

Stowe mail

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NEWS FROM STOWE



Stowe Sports Awards 2022

On Friday 20 May, 120 Stoics and Staff came together to celebrate Sport at Stowe.

Netball - The U16s and 1st team all won their county rounds, taking them to compete at the Regional Finals. The U15s reached the Semi-Final in the National Cup.

Girls' Lacrosse - Teams competed at the National Schools' Tournament with the 2nd X making the top 8 in the UK. The U15As were runners up in the County Championship Tournament.

Hockey - The girls' 1st XI team had an excellent season winning 16 of their 24 matches. The boys' hockey squads joined the Midlands League Circuit, and met the challenge of the higher level opposition they faced. All teams were competitive and performed well.

Golf - The team achieved second place in the Gerald Micklem Trophy, finished fourth in The World Amateur Schools' Championship and finished sixth in the National ISGA Championships, a fantastic season.

Football - We have seen a surge in the uptake for Football and this year Stowe fielded our first girls' team.

Cricket - The 1st XI have had a good start to the season with pre-season tour wins over Trent College and Dauntsey's. Wins over Marlborough, Uppingham, Wellingborough and Abingdon have followed.

Rugby The 1st XV had a fantastic season, winning 9 out of 10 of their matches including lifting the National Vase trophy. At the Rosslyn Park 7s tournament the Senior team won all 9 matches to take the title.

The Awards Dinner culminated in the awarding of the top prizes to the Player of the Season in each sport by our special guest, Dylan Hartley (Former Northampton Saints and England Captain), who then gave an excellent after-dinner speech encouraging the Stoics to make the most of the extraordinary opportunities to play and develop in their Sports at Stowe.

Stowe's Heads of Sports and Coaches want to thank all the Stoics for their dedication and commitment to representing the School with pride, we are immensely proud of them all.

Cheryl Davis, Stowe Sports

Awards & Winners

Cricket & Athletic Awards will be presented at the end of term.

Sailing - Samuel Ellis (Upper Sixth, Chandos)

Rowing - Harriet Hines (Upper Sixth, Cheshire)

Football - Lewin Mullarkey (Upper Sixth, Grenville)
and Jayden Preko (Upper Sixth, Temple)

Football - Calypso Riviere (Lower Sixth, Nugent)

Boys' Tennis - Archie Burnet (Upper Sixth, Grafton)

Girls' Tennis - Isabella Lloyd (Upper Sixth, Nugent)

Badminton - Josha Mital (Lower Sixth, Winton)

Badminton - Yuki Jiang (Lower Sixth, West)

Boys' Hockey - Ewan Hughes Rowlands (Lower Sixth, Walpole)

Girls' Hockey - Deborah James (Lower Sixth, Nugent)

Squash - Michael Spencer (Lower Sixth, Temple)

Basketball - Teide Lokpobiri (Upper Sixth, Chatham)

Rugby - Henry Pollock (Lower Sixth, Grafton)

Netball - Ele Blane (Upper Sixth, Queen's)

Swimming - Johnny Sutherland (Upper Sixth, Chatham)

Golf - Ed Davis (Lower Sixth, Bruce)

Cross Country - Johnny Sutherland (Upper Sixth, Chatham)

Lacrosse - Rosie Grayson (Upper Sixth, Nugent)

Polo - Rafi Mahmood (Upper Sixth, Walpole)

Equestrian - Araminta Spencer-Churchill (Fourth Form, Stanhope)

Cycling - Henry Clare (Fifth Form, Winton)

Water Polo - Arseny Savrasov (Upper Sixth, Chatham)

Fencing - Thanassi Ghertsos (Upper Sixth, Chandos)

Winners of the 'Triple Crown' (three major 1st team sports in three separate terms) - Isabella Lloyd, Rosie Grayson and Emily Sutton





Edward Bush

Master Edward Bush (Cobham 2021)

Abraham Lincoln said "It's not the years in your life that count, it's the life in your years," - the perfect sentiment for Ed Bush who died on 4 June 2021, aged 16.

At Stowe, and outside, Ed threw himself into that life. As a sportsman he played rugby, hockey, cricket, golf and polo. As an adventurer, he was a Cadet L/Cpl in the School CCF and a judoka. On annual family holidays in Cornwall, he sailed and surfed; for his soul there was the trumpet. Lastly, as a bon viveur, he was an outstanding shot, an expert angler, a racing enthusiast and budding oenophile.

Ed was due to join his much-adored brothers, Harry and James, for the Sixth Form at Eton, uniting them and granting him the rare attribute of being both an Old Stoic and an Old Etonian. His brothers and friends organised a memorial

rugby match between the two schools. It was played as Ed lived; with passion, camaraderie and joy.

On his last day Ed was amongst the serenity and beauty of Loch Ness walking with a special friend. He held her hand as he was fatally injured. He died with his parents by his side. His funeral was held on 23 June, 2021 at St Mary the Virgin in Hambleton, the church was full, with scores more standing outside.

Ed planned to join the Army, and the congregation were moved to hear The Last Post played by a sergeant in the Coldstream Guards, who had stood to as we mourned. He is buried in a secluded spot in the churchyard of St Mary the Virgin Church, Turville - a fittingly beautiful place for this best of England.

Nulli Secundus

Prep Schools' Cricket Festival

On Wednesday 18 May, 12 Prep Schools were treated to a special day of cricket at Stowe. With glorious sunny skies the pitches and grounds looked and played fantastically well. The boys played four matches in a day in a unique ten over format where they could nominate a 'Super Over' during which all runs off the bat were doubled.

The teams were also treated to bespoke coloured tops in their school colours – supplied by the festival sponsor, Gentleman & Players.

With so many games played in the day, it was noticeable how much the teams learned and improved as the day went on, and how much they loved the fast nature of the format.

After the group stages the Final was between Summer Fields and Papplewick on the North Front, which was live-streamed for parents who could not be there in person. It was a very close game with Papplewick winning in the final over, chasing down 83 to win.

Very positive feedback from the visiting players, Staff and parents was received following the event, including the following comments:

"I have just spoken to my U10A coach and he was saying what a fantastic day he and the boys have had. He is delighted with how they got better in every match. They all came back to school buzzing."

"Thank you for putting on such a brilliant cricket tournament today. To play four matches in such fantastic surroundings was a real treat for the boys. They were also so excited with the kit (as was I), their names going up on the scoreboard on the North Front and the trip in the electric shuttle. The games were competitive and they will have learnt a great deal from them as well as enjoying the day immensely. Thank you again and I do hope we'll be back next season."

"A big thanks for hosting us at the 10/10 Cricket Festival today. Our boys had a great day and learnt a lot. It was great for them to have 'proper' umpires officiating as well. Needless to say, they are all over the moon with their branded coloured tops!"

James Knott, Head of Cricket





IGSA National Finals

Our team of Ed Davis (Lower Sixth, Bruce), Chanel Fontaine-Geary (Lower Sixth, Queen's) and Max Faulkner (Upper Sixth, Temple) represented Stowe in the National Finals at Formby Golf Club on Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 April. This competition saw the best twenty golfing schools in the Country compete against each other. Well done to the Stowe team who came Sixth in the Country, which is a fantastic achievement.

HMC Foursomes' Championships

On Thursday 19 May, our Stowe Golf team defeated a strong Harrow team in the Regional Final of the HMC Foursomes' Championship. In this format of golf each player in the pair plays alternate shots. Led by Captain Max Faulkner, the team consisted of Ed Davis, Chanel Fontaine-Geary, Elliot Strickland (Fifth Form, Grenville), Miles Dickinson (Fifth Form, Grenville) and Miki Khursheed (Fourth Form, Bruce).

We now look forward to the National Finals at Little Aston Golf Club in late June where we will compete as one of the eight qualifying schools.

Laddie Lucas Championship

On Thursday 12 May, we once again hosted the Annual Laddie Lucas Golf Championship. The Laddie Lucas is the premier internal School Golf Championship which is played over 18 holes at Stowe, in honour of P.B. 'Laddie' Lucas, one of Stowe's most distinguished amateur golfers.

Max Faulkner (Upper Sixth, Temple) was crowned the Champion following a very solid score of 72 in testing conditions.

Andrew Hancox, Head of Golf



Boys' Inter-House Water Polo Leagues

The boys' Inter-House Water Polo leagues have been in action and have been thrilling to watch.

Every Saturday afternoon the pool was a buzz with activity as Houses faced off against each other, playing fast paced and intense 10-minute matches.

The competition for The Dolphin Cup was tight amongst the Junior School. Chatham were in the lead by two points over Chandos going into the final match and this proved enough for them to take the Junior title, with Chandos in second. Temple narrowly edged Cobham for the third place spot, having both been tied on points going into the final game.

The Chatham House Senior team, and reigning champions, led by Arseny Savrasov (Upper Sixth), Stowe Water

Polo Captain, were hanging on to the first-place position going into the final game.

Temple and Grafton (tying for second place) were only two points behind and Walpole Seniors, not out of the mix, could have easily upset the rankings if they managed a strong performance in the final match.

In the end, after the final games, the competition finished with Bruce taking third place. Second place went to Walpole, with the reigning champions Chatham retaining the title, by one point from Walpole!

The Aquatics Staff would like to thank all the Houses for their participation in the league and congratulations go to all.

Andrea Westmoreland, Head of Water Polo

Athletics



The U15 boys' and girls' teams took part in the North Bucks round of the National Track and Field Cup on Thursday 5 May at Stantonbury School. This is a competition where each athlete competes in two events and gains points for the team.

The Stowe girls' team came a strong second place out of 10 schools and well done to the boys who came first out of the 10 schools. The top points scorers for the girls were Jojo Parker (Fourth Form, Cheshire), Mila Ratcliff (Fourth Form, Queen's) and Charlotte Hall (Third Form, Cheshire) and for the boys it was Woody Hamilton Hurst (Third Form, Bruce), Daniel Goje (Fourth Form, Winton) and Archie Trotman (Fourth Form, Cobham). We look forward to competing at the next round.

It was great to see competitive inter-schools athletics at Stowe again as we invited Abingdon, Bloxham and MCS Oxford to our track on Saturday 7 May. The pleasant weather meant many athletes achieved their aim of gaining personal bests.

The team travelled to Oundle on Saturday 14 May. Particular mention goes to Clara Capella (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) and Alex Aswani (Lower Sixth, Nugent) who volunteered to compete in most of the Senior events. Phoebe Haynes (Fifth Form, Cheshire) and Izzy Kaye (Fifth Form, Cheshire) also put in some excellent performances. The four girls finished the day with a win in the Senior relay. Daniel Goje and Archie Trotman were also amongst the winners.

On the same day, another select team went to the Bucks County Club Championships in Oxford, where Woody Hamilton Hurst became County champion in the hurdles, Jojo Parker won a silver medal in the 100 metres and Charlotte Hall won a bronze in the 1,500 metres.

Grant Seely, Head of Athletics



WATER POLO



SHPT



Latest Restoration News

Making an immediate impact for everyone to enjoy, our latest restoration work has seen the transformation of the overdoor panels in the State Dining Room. This work consisted of cleaning the paintings of the centaurs and replacing missing decorative moulds from each frame.

The work was undertaken earlier than planned and was made possible with a generous grant from The Pilgrim Trust. We estimate that they were last cleaned and possibly conserved in the 1990s, but we don't know to what extent. We do know there was quite a build-up of grime and we were very surprised as to how much!

The restoration team, Chroma Conservation, diligently reproduced the moulded decoration and patiently gilded each one. The transformation, even during the process, was amazing. It also sets a good tone for the restoration of the rest of the room. With the restoration of the walls due to start in August, this time next year once the wallpaper has been applied, this team will need to come back to tie the colour of the frames and the wallpaper together.

These discreet projects really allow people to see what can be achieved with the right professionals and the importance of looking after our visual heritage. Because these panels are copies of ones found in Herculaneum, which in turn have been conserved over the past 2,000 years, the continuity of heritage custodianship is clear.

Stowe House Preservation Trust is about to undertake the next phase of restoration of the State Dining Room starting in August, to be completed by May 2023, ready in time for the School Centenary celebrations.

The elaborate Dining Room ceiling restoration began during lockdown and finished in the Summer of 2021. This next phase will prepare the North, East and West walls for wallcoverings, as well as preparing any electrics and pipework.

This precedes the highly anticipated hanging of the wallcoverings/paper, fixing of the new chimney pieces in place and gilding of the joinery (door frames, dado rail, and skirting). Research allowed us to look in depth at the current location of the eighteenth-century Flemish tapestries which originally covered the walls, the stories depicted in the tapestries and the journey they went on after being sold in 1922. We know that three of the five large tapestries were sold to a businessman who built a room at his hotel in Switzerland to house them. One of the other originals has been located at a museum in Lisbon, and the other in Ghent. We're having high resolution photos taken of each to turn them into wallpaper (the same quality as the 'silk damask' in the State Drawing Room).

The original chimneypieces were sold in 1922 to the owner of Benham House in Berkshire. 3D scans have allowed us to reproduce them in wood, as we did so magnificently in the State Drawing Room (The Temple Room), and are currently being carved by a very talented team.

We need your support.

As we endeavor to complete this project, we are still in need of vital funds to allow us to create the wallpaper and chimneypieces, and to eventually restore the South wall. The tapestries and chimneypieces part of the project is estimated to cost £250,000 and we are still fundraising. With your help, the potential for the State Dining Room could be achieved and returned back to its former splendour. As a charity, Stowe House Preservation Trust receives no funding from the School for these vital projects and is entirely funded by generous donations and grant-making trusts. From making a donation to attending an event, from visiting the Discovery Centre and taking a tour, your support will make a difference. Visit our [website](#) or [email](#) our team about ways you can get involved.

A huge thank you to all the generous donors who have given so far.

Anna McEvoy, SHPT House Custodian

Service@Stowe



ForEver Stowe

A small group of Stoics have been planning a very special event for our annual Change Makers week; an event we chose to call ForEver Stowe. We have been researching the needs of Special Educational Needs pupils to plan a day for 20 visitors from Evergreen School in Warwick. We have planned a treasure hunt route within the grounds of Stowe, created a budget, planned a series of fun sensory activities, created a risk assessment, and reached out to our peers and teachers to encourage further volunteer participation on the day.

As part of the preparations, on Friday 25 March, the ForEver Stowe group (Grace Barnett (Fifth Form, Cheshire), Jemima Dare (Fifth Form, Queen's), Ruby Colebrook (Fifth Form, Queen's), Annie Flint (Fifth Form, Queen's), Grace Hodgetts (Lower Sixth, Cheshire), Imogen Taylor (Lower Sixth, Nugent), Willow Kenlock (Lower Sixth, Nugent), Izzy Pratap (Lower Sixth, Nugent) and Amelia Morgan (Lower Sixth, Nugent) took a trip to Warwick where we spent the day with Evergreen School.

Evergreen School educates children, from 4 to 19 years old, with special educational needs such as Autism. As we arrived, we were

warmly greeted by Assistant Head, Sam Morle, who gave us a tour of the School. It was a lot bigger than we thought, and we loved the colourful classrooms and the interactive sensory rooms such as the soft play area.

Next, we had a session in Makaton (a form of sign language that uses speech and symbols to communicate). This was very useful as it helped us learn how to converse with the pupils more easily.

We were taken through a PowerPoint about some of the different disabilities we may encounter, and this is preparing us for the day of the event in June, as well as helped us cater our programme to our visitors.

For the final activity, we were lucky enough to be able to interact with the pupils and participate in their lessons. This was the highlight of our day as it enabled us to get an insight into the pupils we are going to be working with.

Not only did we have a really lovely day but we also learnt so much from the experience. We cannot wait to welcome them to Stowe in the Summer.

Jemima Dare, Ruby Colebrook, Annie Flint and Grace Barnett



Allotments

Spring Greens and Summer Planting

The Stowe Allotment is showing promise as plants and veggies are beginning to bloom.



Knit and Natter at the New Inn

The Visiting the Elderly activity organised and hosted another Knit and Natter Session at The National Trust New Inn. On Tuesday 26 April five residents from Maids Moreton Hall joined a lovely group of Stoics for an afternoon of tea, coffee, conversation and card games.

One Maids Moreton Hall resident said of her Knit and Natter experience, "I love hearing about what the teenagers are studying and what sports they play."

The Stowe pupils who participate in the programme expressed that they find these visiting sessions "lively and enjoyable, it is interesting talking to the elderly and it made us really happy as the residents really enjoy visiting and wanted to see us again."

If you are interested in learning more about the Visiting the Elderly Programme please contact me.

Andrea Westmoreland, Service@Stowe



DofE: Soap Suds and Saddles an Afternoon of Volunteering at the Stowe Equestrian Centre

Newly appointed Head of Equestrianism, Becky Coote, took the reins of the Bronze DofE Group as fifty Fourth Form and ten Staff volunteers arrived at the Stowe Equestrian Centre on the afternoon of Monday 16 May.

Stoics filled buckets full of soap and water, grabbed washcloths or a broom and got stuck into various tasks to help prepare the stables for reopening this June.

The stables were swept and cleaned, jump poles were scrubbed down and packs of stable bedding hauled to a storage location, Ms Coote said with a smile, "I really appreciate the DofE volunteers, this would have been a huge job for just me."

Grace Huang (Fourth Form, Lyttelton) shared, "I really enjoyed helping today, the stables are really nice and I can't wait to see the horses back next term."

Andrea Westmoreland, Service@Stowe



Cake, Cricket and Conversation

Residents of Maids Moreton Hall, a local assisted living centre, were invited to Stowe by members of the Service@Stowe Visiting the Elderly activity on Thursday 12 May to watch the cricket match between Northants 2nd XI and the Dutch National Team.

Our visitors spent the afternoon enjoying the lovely cake prepared by the Stowe Catering Team and sipping warm tea and coffee delivered by Stoics. The guests were treated to fun conversation, sunshine, a cool breeze and fabulous cricket over the course of their two and a half hours stay.

A Visiting the Elderly activity representative said, "We are happy to host the elderly, as we know that they have not been able to find these types of interactions during the lockdowns. It was nice to finish the day on a high," with residents who were "full of life and humour." The residents of Maids Moreton Hall echoed similar sentiments, with a positive response after the event had finished.

Thank you to Ms Westmoreland, for organising and setting up a lovely occasion for the visitors, as well as to Mr Knott for providing a sheltered space, and creating a lovely atmosphere for the guests.

Hemish Rajguru (Fifth Form, Bruce)



THE AWARD

service@stowe



A Night for Nominees - Celebrating THE AWARD

50 Stoics found their way to the Ed Bush Wellbeing Centre at The Queen's Temple on Thursday 19 May for The Award celebratory BBQ. The guest list for this exclusive event included pupils who were nominated by Staff for demonstrating a high level of commitment and engagement in Stowe Sport and Activities programme.

The nominees soaked up the early evening sunshine as they relaxed on picnic blankets and on the Queen's Temple's steps and enjoyed grilled burgers, beverages, bouncing beach balls and blowing bubbles while Araan Sobhan's (Fifth Form, Bruce), creator of Stowe Radio, upbeat Spotify playlist played in the background.

Throughout the evening Stoics posed for polaroid photos, decorated canvases and "chilled". Giselle Atkinson-Hieber (Lower Sixth, Nugent) nominated for her engagement in Fashion and Textiles, said of the event, "I really liked the energy and the location of the event, it felt special, like more than a regular School BBQ."

Freddie Farrell (Lower Sixth, Grenville) nominated for his participation in DoF added, "it was really nice to be with so many other year groups and have the opportunity to talk to the Juniors."

The Icecream Sundae Bar proved to be the highlight of the evening. Stoics created countless icecream and topping combinations, and bowls were piled high with whipped cream, gummy treats and chocolate sauce.

Computer Science teacher, Mr Adi Gupta, was in attendance and commented on the "gorgeous weather" and "the really delightful group of Stoics at the BBQ," who he enjoyed, "just sitting and having a chat with."

The Award celebrations bring together a diverse mix of talented and engaged pupils from across all areas of the School allowing the Stowe community to acknowledge all pupil achievements from Kayaking to Theatre Tech and much more, as well as, provide a space for Stoics to network with and learn about the individuals around them. Casey Lo (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) nominated for her outstanding contributions to the Conservation Society, summed up the general sentiment of the evening, "Please can we have more of these dinners? I had a really, really lovely time."

The Co-Curricular Committee would like to extend a massive thank you to the Catering and House Staff Teams as without their support events like this would not be possible.

If you would like to learn more about The Stowe Award Programme please contact **Mr Gwilym Jones** or **Ms Fran Shah**.



The Waste Land @100



Known as the annus mirabilis or 'miracle year' of Modernism, 1922 witnessed the publication of arguably the most important novel in the English language - James Joyce's *Ulysses* - and the language's most important poem, T. S. Eliot's *The Waste Land*. Both *Ulysses* and *The Waste Land* seek to find some type of significance in a modern age ravaged by a world war that left not simply the physical world but all of human civilisation in ruins: cultural history and tradition, for Joyce and Eliot, seemed lost in a world in which people slowly become automatons, where ancient myths of fertility and rebirth are replaced by a desiccated popular culture subsisting on vaudeville tunes and meats from tins.

Eliot's poem, in which a kaleidoscopic array of speakers 'try to connect nothing with nothing', was both a response to a world that had 'changed, changed utterly' (to borrow another poet's phrase) and an extraordinary departure in poetic form. The idea of the poem had been rattling around Eliot's imagination for a long while before he penned several hundred lines of a poem that he titled 'He Do the Police in Different Voices' - a line from Charles Dickens's novel *Our Mutual Friend*. Eliot, an American ex-patriate known for a sense of decorum so prim that even his Bloomsbury friend Virginia Woolf joked about 'Tom's four-piece suit', sent this draft to another American ex-pat, Ezra Pound, who slashed hundreds of lines to enhance the dizzying effects of literary fragmentation. From this collaboration - a partnership so profound that Eliot dedicated the final product to Pound, *il miglior fabbro*, 'the better maker' - came a poem that continues to mystify and frustrate readers in equal measure.

Arranged in five sections, *The Waste Land* is a dense thicket of literary allusions ranging from Old English to pop culture, from Sappho to snatches of a 'Shakesperian rag'. The poem speaks in an echo chamber of voices - we jump from the Old English 'Sea-farer' to a pubkeeper, visiting Dante and Shakespeare along the way - yet over the entire 433 lines lies a mantle of nervous loss: Eliot imagines London as an underworld where 'death had undone so many'.

Of its many extraordinary achievements, *The Waste Land* taught all subsequent writers and readers not simply to see, but also to hear. The poem really is an echo chamber - or, to change the metaphor to something more apt to Eliot's imagination, a changing of a radio dial. (It is not a coincidence that the British Broadcasting System shares its centenary with *The Waste Land*; the BBC, after all, also speaks 'in different voices'.)

The changing of a radio dial is the dominant metaphor of last month's performance of *The Waste Land* at 100. The month was not accidental, since April - springing to life with fresh buds of Eastertide - is the poem's opening, yet cast in a despondent key: 'April is the cruellest month, breeding/Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing/Memory and desire, stirring/Dull roots with spring

rain.' The Stowe production, devised by Heather Eisenhut and produced by Dr. Andrew Webber, revisited Eliot's masterpiece in its original spirit: the audio performance interweaves a full reading of *The Waste Land* with musical quotations from across the radio dial: The Clash's 'London Calling' sits with surprising ease beside Lord Kitchener's 'London is the Place for Me'; Erik Satie speaks fluently with Peter Gabriel in a curious dialogue that spans the twentieth century.

When Ezra Pound exhorted his generation of poets to 'Make It New', he was challenging artists of his age to find novelty in what preceded them. In this sense, Webber's production heeds Pound's diktat to the letter: read by nearly twenty members of the Stowe community, this audio performance finds new ways into Eliot's elusive, allusive poem. Hearing *The Head*, Anthony Wallersteiner's baritone intone alongside Libby Hayes's (Lyttelton, Upper Sixth) elfin rendering of 'The Hyacinth Girl' breathes new life into Eliot's words, just as Ms Georgina Pearson (English) transports the listener immediately into an uncomfortable conversation eavesdropped in an east London pub.

The soundscape of *The Waste Land* at 100 is vast, sweeping across genre - from punk to classical - and gender: voiced by the Drama Department's Rebecca Clark, the Greek mythological blind prophet Tiresias, 'old man with wrinkled dug's, is transformed into a woman...and oversees a tawdry evening dalliance between a clerk's agent (Paul Floyd, Head of Sixth Form) and a young typist (Sophie Rickner, Queen's).

The poem's jagged juxtapositions can frustrate even the most attentive readers; after all, it was Eliot himself who argued that "We can only say that it appears likely that poets in our civilization, as it exists at present, must be difficult." But such difficulty on the page is assuaged when listened to: indeed, one Stoic spoke for the entire audience when he observed after the performance of *The Waste Land* at 100, 'I didn't understand it all, but I loved the journey'. Webber's own stentorian voice booms like an apocalyptic roadside prophet, a tone mellowed by the smoother tones of Emma Ackroyd (Film and Media), Laura Parker (Drama) and James Peppiatt (English).

Despite its overt sense of barren loss and infertility, the poem ends with a restoring image of potentially life-giving rain. In addition to the many languages that appear in the poem - English, German, French, Latin, Greek, Italian - the final words are an almost onomatopoeic Sanskrit. These sibilant words, echoing the susurrant of rainfall, are voiced by Reverend Tim Mullins: 'Shantih, shantih, shantih'. In his notes to the poem, Eliot explained that this word, repeated three times, appears in the Hindu religious text, Upanishads, and translates to 'the peace which passeth understanding'. Eliot closes his hellish rhapsody with a quiet hope of peace, even if not immediately understandable on first reading. Stowe's production of *The Waste Land* at 100 achieves the same effect: a century later, the poem is at bottom an aural performance - one that, in its paradoxes, reminds us that sometimes we must close our eyes to see, and even try to read with our ears.

You can listen to the recording [here](#).

Dr Fitz Smith, Teacher of English

TENNIS



Our girls' teams played against Bloxham on Saturday 7 May, with all nine teams winning their matches. The Seniors were in a particularly ruthless mood with the cumulative number of sets won by the four teams being 35 and losing only one.

Six boys' teams took on Watford Grammar School on the same day, and similarly won all of their matches. It is unusual to win every single fixture in one sport on a Saturday so well done to tennis Captains, Bella Lloyd (Upper Sixth, Nugent) and Archie Burnet (Upper Sixth, Grafton) and all the tennis players.

20 tennis teams were in action on Saturday 14 May, with Stowe winning 10 of the matches.

The girls played against Oundle where five of the matches were decided by a score of five sets to four; the closest possible result, so it was a well-balanced afternoon. Special mention goes to the U16A and B teams for their emphatic wins, and in particular Annie Flint (Fifth Form, Queen's) and Ruby Colebrook (Fifth Form, Queen's), Lottie Moffat (Fifth Form, Nugent) and Milly Robertson (Fifth Form, Queen's) and Sophie Lloyd (Fifth Form, Nugent) and Aurora Flanagan (Fifth Form, Stanhope).

The top pair in the U15 team are Freddie Hodges (Fourth Form, Queen's) and Maddie Baker (Fourth Form, Queen's). They steered their team to victory and are yet to lose a set this term. The Senior teams were just on the wrong side of the overall results, but Bella Lloyd and Emily Sutton (Lower Sixth, Queen's) won all their sets in the First team.

The boys' teams won six of their seven matches against Bloxham, with the First team of Archie Burnet and Ben Hartigan (Upper Sixth, Grafton), Michael Spencer (Lower Sixth, Temple) and Atticus Cobb (Lower Sixth, Chandos) and Arin Chatsuwon (Fifth Form, Grenville) and Bear Hewlett (Fourth Form, Cobham) winning 9-0.

Well done to the girls' U15A and U16A & B teams who claimed notable victories against Bradfield, who are a very strong tennis school, on Saturday 21 May. In the boys' matches, the only side to get an overall win were the 2nds. The Stowe teams responded to the challenge against strong opposition by raising their game and enjoyed a positive learning experience despite the results not going our way.

John Skinner, Head of Tennis



Inter-House Swimming Finals

Stoics in swim caps of bright Walpole yellow, simmering Queen's purple, Bruce blue among others dotted the perimeter of the pool as they eagerly awaited Ms Davis' announcement, "Swimmers take your mark..." And with a bang and a flash, a flurry of Stoics representing their respective Houses dove off the blocks and into the water, causing waves and cheers to erupt throughout the pool hall.

Chatham House known for their swimming talent entered the competition with a stacked relay team; the line-up consisting of Upper Sixth Stowe Swim team members Jonny Sutherland, Archie Atkinson, and Baz Calkin with fiercely competitive Conrad Spencer as the anchor.

Grafton Upper Sixth Alex Goulet swimming prowess was on full display as easily sliced through the water putting Grafton in a strong position on the leaderboard. Lower Sixth Ben Hagger of Walpole took home the trophy for 50-metre Fly as he edged out reigning champ Ed Davis (Lower Sixth, Bruce) with a fingertip victory. This competitive race between two strong swimmers in the current Lower Sixth will be one to keep an eye out for next year.

Juniors Charles Smith (Fifth Form) and Julian Smith (Fourth Form) put on strong performances for Grenville House and newcomer Amory Baxter (Third Form, Cobham) demonstrated an impressive swimming ability.

Sasha Bodnaruk (Fifth Form, Temple) smashed the Junior 50-metre breaststroke and by the end of the competition, Sasha along with his Temple relay teammates Barnaby Schilder (Fifth Form), Rocky Mongia-Couling (Fifth Form) and Max LaGrande (Fourth Form) earned three trophies for their House.

After the final race, with Temple silver swim cap on his head and arms linked with his relay teammates, still slightly out of breath, Ukraine native Sasha said, "three trophies for Temple, I am so happy, I was motivated to win by the people of Ukraine, I know it is just a House competition, but I wanted to win for Ukraine."

Andrea Westmoreland, Head of Water Polo

Inter-House Swimming Results

Junior Girls - Cheshire

Inter Girls - Cheshire

Senior Girls - Nugent

Overall House Winners for the Girls - Nugent

Junior Boys - Cobham

Inter Boys - Grenville

Senior Boys - Chatham

Overall House Winners for the Boys - Chatham



WORLD FINALS ROBOTICS

In early May we took one of our Robotics teams to compete at the World Finals of the VEX Robotics Competition in Dallas, Texas. The team of William Woodmansee (Fifth Form, Winton) and Barnaby Titmas Mather (Fourth Form, Cobham) had qualified for the World Finals by being top three in the country for the competition's driving and programming skills aspect at a qualifying event.

Joining them in the trip was our group of Lower Sixth pupils Tina Lazar (Lower Sixth, West), Ben Anderson (Lower Sixth, Temple), Jack Hughes (Lower Sixth, Chatham), Matthew Ryland (Lower Sixth, Bruce) and Max Stevens (Lower Sixth, Temple), as these pupils had all worked together to bring the success of Barnaby and William.

They were one of nine UK teams that qualified out of about 250 UK teams who participated in the UK National Competition. The competition worldwide however, is much larger with closer to 15,000 teams involved.

With 813 teams qualified and attending the World Finals in Dallas, it is a huge event and was an excellent experience for the pupils involved. They and the other three Stowe Robotics teams have spent the past year building, programming, testing, practising and competing in regional events and the National Finals before the World Finals.

After a day of set up in Dallas and the excitement of seeing the new game reveal for the 2022-2023 season, the competition began with qualification matches in which teams are randomly allocated a partner to play against two other teams in the game. We had an excellent start through qualification winning three matches in a row and ranking in the top 20 out of the 81 teams in our group (one of ten groups). This showed us our robot was very competitive and the team could hold their own on the world stage.

We then suffered one loss in a tricky, but close matchup, came back again to win other match, before losing the last game of Day One of competition. Still we went into day two hopeful, however a couple of mechanical issues and tough matches meant the team lost the remainder of their games. They were however always competitive and all their games were close.

Their placing meant they sat just outside of the selection process for the group playoff matches and so ended their competition. They did themselves and the School proud throughout the competition, and not by just the outstanding achievement of making it to the World Finals. Overall it is a huge event as we were involved in just the High School division with 813 teams, there is also a middle school and a university level competition along with and prep school level smaller robot style game, it makes for the largest Robotics competition in the world and was an outstanding opportunity for our pupils to be there and compete. The finals were played in a stadium and it was an amazing atmosphere and experience to be part of.

The 2021-2022 game involved picking up heavy bases (with rings placed on them) and moving them to your zone and placing them on a see-saw balance or packing with them on the see-saw with your robot for more points, all while the opposition tries to stop you and take the bases for themselves. The 2022-2023 is an entirely different challenge in which the robot must be able to pick up small discs (5.5" diameter) and fire them into baskets to score points.

As soon as we returned from Dallas the robots were disassembled and planning and designing has begun for the next season with regional events beginning in the UK in September.

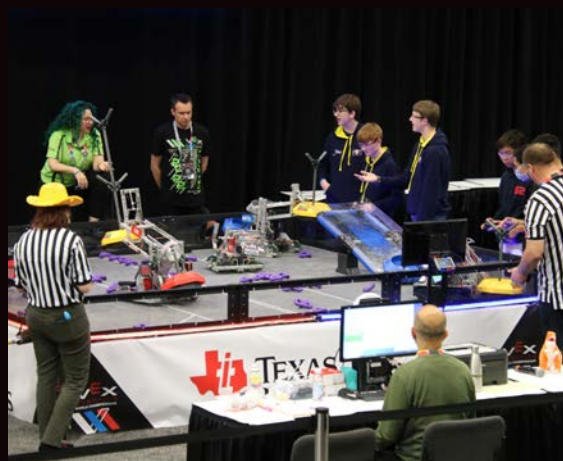
We have three solid teams of pupils set up for the new season, and with the Upper Sixth Team moving on, they will be joined by a new Third Form team in the Summer.

All pupils are welcome to join, but it is a commitment to a year-long competition. Pupils involved learn to design and build robots through engineering principles, code the robots to behave as desired and respond to inputs, and in addition learn life skills of teamwork and communication skills, interacting with other teams at events. We also keep engineering logbooks that track their design and programming progress which if done well support UCAS applications and Physics, Design and Computer Science courses.

Paul Thompson, MiC Robots



Qualification 7			
Rank	Team	Rank	Team
10	60235 StoweBots - Shield Buckingham, United Kingdom	27	1462D Warriors Plymouth City, Pennsylvania, United States
9	7110A Fired Up! Southlake, Texas, United States	28	9044X Self-Proclaimed Big Brain Edin, North Carolina, United States
		180	60



SPORTING SUCCESS!

In addition to representing Stowe, many of our Stoics achieve incredible success at club level and beyond, outside School.

Congratulations to these Stoics and their recent achievements!



Ed Davis - Golf

Ed Davis (Lower Sixth, Bruce) flew the flag for England over the Easter Holidays qualifying to play in the Scottish and French Boys' International Championships.

In the recent Amateur Men's Spring Trophy, he shot 2 under to come 2nd and qualify to play in the National Men's Lagonda Trophy next week at Gog Magog GC.

We wish him well in this Championship and again over Half Term as he represents England in the German Boys Championships.

Northants Cricket Success



Aadi Sharma (Fifth Form, Winton) made his debut for Northants' 2nd XI on Monday 2 May, against Worcestershire.

In a thrilling run chase, batting at seven, he scored a quick fire 23 runs to assist Northants to win the game

by one wicket with only a couple of overs to spare.

Aadi, who is on the Northants' Academy, has been in fine form for Club, School and County this season with two centuries and five fifties to his name.

England Rugby U17



Henry Pollock (Lower Sixth, Grafton) and Archie McParland (Lower Sixth, Temple) represented England Rugby's U17 team against Scotland over the Exeat weekend of Saturday 30 April and have also

been selected to tour South Africa with the England U18 squad, a great achievement!

Stowe and Sedbergh are the only two schools in the country who have more than one player in the squad.

Noah Debuts for London Irish U17s



Noah Cowan (Lower Sixth, Chatham) made his debut for London Irish U17s in their match against Bath on Saturday 30 April.

Noah, who plays scrum half, has enjoyed a very successful season

having been part of both the Stowe 1st XV who won the National Plate and the victorious Rosslyn Park 7s side last term.



Deborah James (Lower Sixth, Nugent) and Cassidy Jorritsma (Upper Sixth, Cheshire) represented the Buckingham Senior 1st team against Beeston, in the England Hockey Women's Tier 1 Championships Final at the Lee Valley Olympic Stadium on Saturday 21 May.



StOscars 2022

The highlight of the year for every Film and Media pupil was a big hit. The 2022 StOscars ceremony took place this month in the Music Room and was attended by over 50 Media and Film Sixth Form pupils and their teachers.

This annual event is organised by the Film and Media Department to celebrate the achievements of Upper Sixth Film and Media pupils who all have to produce practical projects as part of the courses being studied.

Film Studies A Level and A/S Level courses both require the production of a short film or screenplay which is worth 30% of the final grade. Whereas the Media BTEC pupils work in the medium of radio, producing scripts and then making 10 minute long fictional radio programmes. In both cases finished projects are accompanied by detailed evaluations which show connections between the candidates' work and texts studied in the classroom.

Covid has had a big effect upon the production of short films nationally and, unsurprisingly, Stowe pupils too chose the screenwriting option in greater numbers than previous years – meaning a few new award categories were added this year and the voting aspect of the awards was dropped. Awards were therefore given to work which teachers thought was of particular merit and the prodigious prizes were hotly contested.

After a short presentation on the "classic" film Citizen Kane in the Science Lecture Theatre and a lovely meal (accompanied by the screening of the abstract British documentary Arcadia) in the Music Room, thanks to the Catering Team - The Awards were announced and presented by a Junior guest - Sholto Eisenhut-Warden.

And the winners are:

Best screenplay - (A Level) Ella Ivanovici (West)
(AS) Amber Anderson (West)

Best Storyboard - Ben Henderson (Bruce)

Best use of sound - Sofia Wright (Stanhope)
and Jet West (Stanhope)

Best use of editing - Emma Wright (Stanhope)

Best Mise-en-Scene - Kia Winnington Ingram (West)

Best plot twist - Mark Babiner (Cobham)

Best setting - Robin Vane-Tempest Stewart (Chatham)

Best Film - Henry Goodwin Hudson (Bruce)

Best Audio Fiction - Vann Daly (Temple)

Best Portfolio - Sophia Southwick (Nugent)
and Jess Foxwell (Lyttelton)

Ms Ackroyd should be thanked for co-ordinating the evening, the Stoics looked great; the event was a big success and everyone behaved in a way which would have shamed Will Smith.

The event even prompted the Film and Media team to plan a follow-up evening early in October to welcome the new Lower Sixth Film and Media groups and to continue the discussion about what makes a classic movie.

Head 'em up and move 'em out!

Dr Andrew C Webber

Concerto Concert

On Friday 6 May, the Stowe School Orchestra presented a Concerto Concert featuring several solo performances by some of our talented Upper Sixth cohort. This event was a particularly special moment for us as a Music Department as it was our final large-scale concert to feature the 'Class of 22'. To have such a large number of incredibly gifted Music Award Holders in one cohort is really quite unusual, and we are really going to miss them all when they depart Stowe at the end of the academic year.

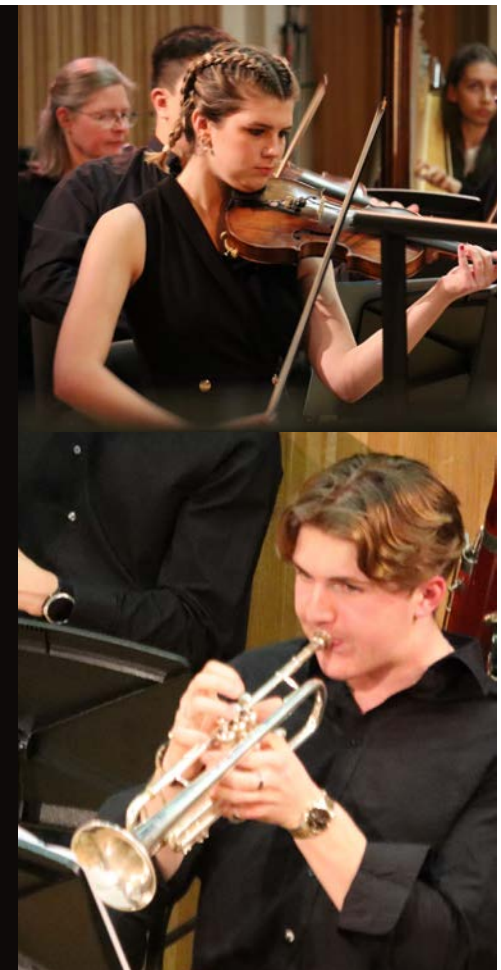
The performance opened with a rendition of the wonderful Concerto for 3 Pianos by J. S. Bach which was capably performed by Annabel Hing, Ben Li, and Baz Calkin. All three have played such a key role in shaping Stowe music over the past five years, whether that be as pianists or as instrumentalists playing in the orchestra. Annabel and Ben are both exceptional violists, and Baz is a masterful bassoonist and we have been very lucky to have them all within our amazing team of Music Scholars.

Sophia Southwick then took the stage to perform Telemann's demanding Overture for Recorder and Strings. Sophia has been the best role model for our younger pupils that you could ever hope to have and her talent and ability is respected by all. Sebastian Foxwell performed the Morales Concerto for 2 Trumpets alongside George Easton, a friend

and colleague of Sebastian's who currently studies at the Purcell School and the Junior Royal Academy of Music. Sebastian is a phenomenal trumpeter and pianist and has made the most enormous contribution to our music programme since arriving in the Third Form.

Jessica Foxwell then took us through the Chaminade Concertino for Flute & Orchestra. Jess is off to study at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester next year, an outstanding achievement which reflects her exceptional ability and commitment to her art. Our final soloist was Abigail Roberts who performed Vaughan Williams staggeringly difficult romance, The Lark Ascending. Abi is taking up a place at the Trinity Conservatoire of Music next year and we wish her all the very best as she embarks on this exciting new chapter.

The concert concluded with a rousing rendition of William Walton's Orb and Sceptre. Composed for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, this march embodies a quintessentially British style and hopefully served as a fitting nod to this year's Platinum Jubilee. All members of the orchestra have worked incredibly hard to prepare this technically demanding and musically complex work. Overall the Stoics staged a staggeringly good concert and it was a fitting way to send off an incredible year group of young musicians.



CRICKET



Stowe achieved a clean sweep against Bloxham over the home matches played on Tuesday 26, Wednesday 27 and Thursday 28 April. For the 2nd XI, Will Harrison (Fifth Form, Winton) took 5 for 25 as Bloxham were bowled out for 103. Zac Julyan (Third Form, Winton) scored 65 for the Yearlings As as they won by 117 runs.

The U17 XI started their National Cup campaign well with a comprehensive win over Bedford on Thursday 28 April, by 73 runs. There were fifties for Ewan Hughes Rowlands (Lower Sixth, Walpole) and Aadi Sharma (Fifth Form, Winton).

We had our first ever U14 girls' cricket fixture against Kimbolton which ended up being a thrilling match - losing by two runs in the final over. Bella Timmis (Third Form, Stanhope) and Kitty Howard (Third Form, Cheshire) top scored.

On Saturday 7 May, Stowe won all of the U14 matches against Oundle, although the Oundle balanced the block by winning the Senior matches. Zac Julyan scored another fifty for the Yearlings As (YAs) and that team then bowled Oundle out for 42 whilst the Yearlings Bs (YBs) continued their unbeaten run. For the 1st XI Ali Short (Upper Sixth, Winton) scored 55 and Aadi Sharma (Fifth Form, Winton) 45, but a string of dropped catches meant the team wasn't able to defend Oundle's total of 228.

The 1st XI had a convincing win over Wellingborough in the first round of the National T20, on Tuesday 10 May.

The Senior girls' team, led by Lizzie Knott (Lower Sixth, Cheshire), played their second match of the season against Bedford Modern on Thursday 12 May and acquitted themselves well with Freya Embley (Fifth Form, Queen's) holding the batting together.

Also, on Thursday 12 May, the U17s played their 2nd round National Cup Match against Trent. Stowe posted 168 for 8 and were indebted to a brilliant knock by Ewan Hughes Rowlands off 88. Stowe made Trent work really hard to get runs with a superb bowling and fielding performance. Trent however got over the line 8 wickets down. It was a strong performance against a team that had several academy players.

The Junior Colts As XI played their first game in the National T20 on Friday 13 May. Zac Julyan held the innings together with an impressive 50, he was ably supported by Ben Sutton (Fourth Form, Winton), Algy Orchard (Fourth Form, Chatham) and Ed Saunders (Fourth Form, Grafton). Stowe posted 148 runs and then bowled Chesham out for 68 runs. They now play RGS High Wycombe.

On Saturday 14 May against Abingdon, the Stowe 1st XI built a solid batting total of 248 with major contributions from Aadi Sharma (62) and Captain Ali Short (80). Wilf Pickard (Fifth Form, Cobham) was the star of the bowling attack, taking three wickets in his opening spell. The game looked set for a draw going into the last twenty overs, until Pickard came back for a second

spell and took a hat-trick in his first over. He took one more to finish with outstanding figures of 7 for 42. The 2nd XI had a good win and most of the other matches were very close with only a few runs or wickets being the difference between the two schools.

The Fourth Form teams played RGS High Wycombe on Tuesday 17 May with the As and Cs securing victories. The A team game was the Semi-Final of the County Cup, meaning Stowe progress to the Final.

On Thursday 19 May it was the Third Form's turn to take on RGS. Both the As and Bs won. Zac Julyan batted well, Connor Doherty (Walpole) and Archie Vernon Miller (Chatham) spearheaded the bowling attack.

Stowe shared a 5 win, 5 loss split with Rugby School for the block fixture on Saturday 21 May. Stowe came away with victories for the 1st XI, YA and JCA as well as the YB and YC XIs. All the other fixtures were very close. Ed Mercer (Fourth Form, Grafton) deserves a mention for his 58 of just 27 balls.

The 1st team had an emphatic win away at Rugby on Saturday 21 May, thanks to an excellent bowling display, we got them out cheaply for just 107 runs. It took just 19 overs to knock off the runs with Captain Ali Short getting 42 not out and Wilf Pickard 35.

The Junior girls' cricket team had a great win over Bloxham on Wednesday 18 May, and they are looking like a very promising side.

Congratulations go to Chatham who beat Bruce in the Boys' Senior Inter-House Final on Friday 6 May on the North Front, whilst the Plate Winners were Winton. Congratulations also to Nugent who won the Senior Cup for girls.

James Knott, Head of Cricket

International Visitors to Stowe

On Thursday 12 May, Stowe hosted the Northants' 2nd XI for two T20 matches against Holland who are touring the UK. Stowe's 1st XI Captain 2021, James Cronie (Cobham 21) was in the Northants' XI.

The grounds looked stunning and the sprinkling of spectators were treated to two excellent matches. Holland won the first, chasing down 189 to win. In the second game Northants successfully chased 125. Northants' 2nd XI coach, Graeme White (Bruce 2005) commented:

"It was great being able to come back to Stowe with the Northants' 2nds this week. It obviously holds a special place in my heart, playing here on the North Front on a sunny day is so picturesque. The square and wicket look fantastic, and as the day progressed the wicket got better and better. The practice facilities are second to none too. Let's hope we can come back again next year, we really enjoyed it."

James Knott, Head of Cricket



The Summer Term's Rowing got off to an early start with a regatta at Leicester on Sunday 24 April, the first weekend of term. This was our first trip to Leicester's Regatta and the organisers were very pleased to greet us. The venue was pleasant, the weather was kind, and crowds of supporters lined the river bank.

The lead-in week had been difficult, losing two of the girls to injury; the Captain, and one of the other boys. The narrow river (compared to the breadth of our own 11 Acre Lake) meant that steering would be tricky for our crews, and the locals alike.

The best performance of the day was probably the girls' double of Leia West (Lower Sixth, West) and Harriet Hines (Upper Sixth, Cheshire). From the start they established a convincing lead, but were told to stop, due to wandering steering.

This allowed the Leicester crew (who had hit the bank) to catch-up and win by about a length. This strange decision was appealed, but we were told that our crew had been warned twice for their steering.

The boys' double of Finn Tyson (Upper Sixth, Winton) and Thanassi Ghertsos (Upper Sixth, Chandos) were doing well, but tired towards the end. Our double, of Max Cowper-Hart (Fifth Form, Chatham) and Charlie Cole (Lower Sixth, Walpole), started strongly, and when Leicester hit the bank and then hit a swan, it looked like our boys could get away - but Leicester managed to pull back at the finish.

Our boys' quad of Ed Whitbread (Lower Sixth, Cobham), Rafe Gordon (Lower Sixth, Winton), Max Cowper-Hart and Charlie Cole had a fierce race with Loughborough University, which involved interesting steering in both boats, clashing blades, and the university winning-out narrowly.

Sienna Bettany (Lower Sixth, Stanhope), in the girls' singles, showed why four years of practice counts. She is completely at-home in this difficult boat class, and gave the best technical performance of the day.

The coxed four is not a boat class we have raced before. For balance, rowers are completely dependent on those on the other side of the boat, so things can go awry! With only one practice, our rowers took to it well. This was another strange

race. Huntingdon fluffed their start and appeared to hit the bridge, whilst our crew flew away. For no apparent reason the race was re-started. Our crew again got off to the better start, but as the race unfolded the older crew's strength started to tell. Our crew was Max James (Lower Sixth, Cobham), Hugo Comerford (Lower Sixth, Chatham), Ed Whitbread, Finn Tyson and Harrison Newman (Third Form, Winton) (cox).

Stowe was also represented by Max James in singles and in Junior-14 doubles by Ari Lewis (Third Form, Walpole) and Philippos Konstantopoulos (Third Form, Walpole) and Cameron Gray (Third Form, Temple) and Harrison Newman (Third Form, Winton) in their first-ever rowing races.

The competition at Leicester was quite tough for our School crews, against mainly older competitors from clubs and universities, but it did lay the groundwork for the Ball Cup Regatta at Dorney Lake, a fortnight later on Sunday 8 May.

This Dorney regatta has been a happy hunting ground for Stowe crews in the past. The weather is always great, the location sparkling (venue for the London Olympics) and the competition is for similar schools and clubs, with less than 40 members.

The three crewboats - boys' and girls' quads and boys' Junior-14 quads - were the highlights. The girls were awarded silver medals by Sarah Winkless MBE, former World Champion and Olympic Medalist. The boys had a tight-fought race with King Edward's Stratford and Oundle to grasp their bronze medals. Sienna Bettany jumped into the boat to cox the Junior-14s and guide them to their most competitive finish of the day. As a very nice touch, the girls' and boys' crews were presented with their medals in Monday Assembly.

Elsewhere our older doubles of Norrie Macdonald (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) and Lily Jackson (Lower Sixth, Cheshire), Charlie Cole and Hugo Comerford and Amelia Hine and Leia West had useful races, as did our Junior-14s. Sienna Bettany had a good scull in her single, holding second place for much of the race.

After Half Term, the girls' quad is entered for Henley Women's Regatta, on Saturday 18 June.

Andrew Rudkin, Rowing Coach



In Conversation...

Many of our Staff have stories to tell and an impromptu conversation with Stowe's popular Assistant Librarian, Lucinda Stockley, proved very enlightening:

What is your job at Stowe and how long have you been here?

I have been working at Stowe for over five years, I have a few different roles, my official role is Assistant Librarian but I am also a Lower School Tutor in a Boarding House and also help run the Equestrian teams.

Favourite place at Stowe?

I am biased, but I probably work in the best room in the School, the Library, but my favourite place at Stowe in the Summer is sitting on the South Front steps in the sun watching the world go by.

Best thing about Stowe?

The environment we work in, I was not as lucky to go a school as enriching and beautiful as Stowe so I am very grateful to come to work here.

What is your involvement with horses? How long have you been riding?

For as long as I can remember I have been around horses. I think I could ride before I could walk. My mum used to Show Jump so it was always going to happen that I would love horses. I started showing horses when I was three and was lucky to own some wonderful ponies over the years. I have now started to train to judge at horse shows so that I can give back what the Showing world has given to me.

Biggest equestrian achievement?

I have been so fortunate to win the Horse of the Year Show on four separate occasions and most recently in 2018 with my Fell Pony,

Murthwaite Oliver at Birmingham NEC. It's the pinnacle of the Equestrian calendar with thousands of people trying just to qualify, and to win was an incredible moment and most recently riding in front of Her Majesty the Queen.

Most beautiful/memorable place you've ridden?

I was extremely proud to be asked by the Fell Pony Society to take part in a parade to celebrate the Centenary of the Society and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Queen is the Patron of the Fell Pony Society and keen supporter of the breed which was once classed as endangered. As part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations we were invited to parade in the main ring at the Royal Windsor Horse Show. Over 40 Fell enthusiasts from different disciplines took part in the parade. Led by Lady Louise Windsor, the Queen's granddaughter, who was driving the late Prince Philip's carriage, we walked into the main arena and saluted Her Majesty, thanking Her Majesty for her support to the breed and country over her reign. This was a moment I will remember for the rest of my life.

There are so many wonderful places I have ridden but a few of my favourite are: Royal Windsor, Wembley, Olympia and agricultural shows such as The Royal Show.



Equestrian Centre Re-opening

We are delighted to be announce that from September 2022, Stowe's Equestrian Centre will re-open and I will take on the role of Head of Equestrianism. I am so excited to be joining the Stowe team and to be taking the lead on Equestrianism at the School.

The Equestrian Centre is an outstanding facility which will enable those pupils who ride to have the benefit of bringing their horses to School with them, so that they can continue to train and compete throughout the term. The team at the Equestrian Centre will provide first-class care for horses and support of the Stoics in their riding ambitions.

To celebrate the re-opening of the Centre at Home Farm, we have arranged an event on Saturday 11 June at 5pm. This occasion will provide the opportunity to see the facilities at the Equestrian Centre in action and to meet the team to talk about livery and your child's training. Refreshments will be served and the Head, Dr Wallersteiner, will also be attending.

If you would like to attend the event on 11 June, discuss booking Livery for September, or if you have any other questions, please do [contact me](#).

Read more about the Centre [here](#).

Becky Coote, Head of Equestrianism



The Restoration of Mr Roxburgh's Garden

Michael Likierman (OS Chandos 1958) has very generously offered to underwrite the restoration of Mr Roxburgh's Garden at Stowe to mark the School's Centenary in 2023.



The significance of Mr Roxburgh's Garden was first highlighted by Michael Bevington in an article published in *The Corinthian* in 2012. Its significance lies in it having been commissioned in 1922 by J.F. Roxburgh from the designer, Brenda Colvin, who went on to be hailed as one of the leading landscape architects of her generation, and with Sylvia Crowe and Geoffrey Jellicoe formed a 'landscape triumvirate', regarded as a major influence on Twentieth Century landscape design in the UK. She founded and later became President of the Institute of Landscape Architects (now The Landscape Institute).

Colvin's work at Stowe, perhaps her first commission of for an institution, formed an early but significant part in her visionary contribution to landscape architecture both in the UK and internationally. The publication of her influential book *Land and Landscape* (1948), based on her wartime lectures and drafted whilst performing the courageous, but tedious duty of Fire Guard during and after the Blitz, marked a sharp shift from private gardens to urban and industrial landscapes. It was in transforming landscapes for power stations, reservoirs, industrial sites, new towns, national parks, new universities, hospitals, factories and mineral workings that Brenda made her post-war reputation. Always innovative, always with ecology and conservation in mind, she masterminded a great many original solutions.

Colvin wrote that her work also included 'restoring landscape at Stowe', and lists as commission No. 55 (dated 1924): 'Roxburgh - Stowe (New House)'. This was presumably Chatham House designed by Sir Clough Williams-Ellis. She doubtless advised on the siting of Chatham, the School's first major detached building, 'set with its back to the belt of great trees and overlooking the lake.' Colvin strongly believed that trees 'define and separate the open spaces, thus serving

as do the walls and pillars of a building'.

Mr Roxburgh's garden was one of Brenda Colvin's earliest commissions. Roxburgh's living quarters adjoined the Gothic Library, so his garden would have been on the east parterre behind the balustrade. Colvin's 'Notebook' lists her commissions from 1922, when she was aged 25, with J.F. Roxburgh's garden as No 7. Typical of her designs, it featured a square of rough flagstones, with paths stretching out either side, delineated by rectangular flower beds, an elegant solution in this elongated rectangular space.

In 1927, Queen Mary received school guests in the Headmaster's garden and in 1929, HRH Prince George (later The Duke of Kent) took tea at its east end, where there was a paved area with a wooden seat sheltered by bushes. Following the magnificent restoration of Stowe's South Front (which necessitated the removal of the parterre), the plan is for Colvin's garden for Mr Roxburgh to be reinstated as part of the School's Centenary celebrations. The National Trust fully support the reinstatement of this formal garden.

The firm, Colvin and Moggridge (founded by Brenda in 1922), who have restored and designed landscapes for the National Trust at Stowe, Petworth Park, Blenheim Palace and Leeds Castle, have been asked to undertake this commission and have provided exciting design plans, planting lists and costs.

If you would like to contribute to this exciting Centenary project which will restore the eastern parterre to the state it was in when the great J.F. Roxburgh opened the School, we would be delighted to **hear from you**. We are particularly interested in being faithful to Brenda's innovative planting scheme which has become fashionable in contemporary rewilding of garden spaces. There would be opportunities to fund plants, shrubs, trees and benches, should you wish to be involved in this Centenary project.

Dr Anthony Wallersteiner, Head



Stowe Drama Department are excited and delighted to announce that they are, for the first time, taking a show to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival this year.

South Downs by David Hare, allows us to return to the 1960s and life in a traditional English Public School. In this beautifully written response to Rattigan's 'The Browning Version' a window is presented into a world long gone but whose themes and experiences are still very much with us.

Directed by Rebecca Clark with a cast of powerful young Stoic actors and a joyous soundtrack of classic 60s music this new production is a fast-moving, thoughtful and emotional exploration of the joys and challenges faced by young men growing up in an ever-changing world.

The show will be performed at "theSpace on the Mile (Space 3)", on Tuesday 9 to Thursday 11 August, further information to follow!

Equestrian

Throughout April and May our Stowe Equestrians have been competing with great success. Congratulations to all riders.



Araminta Spencer-Churchill

Araminta (Fourth Form, Stanhope) competed at the School Equestrian Group at Swalciffe on Friday 30 April to Monday 2 May. Araminta came Fourth, jumping a double clear and scoring 33.25 in dressage. This qualifies her for the SEG 100cm class later this year.



Els Simpson

Following a successful three weeks of jumping competitions at Oliva, Spain this Spring, Els (Fifth Form, Queen's) and Galinka were selected to be part of the U18 Great Britain Nations Cup Show Jumping Team squad at the FEI Youth Nations Cup competition held at Fontainebleau, France.

Els and her horse Galinka were competing in the 1 metre 40 class. This is an outstanding achievement given that she is three years younger than any other competitor and this height is only 20 cm lower than the adults jump in the Olympics.



Isabella Russell

Isabella (Third Form, Cheshire) had a fantastic weekend at Onley Ground EC on Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 May.

Isabella came Third in the Foxhunter and then was Second in the 148cm, jumping a 1.15 Handicap.

Isabelle Harris

Isabelle (Third Form, Nugent) had a fantastic result at the Pony of the Year "POYS" Show held at Arena UK, 13 - 18 April. After two days of qualifying Isabelle placed both of her ponies in the POYS 138 GP. A fantastic jump off left Izzy three seconds faster than her competition but with an unfortunate 4 fault pole she finished in third and fourth place. Furthermore she was the highest point scoring rider over the weekend winning her leading rider.



Cassidy Jorritsma

Cassidy (Upper Sixth, Cheshire) and her horse Huckleberry competed in the NSEA Eventers Challenge and 1m Show jumping at Bury Farm on Wednesday 13 April.

Cassidy and Huck placed Fourth in the Eventing, which qualified them for Hickstead Finals in the Summer, they then went on to win the Show jumping.



Connie Adams

Royal Windsor Horse Show

On Sunday 15 May, I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to compete in the main arena at the Royal Windsor Horse Show in the Under 25, 1m 40 British Team Viewing Trial class, on my eight-year-old horse Jagger III, whom I have ridden since a 5-year-old.

To get to this point has taken years of hard work and it was extremely rewarding and a great opportunity to jump round a testing course to prepare for a busy summer season of competition.

The experience was made even more memorable with it being the Jubilee year, creating a big atmosphere at the event. It was also a 5* show, meaning riders from all over the world were there to compete in the prestigious Rolex Grand Prix later that day.

I am very grateful to Stowe for being so supportive with my riding endeavours and hope to follow in the footsteps of other successful Old Stoic Equestrians such as Bubby Upton in the years to come.

Connie Adams (Upper Sixth, Cheshire)

THE *Stowe* putter



On Sunday 22 May, we were absolutely thrilled to see the return of The Stowe Putter to the sporting calendar. The Putter has a long and distinguished history as the oldest and most prestigious Prep School Golf Tournament in existence.

The tournament was inaugurated in 1967 when Headmaster, Bob Drayson, conceived the idea of hosting an annual Prep School Golf Tournament. He received instant support from two of Stowe's legendary Walker Cup players, P.B. 'Laddie' Lucas and John Langley, who represented Great Britain and Ireland in the Walker Cup whilst still a schoolboy at Stowe. 'Laddie' Lucas kindly presented The Putter - a classic Andrew Kirkaldy putter of St Andrews design. Over the years, thousands of young budding golfers have locked horns in friendly competition contesting the highly coveted trophy. In 2004, an additional trophy was introduced, the Junior Jigger, for the leading Under 11 competitor.

This year's event marked a very special occasion indeed as it was the inaugural Stowe Putter to be played on our new golf course, which was officially opened for play on 17 May 2020. The new course measures over 6,400 yards when played as an 18-hole course and has been carefully designed to nestle into the historic landscaped gardens. It covers the area once occupied by the lost village of Lampport: across the rolling hills you will catch glimpses of Cobham's Tower, Stowe Castle, The Gothic Temple, the Temple of Friendship, and the Bourbon Tower (where the Buckinghamshire Yeomanry trained before The Battle of Waterloo). The new golf course provides an excellent challenge for golfers of all abilities, with significantly longer and more demanding holes, along with greens constructed in accordance with USGA guidelines.

The past champions have been presented with The Stowe Putter by an extraordinary and eclectic range of highly distinguished Guests of Honour. This year, we were delighted to welcome Jeremy Robinson, Old Stoic, as our Guest of Honour.

Jeremy possesses a long and distinguished career as both amateur and professional golfer. During his amateur career, Jeremy won The Peter McEvoy Trophy in 1982, The Lagonda Trophy in 1985 and received the highly coveted Philip Scrutton Jug in 1987 in recognition of winning both The Brabazon Trophy and The Berkshire Trophy in the same calendar year. Jeremy was selected to represent Great Britain and Ireland in the 1987 Walker Cup matches at Sunningdale Golf Club and after qualifying to play in the 1987 Open Championship

at Muirfield, Jeremy turned professional and went on to play in over 250 European Tour events. Jeremy also played on The European Challenge Tour where he won five tournaments. In 2009 Jeremy represented Great Britain and Ireland in The PGA Cup at The Carrick, Loch Lomond.

Playing conditions on Sunday were ideal with fine weather and light winds. Steve Curley and his team of Groundstaff had prepared the golf course to an immaculate pristine condition with the greens running at an excellent pace for the 60 competitors representing 25 Prep Schools from across the country.

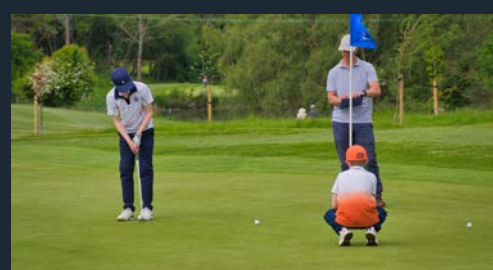
This year's winner of The Putter was Hayden Sarfo from King's Worcester, who recorded a fine score of 55 gross stableford points. Hayden possesses an outstanding tournament record at The Putter - he was crowned champion of The Junior Jigger in both 2018 and 2019 and has now gone on to claim the main prize. Hayden is currently playing off 3 handicap at the age of 12 and we very much look forward to seeing him return next year as defending champion.

The winner of The Junior Jigger (Under 11 age group) was Rory Hughes from Caldicott with a score of 28 points. The winner of the Under 12 Age Group with a very impressive score of 44 points was George Hampel from Caldicott. Marcus Smith from Caldicott claimed the U13 salver with a score of 50 points and the winner of the 13+ Age Group was George Sleight from Sunningdale, who will be welcomed to Stowe in September as one of our Golf Scholars.

Caldicott, who returned a combined score of 94 points, won this year's Team Shield, which is based on the best two combined scores from a competing Prep School. Prizes were also awarded to the third-placed competitors and runners-up of the U11, U12, U13 and 13+ Age Groups. For a full breakdown of the results please click [here](#).

Dr Anthony Wallersteiner, Andrew Hancox and Jeremy Robinson led the Tournament Presentation. Dr Wallersteiner gave thanks to Andrew Hancox for all the hard work behind the scenes organising and running such a huge event as Tournament Director. Thanks were also paid to Cheryl Davis and Miles Davis for acting as Tournament Recorders, Chris Atkinson for acting as Official Starter and all the supporting Stoics and Staff who volunteered to help as Tournament Markers.

The event was a huge success and we eagerly anticipate the return of The Putter next year.



TWISTING, LOOPING, WRAPPING and WEAVING

On Monday 25 April, the Bronze Arts Award Group were immersed in a day of Wire Sculpture, led by Artist, The Wire Lady, Sue Clews.

The tables were filled with a colourful array of spools of wire, pliers, wire cutters, and bowls of beads. It was really tempting to reach out and just play with the wire, and start sorting out all the curious little shapes in the bead bowls. We all like to fiddle with things, don't we? Then the first demonstration began: the change from the wire as a linear material to a 3D structure.

Sue showed the group how to bind the wire, wrapped around box forms, to shape a cube, with the key corners and edges nipped together to ensure strength. Then it was time to embellish, and find out through trial and error how much wire was needed for the shapes to hold their integrity. Cubes were created, as were tubes – with the shapes suggesting different uses. Jack and Romayo produced hats, whilst Neve's and Amber's rectangular basis could become plant holders.

During the course of the day, other techniques were introduced: weaving, and looping. Sue had brought some beautiful examples of her finished pieces - all of which we wanted to hold and touch. Bowls encrusted with beading, vase forms, shapes that looked knitted, and shapes bound with infinite loops and a sculptural bag of many colours that wouldn't look out of place on a fashion catwalk. These pieces of art sell at a price that reflects the amount of hours and patience required to produce them. It's so important to remember that art can be tactile, not just visual.

The room grew quiet as everyone's focus intensified, as they found out how to control the tension of the wire, and learned new ways to loop and weave. Ronan proved particularly adept at producing an evenly woven shape – surprising himself. Others found the flat weave more accessible. Everyone enjoyed choosing colours that were satisfying or meaningful. By the end of the day everyone had created several pieces to take away.

What surprised the group:

... my creativity and inventiveness.

JACK RILEY (Fourth Form, Walpole)

... the variety of forms that can be made.

RONAN DHARIWAL-MANN (Fourth Form, Temple)

... the ease with which I can learn the patterns.

MILO XING (Fourth Form, Chandos)

... it takes a lot of focus.

NEVE NTUMBA (Fourth Form, Stanhope)

... it's so good

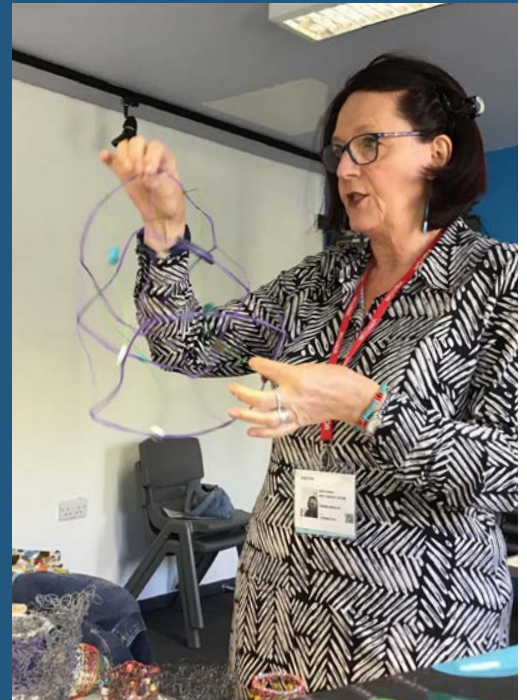
ROMAYO SEATON (Fourth Form, Grenville)

... the beading technique is much easier than I thought.

ROBERT LAYTER (Fourth Form, Chatham)

I thoroughly enjoyed the workshop and also progressed my wiring skills throughout the day. It is remarkable to think you can create such interesting and abstract pieces of art from extremely thin wires. Furthermore, we learnt many techniques which you never know when they will come in useful!

George Smith, Laura Parker and Sandra Wheeler



After two long years of Covid, climbing is finally back up and running. Two sessions are held each week on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

There is a large group of climbers this year, more than ever before; many are aiming to complete the NICAS Certificates from grade 1 to 5, while others are climbing for pure fun.

One of the best aspects about Stowe climbing is the close-knit community the group has and its openness to newcomers. Regardless of skill level everybody encourages each other and helps one another improve, the only exception is the occasional rivalry which normally involves competition over a certain climb. Members come from all year groups, and it is arguably the most integrated activity in the School, everyone climbs together and works to improve together.

Every session we have an instructor assigned to us, everyone at Pinnacle Climbing Centre is super

approachable and they often seem to be just part of the group.

Most climbing done is top rope climbing, but a few of us are planning on starting lead climbing next term; lead climbing is especially difficult because there is no guarantee you won't fall off the wall while trying to clip into to safety, it is however, far more exhilarating.

Bouldering is a favourite pastime of the group, this presents the biggest challenge to most of us because we can get fixated on a single climb, because it is close to the ground and there is no rope, the climber often amasses a crowd that works with them to overcome the challenge.

I have been a member of Stowe's climbing group for four years, and there has not been a point during that time where we have had so many participants, of many skill levels, and many year groups, climbing together.

Max Stevens
(Lower Sixth, Temple)



Stowe Sweep at Northamptonshire County Youth Chess Tournament

Stowe's Chess team participated for the first time in the Northamptonshire County Chess Tournament, held on Saturday 14 May at Wellingborough School, and came away laden with silverware.

A team of ten players travelled to the event, which was a marathon of six rounds, running from 10am to 5pm. There were over 100 players from a range of both independent and state schools across the county, including Wellingborough, Northampton School for Boys, Bedford School and Bedford Modern.

Alex Richards (Third Form, Winton), due to his high rating, competed in the U18 category and won the whole tournament, being crowned as the overall County Champion. Max Stevens (Lower Sixth, Temple) finished as runner up.

Xavi Nylaende (Fourth Form, Bruce) won the trophy for the U16s, and Dengiz Primkul (Third Form, Temple) won the U14 section, with Andrii Mamakin (Third Form, Temple) the runner up.

This is an exciting time for Stowe Chess, with so many strong players in the younger year groups. Their enjoyment of the game and keen desire to compete has created a real buzz around the game, especially on the back of the whole School Inter-House competition during the Lent Term.

We have now also formed a partnership with the Northamptonshire organisation, who are helping to run what will be the inaugural Stowe Invitational Chess Tournament. Expectations are running high!

Dr Julie Potter, Chess Club

Prep School Athletics at Stowe

On Monday 16 May Stowe hosted a Prep Schools' Athletics meeting. Nearly 200 athletes from ten schools enjoyed a great afternoon competing on Stowe's track, with parents attending the event to support their children representing their schools.

There were three age group categories which had pupils from Years Four to Eight on show.

Summer Fields won all three of the boys'

competitions with some very impressive athletes on display. In the girls' competitions, The Dragon won the Junior and Colts competitions while Spratton Hall were victorious in the Open (Year 8) category.

Parents, teachers and pupils commented on how much they enjoyed the event and how much they are looking forward to it next year!

Grant Seely, Head of Athletics



Languages Society

The Languages Society held its first event of term on Wednesday 20 April. The talk was an introduction to Linguistics, presented by Mr Fuentes. Some "cultural dilemmas" were put forward such as: "Does the language we speak shape the way we think?", and early on, it was clear that some ideas were to be lost when switching languages.

Mr Fuentes introduced us to Noam Chomsky, who said that "language is the process of free creation, but its laws and principles are fixed".

The Language Society members then participated in two quizzes, outlining cultural differences. To finish, members practised their linguistics skills in Bambara, Tok Pisin and Zulu.

Mr Fuentes concluded by presenting us 'Esperanto', a concept universal language that most people could learn relatively easily, as its vocabulary and grammar are primarily derived from Romance and Germanic languages. It was a very informative as well as entertaining talk that gave us all a good insight into the complex world of Linguistics.

Tom Gibson (Upper Sixth, Cobham)



Stowe Radio Revision Special



Take time to escape from the stresses of exams by listening to the latest from Stowe's resident radio DJ. Fifth Form pupil Araan Sobhan (Bruce) presents our second episode of the revamped Stowe Radio Show - a 'Revision Special'.



Lower School Geography Society

In January this year, some pupils decided to set up a new Lower School Geography Society at Stowe. Many pupils were keen to join and every Monday the group met to watch documentaries about different topics, such as climate change and ocean plastics, and use the Virtual Reality headsets to develop knowledge.

The group also worked on an ocean plastics project to help spread the word about this global issue and the impacts it has on marine wildlife.

On Thursday 21 April, the Geography Society visited Swanbourne House School to run interactive activities and deliver a presentation to Year Four and Five children about the effects of plastic in our oceans.

We used VR headsets to educate the younger pupils and to make the experience exciting for them. We also presented our ideas about what they could

do around the School to reduce plastic use. They came up with many great ideas such as using glass bottles, picking up litter, recycling more and using re-usable cups.

Following this event, the Swanbourne pupils are looking at creating a mural made from ocean plastic waste to spread the word across their School. We are also looking forward to them coming to visit us here at Stowe at the end of June.

Overall, this was a very positive trip, the Stoics were able to develop their presentation skills and enjoyed raising awareness of this global issue.

**Stowe GeogSoc -
Henry Roberts (Fourth Form, Chatham),
Lulu Goaman (Fourth Form, Lyttelton),
Beau Deacon (Fourth Form, Queen's)
and Iona Clarke (Fourth Form, Queen's)**

Junior International Dinner

On Tuesday 26 April, the International Society held the Junior International Dinner.

All Stoics from the Third, Fourth and Fifth Form who have a non-British nationality were invited to attend a dinner to celebrate the diversity and range of cultures we have within the School. The Heads of Year, Ms Penrhyn-Lowe, Mr Teasdale and Mr Elwell also joined the celebration, alongside International Staff members, Mr Chitre and Ms Houda Lamrabat.

The evening saw pupils from a range of Houses, year groups and countries mixing together, showing just how truly multicultural our pupil population is. The Food Services Department laid on a fantastic meal, including salmon gravadlax to start and South African bobotie for the main course. During these courses, an international quiz was held, asking pupils questions about the different

nations from which our Stoics originate. An opportunity was also provided for attendees to nominate other Stoics for categories such as the 'furthest flung' Stoic (the one whom travels the furthest from home to attend School), and the 'Language Lover' (the one who speaks the most languages).

Whilst Stoics enjoyed a delicious dessert of chocolate fudge cake, the winners of the quiz were announced. A short speech was also given by Miss Shah, thanking all International Stoics for their contribution to the School, and for bringing the School year to life by sharing aspects of their culture with us.

Enormous thanks go to the Food Service Department for their outstanding efforts in ensuring all Stoics and Staff had a wonderful time.



CAREERS

University Roadshow



Stowe welcomed the International University Roadshow to our Sixth Form Centre on Wednesday 27 April.

15 universities representatives from Europe, North America, Asia and UEA were sharing a wealth of information about applications, entry requirements and the individual university themselves. The universities came from a range of locations from French speaking Quebec to the plains and mountains of Colorado and from the beaches in Florida, to the metropolis of New York and Shanghai.

Sixth and Fifth Formers were invited to discuss degrees and courses in Education, Natural Science, Social Science, and the Humanities, etc with representatives

from Vermont, Denver, Wisconsin, NYU, Fordham, Syracuse, Suffolk (Boston), Creighton, Loyola Marymount and Bishop's Universities.

Pupils could also discuss specialist degrees in Business, Hospitality, Creative Arts and Engineering with representatives from IE Madrid, Glion and Les Roches, Savannah College of Art and Design, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and Ecole Hoteliere de Lausanne which.

If you are interested in studying abroad, please contact our Careers Advisor **Mrs Guntner-Jones** for more information.

Luciane Guntner-Jones, Careers Advisor

Old Stoic Careers Support

Lucy Bannister (West 21) returned to Stowe on Thursday 17 March to meet with Dr West (Head of Careers) and Anna Semler (Old Stoic Society Director). Lucy was in the process of preparing for the final round of her application to the Degree Apprenticeship Scheme at L'Oréal. She had been asked to prepare a presentation based on the L'Oréal's Brand, Kiehl's. Lucy delivered a dry run of her presentation and talked over the key themes of her work with Dr West and Anna Semler. Lucy delivered an excellent presentation and had put in a great deal of hard work for her interview. Anna and Dr West were able to offer feedback to help Lucy prepare further for her interview. We await news of her success over the coming days but commend her for reaching the final few of this hotly contested apprenticeship scheme. Fingers crossed...

With the increasing range of degree apprenticeships at top firms, we are receiving more requests from Stoics to help them navigate what is an application for employment.

A degree apprenticeship combines a full-time career with studying towards a degree. Yes, that's a real degree, without the fees, student loan, you get paid from the first day and you get to work with industry leaders. Degree apprentices will be released from work for a minimum of 20% off the job training. This could be each week or, more commonly, in block release.



To find out more about degree apprenticeships, please contact **Mrs Guntner-Jones** (Careers Advisor) or visit UCAS.

Anna Semler, Old Stoic Society Director & Gordon West, Head of Careers - Universities, Careers & Gap Years





Starting a Portrait Business

Since leaving Stowe, Art Scholar Poppy Baker (Cheshire 20) has launched her own art business, specialising in portraiture. With a passion for art from a young age Poppy has always been fascinated by the human face, character and personality - and expresses that through her portraiture. She has received commissions to paint horses, dogs and other animals too.

"Since leaving Stowe I have been evolving my own style and experimenting with different media and materials," Poppy explains. Now using all portrait media (oils, oil pastels, acrylics, graphite and charcoal) Poppy works

from a sitting with the subject, or a collection of photographs and approaches every portrait with delicacy and patience - ensuring the client receives the finest portrait possible.

"I have learned a lot about marketing, using social media and basic accounting too through the challenge of setting up my own portrait business and I am delighted to offer a 20% discount to all 2022 Stowe Leavers and their families. A bespoke hand-painted portrait celebrating a Stoic's final year can be even more memorable than a digital photograph and makes a great gift idea too."

For more information click [here](#), or her [instagram](#) page or on [facebook](#).



Stowe Matrons' Visit to Winchester House School

On Wednesday 27 April, Grafton Matron, Emma Goulding and Cobham Matron, Jo Dalrymple met with Alicia Mobbs, Deputy Head Pastoral and SENCo, at Winchester House School. They were immediately struck by the beautiful entrance of the Winchester House, dating from the early 1800s.

The main aim of Emma's and Jo's visit was to get an understanding on how their pupils transition from Prep to Stowe and to introduce themselves as we are now part of The Stowe Group.

Alicia was very kind to give up so much of her precious time, and gave them a tour of the School including the different Boarding Houses, Medical Centre, facilities and grounds. They also met members of Staff, including the Matron who oversees the running of their Medical Centre.

They have reciprocated her kindness by inviting Alicia to come and visit Stowe and look forward to showing her how our pupils enjoy their life at School and its stunning surroundings.

Emma Goulding, Grafton Matron

Song Academy Young Songwriter Competition



There were over 800 applicants in Song Academy's Young Songwriter competition and Ruby Cooke (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) after making it through several elimination stages, has been shortlisted as one of the final ten performers.

The Young Songwriter Competition is for both aspiring young songwriters (aged 8-18 year olds) who already have some experience as well as young people who want to write their first song.

At the Final, Ruby will get to perform at a live showcase at The Tabernacle, Notting Hill on Saturday 25 June, where the top three, and the subsequent winner will be announced.

Judges on the evening consist of industry professionals such as Tom Odell and Amy Wadge (who wrote the UK Eurovision entry this year).

This is a fantastic achievement and we wish Ruby all the best for the Final. You can find more details about the competition [here](#).



South West Old Stoics Lunch

On Saturday 14 May, we were delighted to gather Old Stoics living in the Far South West for lunch at Hotel Endsleigh, which sits nestled on the Devon/Cornwall border.

Hotel Endsleigh is set in 100 acres of fairy tale gardens, woodlands, follies and grottos created by Humphry Repton: we couldn't have asked for a more stunning setting for this occasion. Our guests were welcomed to the garden terrace for drinks before sitting down for lunch on lawns.

We dined on a feast of Chicken Liver Parfait, Rump of Grass-fed Lamb and Lemon and Passion Fruit Tart before relaxing with Coffee admiring the beautiful view. Anna Semler (Nugent 05) gave a short update with news from the Society and the School during coffee.

We intend to return to Devon again next year and will issue invitations in due course.



CSI at Stowe

The second week of the Summer Term saw a murder in Science! Head of Science, Mr Tearle, was the victim in the anticipated return of CSI to Stowe. The Third Form spent the week in teams investigating who exactly in the Science Department had the opportunity and motive, employing their knowledge and practical skills over a series of lessons to narrow down who did it.

The Third Form detectives applied the traditional sciences across a range of activities from finding DNA, analysing fingerprints, chemical analysis and impact modelling. Some of the investigations were quite difficult and saw the Third Form rise to the challenge.

As a faculty we were particularly impressed with the leadership shown by many of our team leaders who really got a hold of the CSI week, showing strength, diligence, organisational proficiency, empathy and perseverance.

The teams were scored on their success across the series of investigations rather than just an accusation against the murderer. Well done to the winning team of Flora Peppiatt (Queen's), Freddie Boardman (Chatham) and Nada Shamsuddin (Cheshire) who scored 32 points and secured first place with correct identification of the murderer.

Thank you to all the Staff in Science for help in delivering the CSI week and in particularly to our Technicians who prepared all the activities and experiments so that it ran smoothly.

Annual Languages Society Open Mic Night

On Wednesday 18 May, the Annual Languages Society Open Mic Night was held, thanks to the many participants who agreed to take part.

We were treated to several poems such as two German poems performed fluently by Thanassi Ghertsos (Upper Sixth, Chandos), Charlie Keane (Upper Sixth, Grafton) and Leyla Baser (Fourth Form, Lyttelton), a Spanish one performed and simultaneously translated by Giselle Atkinson-Hieber (Lower Sixth, Nugent) and Sofia Tangsrud (Lower Sixth, Stanhope), an extract in Ancient Greek read by Carlo Galliani (Third Form, Bruce) and Seb Hughes (Third Form, Grenville), a Russian classic by Pushkin performed by Andrii Mamakin (Third Form, Temple) and a French Fable by Paul Ostroverhy (Third Form, Chandos).

Some audience participation was needed for some tongue-twisters performed by Maddie Baker (Fourth Form, Queen's), Gwen Grovit (Fourth Form, Nugent)

and Ally Ter Haar (Fourth Form, Lyttelton) in French, and German tongue-twisters performed by Philipp Benedic (Upper Sixth, Bruce) including the longest German word containing 79 letters.

We also had some music in the form of an impressively accurate Chinese rap performed by Simon Ren (Fourth Form, Walpole), a French Canon performed by Fr4A, a Modern Greek song by Philippos Konstantopoulos (Third Form, Walpole), a Spanish one by Federico Riojas Ordorica (Lower Sixth, Bruce) and a German duet by Clara (Upper Sixth, Queen's) and Mrs Tearle in German.

Thanks very much to Mr Goulding for organising the filming, Henry Williams (Third Form, Grafton) for being in charge of the audio, and to Freddie Kelly-Greaves (Upper Sixth, Winton) for presenting the evening. If you want to get a taste of the evening, here is a [link](#) to the mash-up.

Tom Gibson
(Upper Sixth, Cobham)





FALKLANDS WAR REMEMBERED

On Saturday 21 May 2022, the SSI and Contingent Sergeant Major, Warrant Officer Geoff Abbey travelled to Norton Manor Camp, Taunton, home of 40 Commando Royal Marines for a special reunion. In 1982 the average age of those who served and fought in the Falklands War was 19 years old, myself included, with the majority having only completed Royal Marines basic training less than a year prior to the conflict. 40 years later over 300 of those 'young men and women' came together to remember the events of spring 1982.

After a welcome introduction, our Commanding Officer from 1982, Major General (Rtd) Malcolm Hunt gave a speech welcoming his Marines which was received with great enthusiasm and cheer from us all. An Act of Remembrance, led by Reverend Godfrey Hilliard, the unit Chaplain in 82 was held to remember those who sadly lost their lives during the conflict, before we all gathered in the Sergeant's Mess where old friendships were rekindled and memories shared from the conflict in particular the 21st May 1982 'D-Day'.

Having transferred from SS Canberra, a P&O Cruise Ship which had been requisitioned into service as a troop ship, our home since leaving Southampton docks on 9 April 1982 to Her Majesty's Ship (HMS) Fearless an Amphibious Assault Ship, our Rifle Company, Bravo Company, were located in the wardroom (officer's mess) to await the call to prepare to move to landing stations. The wardroom had been stripped bare of anything that resembled a mess deck and tables and chairs were stacked against walls. We all found a small area of floor space and made ourselves comfortable.

The 20th May involved preparing weapons including the 7.62mm Self-Loading Rifle (SLR) the General Purpose Machine Guns (GPMG), anti-personnel and anti-tank weapons; portable 2" mortars, grenades and pyrotechnics and as much spare ammunition as each person could carry, two days' supply of ration packs were packed and repacked into our equipment. The complete individual equipment each person carried varied between 100lbs to 120lbs. We also ensured we took hot meals and sleep and rest as much as possible. Long before the now common use of mobile devices, live streaming, downloads and the constant need for an active Wi-Fi signal, a single film was broadcast around the ships mess decks for all to relax and watch on small television sets mounted in a corner. The Officer of the Day felt that a film to lighten the mood was necessary and 'Grease' was broadcast and repeated every three hours.

The day also brought several briefings and final orders for the landings, with our main effort to secure 'Blue Beach' in San Carlos Bay before moving to the mountains surrounding the settlement to prepare defensive positions. The big question all of us wanted answering, were the landings expected to be 'opposed' or 'non-opposed?' i.e. can we expect to receive enemy fire when we land or not? Intelligence reports could not accurately answer so we all accepted the fact that a 'hot' beach was a real possibility. We were encouraged to write a letter home to loved ones with some personal possessions to be delivered in the event we did not return. Thankfully my Mother and Father did not receive that letter.

After the continual repeat cycle of 'Grease' had finished, final meal eaten, final equipment and weapon checks completed, lights were turned off with sleep and rest being the final order of the day. Sleep came easy for some, for many it did not. Just before midnight on 20 May, lights were turned on and the order "15 minutes ready to move" was given.

We helped each other lift our extremely heavy rucksacks onto our backs, strapped the SLRs and GPMGs across our chests, checked all ammo was secure and finally applied cam cream to remove the shine from our skins. We left the relative warm comfort of the wardroom in single line and made our way to the tank deck at the hull of the ship where our landing craft were waiting. Although the ship was at full action stations members of the ship's company wearing anti flash clothing lined the gangways to wish us well.

We departed HMS Fearless aboard a Landing Craft Utility (LCU) designed to hold a company strength of Marines and joined the rest of the Landing Craft Flotilla that were making the journey along San Carlos Sound to their respective landing sites. Four LCUs with four smaller Landing Craft Personnel (LCVP) carried the whole of 40 Commando towards the beachhead. We were joined by a similar number of craft from HMS Intrepid, sister ship of HMS Fearless who were carrying personnel from 2nd Battalion Parachute Regiment, 2 Para on the same journey. These 16 landing craft and 2 units of Marines and Para's formed the initial landing group with the remaining groups to follow once the beach head had been secured. Naval Gun Fire from Royal Navy Destroyers stationed in Falklands Sound were being directed at known enemy positions in an attempt to protect and disguise our landings as well as provide support to raids on those positions by the Special Air Service and Special Boat Service.

After a couple of hours, the landing craft commenced turning to the Port/Left and the mountain range silhouetted on the skyline appeared larger and closer when suddenly the engines cut and the coxswain announced '5 minutes'. At which point we made our rifles ready in preparation to fight our way onto the beach. 'Good luck' and final advice about moving quick were whispered amongst the Company when the ramp was lowered shattering the quiet approach. There was a sudden pause waiting for an eruption of gunfire before the order 'Out Troops' was given.

Having waded through the cold waters of the Falklands Sound onto the beach, weighed down with kit and equipment we arrived on the Islands at 0330 hours on 21 May 1982, 8,000 miles from home. There were no Argentinian forces to greet us. Apparently, they had been positioned there only to move further along the coast two days prior to our arrival having received intelligence reports that a landing was more likely in that area. Having completed our initial task, we moved up the mountain range overlooking San Carlos and started preparing our defensive positions by digging 8' long; 3' wide and chest height trenches designed to protect two people.

We were digging in as first light dawned with a renewed haste to complete the task and gain some form of protection as we knew an Argentinian response was coming. We did not have to wait long as later that day the first wave after wave of Argentinian aircraft started bombing both the ships anchored in the bay and our positions. This constant aerial bombardment lasted for another five days with San Carlos gaining the name 'Bomb Alley'. After five days we broke out of the beachhead and started the battle to capture Port Stanley and ultimately the recapture of the Falkland Islands on 14 June 1982.

Geoff Abbey, SSI and Contingent Sergeant Major





Frantic Workshop

This term the Third Form Drama pupils have been studying 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time', a play by Simon Stephens, adapted from the novel by Mark Haddon. On Saturday 18 May, the pupils had the opportunity to see the play at the Wycombe Swan Theatre. They were very excited to witness director Marianne Elliot's inventive approach to this fascinating play, brought to life by Bunny Christie's distinctive set design.

The audience are encouraged to see the world through the eyes of Christopher Boone, a 15-year-old boy who is on the autistic spectrum, and who takes it upon himself to investigate the murder of a neighbour's dog. However, this investigation uncovers some disturbing truths about Christopher's family.

As part of their exploration of this play, the Stoics were treated to a workshop on Friday 10 May, by the professional theatre company Frantic Assembly. One of the country's most successful and well-loved companies, Frantic Assembly were the movement directors behind the Wycombe Swan performance.

Pupils were put through their paces, learning a number of the company's physical approaches and some complex lifts. An exhausting but rewarding afternoon which helped the pupils develop their ensemble skills and appreciate the physical demands of being an actor.

Lucy Miller, Teacher of Drama



Throughout April, some of our Stoics observed the religious celebration of Ramadan. This involved them fasting during daylight hours. Other acts of worship such as prayer, reading the Quran and charity are also encouraged during the holy month.

On Tuesday 3 May, Muslims celebrated Eid, which marks the end of Ramadan. This celebration is often marked with the giving of gifts, as well as lavish feasts enjoyed with family and friends.

To mark this occasion, Stoics who celebrate this festival were invited to a special breakfast, allowing them to come together as a community. Ms Lamrabat Benkacem-Ziani had lovingly put together gift bags for the pupils, made up of a variety of traditional sweets and gifts.

The Stoics enjoyed a wonderful feast of pastries and cooked breakfast, as well as some traditional baklava. Conversation centered around typical celebrations at home, and also around how important it is to recognise different faiths, and the feeling of solidarity that such celebrations can entail.

It was wonderful to celebrate Eid in this fashion, and we hope that we can continue to host such celebrations in the future.

Fran Shah, Head of International Pupils



Breaking Fast

From Friday 22 to Thursday 28 April, the Muslim Stoics and I have had the pleasure of breaking our fast together each evening in the Dining Room.

Living far away from our families, especially during the last days of Ramadan, can be very hard, considering that this holy month is characterised by a strong sense of community, family gatherings and congregational prayers.

Thanks to the lovely nurse Anna Garofall Hunt, Mike Rickner, Designated Safeguarding Lead, and Debbie Kelly-Greaves, Head of Food Services and Hospitality (who along with her catering team organised and prepared our meals), we could share this important and delightful time.

We thank God for our daily blessings and for being at an inclusive school.

Nour Houda Lamrabat, Spanish Teaching Assistant

Winton Cup



It was a glorious sight to behold; one hundred and forty-two pupils from sixteen Prep Schools arrived at Stowe just as the morning sun was beginning its arc across the South Front, the dappled light gracefully caressing the neoclassical masterpiece where we are lucky enough to work, study and live.

The Winton Cup, Stowe's Humanities Competition, named after Sir Nicholas Winton (Grenville 23), was off to an auspicious start. Building upon Stowe's incredibly successful Schools' Climate Action event, the day's theme was Climate Ambition, with activities aimed at pupils thinking creatively about climate issues.

Much to the pupils' delight, the day began with pastries and soft drinks as they posed for 'selfies' in front of the frescoes and statues of our State Rooms. We then listen to a fascinating talk by Dr Amy Munro-Faure, Head of Sustainability at Cambridge University, about what climate crisis is, what drives it and the sort of timescales we need to respond to it within. The talk ended with an inspiring invitation to the pupils to think about what they could do to make these significant changes happen.

The children then competed against

each other in various activities ranging from passing climate change legislation, creating their own conceptual and performance-based artwork, to looking at the history of food consumption in the UK and its increasing food miles. I must thank the members of Staff who provided these sessions. The whole day relied on the teachers' knowledge, skills and passion, and feedback from everyone involved, particularly the pupils, was exceptionally positive.

The results were read out whilst staff and pupils had afternoon tea on the South Front steps. Kitebrook were declared the winners, with Lambrook coming a very close second. The children were delighted and spent time chatting with Stowe's Head and Dr Munro-Faure, basking in the afternoon sun and the glory of their victory.

What a thoroughly enjoyable day for all involved, and we hope that many of these pupils will return as fully-fledged Stoics in the future. Humanity faces severe challenges, but we can feel much more confident about overcoming them with children like this in the vanguard.

Simon Cole, Head of Politics



Treasure Island



Treasure Island, artfully adapted for male and female pirates by Phil Willmott, from the novel by Robert Louis Stevenson, will be performed by a hearty cast of Third and Fourth Form pupils, at 7.30pm on Wednesday 29 June, and 1.30pm and 7.30pm on Thursday 30 June.

Rehearsals are going well with hardly any blood-shed, and plenty of "Yo-Ho-Ho-ing" as the ensemble of 30+ re-create this classic story. This swashbuckling stage adaptation brings out all the comedy and adventure of this ever-popular story, and is suitable for adults and children.

You are invited (if the weather allows) to bring your picnic

snacks to the outside arena behind the Chung Music School where outdoor performances will be given. If wet, we will transfer into the Roxburgh Hall.

No parrots were harmed in the making of this photo.

The link for tickets for this year's Junior Congreve is [here!](#)

Laura Parker, Director

Pictured: Tomisin Ibitoye (Third Form, Chandos) as Long John Silver, Arabella Williams (Third Form, Stanhope) as Jim Hawkins, and Flo Blake (Third Form, Cheshire) as Izzy Hands and Lola Richardson (Third Form, Cheshire) as Captain Flint the Parrot. Yes, she is there...

Conservation at Stowe

The Conservation Society and the Fishing Society have been collaborating to observe and record the wide range of wildlife in and around the lakes at Stowe. Stoics have been using several techniques, including camera traps to record the wide variety of wildlife that call Stowe home.

Giles Cuddy, Conservation Society





Army Section Field Day



CCF Army Section Field Day at the Equestrian Centre and on local National Trust Farmland

On Monday 25 April, 88 Fourth Form Army Section Cadets and 16 Lower Sixth NCO leaders headed down to Stowe's Equestrian Centre for a day of field training. The aim was for all to practice handling the rifle as well as learning the mechanics of Section Attacks.

At the start of the day everyone went through their weapons handling tests so they had the skills to do the attacks later in the day. A section attack demonstration took place with the NCOs and Fourth Form Cadets who had taken part in the March Military Skills competition.

Practices then took place with two CCF members (typically NCOs) acting as the enemy, while the section followed typical section attack orders, to work together as a group to assault the enemy position; this included flanking moves so they couldn't be seen, and throwing smoke grenades to create cover to then be able to charge at the enemy position.

Basic field craft drills had been practiced previously in training, with the excellent new laser tag equipment purchased at the start of this year. This new equipment has completely changed CCF by creating the opportunity to rehearse section attacks more realistically without blank fire, testing the ability of Cadets to effectively use cover and to enhance our field craft skills. It really makes everyone focus much more on protecting themselves, whilst also creating great fun laser tag games and competition between sections. The Navy and RAF Section Cadets get to use the laser equipment purely for fun games such as Capture the Flag and Team Death matches, so the lasers are very popular with them too.

Later on in the day the sections were led through a Bush Craft/Tracking and Dynamic Footprint Workshop led by a professional Gurkha Sgt with specialist tracking qualifications and jungle experience. This excellent and interesting training really helped show the Fourth Form how you find out details of person you're tracking, such as, what speed they were travelling at, whether they were male or female, and their height, by simple methods such as measuring the angle of foot pronation, length of footprint and the spacing between the feet.

We then progressed to identifying what Sgt Rai called ground sign which are the tell-tale signs left behind that provide clues. A simple example is heavy bag put down in a location too long it creates an imprint and helps you identify what equipment or rations your enemy might be carrying.

To bring the skills together, training included a lesson given by Lt Shah on the use of Radios. Each section was given several radios and had to communicate with each other using proper radio language (that they had to learn), known as voice procedure. This also included learning the phonetic alphabet to make messages between people clearer and understandable.

The last activity of the day was air rifle shooting. Overseen and helped by Lieutenant Colonel de Gale, the Fourth Form, armed with new air rifles were able to take 10 shots at a target 10 metres away. This was really enjoyed by everyone, with some excellent Fourth Form shots in the making.

Overall the training was interesting, really enjoyed by both the Fourth Form, Lower Sixth and Staff, and the Fourth Form did extremely well in this exercise showing promise as future leaders of CCF. Thank you for your enthusiasm to those who joined in the day.

Cdt Cpl Freddie Farrell (Lower Sixth, Grenville)

Leadership Course

Two Stoic Cadets took part in the CCF Royal Navy Junior Leadership course from 6-8 May 2022

Martha Blake (Fifth Form, Cheshire) and I arrived at the HMS Sultan at 17:00 and found we were one of the first ones to arrive, within 10 minutes however other members of the course joined us. We were very privileged to be in a group of very nice Cadets. We then quickly changed into our NO.4 uniforms and marched to dinner. Martha Blake took charge of this group and did a very good job as leader in a very short period of time. Upon our return to our accommodation, we were given a briefing on what was going to happen the next day before lights out at 22.00

At 07.45, led by myself, we marched to breakfast. After breakfast we were briefed by the Leadership Team instructors and carried out a number of Practical Leadership Tasks (PLTs), bonding as a team to solve the many problems that faced us. On completion of the PLTs we later carried out drill to make sure that we were all at the same level.

Later that day we were once again briefed by the Instructors to make up our own PLTs in groups for the following morning. We also had daily checks of rooms, where if they weren't perfect you had to re-do it and try until it was; hospital corners and all.

The team was also briefed on an orienteering exercise in the nearby park. We were split into two groups and were given a map and a task, which we all successfully completed and the instructors were pleased with our teamwork as a group.

After exercises, the daily routine of checks and then dinner happened. On our final day we were doing each others groups PLTs from the night before. We had a final group activity of cleaning and organising the entire accommodation, before being awarded our leadership badges.

We all left tired but with a lot of good experiences and lots to take away and bring back to our Stowe CCF Royal Navy Section.

Cadet Isabella Reeder (Fifth Form, Cheshire), RN Section

Senior Literary Society

As their studies at Stowe come to an end, three Upper Sixth Stoics reflect on their time as part of the Senior Literary Society...

My membership in Stowe's Senior Literary Society is one that I cherish for reasons that are best encapsulated by my experience of a recent session. After a long week of mock exams, the few of us Upper Sixth Stoics who could muster up the energy gathered in Dr Smith's classroom.

Sprawled over desks in exhaustion, we expressed our frustration over exam results we had received, and our anxieties over ones we still awaited. Upon joining our conversation, Dr Smith, leader of Literary Society, sensed we could use the words of American poet Wallace Stevens. Like many other poems reviewed in the Literary Society, *The Emperor of Ice-Cream* and *The Snow Man* were difficult to grasp, even for us A Level English pupils. And, having just been examined on our ability to quickly dissect unseen poetry, they were momentarily triggering (for me at least). But, as I listened to others speculate on the various ways 'ice-cream' could be central to a poem, I remembered that I was, in fact, not being assessed. Mistakes could be made,

Every Friday at 3:30pm a certain group of Stoics congregate in a certain classroom for the sole purpose of discussing words. We don't discuss just words, of course; rather, we discuss how authors use their words, how these words make us feel, the hidden jokes in the texts we read as students of literature in our classrooms. But what makes Senior Literary Society so memorable is the freedom we have to cross examine outlandish theories which are either endorsed or shot down by our fellow bibliophiles.

It is here that we can delve into James Joyce, Emily Dickinson, and many others, dissect their words and fall down rabbit holes while deciphering unconsidered meanings for these collections of letters. It is here that theories of

Every Friday afternoon in Vanbrugh V004, the Senior Literary Society happens. Each week, Dr Smith reads odd short stories, meaningful poems, or extracts from books - all texts that would never appear on our curriculum... which seems to be pretty much the main criterion for the choices. We have read Percival Everett, Eudora Welty, James Joyce, Tobias Woolf, Emily Dickinson, William Faulkner and Flannery O'Connor, to name just a few of the bundle of writers we leave clutching.

To 'the outside', Literary Society looks like a young adult version of story-time many of us had as children, and in some ways, I guess it is; however, to the Stoics who visit V004 on Friday afternoon, it's more of a time to cumulate ideas, opinions, and experiences. There is no hierarchy or

observations could be unsophisticated, and arguments didn't have to be backed up with a structured analysis. Although these are obvious allowances of any informal discussion, the gruelling and highly pressurised A Level curriculum - especially in Upper Sixth - can easily turn a passion for learning into a somewhat blind obsession with performance.

The Senior Literary Society at Stowe has never failed to help me recognise and broaden my academic tunnel vision. The simple, yet infinitely valuable, pleasure of appreciating stories with others is what I am reminded of weekly in the Literary Society. With many prompts from Dr Smith, our small group of English nerds did finally grasp the method to Wallace Stevens's madness. "Let be be finale of seem" he writes in *The Emperor of Ice-Cream*, and so, we let ourselves revel in learning, forgetting all about impending exam results - if only for a moment to savour the poem's chill.

Ella Ivanovici (Upper Sixth, West)

thought linked to books can be truly weighed; is it better to be feared than to be loved? Machiavelli isn't here to tell us, so we come to our own conclusions alongside reading 'The Prince'.

Need help with Hamlet revision? Don't worry, Dr Smith has an excellent argument on why Horatio is time and why Hamlet should be read alongside Joyce's *Ulysses*.

Senior Lit. Society is a place of discussion and sometimes down right silliness (don't get started on the Literary Society charade competition or the poetry analysis speed test). Literary Society is one of the great secret pleasures of life at Stowe, and I shall miss it terribly.

Honor Waldemar-Brown (Upper Sixth, West)

age divide; instead, it's people with a shared love of literature who learn and read more niche works beyond reading lists or specifications.

Over the two years, I've loved meeting new people, learning about more authors, and ending my Fridays with light-hearted discussions about bullets through the brain, murderous affairs, whether hope really is a 'thing with feathers', the theft of a wooden leg... even whether 'She was tired' is the most perfect sentence in English literature - a heady way to close the week and remind ourselves about the permanent importance of books and the temporary significance of assessment objectives.

Caitlin Gilmore (Upper Sixth, Cheshire)



Farewell to Sasha Moss

We are very sad indeed to be losing Sasha Moss from the Old Stoic team: she will leave Stowe on 28 May to take on an exciting new role at another school.

Over the last five years, Sasha has been instrumental in organising a wide range of Old Stoic events and has skilfully managed our social media communications and offered unrivalled support with OS enquires for our members. We are so grateful to Sasha for all of her hard work and, I know she will be very sorely missed by a large number of Old Stoics around the world whom she has got to know over the years.

Prior to joining the OS Team, Sasha worked

in the General Office at Stowe for four years. Sasha has been an important part of the School community over the last nine years, and everyone is very sad to see her go. On Thursday 26 May, we held a farewell party for Sasha on the Bursar's Lawn which was very well attended. Sasha was presented with gifts from the Society and the School.

We wish Sasha every success with her new challenge and hope to see her as a guest at Stowe and OS Events in the future: we are delighted to be gifting Sasha Honorary Membership of the Old Stoic Society as a parting gift.

Anna Semler (Nugent 05)



Royal Navy Trip to the Portsmouth Dockyard

On the Monday 25 April, CCF Royal Navy section visited Portsmouth Royal Naval Historic Dockyard.

The first thing the group saw when we arrived was the HMS Warrior, Britain's first Iron Clad Warship. HMS Warrior was built for the Royal Navy in 1859-1861. As it was the first ship the group went on, we all found it very interesting, we all enjoyed seeing the ships layout. On the top deck there were cannon tracks, where deck crews would move cannons. On the deck below there was the Captain's Cabin and living quarters; this was by far the nicest cabin on the ship, his room was very big and luxurious. Along that deck there was also a main long mess deck where crewmates would sleep with hammocks and work in the day, they would also eat meals alongside a number of cannons. Finally, below that deck there were other sleeping quarters, a kitchen, medical bay, and a couple of cells. The engine room was at the very bottom of the ship.

The dockyard is the home of the Royal Navy and has been visited by many different navies over many years. It is home to almost two-thirds of the Royal Navy's surface ships. It is also home to the most powerful and well-

known navy ships including the new aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth, the formidable Type 45 destroyers, Type 23 frigates and mine countermeasures and fishery protection squadrons. It will also be home to HMS Prince Of Wales, the sister ship of HMS Queen Elizabeth.

Today the dockyard is still used as a base for the Royal Navy, however it also includes an Historic element. The remains of King Henry VIII's ship, the Mary Rose, which capsized in 1545 but was found and raised in 1982, is on display in a temperature-controlled room in the museum. The museum is full of historical facts including what people wore on the ship, what cutlery they would use to prepare food, what food they would eat and more. There are small remains of weapons and cutlery on display in the museum. The museum also tells the story of the 500 men who lived, worked and died on board and 19,000 artefacts are on display. The group found it very interesting to see how the navy has developed and what has changed.

Darcey Moran (Fourth Form, Cheshire)

RAF Section visit the Imperial War Museum Duxford



On Monday 25 April, the RAF Fourth Form took a trip to The Imperial War Museum in Duxford and learned all about the airborne warfare that took place throughout history.

When we first arrived, we took a look at The Concorde, and the Cadets were already engrossed with the mechanics and history of this historical aeroplane, that looked like it came from the newest Bond film.

After seeing some historical aeroplanes and asking loads of questions, the Cadets were anxious to see the planes that are still in action and are used in flight shows. Among these newer planes, many German WWII planes captured the view of many

of the Cadets as well as their history of use.

Shortly after a quick lunch, the group made its way to the representative hanger of WWII, where we all learned more about D-day and the incredibly well thought out attack carried out on the Normandy beaches.

Our final destination was the American Airforce Hanger, where there were many tributes and some pretty impressive aircrafts. Overall, it was a very successful and exciting trip, and I think all the Cadets learned a lot about airspace and what it takes to make a successful fighting aircraft.

Cadet Cpl Alice Scheffey (Lower Sixth, Queen's)





Innocent until proven guilty!

On Friday 20 May, a number of Stoics participated in a Mock Trial event. We had aimed to participate in the National Mock Trial competition, but unfortunately the dates were unsuitable. As an alternative, the trial was held internally.

The trial saw a case brought to court in which the fictional character of Max Summers was accused of witness intimidation. The Mock Trial team have been working on this case for a number of weeks, scrutinising the evidence, preparing the witnesses to be questioned, and writing their opening and closing speeches for the trial.

During the trial, Max James (Lower Sixth, Cobham), argued brilliantly on behalf of the prosecution, demonstrating some excellent questioning skills when approaching the witnesses on the stand. The witnesses were portrayed by the Lower Sixth West girls, Adaora Okoye, Tamia Sibanda, Lizzie Sole and Phoebe Strom - all of which had learnt their witness statements thoroughly in order to best prepare to be questioned.

Max Broom Smith (Fifth Form, Cobham), and Kenneth Kim (Lower Sixth, Chandos), did an excellent job of acting as defence barristers during the trial, and had meticulously analysed the evidence provided, and were able to utilise this to draw out inconsistencies within the statements provided by the witnesses. The entire trial was well supported by Joseph Barnett (Fifth Form, Winton), who undertook the role of the Court Usher, ensuring that all witnesses were sworn in accurately and reading out Statement 9 - the undisputed witness statement.

The jury was made up of members of the Lower School Academic Society, who had to listen carefully to the arguments proposed and evidence provided in order to deliberate and reach an effective judgement on the case. This was all overseen by Dr Webber, who did an excellent job of acting as the judge during the trial.

After some time deliberating, the jury declared that Max Summers was not guilty of witness intimidation, although the decision was not an easy one to make.

We would like to say congratulations to the Stoics in the Mock Trial team for preparing for this case effectively, and also extend our thanks to the LSAS members for supporting this activity with great enthusiasm.

Fran Shah, Teacher of Politics



YEAR 12 GEOGRAPHY TRIP

On Saturday 14 May, the Year 12 Geographers as part of their A Level Geography fieldwork, gathered on a sunny evening and packed onto a coach headed for Brenscombe Field Studies Centre, Dorset.

The next day we were up bright and early to measure the processes shaping Worbarrow Bay, and later travelled to Swanage to measure the characteristics of an urban beach - fortunately it stopped raining.

The following day involved a drive to nearby Weymouth where we conducted urban fieldwork methods, surveying the reasons for variations in the quality of life across the town. On our final morning, the sun finally came out and we enjoyed a morning measuring sand dunes at Studland beach, before a ferry crossing and lunch at Sandbanks.

Many thanks to the Geography Department and for their time and effort delivering such a useful trip.

Francesca Elliott, Head of Geography



OS CORKSCREW CHAMPAGNE TRIP

On Wednesday 4 May, the inaugural OS Corkscrew trip set off to the Champagne region in France, guided by Guy Boursot from 'Over The Top Tours', and it did not disappoint!

The destination was Champagne Taittinger, a medium sized high-quality producer located on the outskirts of Reims, then on Thursday morning, the small but very prestigious private house of Champagne Pol Roger, located on the Avenue de Champagne in Épernay.

Travelling southwards to the village of Mensil sur Oger in Côte des Blancs (Chardonnay countryside) on Thursday afternoon, Champagne Launois was visited along with their museum of champagne curios (with everything from 16th Century presses weighing 15 tons to corkscrews and muzzles (the metal disc on top of the bottle!).

Friday morning was to the Premier Cru village of Hautvillers, which is best known as where the famous monk Dom Pérignon lived, with a visit to Champagne G. Tribaud, a thriving House that produces small volumes of high-quality champagne.

The whole trip combined the most beautiful restaurants, hospitality, tours, tasting, delicious food and wine, great company and the most wonderful guide. ensured that we received a full fun packed, detailed experience over a short time. We cannot thank him enough for his hospitality during this period or indeed, our superb driver David Maynard, from Bayliss Executive Travel.

We hope to run this trip again in a few years' time. If you are interested in attending, please contact the **OS Office**.

A full account of the trip can be read [here](#).

Sasha Moss, Old Stoic Events Coordinator



Stoic Spotlights

Seb and Jess Foxwell



Upper Sixth twins, Seb (Walpole) and Jess (Lyttelton) started as Music Scholars at Stowe five years ago, having previously attended a local primary and high school whilst studying music on Saturdays at Birmingham Conservatoire.

Seb had already achieved Grade 8 Trumpet and Piano and Jess had gained Grade 8 Flute both in classical and jazz. They have both gone on to do multiple professional diplomas between them under the expert guidance of the Stowe Music School.

They started life at Stowe as Day pupils but by Fourth Form, both of them found boarding an attractive alternative given the amount of activities, rehearsals and practice they had to fit in their day. Being at Stowe has provided endless performing opportunities and both of them have loved being part of the Music School with its fabulous facilities and Staff.

Since starting at Stowe both have taken up a third instrument, Seb, the Cello, on which he will take his Grade 8 before he leaves, and Jess, the Recorder on which she has achieved Distinction in Grade 8 and the ARSM Diploma and is due to take the ATCL Diploma in June.

One of the many highlights of their time at Stowe has been the opportunity to perform Concertos with a professional orchestra expertly conducted by the Director of Music, Craig Greene. Performances have included the Mercadante Flute Concerto for Jess, along with the Chaminade Concertino, the Mozart Quartet in D played with Chris Windass's string quartet and some fabulous Recorder works led by the brilliant Sally Adams who has tutored Jess since she was six years old.

For Seb, he had the opportunity to play Finzi's Eclogue in Fourth Form, along with a Concerto for Four Pianos under the guidance of Ben Andrew, and the recent impressive performance of Eric Morale's Concerto for Two Trumpets.

A huge honour also for Seb has been to play the Last Post for Remembrance Sunday. The first time he performed it in Lockdown standing at the top of the steps on North Front and then later in the beautiful Chapel, an occasion he will never forget.

Alongside the many opportunities that have arisen, they have been encouraged and supported in studying at the Royal Academy of Music on Saturdays and participating in National activities including the English Schools' Orchestra, National Schools' Symphony Orchestra and National Youth Musical Theatre.

Most recently both Seb and Jess have both been offered a place with National Youth Musical Theatre, Jess to play flute and piccolo and Seb to play trumpet, in a musical called Ragtime to be performed at a London theatre from Wednesday 24 - Saturday 27 August. As part of this incredible opportunity, they need to fundraise £2,500 and are planning to hold a concert at School sometime in June to contribute towards the total.

Seb has also accepted a place to play Principal Trumpet with the English Schools' Orchestra in October. The Orchestra will be performing in Cadogan Hall on Sunday 30 October.

Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service visited the School on Friday 13 May to allow the Fire Service Colour Party to have their photograph taken with Stowe as a beautiful backdrop.

In attendance, along with the firefighters, were Chief Fire Officer Jason Thelwell QFSM, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Mick Osborne and a member of the Fire Authority, Councillor Lesley Clarke OBE.

Chief Fire Officer Thelwell also took the opportunity to make a presentation to retired Fire Officer Stuart Irwin (now Security Officer at Stowe) of Fire Service Rugby caps awarded for his years of service as both a player, and Director of Rugby to both the England and GB Fire Service teams.

The CFO then thanked Rebecca Donaldson (Group Health, Safety and Compliance Manager) for the hospitality and arrangements on the day and the continued support for the Fire Service and presented her with a Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service plaque.



Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue visit Stowe



Psychology Society

On Monday 25 April, David Wilson gave the inaugural address to the Psychology Society at Stowe.

David is the founding Director of the Centre for Applied Criminology at Birmingham City University. Prior to this, David was a Prison Governor working at a variety of prisons, including Wormwood Scrubs and Woodhill. During his long career, he has dealt with virtually every contemporary serial killer and regularly appears on TV as a commentator and presenter.

David's talk was very interactive and charismatic, starting by asking us to guess how many murders get solved by the police. Most people said between 5% and 70%, whereas the answer is around 95%. He then pointed out that the vast majority of murder victims are older people,

gay people, sex workers and women who are murdered by their partners. David concluded that one of the best ways to stop murder was to fight homophobia, sexism or any form prejudice, and to ensure no one is left isolated and vulnerable on the margins of society.

He also talked about how, when solving a murder, he wasn't interested in the murderer's history and psychological makeup. He concluded it was much more important to look at who had access to the victim and how they knew them. Insights such as these made for a fascinating talk, and everyone walked out discussing and debating what he had said.

Lilly King (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) and Lizzie Knott (Lower Sixth, Cheshire)

Tag Team Snowdon for Macmillan Cancer Support

My son Will Foden, with his friend Brad Foster, are running up and down Snowdon, "I go, you go", in a trail race for 24 hours on Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 July. He is doing this in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support following their outstanding care over a personal tragedy for us. Here is the link to the [race](#). The challenge is to complete as many ascents and descents as possible in 24 hours.

If anyone could support Will and Brad in the crazy race, (they want to win as well of course, Brad Foster is an International Ironman!) that would be amazing, either by donation, sharing the link or knowing a sponsor? Here is the link to the [JustGiving page](#).

Lyn Foden, School Librarian

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT



Safeguarding at Stowe

Conversation Starters

Starting a conversation can be difficult, especially if you're worried that your child is having a hard time. It doesn't matter what topic the conversation starts with – it's about the opportunity it gives you both to talk about feelings and to provide comfort.

Try these from **Young Minds**.



COBHAM HOUSE CHARITY BROWNIE SALE

Cobham House held a Charity Brownie Sale at School on Tuesday 3 May, to raise money for Ed Bush's Just Giving page, and we are very happy to say that we collected over £550. All of the proceeds will go towards causes that Ed really cared about, in particular Mental Health. Special thanks go to all the Cobham boys and their families, for all their shopping, baking and selling... and of course, all the fabulous brownie consumers too! Thank you.

Jo Dalrymple, Cobham House Matron



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