V 1 2 I S S U E 1 25 SEPTEMBER 2020 NEWS FROM STOWE

Welcome from the Head

After five months of being at the helm of a School which resembled the Marie Celeste (a more contemporary reference would be the forlorn and empty cruise ships currently anchored off the Dorset coast), we were finally able to welcome back Stoics and Staff.

We achieved this without histrionics or melodrama and my opening line to the Common Room was, "As I was saying, before I was so rudely interrupted by a global pandemic..." I can't tell you what a joy it is to hear the corridors, classrooms and playing fields of Stowe filled with the sound of young people who are just happy to be back at school, craving a return to normality, a time before we became accustomed to words and phrases such as lockdown, self-isolation, face coverings, PPE and social distancing. Lessons have a new energy and purpose, each games practice session is like a match day, every social event is savoured and enjoyed - no one is taking anything for granted. Another term has entered our lexicon - circuit-breaking - the idea of a nationally imposed two-week lockdown to reduce community transmission. We will do our utmost to keep the School open as we know how important it is for pupils to interact with each other, learn in the physical environment of a classroom or on the games field and belong to a community which is more than the sum of its parts. The optimist invents the aeroplane, the pessimist the parachute. Anyone working in education has to be an optimist: teachers impart knowledge to the next generation, lighting fires not filling buckets. Covid-19 has taught us valuable lessons in appreciating the importance of society working together for the common good and given renewed respect for people who make communities run effectively (most notably key workers in the NHS). My sincere thanks to everyone at Stowe who worked so hard over the Summer months, doing a grand job in extraordinary times, meticulously planning and preparing Risk Assessments, Return to School and Work Handbooks, updating the Distance Learning Programme, creating a Hot Zone and Cold

Zone in the Medical Centre, re-starting our Catering Services, getting the grounds, classrooms and Houses ready for re-opening at the start of September. We have introduced a vast battery of measures to keep the virus at bay: temperature checks, hand sanitisers, Purozo sprays, enhanced cleaning regimes and face coverings and reorganisation of classrooms and communal spaces. We have managed to get to Exeat without a single pupil testing positive for Covid-19 and our top priority remains the health, happiness and safety of your children. The dust has finally settled on the 2020 exam results. While we were all profoundly frustrated by the mishandling of the processes, the application of a flawed algorithm to the Centre-Assessed Grades and the reluctance of Government to accept responsibility for the fiasco, none of this detracts from the fact that the Stoics generated the best results in the School's history with 76% of A Levels graded A*-B and 52% of GCSEs A*/A. As the late Supreme Court Justice, Ruth Bader Ginsberg, once said: "Waste no time on anger, regret, or resentment, just get the job done." This is exactly what the Stoics and their teachers managed to do from March to August 2020. We are now contributing to the national conversation to determine the format of next year's exams, merely pushing exams back a few weeks is not enough, and we are calling for an independent review of the examinations fiasco this Summer. We want everyone to enjoy a well-earned rest this Exeat and to come back refreshed and ready for the challenges which lie ahead. Finally, my thanks to you, Stowe Parents, for entrusting us with the care and education of your children in these most challenging times.

Dr Anthony Wallersteiner





The pandemic has caused us to review closely SHPT's restoration plans in a search for ways to maintain progress with our programme while minimising risk to the School and contractors and maximising the work that could be offered to skilled conservators at a time of great difficulty to all companies in the sector. We decided to focus on the State Drawing Room, better known as the Temple Room, rather than, as originally planned, carry out discrete projects in both the State Dining Room and the Temple Room. Our first step was to accelerate research that was already in hand to scope the decorative scheme for this room which, for many years, had looked rather forlorn in its plain magnolia and silver. Detailed archival research, physical analysis of the paint layers and a scrupulous review of contemporary work elsewhere has led to an agreement to recreate Vincenzo Valdrè's original scheme dated to about 1771, four years before Valdrè completed the decoration of the Music Room. As an exact pair, architecturally, to the Music Room, the Drawing Room forms a coherent whole at the centre of the House, with the Marble Saloon between two identical rooms with different decorative schemes and it was important to recreate this elegant transition from one to the other across the Marble Saloon. Whereas the Music Room features figurative compositions on the walls and ceiling, the Drawing Room had plain walls with a delicate plasterwork ceiling, featuring mythical and natural subjects. Analysis of the ceiling's five historical paint schemes revealed that, in the late eighteenth century, it had been decorated in three shades of pink.

The question most frequently asked about the room is whether the silver gilt on the ceiling (actually made from aluminium leaf in the twentieth century) represented its original decoration. At first, this was thought to be the case until microscopic analysis revealed that the majority of the ceiling decoration had been completed in gold, with only four corner panels featuring eagles finished in silver. Tell-tale signs of tarnishing were detected in these panels but not on other decorative panels, while all the mouldings in all the other panels showed signs of a preparation layer to receive gold leaf - so, gold it will be, except for those corner panels in silver. The result is already apparent from the scaffolding deck on which conservators are working but will be even clearer once the scaffolding has been removed. Close up, it is evident just how much detail has been incorporated into the plasterwork, detail that would never have been seen from ground level. This phase of work will be completed by 18 December when the room, also with a new oak floor, will be handed back to the School. Final details of appropriately coloured wall covering and a replica of the original chimney piece will be completed over the Easter holiday.

Until 9 October, special interest tours of the scaffolding are being arranged on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays to see the conservation and restoration work in action. Please see our website for details.

The Stowe House Preservation Trust is an independent charity established for the purposes of fundraising, managing work to the Grade I listed building and opening the House to the public.

Nick Morris, CEO SHPT







Stowemail

Badminton and Basketball

New girls and boys to the Third Form will have their first taste of competitive badminton and basketball at Stowe in the form of Inter-House competitions.

First up is badminton on Sunday 4 October with each Boarding House providing a team of six players (three pairs) and four of these players go on to compete in the singles competition.

After Half Term on Sunday 8 November, we have basketball where the boys' Houses are split into two groups of four with the top team and runner-up in each group playing in the Semi-Finals. Cheshire, Lyttelton, Nugent, Queen's and Stanhope will all play each other to decide the winning House.

Isaac Michael, Head of Badminton and Basketball



Equestrian

Bury Farm

On 13 September, Stowe pupils attended the NSEA Show Jumping and Dressage Championship qualifiers at Bury Farm Equestrian Village. For many, this was their first event since the start of the Covid-19 lockdown which saw all equestrian sport suspended for a number of months.

First to go in his first event for Stowe was Toby Bursnall (Fourth Form, Grafton) riding Lady Karabella for the 70cm class. The duo produced a flawless clear round but unfortunately just missed out on the placings this time by milliseconds.

Next it was the turn of the 80cm team with another Stowe newbie Araminta Spencer-Churchill (Third Form, Stanhope) and Deise Lady leading the charge and picking up an unlucky 4 faults. Araminta was closely followed by Kitty Scott (Fourth Form, Stanhope) riding Decky Boy with 4 faults and another flawless round from Toby Bursnall and Lady taking the team into 3rd place, just narrowly missing out on a championship qualification.

The 90cm and 1m classes both saw Libby Hayes (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) and Cryptic Clue work as a team to navigate some tricky turns, unfortunately resulting in 4 faults in each class.

The dressage classes then saw Amelia Storer (Fourth Form, Queen's) and Dito VH Vissenbroek Z produce a flawless novice test. Earning them a second place and a Championship qualification.

A great day was had by all and despite some unlucky poles, it was a pleasure to have the pupils out representing the School after such a long break.

Angela Haycock, Equestrian Centre Manager

Inter-House Football

On Sunday 6 September, the traditional first Inter-House competition proved to be another fantastic afternoon with 142 separate matches being played with the right mix of enthusiasm, fun and competitive spirit

The winners of the girls' tournaments were as follows:

Third Form | Queen's
Fourth Form | Cheshire
Fifth Form | Nugent
Lower Sixth Form | Nugent
Upper Sixth Form | Nugent

And the winners for the boys' tournaments were as follows:

Third Form | Bruce Fourth Form | Grafton Fifth Form | Cobham Lower Sixth | Cobham Upper Sixth | Cobham

For weekly reports on all Stowe Sports visit our website

www.stowesport.co.uk



Cricket

Holly Phillips

Holly Phillips (Upper Sixth, Nugent) was awarded a special mention as part of Northants #womenscricketmonth social media campaign.

In 2016, Holly Phillips became the first girl to play in a Northants boys' game! She was the wicket keeper in two U13 boys' fixtures, firstly against Stowe School and then against Derbyshire!

Holly has scored over 1,600 runs for the County, with a top score of 132, she has also taken 57 wicket keeping wickets.

What a fantastic achievement. Well done for making history Hols.

Read more here.

James Cronie

James Cronie (Upper Sixth, Cobham) was invited to take part in a three-day trial match for England's U19s. The match took place on 17-19 September at the ECB Headquarters at Loughborough University. He has also been called up to the 50 white ball England U19 trial games over the Exeat weekend.

Congratulations to James on his continued success.

Blenheim Palace Triathlon

On Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 September, I competed in the delayed running of the 2020 Blenheim Palace triathlon. The main event, the Sprint discipline, consists of a 750m swim in the lake followed immediately by a 19.8km cycle and 5.4km run. Having been blessed by perfect weather, the race was genuinely enjoyable, especially around the breathtaking palace grounds. Overall, I finished 264th out of 2087 with a time of 1 hour 27 minutes and managed to come out with a first place in the Youth age category.

Massive congratulations to Dan Roberts (Upper sixth, Grenville) as well, who competed in the half-length Super-Sprint at Blenheim the same weekend, winning the entire discipline by a monumental 9 minutes.

All in all, a pleasure to race and train for over the Summer, and highly recommended to anyone who's up for a challenge.

Ben Hartigan (Lower Sixth, Grafton)



GOES PURPLE



After over five months without any CCF activity, it was with great relief and pleasure to return to our Monday afternoon activities on 7 September 2020.

Our Senior Cadets in Upper and Lower Sixth year groups will follow a leadership programme introducing them to military methods of instruction, creating and delivering lesson plans to our Junior Cadets whilst maintaining social distancing guidelines. This is planned to develop their overall leadership qualities.

We are in a very fortunate position to possess a strong group of Senior Cadets who have the skills and knowledge to deliver this training, particularly to the Fifth Form year group who were unable to benefit from attending the annual Adventure Training and CCF Summer Camps in June.

A good cohort of Fifth Form Cadets returned to the CCF from last year and the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force Sections have combined together to form a single 'Fleet Air Arm' section (led by Lieutenant N Zammit RN). Much of their activities are common across both services and there will be no significant change to training sessions. The combined section will remain until Flying Officer Jon Murnane returns to lead the RAF.

The Army Section continues to be led by Captain Richard Corthine and they have been preparing themselves for our forthcoming field day exercise in October, by refreshing weapon handling skills and learning Battle Exercises as part of their specialist Infantry training syllabus.

Despite the break from CCF activities, Cadets across all sections are to be credited with how quickly they have re-engaged with training whilst adapting positively to the Covid-19 measures that are now a regular part of our sessions.

We welcomed over 80 new Fourth Form Cadets who elected to join the CCF. As part of Covid-19 year group bubble guidelines, a joint service 'purple' CCF section was formed incorporating all three services. They have split into five separate training groups and will follow a rotational programme of activities culminating in an Inter-Group military skills and drill competition early next Term. This will allow the Cadets to receive an introduction or taster of each service's activities before making a specific service choice leading into the Summer Term.

Much of our planned external activities have been cancelled due to current restrictions imposed by MoD and HQ Cadets, however a field day exercise at Stowe on Monday 5 October 2020 is currently being planned.

Congratulations to William Bursnall (Upper Sixth, Grafton) on his appointment as CCF Head Cadet for this year. William will be an excellent Head Cadet. He is relishing the responsibility and is already displaying all of the attributes to be very successful in this role. As a result of the appointment he has been promoted to Cadet CSM.

Congratulations to three members of the Navy and RAF section. William Warde-Norbury (Upper Sixth, Grafton) on promotion to Cadet Petty Officer, Bo Jenkins (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) on promotion to Cadet Leading Hand and Johnny Sutherland (Lower Sixth, Chatham) on promotion to Cadet Sergeant. They will be delivering sessions to our combined RN/RAF section.

Congratulations to Fran Shah (Army Section) on promotion to Lieutenant and our SSI, Geoff Abbey on promotion to Colour Sergeant ('Colours'). We also welcomed three new CCF Staff members, Jonathan Cook to the RN/RAF, with Elspeth Newlin and Michael Burton joining the Army section. We hope you have an enjoyable and rewarding experience in the CCF.

Finally, congratulations to our Contingent Commander, Jan de Gale, who has been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. A thoroughly deserved recognition of her dedicated service to the CCF. We all wish her a speedy return to leading the contingent and hope she finds it well-placed during these challenging times.

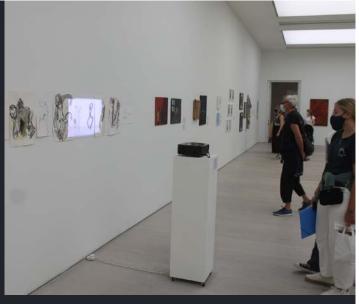
Colour Sergeant Geoff Abbey, CCF School Staff Instructor











On Sunday 20 September, the Upper Sixth Stoic A Level artists grabbed the opportunity to visit the Saatchi Gallery to see the 'London Grads Now' show. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, graduation shows of the leading fine art schools were cancelled earlier this year. Instead, the Saatchi Gallery has provided the venue for more than 150 graduating artists to exhibit their work from the likes of the Royal College of Art, Slade School of Art, Goldsmiths: University of London, Chelsea College of Arts, Wimbledon College of Arts, Camberwell College of Arts and Central Saint Martins. Much of the work provided a powerful and personal response to recent events and their impact on us as individuals, while expanding what art can be and how it can reflect and convey often uncomfortable times. The diverse and wide range of media and approaches (mostly consisting of 2D work) equally opened up the possibility of more unorthodox visual outcomes, all of which challenged and inspired Stoics as they returned to their own artwork.

Chris Grimble, Art Department

BLACK WES MATTER







Cycle for Black Lives Matter and Yemen

On Thursday 2 July, we cycled 100 KM on Boris Bikes in London to raise awareness for the BLM movement and the Yemen crisis. We did the 100 km in approximately eight hours, finishing at around 1 am, raising £3,120 and receiving around 100 donations in less than a week. We planned a route that stopped at various memorials and statues linked to our cause, empowering the BLM movement and drawing light on the Yemen crisis. These buildings and statues included The Yemen Embassy, the 'Gilt of Cain', 'The Bronze Woman', The 'Nelson Mandela statue', and the 'Stephen Lawrence memorial plaque'. We decided to raise money for two charities; The Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust and the British Red Cross.

The Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust is a London-based charity working to remove the barriers that can prevent young people from moving smoothly from education to employment. They do this so they can transform the lives of young people by helping them overcome disadvantages and discrimination when moving into ambitious careers as professionals. Stephen Lawrence was a black 18-year-old teenager from Plumstead in Southeast London. He was killed in a racially motivated attack in Eltham whilst waiting for the bus. Stephen's murder was in 1993 and his killers were found guilty in 2012,

almost 20 years later. There have been so many racially motivated attacks since then, including the murders (by police) of Mark Duggan in Tottenham in North London, which sparked the London riots, and more recently George Floyd. Living in London, we have both either witnessed or experienced racial profiling or racist acts. We believe there needs to be justice for all the lives lost due to racially motivated attacks and there needs to be massive changes to stop these racist acts occurring.

Our second charity, the British Red Cross, is working to support the Yemen crisis, which is the largest humanitarian crisis in the world. There is a population of 24 million people in Yemen and 80 per cent of the population are in need of humanitarian assistance, including 12 million children. Now, with the spread of Covid-19, this just deeply worsens the crisis in Yemen. There has been a massive closure of hospitals and schools in Yemen due to this crisis, meaning the two million children under five suffering with acute malnutrition cannot get treatment and five million children are out of school. This is the reason why we felt we needed to make a difference and try our best to help the people suffering in Yemen.

Tebi Fongho & Oscar Koomen (Upper Sixth, Bruce)







Senior Congreve 2020 Coram Boy

Adapted by Helen Edmundson, based on the novel by Jamila Gavin.

This year's Senior Congreve, Coram Boy, has got off to a flying start even in the face of the pandemic restrictions. This vivid, near-Gothic tale of two orphans, and two cities is full of villains, friends and lovers. Set in the English countryside in the mid-18th century, the play's themes of slavery, trafficking and inequality have poignant resonance in the today's world.

We are working to future-proof the production, capturing behind the scenes aspects on film, whilst also focusing on the creative process itself to allow our pupils to participate in the experience of making theatre while we have this opportunity. Stowe's presentation will be an experiential delight. We are tackling the confines of Covid-19 by splitting the cast into three and delivering the story in a variety of venues in the Stowe Gardens, and the House itself. Our audience will travel from site to site, between Temples, taking in aspects of the spectacular gardens at night, and coming across surprising and captivating incidental performance, including song, ensemble music and a bit of grave digging!

Stowe House and Gardens are often cited as the first theme park in the world, opening its doors to the public in 1750, the same time our play is set. We have intertwined this history of the estate with the events of the play, and have embarked on creating an immersive promenade performance, led by Spirit Guides who will personify the three themes associated with the garden, Virtue, Vice and Liberty. Thus our audience becomes a modern day echo of the past.

Rebecca Clark, Director of Drama



Equestrian

British Dressage Winter National Championships

Louise Gallavan, who works at Stowe Equestrian Centre, won both her classes at Regional level qualifying for the British Dressage Winter National Championships in the Novice Silver class and the Petplan U21 Novice class with 70+% scores. The Championships were supposed to be held in April 2020 but due to Covid-19 they were postponed and took place on 17 to 23 August.

The weather at the Nationals was torrential rain most of the week and the arenas had to be dug out to drain whilst riders were competing! The first test on Wednesday 19 August did not go as planned... Oliver, 6yr old Hanoverian, reacted badly to someone dropping and crashing something in the corner of the arena during their test, and he decided he didn't want to go near it again. Putting that behind them they then looked forward to the second test.

Three days later the sun started to shine and they did their second test. Oliver was still a little spooked but pulled off a great test to give Louise first place with over 70% in a huge class

The usual mounted prize giving was cancelled due to Covid-19, but British Dressage sent their photographer to Louise's home to recreate the moment and take some photos for the British Dressage magazine. Louise is now qualified for the next Regional competitions at Medium and Advanced Medium levels and getting ready to do her first Advanced.

Angela Haycock, Equestrian Centre Manager

Rugby

Stoics making their mark in the world of professional rugby

A number of old Stoics are currently enjoying their careers as professional rugby players:

John Hawkins (Grafton 2015) Captained Stowe 1st XV in the 2014/15 season, represented England U18s and made his Premiership debut for Bristol Bears last season.

Rotimi Segun (Chandos 2015) Played in the Stowe 7s side that won Rosslyn Park 7s in 2015, represented England U16s, 18s and 20s and scored his ninth try for Saracens in their win over Exeter.

Kristian Kay (Chandos 2018) represented Scotland U18s and signed a professional contract with Glasgow Warriors last season.

Devante Onojaife

(Grenville 2016) Stowe 1st XV Vice-Captain in 2016, represented Scotland U20s and made his Northampton Saints debut in 2018.

Jordan Onojaife (Grafton 2013) represented Scotland U20s, was a member of the Northampton Saints Premiership winning side in 2014 and now plies his trade for Bedford Blues.

Taju Atta (Temple 2018) Captained Stowe 1st XV in 2017, represented England U17s and made his Wasps debut in 2017 - whilst only 17 years old. (The first and the youngest Stoic to debut for a Premiership side whilst still at Stowe).

Charlton Kerr (Cobham 2016) won the Rosslyn Park 7s title with Stowe in 2015, and represented England 7s having signed his professional contract in 2016.

Ewan Baker (Fifth Form, Chatham) was selected into the England Academy Player programme by Northampton Saints. Ewan has played a key role in helping the Stowe Junior Colts side reach the Final of the National U15s Schools' Cup at Twickenham last season. He is one of eight Stoics in the current Saints U16s programme.



Inter-House Rugby

It was great to see so many Stoics taking part in the boys' Inter-House touch rugby tournament on the afternoon of Saturday 12 September. This was designed to be a warm-up to the main competition which will be played later in the term, when we hope to be able to play contact rugby. The following emerged as the winners:

Upper Sixth Grafton won the Cup and Cobham won the Plate

Lower Sixth Grafton won the Cup and Temple won the Plate

Fifth Form Grafton won the Cup and Temple won the Plate

Fourth Form Winton won the Cup and Chatham won the Plate

Third Form Cobham won the Cup and Chatham won the Plate



Flying a Spitfire

Flying a Spitfire is perhaps the childhood dream of many, especially those of a certain age and those with an interest in all things mechanical. With the eightieth anniversary of the **Battle of Britain** close to a "significant birthday" for me, my wife (without my knowledge) arranged for this dream to come true!



One morning at the end of August, we headed off to the Imperial War Museum at Duxford, Cambridgeshire where I was to experience this once in a lifetime opportunity.

The briefing before the flight turned out to be scarier than the flight itself. The instructors explained the three of four ways that one could meet a horrible and untimely end, though they also explained the procedures (each of them different) that would hopefully mitigate the chance of any life insurance claim! There was a lot to memorise, for example how to "bail out" or deploy one's parachute. I have never attempted a parachute jump and I hoped that I wasn't about to experience that as part of my day.

Briefing over, it was time to meet this iconic aircraft. Spitfire PT462 was originally one of a batch ordered on 17 July 1943 and built at Castle Bromwich. She was delivered to 39 Maintenance Unit at Colerne, Wiltshire on 21 July 1944, though she saw active service abroad - mainly in the Mediterranean. In 1976 her derelict airframe was discovered buried on a municipal rubbish dump in Israel! Shipped back to the UK and restored, she was first flown again on 25th July 1987 albeit now converted to a two-seater.

Of the 22,000 Spitfires built by the Vickers-Supermarine factory they did in fact, towards the very end of the Second World War, build about nine or ten two-seat canopy arrangement spitfires as 'trainer aircraft'.

My pilot, sat in front of me and fired up the Packard Merlin 224 engine, the sound and smell of the engine as it burst into song was so evocative. I was determined to try and imagine myself as a young pilot taking to the skies under war-time conditions (the average age for a spitfire pilot was just 22 years old). The cockpit was snug and with a wingspan of only 11m the Spitfire felt compact. It was very emotional to be sat in a classic wartime fighter plane imagining the action and the terror that this Spitfire had witnessed.

We took off and after a few minutes of acclimatising myself with the various instruments, the pilot handed control to me. The controls were incredibly sensitive. One doesn't move the stick to change direction, rather you merely apply the slightest pressure and the Spitfire responds instantly! How anyone could keep watch and also keep control when under fire, is almost impossible to imagine.

After handing back the controls, we then executed a couple of victory rolls, a "Loop" and then another victory roll. All in all, we were flying for just over half an hour, but that time I shall never, ever forget.

And next year's birthday present? Just a pair of socks will do fine - this year's experience can't be topped!

Fraser Liversage, CCF & DofE Administrator



Cross Country Bikes

Do you have an unused mountain or cross country bike? One that with some work on it could be used off road?

Stowe's provision of cycling be that for leisure, general fitness or competition continues to grow. Stowe has its own official cycle club and sets out to cater for all abilities and across different disciplines. A new addition is the creation of a cross country course in a fenced-off field on the School grounds near the Equestrian Centre.

Designed by experienced coaches and National level cyclists, this initial design makes the most of the undulating terrain with switch backs and obstacles that cater for various levels of fitness and technical skill. There has been an enthusiastic response already but for some, participation can be limited for those who do not have a bike at School. We would therefore be immensely grateful if anyone has an old cross country or mountain bike they are happy to donate to the School for Stoics to use in this new venture. We have an onsite bike mechanic (Nick Zammit) who will be able to service and replace parts to make any disused bike off-road worthy.

Please contact Chris Grimble if you can help.



Diversity & Inclusion

Rebecca Clark, Faculty Chair Arts and Culture and Director of Drama has been appointed as Head of Diversity and Inclusion. With a background working in equality and inclusion both as an actor, theatre practitioner and educator, Rebecca's role involves identifying and working to overcome barriers to race equality at Stowe.

This includes tackling racism, raising racial literacy among Staff and pupils, strategising for greater diversity in Staff recruitment, and supporting Staff and Departments to make representative decisions regarding their curriculum and teaching methodologies. Beyond this, Rebecca is working with Tori Roddy and the Marketing & Admissions Department on strategy; and liaising with the Head of International Pupils, Fran Shah, to ensure we understand and respond to the specific needs and circumstances of all our pupils. Working with the Development Team, Rebecca's role includes conducting outreach and forming partnerships for Change 100 with Colin Dudgeon and Charlie Clare. An aspect of her work is also with Parents, Old Stoics and members of the broader School community and anyone with concerns about diversity and inclusion at Stowe is welcome to contact her here or telephone on 01280 818422.

Rebecca Clark, Head of Diversity & Inclusion





After numerous fantastical fundraising efforts from Stoics over lockdown, we were keen to keep up a good momentum of service at the start of this new academic year. Volunteering at Stowe has, like so many activities, required a swift process of re-imagination, while we wait for normal service to be resumed, but Stoics have risen to the challenge and have admirably pivoted to new ways of working. Pupils may not be able to visit care home residents in person, for example, but they can upskill by taking a FutureLearn course about dementia and discovering memory-aid games that they will be able to do with residents during 'digital' visits. The Primary School team are doing some gardening for Roundwood School in Tingewick, while the Puppetry group are busy preparing shows to be recorded for circulation and volunteers for Amnesty International are fighting for those who have no voice.

We have three new projects this year, which are already going strong. Community Projects offer a range of ways for Stoics to get stuck into serving people, both near to School and further afield. At present they are putting together an Inter-House competition to support Operation Christmas Child. The House that puts together the most shoeboxes will get a food truck at the end of term! They will also be helping local churches to clear their green spaces and organise foodbank collections. The Stowe Conservation Project has been allocated a woodland to restore by the Oxford Lake, which we

hope will be a space for people to enjoy and for wildlife to thrive. We are delighted to see our Stoics taking a lead on the design and creation of a new nature trail with adventure play areas and treehouses aimed at primary-aged children. Their nature-themed activities will help children to learn about the importance of the natural environment. Our pupils are also hoping to partner with a construction company or firm of architects to help us with the design and build of the new adventure play areas, which will enable them to develop their engineering skills. And in a very timely move, Eco Schools is starting as a joint initiative with LSAS (Lower School Academic Scholars) this term. Pupils will help to compile key information and stories relating to the School's past and current sustainability initiatives and find creative ways to communicate this to pupils, parents and the wider Stowe community using a new digital platform.

In all this we are encouraging our SDLP (Stowe Distance Learning Programme) learners, who are still very much full members of our School community, to join in as much as they can, particularly with the online activities. We look forward to welcoming them back to School as soon as possible.

Dr Imogen Adkins, Head of Volunteering



Stowe Distance Learning Programme (SDLP)

Having left Stowe in 2017, I went on to study at the University of Bath and I hope to continue my studies at the University of Cape Town. I graduated from Bath with a Psychology Degree this Summer and have now returned to Stowe to offer additional Pastoral support to our pupils on the Stowe Distance Learning Programme. My perspective as an Old Stoic can hopefully be put to good use to provide an insight into life at Stowe. I have really enjoyed meeting a number of new Stoics over Microsoft Teams and I look forward to meeting more of our SDLP pupils over the coming weeks.

Working remotely from your peers and not being physically present within the School environment may be an isolating experience. We are determined to ensure that all Stoics, on campus or overseas, feel as much a part of the Stowe community as possible. A Stowe education goes beyond academic work alone and I am hoping to help all SDLP pupils access everything that Stowe has to offer. As Pastoral Tutor my role is to ease any anxiety by offering a listening ear, answering questions and helping facilitate the transition from online to in-class learning once our pupils arrive at Stowe. In addition, I will be coaching hockey and assisting within PSHE lessons too.

It is fantastic being back at Stowe and feeling part of such a vibrant school atmosphere once again.

Thalia Felton (Queen's 2017)



Quirky Quarantine

2020 has been a turbulent time to say the least! Covid-19 disrupted and altered the way of life in every country across the globe.

QUARANTINA (Q

Here is a picture I took during the quarantine. It is the tree where Gogo and Didi were waiting for Godot, and the tree where we are waiting for the quarantine





As Summer approached, it became increasingly evident that travel would still be heavily restricted when the Michaelmas Term began in September. As such, Staff at Stowe worked endless hours, planning how best we could support Stoics who reside abroad, in order to ensure they were able to safely return to the School in September. Increasing numbers of countries were added to the list requiring travellers to be quarantined upon arrival within the UK - a task which many pupils would not only find difficult logistically, but also could cause increased anxiety. Upon hearing this, a great number of Staff willingly volunteered to give up their final two weeks of the Summer holidays in order for the School to provide the opportunity to quarantine within the grounds. This was much appreciated by many, with 47 pupils taking up the opportunity.

Being able to arrive directly at School upon arriving in the UK greatly alleviated some of the stresses and concerns of parents and Stoics, and although pupils were limited in what they were able to do, they all greatly appreciated being in a familiar and friendly environment. The Catering, Security, Admissions and Cleaning Staff all did an incredible job of ensuring pupils were well cared for throughout their time in quarantine. Alongside this, members of Academic and Support Staff tried to ensure pupils were able to enjoy their time in quarantine as much as possible. Activities ranging from daily walks, HIT workout sessions, creative competitions (and of course academic work!) kept Stoics very busy during the day time. In the evenings, pupils were provided opportunities to have film nights, an ice cream sundae bar and a quiz night in small groups. Alongside this, three pupils celebrated their birthdays whilst in quarantine, which saw copious amounts of cake being consumed. Luckily this fuelled a very entertaining talent show, which saw pupils demonstrate some outstanding acting, singing and dancing skills. The showstopper of the evening was performed by Team Supa Hot (Robbie Haigh (Upper Sixth, Grenville), Fernando Fournon-Berodia (Lower Sixth, Walpole), Arin Chatsuwan (Fourth Form, Grenville), Poon Prachakrit (Third Form, Grenville), Daniel Garcia Bornholt (Lower Sixth, Cobham),

Fran Shah, Head of International Pupils

performed an epic dance routine to entertain Staff and pupils.

THE PILLARS

Nicholas Tangsrud (Upper Sixth, Grenville) and Aaryan Aswani (Lower Sixth, Temple), who

It sounds like the hails are going to come and smash us,
Yet we know it won't: we are under a roof.
Raised Gently by the harshly curved pillars, so we are saved from the cuts.
The sun comes out and evaporates the clouds,
But the pillars are still there, so we won't be misted.
And the pillars remain there, missed by none and missing by none.

Poetry written by Xinyu Ma (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) whilst in quarantine





Ordinarily, pupils can sometimes be reluctant to see their Summer holidays coming to an end - no more long lazy days with friends! However, the pupils who were quarantined at School thoroughly enjoyed being able to socialise with friends, and to see the welcoming and friendly faces of Staff they had not seen in person for many months. Although many won't admit it, it is clear they have missed being physically at School, and are all keen to make the most of their time here in the upcoming year. During their time in quarantine, Staff were very impressed with the behaviour and efforts of all pupils, and the following were given Commendations for a variety of reasons.



Wednesday Zhu

(Lower Sixth, West)
was awarded a Commendation
for putting together a beautiful
monochromatic digital art show with
music, which depicted the wind.
This was part of an art challenge
around the topic of 'nature'.



Grace Huang

(Third Form, Lyttelton)
was awarded a Commendation
for doing a brilliant job of
organising her Lip Sync battle
team. Her enthusiasm was also
recognised in every project and
competition set.



was awarded a
Commendation for being
a kind, positive and
encouraging Stoic. He was a
real asset to the quarantine
house and a true value to



was awarded a Commendation for composing and performing a song in the Quarantine Talent Show.
Alongside this, she continually contributed a great array of photos poems and artwork to every challenge set by Staff.

Xinyu Ma



Nicholas Tansgrud

(Upper Sixth, Grenville)
was awarded a Commendation for
always being willing to help Staff,
whether this be through distributing
messages to other Stoics, helping to
collect catering goods, or ensuring
younger pupils were prepared and
supported in all activities.



Poon Prachakrit

was awarded a
Commendation for diligently
following guidance, being
polite to all members of Staff
and integrating with all year



I would like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks for all the work done behind the scenes to ensure this programme could run successfully. I would also like to thank the Staff who reside in Queen's House for allowing us to utilise their building during this period - our stay was very comfortable due to this! Finally, a big thank you to Mr Copley, Mrs Roddy, Ms Holloway, Mr Cuddy and Mrs Westmoreland for giving up their Summer holidays to help pupils return to School. Working 24 hour shifts, doing regular shopping trips to ensure the tuck shop was well stocked, and doing all they could to support the pupils' health and wellbeing was exhausting, but much appreciated! The pupils decided that any profit raised by the tuck shop would be donated to charity. As such,

they managed to raise a phenomenal £284.50, which has been equally distributed to the Leonard Cheshire Foundation and the NHS Charities Together.

The School is hoping to provide similar facilities for pupils during Exeats and Half Terms. With the Covid-19 pandemic still ongoing, we would like to ensure pupils and their families are supported as much as possible throughout the entire year, not just during term. Further information about this provision will be released in due course.

Fran Shah, Head of International Pupils





2020 Examination Results

2020 was the first year ever where pupils' examination results were not actually based on examinations. After a very damaging flirtation with using a flawed algorithm to generate grades at A Level, the government made a late U-turn and instead awarded grades based purely on the Centre-Assessed Grades that schools had been asked to generate using the data they had on pupils up to the point of the lockdown.

Based on these Centre-Assessed Grades, results at both A Level and GCSE were strong. Last year's Leavers were a hard-working cohort and it is pleasing to say that with the Centre-Assessed Grades being accepted, as a school we achieved our best-ever results - with 76% of all grades awarded at A*/B. There were some excellent individual performers. 39 pupils achieved at least three A grades and nine of these achieved at least three A*s, with two pupils achieving four A*s. In addition, our first cohort of eight pupils taking the BTEC in Engineering all achieved the top grade of a starred distinction. 121 pupils were accepted onto their first-choice university course, with 128 moving on to Russell Group universities, and two heading to Oxford.

Like with the A Levels, this year's GCSE results were the best the School has ever achieved, with 52% of all grades being awarded at grade 7/A or above and 30% at grades 8-9 or A*. Impressively, 15 Stoics achieved all grades at grade 7 or above and a total of 43 Stoics scored at least eight grades at 7-9 or A*/A. There were some outstanding individual performances, with three pupils achieving ten grade 9s, and two others who achieved nine grades at grade 9. In total, 15 pupils achieved eight A*s/grade 8-9 or more.

Dr Julie Potter, Deputy Head (Academic)

STOWE BUSINESS BULLETIN

To gain an insight into the world of recruitment and HR, Stowe's Business Department was lucky enough to grab a 30 minute interview with Cameron Gallagher, Director of Business Development at Man Group Plc. Read Cameron's interview here in the latest edition of Stowe Business Bulletin.



Cricket Report - Autumn 2020

Having missed the Summer, it was fantastic that the pupils were allowed to play cricket on their return in September.

A selection of 2020 Leavers were allowed to play in the first four matches against the Old Stoics, Bucks U18s, Northants U18s and Berkhamsted.

Stowe won the match on Tuesday 1 September against the Old Stoics comfortably with James Cronie (Upper Sixth, Cobham) top scoring with 73. There were also valuable contributions from George Hooper (Upper Sixth, Chandos) (24), Rhys Noble (Upper Sixth, Chandos) (20) and Jack Mercer (Upper Sixth, Grafton) (42*). Stowe reaching 210 for 4 in their 40 overs. In reply, the Old Stoics got off to a solid start thanks to fifty from Brandon Lee.

However, as the required run rate climbed, wickets began to fall with James Cronie taking 2 wickets and Jacob Ford-Langstaff (Upper Sixth, Winton) 2 wickets. Rhys Noble finished the innings off with four wickets in seven balls including a hatrick.

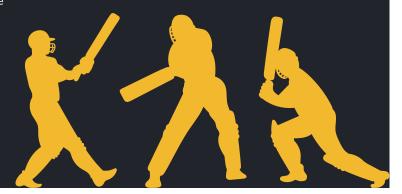
On Wednesday 2 September against Bucks, Stowe batted first posting an imposing 246 for 6 in their 45 overs. There were contributions throughout the order with James Cronie making 32, Jack Mercer 27, Sam Birch (Upper Sixth, Grenville) 25 and Rhys Noble 31*. The major innings was played by Rohan Hesketh (Upper Sixth, Grafton) who scored 94. In reply Bucks were 75 for 2 off twenty overs when the rain came and Stowe were awarded the game by the Duckworth/Lewis method.

A T20 match followed on Friday 4 September with a strong Northants U18 Team who smashed 169 for 6 in their twenty overs. In reply Stowe started rapidly with James Cronie (35) and Rohan Hesketh (57) hitting the ball to all parts. Jack Mercer also hit 33 valuable runs but it was not quite enough to get Stowe home as they fell 3 runs short six wickets down.

Away at Berkhamsted on Sunday 6 September Stowe fielded first. Oli Taylor (Chatham 2020) picked up three early wickets before Charles Shore-Hollingworth (Chandos 2020) got four more coming on first change. Berkhamsted all out for 81. With the wicket seaming and taking considerable turn, the run chase was not going to be straight forward and so it proved with the Stowe XI reduced to 30 for 6. However, George Hooper and Oliver Taylor got stuck in and produced a superb partnership of 40. Defending solidly but pouncing on anything loose.

Taylor fell for 25 with 17 runs still required. Charles Shore-Hollingworth defended well and Hooper managed to farm most of the strike until one of the opening bowlers came back on and he smashed a four down the ground and then a pull shot for four to win the match. George finished 35 not out in a 'man-of-the-match' performance.

James Knott, Head of Cricket





The Community Project

The Community Project is a new initiative launched at Stowe. Working alongside other opportunities within the Service@Stowe programme, this activity hopes to engage pupils meaningfully within the local, national and global community. The first meeting of the group saw pupils generating lots of ideas about how they could do this - whether it be through fundraising charities, volunteering to do outdoor work for local community space, or giving up their time to support nationwide works such as the Breakfast Club. Over the coming weeks, The Community Project pupils will begin working towards their first charitable project, so watch this space for more details!

Fran Shah, Deputy Co-curricular Co-ordinator

The Community Project team are launching an initiative to support the Operation Christmas Shoe Box Appeal. The pupils at Stowe are privileged to be surrounded by a strong community, whether that is in School or at home. This is sadly not the case for many children around the globe. Operation Christmas Child is a volunteer-led appeal to ensure that children from the poorest families, orphanages and hospices receive a gift of love and hope during the festive period, which could be the spark to change their future.



We are asking that every member of the Stowe community put together a shoebox filled with items and gifts over the following weeks. These shoeboxes will then be collected nationally, and distributed to those in need. The School will collate all shoeboxes by Tuesday 3 November, so Stoics and their families have a perfect opportunity to put together boxes over Exeat and Half Term.

Each box has to be suitable for one of the following age groups:

2-4 years | 5-9 years | 10-14 years

If you are unsure about what items could be suitable, we hope you could consider providing items which meet the 4 W's;

- WEAR: scarf, hat, gloves
- WRITE: crayons, pencils, paper, colouring books
- WASH: soap bars, hair brush, face cloth
- WOW: game, puzzle, cuddly toy, deflated ball and pump, toy car, dolls, musical instrument

The children also love to receive personal messages and photos to find out more about who has sent them the gift. Do consider bringing in a handwritten card or note, or even photographs of yourself to include in the shoeboxes!

DO NOT INCLUDE:

- Damaged, fragile, sharp or used items
- Anything war related e.g. toy soldiers
- Seeds or food
- Liauids
- Medicine
- Religious or political items
- Wordy books

Each box that is sent as part of this national campaign requires transport costs to be met. If any Stoics are willing or able to contribute to these costs, please contact Miss Shah who will provide further details about how to do so.

Grace - our new arrival

Standing almost 10ft tall, 9ft long and weighing nearly 200 kgs, you can't fail to notice Grace when you enter the Science Department foyer. At first glance you might mistake her for a raptor but she's not, she is a life-sized model of **Aepyornis maximus** - the species of extinct Madagascan elephant bird thought to have laid our egg.

We commissioned a company that manufacture model dinosaurs, to make a skeleton for us - an entire bird would take up too much foyer space! The company had not made an elephant bird before, so a lot of anatomical research was undertaken before new moulds and casts were created. It was a lengthy process and during this time the craftsmen working on her, named her Grace.

Although elephant birds were 'ratites' (running birds), they were not giant ostriches. A DNA study in 2014 demonstrated that their closest living relative is the chicken-sized New Zealand kiwi.

So we conclude that elephant bird ancestors arrived on Madagascar, where the vegetation was lush and abundant, and being devoid of natural predators they evolved over millennia to become flightless and gigantic.

The most likely reason for their extinction is egg poaching, combined with habitat loss. If you study our egg you'll see that its volume is 160 times that of a chicken's egg, so it had the potential to feed an entire village

The question I'm often asked is 'If we have an egg could we bring back the elephant bird?' There's no chick inside our egg and the likelihood of any viable DNA is small, but, if some could be extracted and then combined successfully with the DNA of a modern-day kiwi bird... well, perhaps, one day.

Sheilagh Rawlins, Science Department



Young Historian Awards

Essay Competition Winner

Emily Banks (Lyttelton 2020) has been awarded one of the two senior prizes in the Spirit of Normandy Trust Young Historian Essay Competition. Her essay was based on the reasons for the failure of the 1940 Allied campaign in Norway.

This was a really impressive accomplishment, considering it was a National competition. The Judges said, "In terms of her achievement she was identified early on as one of the two front-runners and, as more and more quality entries arrived, she maintained that position. The judges were very impressed."

Congratulations to Emily for this extremely positive launch to her degree studies in History. You can enjoy reading her essay here.

Dr Julie Potter, Deputy Head (Academic)



During the holidays, the new incoming Third Form were set a challenge to enter the Chris Evans' 500 words competition on the theme of Black Lives Matter. All the entries were also entered into a competition at Stowe. The standard was so high that we have decided to create our own book of entries for the Library.

After much deliberation we decided to award extra prizes and the winners are:

1st place: George Smith (Winton) with a Commendation

Joint 2nd: Oliver Pearce-Bataller (Grenville) and Freddie Nottage (Winton)

Joint 3rd: Aurea Parsons (Cheshire) and **Isabella Fuller** (Cheshire)

George also got through to the second round of the thousands of entries in the National competition.

Lyn Foden, School Librarian

A Bird's Eye View

A small, delicate robin flew from the deep mossy branch and glided gently through the sky. High above a Buzzard with outstretched wings soared hovering for its prey, its wingspan stretching an impressive four foot of glorious dabbled brown and white. The world of birds was alive in the trees that stood majestically along the common. Miles of green lush grass where families gathered, dog walkers walked and birds flew, often unnoticed.

But the view from the sky was noticeably different. There was calmness, a silence, a sparseness of human life below. The sounds were different too. Fellow birds could hear each other, often in harmony, no longer drowned out by the traffic in the sky. Planes no longer cutting through the clouds and except for the odd one that left its white wavy trail, the skies belonged to the birds.

Samir gazed up, listening intently to the birdsong, a woodpecker could be heard pecking into the bald tree, its leaves had never returned since it got struck by lightning years ago.

To soar through the skies gathering speed, swooping, diving and landing was all Samir dreamed about. Freedom! He climbed swiftly to the top of his tree house, cupped his hands together breathing through them to let out a shrieking sound he had perfected to replicate the caw of birds. Closing his eyes, drifting into a world of peace and serenity, calm and beauty. Imagination taking him high into the sky, his arms surreptitiously flapping in bird like manner.

Looking down from the clouds the eerie silence below caused by a deadly Virus lockdown that stretched from weeks to months, was being disturbed. The escalating noise growing louder "I can't breathe" and louder "Black lives Matter", stomping, louder, the marching getting closer until the raucous raged, overwhelming mayhem and the sounds of police sirens.

As silent tears began to trickle he whispered "Am I old enough to understand this, everyone expects me to. It's not ok to say "I understand that I don't understand" because I'm Samir, they expect me to." Eyes still closed, the robin perched within inches, thinking he's not afraid of me and I won't hurt him. Soon the noises will stop and one day the world will be different but for now the burden of change weighed too heavy. Letting out a frustrated, crying shriek towards the circling hawks, believing they understood him and maybe they did.

George Smith (Winton)





In the new September to December season we will be screening films dealing with a variety of topics: disability, race and racism and gender issues, which have been made by diverse film makers from different countries. The programme has been put together to reflect the times we live in and to ensure that film lovers at Stowe get the opportunity to experience as diverse a curriculum as possible.

Highlights of our new season include **In the Heat of the Night** (Jewison, 1967) a cracking 1960s thriller which was awarded five Oscars; **Hostiles** (Cooper, 2017) with Christian Bale on top form as a prejudiced Cavalry officer forced to accompany a group of Indians across the American heartlands; **Rust and Bone** (Audiard, 2012) a powerful French drama with the beautiful Marion Cotillard superbly cast as a disabled woman coming to terms with the horrific consequences of a terrible accident at work; **Water Lilies** (Sciamma, 2008) a small-scale but in many ways perfect coming of age drama, uniquely set in the world of synchronized swimming and **Whip It** (Barrymore, 2000) another excellent coming of age drama with a great female cast (Ellen Page, Kristen Wig, Juliet Lewis, Barrymore herself) and a superb concept - women bond in brutal roller skating team.

FLiX co-ordinator, Dr Andrew Webber said, "Film A Levels tend to focus on "classic" Hollywood films where it would be fair to say issues about representation tend to be fairly narrow. Therefore it is important to offer film lovers a chance to look at the subject of, for example, race or gender, elsewhere, if we can. The movies we have chosen for this season are all great films in their own right but they are also ones which our members may not have come across and which will give them a chance to broaden their knowledge of how film can play a major part in shaping how we see the world."

Forthcoming titles in this two part celebration of diversity will stretch pupils even further with the inclusion of three stunning documentaries **School of Babel**, about an International School in Paris, **Utopia** - John Pilger's brilliant investigation into how native Australians are treated in their homeland and **We Were Here**, a moving account of the first generation of AIDs victims in San Francisco in the 1980s.

FLiX meets every Monday at 3.15pm in the Vanbrugh Building.

International Society

The first few weeks of Term have seen the International Society beginning to develop the multicultural nature of the School. Having had a number of overseas Stoics choose to base themselves at School for their quarantine period upon arrival to the UK, many of our international pupils have already built some strong connections with each other and developed good relationships across different year groups and Houses. This term, the International Society is beginning to plan and organise its first whole School event of the year - an International Stoic Fair! This will be a chance for any overseas Stoics to share their culture from home - introducing pupils and Staff to new types of music, dance, food and more! Any Stoic who is interested in being involved, needs to contact Miss Shah to gain more information, and begin putting together resources for the Fair.

Fran Shah, Head of International Pupils





As the new Chair my first task this year should have been to welcome the new parents at the Third Form and Lower Sixth drinks. We had a fantastic offer from Aston Martin to bring their new 4x4 for you all to have a look at and they even offered us one of their James Bond DB5s complete with ejector seat and pop up machine guns, sadly this and just about everything else we had planned for the Michaelmas Term is currently on hold!

For the parents new to the School our role as a Committee is to facilitate events that enable you to meet other parents whilst being entertained, informed and occasionally indulged where the Stowe connection can add a little value, for example a tour of Stowe gardens guided by the Head himself or another victim of lockdown, the backstage all access tour of the Royal Opera House before a performance of Swan Lake with dinner in Covent Garden. Stowe parents have raced Porsches round Silverstone, shot Clays by the Bourbon with lunch in Concord & Victory and been shown the original Stowe House sale book behind the scenes at Christies auction house, all with an opportunity to eat, drink and get to know your fellow parent before or after.

Whilst we may not be able to offer you any such opportunity this term we are planning to resume normal service as soon as possible. Pease look out for the amazing events brochure the

School kindly produces for us and the Stowe Parents' events link from the School website.

In the meantime, this is a perfect opportunity to ask for suggestions for the sort of events that you would like to attend, or even better are able to offer contacts for. Typically we prefer to offer something that you could not book yourselves or that offers a significant price reduction, and that also gives the time for you to meet and talk with other Stowe Parents you might not otherwise come into contact with.

If anyone feels they would like to contribute by joining us we would ask that you be prepared to organise or host at least one event in your first 12 months on the Committee, although at present that may be slightly more challenging than in previous years! We have fantastic support and resource from the School to assist us with all aspects of an event, so it is markedly less daunting than you would think.

We all hope to be able to introduce ourselves in person at a Journey Breaker or the belated welcome drinks as soon as possible but in the meantime do please get in touch with suggestions for events or to join the Committee.

Amanda Blane, Chair of Stowe Parents' Association

Me Parents



Social Distancing measures in place

*M*email

How to Follow Your Instincts on the Stock Market

Have you ever been interested in the Stock Market but not sure where to start? Old Stoic Annie Roberts (Lyttelton 19) and her father, Stephen have written a book called 'How to Follow Your Instincts on the Stock Market: It's Simpler Than You Think' published on 26 August. A detailed and knowledgeable guide, highly recommended for amateurs and professionals alike!

Sasha Moss, Old Stoic Society

"It's Simpler Than you Think"

HOW TO FOLLOW YOUR INSTINCTS ON THE STOCK MARKET

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