

Stowe mail

VOL 7 ISSUE 3: 20 NOVEMBER 2015
NEWS ROUND UP FROM STOWE

Concerto Concert

On Sunday 8 November, four Stoics gave stunning performances of movements from piano concertos composed over a period of 200 years. Performing with the Stowe Orchestra and Stowe Festival Orchestra in the Ugland Auditorium, each of the soloists gave highly individual and accomplished renditions of these demanding works written for piano and orchestra. Theodore Hayes (Third Form, Chatham) opened the concert with an assured and spirited performance of Bach's D minor keyboard concerto. Originally written for the harpsichord, this concerto places great demands on the performer, both in terms of coordination and technical control, Theodore's performance had a real sense of poise and grace.

Following Theodore's performance, Alex Grinyer (Lower Sixth, Walpole) gave a stylish and vigorous performance of Beethoven's 2nd piano concerto, a work that was written when Beethoven was the same age as the performer. From the stylish first entry on the piano to the tempestuous cadenza, Alex's performance exhibited all the youthful exuberance that is so characteristic of this concerto. Jeffrey Au (Third Form, Walpole) then took to the stage and treated the audience to a dramatic performance of Greig's piano concerto. I was particularly impressed with the way Jeffrey drew the audience in during the softer passages following the iconic, declamatory opening. This was a highly communicative performance of a favourite among the piano concerto repertoire.

Lewis Bell's (Lower Sixth, Grenville) performance of Gershwin's 'I Got Rhythm Variations' was a triumphant conclusion to a concert that showcased some of Stowe's highly talented musicians. This is a piece of music that places huge demands on both soloist and orchestra, but Lewis executed each variation with aplomb, from the fiendishly difficult 'Oriental Variation' to the lyrical 'Waltz Variation'.

I would like to thank the soloists and members of the Orchestra, which included musicians from Ousedale School and Northampton School for Boys, for their significant contribution to the concert. I would also like to thank my colleague Keith Brown for his fantastic conducting.

Ben Andrew, Head of Keyboard



Remembrance Sunday

The School gathered with poignant dignity for the annual Commemorative Morning Prayer and Solemn Act of Remembrance, with the Stoics, staff, Governors, Old Stoics, parents, families and friends on Sunday 8 November. A wet day outside became an irrelevance as the Chapel Brass fanfare announced the Procession of the Flags, the CCF and the Wreaths. Most stirring were the later moments when the wreaths were taken down to the memorial boards through the congregation, as names from the Stowe Roll of Honour were read – complete with Houses from which they came, their School responsibilities and their place of (and their age at) their death. Far be it for the Chaplain to draw more than necessary attention to his own sermon, but quotations from personal letters home written by his Great Uncle (who was killed at the Somme in 1916) set the scene for a Christian response to an attempt to see something of the image of God in each person, each neighbour, even ourselves. My sincere and deeply-felt thanks to our CCF, to our choir and musicians, to all who travelled to be present and to the School for our significant and loving tribute.

Armistice Day

Following a creative initiative offered by our Assistant Chaplain, the Revd Sue Sampson, a Day of Prayer for Peace and Justice was offered in Chapel throughout this meaningful day. Particular prayers and music were said and heard at lunchtime and for the rest of the daylight hours from 8.00am to 5.00pm. Chapel was (as ever) open for anyone to come into, special stations were set up for silent pauses, personal prayers or for adding countries' names onto a map in order to write down general prayers and hopes. Those who came and went found real value in what was on offer.

The Revd Christopher Huxtable, Chaplain



American Worthies Award

This year's recipient of the American Worthies Award was Sir John Richardson (Chatham 39). Sir John is arguably Britain's most distinguished Art Historian and his achievements have been recognised in the award of France's Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (an honour also conferred on Bob Dylan and TS Eliot) as well as his appointment in 2012 as Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire. His multi-volume biography of Picasso has been awarded the prestigious Whitbread Prize and we eagerly await the publication next year of the fourth volume of this heroic undertaking which will take us to the liberation of Paris in 1944.

Sir John is only the second recipient of the American Worthies Award (the first was Old Stoic Peter Sichel who worked for American Intelligence during the Second World War, ran the CIA in Germany at the height of the Cold War and then launched Blue Nun on an unsuspecting world in the 1970s). John very graciously agreed to be interviewed before he was presented with the Award by Brian Hecht, Chairman of the American Friends of Stowe at the annual AFS party in New York on 22 October. From the outset it became clear that John still has enormous affection for Stowe and he spoke fondly of his time in the Art School where he was inspired by Robin and Dodie Watt, the Canadian art teachers who actively encouraged Stoics to take an interest in Cubism and Surrealism, championing artists like Picasso, Léger and Braque. John described poring over the journals of contemporary art and Stowe must have been one of the very first schools to champion the international avant-garde. He also paid tribute to the genius of JF Roxburgh who promised that no Stoic would leave the School without acquiring a lasting appreciation of beauty – something which John clearly took to heart as he dedicated his life to collecting, studying and writing about art. John told us of a time when Stowe's Temples and follies were crumbling and neglected, hidden by trees and shrubs, waiting to be discovered by an adventurous schoolboy with an interest in art and architecture.

From Stowe, John enrolled at the Slade School of Fine Art which had been evacuated to Oxford during the Blitz. A short spell in the Irish Guards ended when John contracted rheumatic fever and was invalided out of the army. He spent the rest of the war working as an industrial designer in London where he befriended future luminaries such as Francis Bacon and Lucian Freud. As the interview went on, it became clear that John Richardson has been acquainted with everyone of importance in the British, French and American art scene during the second half of the 20th Century. In 1949 he went to live in Provence with the Art Historian and collector, Douglas Cooper, and we were regaled with amusing stories of their friendship with Picasso, Léger and de Staël. Together, Richardson and Cooper collected artists whom the Tate Gallery, under the directorship of John Rothenstein, obtusely ignored and we were given an insight into the machinations which led to Cooper's great collection being broken up and sold instead of adorning the walls of The Tate. The audience will long remember the colourful anecdotes of Cooper booing the Queen at the Coronation, but admiring the escort of Bengal Lancers, as well as John's unique insights into Guernica which he has decoded as being strongly influenced by Picasso's interest in the Roman cult of Mithras.

As the acknowledged expert on Picasso, we eagerly awaited John's verdict on the new exhibition of Picasso's sculptures currently showing in New York's Museum of Modern Art. We were treated to a rapid stream of invective as John dismissed the stultifying banality of MoMA's curatorial choices, lighting and display. It was vintage Richardson and reminded everyone in the room of why even at the age of 92, Sir John Richardson remains one of the most influential and entertaining Art Historians in the world.

Dr Anthony Wallersteiner, Headmaster



HOCKEY

The girls' 1st XI (aided by Ben Shamash) took on the first ever mixed Old Stoic side on Sunday 15 November. Fun was the name of the game and with a mixture of youthful exuberance and ageless wisdom, the Old Stoics started the match well, moving the ball nicely across Stowe's new, bouncy pitch.

It wasn't long until the infamous Ben Duckett's (Grafton 13) backhand was unleashed and the Northants left handed batsman showed why his reverse sweep is one of his biggest weapons, hitting the ball into the net to make it 1-0. The girls stepped up their game and soon were creating pressure and opportunities in the opposition's circle, only to be thwarted by Oleg Solovyev (Fifth Form, Temple) between the posts.

The Old Stoics then capitalised on some loose marking for the ball to be fired in from close range, giving goalkeeper Ben Shamash (Fourth Form, Chatham) no chance. 2-0. Finally it was time for the girls to show what they were made of; the ball came to Martha Combe (Fifth Form, Nugent), whose quick shot was neatly deflected by Tallula Douglas Miller (Fifth Form, Queen's) on the back post. 2-1.

Within five minutes Tallula had another goal to her name as she managed to sneak the ball under the onrushing Oleg. The Old Stoics were having none of this though and with five minutes to go before half time slotted home another goal to regain the lead 3-2.

The Old Stoics were first to score after the break to make it 4-2. Both teams started to take advantage of tiring legs and the game turned into an end to end spectacle. It was the Stoics who scored next, a goal line scrap led to Libby Flood (Fifth Form, Queen's) putting one under the keeper and another soon followed to level the game 4-4.

Both teams had further chances to score the winning goal, but the final whistle sounded before either could take full advantage. It was a great game that was played in good spirits and a nice opportunity for Stoics old and current to mingle and compete in a friendly environment.

Luke Stone, Head of Hockey

Cuenca

During the October Half term, 16 Stoics travelled to Cuenca for a week. Cuenca is a beautiful little city not far from Madrid. During our trip, we lived with Spanish families. Every day we would have lessons in the morning and activities in the afternoon.

We arrived on Sunday morning and got to see one of the world's most famous paintings, the Guernica by Picasso. The next day, we learned the basics of flamenco and on Tuesday, we learnt how to cook delicious tortillas. On Wednesday, we were lucky enough to go kayaking on a beautiful river and on the last day, we visited the beautiful old city.



The whole trip was a great chance to improve our Spanish, having brilliant lessons in the morning and conversations with our families in Spanish when we got back for lunch and dinner.

I would like to thank Mr Goldsmith and Dr Ferrero for this amazing opportunity.

Tom Purdon (Fifth Form, Grenville)

FENCING

Edward Don (Third Form, Chandos) took part in his first Elite Epee U16 men's competition on Saturday 31 October. This is a high calibre event which attracts the best fencers from all around the country including some international fencers.

After the initial rounds Edward was ranked 23rd which put him in the last 64 direct elimination fight which he won 15-5. He then went on to fence a higher seeded fencer who was a lot more experienced who and beat Edward 7-15. Overall Edward finished a credible 29th.

Baldip Sabota, Fencing Coach



Hampton Court Palace

On a dreary, gloomy October morning, the Lower Sixth Form Early Modern History pupils embarked on a journey to Hampton Court. On arrival we were greeted by a sight even Stoics would admire: at a cost in modern money of £10 a brick, Hampton Court Palace is possibly in a higher league even than Stowe House itself – if such a thing is possible!

After a trip to the café where prices were equally high, £6 for coffee and cake, we met our tour guide who was an eccentric, jolly fellow. He spoke about the characters of Henry VIII and Cardinal Thomas Wolsey (who had the Palace built) before we began our tour.

Highlights included the ‘chamber of easement’ (otherwise known as a communal toilet) and our tour guide repeatedly screaming ‘Fenton’, to replicate the famous YouTube film of an owner’s unsuccessful attempts to control his runaway dog, which took place in Richmond Deer Park which apparently resembled 16th Century Hampton Court... an eccentric man indeed!

This aside, it was a useful and impressive tour. We were lucky to be able to better understand the power relationship between Wolsey and Henry VIII whilst soaking up the magnificence of such a grand Palace.

James Creedy Smith (Lower Sixth, Chatham)

The Roxburgh Society

Pledging a legacy to Stowe is a wonderful way of investing in the future of the School and making a lasting difference.

On Saturday 14 November, the Roxburgh Society (Old Stoics and members of the Stowe community who have such pledged a legacy) and their guests gathered for an Open Day to discover more about how their generosity will have an impact on the School and its pupils.

A full programme of performances, tours and activities highlighted the worthwhile work of the Stowe School Foundation, providing

fantastic educational facilities and much needed scholarships and bursaries, as well as the work of the Stowe House Preservation Trust, restoring and preserving of one of England’s historic gems.

The awful autumnal weather did not dampen the enjoyment of our guests with one Old Stoic commenting how wonderful it had been to have an opportunity to see Stowe as it is now and how it has moved forward in recent years.

For further information about the Roxburgh Society, please [contact me](#).

Laura King, Development Manager

History Society

On Wednesday 4 November, Stoics had the opportunity to attend a talk given by Professor Richard Carwardine. As well as being a member of the History Faculty at Oxford University and President of Corpus Christi College, Professor Carwardine is a leading historian within the field of American Politics, specialising in the American Civil War and Abraham Lincoln specifically.

Lincoln consistently ranks as one of the three greatest US Presidents by both scholars and the general public and Professor Carwardine did not fail in doing him justice.

We were informed of Lincoln’s great political abilities and the way in which he preserved the Union in a time of great political and moral crisis. Professor Carwardine reminded us of a great skill that many of us often forget: understanding context. With regard to Lincoln, many of us arrived at the talk with preconceived assumptions surrounding his more controversial characteristics and actions. However, we were interested to observe a clearer, more positive interpretation of Lincoln’s achievements in a time of such societal turmoil.

Following the talk, a selection of History Society members enjoyed dinner with Professor Carwardine. This enabled us to go deeper into discussions concerning Lincoln and learn more about Oxford University and the application process. As President of Corpus Christi College, he encouraged us to delve beyond the school curriculum and to express a passion for our preferred subjects through independent study.

The Society is very grateful to Professor Carwardine and the History Department for organising such a thought-provoking evening and allowing us to gain greater understanding on a man as pioneering as Lincoln.

Carmel Hobbs (Lower Sixth, Nugent) and Archie Forsyth (Lower Sixth, Chandos)



HOCKEY

On Tuesday 3 November the boys’ Senior indoor hockey players progressed to the Regional Finals after games against RGS High Wycombe and Dr Challoner’s. The girls’ U15Bs drew 1-1 against Quinton House and the girls’ U14Bs drew 2-2 against Downe House.

The boys’ U14Bs held The Perse to a 0-0 draw in one of the two matches played on Saturday 7 November. The girls’ 1st XI travelled to Uppingham with a depleted team and fought courageously to earn a 1-1 draw. The girls’ U15As showed great character to beat Uppingham 2-1 and the girls’ U15Bs recorded their second draw of the week. The girls’ U14As put in a superb performance against a strong Uppingham side, Imogen Joyce’s (Third Form, Stanhope) hat-trick helped the team to an exciting 4-3 win and the girls’ U14Bs recorded their second 2-2 draw of the week in their match against Uppingham.

On Wednesday 11 November the girls’ 2nd XI beat Tudor Hall 1-0, the 3rd XI won 3-2, the U14As drew and the U14Bs secured a 1-0 victory. Both the girls’ U16s and U18s were involved in the Regional Finals but sadly neither side was able to progress further in the competition.

Having lost 3-1 at home to Uppingham earlier in the season the Yearlings As reversed the result by winning 2-1 on Saturday 14 November. The Yearlings Bs also recorded a 1-0 victory. The girls’ U14As and U15As recorded excellent 6-1 victories over Mill Hill and the U14Bs had an emphatic 9-0 victory. The 3rd XI continued their success with a 2-1 win.

Luke Stone, Head of Hockey

TENNIS

Under the leadership of Izzy Oliver (Upper Sixth, Queen’s) the girls have worked hard over the term and have ended up top of their group and have progressed into the knockout stages of the Senior Schools Tennis Competition.

The squad has comprised Izzy Oliver (Captain), Bubby Upton (Lower Sixth, Queen’s), Victoria Beglin (Fifth Form, Nugent), Kira Evans (Fifth Form, Nugent) and Antonina Kozhukhova (Upper Sixth, Queen’s). Each match consists of four singles and two doubles. The key match was against Rugby where Izzy and Victoria held their nerve to win a tie break to secure the victory after finding themselves at three sets all. Congratulations to them all. The first knockout match is on Wednesday 13 January 2016; the draw has not yet been made.

John Skinner, Head of Tennis

German Exchange to Rossleben

On Sunday 18 October, Johannes Henkel (Upper Sixth, Chatham), John Coomber (Lower Sixth, Chandos), Pepe Leyte (Lower Sixth, Walpole) and Caspar Wallersteiner (Lower Sixth, Chatham), Mr Purves, Miss Chaumont and I set off to our partner School in Rossleben, Thuringia, for a five day visit.

Once there the Stoics quickly settled into their German routine, attending lessons in the morning and visiting various places of interest in the afternoon. On our first full day, we visited the capital city of Thuringia, Erfurt, where we all enjoyed our first of many Thüringer Rostbratwurst, a mildly spiced sausage which we all fell in love with. We also spent a day in Weimar and Leipzig, visiting the garden house where Goethe wrote his famous poem "Der Erlkönig", exploring Schiller's house and learning



about the German reunification in the Museum of Modern History.

On Wednesday we had a guided tour around the concentration camp of Buchenwald, a tough but very worthwhile visit, showing a much darker side of German history. We couldn't have packed in any more if we tried and my thanks go to Mr Purves for accompanying us and to all the Stoics who were fantastic ambassadors for the School and delightful company throughout.

Alice Tearle, Head of German



SWIMMING

Will Perry (Fourth Form, Cobham) took part in the West Midlands Para Swimming Championships on Saturday 24 October. He won a bronze medal in the 50m butterfly in a time of 50.46s, six seconds faster than his personal best. He also achieved a PB in the 50m and 100m freestyle, completing the 50m race in 39.56s and knocking 5 seconds off of his 100m time. This is a fantastic accomplishment.

Hester Pollock, Swimming Coach

On Thursday 12 November, the Junior and Intermediate boys had good wins against St Edward's. Guy Woodhouse (Fifth Form, Chatham) broke the School Record in the 100m Intermediate freestyle and Lucas Davis (Third Form, Bruce) claimed two School Records in the 400m Junior freestyle and 50m Junior butterfly.

There were also fine wins for the Intermediate and Senior girls. Alex Curtis (Upper Sixth, West) won the Senior butterfly and also broke School Records in the Senior 400m freestyle and the Senior backstroke. In the same distance and event for the Intermediates, Zoë Pollock (Fourth Form, Nugent) also broke the School Record.

Stewart Cowie, Head of Swimming



American Colleges Visit Stowe

In recent weeks Stowe has received visitors from Merrimack University in Massachusetts and Abilene Christian University in Texas.

Joe LaTorre from Merrimack spoke eloquently about the virtues of a Liberal Arts programme and the merits of a small and friendly school such as Merrimack. Daniel Garcia from ACU told us about the school's high number of international students, its Christian environment and the holistic education that it provides. Our Harvard Fellow, Mr Jimenez Jaramillo even managed to try on the virtual reality campus tour for size.

We are grateful to both speakers for their insights into the diversity of US higher education.

David Critchley, UCAS Applications Tutor

Sulgrave Manor

On Thursday 12 November, Politics pupils from the Upper and Lower Sixth attended a Congress to Campus event at the ancestral family home of George Washington, 1st President of the United States. The Stoics heard lectures from leading Cambridge scholars about the Enlightenment and the US Constitution, as well as a discussion about the Federalist Papers. This was followed by a tour of the Manor and a chance to look at some artefacts owned by George Washington, including his saddlebags with an additional liner to hide secret documents from the Philadelphia Convention.

The day then progressed to the main event which consisted of two debates with the motion "The United States Presidency; imperial or imperilled?" The debates were chaired by two former members of the US House of Representatives, both retirees of the 2015 class. After the pupils had locked horns in debate, the floor was opened up for questions. Congressman Tim Petri



(Republican-Wisconsin) and Congressman Jim Moran (Democrat-Virginia) answered a wide range of questions on topics such as gun control, the Republican Presidential Race and the technicalities of appropriations bills from their different perspectives. Stoics acquitted themselves outstandingly well, asking some very observant questions and showing good understanding of the complexities of the US system. The whole day was a huge success thanks to the enthusiasm of the Stoics.

Charlie Barker, Head of Politics

RUGBY

The rugby teams secured six wins out of the nine matches played against Monmouth on Saturday 7 November. The 1st XV led the way away from home taking full advantage of the wind in the second half to win 32-18. The 3rd XV made it seven wins out of seven with an emphatic 43-7 victory and the 4th XV held on to win an end to end game 27-20. At home the U16As were unable to take advantage of a last minute penalty which resulted in a narrow loss 13-15. The U16B team had a very solid defensive game winning 12-0 and the U15Bs weathered the early storm and eventually eased to a 26-7 victory. However, the top point scorers on the day were the U15Cs with their resounding 61-5 win.

Both the 1st XV and U15As progress to the next round of the NatWest Cup after the 1st XV beat Sir Thomas Rich's 13-10 and the U15As beat Sharnbrook Upper School 14-10 on Wednesday 11 November.

Congratulations to the U15Bs for their incredible 57-0 victory over Uppingham on Saturday 14 November. All Senior sides were also triumphant with the 2nd XV recording their first win of the season. The 1st XV had a comfortable 24-0 win and the 3rd XV continued their winning streak with a 47-0 victory. The 4th XV won 35-5 and the 5th XV won 34-17.

Alan Hughes, Head of Rugby



Politics Trip to Westminster

On Monday 12 October, Lower Sixth Politics pupils went on a tour of the Houses of Parliament in Westminster. The day consisted of tours of the House of Lords and House of Commons, followed by a visit to the Supreme Court, before returning to Parliament in the afternoon to attend 'Questions to the Home Secretary' on the floor of the Commons.

The day started with the guided tours which gave Stoics a chance to appreciate the mechanics of a day at Westminster. As usual, all Stoics were surprised at how small both chambers are in comparison to how they appear on television. We saw several well-known MPs, including Dennis Skinner (Labour member for Bolsover since 1970) and Philip Hollobone (MP for

Kettering who wins title for 'most rebellious MP in the Commons'). The Stoics were desperate to see the Prime Minister but instead saw Theresa May in action answering questions for the Home Department with frightening efficiency.

A highlight of the day was the meeting arranged by Ed Good (Lower Sixth, Chatham) with his MP, James Cleverley. Mr Cleverley was quizzed in the Commons' lobby by Ed Good and Carmel Hobbs (Lower Sixth, Nugent) on issues including Syria, migration and Jeremy Corbyn's leadership. Overall the Stoics again acquitted themselves extremely well, and the day was highly valuable.

Charlie Barker, Head of Politics

National Youth Orchestra Success

The Music Department is delighted to announce that French Horn player, Alex Grinyer (Lower Sixth, Walpole) has been awarded a place in the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain. The NYO is one of the world's top orchestras for young musicians and they regularly perform to sell-out audiences at prestigious venues such as the Royal Festival Hall, London and Symphony Hall, Birmingham. After performing some exceptionally challenging Horn pieces as part of a highly competitive and gruelling audition process, Alex will now have the fantastic opportunity of playing alongside some of the most talented young musicians in the country under the baton of world renowned conductors.

Ben Andrew, Head of Keyboard

Inter-House Maths Challenge

Congratulations to the West Maths Challenge team who became the first ever winners of the Mike Dawson Memorial Trophy in the Inter-House Maths Challenge. Competing as two maths specialists and two non-maths specialists, the West House team of Kanav Bhatnagar (Lower Sixth), Captain, Hattie Webb (Lower Sixth), Isobel Dykstra (Lower Sixth) and Alex Buswell (Upper Sixth) performed brilliantly to win the title.

The challenge involved building complex three-dimensional polygons out of paper and solving algebraic problems under time pressure. West has seen a large number of individual successes this term, and it is great to see the 'Westites' now moving into conquering team challenges as well.



With fewer than half as many pupils as other Houses, the West Stoics continue to astound and amaze with their accomplishments, from 1st team lacrosse and 1st XV rugby, swimming medals and charity hair-cutting (well done Aliya Al Adwani!) to a fiery debating side and an Inter-House squash team to strike fear into any opponent. Other Houses beware – the accidental heroes are coming.

Roland Johnson, West Houseparent

ROWING

Over Half term a small group of Sixth Form Stoics travelled to Boston USA to participate in the Charles Head of the River. This is the largest Head Race (a timed processional race over 4,800m) and has 2,200 entries. This is the second time we have participated in this event with Dani Fusco-House (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) taking part on both occasions in the Women's Youth Single Sculls. Alex Buswell (Upper Sixth, West) and Gleb Shcherbakov (Lower Sixth, Grenville) competed in the Men's Youth Double Sculls.

We had two days to practise on the course, considered to be challenging even to the locals, with five bridges and numerous difficult bends and restrictions. We were based at the Union Boat Club just a stone's throw from the centre of Boston; it is thought to be the oldest boat club in America. Each practice session was followed by a visit into Boston itself to see some of the sights as well as a guided tour by ex-Harvard Fellow Michael Chilazi. Michael took us to places that only the students of Harvard have access to, such as the main Library, and we are grateful to him for offering us this opportunity.

Following some nice but breezy weather over the previous few days, we arrived on Sunday morning at 7.00am to -4°C! For those of you who have ever rowed, you will know that your hands freeze in such conditions and it is a very unpleasant experience. Dani was racing first against 36 other competitors. She started well and was third for two thirds of the race, but unfortunately the eventual winner made an aggressive manoeuvre on her at a crucial point of the race which forced her to take a much wider line at the following bridge losing her valuable time. Dani came in 19th which is highly commendable, however had it not been for the time lost in the incident mentioned above, she could have finished around 6th.

The boys raced well and managed to complete the course without incident in a very competitive group. The aim was to complete the course and gain experience of such a large and prestigious event. They managed to finish in a good time beating several crews.

On our return to Stowe after the Half term break, Dani announced she had been offered a total of five full Rowing Sports Scholarships to US Universities. She has accepted the offer from Tulsa. Congratulations Dani.

We would like to thank Minna Blair for her hospitality and company in putting us up and also Henry Palmer of Union Boat Club for allowing us to use their clubhouse and boats.

Michael Righton, Head of Rowing



Etiquette and Good Manners

On Monday afternoons I hold a Class for Etiquette and Good Manners as part of the Enrichment Programme for Sixth Form Stoics. Over the year we cover the following: etiquette and good manners, deportment, formal letter writing, interview posture, interview dress, formal behaviour, sewing practical, ironing demo and practical, how to cook on a budget, how to keep yourself safe, how to cope with domesticity after Stowe, emergency first aid, how to tie a bow tie. How to tie a bow tie has been a hilarious task but there have been some perfect results.

Clare Hill-Hall, Chandos Matron



Open Mic Night and GCSE Concert

Sunday 15 November was a busy day in the Stowe Music Department. Our morning Coffee Concert filled the Chapel with the sounds of our GCSE solo performers giving some fantastic renditions of their coursework pieces. Ollie Vince (Fifth Form, Cobham), Sam Jokhoo (Fifth Form, Grenville), Finlay Sutherland (Fifth Form, Grafton) and Lauren Taylor (Fifth Form, Queen's) were among the instrumental players and we were treated to moving vocal performances from Georgie Vallings (Fifth Form, Lyttelton), Max Campbell-Preston (Fifth Form, Grafton), Lucy Sutherland (Fifth Form, Nugent) and Mina Haas (Fifth Form, Stanhope). The quality of the playing and singing was very high and bodes well for the pupils' results in their GCSEs this summer.

After a short break for lunch, quite a few of the above names were back on stage sound checking for the Senior Open Mic night. This is always a popular and well attended event and we heard songs from Henry Gauvain (Fifth Form, Temple), Mali Aitchison (Fifth Form, Nugent), Isaac Ajala (Upper Sixth, Walpole), Eloise Dobson (Upper Sixth, Nugent), Sean Martin (Lower Sixth, Temple), Sabrina Iskandar (Lower Sixth, West), Sophia Sander (Lower Sixth, West), Mina Haas, Lucy Sutherland, Caspar Wallersteiner (Lower Sixth, Chatham), Rhiannon Templeman (Fifth Form, Queen's), Starzie Grafftey-Smith (Lower Sixth, Queen's), Arabella Coldstream (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) and the band comprising Max Campbell-Preston, Dan Jolker (Fifth Form, Cobham), Dan Biss (Fifth Form, Grafton) and Charles Rivington (Fifth Form, Bruce). The music was enjoyed by all and I look forward to seeing many, or perhaps all, of the above perform at the next Open Mic night, which will be open to all year groups.

Miles Nottage, Head of Jazz, Rock and Popular Music



Cadets Remember

Stowe CCF took part in the School's Remembrance Service this month, donning uniform to mark the occasion and processing formally into Chapel. The procession was led by the Stowe standard and by the Union Flag, which imparted their own colour and grandeur to the occasion.

Cadets Get Ahead

Two Stowe cadets made good use of the Half term break to build up their portfolio of qualifications. Alex Harris (Fifth Form, Grafton) completed a Summer Mountain Foundation course in preparation for the CCF South Africa Expedition in 2016. Dilyara Adilkhanova (Fifth Form, Stanhope) not only completed a Summer Mountain Foundation course but also took a power boat course, collecting an RYA Level 2 certificate at the end of it, which provides her with a passport to hire power boats and to take her skills further.

David Critchley, Lt Cdr CCF, Contingent Commander



CCF





GCSE Drama

On Tuesday 10 November, 39 Fifth Form GCSE Drama pupils performed their original, unique and at times breath-taking self devised pieces linked to the theme title 'Shadows' as prescribed by the WJEC exam board. This practical assessment is worth 40% of the GCSE.

We were treated to an eclectic range of exciting, vibrant and challenging theatre pieces all staged in the intimate, brooding atmosphere of the Roxy Stage Studio. All nine groups were highly creative in interpreting the chosen theme and they skilfully incorporated several sophisticated and imaginative physical theatre staging techniques into their work. All the Stoics involved deserve a special mention for their commitment, approach and attitude throughout the day and both Miss Brassell and I look forward to some excellent results next summer.

Nick Bayley, Director of Drama



Languages Society

On Thursday 12 November members of the Languages Society and staff attended a talk by Mr Alberto Sanchez Garcia, an IT consultant for various firms and banks. Our guest speaker spoke about the importance of learning languages and he spoke inspiringly about the role that languages have played in his own personal life and work. We became aware of how languages can better help us understand the culture of a country and how that leads to better understanding and more effective working relationships. It became obvious to us all that languages are the key to success in any career and a valuable and much sought-after skill in the ever-growing competitive world we live in.

Desiree West, Languages Society

LACROSEE

At the U19 County Tournament on Sunday 8 November there were superb performances from Philippa Stacey (Upper Sixth Stanhope), Milla Harvey-Scholes (Upper Sixth Stanhope) and Olivia Thomas (Fifth Form, Nugent).

The 2nd team had a fun game against Buckingham lacrosse team on Sunday 15 November winning 12-1 with Old Stoic Ed Selby-Lowndes (Grenville 14) scoring the only goal for the opposition.

Kaitlan Biondi, Head of Lacrosse

NETBALL

In the County Tournament held at Aylesbury High School on Saturday 7 November, our U14s and U16s played some exciting netball with the U14s narrowly missing out on second place, however, a jubilant U16 team finished County runners-up and have qualified for the Nationals in January.

Lauren Ellis, Head of Netball

EQUESTRIAN

Members of the Stowe Equestrian team attended the Akeley Wood Show Jumping and Dressage Competition on Sunday 15 November. In the dressage, Cecilia Mayne (Third Form, Nugent), riding her own pony Millie, won her class. In the afternoon team Captain Anna Wilson (Lower Sixth, Queen's), riding Galaxy, finished fourth with an excellent clear round in the individual 80cm class and the B Team, made up of Anna Wilson, Coco Brooks (Fourth Form, Lyttelton), Josh White (Fourth Form, Cobham) and Cecilia Mayne, were placed fourth in the 90cm class.

Katy Webb (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) attended an Arena Eventing competition at Aston le Walls where riders have to jump a combination of cross country fences and show jumping fences. She took her two horses Marley and Inca and had an excellent day; she placed second on Marley and third on Inca.

Krista Price, Equestrian Centre Manager

IN BRIEF

FOOTBALL

Congratulations to Chandos for winning the Senior Inter-House football league that has been taking place on Thursdays this term.

FIVES

On Sunday 15 November Temple beat Chatham in the Senior Inter-House final.

BASKETBALL

On Monday 9 November, the girls' U14 team beat Aylesbury High School 16-7 in the County Cup. Their next Cup match is at home against Princes Risborough on Thursday 19 November.

POLO

On Saturday 14 November, our B team, captained by Izzy Baillie (Lower Sixth, Queen's) beat Wellington College 7-6 in a thrilling match at Emsworth Polo Club in Berkshire.

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





Piano Improvisation Workshop with Christopher Norton

On Wednesday 18 November, six Stoics took part in an improvisation workshop with world-renowned composer and educationalist, Christopher Norton. Christopher rose to fame in the 1980s following the release of his popular 'Microjazz' series of books, and he regularly tours the world giving workshops and seminars. In addition to pianists at Stowe, teachers and pianists from local schools attended this fantastic event. The young musicians taking part gained so many useful hints and tips on ways in which they can incorporate improvisation into their practice, and Christopher's unique and encouraging style of teaching really brought out the best in all the performers.

It was a highlight for me to see the Stoics

improvise together in a musical 'conversation' across three pianos in the Uglund Auditorium and to see them gaining in confidence at improvising in a variety of styles. Christopher was very impressed with all who took part, so well done to Theodore Hayes (Third Form, Chatham), Alex Grinyer (Lower Sixth, Walpole), Jeffri Indot (Upper Sixth, West), Lewis Bell (Lower Sixth, Grenville) and Ned Hiley and Alex Pembury from Shenley Brook End School. Following the workshop, Christopher also treated the piano teachers to a hugely informative teacher training session and we look forward to welcoming him back in the near future for more inspirational music-making.

Ben Andrew, Head of Keyboard

BADMINTON

The Senior badminton team had a fine 3-1 win against Rugby on Saturday 7 November, Captain Clarissa Llanaj (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) had an outstanding match.

On Saturday 14 November, Stowe beat Wellingborough 11-5 with all four pairs beating their opposing pairs in the doubles matches.

Hazel Browne, MiC Badminton

CLAY PIGEON

Thirty four Stoics took part in the competition with the aim of lifting the Swan Cup. Last year's winner Tom Leach (Fifth Form, Walpole) came third with 34, Rory Smith (Lower Sixth, Cobham) secured second place with a score of 35 and Milan Canak (Fifth Form, Chandos) was this year's winner with a total of 38.

Gordon West, MiC Clay Pigeon Shooting

Page Turner

Arts at Stowe is very grateful to resident page turner, Oliver Vince (Cobham, Fifth Form), for helping at our events. Here he gives an overview of the experience.

"I enjoy page turning for pianists as it grants a very different, more exciting, view of a concert as you are able to see what a pianist is playing and the enthusiasm that he is bringing out through the music close up. Page turning also helps me get a better understanding of the music because I am always much more focused and ready to turn to the next page. Although, the hardest bit is not remembering when to page turn, it is getting it right, one time when I turned a page wrongly the music collapsed on the pianist, luckily he knew the piece well so I was able to get the music back off him without stopping the piece."



Duke of Edinburgh's Award

During the October Half term, four Gold participants; Harrison Dockerty (Upper Sixth, Chandos), Harry Dunn (Upper Sixth, Grenville), Hannah Bernard-Bell (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) and Emily Woodhead (Upper Sixth, Nugent) completed a very challenging Assessed Expedition in the Lake District taking in the heights of Catbells, Maiden Moor, the Langdale Pikes, Eskdale Pike and finishing by climbing the Old Man of Coniston in glorious weather on day four. The participants had a rare opportunity to enjoy the Lakes in all their autumnal glory in excellent conditions and our Assessor was very complimentary about their expedition skills. At the same time, ten Lower Sixth Formers completed a training expedition to prepare them for their Gold Expedition this year. The conditions meant that we were able to do some very valuable expedition and navigation training in the Langdales and around the back of Scafell Pike. Congratulations to all those involved in these challenging expeditions!

Pool Kayaks

This year sees the introduction of a new fleet of pool kayaks which we will be using to help Stoics develop their skills in preparation for more adventurous outdoor excursions. The activity programme on Sunday 15 November included a training session and it was great to see a range of skills being developed, including some successful Eskimo rolls! We hope to see some of our kayakers out on moving water by the end of the Summer term – the Nene Whitewater course is in our sights!

Gwilym Jones, MiC Duke of Edinburgh's Award



Wonderful Winter Events coming up at Stowe

Stowe
arts

Children's Christmas Theatre

Blunderbus Theatre brings us 'The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark' to the Roxburgh Hall on Saturday 12 December at 3.00pm. Based on the classic 1992 children's book by Jill Tomlinson, this funny, reassuring tale about Plop, the baby Barn Owl, and his fear of darkness has been created especially for small people aged 3 to 7 years (and grown-ups who sleep with the big light on!).

Christmas Tree Festival

Stowe Parish Church is being transformed into a winter wonderland for its first ever Christmas Tree Festival from Thursday 10 to Sunday 13 December. Everyone is welcome to come and see wondrously decorated Christmas trees, hear a host of musical events, and enjoy festive refreshments.

The Christmas Tree Festival includes a return visit to Stowe by the masters of swing Rance's Rockin' Chair on Saturday 12 December at 7.30pm. They will have your feet tapping to a uniquely arranged selection of jazzy Christmas favourites. All proceeds go towards the Children's Air Ambulance and Stowe Church Water Project.

Christmas in the Country House

Stowe House hosts an evening tour on Sunday 6 December at 7.00pm in which expert guides take visitors on a journey to Christmas past. Discover what Christmas was like in the 18th Century Country House. On Sunday 13 December at 7.00pm, the ever popular Festive Winter's Evening at Stowe House promises the perfect start to the Festive Season with music from the Brackley Chamber Music Club, festive readings, and refreshments in sumptuous surroundings.

Please see our [website](#) for full listings.

Nowhere, Anywhere, Somewhere

The Third Form were joined on Monday 5 October by author Jon Robinson, writer of the trilogy 'Nowhere', 'Anywhere' and 'Somewhere'. All three are psychological thrillers that look at the perception of truth and mind manipulation and question whether it is possible to persuade someone to believe that they are guilty when actually they are not. His talk included examples of his research into the psychology that gave him an insight into



his thinking behind his writing. He also read us an exclusive first reading from his new book, which is not yet published. The pupils all asked questions on publishing and writing and many bought a book for him to autograph.

Lyn Foden, Librarian

Never Such Innocence

Never Such Innocence is a charity committed to engaging with the nation's children to commemorate the Centenary of the First World War. It runs a national art and poetry competition with great prizes for individuals and schools, with an awards ceremony held in the Houses of Parliament next spring. You may have seen the exhibition of some last year's entries which was generously hosted by Stowe in the Art Department last summer.

Children between the ages of 9 and 16 are invited to submit a poem or piece of artwork relating to the war. A free resource pack can be sent to anyone interested in entering the competition. Please [email](#) us if you would like one. All the details of the competition can be found on our [website](#) where our resource pack can also be freely downloaded.

Caroline Wilkes, Never Such Innocence



Fireworks

This year's fireworks display was as spectacular as ever. The orchestra performed Handel's music impeccably, and they also gave an extra rendition of some of the movements before the actual display. Mr Brown brought the best out of the players, and all sections of the Orchestra played well despite battling with the wind trying to blow over the music stands.

Nigel Gibbon, Head of Wind, Brass and Percussion



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