

# Stowe mail

VOL 7 ISSUE 4: 11 DECEMBER 2015  
NEWS ROUND UP FROM STOWE



## Warriors

Over Half term 15 intrepid Sixth Formers flew to South Africa to participate in the Warriors' programme with pupils from other schools. The activities took us well out of our comfort zones, with the first event being a skydive from 11,000 metres. It was really daunting and some of us felt sick but everyone landed safely. Our next main activity was a 30km hike, during which we had a break and slid down a natural slide made by a steep wet rock face into a pool of water. It was breath-taking!

The biggest challenges included a tandem jump off a cliff with a 68m free fall at 180km/h, abseiling down a 90m waterfall at Lisbon Falls that features in Taylor Swift's Wildest Dream music video, and some of us bravely jumped off a 16m dam into freezing water which we later learned was infested with crocodiles. We also constructed our own bridge jump and had to fall face first off the edge of a busy main road bridge which took a lot of courage.

We had a truly heart-warming experience at an orphanage in Lenyenyene. The minute we entered, the children asked to be picked up and hugged. We saw young honey badgers and cheetah in an animal sanctuary and learned about the most poisonous snakes in Africa, held a python and fed a lizard at a reptile sanctuary. We also learned about tribal life in South Africa and watched an exhilarating performance of traditional African dances, hearing about the history and lifestyle of the tribe and then shared a delicious meal with them.

This experience was everything we had hoped for and much more. We would recommend the Warriors' trip to anyone considering it.

*Amelia Bowder (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) and  
Fabiola Koenig (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton)*





Senior Congreve

# 'Lysistrata'

Lysistrata is an out and out farcical comedy by Aristophanes. Originally performed in classical Athens in 411 BC, it is a hilarious account of one woman's extraordinary pledge to end the Peloponnesian War. Lysistrata persuades the women of Greece to withhold sexual privileges from their husbands and lovers as a means of forcing the men to negotiate peace - a strategy, however, that simply inflames the battle between the sexes. The Congreve production David Stuttard's version of the play (hovering very neatly between translation and very free adaptation) bounced along very nicely and the three packed houses in the Roxy on November 26/27/28 lapped up the heady mix of overt, exaggerated, cartoon style visuals; verbal ingenuity and relentless double-entendres (some of them added in by NDB) giving the whole production the feel of an upmarket 'Carry On' film.

*Nick Bayley, Drama Department*



## RUGBY

On Wednesday 25 November, the 2nd XV's fine form continued with an excellent 17-13 win against Shrewsbury's 1st XV. On Saturday 28 November, the rugby teams won eight of the eleven matches played against Cheltenham College. The 1st XV came from behind to win 17-10, the 2nd XV won 23-12 and the unbeaten 3rd XV marched on with a 19-5 victory. The 4th XV scored late on to secure a 24-15 win and the 5th XV turned on the style to win 36-0. There were fine away wins for the U16Cs, 26-5, and the U15Bs, 24-7, and the U15Cs had an outstanding game winning 68-0.

In the NatWest Cup the U15As went out to Northampton School for Boys whilst 1st XV progressed to the fifth round with a fine 39-7 win against Wycliffe College on Tuesday 1 December.

On Saturday 5 December, the 1st XV went down to Bedford in a very tight game by a single try and conversion. The 3rd XV held their nerve against a Bedford side who had only lost against Radley this season to secure a hard fought 33-26 victory. They should be congratulated on completing the season unbeaten. The 5th XV also won away from home against Bedford 36-22 which means they have only lost 1 game all season. Back on home soil there were excellent wins for the Junior Colts As, 8-7, and the Junior Colts Cs, 14-12.

This term the combined Fourth and Fifth Form Rugby Leagues competition played on a Wednesday throughout the term was won by Grafton.

*Alan Hughes, Head of Rugby*



## LACROSSE

In the matches against St Helen and St Katharine on Sunday 28 November the 1st XII won 7-4 and the 2nd team lost narrowly 5-4.

Congratulations to Izzy Oliver (Upper Sixth, Queen's), Milla Harvey-Scholes (Upper Sixth, Stanhope), Philly Stacey (Upper Sixth, Stanhope), Olivia Thomas (Fifth Form, Nugent), India Chadwick (Upper Sixth, Nugent), Amelia Bowder (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) and Emily Ullman (Lower Sixth, West) who have been selected to play for the South-East Region.

*Kaitlan Biondi, Head of Lacrosse*

# Performance Poetry at its Best

This Michaelmas term has been an exciting one for the Senior Literary Society, starting off on Friday 6 November when the Literary Society had the pleasure of meeting Kirsten Luckins and joining her on the journey and adventures which her performance poetry related. Kirsten's performance consisted of a trip through time that reflected the experiences she went through in her gap year abroad with her friends, but more importantly with the alter-ego that she had created along the way: Sasha!

The performance not only presented the adventures that Kirsten had embarked upon, but also the sentimental and psychological aspects that had impacted on her throughout her travels, such as the emotional and spiritual encounters that she had experienced along the way.

Despite the limited amount of props, Kirsten, was able to entrance us with her exciting and at times even mesmerising poems due to the extraordinary ability she had to describe her emotions, and recreate the ambience of her surroundings while she was travelling. Kirsten's performance can be viewed online by looking up BBC: Slam Grand Final Kirsten Luckins; and then can one truly appreciate her use and manipulation of language.

More recently on Thursday 3 December, the much-awaited Poet Laureate, Carol Ann Duffy, and the Little Machine came to perform to both Stoics and the public in the Roxburgh Theatre.

Earlier in the evening, a few lucky members of the Senior Literary Society were selected to dine with Ms Duffy before she gave her recital. At the dinner, Stoics were able to speak to her and were pleasantly surprised at her openness and kindness in comparison to her straightforward and passionate poems. Similarly, Ms Duffy said how pleasantly surprised she was to see the number of girls now at Stowe, compared with her previous visit a few years ago!

During the performance, Ms Duffy recited some of her well-known works including poems from her collection 'The World's Wife', including 'Mrs Aesop', and finished with a touching and moving poem dedicated to her mother, all of which were relevant to this upcoming festive time of year. Ms Duffy's recital also included an accompanist who aided her in creating setting and mood.

*Alexandra Curtis (Upper Sixth, West)*

## Careers' Fair

A team of careers interviewers from Cambridge Occupational Analysts came into Stowe on Monday 7 and Tuesday 8 December to meet with the Fifth Form. Fifth Form Stoics are currently considering their A Level options and planning work experience for next summer. Results from a series of aptitude tests which the Stoics took back in September were discussed, as were their ideas and aspirations for university, career progression and possible internships.

If anyone thinks that they might be in a position to offer Stoics work experience, please **email me**: I would be grateful to hear from them. Careers of particular interest always seem to be law, finance, events management and property.

It was extremely rewarding to hear from the team of COA Interviewers how impressed they were with the Stoics they talked to. They described them as 'an interesting mixture of extremely intelligent and charming young people, confident and very easy to talk to'. They were impressed with the ideas and plans the Stoics already have in place for work experience next summer. This was from people who interview numerous pupils at many other prominent schools, and the interviewers said they hadn't come across nicer children anywhere else. I would just like to express what a credit the Fifth Form are to their families.

*Mandy Dawson, Head of Careers*



## Senior Debating

This term saw brave representatives from each of our 13 Houses compete in the Senior Inter-House Debating competition. In each round, we were delighted by the Stoics' ever increasing ability to argue, define and clarify (with a little bloviating and obfuscating). The motions covered a wide variety of topics, ranging from 'This House would welcome all international asylum seekers into the UK' to 'This House believes that music which glorifies violence should be banned'.

Each round was ably and closely contested by Stoics who impressed with their efforts to research the motions and refine their arguments. The final was fought between Lyttleton and Bruce, debating

the motion 'This House believes advances in medical science will ultimately prove detrimental to our species'. The Headmaster was given the unenviable task of judging, and both teams did extremely well, picking apart the intricacies of a very complex and challenging motion. In the end, the Headmaster could not determine an outright victor and so, for the first time, the trophy and the title has been shared between the two Houses. Huge congratulations to the teams from Bruce and Lyttleton, and indeed every Stoic who debated throughout the competition. We very much look forward to the Junior competition next term.

*Craig Donoghue, MiC Debating*



## HOCKEY

### Boys' Hockey

On Thursday 26 November the boys' indoor 1st team warmed up for their regional qualifiers with a 5-5 draw against Bloxham.

On Saturday 28 November the Yearlings B team came back from a goal down to record a fine 1-1 draw against Oundle.

On Wednesday 2 December, the 1st XI drew 2-2 against RGS High Wycombe in a development match.

Grafton retained the Third Form Inter-House hockey trophy with a hard fought 3-2 win over Chandos in the final. George Holmes was the stand out performer and Captain of the victorious Grafton team.



### Girls' Hockey

On Monday 23 November the girls' indoor 1st team beat Chesham Grammar School to qualify for the regional qualifiers where they went on to beat KCS Wimbledon 2-1 and Allyn's school 3-1. They drew against Ardingly but unfortunately this was not enough for them to progress in the competition.

On Wednesday 26 November the teams had some fantastic results against Magdalen College School, Oxford. There were 6-0 wins for the 1st XI and the U16Bs, a 6-3 win for the 2nd XI and the U16As had a goal-fest winning 15-0.

The U15As won 4-1 against Akeley Wood on Thursday 27 November and then went on to beat Oundle 2-1 on Saturday 28 November. The U14A and B matches against Oundle were really close. The A team just lost 2-1 but the B team won their game by the same margin. The U15C team match resulted in a 0-0 draw.

There were four excellent wins against Oakham on Saturday 5 December all won by a one goal margin. A confident U15A team won 1-0 and the U15C team won 2-1. Having lost by one goal last week the U14A team were determined to fashion a victory in their last match of the season. All their hard work paid off and they managed to hold onto their 1-0 lead to win. The U14 Bs had an excellent 2-1 win.

*Luke Stone, Head of Hockey*



# The Côte d'Azur

On the first Sunday of Half term, twenty-nine Fifth Formers, accompanied by myself and Mrs Browne, flew to Nice in the South of France for a week of French lessons in the Alpha-B Language School and to stay with host families in order to practise and improve their spoken French, and to sample the sights, tastes and climate of the Côte d'Azur .

Having spent the previous two weeks checking the weather reports and seeing the devastation that the recent torrential rain had caused on the French Riviera, we were very nervous about arriving at a rain-drenched and windswept Nice airport on the Sunday evening. However, the next morning, the clouds gradually gave way to unbroken sunshine that lasted for the rest of our stay, and the temperatures just kept rising!

From Monday through to Friday, the Stoics attended lessons at the Language School, starting at 9.15am and going on until 12.15pm with just a brief pause at break time to nip out and buy a snack at one of the many boulangeries and sandwich bars on the Rue Jean-Medecin.

On the Monday afternoon, the Stoics went on a tour of Nice and the old town. Having been treated to a guided tour of the Parc du Chateau and having taken in the breathtaking view over the Promenade des Anglais and the Baie des Anges, we stopped off in the Place Rosetti for ice creams and sorbets at the world-famous Fenocchio ice-cream parlour, where I made sure that all of the Stoics ordered their ice creams in French from the very patient man behind the counter!

Tuesday afternoon saw the group on a coach to Eze and the Fragonard perfume and soap factory, going past Elton John's house in the foothills of the Alps. It was so interesting to see all of the soaps and perfumes being produced from natural ingredients, and the Stoics really enjoyed the fragrance-testing session in the factory shop, followed by a present-buying session that will have put many a smile on mums' and grandmothers' faces!

On the Wednesday, we made a train trip to Monaco, where a small number of car fanatics went to see Prince Rainier's collection of exotic cars, while most of the group, led by Mrs Browne (who had let us all know quite declaratively that she had no interest in looking at old cars!), chose to go exploring the shops and streets of the town. Once we had all met up again at the Palace, we made our way to the Jacques Cousteau Oceanographic Museum and its spectacular subterranean aquarium. This was followed by a visit to the Casino de Monte Carlo, the Café de Paris and the Hotel de Paris, before we made our way back to Nice.

Thursday saw us on the train to Antibes, where this year we made a tour of the yacht marina with its seemingly never-ending rows of fabulous marine craft, followed by a stay on the beach, where Stoics were finally free to swim in the sea, play beach football and make the most of the unexpectedly beautiful weather.

On the Friday, we all went for a slap-up pizza feast in the main pedestrian area of Nice, where Jamie Abbot-Davies (Fifth Form, Walspole) was awarded the prize for the most committed learner on the trip, Lucy Sutherland (Fifth Form, Nugent) was recognised as the most thoughtful and Mali Aitchison (Fifth Form, Nugent) received the prize for the kindest act, after organising the joint birthday celebrations and cakes for twins Finlay (Fifth Form, Grafton) and Lucy Sutherland, whose birthday fell on the Wednesday of the visit.

All in all, the trip was a resounding success and I have no doubt that places on next year's trip will be in high demand!

*Simon Dobson, French Department*





# Arts Award

Thank you to everyone who submitted their photo to the competition: the Art Department had a very hard decision to make with over 100 entries to choose from. Congratulations to the following people on winning: Ms Evans, Mr Jimenez Jaramillo, Ms Rawlins, Antonina Kozhukhova (Upper Sixth, Queen's), Jamey Lowis (Lower Sixth, Cobham), Katie Harmon (Lower Sixth, Nugent), Fabiola Koenig (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton), Alexandra Curtis (Upper Sixth, West), Alice Hastie-Smith (Fifth Form, Lyttelton), Octavia Comerford (Third Form, Stanhope). The photos are now up in the hallway leading into the dining room.

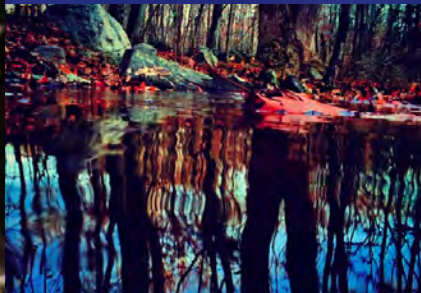


## SWIMMING

On Saturday 21 November, Guy Woodhouse (Fifth Form, Chatham) competed at Godalming Swimming Club Championships. He achieved personal bests in all four of the races he swam in and broke the two intermediate boys' records for 200m fly in a time of 2.46.75m and 200m individual medley in a time of 3.6.38m.

At the Maxwell ASA Gala on Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 December a team of our talented elite swimmers gained county or regional times. We had lots of considered and accepted county times (too many to mention individually), and each Stoic achieved personal bests in all the events they raced. Medals winners were Lucas Davis (Third Form, Bruce) bronze in the 100m breaststroke, Kira Evans (Fifth Form, Nugent) silver in the 50m backstroke and Zoë Pollock (Fourth Form, Nugent) bronze in the 50m backstroke. Special mention must go to Julian Ma (Fourth Form, Bruce) for his outstanding 100m individual medley in 1.10.99 which is four seconds faster than the previous School Record for the intermediate boys. The team worked well together, the captains showed great leadership skills and everyone including the coaches had a great time.

*Hester Pollock, Swimming Coach*



## KARATE

On Sunday 6 December, Mar Martinez-Tomas (Fifth Form, Lyttelton), Alexandra Orton (Fifth Form, Lyttelton) and Taisiya Danilitskaya (Fifth Form, Lyttelton), were assessed for their next Karate Belts: Mar took her Brown Belt 3rd Kyu, Alex her Purple Gold 4th Kyu and Taisiya her Green Belt 6th Kyu.

All three girls did exceptionally well. The grading was long and physically demanding, especially for Mar who was taking her Brown Belt, which is two grades from her Shodan Grade (Black Belt first Dan). Even with a large painful blister on her foot, she carried on.

Taisiya showed great confidence in her grading; she has really started to shine in her Karate, always wanting to learn more. Alex also showed confidence in her grading and even stepped up with the higher grades to help out.

All three Stoics stood out and made a positive impression on all the Dan grades; 4th Dan Chris Wilson took me aside and complemented me on my pupils and what great potential they all have. The girls were great ambassadors for the School showing character, etiquette and excellent spirit. They made me very proud.

*David Smith, Karate Coach*

## FIVES

On Sunday 6 December, Lyttelton played Nugent in the final of the Inter-House Fives competition. There was a win for Lyttelton which means they retain the cup.

*John Skinner, MtC Fives*



## Santa 5K Fun Run

At the unearthly hour of 8.30am on Sunday 6 December, the whole of Cobham House set off for the 'Santa 5K Fun Run' in Loughborough. Cobham were running for the Children's Charity 'Rainbows', which is a local hospice that provides care for terminally ill children and their families. We managed to raise over £3,000 from the event and all made it round the course, if rather exhausted at the end - I have never heard the House so quiet at 10.00pm on a Sunday night! Many thanks to all the boys for their participation, and to all the parents, friends and relatives who sponsored us.

*James Peppiatt, Cobham Housemaster*



# Dinner and Jazz

Dinner and Jazz always sells out very early and is one of our musical highlights of the year. This year's event featured more musical contributions than ever. There were three small Jazz Ensembles performing before and after the dinner, and the Chamber Choir entertained diners in the Music Room and Marble Saloon between courses. After the meal we were treated to an endless stream of vocal soloists (with many thanks to the vocal department) in the Music Room. Meanwhile the Big Band was on form providing two hours of dance music in the Temple Room.

Many thanks go to Geoff Higgins and the Catering Department for the excellent meal, also to Sarah Searle for all of her work behind and in front of the scenes. This is a real celebration of a team effort from all of the Music Department and, of course, all of the talented Stoic Musicians.

*Nigel Gibbon, Head of Wind, Brass and Percussion*



## Fine Cell Work

Queen's House is looking to raise £1,000 to support our House Charity 'Fine Cell Work', a charity that trains prisoners in skilled needlework. Prisoners benefit from learning transferable skills which benefit the men and women once they are released from prison. More information can be seen on their [website](#).

A black tie event is taking place on Friday 11 March in the Marble Hall. The event will include a champagne reception, raffle and a talk from the Charity's Managing Director and an ex-prisoner. Tickets are £15: please contact **Isobel Oliver** by Friday 8 January for tickets.



## EQUESTRIAN

Old Stoic, Charlie Clover (Chatham 14) and his horse BGS Twin Peaks have had a successful 2015 Eventing Season. They competed in four BE 100 classes before stepping up to Novice level to complete two more events at this height.

Cross Country is the only aspect currently keeping them out of the top placings but experience and training will give them both the confidence to chase those optimum times and podium finishes.

Preparation for the 2016 season is already underway and both Charlie and Twin Peaks are growing in ability every day. Next season they are going to be competing in more Novice competitions before stepping up to CIC/CCI 1\* level and hopefully finishing with a handful of Intermediates.

### A BUSY TERM FOR THE EQUESTRIAN TEAM

We have had an extremely busy term with our Equestrian Teams and Individuals attending a number of competitions already this year. We kicked off the year with the Beachborough School Eventer Challenge where two of our teams came 4th and Trinity Ford (Fourth Form, Queen's) was placed 6th individually. A smaller selection of riders attended Dressage at Quainton Stud with individual placings for Chloe Livesey (Third Form, Stanhope) and Katy Webb (Lower Sixth, Stanhope). Next was Show Jumping at Addington Manor. Again there was a 4th place team result and an individual 4th for our 1st Team Captain, Anna Wilson (Lower Sixth, Queen's). On the same day, Katy Webb took her two horses to an Eventer Trial at Aston le Walls where she dominated with a first and second. We also attended an Eventer Trial at Keysoe with mixed results and no placings on this occasion in very large classes, but fun was had by all. The term was nicely finished off with an in-house Team Christmas Show Jumping Competition organised by Jaimie McIntosh (Fifth Form, Stanhope) and Coco Brooks Fourth Form, Lyttelton). It was great to see the team spirit with team members dressed in Christmas fancy dress and to have Christmas music playing in the background. We have many more competitions planned for next term and the rest of the year so heres to continued success.

*Mrs Krista Price, Equestrian Centre Manager*





BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Paul Burns  
photography

# The Three Choirs

I went to Buckingham Palace for the 300th Anniversary of 'The Three Choirs'. I used to be a chorister at Hereford Cathedral and The Three Choirs consists of Hereford, Gloucester and Worcester. The main treasurer is Prince Charles and he invited us for its 300th anniversary and, of course, we gladly accepted.

When we got to the Palace, there were over 300 of us having to rehearse walking in and out of the Ballroom. The Ballroom was an amazing place like the Library at Stowe but with works of art by Van Gogh and Picasso. I felt like an aristocrat looking around at this Grand Hall with gold gilding the ceiling and velvet sofas.

When it came to the real performance, all 300 of us went into the room in six minutes and waited for the future King to come in. We sang 'Zadok the Priest' by Handel, 'I was glad' by Parry, and 'The Lord bless you and keep you' by Rutter. The choir was well trained and sounded amazing. We then had a meal and mingled with some of the people in attendance including Andrew and Julian Lloyd-Webber and the mayors of all of the counties mentioned.

My highlight was meeting Prince Charles and him saying, "Your voice was as piercing as a needle and the noise that came out was just magical." As you can imagine, I was very nervous just shaking his hand, but when he said that it was amazing. We then left via the front of the Palace where we saw a breath-taking collection of artefacts from elevators from 100 years ago to stunning pieces of china from 400 years ago and some extraordinary paintings including a life size one of a lion. All in all, an unforgettable experience for all 300 of us.

*Peter Entwisle (Fourth Form, Temple)*

# Language Society



The month of December began with an exciting event for all Language Society members. Lisa Battilomo (Lower Sixth, Nugent), our President, delighted us all with a wine and cheese tasting evening which turned out to be an enriching cultural experience for both Stoics and staff. Lisa presented us with a selection of wines and cheeses from the Tuscany region in Italy where she is from, and as we tickled our taste buds, we learnt from Lisa and Laura Saffari (Upper Sixth, Nugent), the Vice President, some interesting facts about how the different wines and cheeses were made. A memorable occasion as we became 'sommeliers' for one evening!

*Desiree Podesta, Language Society*



## FENCING

Sam Lodge (Upper Sixth, Walpole) and Hugo Robinson (Fourth Form, Grenville) competed at the Luton Open on Sunday 22 November. They had to fight many bouts which led to them playing each other in the final. Friends but rivals fought out a terrific final and Hugo was able to beat his Stowe captain for the first time in an outside meet. Sam has also been awarded his fencing colours.

On Tuesday 1 December the fencing team beat Bedford 15-10 with strong performances from Lauren Bridgen (Fourth Form, Stanhope), Hannah Laurence (Third Form, Stanhope), Hugo Robinson and Sam Lodge.

*Stewart Cowie, MiC Fencing*

For weekly reports  
on all Stowe Sports  
visit our website

[www.stowesport.co.uk](http://www.stowesport.co.uk)



# Gaussian Group

It has been an exciting term for the Maths Department, with the first dedicated mathematics society being set up – the Gaussian Group. This term has witnessed a busy start. The first meeting of the society, included an introduction to a variety of paradoxes within the subject that arise through mathematical logic. We then extended an invitation for a joint society meeting to the Quantum Society – a household name amongst physicists at Stowe – with a talk entitled 'God at the Subatomic Level'. Here, pure mathematicians were introduced to quantum physics concepts that arise in the subject, and similarly, physicists were presented with a plethora of mathematical ideas that show the sheer authoritative nature of maths over physics in the modern day – an exceptional and thought-provoking talk.

Our prospects for next term and the future seem exciting to say the least! We are planning a variety of joint talks that span multiple faculties, from English to History of Art. This is something that would not normally be considered, but it can be seen that mathematics plays a prominent role in almost every subject, and it is this feature of not being limited to only one faculty that ensures our progression to new academic endeavours.

*Frazer Ellis-Jenkinson, 1st President of the Gaussian Group*

# CCF

## Cadets Get Airborne

On 8 November Capt Goodall took a select group of RAF cadets, comprising Matthew Barnes-Murphy and James Cecile-Pritchard (Bruce), Kamsi Mbanefo (Temple), Rowan Brudenell and Julian Hyams (Grenville), Ricky Li (Grafton) and Matthew Garner Martin (Walpole), to RAF Benson for Air Experience Flying in Grob Tutor aeroplanes. As always, flying is an almost unbeatable experience and enables cadets to make sense of their classroom and associated learning.



## Cadets Practise Self-Discipline – The Christmas Drill Competition

For the last few years now the CCF has mounted a Drill Competition at the end of the term, followed by mince pies and fizzy drinks. On 7th December the teams faced a more sophisticated challenge than usual, with much weaving and ducking, and all responded exceptionally well. The winners, shown here proudly wearing their medallions were Oliver Muhoho (Fourth Form, Bruce), Nathan Dana (Fourth Form, Temple), Max Whitehead (Fourth Form, Grenville), Hamish Wood (Fourth Form, Chandos), Billy Hawkings-Bypass (Fourth Form, Cobham), and Warren Hunter and Mark Kanjana (Fourth Form, Walpole) led by Stuart Milner (Lower Sixth, Cobham.). Among the team leaders, Harry Cook (Lower Sixth, Chandos,) and Jess Potts (Fourth Form, Nugent) were commended for their excellent leadership of their squads.



Mrs Donaldson has come back with major additions to the banter with which she punctuates fire awareness lessons, and Stowe staff can expect to hear unaccustomed naval expressions as part of their fire training.

## Cadets Practise Initiative, Self-Reliance and Resourcefulness

On 8 December a select group of RN cadets, comprising Lottie Hopkinson (Stanhope, 5ths), Mahlatse Mabitsela (Fourth Form, Queen's), Mint Kanjana (Fifth Form, Queen's), Sandile Tiliba and Oscar Hill (Fourth Form, Temple), and Zizo Chuma (Fourth Form, Lyttelton) visited the RN Firefighting and Damage Control School at HMS Excellent, Portsmouth, accompanied by Lt Cdr Critchley, Lt Eason-Bassett and no less a person than Mrs Donaldson, the School's Health, Safety & Compliance Manager. Here they were given training in preventing and fighting fire, with an ample number of practice extinguishers and impressive fires to be put out. They then transferred to the legendary DRIU, which is an advanced damage simulator. After some brief and focused training, the Stoics found themselves on a ship's mess deck. Several of the bulkheads had been pierced by shot, and seawater was starting to come through the resulting holes and flood the compartment. Could they block the holes and halt the flooding before it rose above head level? Meanwhile

## Stowe Team Visits Jhenaidah, Bangladesh

A Stowe CCF team, consisting of Lt Cdr Critchley and Capt Goodall, travelled to Bangladesh to visit Jhenaidah Cadet College as part of the College's programme of developing links with the UK educational world. The Stowe team toured the College, attended an evening presentation by the cadets entitled 'Digital Bangladesh', watched an exhibition basketball match between the Adjutant's Team and the Medical Officer's Team, took the salute at a morning Parade and March Past, and attended dinner with the Adjutant General and British Defence Attaché in Dhaka. A companion visit to Joypurhat Girls' Cadet College unfortunately had to be called off due to fog at the last moment. Consideration is now being given to further joint ventures and exchanges.

Below is the welcoming speech of the Principal, Col Mohammad Sadikul Bari:

"Today we have become extremely happy with the gracious company of the distinguished guests, Lt Cdr David Critchley and Capt Andrew Goodall in the midst of us. Their time presents as tremendously inspiring our young cadets. Today's visit is a hallmark in opening a new avenue for bilateral help and co-operation between Stowe School, United Kingdom and Jhenaidah Cadet College, Bangladesh. This will create an opportunity for our cadets to visit their renowned institution, undergo short adventure trainings and then cultural exchange programmes, participate in our exhibitions, or witness parades on the occasions of some ceremonial events of Stowe School bearing the motto 'I Stand Firm and I Stand Fast'. This renowned institution came into being at Buckingham in 1923. The School was shortlisted for the most beautiful school of the year in 2009 and was listed as outstanding in several categories by the Week Magazine in 2013. Jhenaidah Cadet College was established in 1963 taking the British public schools as model. Since inception the College has been advancing with its never-ending journey of producing the brightest citizens. The memorable visit of the honourable David Critchley helps create a strong bond of friendship, mutual understanding, exchange of views, and culture between the members of Stowe School and Jhenaidah Cadet College. I express my sincere thanks and gratitude to Lt Cdr David Critchley and Capt Andrew Goodall for taking the pain of flying from the United Kingdom to Bangladesh and coming to our College and paying the significant visit which will ever remain in the memory of cadets and mark the history of Jhenaidah Cadet College – a milestone."

Watch edited highlights of the final [Parade and March Past](#) (film credit: Andrew Goodall)

*David Critchley, Lt Cdr CCF, Contingent Commander*







# CROSS COUNTRY

The annual Inter-House cross country competition took place on Sunday 29 November. In the boys' team competition Chatham won the Junior and Grafton won the Intermediate and Senior competitions. Lyttelton won the Junior and Senior girls' team competition and Nugent won the Intermediates.

The individual results were as follows:-

### Junior Boys:

- 1st - Thomas Fountain (Third Form, Cobham)
- 2nd - George Holmes (Third Form, Grafton)
- 3rd - Christian Linton (Third Form, Bruce)

### Intermediate Boys:

- 1st - Daniel Jolker (Fifth Form, Cobham)
- 2nd - Billy Vestey (Fifth Form, Grafton)
- 3rd - Freddie Woods (Fifth Form, Chatham)

### Senior Boys:

- 1st - Harrison Dockerty (Upper Sixth, Chandos)
- 2nd - Charlton Kerr (Upper Sixth, Cobham)
- 3rd - Oscar Pegg (Upper Sixth, Bruce)

### Junior Girls:

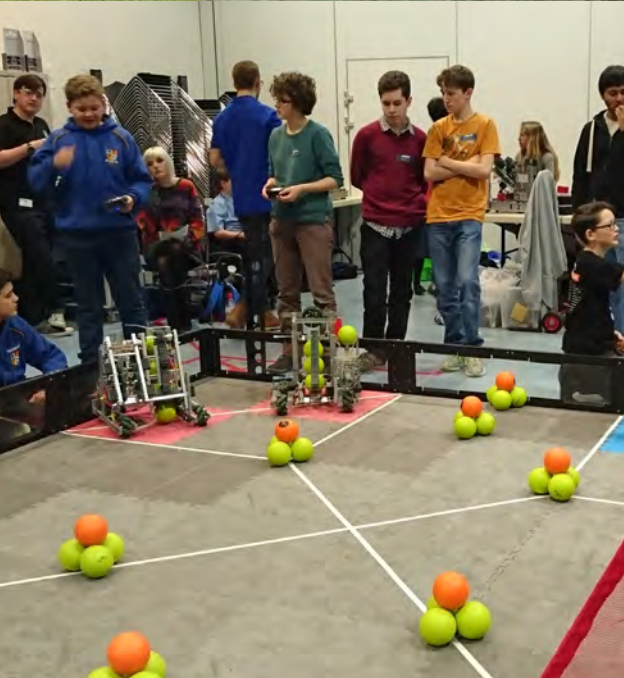
- 1st - Alyssia Dockerty (Third Form, Queen's)
- 2nd - Georgia Glenser (Third Form, Lyttelton)
- 3rd - Amber Capurro (Third Form, Nugent)

### Intermediate Girls:

- 1st - Georgia Flawn-Thomas (Fifth Form, Nugent)
- 2nd - Rosie Smith (Fifth Form, Queen's)
- 3rd - Mali Aitchison (Fifth Form, Nugent)

### Senior Girls:

- 1st - Jemima Grant (Upper Sixth, Stanhope)
- 2nd - Annabel Simpson (Lower Sixth, Queen's)
- 3rd - Bubby Upton (Lower Sixth, Queen's)



# StoweBots

The StoweBot teams attended their second Regional competition in the VEX Robotics Competition. Both teams performed well with the Senior team scoring a national high score of 206 during the qualifying rounds with their partner robot from East Barnet School. The Junior team out-performed them overall to finish first in qualifying, including an impressive solo score of 159 (because their partner didn't start). However the Senior team suffered some narrow defeats in the semi-final round and the Junior team lost the final match 126-197. It was still a very strong performance from both teams, with the Senior team having already qualified for the National Finals in March and the Junior team not far behind them. We are hoping to put on a great show at the Regional event we are hosting at Stowe on Thursday 4 February.

This Half term's focus has been development of the teams' skills with CAD using Autodesk software, updating their engineering logs with their designs and fine tuning the robots to make them as reliable and efficient as possible. The teams have a few plans to implement for our next Regional and hope to do well. The National finals will be in March at the NEC Birmingham, followed by the World final in April.

*Paul Thompson, MiC Robots*



# History Society

The Senior History Society (Pitt the Elder) has had a very busy term, meeting regularly on a Monday afternoon to discuss aspects of history beyond the scope of the normal curriculum. Membership of the Society is optional for A Level historians so it is encouraging to have had around 20 Stoics attending each week. Their commitment and contributions have been impressive.

The culmination of events this term was an online debate on two broad historical questions. The first proposition under scrutiny was "Wars are not won by generals and decision-makers but rather by luck and circumstance", which encouraged a broad analysis of military history. The second concurrent debate took place around the motion "We can be proud of British history. It is mostly a positive story", which brought out both patriotic and more cynical viewpoints. Four teams battled each other on a message board hosted on the School's VLE, fuelled by Coca Cola and doughnuts. This less traditional format was embraced by students, who wrote over 3,000 words through 70 separate posts in around 40 minutes of hotly contested debate. It was excellent to see opinionated and forthright views being developed and challenged in a room of near silent pupils!

In the Lent term, the Society can look forward to the election of a student committee, the award of the McElwee Prizes (which is open to all of the Lower Sixth), the visit of the well known military historian Saul David, a Question Time style debate with two current MPs and a talk by senior diplomats involved in the Oslo Accords. I am sure that Society dinners will also be much anticipated.

Weekly meetings will help members to make the most of these exciting opportunities and continue to stretch them to consider history more broadly than the exam structure allows. With a number of members hoping to study History at either Oxford or Cambridge, these events will also give them plenty to consider in preparation for a challenging application process next autumn. Having joined the School in September, I was unsure what to expect from such a group but I have been consistently impressed by the members and their enthusiasm for the subject. It has been one of many highlights of the History department at Stowe and I look forward to continuing working with this engaging group of historians after Christmas.

*Paul Griffin (Head of History)*



## German

If there is one event that is bound to put a smile on the face of a Stoic studying German, it is the annual Christmas cookie baking morning at Ladymead. So, on Wednesday 9 December, Sebastian, Johannes, Benoit, Laurine, John and Pepe embarked on a baking marathon, having previously chosen and translated a recipe of their choice. After a couple of hours of kneading, rolling and cutting shapes, in excess of 160 delicious cookies emerged from the oven and were duly decorated. The Christmas music in the background and non-alcoholic Glühwein added to the festive ambiance, as we admired and tasted the "Weihnachtsgebäck". I was particularly impressed by how quickly Johannes, Benoit and Sebastian managed to create the dough and shape endless "Vanillekipferl", while the decoration skills of the L6 were simply phenomenal!

*Alice Tearle, Head of German*

## Universities Visit Stowe

In another of our very popular sessions on University Applications – a Parent's View, Katherine Pagett of Birmingham University's Admissions Team came to Stowe on 20 November and spoke to Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth Parents. Much the most valuable part of the session came at the end, where Katherine was able to deal with a number of individual queries. As always, we are very conscious that parents find it very helpful to be able to talk direct to someone closely involved UCAS applications at the university end. A PDF version of Katherine's presentation is available on the school [website](#).

Amy Donaldson-Davidson from Queen Mary University of London's student engagement team came to talk to the Lower Sixth on 26 November. Her subject was a critical one – How to Make Best Use of the Lower Sixth Year. This is a crucial year in which competitive university applicants lay the foundations for their future application by attending taster courses, arranging work experience, listening to top speakers, reading key books in their chosen subject, and thinking hard about what interests them and motivates them most – not to mention working hard at their A Level studies. Amy covered all these points in a down-to-earth and very accessible style, and the Stoics now need to take her advice forward.

*David Critchley, UCAS Applications Tutor*



## Christmas Services at Stowe Parish Church

Community Carol Service	6.00pm	13th December
Nativity Service	9.45am	20th December
Carols and Cake at Dadford Village Hall	3.30pm	Christmas Eve
Midnight Communion	11.30pm	Christmas Eve
Christmas Family Communion	9.45am	Christmas Day
Communion Service	9.45am	27th December

★  
Everyone is welcome to come to these services celebrating Christmas.

## Eleven Days of Culture and Adventure

The PSHE Department at Stowe is delighted to be able to offer an 11 day trip to Vietnam from 22 October to 1 November 2016.

The trip will give Stoics an opportunity to visit the famous Cu Chi tunnels, the Reunification Palace in Ho Chi Minh City, spend a day visiting the Mekong Delta and visit remote villages. The trip encompasses the World Heritage Sites of Hoi An and Hue, culminating in an overnight private Junk cruise of Halong Bay, before a final tour of Hanoi. The trip will be limited to 12 pupil places only. Further details and an application form are available from Ms McLintock.





# Oxford Blues

On Monday 7 December the 2015 OURFC Blues' Squad trained at Stowe in preparation for the 134th Varsity Match taking place at Twickenham on Thursday 10 December. Stowe was the ideal location for the Blues' squad so they could escape Oxford and the intensity of the build-up.

The Blues were able to use the newly refurbished gym for some last minute strength and conditioning work, as well as use our first class pitches up at the Bourbon and also on the North Front.

In the afternoon, the Stowe 1st XV were able to train against the Blues' squad. Stowe ran as Cambridge in attack and defence, providing the Blues with vital last minute preparation and a great insight into what they might face on 10 December.

It was a fantastic experience for the Stowe 1st XV, whilst also being a great preparation day for OURFC.

*Michael Rickner*



## South African Scholars

This year's South African Scholars have embraced all that Stowe has to offer, and have thrown themselves into every aspect of school life in their first term as Stoics. Longin Kakeru (Fourth Form, Chandos), Boikarabelo Tladi (Fourth Form, Cobham), Sandile Tilibi (Fourth Form, Temple), Zizo Chuma (Fourth Form, Lyttelton) and Mahlatshe Mabitsela (Fourth Form, Queen's) arrived from Dominican Convent School in Johannesburg the day before term started in September and have been inspired by everything Stowe has to offer. From the day to day teaching, CCF, sport to even the house cross country, the scholars have already taken on board much of what the exchange programme is all about: the development of leadership and to enhance exposure to global issues as well as a broader general knowledge.

As Boikarabelo writes, 'My first term as a Stoic has been phenomenal. Each day, the layers of understanding why I'm here are thickening. You appreciate the value of a minute when you're running with a ticking time bomb on you. I use the expression because I'm on the edge, really on the edge. I'm much closer to everything I've wanted to do.'

The scholars will be returning home when term ends to spend Christmas with their families, but will return to Stowe just before term starts again in January. The programme is designed to select and nurture the future leaders of South Africa, and by all accounts, they are using their time at Stowe well, to encompass all the School has to offer, making friends and experiencing activities unavailable to them back home. It is such a valuable programme, and we hope that they will grow even more next term as they experience yet more.

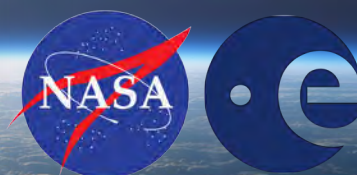
*Brian Hart, MiC South African Scholars Programme*



## Dr Stuart Eves

Leading Space scientist Dr Stuart Eves gave a fascinating talk to Physics students in November. He is one of the most eminent speakers in the field, and often works closely with major players in the space industry such as NASA and ESA. Stuart has an MSc in Astrophysics, a PhD in constellation design, and has been a Fellow of the UK's Royal Astronomical Society for more than 20 years. He talked about the physics behind satellite technology, the possible future of satellites, finishing with some fascinating thoughts about future space exploration. Stuart cleverly interwove his ideas about space exploration with early 1970s collectors cards about possible ideas of the future, with quite a lot of their predictions actually occurring! The Stoics enjoyed his enthusiasm for his subject, with many of them staying behind to ask more questions about his work. I think the thing that sticks in my mind is how well Stuart knows Buzz Aldrin, and he spoke about Buzz's single minded determination that we should travel to Mars – apparently he always carries with him wherever he goes all the flight information and trajectories!

*Brian Hart, Physics Department*





# Fashion Show

Fifth and Sixth Form Stoics gathered together in Chapel on 2 December 2015 for this year's charity fashion show in aid of Children in Crisis. The show's organisers, Valentine Sozibilir (Upper Sixth, Grenville) and Aleksia Zivanovic (Upper Sixth, Queen's), have been preparing for weeks and both were very pleased with the final outcome. The show was kindly supported by Philip Treacy and his remarkable hats which were modelled by Stowe Sixth Form models. In total, £1,750 was raised for Children in Crisis and awareness has been raised about the lack of education in Afghanistan, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Both Valentine and Aleksia are working on a further project which is creating a school calendar with photos of Philip Treacy hats modelled by Stoics. The calendar will be released in the Summer term and donations will go to Children in Crisis. The organisers were very pleased with the quality of the choreography and another successful fashion show they have hosted together.

*Valentine Sozibilir (Upper Sixth, Grenville)*



# Old Stoic Careers' Fair

The OS Careers' Fair took place on Saturday 28 November, for the Lower Sixth Form. The State Rooms hosted Old Stoic representatives from nearly 40 different industries, including Property, Art Transportation, Banking, Landscape Design, Dentistry and Engineering. We even had a racing car on the North Front to bring Automotive Branding to life and a border terrier supporting the Estate Agency representative! We were very lucky to have a mini CV workshop included in the line up, which saw a roaring trade throughout the morning.

Stoics were encouraged to speak to as many different people as possible, to find out about industries that might interest them. The Old Stoics and guests who took part in the Fair were extremely impressed with their engagement and insightful questions. I would like to thank the Stoics who took part for leaving such a good impression on our guests and dressing so smartly for the occasion. I hope those who attended found it useful.

"The Careers Fair provided me with an invaluable insight into an extensive range of careers - many of which I had no previous interest in. The Old Stoics were very welcoming and thought-provoking. In light of that, I managed to learn a lot about areas that I found interesting." Lower Sixth Stoic

I end with a reminder: the OS Office can help with contacts, work experience and mentoring; all you need to do is ask.

*Anna Semler, Old Stoic Society Director*





## Christmas Community Party

Stoics were delighted to host the annual Christmas Community Party for 150 retired folk (aged 60-94) from the surrounding villages. They were welcomed by the marvellous Stowe Brass ensemble and Music staff who also accompanied the carol singing. Christmas food and tea was accompanied by the bangs of crackers being pulled or the studied concentration as Bingo numbers were called by the Headmaster. Replete and happy, our guests were taken home and the letters of thanks received by the School pay testament to the pleasure had by all and to the immense hard work put in by the catering staff who not only served but also entertained and dressed up in festive costumes. Many thanks are also due to the Stoics who decorated the

State Rooms, helped our guests up and down the North Front steps, served food and drink, sang Carols and helped with the games. Staff drivers manned the minibuses picking up and delivering all around the local area. Extra special thanks are due to The Revd Sue Sampson (Assistant Chaplain) and Pippa Kitchens (English Department) for their hard work in the organisation; to the Headmaster for his skill at Bingo-calling and to Valerie Wallersteiner and family for wrapping up the many presents on behalf of our mysterious and gift-laden Santa. It was a wonderful start to the end of term as, in the true spirit and meaning of Christmas, Stowe served its local communities.

*Crispin Robinson (Deputy Headmaster)*

SATURDAY  
16  
JANUARY

**A Taste of France with Wine, Cheese and Wild Willy Barrett's French Connection**

A Taste of France at Stowe with Wine, Cheese and Wild Willy Barrett's French Connection Quartet in the Music Room at Stowe.

WEDNESDAY  
10  
FEBRUARY

**Beauty and the Beast**

Join Stowe Parents for a finger buffet in the Chung Music School at 6.30pm, and then take your VIP seat at 8pm in the Roxburgh Hall for the Musical event of the year!

WEDNESDAY  
02  
MARCH

**House Tour & Lunch**

Stowe Parents are invited to explore the intricate history and restoration of Stowe House with Anna McEvoy, the House Custodian. The tour will be followed by a two course lunch in the beautifully restored Blue Room.

TUESDAY  
22  
MARCH

**British Museum – Around the World in 90 minutes**

Join Stowe parents for an exclusive guided tour of some of the most famous treasures of the Museum including the Rosetta Stone, Lewis Chessmen and the Parthenon frieze, as well as some lesser known but equally fascinating objects

Please click on any of the events for more information. If you would like to book please email [Stowe Parents](mailto:Stowe Parents).



## Headmaster's Lunch

The Annual Headmaster's Lunch was held on 18 November in the Grand Ballroom at the Lansdowne Club in London.

It was incredibly well attended. Over 100 parents and friends of Stowe enjoyed a fabulous lunch and a highly informative and entertaining speech by the Headmaster. The Lansdowne looked after us very well indeed, arranging a fantastic venue, good atmosphere, convenient location and a superb lunch, so many thanks to them.

The location in central London allowed many of the attendees to break off into smaller groups and spend a convivial afternoon in the capital, either chatting over cocktails or coffee or enjoying the shops in the West End in readiness for the Festive Season.

Thank you to everyone who made the effort to come down and join the lunch and all those involved in putting on such a good event. Thanks go to Emma Marriott and Tori Rody for all their help in the organising.

*Fiona Suthers, Stowe Parents*

## Old Stoics

### Ice Skating, the AGM and a New Chairman!

On Thursday 26 November Old Stoics flooded to Somerset House for a festive evening of Ice Skating, Christmas Shopping at the Fortnum's pop-up arcade and fizz before the Old Stoic Society AGM. We managed a clean sweep with the ice skating (no one fell over) and saw the largest turnout for the OSS AGM in recent history, numbering 40 guests.

During the OSS AGM, Simon Shneerson (Temple 72) stood down from the role of Old Stoic Society Chairman, with Jonathon Hall (Bruce 70) taking the helm. New members were voted onto the OSS Committee and a vote of thanks was given to Ivo Forde (Walpole 67), John Arkwright (Cobham 69) and John Fingleton (Chatham 66) who stood down from the Committee after great many years of loyal and dedicated service. These members will be awarded the position of Old Stoic Ambassador in the near future for their commitment to the OS Society.

Photographs from the evening are available to view on the OS website.

*Anna Semler, Old Stoic Society Director*

