were new to the game of hockey. Though they made steady progress throughout the year, they were always one step behind most of our opposition. However, there were some very pleasing performances. The 2-1 loss to Oundle was a great game and could have gone either way with 10 minutes remaining and the draw against Stamford was a nail-biter. The team was captained ably by Ben Rimmell with good support from Freddie Benyon and Archie Walters. A number of players to watch for the future emerged including Cameron Roberts and Dallas Brooks. I am sure that this group of players has the potential to do well in the future.

Mr Dominic Mochan

YEARLINGS C

A decent term though with few results of note. A 4-0 thumping of Stamford was the highlight of an unspectacular season. Consistently solid performances from Jack Palmer and high energy work rate from Ben Nichols in midfield provided some decent hockey at times. Much improvement seen and a constant desire to play passing hockey was pleasing.

Mr Henry Swayne



GIRLS DEVELOPMENT TEAM

The girls have also had a very successful Development Hockey Term. All five year groups were training together and played in mixed age group teams. The Development A team consisted mainly of lower 6th and 5th form girls, who were trying to improve their skills further, so as to gain a place in the Senior 1st or 2nd XI teams next year. The most memorable result of the season was beating Wycombe Abbey 8-1, in their penultimate match. The girls have really enjoyed learning skills from each other and having an additional term training and also in playing matches. Sarah Worssam was a very organised and enthusiastic Development A team Captain and was a fantastic role model for the younger age groups. Following on from the Lent term, we are hoping for a very successful and enjoyable pre-season training weekend and Michaelmas term, next academic year.

Miss Zoe Branford-White



Pictures: Roy Ottaway

Hockey

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GIRLS – U18

After a very successful pre-season, the girls 1st XI won in a tournament at Pangbourne College, beating Brighton High, Pangbourne and The Perse School. This was a very positive start for the commencing season and set very high standards, which the girls were keen to maintain. Under the coaching of Mr Way and Miss Branford White, and the captains Pippa Russell and Anna Jackson, the Girls 1st and 2nd XI went from strength to strength, playing similarly matched teams and set the future standard for Girls' Hockey at Stowe. Laura Grossick continues to go from strength to strength and Abby Webb has been a real asset to the team, setting up many of the goals. Monika Jurcic has been a consistent and determined goal keeper, who never panicked under pressure and prevented possible goals from the opposition, on the rare occasions that they were able to break through our strong defence. The U15 teams have also had a very promising season, learning a lot of new and highly technical skills from Miss Hooker.

Mr Matthew Way & Miss Zoe Branford-White



1st XI

GIRLS - U15

The Girls U15 side had a mostly winning season recording convincing victories over Oundle, Akeley Wood and the Royal Latin. All of the squad played their part and we were delighted to see Zara Nicholls and Jose Brake represent the County. Pinny Stuart-Mills, Octavia Trevor and Charlotte Cook were the girls from the 3rd form who played up a year. The girls proceed into the senior sides next year and should do well.

Miss Tracy Hooker

GIRLS - U14

The Junior Girls U14s A and B had a fantastic first season with both teams aiming for unbeaten seasons with only a few games to go. With two matches remaining, the As were undefeated but finished with losses to Teddy's and Bloxham, despite the most outstanding goalkeeping performance against Teddy's from Sarah Warner.

Lara De Keyser was the top goal scorer, her season haul included four against Pangbourne in a 6 - 0 win that also saw Emily Beaty score the goal of the season – an incredible half volley into the top corner from the top of the 'D'.

The Royal Latin were beaten 3 - 0 with Charlie Cook scoring once and co-captain Octavia Trevor netting two goals. Pinny Staurt-Mills, as co-captain, was outstanding all season and Izzy Kenny-Herbert and Imogen Voorspuy looked after the team when the skippers were away on U15 duty.

Well done to the rest of the squad; Maddie Webb, Harriet Easdale, Jess Noakes, Annabel Duthie and Lottie Philips who were all a pleasure to coach and will no doubt be a serious contender again next season in the County Cup which they did so well in this season.

Mr Walsh-Woolcott

The U14 B's had an excellent season losing only once to a particularly strong St Edward's team. Under the captaincy of Georgie Sladen they showed great tenacity and skilful techniques, often beating their opposition by healthy margins. Their 7-0 win over Marlborough College immediately springs to mind. The team had one of the most solid, if not smallest, defences with special mention going to Molly Davison. Harriet Goffman also proved to be a hard player to beat with her thumping on targets hits. The whole team deserves congratulating for their unfaltering spirit. Well done to all of the other girls: Emma Curley, Georgina Pilleau, Hannah Maxwell, Inca Curwen, Pippa Farr, Anna Carter, Tansy Boyd, Lucy Sewell, Yem Soper-Gwatidzo and Leonie Hearson.

Miss Vicki Edwards



Stoic

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1st XV

1st XV - P17 W4 L13 PF230 PA 291

This proved to be a very difficult season for the 1st XV, with schools who hadn't beaten us in 10 years coming through with their best sides and overturning Stowe.

I believe I bit off more than we could chew with our pre-season build-up. We took on St Benedict's Ealing and Merchiston Castle, who got to the English Daily Mail Cup Final and the Scottish Schools Cup Final respectively. These two schools had their best sides for 20 years and it set the tone for the season with Bloxham, Mill Hill and our local rivals Royal Latin producing their best sides for some time and causing shock results. This ambitious start to the season, I suspect, dented the team's confidence from which they never really recovered.

The Daily Mail draw meant that we played both Bloxham and the Royal Latin twice, and on both occasions these schools defeated Stowe. The first game of the season resulted in a disappointing display against Bloxham where their fly-half kicked them into a half-time lead and then tactically kept us away from their line. A better

and more upbeat performance came against Oakham away where we had chances to steel an away victory, but Pat Ramsay's sin binning cost the side dearly. A lacklustre performance at home to Mill Hill before exeat indicated that the season ahead was going to be a challenge for all concerned.

The first of two defeats to the Royal Latin, followed by reversals to Oundle and St Edwards, led to a shake up in selection for the Abingdon fixture just before half term. It brought about a more positive approach but some basic defensive errors cost us a much deserved and needed victory.

The shake up before half term injected some fire and passion into the side and the return to school brought about the best period of the season. Some positive Daily Mail Vase results and a win against the Oratory, who only lost three matches all season, and a return to form for Jamie Hirst demonstrated just what the side was capable of.

The side went to Loughborough in a more confident mood and put in one of their best performances of the season, but some indiscipline in the first half cost them penalties which proved crucial in a match badly affected by the wind and the side lost narrowly. Defeats to the Royal Latin, Uppingham and Bedford Modern concluded the season, where we competed until the end but lacked the cutting edge necessary to turn the result our way.

Of the boys departing in the pack, Pat Ramsay, Will Walker, Sam Hunter, Josh Hunter and Max Housson all contributed fully to the cause; however injuries and form dogged them at periods in the season. Jack Bartholomew won Player of the Year based mainly on his positive influence both by word and deed. Henry Corner led the side, which was quite a challenge this year. He never shied away from his task and was a popular choice, but too often he was left to manage the side single-handed, when he really needed more vocal and moral support from the many colleagues around him.

The backs were led by Vice-Captain Jamie Hirst, who found his true form after half term, and it was a problem filling his shoes after injury prevented him from finishing the season. In midfield, Harry Wolrige Gordon offered the threat of pace. Likewise Winston Reynolds posed a similar threat on the wing but rarely saw any quality ball. Giles Hoare had a physical edge to his game but lacked the speed to impose this quality. I hope all these boys continue their rugby at either University or their local club and derive many more years of enjoyment.

Although the season will be looked upon as a disappointment in terms of results, I hope all the players will have learnt lessons from their experiences, and more over will have discovered aspects of their characters that they will reflect upon and utilise to approach life's hurdles and obstacles - recognising their individual and collective responsibilities and how to rise to these challenges. Rugby, as a team sport, has that capacity.

Of the boys remaining there is real potential for next season. Ben Manser, Keiran Hagan and George Hunter will have benefited from their experiences in the front row this season and Toby Dunipace will also bring an abrasive edge to next year's squad. In the backs Will Anthony is a terrific competitor and Matt Constant plays above his weight. Next season the centre partnership of Marcus Fountaine and David Devlin Jones looks to be one of the most promising for many years. Their experience and the physical attributes of the current fifth form should deliver a confrontational, skilful and athletic XV.

I would like to thank Mr Malling, Mr Townsend and in particular Mr Durrant for their support and contribution during a difficult season which presented staff with different challenges which I believe we will all have benefited from.

Mr Alan Hughes

Pictures: Roy Ottaway

Rugby

2nd XV - Played 13 Won 9 Lost 4
Points for – 250
Points against – 140

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The second team enjoyed a very successful season, built around a superb team spirit, and a commitment not to be beaten. The side was only outplayed once, against a powerful Oundle side, and there were fine victories against Oakham, Abingdon, The Oratory and Loughborough among others.

The side provided many players who won promotion to the first team during the course of the season, and had the second team been more settled (over forty players were used in the term), I suspect that St Edward's and Uppingham would have been beaten in close contests (20-17, 7-nil) to make the record even more impressive. However, all players contributed, whether coming down from the first team, or promoted from the third team.

Up front, the forwards were dynamic, with a powerful front row featuring Kieran Hagan and George Hunter, while the back row of Felix Stevenson, Gabriel Rawlings, Olly Tett and Josh Hunter was the match of any opposition. Harry Hopewell was outstanding at

scrum half, until he moved up, with Charlie Morris very reliable at fly half. When he succumbed to injury, there seemed to be a problem, but Archie de Sales stepped up from the third team, and was a revelation, turning in a number of superb performances, none more so than at Loughborough, in a 14-12 win.

All of the outside backs carried a threat, with Hugo Empson particularly destructive in defence. However, it was the pace out wide, with Will Dunn, Jonathan Wale, and the brilliance of Sam Stieger-White that gave this side its real edge.

Awards were given at the end of the season to the following players: Josh Hunter (Player of the Season); Sam Stieger-White (Most Improved Player of the Season); Hugo Empson (Best Defensive Effort) and Felix Stevenson (Most Determined Player). It was a pleasure to work with this talented and committed group of players, and my thanks to Mr Malling, as well as Mr Hughes and Mr Durrant.

Mr Chris Townsend



2nd XV

3rd XV

One of the challenges of 3rd XV rugby is that you rarely get to play the same team from one week to the next. Injuries up the line of command usually pulls some of your best players away. As a result, 3rd XVs are dynamic teams, always changing and responding to events. That said the group of boys who turned out for the 3rd XV over the season, and there were almost 30 different players, maintained a drive, focus and determination and secured some excellent results.

The season started with an impressive away victory over Bloxham 24-7. The back line kept a solid defence with blistering offensive attacks. Key backline players included Hugo Empson, Alex Jollivet and Sam Scott. Local rivals St Edward's provided strong opposition but strong team work between set plays in the forwards and excellent passing in the backs led to a 19-12 victory.

Some games were lost to heavy scores but the team retained its enthusiasm for the game and moved to further victories. The highlights were excellent results over Mill Hill, Oratory and Loughborough. Excellent front row work by Jamie Robson, Bertie Shift and Max Daly combined with the high try scoring rate of Steffan Rogge and Marcus Dixon provided a formidable force. Jack Leech at scrum half played a pivotal role in the team's successes.

The 3rd XV enjoyed the season, supported each other and developed their skills. With extra fitness many of the Lower Sixth members of the team should be aiming for performance team places next season.

Dr David Smith



Stoic

STOWE HITTITES

Rugby is life affirming! As ever, over thirty lads have played Hittite rugby this year, and whilst they have varied widely in terms of technical competence, there has been a universally high standard when it comes to the key aspects of enthusiasm and determination. We've had a great term of rugby and all our games have been tightly contested. Now, as you may have worked out, Hittite rugby is all about playing rather than winning and perhaps, just perhaps, this might account for the amazing fact that we suffered only one defeat - but as I say, who cares that we were the most undefeated team in the school (Oh, yeah!). Two key incidents sum up all that the Hittites are about. In a tight game against Teddies, we opened up a lead, then squandered it only to drag ourselves back level with a try in the last play of the game. It all hung on the conversion which was not difficult, especially given Tom Wilson's earlier efforts. He missed, the match was drawn, and amazingly, Tom, whilst disappointed (as were we all), said that in a weird way, he was actually quite pleased for the opposition that after such a fantastic game, they hadn't had it snatched away from them with the final kick. My thoughts entirely. The second incident was noticing Harry Farnsworth wandering about school in the January rain in flip-flops. I discovered that he had been playing all season in considerable discomfort due to a big toe problem and he was paying the price for his dedication to the cause. Harry captained the team magnificently, led from the front, led from the back, led from the middle, and was largely responsible for engendering a team spirit that makes sport so worthwhile. Cheers Fanny... Bring on the new season!

Reverend Robert Jackson



COLTS A

A cheerful and eager group of players gathered on the Bourbon playing fields for the start of the Colts season. After only a couple of training sessions, we ran out for our first fixture on the North Front with the sun on our backs, to begin what was to be a thoroughly enjoyable season on the whole, but one that was not without its ups and downs! We beat Bloxham comfortably in this first encounter, with the pack looking sizeable and the backs showing encouraging pace. A decision had been made to move Ronnie Speakman to scrum half where his skills were clearly going to be central to the team, making a strong link between the forwards and the backs. A loss to a solid Oakham team was no disgrace, but when the team lost a tight game to Mill Hill at home, some worrying signs appeared. Players were unwilling to take the responsibility required in hard games and a tendency to assume someone else was going to do the tackling emerged. The team and the coaches were very upset with this performance and we agreed to move forward by focusing on 4 key aspects, namely; improving our fitness; creating a 'positive energy' in the team; taking responsibility for our own actions; and becoming 'ball hungry'.

With a sharpened attitude in training certain players stepped forward to take the leadership roles. Ronnie was given the captaincy, with Will Richardson leading the forwards. Jarvis Prestidge led by example on the pitch and Luke Rust started to control the play at fly half. Mr Ing ran the Tuesday fitness sessions, which were hard but varied and they were never met with grumbles, as the team recognised the importance of this aspect. Press ups became part of the routine and confidence in our individual and collective power grew. As the team settled into their new roles, we started to play some of our best rugby. Oundle, St. Edwards and Akeley were all beaten comfortably. Ben Curley and Jamie Knight used their pace to work off the skills of Ollie Trotter and Luke. Champ Panyarachun proved to be a difficult winger to stop using his huge power and Sam Ballantine added agility and speed on the other wing. The forwards were now starting to dominate all their opponents, with Dave Carter and Will propping for the combative George Baylis to cause all sorts of nuisance for the opposition at hooker. Big Jack Ryan was improving his fitness and learned to carry the ball effectively and as the other lock, Tom Worsdell proved an unorthodox but effective line out jumper. The back row was very strong indeed, as well as the talented Jarvis at open side, the rapidly improving Miles Johnson added sheer hard work to the mix. Youon Skelton at no. 8, is a player who understands the game very well and would often be found in exactly the right place at crucial times.

With one match to go before half term we were really on a role. Unfortunately a tired and flat performance away to Abingdon ruined our mood and took the shine off the statistics for the first half of term. However we bounced straight back after half term with a strong performance at John Cleveland, with a memorable try being scored by Champ, who ran the length of the pitch, uphill and into the wind, eventually collapsing untouched under the posts. A creditable performance against a lively Oratory side proved to be something of a turning point as our influential dynamo, Ronnie, was concussed and unfortunately managed little more game time after that. Sam Sheppard-Barron was asked to step in to his shoes at scrum half, and with characteristic competitiveness and strength of character he ended the game as man of the match, and progressed extremely quickly to be very effective in his slightly unorthodox way. Arguably our best performance came when we beat Loughborough by 31 points on the North Front. The team's attitude and finishing were at its sharpest with George Baylis dominating the set pieces.

The run in to the end of term saw the team struggle to find the cohesiveness of earlier games as we lost many players to illness. Cokethorpe and Uppingham away, were tough matches and a very tight loss to Pangbourne was just very frustrating. Fittingly the team ran out on the North Front for the last match against Bedford modern and managed three good tries to end a very happy season. There is no doubt many of this team will be very influential 6th form players and with their willingness to learn and train hard, we all very excited about the future senior teams at Stowe.

Mr Craig Sutton

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Colts A



COLTS AWARDS

Most Improved player - **Sam Sheppard-Barron**

Player of the year - **Miles Johnson**

Players' player of the year - **Luke Rust**

Congratulations go to the following for earning Representative Honours:

East Midlands:

Jarvis Prestidge, Ronnie Speakman, Luke Rust

Bucks: **Will Richardson**

Surrey: **Jamie Knight**

South West Division: **Ronnie Speakmann**

Stoic

Pictures: Roy Ottaway

COLTS B - Played – 11, Won – 1, Lost – 10

Stowe Colts B team had a difficult season this year. After having to scrap a C team, it was always going to be difficult to raise a strong Colts B side. It is credit to a number of the squad, who worked very hard on their fitness and skills, that they were given the chance to represent the A team squad on a number of occasions through the season. There were a number of close matches, with missed tackles and unfortunate breaks causing Stowe to lose their first set of matches.

The squad always trained with a fantastic attitude and whether it was a fitness session where they were crawling through mud, or a team run through woods surrounded by bats as it was pitch black, the boys always participated with a smile on their face and a clear desire to improve. The boys were very privileged to have an excellent group of coaches who all had enjoyment at the top of their list of priorities. At the centre of this fun was always JJ, the Australian gap student, who certainly took his country's share of stick after Australia's loss to England in the World Cup. This made for a fantastic atmosphere and I know the boys would like to thank JJ for all his efforts with them.

The highlight of the season was without doubt the last game of the season against Bedford Modern School. The location was the far pitch on the North Front, the weather was pretty miserable, with a constant drizzle preventing any real continuity from either side. Captain Ross Ritchie controlled the game, as he had done all season, with his strong boot, and allowed Stowe to create a large amount of pressure. Playing in his first game of the season, Iffy Ejindu had a mammoth game, scoring the winning try. Ross converted and added a penalty to give the Colts Bs their first win of the season.

The squad for the season included – Merrill, Clegg, Welsh (Pack-leader), Rewcastle, Wilkinson, Bodian, Dedman, Curwen, Rook, Leech, Ritchie (Captain), Webster, Burke, Voorspuy, Mugavazi, Wilshaw, Dennison, McConnell, Thorold, Ejindu, Sainsbury-Bow, Vinokurov and Raikes.

Mr Phil Arnold

JUNIOR COLTS A

The Junior Colts have had a hard season of rugby this year. With wins over Bloxham, The Royal Latin, Akeley Wood, Mill Hill and others; it is without doubt that they have improved as players over the year. Although at times it has been hard work and not smooth gliding all the way, some hard work put in by the team has ensured a good foundation to work on as a Colts team next year. The Junior Colts have a core of very committed and hard-working players, including Angus Hopewell, James Blackham, Ben Roe, Nick Brown, Tom Bishop and Cameron Cox. These players and others like them have helped turn this side from a team that could be unfocused at times, into a team that has all the tools to do well as a Colts side. Outstanding performers for the team this year have been: Harry Hawkes, for his massive work rate and committed defence; James Blackham, for his solid midfield tackling; and Tom Bishop for his graft up-front. Flashes of classic 'Flair Français' have been produced by the likes of Nick du Bois de Montule, along with flashes of classic 'Zut Alors!', also in true French fashion. Huge improvements have been made by Ashley O'Callen-Smith, Brad Kim, Geordie Wilkes and Andrew Welford, all of whom should have a 1st XV tie as a target before they leave Stowe. Overall, a highly productive season for the players involved, who have all the makings of a very tough team to beat.

Mr Charlie Barker



Junior Colts B



Junior Colts A



Picture: Leo Gauvain

Rugby

JUNIOR COLTS B

Our season started well, beating Bloxham 43-nil. Brad Kim looked like a boy with huge potential; he proved that later in the term when he became a regular starter for the As. Our next game saw us go down 26-32 to Oakham, a very close and hard fought game. Both Ashley O'Callen-Smith and Hamish Barnes played well early in the season. We then entered into a period of sickness and injuries which affected both us and the A team. In consequence, we lost our next match to Oundle 5 - 56 (Ouch!) with Rory Mitchell, Will Cowley and Alex Worth all working hard in the forwards. We made a great find in Rupert Leyland, who was our most improved player of the term. We had an excellent game away to St Edward's drawing 21-all. Cameron Perske joined our squad and added a great amount of power to our backline. Nick Langridge was doing very well and deservedly got selected for the As. We lost to Abingdon nil-39. Luckily, Hamish Barnes came back from injury which helped us to draw with Oratory 12-all. Will Berner was our Captain for most of the season. A tough and hard working player; we were lucky to have him. Ben Hackett, George Low and Andrew Gordon-Colebrooke worked hard at their games and each improved greatly during this term. We lost two of our last three games at home to Loughborough and Uppingham, but beat Pangbourne away 12-31. Term results were: W2 L6 D 2. Points For 165 and Points Against 275.

Mr Ray Dawson



JUNIOR COLTS C

This was a plucky team. Jamie Cockbill, the team's first Captain, was stolen early on by the Bs, meaning that Myles Riches stepped up and led by example, tackling and harrying tirelessly in his role as flanker. The team won its first match against Oakham, 15-12, with Rory Mitchell opening the scoring. Jack Sharp several times covered huge distances to bring down a runaway winger yards from our line. Ed Birch-Reynardson and the hard-tackling George Low scored two more tries to seal the game. We then lost to Mill Hill which seemed a little unfair. Adam Qazi (our outstanding Scrum Half) scored, Mill Hill then drew ahead, we brought back on our key subs, Gant Chinavicharana scored an inevitable Stowe try, and then the whistle blew remarkably early, meaning we lost by five points. We also lost to St Edwards by five points, in another game we should have won (and in which Jack Sharp scored), but were conclusively thumped by Oundle and Abingdon. It was away to the Oratory that we finally grasped our second win, in a game of great sportsmanship on both sides. Try scorers were Sam Strutt, Felix Edelsten (2) and Louis Staden. Other players who badly need mentioning for their commitment over the season were James Dale, the team's raging tackle monster; Suhail Bahwan (when not on Ramadan), extremely strong and dedicated; George Leslie-Melville, who was an absolute hound on the pitch, in defence and attack; and Pook Vadanyakul who never, ever gave up.

Mr Bob Roberts



Pictures: Roy Ottaway



Picture: Leo Gauvain



Picture: Mr Craig Sutton

Stoic

DEVELOPMENT RUGBY 2008

The rationale behind running a development team is so that those pupils who do not wish to play hockey can pursue their rugby for a second term. Competitive matches are organised and training continues for three afternoons per week. The focus of the coaching, however, does change as the atmosphere is less pressurised than the Autumn term; and this makes for an excellent chance to develop players' individual skills, leadership and confidence. The players take a significant role in the running of the side and for this it is necessary to have able leaders. Pat Ramsey, as an influential U6th player, was asked to perform the important job leading the team during the formative stages. He did this very well and after a couple of weeks he was able to return to play basketball for the 1st team. The squad developed a very positive attitude to training and quickly got used to Mr Sutton continually asking the question, "Why?", to every move they decided to run. The coach's motives were to make sure the players have the knowledge and understanding to make decisions for themselves, with solid reasons for choosing their tactics. A good opening win against Bablake (34 – 17) saw the emergence of a very encouraging centre partnership in David Devlin-Jones and Marcus Fountaine, as well as a rock solid set piece, with George Baylis managing a try for the forwards. Our second match saw Stowe host a well tuned and organised Welbeck side. The army boys were certainly fit, but we demonstrated good competitiveness and strength of character as we battled valiantly and managed to take many positives from a narrow loss. Rob Barnard led the forward effort from the second row and the front row of Kieran Hagan, George Hunter and George Baylis was proving to be particularly effective. Marcus Fountaine and David Devlin-Jones were now really starting to look very impressive as they cut through the Solihull defence on our way to a 24 – 12 win. Angus Hay was developing rapidly at full back, sharing the responsibility for the kicking duties with Ross Ritchie. The youngsters of Jarvis Prestidge, Yuon Skelton and Ronnie Speakmann were now running the game with growing confidence in the important 7, 8, and 9 positions. A very convincing victory over Repton followed and the season was finished with a pleasing win against Royal Latin on the North Front by 21 points to nil, with the Devlin-Jones and Fountaine centre pairing now overflowing with confidence and both scoring, in addition to a good individual effort by Matthew Constant. Devlin-Jones captained the team with a competitive and hard edge which his players were happy to follow. He was the outstanding player of this side and should develop to be a vital member of the 1st XV next Autumn.

Mr Craig Sutton

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YEARLINGS A

This was probably the most enthusiastic year group that I have ever worked with, particularly as they suffered some heavy defeats during the course of the season: but their desire for the game never diminished, and because of this, they developed enormously and were able to claim an important scalp in their very last match.

In terms of skill the side has the basics to improve as they physically develop. We were often much smaller than our opponents, and inevitably, at this level, we often came off second best. Their physicality will increase and I only hope they can add a yard of pace to match this, as we also lacked that ability to finish off opportunities we had created.

I can't mention everyone in detail who played during the season but there are some names to look out for in the future.

Ben Paine has some bulk and for a prop he has got some pace; I suspect he may become a promising back row forward of the future. He became the Captain and did it with exceptional maturity and responsibility. Michael Evans started slowly but became an influential figure in the back row. Likewise Henry Murray is learning his trade at 7 but has the tenacity to do much unseen work on the floor. Ben Nichols, fly half, makes breaks, kicks well out of hand and can get his back line moving. Henry Rudd is an elusive runner at fullback and Oscar Cole on the wing tackles what ever runs at him. Others to command regular spots were, Jack Palmer, Roddy Blackburne, Alex Hambro Rabben, Max Dodd-Noble, Cameron Roberts, Ollie Clarke, Hugo Barran, James Barnett and Rob Hill.

We saw steady progress over the term and this could be measured by the improvement the boys showed in the return fixture with Mill Hill. Comprehensively beaten away the lads reduced the scoreline, but also spent the last 20 minutes of the match camped on the opponent's line. The biggest turn round came in the last match of the season at home to Uppingham. Having lost 25-5 away the boys hung on for a dramatic 7-5 win on the North Front. Just reward for a difficult season but a terrific set of lads. I look forward to meeting up with them in the sixth form.

Mr Alan Hughes



Yearlings A



Pictures: Roy Ottaway



Picture: Leo Gauvain

YEARLINGS B

Played 8: Won 1, Drawn 1, Lost 6. Points for – 59; points against – 165

Although the results for the Yearlings B were not brilliant, this was a team with superb spirit, and a real desire to improve. A lack of physical size, and raw pace hampered us throughout the season, but the promotion of Alex Miarli to the side for the final two fixtures offered a partial solution to this problem.

There were some superb contests, with narrow defeats to Stamford (10-5) and the huge QES Barnet side (5-12), as well as a draw at Mill Hill (5-5), which really deserved to be a win after Ben Rimell's first half try. However, when Mill Hill beat us in the return match (33-22), it seemed that the season would end up without a win.

Fortunately, this team had a bit more about it than that, and the final fixture of the season brought a previously unbeaten Uppingham side to Stowe. Having already lost 17-nil in the away fixture, this could have daunted the Stowe team, but they tore into the opposition from the first kick off. Another late arrival to the squad, Archie Walters, opened the scoring, battling over from a tap penalty. Uppingham were not a bad side, though, and hit back, as their centre burst through our otherwise impregnable defence.

With the scores locked at 5-5, there were breaks from Ed Pettifer, Ben Rimell and Orlando Bevan to keep us going forward, while the two props, Arthur Hobhouse and Frank Kilsby maintained their improvement in carrying the ball upfield. James Rose and Charlie Winton made good decisions at 10 and 12, and Ollie Plunket at scrum half would not let his team be beaten. Finally, the chance came, and Charlie Hawkings-Byass pounced from the back of a line out to put Stowe 10-5 up. A nervous last few minutes saw Stowe defending their line, but the victory was won, and the season got the finish it deserved.

There were many other fine performances (Dallas Brooks, Sam Tottenham, Pierre Scrase, Barney Curran, Ed Bethell to mention a few) and it was genuinely good fun to work with this highly motivated squad, and my thanks to Mr Hayden, as well as Mr Hughes and Mr Durrant.

Mr Chris Townsend



Colts A

Picture: Mr Craig Sutton

YEARLINGS C

The Yearlings Cs have had a productive and enjoyable season, with key wins against Stamford and Mill Hill. At the half way stage of the season, the team was presented with two goals: To beat Mill Hill and to beat Uppingham. Both games were lost by a margin of two points earlier in the season. The team rallied well towards these goals, and the return game against Mill Hill - after a focused and intense week of training - produced a victory and just rewards for hard work. The game against Uppingham was the last of the season. In a hard fought and well contested match, the Cs just went under in the last five minutes, fighting to the last second. Great promise can be taken from this, and great team spirit was shown by the likes of Ben Wackett, Ed Robinson, Freddie Benyon, Charlie Cox and Archie Walters. This finished a very fulfilling season, with many outstanding players, including Rob Downer McGlone, Ed Robinson, Archie Walters, Jeronimo Villar, Freddie Benyon, Fred Elliott and Charlie Cox. Overall, a good season.

Mr Ray Dawson



Pictures: Roy Ottaway

SENIOR 7S

The Senior 7s season looked very exciting, with the prospect of four major tournaments in the diary. With this in mind, we started training hard from the first week of term. A very healthy number attended each session and for a backs' coach like myself, it was great to see the players express themselves without the limitations of space and endless time fiddling around with scrums and lineouts! The game of 7s relies heavily on teamwork, fitness, organisation and having players who can beat the opposition in one-on-one situations. We worked hard initially to get the organisational basics in place. This aspect has traditionally been a strength of Stowe 7s and with influential players like Harry Wolrige Gordon and Will Walker adding their experience, it again came together promisingly. One area of concern in training was the lack of confidence players seemed to have in taking on the opposition. We seemed reluctant to back ourselves and tries were not being finished. Having heard that the first big tournament had been cancelled, we managed to get a late place at a warm up tournament run by Pangbourne. We certainly needed the



Senior 7s

practice in match situations, as we struggled to live with the necessary pace, and again, our lack of confidence and self belief held us back. David Devlin-Jones did look dangerous in attack and ended as top try scorer, tied with Josh Hunter, who demonstrated the strength of character and fitness levels the rest of the squad could aspire to. The Windsor tournament was our next challenge and although we started the day with a very narrow loss to Radley, we were looking far more competitive. The second match was against perennial favourites, Wellington. One minute before kick off Will Walker dislocated his finger, so myself and Will ran off to the medical tent. From the distance we could see Winston Reynolds speed around their defence to score the opening try, closely followed by David Devlin-Jones. We led 12-nil at half-time. This half of rugby proved to be the turning point of the season. Suddenly our self belief elevated and we started to play more forcefully, with all players taking their opposite man on when the time was right. Wellington did come back strongly to win, but this proved to be a very significant match. In the pool stages, we easily beat Berkhamstead and Windsor SFB and won through to the final where we met RGS High Wycombe. The tired Stowe squad tried valiantly to keep up with the opposition's impressive strength and fitness, but couldn't match them. Winston Reynolds was our top try scorer and Max Housson certainly deserves a mention for his contribution. Marcus Fountaine, Will Dunn and Harry Wolrige Gordon were now looking very sharp.

Our annual trip to Solihull followed with barely any time to recover from the efforts at Windsor. Our opening match was very close to perfection. We beat Solihull B by 45 points, playing some very impressive 7s. Harry Hopewell was starting to play a big part in proceedings, with solid defending in the sweeper position and pinpoint accuracy with his kick-offs. Sam Hunter, Will Walker and Samson Stieger-White worked tirelessly as we progressed through our group stages beating Nottingham and Adams GS. At this point our tally read, 'Scored - an impressive 105 points, Conceded - 5'. A great battle against RGS Worcester followed which saw the team come from 5-14 down with just a few minutes to go, to win 15-14. A memorable effort in defence by Samson may have been the turning point. The team gave everything in this game and it was great to see the level of commitment, teamwork and competitiveness that had developed in such a short time. However, we could not maintain that intensity and were knocked out by Kings Worcester in the semi finals. The team were very disappointed to hear that the tournament at Rosslyn Park had been cancelled due to the weather. I would like to thank Mr Hayden for his knowledgeable contribution and support. The stats for the season are as follows:

Teams beaten, RGS Worcester, Adams GS, Nottingham, Solihull B, Windsor SFB, Berkhamstead, Marlborough B
Beaten by Wellington, Radley, Kings Worcester, Pangbourne, Marlborough
Tries scored - 52; tries conceded - 34; top try scorer - David Devlin Jones (12).

Mr Craig Sutton

COLTS 7S

The U16s had three tournaments this year: Newark, Stowe and the Nationals at Rosslyn Park.

They had to defend the trophy last year's side had won, and instead of it being a knockout competition it was a round-robin event where they had to play six matches in total. Having accounted for such notable Northern scalps as Hymers and Woodhouse Grove, they had to beat Worksop College in the last round of matches, with both teams undefeated. Playing some sublime sevens the boys ran out 49-5 winners, retaining the trophy at the same time.

At home the side got through to the Cup Quarter-Final, taking on rivals Rugby school, who they duly put to the sword, scoring four tries to one; but in so doing lost captain Ronnie Speakman to injury. With their main pace man gone they went down to RGS High Wycombe in the Semis.

At Rosslyn Park our match against Sedburgh was described by the announcer as the tie of the round and after a promising start against a team containing two England U16 players we went down four tries to two. This defeat effectively ended our chances of winning the group.

A good season that shows much promise for when these boys move up into the seniors next year. Squad for Rosslyn Park: Rust, Prestidge, Childs, Skelton, Carter, Richardson, Champ, Knight, Ritchie, Johnson, Du Bois de Montule, Hopewell.



Colts 7s

Mr Alan Hughes

Cricket

1ST XI 2007

The 1st XI finished the 2007 season very successfully with 11 victories in total which included wins over Uppingham, Rugby and Radley (the first since 1990) as well as qualification into the last sixteen of the National Twenty/20 competition. The team were unbeaten outside of Twenty/20 cricket and finished top of the table in the National Cricket League (one point above Oakham). The team gelled quickly as a unit and everyone played their part and they were very well led by Nick Allen. Allen and Rory Lyon went on to be selected for Northants U19's later in the summer. The season's star performers were:

1st XI Averages 2007: All Matches. P 18 W 11 D4 L 3

Batting								
	M	I	No	Hs	Runs	Avg	50	Ct/ro
N. Allen	17	17	2	90	525	35.00	5	3
G. Coote	5	14	4	94	342	34.20	3	1+4
J. Hirst	14	14	2	54	403	33.58	2	4c 2st
H. Wolrige-G	17	16	2	78	412	29.42	3	6
R. Lyon	16	14	1	122*	354	27.23	1+1	5 5
Bowling								
	O	M	R	W	Avg	BB	RPO	SR
T. Wilson	13	1	59	4	14.75	3-12	4.54	19.50
T. Howgego	110.5	16	378	25	15.12	4-8	3.41	26.60
R. Lyon	141	22	512	32	16.00	5-13	3.63	26.44
J. Fillery	7	1	41	2	20.50	2-41	5.86	21.00
S. Scott	84.3	5	368	17	21.65	3-19	4.36	29.88
H. Wolrige-G	93.2	6	448	17	26.35	2-18	4.80	33.18
G. Coote	54	0	291	11	26.44	6-28	5.39	29.45



The 1stXI National Cricket League 2007

League Position	Team	P	W	D	L	Runs For	Runs Against	Total League Points
1	Stowe School	19	11	5	3	3056	2573	54
2	Oakham School	17	10	4	3	2675	2396	48
3	Framlingham College	15	9	4	2	2654	2171	44
4	Nottingham High School	15	9	2	4	2105	2201	40
5	St Edward's School, Oxford	20	5	8	7	2888	3219	36
6	Brighton College	14	9	0	5	2851	2895	36
7	Wellington College	18	7	4	7	2538	2747	36
8	Whitgift School	12	8	1	3	2232	2051	34
9	John Fisher School	12	8	1	3	1766	1363	34
10	Reed's School	12	6	2	4	1877	2033	28

2008 1st XI

The 1st XI season started very brightly with wins over Malvern College and Reading Blue Coat's during the pre-season weekend. Highlights were four wickets for Sam Scott against Malvern and Jamie Hirst's 97 not out, out of the team total of 164/3 to knock off the winning runs.

Against Reading Blue Coats Captain Tom Wilson steadied a rocking ship with a sensible knock of 63, ably supported by Hirst (32) and Howgego (26) to get Stowe up to 175. Chasing a rain revised target Reading fell ten short thanks to a tight opening burst of 2/12 from eight overs from Howgego and an excellent spell under pressure of 4/33 from Charlie Morris.

A rain affected game against Merchant Taylor's was the first Saturday block and Stowe batted first. After a good start from Hirst and Scholfield the innings fell apart with a good spell from the Merchant Taylor spinner, reducing Stowe to 64 for 5. Sam Scott (44) and Wolrige-Gordon (29) steadied the ship, putting on 81 for the seventh wicket. Runs from the tail helped Stowe set a challenging 213 for victory.

Unfortunately the rain came in this match when Merchant Taylor's were 100/3 half way into their innings and the match evenly poised.

Next up was a demolition of Abingdon. On a slow pitch Stowe batted superbly to post a total of 173 in their 35 overs thanks to good knock from Scholfield (21), Wolrige-Gordon (62) and Tom Wilson (41 not out). Abingdon were never in the hunt thanks to good spells from all the Stowe attack. Jamie Hirsch's figures of 4/8 from four overs were most impressive.

The first defeat of the season followed against Uppingham who bowled Stowe out for 144. Stowe battled up to this score thanks to a gutsy knocks from Tom Howgego (39) and Harry Wolrige-Gordon (35) who was last man out. In the field Stowe were probably at their best all season bowling extremely tightly and applying pressure. They got themselves in with a chance of victory, reducing Uppingham to 65 for 6, before there was a fine stand from two lower order Uppingham players that saw them home. Howgego (2/37) and Wolrige-Gordon (2/17) were the standout bowlers.

Defeats to Lord William's and Radley followed. Performances of note were Wolrige-Gordon's 3/23 against Lord William's and Jamie Hirsch's 4/43 against Radley.



1st XI

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Stoic

The 1st XI best performances to date came in the National Twenty/20 tournament where they had drawn a very tough early group of Oundle, Uppingham and Rugby. First up was Uppingham and the guys were very determined to avenge their defeat from earlier in the term.

Uppingham batted first and after a bright start of 50 from the first six overs Stowe then put the brakes on thanks to excellent spells from that man again Wolrige-Gordon (2/16), Scott (1/16) and Tett (2/21). Uppingham bowled out for 123. Stowe sensed they had a chance and batted very sensibly in their pursuit of the total, keeping wickets in hand should a need come to accelerate. Wilson (20), Scott (29) and Howgego (17 not out) were the mainstays but it was Angus Blayney who sealed the deal in the last over hitting his first two balls for four and six respectively.

Next was Rugby who have been the form side this year and it certainly showed it, scoring 160/3 in their twenty overs. Stowe gave it their best shot however, with aggressive knocks from Wolrige-Gordon (33), Wilson (26) and Howgego (25). The match seemed to be lost however, until Angus Blayney came in and repeated what he did against Uppingham hitting 25 from only 9 balls with three sixes and one four. Needing eight to win he swept a ball that would have carried flat for six had the Rugby fielder not taken a blinder of a catch; Stowe lost by eight runs.

Last up were Oundle who have been a bogie side for the 1st XI over the years but thanks to a Herculean effort from captain Wilson who nearly won the game single-handedly with his batting (51), fielding (three catches and a run out) and captaincy (very good under pressure), Stowe overcame their nemesis to beat Oundle and seal runners up in the tournament. With an overall run rate of nearly 7.5 Stowe wait to see if their run rate qualifies them for the next round or whether they will be playing in the plate.

A close encounter with Oratory followed and Stowe couldn't quite keep the momentum going. They posted a decent 178 for 8 thanks to a maiden hundred from Hirst, but the pitch was very good and none of the bowlers were able to apply pressure for long except Wolrige-Gordon who returned excellent figures of 2/13 in his seven overs.

At the midway point to the season the record stands at five wins, four losses and three draws, with the season in the balance. However the side has played some excellent cricket at times and if it can become more consistent and show greater levels of concentration (especially in the longer game) then they have a chance of finishing the season strongly.

The 1st XI also comfortably chased a daunting total of 247 in 40 overs against the Templars. Lester Smart had made a century, and Archie Leon 73 not out for the old boys, but Jamie Hirst outshone them both with a brilliant 95, racing to his half century in just 21 balls. He was well supported by Will Scholfield whose mature innings of 76 saw Stowe through to a seven wicket victory.



Mr James Knoff
Head of Cricket

2nd XI

The first half of the term has seen mixed success for the Stowe 2nd XI. Archie de Sales la Terriere has been excellent as captain of the team while Craig Browne, Will Anthony and Ollie Tett have all backed up their captain in admirable style. This year has seen a few players rotate up into the 1st team in particular for Twenty/20 competitions where a few of the boys have had success with the bat and ball. Notable individual performances have been Will Anthony's 54 runs against Merchant Taylor's and Ollie Tett's 85 against Radley and as a team wins over Abingdon and Oratory. The team is looking forward to further success in the second half of this term.

Mr Damien Orr



3rd XI

Despite cancellations due to the weather, the 3rd XI played four matches before half-term. The opening game against Merchant Taylor's School saw Stowe set an impressive 193-6 from 30 overs, with Nick Anson scoring 97 with Max Fossett adding a swift 21. Merchant Taylor's were unable to keep up with the required run rate after some tight bowling from Samson Stieger-White, Henry Corner and Jack Leech (3/28) and Stowe won by 36 runs.

Unfortunately this good start could not be sustained against Uppingham. Jack Leech stood out again with the ball with 3/14 and John Beaumont was very economical with only 10 runs coming from his seven overs. Stowe did not achieve the target of 191, but Alex McIntyre, Max Fossett and James Hale offered some resistance.

Radley also proved too good on the day, but Freddie Wells and Andrew Consett both had good days with the ball and Jack Leech batted well against good bowling to score 43. An improved fielding performance in the next match against the Oratory led to an easy win after they were all out for 81. Samson Stieger-White (2/15) and Jack Leech (3/13) did most of the damage. Alex Jollivet (43), the captain who has led well, and Alex McIntyre (31) saw off the runs easily. Mr Last and I have enjoyed the training sessions and matches with this group of enthusiastic cricketers who have also included the following students: William Page-Ratcliff, James Hale, Josh Low, Nickleby Evans, Toby Dunipace, Kieran Hagan and Alex Le Clercq have also featured in the team.

Mr Matthew Way



Cricket

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Colts A

Bedford. Rust and Ejindu managed to get the score to a point where we had a chance. Rust then took over with the ball and took six wickets (including four in six balls) to help Stowe to a six run win.

COLTS A

The Colts A have been a pleasure to coach this year. They are a positive and exciting group of sportsmen who play the game of cricket as a team and, as a result, they have had a superb unbeaten, albeit truncated, season.

The season started against Merchant Taylor's in a bitterly cold afternoon. A good bowling performance against the top order meant that we looked on course for an easy total to chase. However, a 50 by the number 8 and a very late declaration meant that we never had enough time to realistically make the runs. Richardson did have time to hit a classy 65. We then had back to back victories against Abingdon and Uppingham. Sainsbury-Bow found some form with the bat and finished the game against Abingdon with three successive sixes.

The 20/20 game against Bedford was brilliant. A total of 99 was set by Stowe after a very good bowling performance by

Another very good batting performance, particularly from Ritchie and Richardson, saw us get a draw against a strong Radley side. Our final game was against Akeley Wood who batted well to set Stowe a total of 154. Trotter and Curley batted well to seal the victory from just 23 overs.

The team has been very well balanced. Richardson is a fabulous prospect; Curley is a destructive batsman and useful bowler; Trotter is a fine batter who is also the wicketkeeper; Johnson got some useful runs this year and is emerging as a leg spinner; Ioannou was our number 7 bat and our reserve wicket keeper. The powerhouse men of the team were Sainsbury-Bow, Speakman, Ritchie and Ejindu – all bowlers who can bat. Rust has been an effective fifth seamer and Voorspuy took 3/15 against Akeley Wood. Dhaliwal, Bacon, Shepherd-Barron and Skelton also played during the season. Many thanks go to Ben Rae for his coaching and to Mr Weston for his help with the umpiring.

Mr Dominic Mochan



Roy Ottaway



Roy Ottaway



Stoic

Junior Colts A

Played 7 Won 1 Drawn 3 Lost 3

Stowe started off their season with a game against Merchant Taylor's. After an excellent batting display, with Archie Hood and captain Will Berner both scoring fifties, Merchant Taylor's won with one over to go.

In the 30 over game against Abingdon, strong bowling by Berner and Andrew Welford set a reasonable target but Stowe fell 20 runs short. Against Uppingham, Stowe lifted for their first match on the South front and produced a wonderful first 20 overs in the field. With 168 to chase, Platts-Martin (53) and Hood (51) began superbly, putting on 78 for the first wicket. The game hung on a knife edge, with Stowe valiant in missing victory when a six was required from the final delivery.

Akeley Wood were our next opponents, in a 20/20 game. They scored 67-9 in their 20, with Platts-Martin, Welford, Berner, Peake and Hood all bowling very tidy spells. Hood and Platts-Martin set about the total and did so with ease, scoring 17 not out and 37 not out respectively.

In the most recent game versus Oundle, Stowe scored 120 and in reply, the Oundle openers were aggressive in their shot selection. Platts-Martin bowled superbly and at pace, picking up four wickets, three of which were clean bowled. This set up for a tense finale, with Oundle attempting to hold out for the draw and the Stowe fielders sensing the possibility of victory. As the fielders got closer to the bat and the slip cordon increased in size, Oundle just managed to survive, despite Cameron Perske picking up a wicket in the last over of the game.

Man of the season so far - Gus Hopewell.



Junior Colts A

Mr Phillip Arnold

Junior Colts B REPORT

The Junior Colts B have had a very successful season to date with some excellent performances from all members of the team. Impressive wins against Merchant Taylor's and Oratory was followed up by the demolition of Oundle who managed to score only twenty six runs. A superb bowling attack made us competitive in every match played and the two losses to Radley and Uppingham were very closely fought affairs. Special mention should go to Isi Madojemu and Kit Smith not only for their excellent leadership skills but also for fostering a fantastic team spirit.

Mr James Hayden

JUNIOR COLTS C

Despite not having won a match so far, the season for the JCC's has been productive and I am confident that they will continue to improve in their remaining games. Under the leadership of George Low, the team has had some excellent performances, in particular a top score of 142 against Radley.

Special mention must go to Miles Riches for his 52 (from 58 balls), George Leslie-Melville's three maidens in a six over spell and George Low and Nick Brown's partnership of 40 runs. Enthusiasm shown by the likes of Tom Wigan, Will Assheton and Jamie Cockbill must also be noted, as having players such as these always makes the experience of coaching far more enjoyable.

Mr Rob Christian



YEARLING A

Up to half term the team has played 8 matches, winning four and losing four. Led by the captain, Henry Rudd, the team has played a good standard of cricket with any player capable of producing a match winning performance. A feature of the side is its strong team spirit, growing belief and enthusiasm in training. We have certainly competed well, against many strong sides containing county players.

Of the four victories the sweetest was the emphatic win over Uppingham where the captain, Henry Rudd, hit a fine unbeaten 67, before the five bowlers won the match for us by restricting Uppingham to just 101 off 35 overs.

Our two openers, Guy Dixon Smith and Ben Nichols, have scored useful runs with Nichols, after just one season of playing cricket, scoring a half century in the cup match. Dixon is perhaps the most improved fielder in the team and plays an impressive straight drive. Hugo Barran is an accomplished number 3 with a top score to date of 47. Henry Rudd is a forceful number 4, with Ben Paine at 5 who despatches the bad (and often good ball) to the boundary. Tom Maddison at 6, likewise is a natural hitter of the ball but must learn to bat a little straighter. Our middle and later order of Ollie Clarke, Robert Hill and James Rose are all capable of scoring plenty of runs, while Edward Wightman and Freddie Elliott claim to be all-rounders!

The side is blessed with a strong and varied bowling line up, with pace generated by Ben Paine, Henry Rudd (injury permitting) and Tom Maddison, swing with Hugo Barran and Edward Wightman, and Freddie Elliott (leg spin) and James Rose (off spin) securing valuable wickets.

Mr Peter Platts-Martin



Yearling A

YEARLINGS B REPORT

Like a fine wine the class of 2008 are beginning to develop into a strong, well-rounded, mature and adaptable cricket team.

The first match saw an away trip in the rain and cold of early April to Merchant Taylor's. Having only had two practices together as a team we were caught fairly cold in terms of skill as well and suffered a six wicket loss as well as the loss of a strong-hitting middle order batsman, Tom Maddison, to the A team.

Uppingham came to us the following Saturday, cashed in on some fairly wayward bowling to score 165 and were then run closer than they were expecting as Ed Robinson (22) led a valiant rearguard run chase that proved to be 25 runs too much.

Bloodied but unbowed the team travelled to the Oratory and produced the performance of the season so far. Batting first, the top order again failed to occupy the crease leaving us reeling at 45-5 against an average Oratory attack. Ollie 'Mike Brearly' Plunket chose this moment to display at the crease the qualities that make him an excellent captain in the field. Using patience, intelligence and grit he held the innings together to make a very valuable 30 before Ed 'Jack Russell' Robinson, again coming in down the order, played another fine hand. Using innovative and audacious stroke play as well as very effective running between the wickets his 34* hauled us to a satisfactory total of 155 from our 30 overs. A Charlie 'Ryan Sidebottom (sans mullet)' Winton opening spell of 1/4 from 5 overs prevented a good start from the Oratory and they never recovered, bowled out for 77. A resounding victory for Stowe by 78 runs.

Mr Henry Swayne

YEARLING C REPORT

The Yearlings Cs at mid-point in the season at the time of writing are in a strong position and enjoying their cricket. Captain Ben Wackett has shown excellent leadership so far, and the team has a devastating bowling attack with some outstanding aggressive batsmen. At times, the Cs have lacked restraint in their batting, getting out rather quicker than would be preferred on occasions, but with a satisfying win over Uppingham, the Cs have started and will finish an very good season. Top batsmen include Charlie Cox, Jack Palmer, Tom Baylis and Frank Kilsby while top bowlers include Archie Nesbitt, Orlando Bevan, Josh Lewis, Ben Wackett and Barney Curran. Great improvement has been made by Ben Housson, Ed Bethel and Titus Bridgwood and a big thanks has to go to the team's scorer Leo Gauvain as well.

Mr Charlie Barker



YEARLINGS D REPORT

After a 13 run defeat by Uppingham in the first match, the highlight of the season came in the team's second match, away against Radley. Chasing the home side's target of 111 of 25 overs, it all seemed to be beyond the team with eight overs to play, with the score hovering at 72-7. However, a determined rally by the tail end brought sight of a winning score. What appeared unachievable became 15 runs needed from the last three, and then, a six required from the final ball to win. Unfortunately, there was no miracle, and Stowe finished short in a match which was filled full with excitement and tension; two things which certainly typify this season for the Yearlings D XI.

Mr Tony Chan

Stoic

THE SWIMMING SEASON KICKED INTO GEAR with the 3rd Form Inter House relay event. Bruce House proved to be the victors and it is not surprising that all members went on to represent the school.

The House Swimming Sports was to follow. Unfortunately, two days before the qualifiers one of our leading contenders, Sam Morris, Captain of swimming, broke his hand on a lane rope making a serious dent in Chatham's hunt for the silverware. However there was a new kid on the 'bloc' - Alexy Grabernik (Grenville) from Russia who was able to take off where Sam had left and take the Senior boys title in style. He won the 50m, 100m Freestyle 50m Butterfly and the 100m IM.

The Girls Captain this year, Elle Horrocks, was able to lift the Freestyle and Breaststroke cups but was pipped overall by Chloe Ballantine. Chloe won the Butterfly and the Backstroke and got a higher position in the IM thus taking overall status.

In the intermediate competition two boys manfully battled to be crowned overall champion - Harry Hawkes (Walpole), last year's junior champion and Anders Palm (Grenville) last year's 3rd place man. Harry won the Breaststroke gained high positions in other events however he was disqualified in the IM for an illegal turn leaving Anders to collect both the IM cup and the overall title.

In the Junior girls clash there was a new house in contention this year but Looch Trevor was to make sure the only house to count was Lyttelton. For the junior boys in was very much a Bruce in-house battle with James Barnett successfully fighting off his team mates to take the title.

It was perhaps fitting that in Isaac Michael's final year as Bruce Housemaster that they went on to claim the overall prize and with such a strong squad of junior swimmers they will undoubtedly be the House to beat next year.

The competition for the swimmers continued at the County Championships held at Amersham Swimming Baths. The highlights came from our Intermediate Boys team. In the individual events, Anders Palm won a silver in the backstroke, Harry Hawkes another silver in the Breaststroke with James Blackham just pipped into bronze medal position. Stowe dominated the Medley and Freestyle relays. Anders Palm, Harry Hawkes, James Blackham and a vastly improving Sam Strutt were county champions in the medley and with Edwin Fitzroy replacing Harry in the freestyle they raced to secure their second championship title.

The Bedford Championships saw us add to our medal collection. The stars again were the U16s with a plethora of medals. For the seniors Sam Morris was back in form along with his Russian ally both won silver in 100m Freestyle and Butterfly respectively. Despite being a junior, Francesca Hutt put in an excellent swim to win a bronze medal in the Senior Girls Freestyle event.

The Bath Cup, the most prestigious competition in the independent schools swimming calendar was scheduled earlier in the year than usual. This suited us after having such a good middle term. The Senior Freestyle Team was Anders Palm, Josh Hunter, Alexey Grabarnik and Sam Morris with Jonathan Wale replacing Josh in the Medley relay. The boys surpassed even their expectations. We broke the school record in the Freestyle in a time of 3.57 from 4.08, gaining overall 11th place overall. In the Medley we again broke the school record and secured an excellent 9th place from a field of 80 schools.

The girls Team of Chloe Ballantine, Elle Horrocks, Francesca Hutt and Jess White (Queen's) swam well winning their heat in the medley thanks to a fantastic dive and drive from Francesca.

The Summer Term seemed to come around so quickly. As most of our swimmers had been in training over the holidays it also proved to be an exciting term. The excitement was heightened by an all singing, all dancing state of the art electronic timing system kindly donated by some very generous parents.

After beating Bradfield across the board in every age group we had a superb run of wins against Oundle, Oakham and Loughborough. We then went to the Bromsgrove Relays, in which the U16 Team came 2nd and 3rd in the Freestyle and Medley relays respectively.



Pictures by Roy Ottaway

Swimming



Finally we were able to hold the rescheduled Stowe Relays an event bedevilled by bad luck, last year we had to cancel due to heavy snow and on the eve of the event this year we again had to pull the plug due to chlorination levels.

The Junior Boys came through with a bronze in the Medley thanks to Imran Momen (Bruce) and silver in the Freestyle. The Junior Girls gained a bronze with a fine swim by Yemari Soper-Gwatidzo (Queen's) and a Silver with Elle Horrock's Freestyle team.

The Senior Boys were desperate to win some silverware. They thought they had won the Merritt Cup only to find out that there was a disqualification picked up by our new technology. In the only way to reply to such disappointment the boys picked themselves up and stormed to victory over Marlborough College to win the Cooper Shield

The Inter Boys were again out standing producing their best swimming ever, to smashing their way to victory breaking school records to bring home the Burrell Cup and the Clucus Cup. Paddy Pinchbeck, first swimming master at Stowe, gleefully presented the prizes.

All that remains is to thank parents, pupils, staff including Dr Ceri Fidders our scorer who leaves us for Mill Field in September and the ever helpful matrons who act as officials. Secondly a big thank you to our Swimming Captains this year, Sam Morris and Elle Horrocks, you both have led with example throughout the year. Well Done.

*Mr Stewart Cowie
Head of Swimming*



WATER POLO

JUNIORS

WON 6 DRAW 1 LOST 1

This has been the best Water Polo season to date. Enthusiasm has been high creating a large pool of talented players with the added bonus of our young South African Coach, Robert Christian. The boys' fitness, tactical awareness and skill levels have all improved through training three times a week.

The Junior team captained by Tom Bishop (Grafton) at centre forward and ably supported by the wings, Harry Hawkes (Walpole) and Sam Strutt (Grafton) proved to be very quick, giving the opposition no time to think until it was too late and the ball was firmly in the back of the net. But it was not all attack, the reliable combination of Tom Newman (Grafton) at centre back and George Low (Walpole) 9-5 fetcher, created a formidable defensive wall.

The Juniors played Warwick first and despite being behind for most of the game came back to secure a commendable 8-8, all draw. This never say die performance set the team on a run of 5 wins, only to falter at the last hurdle against Harrow, going down 7-8.

Highest scorer: Tom Bishop with 26 goals.

Junior player of the year: Sam Strutt.

Team; TRC Bishop Cpt (CF), SJ Strutt Vc (LW) EC Fitzroy (LW), TR Newman (CB), RAF Langman (F), BGB Curran (G), HC Hawkes (RW), GAW Low (F), AGLM O'Callen-Smith (F), LPS Staden (F)



Pictures by Roy Ottaway



Stoic



Inter Boys



Senior Boys



Pictures by Roy Ottaway

SENIORS

WON 7 DRAW 0 LOST 1

The Seniors followed the example of the Junior Team. They proved to be a team with brains and brawn - clinical in attack, dedicated in defence. They had the ability to score quickly against teams such as Radley, Bedford, Oakham and Oundle. Marlborough, however proved to be a different kettle of fish and without Sam Morris's heroics at centre back the school would have been on the wrong end of the 3-1 scoreline.

The final match of the season was against Harrow, a school we had never beaten. We were down 9-10 with 5 minutes to go. Sam Hunter was able to curve the ball into the net to bring it level. Not to be outdone Jonathan Wale scored two 2 outstanding goals. Final score 12-10 to Stowe.

Highest ever scorer - Jonathan Wale with 43 goals.

Senior Players of the year:- Jonathan Wale, Sam Morris, Fred Wells

Team; JTR Hunter Cpt *(LW), SAE Hunter *(F), JD Wale *(CF), FD Wells *(G), SRCMorris *(CB), JW Beaumont (RW), NPC Anson (F), TAG Worsdell (F)

RECORDS BROKEN

50m and 100m Butterfly **Alexey Grabarnik (Grenville)**
 50m and 100m Backstroke **Sam Morris (Chatham)**
 50m and 100m Breaststroke **Jonathan Wale (Walpole)**
 50m and 100m Freestyle **Sam Morris (Chatham)**

Relay records
 4x50m Medley: **Sam Morris, Jonathan Wale, Alexey Grabarnik, Josh Hunter**
 4x50m Freestyle: **Jonathan Wale, Josh Hunter, Alexey Grabarnik, Sam Morris**

Bath Cup Record
 4x100m Freestyle: **Anders Palm, Josh Hunter, Alexey Grabarnik, Sam Morris**

50m Backstroke
 U16 Boys **Chloe Ballantine (Nugent)**
 50m Freestyle: **Sam Strutt (Grafton)**
 100m Freestyle: **Anders Palm (Grenville)**

Relay Records
 4x50m Medley: **Anders Palm, Harry Hawkes, James Blackham, Sam Strutt**
 4x50m Freestyle: **Anders Palm, Sam Strutt, Edwin Fitzroy, Harry Hawkes**

U16 Girls
 50m Butterfly **Francesca Hutt**
 50m Backstroke **Francesca Hutt**
 50m Breaststroke **Francesca Hutt**
 50m and 100m Freestyle **Francesca Hutt**
 100m I.M. **Francesca Hutt**

A total of 22 School records were broken this year.

Swimming Matches and Team Members

Senior Boys Team SRC Morris Cpt. *, JTR Hunter * AV Grabarnik *, JD Wale* , M Saugabay

Won 9 lost 3

Senior Girls Team: E Horrocks Cpt.*, CC Ballantine *, CF Crisp * JCE White, FJ Hutt , SC Worssam, SC Dudley

Won 5, lost 2

Inter Boys: JS Blackham Cpt , SJ Srutt, EC Fitzroy, HC Hawkes, ANG Palm , DJ White

Won 11, Lost 1

Junior Boys: I Momen Cpt. , R Blackburne , TH de M Hardinge, MYH Riches, RJ Higham , JRC Larter , D Baniukevic

Won 4, lost 6

Junior Girls: YRR Soper-Gwatidzo Cpt., GAD Sladen, MA Webb, JL Noakes, P Farr, LBH Trevor

Won 4, lost 3

Swimming Colours : *

Tennis

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BOYS 1ST VI

P6 W 4 L 2

The current upper sixth have always had a very strong tennis team, so the season started with great anticipation and expectation of some very strong results. Harry Benyon, an outstanding contributor to Stowe tennis, started the first match as captain and played with Sam Barnard as first pair against our opening opponents, MCS Oxford. Freddie Hall and Champ Panyarachun were the second pair and James Crawford played with Adam Clitheroe at third pair. We registered our first convincing win, with Champ and Freddie returning the best results on the day.

A long away trip to Oundle followed and our first chance to see the 3rd former Alex Jacobs, who is currently on an LTA programme, play for the first team. He partnered James Crawford and made an encouraging start, winning three out of four sets. Alex is a real talent and we look forward to watching him play in the first team for many years to come. Both the top two pairs were on fine form in front of a good crowd on the Oundle hard courts, with Champ Panyarachun in particular hitting some breathtaking ground strokes. The match was won 6-3.

A straightforward run out against Bloxham proved to be less of a test as Harry and Sam managed the very rare achievement of winning four sets without conceding a single game! Harry Hopewell and Marcus Dixon played as third pair. To our collective disappointment, we lost our next match against the perennially strong Abingdon side. Two sets were lost to tie breaks in the first round and we never recovered. Milo Drake played with James Crawford in the third pair. A demanding fixture away against Uppingham was a match we had targeted from the start of the season. Unfortunately Sam Barnard and young Alex Jacobs were unavailable and although the team fought hard, the experienced opposition just beat us 4-5. Freddie Hicks made a deserved outing for the first team after showing very rapid progress.

This team aren't the sort to stay down for long and were back to winning ways with a strong performance at home, beating St. Edward's 7-2. Harry and Sam came back from 0-4 down to beat their first pair and the rest of the team moved forward from there, demonstrating their usual competitiveness blended nicely with good sportsmanship and respect for their opponents. The season is by no means over, as we have further 1st team matches as well as some mixed ones and the National Independent Schools Championships at Eton, on the last day of term. There is also a very hotly contested singles tournament which is reaching the later stages. James Minchin Mitchell is organising this and has kindly donated a cup and a shield. James has been ever present on the shop courts this season and we have very much enjoyed his interested involvement.

The tennis squad has been a delight to work with. They love playing tennis and compete with each other with ongoing friendly banter. The arrival of our first ever full time tennis pro, Richard Walters has also lifted the profile and standard of Stowe Tennis. He is a charismatic coach who motivates all who step onto the courts. Stowe tennis will only be stronger in the future with his involvement.

Mr Craig Sutton



1st VI

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2nd VI

2ND VI

P 7 W 2 D 3 L 2

With the senior boys squad easily able to put out up to four teams this year, the selection for the 2nd team was always difficult. Many boys were playing at a similar standard and were all very motivated to be selected. In the end the team settled with Hopewell and Dixon at 1st pair, Hicks and Eiggins at 2nd pair and Cameron and Findlay at 3rd pair. Two early draws against MCS Oxford and Royal Latin 1st team were rather gentle openers, with the Stowe boys playing with a lack of finishing ability. The team plays on the Astro courts, where the tennis ball's bounce is considerably different to shop courts, so the importance of volleying is paramount. Having worked hard on improving this aspect, the results started to swing our way, with good wins against Bloxham and St. Edwards. An excellent tie break win by Cameron and Findlay secured a draw against Uppingham.

Hopewell and Dixon are experienced players who have represented the team for two years now. They always give of their best and lead the team well. The other two pairings are made up of lower 6th players, so we look forward to them playing tennis with Richard Walters throughout the winter terms and challenging for 1st team places next year.

Mr Craig Sutton

Stoic



THIRD VI P 5 W 3 D 1 L 1

Once again, a successful season for the glorious thirds. The narrow loss was to Uppingham in a close match that should have been ours, but Robson and Fenwick wilted in the intense heat and humidity – conditions that, mysteriously, were only present on their side of the net. Regulars included Beaty, Bartholomew, Robson, Fenwick, Leet-Cook, McCorquodale, Stevenson and super-reserve Goodenough, who twice rescued us at the last minute by turning up at the coach and went on to have winning afternoons. Memories will live on; Barty's second serve and socks, Bash's patent foot-fault prevention method (start two metres behind the baseline), the opposition covering as Robbo soars eagle-like for another high volley.... My thanks go to the whole squad for a rewarding and entertaining season.

Mr Rory Akam

COLTS A P 6 W 3 L 3 D 0

This season the Colts A made some notable progress reversing some results from the previous season. The squad comprised of seven players, Billy Harvey, David Carter, Tom Benyon, Will Siddeley, Miles Warden, Mika Vinokurov and Sam Sheppard Barron.

Billy and David formed a formidable partnership as first pair and it was to the credit of Tom Benyon that when David missed the last four matches he too formed a partnership that provided the spine of the side. Their last set against St Edward's was memorable not for just the quality of the Tennis but the fact that it helped secure a tight 5-4 win to finish the season on a real high. Miles Warden was a stalwart in the second pair and is a prospect for the future if he can develop his backhand. Will Siddeley moved around between 2nd & 3rd pair and quietly went about supporting his partner.

Mika has some terrific shots but needs to work on his consistency and Sam Sheppard Barron who appeared half way through the season due to injury proved to be a real asset with a terrific return of serve. They were all great ambassadors for the school and it was a pleasure to work with them.

Mr Alan Hughes



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Colts A

COLTS B P 5 W 1 L 4 D 0

Jack Simpson and Tolly Leech were the regular first pair with Jack skipping the team and demonstrating some sound judgement and poignant observations. Both players have potential but need to believe in their own ability. James Elliott partnered Khalid Abu usually as second pair and made a memorable recovery from being 5-1 down against Uppingham to get back to 6-6 only to lose on a tie break. Jack Carter, George Garrod and George Burke between them formed the third pair. The common thread that all these players need to work on is their service game.

The teams most memorable achievement was against Oundle. The A team were beaten that day and it didn't bode well for the B's as Oundle announced it was their strongest year group but the boys dug deep and ran out clear winners 7-2. They were a great bunch of young men to work with, enthusiastic and terrific sportsmen.

Mr Alan Hughes



Tennis

JUNIOR COLTS

Facing tough opposition, and with a small squad the Junior colts have been a solid team. At the top end Nick de Bois du Montule and Hamish Barnes have never failed to pick up at least two sets from each match, laying a solid foundation for the rest of the players. In the second pair James Dale (captain) has been extremely strong, fighting for every point, and often coming out on top, notably when 5-1 down against Uppingham, he fought back to win 7-5. Unfortunately good early starts in matches have not converted into many overall victories. In the B team the surprise star players have been the pairing of Rory Mitchell and Tom Mathews. What this pair lacked in experience and training, they more than made up for in courage and pluck, often taking the only set in a tough match.

Mr Edward Surrey

YEARLINGS

While the Yearlings have not enjoyed success in their matches to date, the outlook is ever brighter thanks to the invaluable input from Richard Walters (affectionately known as 'Coach Richard' by the boys) and Linford. It has made a very big difference this year in terms of confidence to have a resident, reliable and regular coaching programme. Both at home and away, the Yearlings have played with commendable spirit and good cheer, and there are a number of rising stars within the teams who have provided some very watchable matchplay for fellow team members and assembled spectators. Most notably, Arthur Hobhouse and Jasper Simpkin have proven to be a formidable pairing for even our toughest opponents, while Roddy Blackburn and Freddie Benyon look set to wipe the smile off the opponents' faces in the second half of the term! Praise also to the rest of the team who have struggled against the odds and who have remained cheerful despite the setbacks. We are confident that June will make up for a slow start to the term and that the matches will go our way with our improved and honed skills on the court.

Mr Simon Dobson

SENIOR GIRLS

Girls Senior Tennis has had a busy first half term with more girls than ever choosing to represent Stowe. The addition of Richard Walters as Tennis pro is helping to raise standards and although we have suffered defeat at the hands of Uppingham and St Edwards it is apparent that we are getting close to our rivals as so many sets were lost on tie breaks. Special mentions must go to Lucy Beaty and Lillie Ziegler Pounds as two 5th Formers who have held their own in the 1st team; Lucy Beaty partnered Harriet Nicholls as 1st pair against St Edwards and won 2 sets out of three. Chloe Ballantine and Bella Reeve- Tucker and Grace Lavelle and Sophie Loyd have played attacking tennis in the 2nd team and were the only team to beat St Edwards with the 1st two winning all of their matches. Likewise at the bottom end our 4th team captained by Gaby Fidanova have won all but one of their matches so far.

We still have a number of matches left to play including two mixed games against Bloxham and St Edwards.

For the first time ever, we are running a school singles tournament at both senior and junior level. The later rounds will be played after half term.

Mrs Jayne Duckett

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Senior Girls



Stoic

U15 GIRLS

The U15's enjoyed a very bright start to the season this term with a convincing win of 7 - 2 over local rivals Akeley Wood. This was followed by a very close game against Bloxham which went to the wire, tied at 4 - 4 with only the first pair still playing and they themselves tied at 5 - 5. The first pair for this game, of Chess Hutt and Natalia Mitsukova, did not disappoint and went on to win 7 - 5. Another pair that found regular success was that of Zara Nichols and Lexie Beaty who after a string of successes in the face of tricky opposition in the form of Uppingham and St. Edwards became first pair themselves. Jose Brake has battled through injury and captained the side well and Becka Elliot has some of the best ground strokes to complete the A VI.

The B team of Josie Broughton, Rosie Hayward, Kate Manser, Beth Jones, Ellie Rix and Corn Prior have had one match so far this term where the difference between a very small 4th form and a much larger one was evident against St. Edward's. Both teams have great potential, however, and have enjoyed a good term so far.

Mr Matthew Walsh-Woolcott



U15 Girls

U14 GIRLS

This year we have had a strong group of U14 girls representing the school, enabling Stowe to field an A, B and C team. The A team was captained by Sarah Warner (Queen's), who played with Pandora Stuart-Mills (Queen's) as first pair. The first game of the season against an unexpectedly highly skilled Winchester House team gave the girls a tricky opening fixture. This fired the A and B team to reach greater heights against Akeley Wood, a match that was dominated by Stowe throughout. Tough matches against Uppingham and St Edward's were to follow, causing trouble for all pairs. Imogen Voorspuy (Lyttleton) and Isobel Kenney-Herbert (Lyttleton) put all their heart and soul into supporting the A team at second pair, the two showing remarkable tactical play and doubles awareness. It was inspiring to see that each pair of girls created their own individual styles and competences within their doubles teams. Many of the girls' pairs seemed to go from strength to strength. However, the most improved player of the season was surely Charlotte Cook (Lyttleton), who was promoted through the ranks to play 3rd pair for the A team with Annabel Duthie (Lyttleton). The Cook-Duthie pair played to great effect this season, with strengthening results against stiff opposition.

Mr Roland Johnson



U14 Girls





GOVERNING BODY

Christopher Honeyman Brown

John R C Arkwright (Chairman of OS Committee)

Nicholas W Berry

Jonathan M A Bewes, BA, ACA

J G (Algy) Cluff

Simon C Creedy Smith

The Revd Jonathan J M Fletcher, MA

Professor Sarah J Gurr, BSc, ARCS, DIC, PhD, MA

Mrs Gillian Hylson-Smith, BA

Robert A Lankester, MA

Richard D Lord, QC, MA

George M Magan

Mrs Sara J Murray, MRICS

Christopher J Tate, BA, MIMC

Richard P Taylor, MA

Peter J Thorogood

Air Vice-Marshal Marten van der Veen, MA, RAF (Retd)

Sir Edmund R Verney, BA, FRICS

Christopher P J Wightman, BA

Mrs Helen E W Williams, MA

Admiral Sir James Burnell - Nugent, KCB, CBE, ADL

Secretary to the Governors – Nevil Coulson, MA, MBA

Headmaster: Dr Anthony Wallersteiner

Stowe School
Stowe
Buckingham
MK18 5EH

Telephone: +44 (0) 1280 818000
Fax: +44 (0) 1280 818181
Email: enquiries@stowe.co.uk
Website: www.stowe.co.uk

Registered Charity No. 310639

