

Speech Day Celebrations

May came to a close with a couple of exciting days at Stowe. On Friday 27 May the sound of the Eighties returned as Tony Hadley and his band arrived at Stowe and delighted an audience packed with Spandau Ballet fans with some of their classic songs. His repertoire also included songs from other artists and many of the audience spent the evening reliving their youth, as many of the Stoics experienced the musical delights of the Eighties for the first time! Tony had a hard act to follow as he was supported on the night by some of Stowe's musical talent. Miles Nottage, Ben Andrew and Ben Western (BEN²) from our Music Department were the support acts and got the evening off to a wonderful start as our guests picnicked on the South Front.

The following day, we were delighted to see so many parents and Old Stoics join us for this year's Speech Day. The sun shone on Stowe as we celebrated our pupils' wonderful achievements and listened to some inspiring words from this year's Guest of Honour, Tatler Editor and Old Stoic, Kate Reardon (Nugent 87).

For those arriving early on site there were the traditional Stoic v Old Stoic showdowns in the sporting arena with teams put out for clay pigeon shooting, golf, squash, water polo, fives and cricket. And an excellent riding display got underway at the Equestrian Centre as the Classic Cars arrived and were beautifully displayed on the North Front. As Stowe's Big Band struck up, the flow of parents and Old Stoics increased and it was not long before the marquee filled up for the main event of the day.

This year's Speech Day was special for many reasons but particularly so as it was Christopher

Honeyman Brown's final Speech Day as our Chairman of Governors. Both he and the Headmaster commented on just how spectacular Stowe's development has been and how much has been achieved by Stoics, staff and supporters. Musical interludes were provided by some extraordinary Stoic performers ([view them here](#)). After the prizes were awarded, Kate Reardon spoke of the importance of having fun and how enthusiasm and reacting positively to situations can truly make a difference to your life. You can watch her speech in full [here](#).

As picnics were unpacked, we were treated to the sounds of The Virtuosi GUS Brass Band and a brilliant air show by the Yakovlev Display Team who this year brought four planes to Stowe for their aerial acrobatics. To finish the day, the beagles made an appearance and then two Classic Cars, brought to Stowe from the Brooklands Museum, were fired up (with a little help from a push start) and proceeded to roar around the North Front.

Many of our visitors called into the Watson Art School and StoweBucks to see some excellent work by the Stoics, produced during their Art, Textiles and Design Technology courses. Speech Day is about celebrating the work and achievements of the School community and these exhibitions, the musical performances by the Stoics and the prizes given for a range of achievements highlighted just some of the creative talent here at Stowe.

For those who missed the event or would like to see some of the [highlights](#) and [photos](#) are now available online.





Classic Cars at Speech Day



Thanks to our ever-loyal Classic Car drivers, the annual display increases year on year. This year we were delighted to welcome one hundred and thirteen Veteran, Vintage and Classic Cars to our display on the North Front. We were extremely lucky to have some extra special cars in attendance, including the 1949 Crocus HRG Special, 1939 Citroen Light 15 Traction Avant, a 1947 MG TC Police Car and the 1959 Bristol Teardrop Special.

Our Classic Car owners all had a delicious lunch in the State Dining Room and Andrew Clarke (Bruce 77) kindly supplied wine from his Vineyard which went down very well with our guests. Following lunch, John Arkwright (Cobham 69) thanked our sponsor, Hagerty International Limited, for their continued support of our event. Anna Semler (Nugent 05) presented John with an Old Stoic

Ambassador Award for his commitment and service to the Old Stoic Society.

We were extremely lucky to have a grand finale to our display: the 24 litre Napier-Railton Special 1933 and the 1912 15 litre Grand Prix Lorraine-Dietrich, known as Vieux Charles Trois, fired up their engines before completing a circuit around the North Front. We are extremely grateful to The Brooklands Museum and Richard Nash (Chandos 66) for bringing these two cars.

We will be holding the display again next year, so please do save the date of Saturday 27 May 2017.

Caroline Whitlock, Old Stoic Events Co-ordinator

Into Film: Into Space

Our journey to space began in December 2015 when the Lower School Scholars' Group undertook the challenge of making a film to enter the Intro Film: Into Space National Competition. The Flocinaucinihilipilificaters group decided to tell the story of a girl wanting to be an astronaut and doing everything she could to be selected for astronaut training. In April we received news that our film 'To Infinity' was one of the winners in the 12-15 year age group. All of the winning films were then sent into space to be watched by British Astronaut Tim Peake on the International Space Station (ISS).

On Wednesday 25 May we were invited to the Picturehouse Cinema in London for the premiere of the winning films. Unfortunately our two main film-makers, Alex Orton (Fifth Form, Lyttelton) and Charlotte Bird (Fifth Form, Lyttelton), were unable to attend as they had their Physics GCSE that afternoon, but instead some of the Third and Fourth Formers who helped with some of the filming were able to go in their place: Oscar Hill (Fourth Form, Temple), Cameron Chambers (Fourth Form, Grenville), Esme Foster (Fourth Form, Stanhope) and Oliver Seddon (Third Form, Cobham), as well as two of the smaller members of the cast, Alice Murnane and Sophie Noble from Beachborough.

The event began with a little surprise, on the screen appeared a recorded message from Tim Peake announcing all of the winners and congratulating everyone, saying how much he had enjoyed the films. All the winning film-makers then got to see their films in true cinematic style, before being invited on stage to receive a winner's certificate and Principia Mission Patch from Libby Jackson, a former Flight Director with the UK Space Agency. Libby then managed to establish a live link with Tim Peake on the ISS and we were able to have a group chat with him in space.

The pupils worked extremely hard on this project and thoroughly deserve their win for a fantastic film. If you would like to watch the film, it can be found [here](#).

Sarah Murnane, Lower School Scholars' Group Coordinator



Vanguard Concert

On Friday 20 May, Theo Hayes (Third Form, Chatham), Rohan Sekhri (Third Form, Walpole) and Victor Fedotov (Third Form, Grafton) organised an informal concert featuring some of the best musical talent in their year group, including Theo himself, Sean Carslaw Tricot (Third Form, Grenville), Finlay Sutherland (Fifth Form, Grafton), Jeffrey Au (Third Form, Walpole), Olivia Elliott (Third Form, Stanhope) and Emily Banks (Third Form, Lyttelton).

This was part of the new Third Form Vanguard Programme, which this term has seen Stoics set the challenge of devising a mini-project around the theme of 'Contribution to the Community' working in small groups of three. The programme is aimed at developing independent study skills and Stoics are graded on the skills they demonstrate through their planning, research, collaboration and self-reflective blogs. The programme was an exciting mix of jazz, pop and classical music and finished with an improvisation on the piano and drums by Theo and Sean.

Julie Potter, Deputy Head (Academic)



SWIMMING

On Wednesday 4 May the Senior swimming team travelled to Downe House for the Swimming Relays Competition. The team of Kira Evans (Fifth Form, Nugent), Poppy Moore (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton), Alex Curtis (Upper Sixth, West) and Zoë Pollock (Fourth Form, Nugent) won bronze medals in the medley and freestyle.

Stewart Cowie, Head of Swimming

Prep School Swimming

On Thursday 12 May we held our annual Prep School Swimming Relay Competition with six schools taking part. Congratulations to Lambrook School who won the 4x25m boys' freestyle relay, the 4x25m boys' medley relay and the 4x25m girls' medley relay and to Beachborough who won the 4x25m girls' freestyle relay.

IAPS National Swimming Finals

Congratulations to Jemima Laurence for winning the Butterfly in the IAPS National Swimming Finals on Saturday 7 May. Jemima is currently at Westbourne House School and is joining Nugent in September 2016. We are looking forward to seeing how she progresses in the pool during her time at Stowe.

Jayne Duckett, Nugent Housemistress



Nicholas Mynheer Launches New Wynne Society

Stowe was privileged and honoured that the contemporary and visionary artist, Nicholas Mynheer, kindly accepted the invitation to be the inaugural speaker at the Wynne Society on Tuesday 10 May. Established within the exciting Arts at Stowe programme (for which, grateful thanks), this was an informal and interactive event, with the opportunity to engage close-up with examples of the artist's sculpture, painting, glasswork and his stained-glass artwork: only a week before, Nicholas' new stained-glass window had been installed in Southwell Minster. Over Lent and Easter his stirring biblically-inspired artworks had been exhibited in Canterbury Cathedral.

Renowned and wonderfully-skilled artist himself, Old Stoic David Wynne OBE (Grenville 44) was a generous friend to Stowe, and the School is much blessed in the extraordinary gifted

collection of his many maquettes in North Hall, Plug Street and in Chapel. The idea of the Wynne Society is to celebrate David's passionate creative spiritual poetry by inviting artists, art historians and others who similarly engage in this fruitful and challenging passion to share such a platform with us.

Over 90 Stoics came into the Music Room to see the artwork and to chat privately with Nicholas, before he gave his illustrated and compelling talk to the adult audience. His recognised approachability and obvious enthusiasm with the Stoics about sharing vision, technique and possibility was much appreciated. I am deeply grateful to Nicholas and to all who entered into and participated in this enriching celebration.

*Christopher Huxtable,
Chaplain and Founder of The Wynne Society*

WATER POLO

Speech Day was the time for Sam Morris' (Chatham 08) team to echo last year's win against the current Stoics. He picked a good side with some new additions, goalkeeper Barney Curren (Grafton 11) and Rory Langman (Grafton 11). The School fielded a young U16 side with next year's Captain of water polo Alfie Kingham (Lower Sixth, Walpole) at the helm.

The Old Stoics were winning 3-1 in the first quarter but the Stoics answered this with sharpshooter Kit Rigby (Fifth Form, Grenville) firing goals at speed to bring the scores level by the end of the second quarter. By the end of the third quarter it was impossible to separate the teams as it ended 5-5. In the final quarter it was quick thinking and intelligent turnovers that put the Stoics in the lead winning 8-7.

This was a real confidence boost for our U16 team who now join Alfie in what looks like a great water polo team next year. Many thanks to all of those who supported both teams poolside; it was a record crowd which really added to the sense of occasion.

Stewart Cowie, MiC Water Polo

Les Garçons!

Natalie is babysitting two year old Bruno for Monsieur and Madame Dulin while they go out to a fancy dress party.

When Natalie arrives, Monsieur Dulin explains to Natalie where everything is, how everything works, what Bruno likes and what Bruno doesn't like. He finally leaves, but not before he shows her an incredibly long list of emergency numbers. However, Natalie's quiet evening is soon interrupted by the unexpected arrival of Tristan, her ex-boyfriend. He has come to plead with her to get back together. Reluctantly she invites him to stay and babysit with her.

After too much play and far too many crisps, both Bruno and Tristan are sick and Natalie finds herself looking after two boys! Whilst clearing up, Natalie sees a text on Tristan's phone from one of his ex-girlfriends. They argue, she storms out leaving Tristan alone with the baby, and that's when the real mayhem starts...

On Thursday 12 May, The Onatti Theatre Company sent two native French actors, H el ene and Alexis, to perform this year's French play in the Roxburgh Theatre for Third and Fourth Form French sets. The play was scripted very carefully to fit in with the level of language of the pupils and vocabulary sheets were provided before the event so that pupils could get the maximum from the show.

We have invited The Onatti Theatre Company to Stowe every year since I have been here, and I can say with complete honesty that this year's performance was the best so far. All of the Stoics were captivated from the start and those among them who were plucked out of the audience to join in did so in such good spirit that it really added to the whole experience. Needless to say, next year's performance has already been booked and, as ever, I am sure that it will be just as great a success.

Simon Dobson, French Department

TENNIS

In the Senior Inter-House competition which took place on Thursday 5 May, Chatham won the boys' competition and Queen's won the girls' competition.

On Saturday 14 May both the boys' U16As and the U16Bs produced some great tennis to beat St Edward's 7-2. In the girls' matches against St Edward's, they won ten of the 11 matches played. The 1st VI won 6-3, 2nd VI 5-4 and 4th VI also won 5-4. The U15As won 6-3, the Bs played some impressive tennis to win 8-1 and the Cs won their match 6-3. All four U14 sides produced impressive performances. The As and Bs won 8-1, the Cs 7-2 and the Ds 9-0.

The boys' U16A team finished their season with a very pleasing 6-3 victory against a well matched Oundle side on Saturday 21 May. Freddie Woods (Fifth Form, Chatham) and Henry Eleyin-Bingham (Fifth Form, Grenville) deserve credit for finishing the season without dropping a single set, 15 wins out of 15.

Congratulations to Sebastian Wood (Lower Sixth, Temple) for winning the Coote Decanter at Petworth House on Saturday 14 May. The Coote Decanter is an annual tennis championship that involves 64 participants so it is a fantastic achievement.

John Skinner, Head of Tennis



ATHLETICS

In the English Schools' Cup County Round the Intermediate boys came fifth and the girls came tenth.

In the County Championships Edward Anderson (Fourth Form, Bruce) came first in the triple jump and eighth in the 200m and Taju Atta (Fifth Form, Temple) came first in the 200m and second in the high jump. Zo e Pollock (Fourth Form, Nugent) came second in the 100m, third in the 200m and third in the long jump. Olivia Thomas (Fifth Form, Nugent) came second in the javelin and Georgia Flawn-Thomas (Fifth Form, Nugent) came first in the 3,000m and fourth in the 800m.

Kyle Bennett, Head of Athletics

SQUASH

Squash colours have been awarded to Captain Jack Hechle (Upper Sixth, Bruce), Alex Smith (Upper Sixth, Cobham) and Hugh Buxton (Lower Sixth, Temple) for their service, commitment and quality of play.

Paul Floyd, MiC Squash

SAILING

In the Inter-House sailing competition held on Wednesday 11 May, out of the nine competing Houses Stanhope came third, Chatham second and Grenville came first.

Michael Bevington, MiC Sailing

Conquering Vini Italiani

This year's annual Corkscrew Society dinner was another fantastic evening of delicious food delicious Italian wine (courtesy of Ted Sandbach at the Oxford Wine Company) and a brilliant exploration of Italian wine (courtesy of the Society's guest speaker, Mr Robinson).

The event was the culmination of a year's worth of evenings learning how to appreciate wine and its diversity which this year has been run by Mrs Hill-Hall and myself and represents an aspect of life at Stowe which is unique in its attention to detail and dedication to the broadest possible education.

As well as dinner, Mr Robinson's talk and the wines, the annual competition for the highly prized bottle of Ch ateau Latour was won this year by Johannes Henkel (Upper Sixth, Chatham). The bottle was presented by Mr Ben Mercer who will be taking over as Master in Charge of the Society in September.

Special thanks must be made to Mrs Hill-Hall who, as ever, is the linchpin that allows the wheels of the Society to turn so smoothly.

William Goldsmith, Head of English



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@stowesport



Literary Society

“So do our minutes, hasten to their end.”

On Friday 20 May, in our final term at Stowe, the Literary Society leavers gathered for the last event of the year. The evening began with the traditional Literary Society photo on the North Front, then we were welcomed into the Music Room where Stoics and teachers enjoyed delicious food and untamed laughter. Entertainment from a select few only added to the spirited atmosphere of the night.

Initially we were serenaded by Isaac Ajala's (Upper Sixth, Walpole) cover of 'Broken Strings', reminding us how poetry can be found beyond the pages of a book. We were also treated to a reading from Mr Palmer of 'Love after Love' by Derek Walcott, inspiring us to consider the value of friendship.

Shortly after the main course Charles Johnson (Upper Sixth, Bruce) performed an emotive and perceptive version of Edgar's soliloquy from 'King Lear'; the silence of the Music Room throughout was testament to the quality of the act as well as Shakespeare's writing.

Towards the end of the night, Alex Curtis (Upper Sixth, West) and I reminded our fellow Literary Society members of the year that has passed. From the visit of the performance poet Kirsten Luckins, to receiving the poet laureate Carol Ann Duffy in December, and the more recent 'Bill's Birthday Bash', the Literary

Society has succeeded in supplying enlightening entertainment. Additionally, the Society has taken trips to see Oxford Playhouse's more than alternative portrayal of 'The Tempest' and the stunning psychological production of 'Doctor Faustus' at the Swan Theatre. After reflecting on our memories, we were able to thank the English Department for their commitment and dedication. Most especially, the evening acted as an opportunity to thank the Head of English, Mr Goldsmith, who is leaving at the end of the term, for all that he has done for us. For his perseverance and inspirational passion for literature we gave him a copy of 'Tequila Mockingbird' - a less conventional book for his bookcase.

The evening was rounded off with a reflection from Mr Goldsmith. He reminded us how English is an especially important subject, the self-awareness gained from exploring literature being transferable to our lives beyond school. Then, in a reading of the poem, 'Old Masters', he talked of the legacy that all teachers leave that will live on through us; the skills and passion we have inherited over the past two years being invaluable. Although it was the final dinner for both the Head of English and the Upper Sixth leavers, the evening remained enjoyable and heart-warming; a time at Stowe that will surely be a lasting memory for us all.

Izzy Smith (Upper Sixth, Nugent)



CRICKET

On Friday 13 May the U15As beat John Hampden by 20 runs in the first round of the County Cup. On Saturday 14 May, in the block fixture against Rugby School, we won seven, drew two and lost one. This was a superb effort from all the teams.

In the Senior Inter-House Competition on Sunday 15 May, Chatham beat Cobham in the Cup Final and Grafton beat Grenville in the Plate Final.

On Saturday 21 May, in the away matches against Oundle, the 1st XI were in a very strong position having bowled Oundle out for 183 with Charlie Leefe (Lower Sixth, Grenville) taking 5 wickets. In reply, Stowe was 79 without loss but then the heavens opened and the match was abandoned. The Junior Colts As had a thrilling match winning by 54 runs.

James Knott, Head of Cricket

FENCING

On Sunday 1 May, Lauren Brigden (Fourth Form, Stanhope) was placed 31st at the British Youth Championships; an excellent effort in her first National competition.

Stewart Cowie, MiC Fencing

CYCLING

The Stowe cycle team attended Bicester's Ten Mile Team Time Trial at the airbase at Weston on the Green on Tuesday 3 May. Completing four laps of the airfield against 29 other male and female teams from local cycle clubs, Freddie Paling (Upper Sixth, Temple), Mr Sutton and myself came ninth in a time of 23:53 and Harry Middleton (Fifth Form, Walpole) and Harry Kirby (Third Form, Temple) came 20th in a time of 26:48.

On Tuesday 17 May, out of 75 competitors in the Individual Ten Mile Time Trial held at Weston on the Green, Harry Kirby came 35th in a time of 27:06 and Archie Morley (Fourth Form, Walpole) came 60th in a time of 32:21.

Chris Grimble, MiC Cycling

For weekly reports on all Stowe Sports visit our website www.stowesport.co.uk



International Nurses Day

In January 1974, 12 May was chosen to celebrate International Nurses Day (IND) each year as it is the anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. This International Day is celebrated around the world to mark the contributions nurses make to society. For numerous years now the nurses at Stowe have been fortunate enough to celebrate International Nurses Day in one of the many beautiful dining areas at Stowe. This year the Medical Centre team dined in the Well Room with pre-dinner drinks served on the terrace in the glorious early evening sunshine. Sadly Dr Rebecca Pryse and Dr Jonathan Pryse were absent this year but a fun evening was had by all.

Debbie Jenkins, Senior Nurse Manager



Stowe-Harvard Dinner

Wednesday 26 May was a proud and animated evening for Stowe as we celebrated our annual Stowe-Harvard Dinner. Parents, former parents, Old Stoics and friends came together to celebrate Stowe's special relationship with the United States and in particular the Fellowship with Harvard. To mark the occasion this year, we adopted the theme of nature as we celebrated Lancelot 'Capability' Brown's tercentenary and the creation of the English Country Garden. Guests were treated to entertainment by the flamboyant musical revue company The Fingask Follies and the Marble Hall was beaming with colour as the menu gave way to edible nasturtiums and flowers from Stowe Landscape Garden.

At the heart of the evening was a recognition and celebration of this year's Stowe-Harvard

Fellow, Mr Alejandro Jimenez Jaramillo, who spoke with charm and humour about his experiences this year. Founded in 1991, the Stowe-Harvard Fellowship selects a Graduate of Harvard to come to Stowe as a teacher, coach and mentor for the growing number of Stoics wishing to apply to the top US universities. Over the past 24 years, each Stowe-Harvard Fellow has brought much to the School and the Fellowship is a splendid demonstration of the ever-strengthening bond between Stowe and the United States. We look forward to celebrating the 25th Anniversary next year.

We are grateful to all the guests for coming and to our American Friends of Stowe committee who worked so hard in helping us achieve such a vibrant evening.

Hannah Al-Anazi, Development Manager

Old Stoics

Property Networking

The rain cleared just in time for our OS Property Networking Reception on Wednesday 11 May, which took place on the Roof Garden at Deloitte's Athene Place Offices. The evening was a sell out, with over eighty Old Stoics and guests gathering to make useful business contacts and renew acquaintances.

Julian Stocks (Walpole 84), who works for Deloitte Real Estate, very kindly hosted the event. Delicious canapés were served, along with a selection of beers and wines. The Headmaster spoke briefly and Vice Chair of the OS Society, Hannah Durden (Nugent 01), thanked Julian for his kind hospitality. Due to the popularity of this event we are hoping to make it an annual occasion.

Anna Semler, Old Stoic Society Director



Old Stoic dates for the diary

THURSDAY
23
JUNE

OS Corkscrew Wine Tasting

Atlas Fine Wines will be hosting an Italian Wine Tasting at Cad and the Dandy: try 15 wines for £25. All are welcome and you can buy [tickets online](#).



May Day Brass

This year's May Day was celebrated slightly later than usual on Friday 6 May. The Stowe Brass Quintet featuring Sam Lodge (Upper Sixth, Walpole) on tuba, Ingrid Galler (Fifth Form, Lyttelton) on trombone, Alex Grinyer (Lower Sixth, Walpole) on horn, Finlay Sutherland on trumpet (Fifth Form, Grafton) and myself on trumpet, all managed to meet at the Rotunda at 6.00am. Just as the sun was rising above the trees, the quiet and still morning was broken with Purcell's Trumpet Tune. It was a rather magical feeling playing across the empty grounds

on the start of a beautiful spring day. After several trumpet voluntaries, some dances by Praetorius and The Grand March from Aida, we were treated by a welcome delivery of coffee and pastries by Geoff Higgins. We continued playing until 7.00am ending with three rousing marches; Slaidburn, Kenilworth and Ivanhoe. This may seem like rather an eccentric tradition but Stowe cries out for such things to happen, and it is a great way to celebrate the coming of Spring and Assentation Day.

Nigel Gibbon, Head of Brass, Wind and Percussion

The Further Mathematicians celebrated the start of the Summer term by taking their lesson at the Queen's Temple.



The Puppeteers

On Monday 9 May residents from North End and Red House Nursing Home came to Queen's Temple to see a puppet show put on by 'The Puppeteers' of Stowe and to have a lovely afternoon tea. They performed the Six Servants, a glove puppet play based on a story by Hans Christian Andersen, a Marionette performance by a solo violinist, the Dancing Witches dancing to music from Riverdance, a solo performance about Wags the Dog and finally the rock and roll bands of Tommy Turnip and the Tremaloes performing 'Shake, Rattle and Roll'. The afternoon tea was served by the Stoics who visit the elderly every Monday in term time.

We were blessed by warm sunshine and the gardens looked lovely. Some of the residents do not get out very much and they loved being picked up and brought to the School. There was much laughter and a super time was had by all. Thank you to Mr Sayers for organising the puppet show and to our volunteer drivers Mrs Kitchen and Miss Davies as well as to all the Stoics who helped.

Sue Sampson, Assistant Chaplain

Hackney Half Marathon



On Sunday 8 May Ivy Freeman-Attwood ran the Hackney Half Marathon and raised over £2,000 for CLIC Sargent. CLIC Sargent provides vital emotional, practical and financial support to young cancer patients and families during and after treatment and is an extremely worthwhile cause.

Congratulations to Ivy on this fantastic achievement.

Jayne Duckett, Nugent Housemistress



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