

The Corinthian

2016

THE MAGAZINE FOR OLD STOICS

Issue 6

PHOEBE ENGLISH: HIGH-CONCEPT FASHION

Phoebe English (Nugent 04) is causing waves with her de-constructed fashion.

ROAD TRIP OF A LIFETIME

Mike Andrews (Chatham 57) relives an epic 43,500 mile journey.

BRUCE BROTHERS WIN START UP OF THE YEAR

Charlie (Bruce 07) and Harry Thuillier (Bruce 04) win the Guardian's start up of the Year for their healthy Ice Cream, Oppo.

Photographer, Chloe Newman.

Stoics

OLD STOIC DAY

Saturday 17 September 2016



All Old Stoics are warmly invited, along with their family and friends, to return to Stowe for a day of tours and activities, along with a chance to catch up with friends from your time at Stowe.

Old Stoics celebrating the 20th, 25th, 30th, 40th and 50th Anniversary of their departure from Stowe have been invited to meet up for lunch with their year group in the State Rooms.

The full itinerary for the day will be published on the Old Stoic website. Please save the date and look out for your invitation later in the year.

To join us, please email oldstoic@stowe.co.uk or telephone 01280 818349

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Welcome to the sixth edition of *The Corinthian* – the magazine for Old Stoics.

We've had such a busy twelve months my feet have hardly touched the ground. We've been buzzing around the country holding OS Events in the regions and reinvigorating the way the Society is administered, making it even more accessible and useful for everyone.

Once again, filling the pages of this magazine has been a breeze: Old Stoics certainly have the knack of getting involved in exciting things. I am particularly pleased to include a number of articles about young OSs running start-ups, as well as adventure stories, news and activities from the course of the year. Thank you to everyone who has submitted an article and to all of you who have sent in your news.

Last November, Jonathon Hall (Bruce 79) took over as OSS Chairman, bringing with him some exciting ideas. Jonathon once said to me, "The only skill that is future proofed is creativity." It is clear from the pages of this magazine, especially the article about Phoebe English's (Nugent 04) high-concept fashion, that Old Stoics have creativity in spades. Let's do all we can to help the younger generation of Stoics absorb as much creativity at Stowe as those who have gone before them.

Once again, thank you to the advertisers who have supported the magazine this year. Thanks also to Caroline Whitlock for her consistent hard work and support throughout the year as well as her tireless efforts compiling this magazine.

Finally, in the busy world we live in, it is essential that we have your current email address so we can keep you up to date. If you are in any doubt, please email oldstoic@stowe.co.uk

Anna Semler (Nugent 05)
Old Stoic Society Director



WELCOME FROM THE NEW OSS CHAIRMAN

I am incredibly proud to have taken over the role of Chairman from Simon Shneerson (Temple 72). Over the last three years Simon has tirelessly reinvigorated the OS Committee into a professional body of Old Stoics representing every generation. I would like to thank him

for all of his hard work, passion and, no doubt, late nights; his efforts have left the Society in excellent shape. Simon has recruited some excellent new members for the Committee, so now amongst our ranks we have characters who can generate awe inspiring ideas, make the impossible-possible and capture the interest of Old Stoics who have long forgotten Stowe. I am excited about the prospect of putting our well laid plans in motion.

Many of my friends would coin my catchphrase as 'sweat the assets', I've said it hundreds of times at committee meetings over the last few years. With over ten thousand Old Stoics across the globe, we certainly have strength in numbers: the potential that lurks within our network is mind blowing! Over the last twelve months we've been working on a brand new website, which finally delivers an unrivalled, useful tool to help you to network with Old Stoics around the world. It can help you find long lost friends or make new business contacts. If you're moving abroad or even going on holiday, it can produce a list of other OSs nearby! I'm looking forward to seeing it take off over the next few months.

Stowe breeds individuality. It's the Society's job to make sure that spirit continues to live on in all of us after the horrendous hangover from the Leavers' Ball subsides. We hope that everything we do will inspire Old Stoics to have the courage to stand out from the crowd, think on their feet and to be creative, so they can make a real impact in life. This starts with our careers and mentoring programme which is offered to Stoics in the Sixth Form and can be used by recent leavers, too. I've been giving talks to Stoics about advertising for over 10 years: I know first hand just how rewarding and inspiring it can be to speak to young people and help them understand the possibilities and opportunities waiting for them when they leave Stowe.

We've got some impressive entrepreneurs in our circle, including, of course, our President, Sir Richard Branson (Cobham/Lyttelton 68). You'll find news of lots of young start-ups in the pages of this magazine that proves Stowe's uncanny ability to inspire creative thinking. We hope our services will help those just starting out and, that those who are flying high will remember to pass on their knowledge to our younger members. We're even doing some commercial thinking of our own by looking at ways we can maximise the income for the OS Society via advertising and sponsorship to enable us to plough more funds into the services we lay on for you.

The pages of this magazine are packed to the brim with success stories and news from those whose lives are flourishing but we are all too aware that this is not the case for everyone. We've been working hard on an important new initiative, the Old Stoic Benevolent Fund. It will provide a life line to those who fall on hard times and need a support network or emergency funds to help them when the world goes dark. I am inspired by it: it will make the Society a well rounded and useful body of which we can all be proud.

I hope to meet as many of you as possible at our many events across the country over the course of the year and I look forward to hearing your comments and ideas, which are extremely welcome and I hope will come flooding in. I hope you enjoy reading this year's magazine.

Jonathon Hall (Bruce 79)
Old Stoic Society Chairman



Find Stowe School on twitter @stowemail and facebook.com/stoweschool

NEWS FROM STOWE

Since my last piece in *The Corinthian* much has happened at Stowe and I continue to be amazed by the huge number of activities that Stoics are involved in, inside and outside the classroom. I spend almost every day wishing that I had come to Stowe as a pupil!

In the last year we have remembered David Wynne (Grenville 44), with a celebration of his life and work at Stowe. Led by HRH Prince Michael of Kent, who was a close friend of David's, the service also included a musical tribute by another friend, Chris de Burgh.

Stoics have been throwing themselves into all kinds of competitions from the National Maths Feast in Warwick organised by the Further Mathematics Support Programme to the National Robotics Competition that saw our newly formed Robotics Society take team StoweBot all the way to the semi-finals – an outstanding achievement which they hope to improve on this year!

Supporting charities is always something that Stoics put a great deal of effort into and a number of worthy causes benefited from their fundraising last year. A wonderful fashion show to support the work of Kidscape raised some much needed funds for this anti-bullying charity and Stoics also put their fundraising caps on for the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, the School Charity of this year.

A highlight of the musical year was provided by Lang Lang, the world famous pianist, who

visited Stowe to hold a masterclass with our Music Scholars and to perform for a delighted audience who were moved by his interaction with our pupils and his breathtaking performance. An equally exciting event was Stowe's very own festival *GlaStowebury*, which took place the evening before Speech Day in a huge marquee on the South Front. We were also treated to a visit from the Dominican Convent School Choir, who send to us every year our South African Scholars and who came to the UK on tour. Their uplifting music attracted full houses at all their performances. The School Musical was a production of Sondheim's most ambitious and demanding show *Company* with fantastic performances from some of our most talented actors. Our actors were also seen on stage in performances of *Ruckus in the Garden* and *The Merchant of Venice*.

It is hard to single out individual sporting success over the year; we continue to perform so well against other schools and Stoics regularly represent their countries in many sports. However, I'd be remiss not to mention our Junior and Senior Rugby Sevens – the teams gave some gritty performances in the National Schools' Championships at Rosslyn Park and the Senior team won the Festival Title.

Much of what happens outside the classroom helps Stoics in the classroom progress towards excellent grades at the

end of the academic year and the Stoics' hard work was rewarded in the summer when the public examination results were released and our best ever GCSE results followed some outstanding A Level results.

Our parents have been heavily involved in School life throughout the year, whether supporting their children on the touchline, attending musical or drama performances or joining with other Stowe parents at events put on by our Parents' Association – it has been a busy year! It is also wonderful to see how engaged Old Stoics are with the School and how willing they are to support our initiatives from our fundraising for new facilities and bursaries to advising current Stoics about career choices at the OS Careers' Fair. It is the whole Stowe community that really makes this School a special place to be and I look forward to what promises to be another exciting year at Stowe.

As ever, I am always delighted to hear from members of the Old Stoic community whether with news for *Stowemail* (our e-newsletter) or the website, or with enquiries about sending your children or grandchildren to Stowe. Please email oldstoic@stowe.co.uk if you would like to be added to the mailing list for either *Stowemail* or *The Stoic* for more regular news from Stowe.

Tori Roddy, Director of Marketing & Admissions

PHOEBE ENGLISH: HIGH-CONCEPT FASHION

After winning *The L’Oreal Professional Creative Award* in 2011, Phoebe English started an eponymous luxury womenswear label in the middle of a recession. Her drive paid off. The latest collection can be found in 18 international high-concept stores; she’s recently branched into cool menswear and is named in *Forbes’ 30 under 30* 2015 List.

Just before she arrived at Stowe, a creative epiphany happened to fifteen year old Phoebe. The setting was *The Radical Fashion* exhibition at the V&A. It was an Alexander McQueen dress: “It was like being punched in the face. The showmanship and the aesthetic was extraordinary; it was the first time I realised you could communicate something with a material. The dress was made with ostrich feathers and glass. I remember staring at it for half an hour solidly. I was the last one in the exhibition. It was that realisation that the feathers were fragile and the glass was fragile but they were both fragile in a different way. And what made the dress look extraordinary was the communication between those two surfaces.”

This is one of those magical, overwhelming moments where the artistic teenager wants nothing ever to be the same again. Phoebe now talks to me about her Stowe years, “It was a time of actualisation for me. I really began to realise who I was as a person, where I’d come from. It just gave me a really deep realisation of my own personal aesthetics. For creative people, it’s one of the best types of learning because you are quite literally surrounded by design.”

However, Phoebe is acutely aware that she wouldn’t have been able to attend Stowe without the scholarships she received. “It’s so important that people continue to support those scholarships because they really do change people’s lives.” The teachers who most inspired her were Brian Johnson and Crispin Robinson about whom she rhapsodises, “He opened my eyes and I remember

every lesson, trying to absorb every word he said.”

After Stowe, Phoebe did the Fashion Design Womenswear with Knitwear BA at Central Saint Martins. But disaster struck. “I got arthritis in my wrist. It was very difficult for me physically to do any knitting. I then got a place on the MA. I took it up knowing that I no longer had the ability to knit. I thought I was going to be found out and lose my place.” However, the calamity became a blessing. Phoebe decided to look up the definition of knitwear – the construction of the knot and the twists and turns that the yarn results in, is its decoration. “So if I can’t knit, how can I still explore this same ethos through other avenues?” The answer was working with textiles where she could hand-knot, Macramé and hand-thread. This ideology still informs her company today.

Phoebe has to create a collection for every London Fashion Week, twice a year.

SUDDENLY, A FANTASY POPS INTO MY HEAD.
**OLD STOICS EVERYWHERE ARE DITCHING THE PASHMINAS,
TWEED AND PEARLS FOR PHOEBE ENGLISH.**

Each collection is funded by the last. “The collections are autobiographical. They’re not marketed as that but every time I present a collection, it’s a reflection to what’s happening to me in my life, who I know, where I’m working, where I’ve been, what I’m feeling like, maybe someone I love is ill or I have fallen in love or maybe there is a massive disaster happening and you still have to make that

body of work dependent on whether those things are happening or not.”

I look around the white studio. There’s not even a mood-board here, “I’m not a referential designer. I don’t have a wall of fashion from different periods. It’s not about looking back, it’s responding to the moment. That’s what fashion should be about, and why it moves so quickly because it’s constantly responding to the moment we are living in.” Phoebe elaborates about the recent Paris and London collections, where you can see the sorrow of the refugee crises.

I ask Phoebe what is her label’s version of glamour, but I am already missing the point: “I wouldn’t define my clothes as glamorous. The aesthetic is niche and subversive. It doesn’t work in every town. It’s an aesthetic for people who understand aesthetics. Creative people respond to it best. Zaha Hadid and Alison Goldfrapp wear our clothes. We do have some unchallenging, easy to wear pieces but we also have some very challenging pieces. It’s for people who aren’t too afraid by their own personal style and already have an established sense of style.”

Suddenly, a fantasy pops into my head. Old Stoics everywhere are ditching the pashminas, tweed and pearls for Phoebe English.

Phoebe ponders that famous fashion statement that you’re only as good as your latest collection, “That’s just the type of thing that makes working in fashion so awful sometimes because it’s really true. The press is constantly looking for the next new thing, especially because of social media. It puts the pressure on when you are trying to make new work. The industry will continue to go faster. That type of





speed of product is not sustainable for a human being. I don't know how much faster it can go before it implodes." This frankly depresses me – Phoebe has another worldly charm and outward fragility but I realised long ago that she is tougher than most of us, a Muhammad Ali being beautifully honest about a world that seems brutal to an outsider.

We talk of more challenges, "Every time I come near a computer, it breaks. Mountains spring up in front of you every day. If you're not a lateral thinker, it's very hard to run a small business. I've learnt to love the creative side of problem solving."

Phoebe has eloquent advice for Stoics interested in pursuing a fashion career: "Fashion is tribal. Different types of people tend to be drawn to specific areas; designers, stylists, PR, press, writers and journalists. If you want to be a designer – do a drawing every day, the difference the ability to draw will make to the ease of the explanation of your ideas to other human beings will really help you. Commit to practising but you have to be ready to do some awful drawings before you'll ever do any good ones."

It's the writer/critic's turn: "Experience as much fashion as you can. It's beneficial if you can see where fashion is made. I meet so many journalists who have never touched a sewing machine and it's very strange to have someone criticising your work who has no knowledge about the method or about the world the work has come from."

Now I know why so many Stoics choose PR: "Start going to every party now, meet as



Portrait of Phoebe by Josh Shinner.



many people as you can." And the wannabe stylist has some cheerily honest advice: "Don't do any further education. Just assist at a magazine. You can't really learn this from a course. It's about instinct. It's definitely who you know."

We drift into nostalgic talk about how I used to write outlandish characters for Phoebe to play in the Roxy and Dobinson, "What I loved about all our projects was working as a team, over a prolonged period of time towards a show. It's exactly the same working towards Fashion Week. It's the same trials and tribulations, the personalities, do they get on, are they doing their best, are they performing to their best ability, are you doing the best work you can do, is the show going to look good or not and it's the same comedown that you get when a theatre production finishes. I use those communication skills every day. Anyone who says drama is a

wasted subject is absolutely lying. Everyone uses drama skills in every business."

As we say goodbye, I ask Phoebe what is the most rewarding thing about her job, "It's very touching when people tell you they like your work and they connect to it. Every time someone buys something, I always feel immensely flattered. It was never my plan to do this."

Stepping outside Phoebe's big South London studios, I am surrounded by remnants of the past – chemical works to tidal mills and slaughterhouses have all used Creekside, but now Phoebe and other artists have taken over. Artists in the moment, responding to now. And that's so exciting.

Phoebe's clothes are available in the UK at Selfridges, Dover Street Market and her Webshop: www.phoebeenglish.com/shop

Alex Orchard-Lisle (Chandos 04)



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★★★★★



FROM THE HEADMASTER



Miss Leonora Brooke with fiancé Max Ausnit

A TALE OF TWO AUSNITS

One of the perquisites of my job is that I get to meet a variety of unusual and interesting people. Steve Ausnit (Cobham 42), an Old Stoic living in New York, has a remarkable tale to tell.

A Harvard engineering graduate, Ausnit is one of the Old Stoic Society's most successful businessmen. In 1951 Steve, working with his father and uncle, Max and Edgar Ausnit, developed the deceptively simple plastic zip fastener which has become indispensable for re-closable bags sealing everything from sandwiches and snacks to essential toiletries which pass through airport scanners. Steve's company, Minigrip Inc., has been working on variations of fasteners for many years, but his big breakthrough came in 1964 when the

Dow Chemical Company negotiated an exclusive licence from Minigrip Inc. to produce and supply bags to supermarkets across America under the trademark of Ziplok. Steve currently holds 104 patents for re-closable fasteners and zipper bags; he is co-inventor of 61 other patents and still invests in businesses around the world. He has recently been honoured in Romania where, last year, he was presented with the keys to the town of Lugoj for supporting local businesses and schools while also sponsoring sporting events such as the Max Ausnit Cup for Cycling.

Steve has also been recognised for his work with the Memorial Library in New York to promote a better understanding of the Holocaust through conferences in Romania: in July 2015 he took part in *The Holocaust in Romania: Between History and Perception* which brought experts from America and Europe to take part in a four day seminar held in Lugoj.

So how did this spry, dryly humorous, quizzical, nonagenarian Romanian-American entrepreneur who still enjoys skiing in Aspen every year, find his way to Stowe in September 1938? Steve Ausnit was born on 21 March 1924 in the town of Galatzi in Romania, just ten months after JF Roxburgh welcomed the first 99 newly enrolled Stoics on the North Front steps. Steve's story is unique in the annals of Stowe's history and his family's saga tells us much about the vicissitudes and changing fortunes of people living through the maelstrom of Central and Eastern Europe in the first half of the 20th Century.

Steve's father was Max Ausnit, Romania's principal industrialist in the inter-war years, widely known as 'Regele de Fier', King of Steel. Max Ausnit had built up a substantial steel works company, Titan Nadrag-Calan (TNC), which employed about 10,000 workers. He was also President of the Uzinele si Domenile de Reșița (UDR), a huge steel plant which produced locomotives, bridges and armaments, employing another 17,000 people. As Romania's fragile democracy was supplanted by a Fascist dictatorship, Ausnit was identified as the 'enemy No.1' by the Iron Guard – an anti-Semitic, anti-capitalist, ultra-nationalist movement which rose to prominence in the 1930s. As the political situation worsened, the Ausnit family became the target for all sorts of imagined grievances and violent attacks followed. In 1937, a bomb was thrown at the family's home in Bucharest, an imposingly grand neo-classical palace on Alexander Avenue.

Max Ausnit saw that Romania was surrounded by enemies and would not be protected by its defensive treaty with France. Hitler was keen to break up the *cordon sanitaire* of French alliances in Eastern Europe and courted Romania as he desperately needed oil supplies to maintain the momentum of German remilitarisation. Anglo-French reluctance to defend the key tenets of the Treaty of Versailles made war in Europe more likely: as German aggressive nationalism

escalated from marching troops into the Rhineland in 1936, to the Anschluss with Austria and the Sudetenland Crisis of 1938, far-right Romanian political parties vied with each other to solve the Jewish Question by spouting no less extreme versions of Hitler's anti-Semitic rhetoric. It was in this climate of political uncertainty and deepening anti-Semitism that Steve Ausnit was sent to the relative safety of Britain where he spent two years as a pupil at St Bede's Prep School. An Old Stoic friend of the Ausnit family thought that Steve would be ideally suited to Stowe which had by then established itself as one of the leading schools in England under JF Roxburgh's benign, humane, tolerant and civilised leadership. The idea met with the full support of St Bede's Headmaster and proprietor, Kenneth Harding.

Steve's Common Entrance results were impressive for a boy who had only recently arrived in England. He threw himself into all aspects of Stowe life and thrived as a member of Cobham House. School reports comment positively on Steve's intelligence, determination, commendable work ethic and good character. He passed the Oxford and Cambridge Board School Certificate Examinations with flying colours and Roxburgh confidently predicted that Steve would secure a place at "a good Oxford or Cambridge College". However, disaster struck in early 1940 when Steve's father became the victim of a conspiracy hatched by jealous business rivals who falsely accused him of fraud and infringement of Romania's strict currency laws. These bogus allegations were supported by the corrupt, greedy and

STEVE'S FATHER BECAME THE VICTIM OF A CONSPIRACY HATCHED BY JEALOUS BUSINESS RIVALS WHO FALSELY ACCUSED HIM OF FRAUD

AND INFRINGEMENT OF ROMANIA'S STRICT CURRENCY LAWS

cynical Romanian monarch, King Carol II. After a deeply flawed trial in which Max Ausnit refused to transfer ownership of his companies to the King's personal holdings, Ausnit was sentenced to six years' penal servitude in the notoriously harsh Jilava prison and ordered to return currency amounting to nearly £140,000 to the Resita Steel Works. Miraculously, Max Ausnit survived the ordeal of imprisonment and was given succour by other prisoners who recognised the fraudulent nature of his trial and imprisonment.

JF Roxburgh showed a remarkable insight and understanding of the situation in Romania and, in particular, of Max

Ausnit's plight. He wrote to the secretary of the Allied Schools about the case on 16 March 1940, showing his customary empathy towards those who found themselves in distressing circumstances through no fault of their own:

"This trial has been pending for a very long time and I have been kept in touch with developments by Mr Ausnit's brother. There is no doubt that the thing is political. The law under which Mr Ausnit was condemned was passed after the (perfectly legitimate at that time) transactions had been completed. My own conviction is that Mr Ausnit is a good deal more honest than the Government which has engineered his downfall. I don't think we need be in the least bit nervous about our fees. The brother, Mr Edgar Ausnit, will see that they are paid. I don't feel that I can write to him to ask for guarantees and so on just at the moment when the whole family is in such distress."

A file note written by Roxburgh recorded that Edgar Ausnit visited Stowe to discuss the family's predicament and Steve's educational prospects. Once again, JF showed great prescience in his analysis and understanding of the political motivation behind Max Ausnit's arrest:

"It appears that Mr Max Ausnit's imprisonment is a purely political move, as he has been consistently anti-German in sentiment. In order to secure it, a special decree was made retrospectively constituting some of his business transactions as illegal. The moving spirit in the intrigue against him appears to have been his late partner, with whom he has quarrelled."

King Carol II did not get to enjoy the fruits of Max Ausnit's show trial and forced appropriation of assets. The monarch's dwindling credibility and popularity was further weakened when in June 1940 Romania ceded Bessarabia and northern Bukovina to the Soviet Union (these territories were given to Stalin by Hitler as part of the infamous Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact of August 1939). After further territorial losses to Bulgaria and Hungary, the corrupt and widely detested King Carol was forced to abdicate in favour of his son, King Michael. Carol fled Romania and eventually found sanctuary in Portugal where he died in April 1953. The new administration was a military

dictatorship led by Marshal Antonescu. At first Max's situation improved and he was held in a sanatorium and then under house arrest in Bucharest. However, the deeply anti-Semitic Antonescu was just as determined to continue with the expropriation of Ausnit's wealth (Cabinet minutes from 4 December 1941 record Antonescu's disparaging remarks about Max Ausnit: "once a kike, always a kike"). More worrying still, the German ambassador to Bucharest, Manfred Freiherr von Killinger had contacted one of Hitler's key henchmen in Berlin, Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop, with news that Antonescu might allow Ausnit to leave Romania in return for ceding all his assets to the State. Von Ribbentrop replied with the order that under no circumstances should Max Ausnit leave Romania.

Interestingly, recently discovered wartime Romanian Cabinet minutes support JF Roxburgh's belief in Max Ausnit's innocence. They reveal that ministers knew that Ausnit had been unjustly imprisoned by the State because he had refused to re-assign assets to the King. Antonescu himself admitted, "We are doing the same thing as [King] Carol, but in the interests of the State." His feeble and specious justification of state sanctioned larceny was echoed by Mihai Antonescu (not related to the Prime Minister and *Conducator*, Marshal Antonescu). Mihai Antonescu, a young professor of international law who had risen to become Minister of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Prime Minister and acting President of the Council of Ministers, gives further evidence of Max Ausnit's complete innocence:

"It would appear that the reasons for which Ausnit was condemned do not constitute fraud, that the transfers between Resita, Tiptan-Nadrag-Calan and Ausnit personally are not frauds committed either by Resita, nor by the company Titan-Nadrag-Calan, nor does it breach the rule of the Commercial Code... but is a pretext in order to take the majority of the shares from Ausnit which he didn't want to assign...as the matter concerns an enrichment of the Romanian State...we are reimbursing the State, not transferring the shares to our personal property or our family or our party."

While Max Ausnit languished under house arrest, Antonescu's Fascist government was drawn further into the orbit of Axis powers. In June 1941, Romanian forces took part in Operation Barbarossa, Hitler's ill-fated attack on the Soviet Union. While Bessarabia and Bukovina were recovered and Odessa was occupied, Romanian troops suffered serious reversals at the



▲ Steve Ausnit (Cobham 42)

battle of Stalingrad in 1942 and economic conditions deteriorated as Germany defaulted on its payments for Romanian oil. Romania's foreign policy became increasingly subservient to Germany and Antonescu was complicit in the Holocaust as Romanian armed forces committed atrocities in Bessarabia, North Bukovina and the Ukraine. In July 1944, soon after Max Ausnit found out that the Nazis were planning to have him killed, he escaped to Egypt in a bomber flown by a close friend, Matei Ghica, a Colonel and pilot in the Romanian Air Force. After his escape, Ausnit was put on trial again and this time he was condemned to death.

At the request of the Four Power Commission which briefly governed Romania after Germany's surrender in May 1945, Max Ausnit returned to assist in his country's reconstruction. He was completely exonerated of all the false accusations which had been levelled against him. However, Romania's liberation from despotism was short-lived as the country found itself in the Russian sphere of influence after the great betrayal of Yalta. Within two years, Communists led by Petru Groza, had taken over key government posts, imposed collectivisation in agriculture, Five Year Plans for industry, expropriated private wealth and forced King Michael to abdicate. Max Ausnit had been warned by Air Vice- Marshal DF Stevenson and General CVR Schuyler, respectively the British and American representatives of the Allied Control Commission in Romania, that his life was in danger. He left the country for good, travelling first to Paris and then to New York where he took up American citizenship. A year later, the Romanian Communist Government confiscated Ausnit's properties and condemned him to death. Not guilty of any crime, Max Ausnit therefore found himself condemned to death by the Nazis

and Communists, two of the most despotic regimes of the 20th Century.

While Max Ausnit was battling with false imprisonment and persecution at the hands of the Antonescu regime, Steve Ausnit left Stowe in April 1941, shortly after his 17th birthday. He made his way to America to join his uncle Edgar. Finding a berth on a freight vessel which sailed from Hull to Iceland and then on to Brazil, Steve finally arrived in New York, a few weeks before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. He had been accepted by Harvard where he studied Engineering and took part in university sports, captaining the Crimson Rugby team. There is a press report in his school file of a rugby match between Harvard and a 'greatly favoured' Royal Navy team:

"With the exception of the scrum, the Crimson fifteen outplayed and outran the Britishers...Ausnit out-footed the British backfield to make the first try...the game resumed with Ausnit again running away from the British backfield players to score for the second time".

After an accelerated undergraduate course which took two and a half years instead of

STEVE HAS USED HIS COMPENSATION FROM THE
**ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT TO ENDOW BURSARIES
 AND SCHOLARSHIPS AT BOTH HIS ALMAE MATRES,
 HARVARD AND STOWE**

four, Steve was conscripted into the US Army and was assigned to the Engineering Corps, eventually becoming a very effective Drill Sergeant. Towards the end of the war, Steve was preparing to transfer into the OSS, the wartime intelligence agency and precursor of the CIA, but Hitler's complete defeat and Germany's unconditional surrender on 7 May 1945, meant that Steve's services were not needed.

One of the final letters in Steve Ausnit's Stowe file is dated March 25 1948. Steve writes to JF Roxburgh from his new home, 107 East 60th Street (a stone's throw from the elegant brownstone on East 61st Street where he now lives), with news of his family, travels and business. The letter concludes on an upbeat note, "my father is here and in good health as is my brother... so at last all the family is together".

The final coda to the Ausnit story began a decade ago when Romania became the first (and hitherto only) country behind the former Iron Curtain to process the restitution claims of people dispossessed of their property by the Communists. In 2005, the Romanian government passed a law establishing a fund, Fondul Proprietatea (Property Fund),

to indemnify victims of asset expropriation with Property Fund shares representing the value of the property seized by the Romanian Communist Government in 1948. Steve and his brother, Robert, filed two sets of claims for restitution of shares owned by the Ausnit family in Titan-Nadrag Calan (TNC) and Uzinele si Domenile de Reșița (UDR). Claims had to be approved by two government agencies, the Authority for State Assets Recovery (AVAS) and the National Authority for Property Restitution (ANRP). Claimants were expected to provide proof of ownership of shares and a prior-to-confiscation balance sheet to prove the value of these shares – an almost impossible demand to fulfil given the circumstances of Max Ausnit's flight from Romania. Even though no one seriously doubted the validity of the Ausnit restitution claim, AVAS made it as difficult as possible for the family to reclaim what was rightfully theirs. Steve's tenacity and dogged perseverance in pursuing his claim through the Romanian law courts have yielded dividends: 19 files proving Max Ausnit's ownership of TNC shares and other companies had been concealed by the government, but a family

friend eventually discovered these important documents in the Romanian National Archives. AVAS then approved the Ausnit claim, but ANRP deliberately played for time, prevaricating for so long that the Property Fund eventually ran out of shares which had been set aside for valid compensation claims. It took another two years of intense lobbying and pressure to persuade the Romanian government to pass a new law to compensate the dispossessed. Only a very small proportion of what is owed to the Ausnit family has been paid by the Romanian state and it remains to be seen whether full restitution will ever be made.

Steve's keen appreciation of history, interest in education and philanthropic instincts have long been part of his character: to honour and commemorate his father's legacy and to enable others to benefit from the educational advantages he enjoyed, Steve has used his compensation from the Romanian Government to endow bursaries and scholarships at both his *almae matres*, Harvard and Stowe.

Dr Anthony Wallersteiner



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ROAD TRIP OF A LIFETIME

MIKE ANDREWS (CHATHAM 57) HEADS NORTH



Ushuaia Beagle Channel.

In August 2015, a battered 1960 Series II Land Rover crunched onto the shingle beach of Endicott Island in the Beaufort Sea, Alaska. It was the first vehicle ever to drive there from Ushuaia in Tierra del Fuego at the southernmost tip of South America. It was also the fitting end to a journey of 43,500 miles that had taken 54 years.

Three companions climbed out of the Cambridge blue vehicle into pouring rain and a bitter freezing wind looking almost as ravaged by time as the Land Rover was. To Eddie Angel, the Rover's current Alaskan owner, I presented a penguin, depicted on an Argentine automobile club badge, I had been given in Tierra del Fuego half a century before. We celebrated with a flat bottle of cider – for this was the middle of an oilfield and booze was banned.

This 'road trip of a lifetime' began in 1960, when Jeremy Clarkson was still in nappies and if you wanted to get to South America you went by sea. Two recently graduated vets, Martin Hugh-Jones and Andy Bacon, were wondering what to do before settling down to a life of clipping dogs' claws. They schemed up a trip to study farm animal disease throughout the Americas, recognising it as a splendid ruse to sponge off the biggest and best

farms in 17 countries of the Americas. Somewhat recklessly, they also decided it was a good reason to drive from Tierra del Fuego to Alaska. Ben Mackworth-Praed and I, two engineer graduates, were brought aboard to keep the vehicle going, but financial support proved difficult until, to our astonishment, we were sent a personal cheque by the Duke of Edinburgh. I fancied myself as a photographer, blagged a box of film stock from a young David Attenborough, and was given the worst piece of advice of my life. "Don't film the expedition" said David. Fortunately, I did and recorded how we almost destroyed the Land Rover and ourselves on the way. On my return at the age of 23, I sold two films to TV and they opened a door to the BBC and a career.

Half a century ago, only about 2% of the Pan-American Highway was paved. The expedition survived axle-deep mud roads in Argentina, being sandblasted by

100 mph winds and having tea and cakes with the Welsh in Patagonia, crossing the Darwin Cordillera on horseback in Tierra del Fuego, and breaking through the crust on the salt-flats between Chile and Bolivia at 12,000 ft. We had to drive six miles along a railway line perched on an embankment five feet high without knowing whether a train was coming. In Bolivia, we ground through snow to an altitude of 17,000 feet on what was then the highest road in the world. In Peru, the trailer broke free five times, and Ben got stuck in the sand of a pre-Inca desert graveyard, with skulls glaring at him all night. In Ecuador, a giant Galapagos tortoise made an inconvenient camp table. For a bit of light relief in Colombia, when we had crossed the Andes 15 times, we put the untrusty Land Rover on a stern-wheeled steam paddleboat to descend the Magdalena River to the Caribbean – and smugly felt like Mark Twain. And then we had to pass the notorious Darien Gap in the jungles of Panama – where there was, and still is, no road – so Ben and Martin courageously struggled through on foot and by canoe, while I took the vehicle by ship from Barranquilla to Colon. In Costa Rica, we had to ford 43 rivers, up to 200 yards across, and had to be pulled out of the

last one by teams of oxen. The Land Rover had broken down so many times – needing five gearbox overhauls, and dozens of other major repairs – that we finally reached the Al-Can highway to Alaska in December, five months behind schedule. In temperatures that dropped to minus 30°C, we drove on snow and ice 1500 miles to Fairbanks; on the way rescuing a woman with children, who had spun off the road, by winching her car up a 45 degree snow slope. We had declared our goal as the Arctic Circle at Fort Yukon but the only tracks north of Fairbanks were snowed in. We headed south for the airfield at Anchorage where we sold our car. It was time to fly home for Christmas.

For half a century we had thought that that was the end of the story, but in 2010, for the fiftieth anniversary, I wrote an illustrated article for the magazine *Land Rover Owner International* – one of the many off road magazines devoted to Land Rover enthusiasts. In Anchorage, Ted Pederson was sitting down to a cup of coffee with the magazine when he realised to his amazement that he had in his backyard the original vehicle. It still sported our expedition logo and British number plate. Ted got the engine running again and made contact with us, but it was another four years before Martin, Ben and I, the surviving members of the original four, were contacted again. Ted had sold the vehicle to his friend Eddie Angel who owned an off road speciality garage and who was busy getting what he called the Blue Beast into running order. Eddie and his photojournalist pal Mike Rudd had come up with the idea of completing the original journey and inviting the oldies to come too.

In the meantime, the Dalton Highway had been opened in 1975, to aid the construction of the Trans-Alaskan pipeline to bring petroleum from the Arctic North Slope oilfields to Valdez on the Pacific. This is the 500 mile route made notorious by the TV series *Ice Road Truckers* and *The Most Dangerous Roads in the World*. But in August, in comparison to our previous trip, I thought it was rather tame. The steep gradients are still a challenge and there is still the 'Oh Shit Corner' and 'Oil Spill Hill'. The scenery was fantastically grand, but the drive itself needed no more than skill and care. In a convoy of eight Land Rovers, five of them from the 1960s bearing 'Historic Vehicle' number plates, Eddie Angel and his friends escorted Martin, Ben and me up the road, camping en route. The Dalton Highway ends at the petroleum contractors' Deadhorse Camp, and here we had a major setback.

BP flatly refused permission for us to drive the last dozen or so miles to Prudhoe Bay and the Ocean. They claimed it was for security reasons, but we were told in Deadhorse that it was because, 15 years ago, the National Geographic had done a feature showing the pollution caused by them. Luckily, a smaller oil company, Hilcorp Energy Corporation, thought BP were unsporting and came to our aid. Thus the 'Blue Beast' drove up the causeway to the Beaufort Sea at Endicott Island. Its polar bears were away at the time.

In the intervening half century, Andy Bacon had run the dairy herd for the King of Saudi Arabia, but had sadly recently died. Martin Hugh-Jones had discovered how Foot and Mouth Disease was transmitted by aerosol and then became the expert on the anthrax spore letters and is still tailed by the FBI. Ben Mackworth-Praed gave up playing polo to build factories in Spain and run engineering projects in the UK and Middle East. I built on my close encounters with the Andes to make the celebrated wildlife series *The Flight of the Condor*, about the wildlife of the Andes for the BBC Natural

History Unit. It won me an invitation from HM The Queen to lunch at Buckingham Palace, where I was able to explain to her, "Ma'am, it was all thanks to your husband sending a cheque to a bunch of scruffy graduates who wanted to go on a trip in 1960." It was his generosity and that of so many hundreds of people we met along the way, including our new Alaskan friends who had also looked after us royally, that had made it all possible.

Michael.andrews@cantab.net

Michael Andrews (Chatham 57)

A longer version of this article with many more photographs was published in *Landrover Owner International* on 24 February 2016.

Ben Mackworth-Praed and Mike Andrews are looking for a publisher to print an updated edition of their classic book of their expedition *Year with Three Summers*, Cassell 1964. Mike is also looking for a sponsor to complete a one hour film of the journey, for which all the footage exists.



- ▶ Oncoming truck.
- ▶ Equator monument.
- ▶ Mike driving.
- ▶ CTAE Beaufort Sea group.





GLASTOWEBURY

So, instead of a concert with visiting artists as in previous years, last year we were all invited to GLASTOWEBURY!

Hmmm, I thought, a festival with al fresco eating, music and drinking, eh? Now, being a child of the sixties and the ‘Summer of Love’, this conjured up all manner of visions. Pretty girls dressed in cheese cloth, guys with droopy moustaches and seriously questionable hair styles, free love and recreational pharmaceuticals abounding.

However, pulling myself out of this sybaritic reverie, I remembered that this was to be held at a school and in term time. So, rather than a fest of sex, drugs and rock ‘n’ roll it was bound to be more like texts, mugs and sausage rolls – albeit with copious amounts of Prosecco in evidence too.

Since the early Eighteenth Century, Stowe has always been a hotbed of creativity and cultural liberty and tonight would be just the latest example of what the “genius of the Place” can produce. “And did it?” I hear you ask. Yes, gentle reader – in spades!

First onto the stage, incongruously attired in black tie, came Guy Gibson and Henry Sylvester who were to be our hosts for the evening in an Armstrong and Miller sort of way. With great ceremony they announced the arrival on stage of an 11 piece band consisting of George Huxtable, Patrick Keating, William Pepera, Molly Suthers, Honor Brady, Edwina Longe, Anastasia Howard-Jenkins, Arthur Marriott, Angus McCrorie-Shand (Bruce 16) and Miles Nottage who blasted off with a spirited rendition of Bruno Mars’s *Treasure* with some seriously charismatic vocals from Miles Clark.

After the first number the stage cleared leaving the way for Henry Gauvain, Max Campbell-Preston, Dan Biss and Daniel Jolker who went straight into *The Man Who Can’t Be Moved* by Irish band The Script. Henry did his best Danny O’Donoghue and sang with clarity and confidence in a James Bluntish sort of way. I would say that he has got a great future ahead of him as, not only has he got an enviable voice and great musicality, he writes good songs and looks and performs like a teen idol already!

Max took over the vocal duties next and ripped into the Kings of Leon’s *Use Somebody* aided by Henry and Mali Aitchison, after which the latter two gave us a beautiful rendition of their self-penned composition *Moving On*.

Guy and Henry re-materialised and filled us in on what we had been listening to, before announcing a solo keyboard performance by Arabella Coldstream who gave a soulful and moving performance of one of her own compositions *Craving*. The anticipation, in that this was a new and unheard song, was palpable and we were all well rewarded with Arabella’s yearning and emotive delivery.

Mali then reappeared joined by Eloise Dobson who gave an astonishingly brilliant a capella rendition of *Some Nights* from the eponymous album by Fun. Now this is not an easy song to sing but Blimey! They nailed it. Not a hint of autotune anywhere! For this number, George slipped in behind the drum kit to showcase another of his inestimable talents.

Now please all stand (most of us were already) for the Head Girl, Shannon Devlin, accompanied by Molly and George in their roles of Rihanna, Kanye West and Paul McCartney for a rendition of *Four, Five Seconds* together with great harmonies and slick guitar work.



Right from the start of the concert a mosh pit was in evidence. This was hardly surprising, it’s virtually impossible to get the most out of a gig like this with one’s butt firmly planted. However, the artists were under strict instructions to control the behaviour of the moshies and unless they did so the Headmaster had threatened to give full throat to a couple of Leonard Cohen songs. The threat of a few verses of *Sister of Mercy* followed by *The Tower of Song* was more than enough to keep the artistes focused on their duty!

At the mere mention of the name Maclare, the majority of the audience, with the awesome agility of a murmuration of



- ➊ Shannon Devlin.
- ➋ George Huxtable.
- ➌ Stoics performing *The Man Who Can’t Be Moved*.
- ➍ Guy Gibson and Henry Sylvester.
- ➎ Honor Brady.

starlings rose amorphously from their seats and settled in the mosh pit as Nonhlanhla Maclare, accompanied by Miles, ripped the place apart with a spectacular rendition of Kanye West’s *Gold Digger* – terrific stuff – and if the moshies were in need of a rap over the knuckles then this was the rap for them!

The audience, by now maddened by soft drinks, hi-NRG and ok, maybe the odd glass of Prosecco, were calmed by Henry who treated us to one of his own compositions *Into My Daydream*, after

which he was joined by Mina Haas and Lucy Sutherland in perfect close harmony doing serious justice to Sam Smith in their rendition of *Lay Me Down*. This was followed by George, Shannon and Miles Nottage cruising through the elegiac *I Never Told You*. Mali, Ben ter Haar, Patrick and George then eased into *See you Again*, a version of which Carrie Underwood would have been seriously impressed. Then, in a sudden change of mood, style and tempo, Molly, Honor and Miles Nottage literally blew us away with a heat shimmering version of George Gershwin’s classic and

reliable crowd pleaser *Summertime* – and boy, oh boy was ‘the livin’ easy’!

Suddenly, the stage was crowded with the full ensemble as Miles Clark, like a latter day Geno Washington, whipped up his band and the audience into a gyrating, air punching amorphous beast with *Dollar* and *Hey Y’all*.

Our two hosts, Guy and Henry, slickly put the show to bed by offering us a brilliant night-cap of four of George Huxtable’s finest. WOW! That boy is one to watch. A great voice, luminous stage presence and he certainly knows his way around a six string and a drum kit; I don’t suppose that he stops just there either! For these last songs and a rousing finale, George was joined by Patrick, Oscar Marment, Angus and Honor. He writes good songs with several of them having the sort of staccato vocal delivery of Jack Johnson (*sans* surf board), atmospheric and eminently listenable and I was glad to discover, available on CD and download.

Well, those last numbers brought what had been a wonderfully accomplished, varied and exhilarating concert to an end all too quickly.

On my way out of the marquee I stopped to thank and congratulate the Headmaster on the fostering of so much talent, after which I bade him good night. As I walked away, was it my imagination or did I actually hear that familiar and slightly stentorian tone doing gentle justice to “...her hair upon the pillow like a sleepy golden storm...” as Leonard Cohen’s gorgeous simile from *Suzanne* seemingly followed me out into the night? Could it be...? No, come on, Nigel, get a grip!



Squash in the Uglund Auditorium with Stoics.

INSPIRATION FOR STOICS: SQUASH THE MOUNTAIN

Stoics wide awake first thing on a Wednesday morning is quite a rare occurrence but when mountaineer and adventurer Squash Falconer arrived on a motorbike to give a talk they were bright eyed and bushy tailed, eager to hear about her life.

On 12 May 2011 at 8.30am, after eleven and a half hours of climbing, Squash reached the summit of Everest. During an enthralling hour long talk in the Uglund Auditorium she led the Stoics through her adventure and why on earth she took on the challenge.

Through sharing her experiences, work and travels Squash explained to the Stoics how she developed the confidence to say 'yes' to opportunities and think 'why not' when others might think 'definitely not!'. She didn't break any world records and it sounded like a very tough journey but she proved that everyone can achieve what they want to do if they give it their all, no matter how tough it gets.

After leaving school, Squash found herself deep in the heart of the French Alps doing a ski season. It was meeting friends there that led her to discover her passion for climbing mountains. She started out with a mere 6,975m climb up Aconcagua in Argentina in 2004, with zero experience but the right team, good fitness and a massive dose of positive mental attitude.

That mountain led to more mountains and in 2008, she climbed Cho Oyu, which is just 600m lower than Everest. She even took a bum board with her and became

the World's highest ever bum boarder! Achieving that climb made her realise Everest wasn't out of the question...

With her highly optimistic challenge in mind, she prepared with yet another adventure. In September 2009, Squash rode a motorbike from England to the foot of the Mont Blanc, climbed it and flew a paraglider from the summit to become the First British woman to fly from the top (officially recognised and recorded by the Royal Aero Club of the United Kingdom).

When you've done something once, it's always easier the second time around. Squash embarked on the feat to conquer Mt Everest with hopes of flying her paraglider off the summit: she even carried it during the climb. Extremely challenging conditions meant that she was lucky even to reach the summit, with the climb on the way down proving very arduous and demanding: she was fortunate to make it down alive (tragically, a fellow climber lost his life that day). It was impossible for her to fly off but she was extremely proud to summit the highest mountain of the world.

She didn't stop there. Since then she has cycled from Land's End to John o' Groats in just nine days; climbed Mt Kilimanjaro twice; summited Gran Paradiso and Monte



Squash climbing Everest.
Everest Knickers!

Rosa and cycled 3,074 miles around Western Europe on an ElliptiGo bicycle.

She left the Stoics with inspiration that they can achieve great things in their lives, all they need to do is give it their all and amazing experiences will follow. Unsurprisingly, Squash struck a chord with the Stoics and fielded 30 minutes of questions after her talk perhaps indicating that she had inspired one or two Stoic adventures and to dream big.

Squash said, "My aim isn't to encourage people to do what I do unless of course they want to. Whatever your dream or goal is, whether ridiculously big or so small it seems insignificant, it really is worth going for it. The journey there might lead to something quite different and the end result may not be what you envisaged BUT there's really nothing quite like that feeling of energy, spirit and life that runs through every part in your body when you make it happen."

Anna Semler (Nugent 05)

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BRUCE BROTHERS WIN START UP OF THE YEAR WITH HEALTHY ICE CREAM

Brothers Charlie Thuillier (Bruce 07) and Harry Thuillier (Bruce 04) were recently awarded the Guardian's Start up of the Year for their healthy ice cream company Oppo. A year after its launch, Oppo is now stocked in Waitrose, Ocado, Wholefoods Market, Holland and Barrett, Budgens and Co-Op. Anna Semler (Nugent 05) found out about their journey so far...



What on earth is Oppo?

Charlie: Oppo is the world's healthiest dairy ice cream. It's for people who love ice cream and like to indulge but not at the expense of their health. It's made with fresh milk, cold-pressed virgin coconut oil, stevia leaf and super foods. Two scoops contains fewer calories and less sugar than an apple.

How did you dream up the idea?

Harry: In 2011 we went to North East Brazil to break an unofficial record for the longest distance travelled using wind power on land. During the 1,000km trip we found ourselves sometimes running 30 miles a day while dragging our 75kg buggies in 40 degree heat. We ran out of food and Charlie lost about 8kg (although I lost no weight at all), so started eating coconuts and wild fruits. These were delicious and good for you. This sparked an idea: why can't the most indulgent foods be healthy too?

How did you get started?

Charlie: On our return, I left my job to create what many (including several industry professionals) said was impossible – a guilt-free ice cream that uses natural ingredients but matches the flavour and indulgence of traditional ice cream. It took two years of trials, errors and broken freezers, but Waitrose finally agreed to give us a trial in 118 stores. Soon after, Ocado, Holland & Barrett, Budgens, Wholefoods Market and Co-Op listed Oppo.

Did you apply for start up funding?

Charlie: To develop the product I got four grants from Santander, York University and the British Government, in addition to family support. Then in January 2015 we listed Oppo on the equity crowdfunding platform Seedrs, and became the fastest ever food start-up to reach target through crowdfunding, reaching £100,000 minutes after the campaign launched! Crowdfunding is a great way of raising brand awareness and giving shoppers a chance to own shares in the company.

What experiences from Stowe have most helped you in setting up the company?

Harry: English with Mr Thompson – hopefully he won't spot any grammar errors here! Stowe champions the uniqueness of each individual more than anywhere else. It encouraged us to concentrate on what we were good at.

Charlie: Stowe fosters entrepreneurial spirit. Whether that's pitching for a gap year scholarship (which kickstarted our love of adventure), working as a team in the Coldstream Cup or offering public speaking opportunities.

What's it like working with your brother?

Harry: It can be tough to separate work and personal life but as brothers we trust each other, and know that the harder things get, the more we will look out for each other.

Charlie: We have totally different strengths, so we work well together and come at problems from different angles – as well as usually knowing exactly what the other is thinking!

When did you take the brave steps to make it your full time job?

Charlie: I left my sales role at Diageo in 2012 – it never felt like a brave step as I always knew I wanted to start a business

and, it felt like a greater risk to stay in a job I didn't enjoy.

Harry: In 2014 I was working as Head of Marketing in a joint venture with Google and decided I didn't want to risk working with (and potentially falling out with) my brother. But during that summer I had an accident kite surfing. With concussion, I couldn't look at a screen for a week – that was Charlie's chance to convince me to quit my job and join him on Oppo!

Do you have any advice for other OSs with a great start up idea?

Harry: Make sure there's a market for it by creating an early version of the product and then find out if your intended customers want to buy it. Don't worry about sharing your idea – most of the value of a business is in the execution.

Charlie: Go for it but be prepared for the world to say it's a bad idea at first. You have to have a lot of comfort with your own conviction.

Is there anything you would have done differently over the last 12 months?

Harry: In our recent rebrand we wasted some money working with a respected agency to create new packaging designs that ultimately weren't very good. We ended up doing them ourselves with the help of a

freelancer – with hindsight I would have done that from the start.

Charlie: We hired a very experienced sales person who ended up not being a good cultural fit for Oppo and didn't stay long. Now I now know to hire for attitude and personality as well as skillset.

What are your hopes and dreams for Oppo?

Charlie: We believe indulgent food can and should be good for you and, that we shouldn't have to choose between health and taste. We want to make Oppo synonymous with healthy indulgence.

What is the secret of your success?

Harry: Our focus on the 'why' rather than the 'what'. Our purpose runs through everything we do, and this makes Oppo more than ice cream.

How does running your own company compare to being employed in a large company?

Charlie: You think about it 24/7 – you can't ever switch off in the same way you can as an employee.

Harry: No-one will ever care about it as much as you do. While the company is small, you will often find yourself having to do things you have no experience in and having to learn fast.



What invaluable lessons have you learnt that could help other OSs?

Charlie: Always listen to your 'gut feel' when making decisions.

How does it feel to have won The Guardian's Start Up of the Year in the first year of your company?

Harry: It was a fantastic feeling of validation for everyone who has helped launch Oppo. But a start-up award is just that – recognition that your new company has potential. It spurred us on even more to achieve that potential!

Look out for Oppo in a supermarket near you. I expect we'll be hearing much more from the Thuillier boys in years to come.

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A RETURN TO THE MUSIC ROOM - WITH A NEWSROOM BOOTCAMP!

The Music Room – it was a place that held many memories for me. Fidgeting as I sat through some concert I thought I might have enjoyed as a Fourth Former back in the early eighties. Gazing out across the South Front as I sat my very final exam paper back in 1984. Giving a nervy speech at my 21st birthday party three years later.

Today was very different. My mission: to deliver a workshop that shared the skills I've acquired as a TV journalist with a group of open minded Fourth Formers. I had gone part time from the BBC two years earlier to set up a small company that distilled those skills into my 'Newsroom Bootcamp' – coping with a sudden change, writing something quickly and accurately, meeting a deadline. They're all skills, it had occurred to me, that would come in handy for pupils preparing for exams, and so it has proven! I now have more than fifty schools on my books, private and state, and was delighted to include Stowe on that list.

The Stoics I met didn't disappoint. Some brave volunteers took the Autocue Challenge and stepped out of their comfort zones by reading, unrehearsed, headlines off my portable teleprompter. News stories were discussed as the clock counted down, 'phones rang with problems that had to be dealt with immediately, timers sounded loud and clear when the deadline for writing news headlines was up.

The acoustics might have been better – though to be fair, I'm not sure the Walpole or Chandos families ever anticipated a news programme being thrown together in the room they designed back in the 18th Century. It was a loud morning, and an ebullient one. A great memory for me to add to my Music Room list. And, I hope, something to remember for an engaging group of pupils, too.

John Young (Lyttelton 84) can be contacted via his website, johnyoungmedia.co.uk or on 01273 606246. His workshops are aimed at Secondary School age pupils and Sixth Formers, though they are also increasingly appreciated for employability skills training in the workplace.

NEWSROOM BOOTCAMP

THROUGH THE EYES OF A STOIC

On Monday 22 June, the Fourth Form attended a media and news workshop with John Young (Lyttelton 84). We assembled in the Music Room and John explained the plan, everyone was very excited to see how the day would unfold and, from my point of view, it was a very beneficial and well organised day. John's target was to teach us what it is really like to be a BBC news reporter but, if we were not interested in journalism, he wanted to teach us basic skills required when being interviewed that we would find helpful in later life when looking for a job.

We were split into small groups and John started his Bootcamp. He went through what it is like being a part of a newsroom. He taught us all about headlines, which are a key aspect of reporting. At only eight seconds long, we learnt that in journalism, less is more. This part of the day was like gold dust to anyone who was interested in journalism. We did lots of audience participation exercises and this brought people out of their comfort zones. John taught us that this was excellent practice for job interviews, which we will all have to face. We were then asked to role-play working in a newsroom, picking out the most important headlines. It was a really fun activity.

I came away thinking the whole day was very beneficial, everyone enjoyed it and learnt some new skills.

Clara Haggy (Nugent, Fifth Form)



OLD STOIC ENTREPRENEUR EMILY FORBES (NUGENT 05)

Seenit – Turning crowds into film crews

Sometimes, a great idea can pull you in a completely new direction. That's certainly true for Emily Forbes (Nugent 05), whose video collaboration app *Seenit* is causing huge waves in the tech industry and winning lots of awards!

Emily was filming a large-scale protest in South Africa in 2012 when her big idea hit, "I realised everyone in the crowd was already filming on their 'phones and GoPros, their footage was so much more authentic, personal and opinionated than mine could ever be. I put my camera away and ran around asking everyone to send me their footage. I started to be introduced to a wider network and within days and no budget, camera equipment or original network, I was pulling video from a whole country."

She saw the potential to create a central online hub to enable businesses to collect crowd-sourced film to be produced into video content. Emily got so excited by the idea that she quit her job and came back to London to make it happen.

"Having worked in film, I understood how expensive it can be. Everyone is filming on their 'phones and the quality of the cameras is getting better and better. These days, a smartphone turns everyone into a videographer and a journalist."

Emily was accepted on the Collider Accelerator where she received funding and mentors from companies such as Unilever and Haymarket, to help her build her idea into a product that clients wanted. Over the course of a three month period, she had built a prototype and the mentoring and business contacts she met through Collider have been instrumental in her success.

Emily's fantastic concept won her backing from the BBC Worldwide Labs programme, which gave her company a real 'leg up' by supplying desk space, mentoring and coaching. The BBC signed her as their first subscription client which was a big stamp of approval enabling her to win business from other top brands. Since then, *Seenit* has worked with the O2, Puma, The Body Shop, Unilever and Bacardi.

Since founding the company in January 2014, Emily has single-handedly raised the start up funding she needed to make her company grow. So, how has Stowe helped? "Stowe always



supported the arts and taught me to focus on my strengths to accelerate forward. This has been a real advantage when building a team. I've been able to recruit specialist staff with the skills I need to make *Seenit* a success."

The *Seenit* team is currently nine strong and set to grow even bigger over the next 12 months. Emily hopes to roll the app out to small enterprises and take the first step forward to expand into the US in 2016. A lot of lessons have been learnt along the way but Emily wouldn't have done anything differently. She said, "I think it's important to be yourself. I make plenty of mistakes and I'm trying to learn from them."

What's her proudest moment so far? Emily said one of the proudest moments was working with this year's Pride in London. The volunteers and crowd were capturing the day on their 'phones with editors turning round videos whilst the event was happening. These videos were pushed to the screens in Trafalgar Square but also to the London Underground. "It was a huge moment for the whole team to see our videos on the tube screens on the way home!"

It's been hard work, but Emily is seeing excellent results. Over the last year, *Seenit* has won *start up of the Year* at The Bima Awards, *The Next Big Thing* at AdTech London and been profiled by the Evening Standard as London's hottest *Start up*. In October, Emily was listed in The Drum's 50 under 30 in digital, with the judges describing the start up's platform as "something extraordinary". She is excited for what is to come in 2016.

Seenit is certainly one to watch, so look out for Emily and her hugely successful concept: this Old Stoic has the creativity and business sense to make big things happen.

Anna Semler (Nugent 05)

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CHAPEL – A PLACE TO BE

Chapel simply 'is'. The building is immense and it is the place (in recent years) where the whole School can gather together, both for weekly Headmaster's Assembly and for Midweek and Sunday Chapel Services.

Whatever the wishes or emotions or even devotions that accompany the Stoic's entrance and finding of a seat, he or she joins the company of those present and past and lays foundations for those yet to come. As both Assembly-Hall and House of Prayer, the sanctity of its primary vision can be diluted, so it is good to be able to refresh and remind, from time to time.

So – come inside!

Courtesy of both need and creativity, the Altar Frontals are now vibrant, colourful, seasonal and inspirational, referencing both the dove of the Holy Spirit in the tiny high-up stained-glass window and, also, the Cross as a dynamic encounter, with the grain and grape of the great thanksgiving for the love of Christ in the Last Supper. Juliet Hemingray (Church Textiles) weaved her artistry and prayerful endeavour to much acclaim. The replacement of the by then faded and torn stall drapes with stone-coloured backdrops have only enhanced the look and feel of this open space.

And the little Prayer Room? Specifically chosen pictures, artworks and books add to the provision of this small sanctuary, a small corner of peace.

The 'Risen Christ' maquette is now clearly sited over the Memorial Board to the right as we enter: the late David Wynne (Grenville 44) was as deeply moved as most of us present when he came to see it blessed, in the latter months of his life. What a generous soul, to have gifted so much of his work to Stowe. His plaster model for the 'Ely Mary' stands safely and compellingly in the Vestry too.

What of Worship? A Chaplain and an Assistant Chaplain (Priest in Charge, Stowe Church), Preachers of various wisdoms and experiences, both from within and from without the School, including Houses' offerings; Commemorations and Confirmations; and Organ and Brass...As well as the still small voice of intimacy in the weekly Communion (Eucharist), where the magnificence of the setting draws in closer to hold the sacred moment around the Table.

And to worship...to sing! With Cantata Stoica! With the newly enhanced and re-published, red covered, contents developed and all inclusive Cantata Stoica 2015 Edition! Last revised in 1998 and stock having run out, herewith an opportunity to refresh and exclude and include hymns, chants, songs of affirmation, familiarity and also established (but new to Stowe) and dedicated to 'All Stoics – past, present and future'. The Director of Music, now moved on, and the present Chaplain sought to encourage both integrity and openness, faith and journeying. And, yes, it is gloriously red!

So – prayer, presence and passing moments – a building, its contents and its people; above all, a familiar and slightly austere old place, but do enter again and Come, Hear, Ask, Pray, Encounter, Love.

The Revd Christopher Huxtable, Chaplain



TREASURES OF A SPIRITUAL AGE

Richard Temple (Temple 55), the son of an Old Stoic, also Richard (Temple 31), bought his first Icon while still a schoolboy at Stowe.



In a dark old shop off St Martins Lane during a visit to London in 1954, his eye fell upon a small dusty panel with a faded image. It was eventually identified as a 17th Century Russian Icon of St Gregory the Theologian, the 4th Century Byzantine Patriarch of Constantinople.

The picture so appealed to him that he spent all the money he had, £11.00 (equivalent to £260 today) to take it away with him.

Little did he recognise at the time – but it was an encounter that profoundly influenced his view of art, of history and of himself. It would shape the rest of his life.

After Stowe, and a short stint at Mons, the young Temple served for three years as an Officer in ‘The Blues’. The Regiment provided garrison duties in Cyprus during the Grivas/Makarinos era, and he found himself in one of the few places that had escaped the ‘Byzantine Iconoclasm’ – the wholesale destruction of religious icons and images carried out in the 8th and 9th Centuries. Cypriot churches still displayed many fine icons and provided an opportunity to rekindle his growing interest.

Returning to London, he resolved to open a cultural institution devoted to the study and restoration of Icons and Sacred art, also to encourage collectors and museums to save these ancient works for posterity. Sadly, Icons were not regarded as Art by the cognoscenti, mainly because they are not signed by the painter who re-creates from traditional forms in accordance with strict stylistic conventions and parameters. Often deteriorated due to their age and constant exposure in crowded churches, they were regularly re-painted by a different hand over the generations.

Early Icons were painted in encaustic, a mixture of heated bees’ wax with pigments; later in egg tempura, egg yolk mixed with powdered colours and water. They are very fragile and considerable expertise is required to clean, restore and maintain them.

Temple founded his gallery in 1959 in modest premises on Sloane Street. One of the earliest sales was of the St Gregory Icon to a Greek shipping magnate for £300: a handsome sum at that time, for a struggling new enterprise.

Gradually the gallery prospered and Temple developed his expertise in his field. He travelled frequently to Russia, sometimes with a party of students and art collectors. Good Icons were hard to come by and, as his reputation grew, more and more works were presented to him for evaluation or acquisition.

On one occasion, Temple recognised and purchased an Icon from a visiting Russian expressly to return it through the Russian Embassy to a Museum 300 miles north of Moscow from where it had been stolen.

During the Stalinist era, Icons were sporadically smuggled out of Russia as the regime promoted the closure of religious establishments. Eventually a state owned company called Novo Export, based in a former Moscow Church, offered an official source of Icons. Interested parties were invited to take their pick

from stacks of Icons of varying quality in return for a lump sum payment. Temple’s knowledge and expertise resulted in many valuable works being rescued – pictures exist of tall piles of Icons being torched or otherwise discarded.

Temple was, by now, busy supplying fine Icons to Museums, Galleries and private collections all over the world. To his surprise he noticed that his original St Gregory Icon was on offer at Sotheby’s. He managed to secure it for the gallery at a cost of £4,000.

In 2003, Temple made one of the most important sale room discoveries of modern times – a 6th Century Egyptian Icon offered at £3,000, now thought to be worth millions.

A picture was to be sold in the small Jacques Desamais auction house in quiet Avignon, France on 29 July 2003. It was described as “Egyptian, Coptic Art, sixth century”, the estimate was 4,500 to 6,000 Euros. From the small black and white photograph Temple recognised it as a portrait of the Virgin and Child. Unable to attend himself, Temple asked Laurence Morrocco, one of his regular restorers, to bid on his behalf.

Only one other London dealer showed any interest. The bidding quickly went up to fifteen times the estimate till he dropped out at 85,000 Euros. Temple now owned the Icon. Excited by his purchase, he proceeded to arrange for the export in strict compliance with French law.

His first step was to offer the picture to The Louvre, because he knew that the head of the relevant department, Marie-Helene Rutschowskaya, had the power to veto an overseas sale. To his astonishment he discovered that a member of her department had been present at the auction but had inexplicably failed to bid for the Icon. They had also compounded their mistake by not exercising The Louvre’s ‘droit de preemption’ the right under French Law to buy any object from a successful bidder for the sum he or she had just paid for it.

After a long and frustrating wait, and despite the enthusiastic encouragement of Mme Rutschowskaya, The Louvre finally declined to purchase it at the now enormously higher price.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM WAS DELIGHTED BUT THE FRENCH AUTHORITIES HAD FINALLY REALISED THEIR MONUMENTAL ERROR AND ATTEMPTED TO REDRESS THE SITUATION IN A MOST INELEGANT MANNER.

Finally in February 2005, Temple asked France’s oldest-established art shippers, Andre Chenu, to handle all the necessary paperwork and transport the Icon to England. He was advised that as the item was painted on canvas or cloth and had been purchased for less than 150,000 Euros, no export licence was needed. He asked them to double check and got the same reply.

The Icon, now safely in London, was ready for cleaning. Temple handed it to his most trusted restorer, the same Laurence Morrocco. To his great relief “it cleaned like a dream.”

Reassured by this, he again offered it to The Louvre only to be refused once more. In the meantime, the British Museum declared an interest. They offered him £1 million and set about raising the money. Temple agreed to reserve the Icon to give them some time. Two other potential buyers had also emerged. The Cleveland Museum in the USA and a gentleman who Temple will only identify as “One of the greatest private collectors in the world.”

The latter began to exert intense pressure on Temple to sell to him. When told the British Museum had first refusal and was trying to raise the funds, he promptly proposed a compromise. He would buy the Icon and give it to the Museum on an extended loan. After mutual discussions the collector duly paid £1 million.

The British Museum was delighted but the French authorities had finally realised their monumental error and attempted to redress the situation in a most inelegant manner. They informed Temple that the Icon was not a painting but an ‘archaeological object’ which required an export licence. It should be returned to France while he applied for one.

Astounded by this subterfuge, Temple wrote back that “According to the notice explicative the French Museums Department gives to exporters, an archaeological object is something discovered under the ground or under the sea, or which comes from an archaeological site or collection.” The painting did not match any of these criteria.

Today, over fifty years from its inception, the Temple Gallery is regarded as one of the leading institutions in the world for the study, restoration, exhibition and source of Icons and Religious art. Temple himself is regarded as the foremost dealer in his field.

He is a member of the Advisory Panel of the Art Collections Fund and has been active in the acquisition of Icons for several major museums among them The British Museum, the Musée du Louvre in Paris, The Timken Art Gallery in San Diego California and the Museum of the Church of the Holy Redeemer in Moscow.

He also played a major role in many highly important private collections such as that of Mr Eric Bradley now passed into the Museum of the Menil Foundation in Houston, Texas, The collection of the late Mrs John D Rockefeller III, and the collection of the Bank Intesa, now housed in Vicenza, Italy.

Over the years he has published many catalogues and scholarly articles. His book, *Icons and the Mystical Origins of Christianity*, was published by Element Books in 1990 and reprinted in 1992. A new revised edition was republished by Luzac in 2001. Another book, *Icons Divine Beauty*, was published by Saqi books in 2004.

Today, Sir Richard Temple Bt. PhD (he inherited the Baronetcy on the death of his father and was awarded a Doctorate from the University of Wales for his thesis on *Pieter Bruegel and the Esoteric Tradition*) is still a tireless enthusiast of his genre, in constant contact with academics, museums, students, Orthodox dignitaries and collectors, including a handful of Russian oligarchs. Still advocating the recognition of his beloved Icons as an art form to the art-historical establishment.

The Prince of Wales, also an Icon enthusiast, keeps an Icon of the Virgin Mary in his Chapel at Highgrove. Recently, on one of his regular visits to the Byzantine Monasteries in Greece he encountered Temple at Mount Athos. On his return, Prince Charles wrote a five page letter to Neil MacGregor, Director of the British Museum, lending support to Temple’s pet project: to persuade the Museum to give a special space to its 100 plus Icon collection now mainly languishing in the basement. The matter is still under review.

What of the very first Icon of St Gregory?

Boris Yeltzin gave the Patriarch of Moscow \$12 million to repurchase Russian Treasures sold during the Stalinist era. Forty years after he first encountered it, Temple was unwillingly persuaded to part with it with a heavy heart for £24,000.

It can now be found on display in the Museum of Church of the Holy Redeemer in Moscow where it is regarded as a priceless piece of ecclesiastical heritage by the Russian Orthodox Church.

Peter Temple (Temple 59)



Virgin and Child.



The Miracle of Saint George and the Dragon.

NEWS

Many thanks to all those Old Stoics who submitted news items for this edition. Please accept the editor’s apologies that some entries have had to be abridged and that some photographs have been omitted due to their print quality.

Please keep sending in your entries for the next issue of *The Corinthian* to oldstoic@stowe.co.uk or post them to **Old Stoic Office, Stowe School, Buckingham MK18 5EH.**

1940s

Edward Guinness (Cobham 42)

Edward writes, “My autobiography *A Brewers Tale* which you kindly mentioned in the last issue of *The Corinthian* is now sold out!”

John Kessler (Bruce 44)

John writes, “My family continues to grow. I now have three great grandchildren and a fourth is on its way. On December 26 my granddaughter Naomi Sasso (youngest daughter of my youngest daughter) was married to a Costa Rican, Jorge Sasso, and I officiated at the ceremony. In 2015, I attended to four new publications, two of which were partly written by myself. I am now working on a defence of the Christian faith which will be the last of this series so I have much for which to be deeply grateful to God.”

Jock Asbury-Bailey (Walpole 47)

Jock has finally finished his brief family history, *My Family and Other Anecdotes*, about his parents’ families and his own life. It has been privately published and is only available from Jock. If you would like to purchase a copy, please email jockab@sky.com

David Mumford (Grenville 47)



David writes, “I wondered if readers might be interested in my hobby as a retired priest who hung up his robes at the age of 85! In 1998, I had a TIA, followed by another soon after. I was frustrated by the physio exercises I was given and suddenly found myself making model ships (I made several in the Art Room at Stowe all those years ago). I have now made 224 models of which many have been commissions. Battling with health problems, I find this hobby very relaxing! Our eldest son (61) is a priest in the USA, and is very involved

in the military over ‘PTSD’, even suffers from the Vietnam war. He has taken his programme to the Pentagon and many of the States in America through the Episcopal Church.”

Richard Plincke (Temple 47)

Richard writes, “We still live in the sociable and attractive village we first came to in 1971, with its clubs, writers’ group, bell ringers, book club and music. Now fully retired, we are both nonetheless busy, Rosemary with St John Ambulance, Chairmanship of a Winchester Fellowship, and the PCC. For my part, painting is my main occupation, helped by membership of the RI, I continue running courses in experimental modern painting each spring and autumn in Winchester, and am working on a commission for a 90 x 120cms abstract in Switzerland. I have always been grateful to Dodie and Robin Watt, of the 1940s Stowe Art School. Their guidance at a critical moment in my last term at Stowe led to an architectural career, a decision I have never regretted.”

Michael Reynolds (Walpole 47)

Michael writes to say, “In spite of retirement I am still involved with my company: Wyastone Estate Ltd.”

Brian Temperley (Temple 47)

Brian writes to say that he is learning to play the flute!

Alan Caiger-Smith (Temple 48)



Alan’s final exhibition took place by invitation of Italian ceramists in the Palazzo del Comune in Gubbio, Umbria in 2008, featuring lustre ceramics from his last firing at Aldermaston and, at his suggestion, representing work by nine contemporary Italian makers. He donated to the town of Gubbio a large dish based on the story of Shadrach, Meshak and Abednego in

the Burning Fiery Furnace: a symbol of the firings in the wood-fuelled kiln. Last year he was popularly chosen for the Lifetime Achievement Award presented at the International Ceramics Festival at Aberystwyth. He has bequeathed his Study Collection of 327 pieces to the Great Dixter Charitable Trust in East Sussex in memory of Christopher Lloyd. This event was celebrated in the January/February issue of *Ceramic Review*: “There was a marked similarity in spirit between how we worked collaboratively in the Pottery at Aldermaston and how Christo collaborated with his gardeners at Great Dixter. Neither of us asked people to do anything that we wouldn’t do ourselves.” A changing selection of pieces from the Collection is on view and the main body of work can be seen on request.

1950s

Michael Deeley (Bruce 50)

The British Film Institute has begun the production of a series of archives about British film makers. First of this series, *A Life In Films* features Oscar winning producer Michael Deeley (Bruce 50). Michael’s films include *Blade Runner*, *Deer Hunter*, *The Man Who Fell to Earth*, *The Italian Job* with Michael Caine and many others.

David Finch (Cobham 50)

David writes, “This year is the fifth anniversary of the Music Festival my wife Fiona and I started in 2012, which takes place in ‘La France Profonde’, Marsac, a small but very beautiful village in Tarn et Garonne, south-west France. The week long festival is devoted to chamber music. Young performers come from all over the world to take part. Our main attraction is our Music Director, Alasdair Beatson, a pianist specialising in chamber music and extremely well known in that milieu. Another attraction is the two fine Steinways, a concert grand in the ‘Grenier’ where most concerts are held, and a semi-concert grand in our house where rehearsals are also conducted. As it is our fifth anniversary, we have commissioned

a piece for piano, strings and clarinet from the Swiss composer, Helena Winkleman, who will take part in the first performance. Our audience in the ‘Grenier’ is limited by the space to about seventy and concerts are usually sold out several weeks in advance. Our website contains lots of pictures and details of past festivals and closer to the time, there will be details of this year’s programme.” www.musique-a-marsac.com

Oliver Warman (Chandos 50)

After 21 years of taking the rich and the well educated on tours of the conflicts of Europe – in between Tunisia, Berlin, The Ardennes, Salzburg, Italy and of course Normandy (and I have written three books on the area) I am amazed how the interest grows – particularly in the Holocaust. Many a Stoic has tramped the mud. If anybody can get a copy of *The Sunflower* by Simon Wiesenthal he or she will be in for a fascinating but quiet read. Simon collected thirteen learned men to write an essay and they get better as the book unfolds. On the subject of books, do try to get what will be the thinnest book on the shelf, *The Snow Goose* by Paul Gallico, perhaps the most moving book on Dunkirk written, sales are 1.4 million. It is not good but almost magic. *The White Cliffs* by Katherine Duer Miller will entrance you but in a different way. Her husband, a Grenadier, was killed near Ypres 1915 after three years of marriage and her two sons, Old Stoics and also Grenadiers, were lost to enemy fire on the long trek from Lille to Dunkirk in 1940. No, I am not a book seller but an ordinary historian and painter of people, mostly women, a good third class degree man my Tutor said, and now I help teach the failed PhD students on the 1939 war onwards! Too many Old Stoics were lost in WW2: we tend to forget that and these books are gentle reminders. My father, also a Guardsman, sent me to Stowe because he liked JF so much and when he came out of the delightful interview, in spite of discussing so much sadness, he recounted to me, a 10 year old, how he and JF had cried their eyes out discussing the war. That interview opened my eyes and, yes, those days were really very hard and we tend to forget it.

George Kent (Cobham 52)



George has stopped going to India to support destitute children but is still going to Dominica in the West Indies where his daughter, Tina, is the Hon British Consul and has two cottages in the rainforest. Recently, the island was wrecked by tropical

storm Erika. The BBC mentioned it once and that was it. George and his amazing wife Angela, mounted their own appeal and with church friends sent over 4 tons of gifts. The island cannot recover without visitors. Have a look at: www.lifelinedominica.org The Caribbean is rather hot in the summer but not in the rainforest.

James Humes (Chandos 53)

James writes, “My wife and I attended our grandson James’ confirmation last year at Eton Chapel. There we met Prime Minister, David Cameron whose godson was in James’ class of confirmants. I later presented him with my recent book, *Churchill: The Prophetic Statesman*. I have been invited to present my newest book in 2016, *Presidents And Their Pens: Presidential Speechwriters from Washington to Obama*, at a convocation of descendants of US Presidents in Marshfield, Missouri, where I will be introduced by Mary Eisenhower, granddaughter of the late President Eisenhower.”

Peter McMullan (Temple 53)

British Columbian fishing author Peter wrote about his still vivid memories of fishing at Stowe in the 2014 *Corinthian*. Now that story is to be included in his new book, *Castng Back: Sixty Years of Fishing and Writing* to be published by Rocky Mountain Books, Victoria, B.C., in November 2016. The two Peters, McMullan and Houghton Brown (Temple 54) forged a lifetime friendship in their quest for pike, perch, rudd and tench on the Octagon and Eleven Acre lakes in the early 1950s and are still exchanging fishing notes more than half a century later.

Richard Nicholson (Cobham 53)

Richard writes, “In 1972 at, we think, my 18th attempt, I passed the final exam for the Fellowship of Surgery of the Glasgow College of Surgeons. The reason for this only became apparent when both my sons were found to be dyslexic. I was appointed as a Consultant Orthopaedic and Trauma surgeon in 1974. Having been the town’s Medical Director, I retired from the Health Service on 14 May 1995. Since then, I have remained very busy. I am a member of two U3A walking groups and an antique group. I pick up out shooting (though I have not shot for 10 years). I hunted until two years ago, still ride and enjoy riding holidays abroad. In May 2015, I went on a coastal sailing holiday in Turkey with my youngest son. I enjoy cooking, wine, eating out, the theatre and music and sing for a local choral

society. I volunteer at two country houses. I make things out of silver and have had a London Mark since 1966. I was 80 in May 2015!”

Adam Blandy (Temple 54)

Adam held a Pig Roast at Palheiro to celebrate his 80th on 14 December 2015. His 12 grandchildren did a performance as part of the entertainment. Pity that neither the Ferriers nor Corbetts could make it. Hopes to meet up with more Old Stoics in Madeira – especially golfers.

David Stevens (Walpole 54)

David became Deputy Chairman of Express Newspapers at the age of 79, having retired in 1999 as Chairman after 18 years building the Company from £21 million to £3.6 billion in size.

Howard Judd (Walpole 55)

Howard writes, “We, Howard ‘Skip’ Judd and Ingrid Judd have moved to Kalama Heights in Kihei, Hawaii on the island of Maui. We welcome Old Stoics who wander our way.” Tel: **650 328 0692** Email: Injudds@aol.com

James Diack (Temple 56)

After an exciting career playing the French Horn with many orchestras and groups, teaching at the Royal Academy of Music for 30 years and publishing music, James is now concentrating on his ‘other’ artistic side – graphics, painting, making furniture and ‘fantasy’ constructions. For over 25 years he has also been producing a very successful series of greetings cards for musicians which have sold in many thousands in Concert Halls and Music shops in the UK and Europe. He would be very interested in finding other outlets in other English speaking parts of the world and would be delighted if any Old Stoics could suggest any musical centres that incorporate shops. You can contact him and view his designs at: www.diackmusiccards.co.uk

Piers Plowright (Temple 56)

Piers writes, “The highlight of my year was definitely a visit to Stowe with BBC radio sound team, Alan and Pez, to record an episode for my R4 series, *Stepping-Stones*. This was a series of five programmes tracking five moments in my life (so far!) that depended on ‘sound’ and which still resonate with me. The Stowe visit, on what should have been a brilliant early June day – it actually poured

and the wind howled – was to recreate part of a 1959 Historians’ production of Shakespeare’s *Coriolanus*. I played the bad-tempered Roman back then, and it was doing so that really woke me up to the power of words – Shakespeare’s in particular, but the dramatic use of language in general. So, we returned to the Queen’s Temple where the Historians (under their remarkable tutor, Bill McElwee) always staged their summer productions, and acted out the closing scene. Wind and rain aside, we could not have been made more welcome. Nick Bayley had organised some brilliant young present day actor Stoics to meet us, in particular William Dinsdale (Temple 15) who acted out the Coriolanus bit with me; Arthur Marriott (Fifth Form, Chandos) and Finlay Sutherland (Fifth Form, Grafton) providing the trumpet fanfares. And then we were treated to a splendid lunch with the other thespians: Alex Orton (Fifth Form, Lyttelton), John Balcon Perez, (Fifth Form, Walpole), Helena Vince (Fourth Form, Queen’s), Tom Fris (Fourth Form, Walpole) and Ayesha Shaheen (Nugent 15). Not only did we record excellent interviews with all of these but we also got Shakespeare speeches in German, Spanish, Arabic, and Croatian. The Old Bard, so beautifully celebrated at The Temple of British Worthies, would have been delighted. I certainly was.”

Michael Ridley (Cobham 56)

Michael writes, “In October, Diana and I went to Cali in Colombia to stay with my brother David Ridley (Cobham 59) and his wife Lida, who is Colombian. This is the third largest city in Colombia with a population of about 2.3 million. It is not on the tourist route but, with a knowledgeable guide, has plenty to offer and quite excellent unpretentious restaurants. A main course (very good steak or fish) costs about £4.50. As in other places we visited (Popayan, Cartagena, and Bogota), there are third world elements which side with those that are modern and elegant. The country’s strength lies in the fact that the middle class forms a growing proportion of the population. There are places where tourists are advised not to go, and the country’s violent past is only recently behind it. However, for the traveller with some rudimentary knowledge of Spanish and a spirit of adventure, Colombia should be on your list. The internal airline service is excellent.”

Simon Ruscoe (Bruce 56)

Simon writes, “Although now aged 77, I am still consulting and mentoring in the tourism industry in South Africa. If any OS is contemplating a visit to this

country and wants advice or suggestions I am very willing to assist. Please contact me through the Old Stoic office.”

Jim Sherjan (Temple 56)



Jim writes, “I left Stowe in 1956 and spent the next two years in the Parachute Regiment which included active service in Cyprus and Jordan, chasing terrorists. After this, I joined a 1959 mountaineering expedition to the Himalayas which took nearly a year. By contrast and back in London, I spent a number of dreary years in different advertising agencies. For more than 15 years, my links with Stowe continued through the Templars Cricket; this included playing in our sole appearance so far in the final of the Cricketer Cup in 1969 (we seem to be getting close again). After a period running my own businesses and at the same time working for the Security Services, I started, as James Jan, to write fictional novels. So far, I have written 9 books, three of which (*The Hydra Trilogy*), are now available on Amazon in paperback and also on Kindle (See my ad on page 73 for details). My remaining books will be published during 2016. Apart from playing a weekly nine holes of golf, I am an enthusiastic armchair supporter of English cricket and rugby, and an incredulous but pessimistic follower of national politics.”

Lorne Williamson (Temple 56)

Lorne is still busy and enjoying living in Cambridge. He was recently elected Deputy Lead Governor at troubled Addenbrooke’s Hospital, building flats in central Cambridge and has been honoured to become President of the Old Stoic Golfing Society. He writes, “I am fortunate to be still playing golf (although the courses keep getting longer) and an occasional game of Real Tennis. Other activities include getting annoyed at lawyers, bankers and planners! Sadly, no more skiing or mountaineering but visiting 15 grandchildren and their parents in Canada, USA and Australia keeps Sharon and me happy.”

Derek McConnell (Temple 57)

Derek writes, “Since moving to Australia 12 years ago, I have met just as many Old Stoics as when I lived in the UK. We live a few hundred metres from the site of the Commonwealth Games in 2018, when I shall celebrate my 80th birthday. 2016 is our 50th wedding anniversary and we will be taking our extended family on a special holiday. My time has been taken up with combating cancer.

I had a radical prostatectomy in March 2003, followed by 6.5 weeks of radiotherapy. Since then, I have been on various courses of drugs. In December 2014, my PSA had shot up to well over 100 so I faced a full course of chemotherapy. At the end of the treatment my PSA had gone down to 29 and then back up to 50! My oncology consultant put me onto a relatively new cancer blocker, with the result that my PSA is now 4.5 after 3 months. I write this in the hope that it will give increased knowledge and support to others who are diagnosed with cancer. I was told in Bristol in 2002, that I had only a few months to live."

Robert Whitaker (Cobham 57)



Robert writes, "At the advanced age of 76 years, I am still teaching anatomy to medical students at Cambridge University, nearly full time. I still enjoy the interaction with students and retired surgeons are probably as good as anyone for teaching as they did use a lot of anatomy during their surgical careers. I have a request: Do any of you who were doctors have your old skeleton from your undergraduate days? If so, and you are happy to part with it to a good home for teaching, please get in touch with me." rhw1000@cam.ac.uk

Andy Bone (Bruce 59)



Andy writes, "One is supposed to slow down in one's 70s but somehow this message has not got through to me as every year brings new interests. I remain Chairman of agricultural machinery manufacturer Standen Engineering in Ely, have recently been appointed Chairman of Baker & Baker, manufacturers of bespoke top-of-the market kitchens, am Chairman of the Colchester Brewery, Executive Director of Standen Property Ltd and full time partner in the Clare Bulb Company. By and large that fills the average day! In January 2015, my wife Jane and I had a lot of fun featuring in a one hour Sky 1 TV programme *Come into my Garden* which covered three gardens in East Anglia, ours being one of them. We also breed Labradors. The whole purpose of keeping busy is to avoid the temptation to take up golf. If anyone wants to see pictures of the garden and Labrador puppies and much else, go to www.clare-bulbs.co.uk and follow the links from the home page."

Robin Hunter-Coddington (Chandos 59)



Robin writes, "For the 10th time, a group of Chandosians from the mid 50s got together for a truly memorable get-together (at Bucks Club in London) considering that we have all known each other for more than 60 years. This time, as usual, there was much giggling about some of the things that we had got up to; whether swimming in the Eleven Acre Lake, long before an indoor swimming pool. Chandos won most of the swimming cups under the captainship of Donough O'Brien (Chandos 57); cooking spam on meths stoves in Plug Street (rationing was still in place for some of us) or remembering some of the masters who tried to teach us: 'Slug' Gibson; 'Paddy' Pinchbeck; 'Windy' Dick; not forgetting Bertie Stephan, our Housemaster. Memories of defaulters for activities such as: untidy hair, insolence, disobedience and listening to the radio were fondly discussed and thankfully recorded as part of an outstanding education in preparation for life's adventures and, between us, we have had more than quite a few adventures! We are all fit and healthy and are planning our next event at Stowe itself. Persto et Praesto. From left to right: John Coleman, John Perriss, Anthony Mash, Robin Behar, David Rimmer, Robin Hunter-Coddington, Hugh Searle, Donough O'Brien, Michael Likierman and John Utley, all leavers from Chandos from 1957/1958 or 1959."

Richard Miall (Bruce 59)

Richard writes from the Southern Highlands in New South Wales, Australia, "I regularly join with fellow Old Stoic, Corydon Unwin (Chandos 68) for a round of golf and often see Tim Lunham (Chatham 51) who is also living here in Bowral. We would welcome any other Old Stoics who may be living in this area and unknown to me. Please contact me through the Old Stoic office."

David Ridley (Cobham 59)



David writes, "On a gorgeous day in mid September Patrick McCrea (Walpole 59) assembled Hugo Curtis (Walpole 59) and me at the Cabanon,

Cap d'Ail where one looks across the bay to Monte Carlo. It was scorching hot; it was a week later when the terrifying rains descended paralysing Cannes. Paddy had a terrible chill caused by inhuman air conditioning hence he is wrapped up but still stands with an elegance eclipsed only by Hugo and making me look a complete disgrace with my hands in my pockets. In October, my brother, Michael, and sister-in-law Diana came to stay with Lida and me in Cali, Colombia where past problems are nearly forgotten and the country seems to be a safer place than most of Europe."

Alastair Stone (Temple 59)



Alastair writes, "We have now lived in southern Arizona for over three years, and it's still a life of singing, tennis, and pickle-ball (where my game is raised by the ferocious play of Helga, who plays twice as often as I do!). We visited Dubai last February, to stay with our son Daniel, his wife Erica, and grandson Taylor, who is now 2. The junior Stones are on assignment there for 2-3 years in an amazing place: we did not expect to ski on top of a shopping mall. We have discovered a new way of accessing 'culture' from afar, as a local cinema in Tucson shows live performances from New York's Met opera, the Bolshoi's ballet, and the Albert Hall's proms! We hosted an Oktoberfest party for 30 neighbours on our back patio and dressed suitably for the occasion."

David Would (Chandos 59)

David writes, "I am delighted that in September 2015 our granddaughter, Charlotte Would, entered Stowe in Queen's House. Charlotte is a third generation 'Would' to attend Stowe. I was in Chandos in 1959, my son, Philip Would was Chandos 90 and now Charlotte."

1960s

Brian Macoun (Grafton 60)



Brian writes to say, "Kenya has lots of OS news and in July 2015, the HM visited Kenya and a dinner was arranged at Karen Country Club. As I was the oldest OS present I was asked to give a short speech. I talked about Kenya/Stowe links: My uncle, Capt Edward C

Sladen (Bruce 31) was killed in Burma with the East African Scouts who were a 'commando' Special Forces/behind enemy lines unit on 20 February 1944. He was also a member of the Kenya Regiment. On the 70th anniversary of Edward's death, his son Simon Sladen (Grafton 62), with another nephew and myself travelled to the Arakan in western Burma to track his footsteps. A fascinating experience and very successful. We spent a week there and found the place he was killed by the Japanese, together with six Kenyan troops near the Kaladan river 100 kms inland from Sittwe (Akyab). We stayed in Burmese villages and walked to various remote wartime sites. Recently, Simon Sladen, who was born in Kenya in 1943, revisited Kenya and we went to our grandparents' old farm in the Rift valley. Edward Sladen was the first man to, twice, climb to the summit (Bastian) of Mt Kenya in 1936 and 1938, so we visited Mt Kenya, too. My mother, Geraldine Macoun, his sister, who is still living in Kenya aged 99, the first woman to climb to the summit of Mt Kenya in 1938 was married to Michael J Macoun (Grafton 33), so a lot of early Kenyan Stowe history. I chose to speak about Edward Sladen and Burma when I spoke at the Dinner. I regularly see several young OSs including Milo McConnell (Grenville 10), Jasper Simpkin (Chatham 12) and his sister Lara Simpkin (Lyttelton 09) and getting married soon, Archie Voorspuy (Chatham 10) and Imo Voorspuy (Lyttelton 12) and others. My brother Tony Macoun (Grafton 62) was out here recently to visit our mother."

Simon Blow (Chatham 61)

Simon writes, "I have written a play called, *The Past is a Tattooed Sailor*, which was inspired by knowing my unusual great-uncle Stephen Tennant. Uncle Stephen was a leader of those Bright Young People who created a playground of amusement between the two World Wars. By the time I knew him he was living as a recluse. He lived in the delusion that his youthful beauty was still there. When I knew him it had long gone. The play is fictionalised. I want it seen as an original piece of drama and not a piece of autobiography which it isn't. It has had some excellent reviews: Ian McKellen: 'Clever, witty, and original. It will get its audience.' Simon Callow: 'An excellent play. On an equal with Tom Stoppard. Simon Blow is the bastard child of Tennessee Williams and Ronald Firbank.' Anthony Page: 'Rather better than Tennessee Williams.' My play will open at The Old Red Lion in Angel, Islington for the month of August 2016. It is one of the best venues to begin. From there the play is likely to travel and grow. I am hoping to raise £30,000 to

meet all the various production costs at The Old Red Lion for that month. If anyone can contribute, I would be very grateful for your help in getting my play started." If you would like to help, please email Simon to discuss this further, simonblow@yahoo.co.uk

Don Carslaw (Grenville 61)



Don writes, "I am still employed in IT here in the South of France but I am planning to retire next year, 54 years after leaving. It's a pleasure to suddenly become a regular visitor to Stowe, as my son Sean has just started in Grenville. My boyhood memories of the place are all in black and white, so it's great to now see it all in glorious colour! I am still living near Grasse and happy to see any Old Stoics who are passing through. Contact: plummet@easynet.co.uk The picture is taken with my elder brother Kay Carslaw (Grenville 58)."

Timothy Garrat (Cobham 61)

Timothy has now fully retired from all practice and consultancy as a Chartered Surveyor and has resigned from all his former professional organisations. He says he feels GREAT and recommends the state to all Old Stoics!

Jeremy Hunter-Coddington (Chandos 61)

Jeremy has, for the past year, been touring Britain with his One-Man Show on North Korea Exposed/ Propaganda and the Cult of the Kim. He managed to enter DPRK in 2011 just before the death of Kim Jong-Il, and was able to observe life in the Hermit Kingdom, and its isolationist dictatorial regime. He had the great privilege of giving this presentation last March to an audience, including the Headmaster, in the Chung Music School at Stowe. He has taken his show to many other venues and will be at Radley in March and The Royal Society for Asian Affairs in May 2016. www.jeremyhunter.com

Ross Luke (Temple 61)

Ross writes, "Having retired from all duties at London Scottish FC (19 seasons as a player and 25 years a 'blazer'), I keep relatively busy with my small accountancy practice in the UK and frequent visits to the Philippines, where I have business interests and equally important can get in some scuba diving. Any OS visiting Manila is welcome to get in touch. John Grantham (Temple 62) or I would be glad to hear from any of our contemporaries, possibly

meeting up at an OS function. E: wrluke@tiscali.co.uk PS Congratulations to Don Carslaw (Grenville 61) for his 40 years of hang gliding keep at it Don!"

Michael Chapman (Chatham 62)



Michael writes, "Regarding the last year, not much has changed. I am still in Palau as TL for Koror-Airai Sanitation Project. Palau is a small group of islands in relatively pristine condition with great diving, not threatened by global warming. However, we have increasing numbers of tourists, mostly from China, so this is putting a heavy strain on accommodation and infrastructure. Highlights of the year were when my wife and son, now 16 and attending The British School in Manila, visited from the Philippines and at least one trip to the islands. In Manila, we added a second floor to our house to combat the flooding, caused by uncontrolled urbanisation and a bit more rain than usual. Another event that I like to attend in March is the annual Manila 10s rugby at Nomads Sports Club, about 200 metres from our house."

Charles Dixey (Chatham 62)

Charles writes, "Sadly, our family cricket match on the North Front was cancelled in 2015 but we are booked in for 2016. Hopefully, I expect to be playing with a grandson. My last year in the First XI was 1963."

Mike Stewart (Chatham 62)



Mike writes to tell us, "Having built a boat at Stowe and owned a boatyard, I should have known better than to have later fitted out and commissioned a 48' steel sloop! This took double the time (10 years) and budget. However, Monica and I left Scotland in 2012, wintered respectively in Lisbon, Sicily and Crete where we are now for a second winter. We have explored the Dodecanese in the Aegean as far as Lesvos, experiencing wonderful weather and the best winds to be found in the Mediterranean. Although the original plan was to circumnavigate, we have shelved this intent due to creeping age and because we so much enjoy the Greek islands and the people who live here. Anyone who reads this is well advised not to build their own boat. This said, we gain much satisfaction sailing our 23 tons at over eight knots on a beat. The 'live aboard' life offers great freedom and variety in retirement plus enough challenges to keep what brain remains, active!"

Dick Clegg (Walpole 63)



Dick and his wife have been on a fabulous cruise to Dubai, India, the Maldives, Seychelles, Madagascar and to mainland Africa arriving in Cape Town before Christmas. They are now back in Ottawa.

Anthony Genth (Chatham 63)

Anthony writes to say, "After working in China from 2004 through 2008 and then moving to Kuala Lumpur for a further five years, I returned to the USA in 2013 and am now working with a Chicago based company called VacayStay Connect. I work from Denver and we aggregate vacation home inventory to our online booking platform for distribution through channels like Home Away/VRBO. Asia was exciting and stimulating and if not for wishing to spend some time with my grandchildren, I would return in a moment. Everything is happening there and happening quickly. Imagine that e-commerce in China is projected to reach \$2.8 trillion by 2018, whereas in the USA it will reach only \$800 billion. Add to this the fact that there will be some 200 million outbound Chinese tourists by 2020 and, without even mentioning India (another 80 million outbound travellers), you have a true tourism revolution! So, I hope that everyone is focused on these incredible shifts in wealth distribution and leisure because it will surely affect us all over the next two decades."

David Russell (Temple 64)

David writes to say, "Our neighbour, Old Stoic, Michael Gregory (Chandos 51), of Mountsfield Lodge, Rye died recently at the age of 82. He formerly owned the famous Mermaid Coaching Inn and was a formidable naval historian. He kept three cannons in his garden, one of them a 32-pounder from the lower gun-deck of HMS Foudroyant (80 guns), and fired them regularly giving prominence to any anniversary even remotely connected with Viscount Nelson of The Nile."

Anthony Negus (Bruce 64)

Anthony is now Music Director at Longborough Festival Opera. He has established himself as one of Britain's most distinguished Wagner interpreters. Over several years, he built up Der Ring des Nibelungen, culminating in three highly acclaimed Cycles in 2013, the bicentenary of Wagner's birth. Longborough was the only company in the UK to stage a full *Ring Cycle* in this significant year.

Tristan und Isolde followed in June 2015, receiving a glowing reception and critical acclaim. In October last year, he conducted Richard Wagner's second opera *Das Liebesverbot* (Ban on Love) for Chelsea Opera Group, again to enthusiastic audience and critical acclaim. His forthcoming conducting engagements include Orchestra of *The Swan* in April and *Tannhauser* in June. He has also become Music Director of Opra Cyru, a company that is committed to bringing opera in Welsh to the people of Wales.

Bill Evans (Grafton 65)



In October 2014, Bill met up with a group of friends from Stowe, in a Wimbledon pub, for the first time in 50 years, since leaving Stowe. Photograph, from left to right, shows: Patrick Frean (Cobham 65), Roger Watson (Grafton 64), Robert Salamon (Grafton 65), Bill Evans (Grafton 65) and Robin McDonagh (Grafton 65).

*We met for lunch this incongruous bunch
Stoics old, long gone the fold,
Travelled far, released, rejoiced
Untied from Barr squeaky voiced;
And Nichol Reverend by chance
reversed
And through his calling steered
Young Patrick Frean.
Now Basil, facile, Scots tall and lean,
Took the post to Headmaster lots
Of comely girls...I mean of course
Roedean-
Forsaking Grafton,
Rob, Robin, Rog and Bill
Perhaps by then he'd had his fill
As had we all come the fall of 65.
So here we are half-a-ton
Alive, the same old game
The chat, the jokes, just older folks
Standing firm, standing first
Let's get it right dot the I and cross
the T
Stoic
P & P
Wilpoet Aka TW Evans (Grafton 65)*

Ian Harrower (Temple 65)



Ian has taken over the administration of the Club des Pilotes du Mans – Britannieque. This is a club open to any British driver

ways not much has changed since then. The going was tough at times, as we trekked up and over the Kora's six high passes, the highest being about 4,900m, but we were more than amply rewarded for the effort as we picnicked by glistening, glacier-fed lakes and pristine streams under crisp blue skies while gazing at breathtakingly beautiful mountainscapes topped off by the Kora's awesome snow-capped summits in the land of the legendary 'lost horizons'. Other than that, I continue to work for a small family office in Hong Kong and am engaged with a number of charity and non-profit organisations (including HK Friends of Stowe!), mostly focusing on education."

Charlie Forbes Adam
(Bruce 75)

Charlie is High Sheriff of North Yorkshire for 2015/16.

David Kneeshaw
(Cobham 75)

David is Chief Executive of RL360 and completed the acquisition of Clerical Medical International in November 2015.

Thomas Outerbridge
(Chatham 75)

Tom writes, "I very nearly died back in March. Four days before our 28th wedding anniversary, I was wilting and my wife Angela called my doctor to arrange with Stoke Mandeville Hospital to have me admitted by a non-emergency ambulance. Diagnosed with a double pneumonia, I ended up in intensive care and endured a tracheostomy and yet another extended stay in hospital. After a period of recuperation, and a diagnosis of sleep apnoea which has also now been treated with a CPAP machine, my wife and I flew to Bermuda to visit my ailing father who was in bed in a dark hospital ward where his third wife had him stranded. We then organised for him to be transferred to an old folk's home. Not long after returning to England, our beloved dog died. It's been one hell of a year."

David Arnold
(Former staff, 1967-1976)

In the Context of Eternity, a short history of the Christian Church by David Arnold was published last summer. He was the History Tutor at Stowe from 1967 until 1976,

when he left to be a Headmaster. It is his first publication since *Britain, Europe and the World, 1871-1971*, which some Old Stoics will remember. The book pays as much attention to early centuries as to more recent ones and an American publisher has written that by "a miracle of organisation, by clarity of expression and the sharing of considerable knowledge it presents a remarkable survey of the history of Christianity." An Anglican bishop, a Roman Catholic canon, a lawyer, a Lutheran Professor of Theology, a Humanist Professor of Microbiology and a Cambridge Professor of History have all written to praise it. It is available for £10 from Waterstones and Amazon.

Jonty Crosse
(Walpole 76)

Jonty is now Managing Director for Julius Baer (Bahrain) looking after the wealth of major Arab families around the Gulf.

Sir William Cubitt
(Temple 76)

William continues to run his family's estate in Norfolk, immersing himself in farming, woodlands and wildlife. He is also Norfolk President of the Royal British Legion, Norfolk Chairman of the Country Land and Business Association, Chairman (from 17 December 2015) of the East Anglian Air Ambulance and in nomination to be the High Sheriff of Norfolk in 2016.

The Hon David Curzon
(Cobham 76)

David writes, "I have sold my art gallery business after 30 years (Curzon Gallery) and I am now a Director of Curzon Simpson Ltd based in London, a property consultancy, estate agents in sales and lettings, surveyors and property maintenance."

Julian Fitzherbert
(Bruce 76)

Julian retired last year to manage his family small holding and woodland. He enjoys having more time to indulge in his hobbies, which include aviation, writing and carpentry. He has recently celebrated his 30th wedding anniversary with his wife, Pippa. They have two children, Jessica who is a Primary School Teacher and Peter, who is currently at Plumpton College.

Howard Goodall
(Lyttelton 76)

Howard writes to say, "The West End musical for which I've composed the music, *Bend it Like Beckham* has just had its 200th performance at the Phoenix Theatre; it opened to 5 star reviews in June, has already won the Asian Media Award for Best Theatre Performance and was voted *Time Out's* Best West End Musical a few weeks ago. Old Stoics are warmly invited to bring their families to it!"

Clifford Halvorsen
(Grenville 76)

Clifford has become a Partner at Opus Corporate Finance (www.opuscf.com) where he advises small and medium sized companies on M&A and fundraisings, with a personal focus on the food sector. Although working in London, he lives near Stowe and enjoys playing golf there in the summer.

Nicky Leto
(Cobham 76)



Nicky writes, "I've been living in Italy since leaving Stowe as, though drawn initially to architecture and design, I opted for art restoration and have been working for the state in this field with my own company until a few years ago. Although I haven't given it up altogether, today I'm trying to make headway as a muralist and decorator, something I first experimented with at Stowe producing the scenes for the House play. (Also there may still be a study door I painted as a prison!) I now live in Tuscany with my second wife and two children, my daughter who is finishing her degree and my son who has just started his university course in Siena."

Jonathan Wheeler
(Temple 76)

Jonathan writes to say he has won the Guild of Agricultural Journalists' Keenan Award for a feature about a new cattle building packed with innovative design and technology to improve technical and environmental performance. "I feel this goes a long way to prove the adage that you start your life knowing nothing about everything and end it knowing everything about nothing. Thanks heavens I write on other subjects as well!"

Simon Allport
(Bruce 77)

Simon writes, "I am now living in Kent with the fabulous Lina Hopkins (née Highwood, Stanhope 81). I've finally retired from cricket last year but still involved with both the Shepway Stragglers and Band of Brothers in Kent. I have three wonderful sons, Rogan (Temple 08) now 25, Cameron, 23 and Theo, 20. I am a member and Director of Rye Golf Club, as well as the Honorary Secretary of the Lloyd's Golf Club."

Rupert Arnold
(Lyttelton 77)

Rupert has returned with his family to live in Yorkshire from where he continues to run the National Trainers Federation, representing licensed racehorse trainers in Great Britain. In 2014, he was nominated to the Board of the British Horseracing Authority, the governing and regulatory body for the sport.

Oliver Colville
(Bruce 77)

Oliver was re-elected as the Conservative MP for Plymouth Sutton & Devonport at the 2015 Election. Immediately after the election he was made a Parliamentary Private Secretary at the Ministry of Defence to the Ministers of State for the Armed Forces and Defence Procurement. He is also the Chairman of the All Party Group for the Built Environment and the APPG for the Private Rented Sector and serves on the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee along with Danny Kinahan (Temple 75), Ulster Unionist MP for South Antrim.

Peter James
(Cobham 78)

Peter and Annie continue to thrive living in the wilds of Dorset. With both boys having left home to live in London and Sydney, Peter's golf handicap has now returned to single figures. The rugby battered knees have still allowed some exciting skiing, trying to keep up with the boys both in Canada and France. Working for the Duchy of Cornwall as Project Manager at both Poundbury in Dorchester and Nansledan in Newquay continues to be hectic but very enjoyable and has involved working with two Old Stoics, Francis Terry (Chatham 88) of Quinlan and Francis Terry Architects and Benjamin Bolgar (Lyttelton 85) of The Prince's Foundation. Peter has been part of a JV project to build the first gas to grid AD (Anaerobic Digestion) plant in the UK and sits on the board as a Director, now in its third year of successful operation.

John Lawrence
(Temple 78)



John recently flew to Christmas Island (Kiritimati) and thoroughly enjoyed the ultimate fly-fishing experience for six days. He was lucky enough to catch 80 bonefish on the flats and would recommend the trip to any fly fisherman. It was an adventure one flight in/out a week en route from Fiji to Honolulu that drops you and your fishing kit off on a tiny tropical paradise. No TV, no internet but as much lobster as you can eat!

Nicholas Loup
(Lyttelton 78)



Having stepped down as CEO Grosvenor Asia Pacific in April 2015, a business he founded over 20 years ago, Nick joined the board of Chelsfield Group as a non-executive Director and became a Partner of Dymon Asia Capital heading up a new real estate division as CEO. The new business will focus on harnessing the two way flows of capital between Asia and Europe with offices in Hong Kong, Singapore, Shanghai, Tokyo and London. Dymon Asia Capital is a fast growing alternative investment firm based in Singapore with assets of approximately US \$5 Bn in hedge funds and private equity. Temasek, a substantial Singapore investment company is a strategic partner and minority shareholder. Nick has a number of other positions, Chairman ANREV, Vice Chairman of the Council of China's Foreign Trade, General Committee British Chamber of Commerce Hong Kong, Director Spinal Cord Injury Fund Hong Kong, Chairman MIPIM Asia Awards Jury.

David Thomas
(Chatham 78)

David is the host of a new online TV show, *Think Global: China Edition* which is streamed to a global audience of small business owners via the new online web channel established by Business Blueprint www.businessblueprint.com *Think Global: China Edition* is designed to encourage, support and advise small business owners to establish a strategy to do business in China and is the most comprehensive series ever created on this topic. View the trailer here: <https://businessblueprint.wistia.com/medias/82yitrz1sa>

Henry Worsley
(Grafton 78)



Henry Worsley, the only person to have completed two classic routes of Shackleton, Scott and Amundsen, headed back to Antarctica in November 2015 to attempt the first solo, unsupported and unassisted crossing of the Antarctic landmass. Aiming to raise £100,000 for the Endeavour Fund, Henry's journey commemorated the centenary of Sir Ernest Shackleton's ill-fated Endurance expedition, tracing Shackleton's intended route from Berkner Island to the Ross Ice Shelf via the South Pole and the first ever solo descent of the Shackleton Glacier. Tragically, just 30 miles from his goal and with his fundraising target surpassed, Henry died on 24 January 2016 after being airlifted to hospital. A full obituary will appear in the 2017 edition. www.shackletonsolo.org

Marc Hope
(Cobham 79)



Marc has joined The Sports Consultancy to start a new Rights Marketing Division. One of his first wins was to become the Global Agency for The FEI The World Governing Body for Equestrian Sport, in the build up to the next World Equestrian Games in Canada 2018. His portfolio also includes Major Mass Participation Events and Sailing. Marc continues as Vice Chair of London Youth Games, Europe's largest Youth Sport Series, as well as being a non-exec Board Director of British Athletics Supporters Club. Marc fought the Central Ayrshire Seat in the 2015 General Election for The Conservative Party, holding share in a close third place despite significant tactical voting.

Arthur Millner
(Grenville 79)



Arthur writes, "My book *Damascus Tiles: Mamluk and Ottoman Architectural Ceramics from Syria*, has recently been

published (September 2015) by Prestel UK. It has been favourably reviewed in *The Spectator*, *World of Interiors* and *Bulletin of the Oriental Ceramics Society* and other reviews will shortly be published in *Hali*, *Arts of Asia* and *Cornucopia* magazines."

1980s

Harry Gregson-Williams
(Chatham 80)

Harry continues to live and work in Los Angeles and has had a busy year. Scoring Ridley Scott's space epic *The Martian* certainly was a highlight, together with the arrival of his fifth (and final) child. His time spent back at Stowe as Composer in Residence in 2012 seems a distant memory now, but an extremely fond one at that.

Francis Law
(Chatham 80)

Francis writes, "After 28 years in Lloyd's, I have formed 'FEJ Consult' to service my Italian clients, which is great because it means I can now work from home. Karen has also set up a small shop in Felixstowe called Suffolk Living, offering gifts, plants, home accessories, ladies fashion items, craft work, a vintage section and an art gallery. My own small contribution is a sporting memorabilia section, including a Sussex scorecard featuring the much loved former Stowe cricket coach Charlie Oakes playing against Don Bradman's 1948 unbeaten tourists. Sussex batted first and Charlie scored 22 in the first innings batting at number 3 (and a duck in the second), being bowled by Ray Lindwall in both innings, who took 10 wickets in the match. Charlie then took two wickets in the Australian innings with his off-spin, both LBWs and including the opening bat, Arthur Morris, who finished the series with the second highest average after Bradman (so no mean achievement against arguably the best touring team of all time and hats off to Charlie from all Templars!)."

Penny Newman
(Stanhope 80)

Penny is a GP and medical director for a Community Trust across Norfolk. She is also a National Innovation Fellow and aims to build improved communication skills for clinicians 'health coaching' into mainstream practice to support people to change behaviour. She has just released a report with UN Women recommending action in the NHS to improve women's careers and numbers at Board level. She lives in Suffolk with her three daughters and

husband, who is Chief Executive of the Royal College of Surgeons. She would like to do other things apart from work in 2016.

Michael Shew
(Chatham 80)

Michael writes, "In October 2014 I retired from Lancashire Constabulary with thirty years of police service, during which time I was awarded both of the Queen's Jubilee medals and the Police Long Service medal. I was a traffic and motorway officer for 24 years of my service. My second wife, Renate, to whom I was married in 2004, shares my love of Scotland. In July we moved to Dunoon. I work for the local bus company and Renate is semi retired at last."

Mike Tresise
(Lyttelton 80)



Mike finished a creditable 3rd in his age group in the middle distance (1.9km/70km/21.5km) 2015 Stowe Triathlon. With the swim in the Eleven Acre Lake and the run following the old cross-country course, including four times up the Japanese Gardens, it was a fantastic event full of memories. It would be great to see more Old Stoics competing. Simon Gardner (Temple 95), Capt of the OS X-C, was the first OS home who can provide details. Please contact Simon through the OS office.

David Andrews
(Grenville 81)

David is based in Sydney, with his wife Rebecca and three children, Edward 20, Louisa 17 and Arabella 16. He works for Balmoral Partners, commercial real estate agents specialising in Commercial Office and Industrial Sales and Leasing. His eldest daughter is undertaking a gap year in the UK in 2016 so he will be coming over at Easter 2016 to see her and will meet up with other Old Stoics then.

Ian Keith
(Chandos 81)



Two proud OS parents Ian Keith (Chandos 81) and Nigel Rossiter (Cobham 81) met up on a Leeds touchline to watch their respective sons (Robbie Keith, Jack Rossiter) play for The English Students versus French universities. Also giving support was Peter Dredge (Cobham 81) who has returned from East Africa to the UK. Unfortunately, the

Kaunda Kavindele
(Temple 00)

Kaunda has recently become engaged to Visamba Manda.

Alex Lyell
(Grenville 00)

Alex writes, “I married Lucy in 2009 we have two boys Finn (b. 19.07.12) and Henry (b. 09.04.14). Having worked in Real Estate Fund Management for seven years, I am now the Pastor of a new church in Streatham, where we are bringing Good News to the 90% of the community who don't do church.”

Amelia Annfield
(Nugent 01)

Amelia writes, “I've happily settled back into London life having been living and working in New Zealand and Australia since 2010. Freelancing as an art director and stylist in film and event production.” www.ameliaannfield.co.uk

Charles Carter
(Grafton 01)

This year, Charles will leave Norfolk where he has held the Mastership of and hunted the West Norfolk Foxhounds for the past ten seasons, alongside being elected to Breckland Council as Cabinet Member for Planning, Building and Housing. He will move to Yorkshire to take the role as Master and Huntsman to the Middleton Hunt on 1 May 2016.

Piers Craven
(Bruce 01)

Piers writes to say, “After four years in Vietnam, I moved to South America in June 2015 to take up a new job as Deputy Head of Mission and HM Consul at the British Embassy in Quito, Ecuador.”

Hannah Durden
(Nugent 01)

Hannah writes to say, “I have now been working as a property developer for Berwick Hill since summer 2014 www.berwickhill.co.uk We develop a whole host of residential and commercial properties, focusing on the south-east, in particular south-M25, locations. Still living in London but planning my escape to the country at some point...also planning a visit to see Piers Craven and his wife Jura in Quito, Ecuador next year, having

been made Godmother to Wilf, who was born in October 2014 and has already lived on three continents!”

Oliver Nohl-Oser
(Grafton 01)

Oliver supplies his Great Taste Awards Cumbrian Sausages to Ocado! Find them online at <http://bit.ly/1m99yT>

Edd Post
(Chandos 01)

Edd is now married to Maya Post. He is starring as Bob Gaudio in the West End Hit Show, *Jersey Boys* and is moving to California in 2016!

Christina Schroeder
(née Glatzel, Lyttelton 01)

After four years with LEGO, Christina is now working as Category Manager for The Walt Disney Company in the Toys Licensing Department.

Ian McKillop
(Former staff, 1990-2002)

Ian writes, “My latest Exhibition opened in the Queen's House, Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Great Park on 11 December 2015. The Exhibition finishes in March 2016. In 2015, I started work on designing the stage setting for *Carmen*, in Spain, and another Exhibition of paintings in Castellon.”

Will Gallimore
(Bruce 03)

Will has recently moved to Barnes, south west London and continues to play as much golf as he can whilst helping with the continued expansion of his business in the City. He would love to catch up with Old Stoics young or old.

Milla Marinova
(Lyttelton 03)

Milla has finished her medical training and has completed a diploma at the

Sorbonne in Paris in a specialist technique called mesotherapy

which is used in pain management and aesthetic medicine. She is starting her own practice to treat sports injuries and pain, as well as in aesthetics for facial rejuvenation and hair loss.

Tony Meredith
(Former staff, 1973-2003)

Tony, who retired from Stowe in 2003, has just had his 12th book published. Another biography, *W.G. Grace: In the Steps of a Legend* (Amberley, £18.99) is, as they say, available at most good bookshops. In 2014, he was part of the creative team for Northern Ballet's *The Great Gatsby* which played at Sadler's Wells and around Britain.

Joshua Myerson
(Grafton 03)

Josh has recently been made a Partner at Montagu Evans LLP, a firm of Chartered Surveyors based in London, where

he specialises in providing Business Rates advice. Also last year, he was elected as the Honorary Secretary of the Rating Surveyors' Association, following two years on the Committee, and continues as a Committee Member for the London Rating Network.

James Norman
(Bruce 03)

James has been permanently living in Sydney since 2011, where he teaches Design Technology at Newington College, Sydney NSW www.newington.nsw.edu.au

Verity Taylor
(Nugent 03)

Verity writes to say, “After Living in Melbourne, Australia for the last three years, I've moved back with my fiancé to live in York. Tom and I are getting married in May 2016 at my parent's house in Sulgrave, Oxfordshire.

Kate Clive-Powell
(Lyttelton 04)

Kate writes to say, “In September 2015 I completed an MPhil in Textile Conservation at the University of Glasgow. I am now working as an ICON Textile Conservation Intern at The Bowes Museum. In a few years, I plan to start the first textile conservation business in Wales.”

Brian Orger
(Former staff, 1980-2004)

Muir Temple's Memorial Service last year brought together many generations of Old Stoics and Former Staff. A memorable trio captured on camera were the three Secretaries who had served no less than four Headmasters, Bob Drayson, Christopher Turner, Jeremy Nichols and Anthony Wallersteiner over a period of almost half a century, more than half the lifetime of the School! From left to right: Jean Lloyd (née Hopwood), 1966-1971, with Bob Drayson, Sally Clarke (née Coles) 1972-1990, with Bob Drayson and Jeremy Nichols and Frances Orger 1991-2005, with Jeremy Nichols and Anthony Wallersteiner.

Anna Clare Lees-Buckley
(Nugent 05)

Anna Clare is working on portrait commissions from her St Paul's studio on Talgarth Road,

as well as completing a series of large scale grouse in flight, painted in oils, to be exhibited next year. For details of her exhibitions, see www.aclb.co.uk

Gianni Mitchell
(Chandos 05)

Gianni has recently published a book, the title of which is *Tripping to Utopia* and it can be found on Amazon.

Robert Parry
(Grenville 05)

Robbie writes, “Bassline Productions is an events company based in South West London. We specialise in the technical side of event production. We have done a wide range of events, including working at Chequers, the Battersea fireworks, the Stowe Leavers' Ball, weddings and even run our own music festival. We aim to provide a one stop shop

for event production equipment and technical management, with a range of marquees, stages, sound, lighting, AV, Bars, Staff, lasers, hazers, smoke machines, and everything else you could need for a fantastic party. For more information on what we do then please see www.basslineproductions.co.uk”

Peter Sharp
(Chandos 06)

Peter writes, “I am now living in Cambridgeshire and have a seven year old daughter called Zara. I am a Police Constable for Cambridgeshire Constabulary working as a response officer, which I have done for the last three years. I am currently tutoring new officers who join the Constabulary when they come to the Local Policing area.”

Mukami Wangai
(Lyttelton 07)

Mukami writes, “I finished at SOAS in 2010 and went on to the College of Law, London to do a law conversion course, followed by the Bar Professional Training Course and was called to the Bar in 2012.

I planned on a Masters degree and applied for LLM programmes in the US and settled on Duke University, Durham, NC, where I spent a year specialising in public law issues, and generally getting a different perspective on or approach to constitutional law, distinct from my British experience which is also central to Kenya's legal history. I returned to Kenya in 2013 and was undecided whether to return to the UK, complete pupillage and start practising at the Bar or to remain in Kenya. After seeing the new opportunities in public law that were arising in Kenya following the promulgation of a new constitution in 2010, I decided to explore the work opportunities here. I was also looking to get into teaching, and realised that law schools in Kenya are often looking to recruit people into academia earlier in their legal careers. I worked at a local NGO called the Kenya Human Rights Commission where I focused on equality and non-discrimination issues. I have recently started a new job at Strathmore Law School, Nairobi and am involved in teaching, and research at the Strathmore Law and Policy Institute. The project is assessing constitutional implementation in Kenya five years since the new constitution. It's very exciting and certainly very challenging with the responsibility of imparting knowledge and supporting the development of legal practitioners. I now look forward to learning and growing in the institution, and soon to enrol on a PhD programme.”

Richard Gordon-Colebrooke
(Chandos 08)

Richard writes, “I am pleased to announce that I am now engaged to Rebecca Helen Fairbairn, and we are to be married on 6 August 2016, in West Sussex.”

Cordelia Evans
(Nugent 10)

Cordelia is currently Deputy Chairman of London Conservative Future where she worked hard in getting young volunteers campaigning in the General Election and is looking forward to encouraging more volunteers to get involved in the London Mayoral Elections. Cordelia also quit her job in the City recently to work full-time as COO of her mother's award-winning cocktail bar, Janet's Bar in South Kensington. Be sure to ask for the Old Stoic and Military Discounts! Cordelia is also now on the Old Stoic McElwee Award Committee. www.facebook.com/janetsbarlondon

Lucinda Finlay
(Nugent 10)

Lucinda writes, “I have started as the Assistant Rural Surveyor at Kingston Lacy, Dorset and Stourhead, Wiltshire Estates for the National Trust. This is my first job since completing my MSc in Rural Estate Management at The Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester. I think the two years I spent at Stowe really inspired me to work in beautiful places and look after them for future generations.”

Albie Mackintosh
(Chatham 10)

Albie writes, “Having achieved a merit with distinction in his UCL MSc Neuroscience, he is looking forward to publishing his work shedding some new insight on the causes of autism. He has recently accepted a PhD fellowship from Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions initiative at the Leibniz-Institut für Molekulare Pharmakologie in Berlin. There he will be investigating the role of phosphoinositides in fast neurotransmitter recycling.”

Simon Plunket
(Grafton 10)

Simon writes, “A documentary I made called *Black Sheep* has been going round the world doing the film festival circuit. It's been shown at many of the festivals including the London BFI Film Festival and has just been shortlisted for BAFTA's Best British Short!”

Nicholas Rewcastle
(Grenville 10)

Following his move to Brighton at the end of 2014, Nick has been enjoying the year working as a PR Account Manager in a Sports PR agency which gives him the chance to work on exciting projects and with some of the biggest global sporting names. 2015 was also a big year for Nick as he got engaged to his partner Hannah Dickens and is looking forward to getting married in August 2016.

Sena Oztosun
(Stanhope 13)

Sena writes, “After my second year at Columbia University, Barnard College in New York, in summer 2015, I completed my internship at the Ministry of Economy in Ankara. During my internship I mainly worked on export projects and international trade policies with a team of experienced economists and political scientists. Meanwhile, I continued doing research for the President of my college; the focus of the research was the Russian economy after the significant drop in oil prices. During my 3rd academic year, I am back in England, and am studying History and Economics (with Economics focus) at Pembroke College, University of Oxford for the full year. Life at Oxford is a big contrast after New York but I enjoy it so far and explore the opportunities that Oxford has to offer. In January 2016, I will be working for Pembroke College Alumni and Development Office as a student fundraiser. In September 2016, I will be back in New York to complete my final year at Columbia University, Barnard College. Since I have been back in the UK in 2015, I have made my best effort to keep in touch with the Stowe community and am delighted to see how much positive change there has been at Stowe since I left!”

Haris Salihovic
(Chandos 13)

Haris starred in Channel 4's *This is England 90* which aired in September 2015, playing the role of ‘Harrison’.

Edward Hopkinson
(Chatham 15)

Edward writes, “As my penultimate year at Stowe came to a close, I was very fortunate to be commissioned to paint the iconic

landmark, Battersea Power Station, which many of us have seen on the London skyline for our entire lives. However, as many of you may not know, it is undergoing redevelopment which will reshape the south of London's vista. As soon as exams were over, I travelled down to London to do a site visit – an afternoon capturing the life of Battersea and its surroundings. I did not have long to complete this colossal piece, so every hour I had, had to count. Immediately, I received a 5ft x 4ft canvas on which I was to design my piece. The art department quickly became my home as I remained in there from nine every morning through till natural light faded. In total, I spent 96 hours completing my work and I am very glad I had such a great environment in which to complete it. The painting now hangs in the marketing suite at Battersea Power Station. A limited run of 250 (40 x 50cm) numbered and signed printed canvasses are available so please email me at edhop16@gmail.com for any enquiries. Also, I plan to produce five limited edition full size canvasses poa.”

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO FIND LOST OLD STOICS!

On the Old Stoic website you will find lists of missing Old Stoics for whom we have no contact details. Please visit www.stowe.co.uk/school/old-stoics/member-services/lost-old-stoics to look at the list for your year group. If you know the whereabouts of anyone on the list, please do contact oldstoic@stowe.co.uk If you spot the name of an Old Stoic you know who has passed away, please do get in touch, so we can record their death on our database.

Thank you for your help.



Mr Edmund Neville-Rolfe (Bruce 39)
6 December 1920 – 3 February 2015

Edmund was a proud Old Stoic maintaining contact with contemporaries and teachers notably the legendary history master, William McElwee, and his family. He was born in Norfolk where the family had been squires for several centuries and included the Rolfe who married Pocahontas. He was the only son of Captain Arthur Neville-Rolfe who retired, wounded in WW1, at a young age from a gurkha regiment. He sent Edmund to St Aubyn's before Stowe.

In addition to his academic studies, Edmund benefited greatly from the serious teaching of art at Stowe; he produced fine work in his teens and twenties, gradually developing his distinctive style and palette as a landscape and still life painter. 'Bill' McElwee took the history class for a Grand Tour of Europe and stimulated his lifelong interest in architecture and European travel. After a shortened wartime degree at Oxford, Edmund was commissioned into the 60th King's Royal Rifle Corps, as a liaison officer to the Polish Army. A natural linguist, that early awareness of European history and culture never left him.

With farming experience and a Diploma in Agricultural Economics, he started a business consultancy in Brussels, advising on the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) for what is now the European Union. He was one of the first Britons to thoroughly understand the CAP, having followed the negotiations leading to its creation. After WW2, Edmund farmed on a small scale in Wiltshire, where at Ark Farm he and his Polish wife Margaret Evans made their home and raised their five children. He resumed his painting after retirement leaving a considerable body of work.

Cathy Brooks Baker (née Neville-Rolfe)

Mr Robin Richards (Temple 39)
18 April 1922 – 28 October 2014



Robin's career after leaving Stowe comprised a two year accelerated degree in Engineering at Clare College, Cambridge, with 1st class honours after which he was seconded to SOE as Lieutenant Richards RNVR. Firstly, he joined the Helford Flotilla for cross channel missions delivering arms and rescuing agents and drowned airmen. Subsequently, in 1944-45 he was sent to Italy and parachuted to join the partisans north of Genoa to blow up transports, reconnoitre beaches on the Adriatic and finally to find the German General responsible for the port of Genoa and persuade him not to sink a blockship in the mouth of the harbour nor activate the many mines already prepared to blow it up. For all these hair-raising missions, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

Post-war, Robin became Technical Director at Woodhall-Duckhams but after a takeover he joined the staff of Imperial College to devise and direct a new four year course entitled Total Technology, with Sir David Huddie.



Mr Gordon Darling (Grafton 39)
4 March 1921 – 31 August 2015

The then Prime Minister, Tony Abbott, paid tribute in the Australian Parliament to Gordon Darling (Grafton 39) as one of his country's "most generous philanthropists." He pointed out that Gordon "appreciated that a wealthier and more

productive economy meant more opportunities for philanthropy". He praised him for using, "the fruits of business to serve the community more widely".

Gordon Darling, AC, CMG, who died in Melbourne aged 94 on 31 August 2015, had been born in London on 4 March 1921. He found his feet at Stowe and it was characteristic that during his last illness, he was soothed by listening to recordings of school hymns. Marilyn asked Christopher Huxtable for a suitable prayer for his memorial service, and the end of term hymn, *Lord dismiss us with Thy Blessing*, provided a fitting valediction.

Gordon was especially inspired by his art teacher at Stowe, Robin Watt, and recently enriched the art school with Aboriginal art, including a watercolour by Albert Namatjira and two etchings by Pedro Wonaeamirri.

Gordon's great-grandfather, John Darling (1831-1905), left school in Duns, Scotland aged 11, and emigrated to South Australia in 1855, where his wheat trading business earned him the nickname the 'grain king' of Australia. Later the family went into mining as early investors in the Broken Hill Proprietary Company Ltd (BHP), and later branched out into steel manufacturing and petroleum exploration.

Gordon served in World War II, first in the Australian Imperial Force and later as an intelligence officer. In 1953 he became a director of BHP, serving until 1986, while his other interests included serving on the Council of Geelong Grammar School and as a Trustee of the World Wildlife Fund.

He suffered a perforated eardrum during a wartime flight, and damaged his other eardrum due to a loud explosion in a factory he was visiting. Eventually, his deafness prevented him following board meetings and he retired.

His later years were devoted to philanthropy in the field of art. He became Inaugural Chairman of the Board of the National Gallery of Australia (opened by HM The Queen in 1982), and gave them his collection of works by Albert Namatjira. In 1987, he founded the Gordon Darling Asia Pacific Print Fund which went on to acquire more than 7,000 prints for the national collection. He then founded the National Portrait Gallery, now housed in its own building on King Edward Terrace in Canberra, an institution to match the portrait galleries of London, Edinburgh and Washington. To achieve this, he harnessed his business acumen to the considerable organisational skills of his second wife, Marilyn. They pursued their goal with energy, financial generosity and consistent moral support. They were both appointed Companions of the Order of Australia.

By his first wife, Margaret Anderson, he had two sons and two daughters. After they divorced in 1989, he married Marilyn Davis, a former microbiologist. She survives him as do his children and ten grandchildren.

Hugo Vickers (Stowe Parent)



Mr Basil Sparrow (Walpole 39)
16 April 1921 – 15 April 2015

Basil was born on 16 April 1921 and sadly died from a head injury after a fall just one day short of his 94th birthday. From Prep School he joined Stowe as one of Walpole's first members in 1934. In 1939, he moved on to Christ Church, Oxford and, with the war now raging, obtained his degree reading PPE and Languages in a shortened one year course.

He then joined the Coldstream Guards from Sandhurst and commanded a Reconnaissance Troop of tanks in the newly formed Guards Armoured Division with which he landed in Normandy in June 1944. Striking NE towards Belgium he led the advance into Arras, surprising the German garrison. After a fierce gunfight the town quickly fell and Basil was awarded the Military Cross for his fearless leadership.

Peace came in 1945 and also his marriage to Trish, daughter of Sir Henry Cox. He was immediately posted to the Bahamas as ADC to the Governor until his de-mob in 1946. The following year their son Oliver was born. He then joined as Manager of the Oakes family Trust and in 1951 they moved to Southern Rhodesia where he set up and chaired a tin mining company for the Trust. In the 1964 election he stood as candidate for Sir Edgar Whitehead's Liberal party and lost on a recount to the right wing Rhodesian Front. So, he came back to England working in the London Metal Exchange and subsequently as a Director of various plastics companies involving overseas travel. Retiring in 1985 he spent some years fund raising for St. John Ambulance. After a long illness Trish died.

His last years were taken up with travelling the world aiming to reach 100 countries: he got to 84 with a sadly unused ticket to Portugal when he died!

Anthony Sparrow (Walpole 50)

Mr John Simopoulos (Grafton 41)
12 June 1923 – 4 March 2015



After John died on 4 March 2015 aged 91, a flurry of anecdotes did the rounds. JS had retired as an Oxford philosophy don in 1988, but stayed on at

St Catherine's College as Dean of Degrees. One task was to enrol students at the University. When he began an address, "I expect you're wondering what this coffin-dodger is doing here", a student whispered to her neighbour "he's so old!": the neighbour replied, "but he's so cool!" He applied to Dignitas, yet, after discovering a mound of paperwork, withdrew complaining, "I wouldn't be seen dead in your place." Being in his speech soignée, fastidious and given to Latinisms, he would murmur after a meal "consummatum est". Above all, he was known as a caring, gregarious bachelor who commanded widespread affection.

John Charalambos Simopoulos 'Jesus Christ the Second' was born on 12 June 1923. His father was Greek ambassador to the UK in WWII and his mother both Scottish and Jewish. He went from Stowe to read Greats at Magdalen College, Oxford and, after teaching Latin at Christ Church Cathedral School and working for Oxfam in Italy, became a founding member of St Catherine's Society in 1953. Although the Society achieved collegiate status and new buildings in 1963, JS was displeased with their modernist architect, Arne Jacobsen "Gloomy as hell, a symphony by Sibelius brought to life": he even led a successful campaign against the Dane's bespoke two-pin plugs, which had failed every British Standards test. In Oxford, in the heyday of post-war British philosophy, he was remarkable for publishing nothing. Rather, he taught socratically, aiming for clarity, truth and logic through conversation. And it was pre-eminently conversation he successfully fostered across the college.

JS gained fame, however, for the intensity of his distraction activity: telephones in 'Catz', at the Rome exchange, for Getty. He knew in technical detail how the world talked and how to make connections: he could link you to Hyderabad for 10p. More still, whereas others penned slim volumes of verse off duty, he produced a paper on non-specific urethritis for *The British Journal of Venereal Diseases* and a collection of scatological rhymes, ('There once was a fellow called Rex / who had a diminutive organ of sex. / When had up for exposure / he replied with composure / *De minimus non curat lex* [the law does not concern itself with little things].'). As Lord Mandelson recently conceded, "he was obsessed with sex".

Dedicattee of his friend Iris Murdoch's *The Bell*, John Simopoulos was the last of a generation of dons lamented by the late OS Provost, Lord Annan (Temple 35): for them, being was the better part of doing. Oxford will miss him.

*Christopher Wintle (Chatham 62)
St Catherine's College, Oxford, 1963-67*

Sir John Freeland (Chatham 45)*
16 July 1927 – 29 June 2014



Sir John was Legal Adviser to the Foreign Office when Margaret Thatcher and the FCO did not always see eye to eye and later served as a judge at the European Court of Human Rights.

Sir John's interest in law was stimulated by his aunt, Daisy Markham, a famous Edwardian actress who successfully sued the heir to the Marquess of Northampton for £50,000 for breach of promise. He read Law at Cambridge and practised at the Bar before joining the Legal Service of the Foreign Office in 1954. After a long stint in London, he was posted as Legal Adviser to the British Embassy in Bonn, where much of his work concerned the status of Berlin. In 1970 he moved to the United Kingdom Mission at the United Nations in New York. He was appointed CMG in 1973.

He returned to London in 1976 and was closely involved in the many legal issues surrounding the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands, the attempts to reach a negotiated settlement with Argentina and the conduct of the war. Mrs Thatcher regarded the FCO as too full of peace plans in the run-up to the conflict, and Freeland was charged with putting up a more robust legal approach. In 1984 he was promoted to Legal Adviser and appointed KCMG.

On retirement in 1987, Sir John took Silk, and four years later was appointed the British Judge at the European Court of Human Rights. On leaving the Court in 1998, Sir John continued with a number of legal appointments and was a Governor of the British Institute of Human Rights.

Mr Neil Ker (Grenville 45)
31 August 1926 – 14 March 2015

Neil was born at Ludford Park, owned by his grandfather, Henry Whitaker. His father, a retired army officer, died when he was just 10 years old. After Stowe, Neil enlisted in the Royal Navy and was posted to HMS Condor. This was a naval air station at Arbroath in Scotland, where Neil trained as a Fleet Air Arm Photographer. After two years, Neil was demobilised and he continued his education

at the Royal Agricultural College before going into farming, eventually managing Whitcliffe Farm at Ludlow, which was owned by his grandfather. When his grandfather died the Whitaker estate had to be sold and Neil moved on to rent the farm in Bitterley where he spent the rest of his farming career.

As well as being an active part of the Bitterley village community, Neil was a lifelong railway enthusiast, who delighted in travelling by train. In 1990, Neil founded the Ludlow Rail Users Association. He was chairman of the Association and remained as such until 2008.

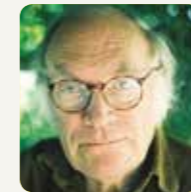
Mr Oliver Taylor (Chandos 45)*
11 May 1928 – 24 February 2014

After taking a first class degree at Cambridge, Oliver served in the RAF from 1949 to 1965, with several years as Assistant Air Attaché in Moscow and, thereafter with BBC Radio, ending up as Head of Administration, Radio. Having taken early retirement in 1983, he was active in

Buckinghamshire local government and voluntary work, eventually being elected the leader of the then majority Conservative Group on the County Council in May 1993. He spent the last 20 years of his life in happy retirement in south west France, where he was active in local voluntary work and enjoyed a wide circle of friends. He was proud to be known as an Old Stoic.

David Natzler

Michael Birkett, The Lord Birkett of Ulverstone (Temple 48)
22 October 1929 – 3 April 2015



As an undergraduate at Trinity College, Cambridge, Michael indulged his passion for the arts. After graduating he joined Ealing Studios, working as an assistant director and an associate producer, later focusing on his own films. While training, one of his first production projects was the classic 1955 comedy *The Ladykillers*, with Alec Guinness and Peter Sellers.

He produced film adaptations in the 1960s of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* – with Judi Dench and Helen Mirren – and later *King Lear*, starring Paul

Scofield. When a radical production of Harold Pinter's *The Caretaker* came close to collapsing, he managed to persuade figures including Noël Coward, Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor to contribute funds.

He was appointed, in 1975, as deputy director of the National Theatre by Peter Hall. For much of the 1980s he served as Director of Recreation and the Arts at the Greater London Council. Having succeeded to the peerage in 1962 on his father's death, Michael was active in the House of Lords. An avid piano player, he co-created the Royal Philharmonic Society's annual music awards in 1989.

His warmth and geniality were perhaps best summed up by Michael Blakemore, the actor and former associate director of the National Theatre. Michael was, he said, "impossible to dislike".

Mr Edmund Skepper (Temple 46)
31 August 1928 – 17 October 2015



Head Boy, Edmund Skepper with Field Marshall Montgomery and JF Roxburgh on the South Front, 22 October 1946.

Mr Christopher Bartlett (Temple 49)*
08 November 1930 – 1 October 2014



My father, Chris Bartlett, who died aged 83, was an engineer who ensured that people all over the world had access to water, spending his entire career with the engineering consultants Binnie & Partners. From 1962 to 1967 he lived in Pakistan, working on the Mangla dam, ensuring that the design and construction were of the highest possible quality, and he returned there several times in the '80s on smaller projects.

From 1974 to 1975, he lived in Indonesia, where he was primarily responsible for agricultural irrigation projects, but was also involved in fluorinating Jakarta's domestic water supply. The next assignment took him to Abu Dhabi, from 1979 to 1981, where he helped the Emirate to secure its water needs: this task included establishing desalination plants and the Al Ain pipeline. He also worked in Iran and Iraq.

In the '80s and '90s, he worked on flood protection for London and was involved in consultations for the privatisation of the UK's water authorities in the 1990s. He was an unbending critic of privatisation plans, believing that they were short-term, ideologically driven and did not safeguard the rights of the end user sufficiently. His opposition was stymied by his having signed the Official Secrets Act earlier, meaning he could only voice his concerns through official channels. It was characteristic of him that he witnessed the subsequent rounds of selling and profit-taking of the companies, alongside their lack of investment, with pragmatism, always looking to the future and how the situation could be redeemed.

Chris retired in 1995, but sustained his interest in water issues globally, for instance propounding his belief that Israel began to consider ceding the Gaza Strip only once it realised that the area could not sustain itself with accessible water. In a letter published in the Guardian in 2004, he explained how the situation in Sudan represented the world's first major water war. Chris lived his life according to his convictions: "Live up to one's responsibilities and look after the weak." He sustained his keen sense of humour to the end. He is survived by his wife, Jean, his four children and his eldest brother, Johnny.

Tristram Bartlett (Temple 82)

Mr Richard Fulford (Grenville 49)*
7 August 1931 – 6 March 2014

Dickie had a glittering stock market career rising to senior partner of Kemp Gee and latterly, after a merger with Scrimgeour Vickers, senior partner of the combined group. He led Scrimgeour into the takeover by Citi. Dickie was a deeply principled man in business. He rarely drank at lunchtime believing it was a disservice to the clients of the firm. He also upheld, for all his tenure, the meritocratic tradition of a secret vote where all partners voted each other a share of the equity. After Scrimgeour was sold to Citi he went on to chair the board of Nurdin and Peacock successfully.

Dickie was an extremely keen golfer. A long time Sunningdale member and captain of the OS Golfing Society in 1991. He stopped playing in later years but was ever present at Sunningdale, playing bridge. Dickie was never backwards in coming forwards, essentially he was a very pragmatic and engaging man who always had time to listen, especially to the younger generation. He was great counsel to me and fantastic company. He demanded high standards from those around him and his humour when those standards were not met was acute and appreciated by many of his friends.

Dickie will be missed terribly by his children, grandchildren, large extended family and friends. He leaves an indelible mark.

Toby Campbell-Gray

Mr Julian Twiston Davies (Bruce 49)*
27 May 1931 – 14 October 2013



Julian was the bass player with the Crane River Jazz Band, the British group which came closest to capturing the original New Orleans feel. The band had begun practising in a field by the Crane river at Cranford, when Julian arrived with a sousaphone perched on top of 17 different instruments in an Austin 7. The band was to play together periodically for almost 50 years.

A keen record collector from the age of seven, Julian was working for EMI when he first heard the band, and was so struck by its pursuit of authenticity that he blurted out to Colyer: "Man, you sound like [the New Orleans cornet player] Mutt Carey." Colyer replied: "Would you like to join the band?"

Julian bought a bass and settling into the band's discreet rhythm section (piano, drums, banjo and, occasionally, washboard). After 18 months the band drifted apart, with Julian embarking on an MSc in concrete technology at Nottingham University, which took him seven years due to musical distractions.

Julian became head of the Greater London Council's buildings materials section and a sought-after expert witness on the problems of water penetration in high-rise buildings. But he always managed to appear at band reunions until the final gig in 1999. Retiring to Dorset, Julian chaired the Ken Colyer Trust, which arranged the release of unpublished recordings and publication of his memoirs.

He also taught science at Colfox School, Bridport; became Chairman of the local croquet club; and played with a local band, the Sunset Café Stompers. His funeral featured recordings of the Cranes.

Sir Colin Hope (Cobham 51)
17 May 1932 – 31 August 2015



Sir Colin was a leading figure in the automotive industry. He spent his career successively with the auto component group Associated Engineering, the tyre maker Dunlop and Turner & Newall, an industrial conglomerate whose product range included Ferodo brake parts.

He joined Dunlop in 1975 to run its high technology engineering division, engaged in pioneering work on braking and suspension systems. In 1985, he was recruited by Sir Francis (later Lord) Tombs, Chairman of Turner & Newall, to be his Managing Director.

The following year, he and Hope launched one of the hardest fought takeover battles of the era: a hostile bid, eventually worth £260 million, for the Midlands based Allied Engineering. Hope succeeded Tombs as Executive Chairman in 1989.

Affable and energetic, he relished the cut and thrust of the corporate arena and coped bravely with the gradual onset of a muscle-wasting disorder which afflicted his mobility. He was able to steer T&N successfully through the choppy waters of the early 1990s recession and refocus its portfolio on higher-tech auto products. By 1997, four-fifths of T&N's £2 billion worldwide turnover was in the automotive sector. He retired in 1998.

Sir Colin was President of the Society of Motor Manufacturers & Traders and Chairman of the housebuilder Bryant and the brickmaker Ibstock Johnson. He served on a panel of industrial advisers to Prime Minister, John Major, and was knighted in 1996. His private passion was for vintage Armstrong Siddeley cars from the 1920s and early 1930s, of which he collected and restored half a dozen; he was patron of the Armstrong Siddeley Heritage Trust and a trustee of the National Motor Museum.

Mr Ian Holt (Chatham 50)*
24 September 1932 – 19 March 2014

Ian passed away at home in Heswall, Wirral on 19 March 2014. Having been educated at The Leas, Hoylake followed by Stowe, he subsequently went up to Cambridge (St John's) where he read Languages, completing both his BA and MA, before accepting a scholarship to Vienna University to continue his specialist studies. It was there he completed the first English translation of the significant works of Hofmannsthal. He was a quiet, introspective man with a dry and abundant sense of humour, who loved both music and language in equal measure. His additional passion for nautical endeavour, first evidenced by rowing at No. 3 in the Lady Margaret Boat, Cambridge and thereafter for Chester Rowing Club, continued throughout his life both in the UK and West Africa. He co-owned a 25' Westerley for many years, sailing far and wide and with many an adventure.

Having married Rosemary shortly after returning from Vienna, he was transferred to West Africa to run a division of the family shipping business and there started a lifelong love affair with his beloved Ridgeback breed of dog which he owned regularly throughout his life, often along with a Great Dane or two. In 1985, he returned to Liverpool to take a managing position in the Head Office where he remained until his retirement. During the later years, his continuing love of languages led him to tutor A level students privately in both French and German, as well as setting up a moderately successful fine wine importing business.

An accomplished pianist, he would regularly be heard playing through his vast catalogue of classical music. In his last few weeks he saw his first novel published a fictional account of a junior executive thrown into the turbulent chaos of Nigerian life with hilarious consequences (*A Season in Bedlam*, ISBN 9781784073237). Much loved, Ian will be greatly missed and is survived by his wife Rosemary, children Rupert, Candida, Simon and Annabelle and a loving group of grandchildren.

Rupert Holt

Mr Robert Vincent (Temple 53)*
20 February 1935 – 15 September 2014

Robert died in Manaus, Brazil on 15 September 2014. His happiest school days were at Stowe where he learned how to love landscapes, keep ferrets, climb down drainpipes and shoot rabbits (something to do with one of the masters!) as well as getting some academic qualifications which seemed to take him by surprise.

Mr Nigel Stern (Bruce 57)
31 July 1939 – 17 February 2015

Nigel Stern was for many years a stalwart of the OS Golfing Society Halford Hewitt side and, rare amongst golfers, he kept his silky swing and immaculate short game well into his seventies. But he was much more than a very good golfer. He worked in the City and Tokyo as a metal trader, following in his father's footsteps and latterly for Enron, wisely leaving when he felt their values were not his. He married relatively late to Linda, a QC and prominent member of the Jewish community, and became a proud stepfather of her two sons. As a widower, he continued to live in Highgate but his spiritual home remained Worpleston Golf Club where his life was celebrated in July 2015 by some 60 golfers and friends. It was a great tribute to Nigel that Old Stoic and friend David Julius (Chatham 72) remarked he had never seen so many Gentiles in a synagogue at Nigel's funeral. He was always a gentleman.

Lorne Williamson (Temple 56)

Mr Mark Webster

(Grafton 60)*
3 June 1943 – 20 March 2014

Mark was the only child of Gillian (née Hartland-Mahon) and RAF Squadron Leader Harry Webster. A few months after his birth his father's plane went down near the Azores with no survivors. His family on both sides had travelled widely and served in India, and Mark was especially drawn to Tibet and Tibetan Buddhism. He spent six months near Almora in 1961, teaching at the Doone school in Dehra Dun. Among the many interesting people he met there were Chögyam Trungpa, recently escaped from Tibet, and Krishna Prem, an English Hindu saint. His impressions of this period remained a strong influence throughout his life.

It was a great disappointment to him that he was not allowed to study Tibetan at Oxford, but had to settle for History. After university he taught English in London, trained as an Alexander teacher with Patrick MacDonald and Peter Scott and became a skilled potter.

In 1973, Mark was offered a position teaching the Alexander Technique to young actors at the Zürich Schauspielakademie and relocated to Switzerland with his first wife and young son. He taught at the acting school for 35 years, as well as teaching English at the Kantonsschule Wiedikon. He was a founding member of the first Alexander Teachers Society in Switzerland and was its President from 1981-1988. During the eighties he travelled to Canada for several months each year to train Alexander teachers in Vancouver.

Travel was in his blood, and he always seemed at home in whatever corner of the world he was in, never failing to have a good conversation with whoever he met. Mark remained a spiritual seeker and a Buddhist throughout his life with a great interest in and knowledge of all forms of personal development. The diagnosis of a brain tumour two years ago did not stop a rich life, full of friendship and travel to the end. He is survived by his mother, his second wife, his first wife, the mother of his daughter, two children, two step-children, three grandchildren and many friends.

Robin Möckli Webster

Mrs Biddy Stephan (Former Staff 1940-1963)
15 June 1924 – 18 August 2015

Bridget 'Biddy' Stephan, who died last August aged 91, was married to two legendary Stowe masters, mathematician Raymond Walker and classicist Brian Stephan. Through her concern for others, her gift for friendship and her passion for Stowe over seven decades, Biddy herself became of legendary status. Indeed, for many of us, she was as integral a part of the Stowe scene as Queen Elizabeth at the Worthies or Venus and Diana on the North Hall ceiling.

It all began in the Second World War. Biddy was just eighteen in September 1942 when her father, Colonel O'Brien, a noted rugby player, scored the try of his life by requisitioning parts of the School for his unit of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. For the harassed Headmaster, JF Roxburgh, the smelly cookhouse alongside the Vanbrugh block and the noisy NAAFI nearby were only minor inconveniences compared to the burgeoning iron huts storing ammunition in the grounds and along Stowe Avenue. But Biddy's father ensured his Ammunition Sub-Depot maintained excellent relations with the School, and when the RAOC left after fifteen months, *The Stoic* declared "they were genuinely missed". This certainly applied to the Grenville Housemaster, Raymond Walker, much smitten by the Colonel's daughter, and there was a happy outcome. In December 1945, he and Biddy were married at Christ Church, Kensington, with Stowe's new chaplain, Carlyle Windsor Richards (the rumbustious 'Windy Dick'), officiating.

And so to Chackmore. They rented Chackmore Lodge for many years and then bought Sheens at the other end of the village. With Biddy's strong support, Raymond flourished as an outstanding Maths Tutor. His sudden death, when 55, left Biddy a widow in her early forties with two daughters. A year later, however, in 1967, she remarried and found herself, for the second time, wife of the School's Senior Tutor. Like Raymond, Brian was not just a high-powered scholar but a man of culture. Both were great entertainers at the piano. Biddy certainly knew how to pick a husband.

Everyone agreed that marriage to Biddy changed Brian wonderfully. The shy and sometimes crusty former Housemaster of Chandos quickly developed a quiet, twinkling confidence that underpinned his time as Second Master and his career of record-breaking length. Biddy again flung herself into her husband's cloistered world and broadened it in all directions, her work as secretary of the Choral Society and her care for the blind being but two small examples.

She bore Brian's loss, in 1998, with great fortitude, able to rejoice in a loving family and the faithful dogs that led blissful lives in Sheens with that wonderful garden. In old age Biddy's youthfulness belied the years; she met painful suffering with characteristic resilience. At the celebration of her life at Stowe Church, where she had regularly worshipped, David Donaldson, a friend since the 1950s, gave one of the moving eulogies, testimony to a much-missed and legendary lady.

Tony Meredith (Former staff 1973-2003)

Mr David McMurray (Former Staff 1961-1964)
15 December 1937 – 7 June 2015



David joined Stowe in autumn 1961 to teach English and also developed a very strong rugby 1st XV with Brian Mead. David was schooled at Loretto, followed by National Service in the Royal Scots and a distinguished three years of study at Pembroke College, Cambridge.

He was appointed to Stowe to replace a young man who allowed his pupils great freedom in the classroom. David said that the Upper Sixth was one of the very best prepared that he ever had the privilege to take over and prepare for A level. David was an exceptional teacher of English and, no doubt, many pupils at Stowe will have achieved results beyond their expectations, due to his enthusiasm and dedication. It was also quite well known that David used to add up his pupils' marks while he was calling the morning register. This skill, which is unusual, is an indication of his remarkable ability.

David spent his life in schools and was a consummate schoolmaster. After Stowe, he went to Fettes in 1964, where he became Head of the English Department and a Housemaster, finding time also to coach both the 1st XV and the 1st XI. In 1976, he went back to Loretto as Headmaster, where his aim was to offer "greater scope for the individual" and to explain "the rationale behind the instruction".

He left Loretto in 1984 to become Headmaster of Oundle, where he was instrumental in preparing the School for the 21st century. His Second Master, David Sharp, said that David would go down as one of Oundle's great innovating Headmasters: "If you seek his monument look around you".

Martin Penney (Former Staff, 1961-1964)



Major Richard Clifford MBE RM
(Grafton 64)
15 April 1946 – 15 November 2015

Stowe suited Richard and his 'Carpe diem and Safety Last' philosophy of life admirably. Some of his adventurous escapades got him into scrapes, and his determination to stand up and fight against apparent injustice did not always meet with approval, but he profited by the opportunities offered by Stowe, and left his mark particularly as an athlete and as the senior cadet in the CCF. On the athletics track, while he appeared to lack the build to throw the discus, he trained hard to master the necessary technique and used his extraordinary strength to become a good and dependable performer. He was not a natural sprinter but, with his short strides and low centre of gravity, he was able to scoot round the top bend in a 4 x 110yds relay faster than any one of the recognised sprinters in the athletics squad, and he was one of the quartet who set the School record in this event which has now stood for more than 50 years. In the CCF, he was not greatly enamoured of the rather humdrum routine of the term time weekly parades and drills, but in the field, especially during Arduous Training camps, he was in his element and revealed all the qualities of a natural leader.

After Stowe, Richard had a distinguished career as a Royal Marine, reaching the rank of Major and earning a Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct. He specialised in the Special Boat Service where he pioneered and brought into service an underwater operational weapon system (for which he was appointed MBE), and he involved himself in pioneering research into hypothermia. His service career allowed him to pursue two of his most passionate enthusiasms – sailing and mountaineering. He first honed his climbing technique at Stowe, shinnying up many of the monuments (rather dilapidated in his day) of which the 100ft Cobham Monument was the greatest challenge, before progressing to expeditions in mountain ranges all over the world. With the experience of 50 years of cruising, including multiple Atlantic crossings and other long range voyages to his credit, his reputation as a sailor is second to none. It is a happy coincidence that Richard's initials RCC are also those of the Royal Cruising Club from whom he received so much support and for which, in turn, he proved to be an ideal ambassador.

The personal qualities which characterised him throughout his life emerge in the two privately-published and limited edition autobiographical volumes, *Bumpa at Sea* and *Seldom a Dull Moment*: modesty, loyalty, sociability, enthusiasm, curiosity, ingenuity, unconventionality, energy, self-reliance and his relish of a challenge.

Few can have possessed such an indomitable spirit, greater determination, or more courage, tenacity and greater will to win. He will have been an inspiration to those who served with him and under his command. His Housemaster's last report read: "He does everything dependably, quietly, conscientiously and without fear or favour" – what an apt and enviable epitaph!

David Donaldson (Former staff 1957-1973)

Mr Lawrence Werth (Temple 75)*
19 October 1956 – 19 August 2014

Lawrence, who was Chairman of PC Werth, passed away on 19 August 2014. A respected figure in the International Audiology Industry, Lawrence had been fighting illness for some time. He consistently amazed friends, colleagues and staff with his stoic attitude and approach to dealing with his condition.

Miss Fiona Baddeley (Former Staff 1995-2001)
15 February 1964 – 2 January 2016

It is with great sadness that we have learned of the death, after a long battle with cancer, of Fiona Baddeley who taught English and Theatre Studies at Stowe from 1995-2001. She was a popular VI Form Tutor, UHM in Nugent and an outstanding Director – the musical *Grease* (with the young Henry Cavill in the cast) and Shakespeare's *Hamlet* (with Christian Roe playing the eponymous role) both spring to mind. She left us to be Head of Drama at Blundell's, Devon, though she kept in close touch with many of her former colleagues and close friends.

Crispin Robinson (Second Master)

Mr John Hunt
(Former staff 1958-1969)
4 March 1932 – 16 January 2014



John had a profound influence on those he taught, many of whom consider him a full member of that line of great teachers for which Stowe is justly proud and famous. He was distinctive; very tall and spare, and appeared to glide

around the School in his gown. He could have a severe look which suddenly broke into a smile; he had a great dry sense of humour and enormous kindness and compassion.

Following his degree at Oxford, John taught Geography at Stowe from 1958 to 1969 and coached rowing. He left Stowe when he married and shortly after was appointed the first Headmaster of Roedean, the girls' school. In retirement, he steadfastly endured Parkinson's disease for many years, supported by his wife Sarah and his two sons Jonathan and Richard.

His impact on those around him can be judged in these tributes:

John Hunt inspired me to go into Education and changed my life.

James Dixey (Bruce 66)

A brilliant Teacher; John brought Geography to life.

Angus Sladen (Walpole 69)

John's field trips to the Wye Valley and Tintern Abbey were legendary for both fun and learning. We became enthusiasts just like him.

Anon

John gave me huge support when I was coping with the early death of my father; I shall never forget his care and kindness.

Charles Dimpfl (Chatham 66)

John was a kind and helpful Mentor when I arrived at Stowe on my first teaching job. I had a tough baptism; but John helped me through it. I owe him immense gratitude.

Stuart Morris (Former staff, 1964-1977)

A glass of Sherry in John's Grafton flat was a sign that all was well in the world.

Anon

He was always interested in what I was up to long after I had left Stowe.

Christopher Longstaff (Walpole 69)

John always wanted to impart "civilising influences". This involved producing plays, taking groups to introduce them to opera in London, teaching Scottish Reeling, and having Field Trip house parties at his family's beautiful Georgian house in Scotland.

From the Sedimentarians Society to an afternoon's sculling on the Eleven Acre Lake, to arriving for breakfast at his Scottish country house still in evening dress after a party and, then taking his 5 year old cousins straight off to look for pigeons' eggs, John had an irrepressible zest for life.

James Dixey (Bruce 66) and Angus Sladen (Walpole 69)



Lieutenant Colonel Simon Guyer (Grafton 76)
18 June 1958 – 17 March 2015

Simon joined the Royal Marines immediately on leaving Stowe School in 1976, where he had displayed an early aptitude for all things adventurous! As a child he had enjoyed walking, climbing, camping and sailing, and went on to represent Stowe at rugby, swimming, and water polo. He was also a keen member of the CCF.

After completing Young Officer training at the Commando Training Centre at Lymstone near Exeter, Simon went on to serve in a wide variety of roles, including winter tours in Norway, three operational tours in Northern Ireland, nuclear security, maritime planning for the Bosnian conflict, and an operational deployment to Kuwait during the Iraqi conflict.

However, the major part of Simon's career was spent as a specialist in amphibious operations. He obtained a Distinguished Pass at the Landing Craft Officer Qualifying Course at RM Poole and from there went to serve in NATO deployments to the Caribbean and Mediterranean, Falkland Island patrol vessels, duties in support of HM Customs and back to Poole as the Landing Craft Training Officer.

The highlight of this part of his career was a deployment to the Antarctic in HMS Endurance, where, as Officer of the Watch, the ship struck an uncharted rock causing a major emergency – and necessitated Simon, who was also the ship's diving officer, to leave the Bridge and lead his team over the side into the Antarctic Ocean to inspect the damage. The rock was subsequently named 'Guyer Rock' and was the source of many stories recounted to friends over a beer or round the dinner table at home!

Passing the Army Command and Staff Course at Camberley led Simon on to more senior appointments, significantly as the first Amphibious Operations Officer in HMS Ocean, where he played a key role in developing the Ship's amphibious procedures. Other roles included developing NATO Amphibious Doctrine, and establishing a new role within the Royal Navy's Sea Training organisation responsible for the training of all assault ships and their embarked air and landing forces.

Having served as the Chief of Staff at 1 Assault Group Royal Marines in Plymouth, Simon retired from uniformed service to continue in a civilian role at RM Instow in north Devon where he commanded Craft Wing and was responsible for the development of UK's landing craft and seaborne ship-to-shore capability, undertaking coordination of Research & Development, trials, studies and acceptance of new landing craft and other types of military vessels into service.

During his time in the Royal Marines, Simon enjoyed both recreational and RN Ship's diving, parachuting, and expeditions, having led groups trekking in Nepal and mountaineering on Mount Kenya. He enjoyed cross-country skiing and sailing and was an avid rugby fan. He was a strong advocate of safety on the water and volunteered as a Sea Safety Adviser for the RNLI.

Simon died at the age of 56 from lung cancer, having never been a smoker. Characteristically, he faced his diagnosis and final months with complete acceptance and courage and amazed everybody around him with his determination to continue living life to the full. This included making it to the highest point in the Preseli Mountains to admire the view, and purchasing a long dreamed-of Cornish Shrimper with plans for many trips around the Devon coastline.

The overwhelming memory of Simon by many is one of a true friend who was loyal, kind, compassionate, honest, and reliable. He had time for people, treated them with respect and was known as 'one of the good guys'. He took every opportunity that life presented to him, always pushing forward with a smile on his face. His wife, Jane, will be forever grateful for the 21 wonderful years they spent together and he is missed terribly by Jane, his parents David and Liz, and his brother and sister and wider family.

Mrs Jane Guyer



Mr Peter Farquhar

(Former Staff 1983-2004)
3 January 1946 – 25 October 2015

Peter, much revered former Head of English, died peacefully at his home on Sunday 25 October 2015. After a very successful period teaching at Manchester Grammar School, Peter joined the English Department at Stowe in 1983. He was appointed as Head of English in 1989. He was widely regarded as one of our best teachers, a master of Oxbridge, A Level and GCSE Courses. He inspired many of his pupils to achieve high academic standards and to read English at different universities. Peter was popular as a Sixth Form Tutor, caring deeply for his tutees and pupils on a pastoral level. Peter had a sharp mind and possessed great moral integrity. At School he was a committed Christian, fully involved with the spiritual welfare of Stoics and staff. He prepared candidates for Confirmation and led Bible studies as well as often preaching in Chapel. Peter was a member of staff at Stowe from 1983 to 2004.

After his retirement from Stowe in July 2004, Peter devoted much of his time to Stowe Parish Church where he regularly worshipped and preached for many years and he also continued to support the School by attending lectures and concerts, often in the company of local friends. He kept regular contact with many Old Stoics and some former colleagues and could always be relied upon for advice, literary discussions and companionship. He sat on the OSS Committee for many years, as the 'Local Representative', where his presence and input were always much welcomed, and even after retiring, remained a 'local – and loyal – friend'. Peter was firm in his deep and sincere Christian faith and may he rest in peace.

Crispin Robinson (Second Master)



Rowena characteristically asked Her Majesty to return a watercolour of the Temple Room now in the Royal Collection. A memorial concert was held as a tribute to Rowena, the Music Room at Stowe in May 2014. We will remember 'Miss P', as she was affectionately known by us all, and each of us will treasure our own particular memories in our hearts.

Crispin Robinson (Second Master)

Miss Rowena Pratt

(Former Staff 1978-2004)*
1939 – 9 March 2014

It is with very great regret that we must announce the death of Rowena who served Walpole House as Matron for twenty-five years, under three Housemasters. She served both the House and the School with deep loyalty, sympathy and knowledge.

Walpudlians will remember her enthusiasm, meticulous loving care and the provision of unending food and drink. She was also an avid reader of history and was a guide to the Mansion and grounds for a number of years and the leading light of the local History group in Brackley. Her historical knowledge was delivered with enthusiasm and confidence, and on the occasion of The Queen's visit in 2007,



Mr Michael Dawson (Staff)*

8 July 1956 – 18 October 2014

Mike taught Mathematics at Stowe in two different stints; 1986-1991 and 2007-2014. In the intervening years he taught just across the Bourbon at Akeley Wood, where he became Deputy Head and acting Headmaster. He will thus be remembered fondly by two distinct cohorts of Stoics and by many local ex-Akeley pupils. Mike was an expert Maths teacher and he employed straightforward delivery coupled with an intuitive understanding of where pupils might struggle. His own early academic leanings were towards Art and Sports Science, only later completing

a Maths degree, and this perhaps explains his empathy with those who found the subject challenging. He was universally liked and appreciated by his pupils and tutees. Mike's Head of Department at Stowe, Damian Blewitt, writes:

"To be a teacher you have to be a little strange. To be a Mathematician you are probably going to be a little peculiar. Therefore, Maths teachers are always going to be weird, bar the rare exception. Mike was the rare exception. There was no pretence or dismissiveness or exclusion; Mike was sincere, warm and supportive to all around him and most importantly normal. His presence around the Maths Department was always reassuringly calming. When I saw him first thing in the morning he would open with his regular 'Morning Boss' followed by a big grin while his dog Frank leapt all over me – clearly he had taught the phrase 'Morning Boss' to be a trigger phrase for Frank. Lessons were a joy for his classes; they all enjoyed working and many left the classroom without realising how much progress they had made. His touch in the classroom was perfect; he knew when to push and when to hold back and always achieved fantastic results. More than once in the review of the previous year's results the huge spike in the Mathematics results had again come from pupils in Mr Dawson's classes. He was brilliant with the younger Stoics and inspiring to the unmotivated; he was challenging to the able and encouraging to the less confident. All in the Department miss him dearly; I feel extremely lucky to have worked with him."

Away from the classroom Mike devoted a great deal of time to sports coaching, particularly athletics, both at School and at Milton Keynes Athletics Club. Mike was a gifted hurdles coach and also contributed a great deal to rugby at Stowe; particularly coaching and refereeing. He enjoyed the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, guiding groups of Stoics in some of the more mountainous parts of Britain. Mike also participated in School expeditions to Nepal. In his first period at Stowe he was Under Housemaster in Bruce when Mike Waldman was Housemaster and in his second, Mike was a Sixth Form Tutor, guiding many Stoics through the university application process and writing superbly crafted references.

Mike was a consummate professional and he ensured everything was done on time and to the highest standards. He was also a balanced individual and he understood that there has to be a trade-off between work and life; indeed this drove his decision to forsake management and return to the classroom full time. Mike relished holidays and he and his wife Mandy travelled extensively, usually combining glamorous locations with activities such as windsurfing and mountain biking.

I met Mike when I arrived at Stowe in 1988. We quickly became firm friends and we seemed to have the same ideas about work, sport, music and the like. We spent much time playing a variety of sports, particularly rugby for Buckingham, and Mike was adept at everything from squash to darts – he also held a black belt in Shotokan karate (which I always found reassuring on a night out in the badlands of Buckingham). We fished for tench in the Stowe lakes and for pollock off the north west of Scotland, went windsurfing, running and weight training. Mike's knowledge of, and interest in, contemporary music was phenomenal and we spent many nights in Nottingham's Rock City and other venues seeing acts like Faith No More, Spear of Destiny, Neil Young, the Black Keys and Sparklehorse. Mike loved Bruce Springsteen's music and saw him virtually every time he toured the UK. His tastes were fairly eclectic, but he definitely drew the line at jazz and opera. It has to be said we also spent a good deal of time in pubs and curry houses, for real ale plus hot curry equals contentment, was an equation Mike subscribed to. Mike remained fit and active until a few weeks before his untimely death and he and Mandy spent much time working out together and making friends at Crossfit in Northampton.

Mike will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved him; he was one of the finest people I've ever met and if you would like to evoke a little of the spirit of 'Dawse' may I suggest you listen to something by The War on Drugs, White Denim, or similar, at considerable volume.

Rory Akam (Staff)

David Meadows (Staff)

6 February 1949 – 26 May 2015



David joined the Old Stoic and Development Office team in 2006, from a career that had seen him work both in the UK and internationally for a number of leading companies, including Rolls-Royce. His skills lay in the introduction and

management of complex databases and he was perfectly suited to the mission and challenge of making and maintaining contact with Old Stoics around the world.

David played a largely unseen but vital role in the life and operation of the Old Stoic Society. In charge of the OS database, he was the guardian of the myriad of contact details and snippets of information that we came across for the many thousands of Old Stoics, current and former parents and other friends of the School and Stowe House Preservation Trust. He supported the work of the Campaign for Stowe, helping us by carefully recording donations received from members of the Stowe community in the UK and much further afield. Away from the office, he would be a keen and loyal supporter of events that we organised, helping behind the scenes at many Old Stoic reunions, often being the friendly face as we welcomed guests through North Hall. He would attend regular School events aplenty, and was an especially loyal supporter of the Wednesday recitals held by the Music Department.

Outside work, David's interests and talents were extraordinarily broad. He was a keen and very knowledgeable ornithologist – a hobby he would combine with an amazing talent for wildlife photography. We recall David very modestly showing us some of his work, including a quite extraordinary photo of a kingfisher in flight. He loved cycling and had an encyclopaedic knowledge of both the technical aspects of cycling through to the glamour of the Tour de France. His wonderfully quiet, unassuming, efficient and methodical approach to work belied a passion for other, racier matters...and we loved hearing how, at about 4am one morning, he got up and left the house, just so that he could experience riding his motorbike at 120mph around the Brackley bypass!

David's death – following a brief battle with a horribly aggressive brain tumour – shook us all. But it was the dignity and optimism with which he confronted his illness which perhaps was most striking. David loved Stowe, and it was a devotion that came to rub off on his family too. His wife Kate and son Jeremy came to understand too what it was about Stowe that meant so much to David and we are absolutely thrilled that Jeremy will be married this summer to Rachel in Stowe Chapel.

Colin Dudgeon, Anna Semler, Caroline Whitlock, Janet King and Laura King

SOME MEMORIES OF STOWE

Reading the obituary of Sir Colin Hope (Cobham 51) recently, reminded me of some adventures we had together.

We went to Stowe in 1946. Both of us came from the North West and travelled by train with three or four other boys, from Liverpool to Buckingham via Bletchley. The local train from Bletchley had non-corridor coaches and we once took exception to an unpleasant character who joined us. By the next trip, Colin and I had devised, and made in the school workshop, a carriage door key. Thereafter, when we boarded the train, we found an empty compartment and locked ourselves in. Problem solved!

We were both members of the CCF and formed a small motorised unit. Just us and an NCO (or Officer – I can't remember which), who supervised us. We had two or three pre-war motorcycles which were in reasonable condition but needed attention. It soon became clear that Colin was a gifted (and instinctive) engineer, so with little or no help from our supervisor, and a little help from me, we soon had the bikes going well. Somehow, we obtained a small supply of petrol (it was still rationed) and spent many happy hours 'road testing' the bikes around the grounds. Incredibly liberating and much better than drilling!

Towards the end of my time at Stowe, Tommy Sopwith (Grenville 50) acquired a brand new MG sports car, production of which had only just resumed after the war. He kept it at a 'secret' location away from the School and we had some great expeditions on the almost deserted roads.

After we left Stowe, Colin acquired a Brooklands Riley with which to go racing, and he asked me to go with him to races to help out.

We had both become keen on motor racing having heard wonderful noises (often when we were in class) coming from the former airfield at Silverstone. Although we disliked cross-country running, we used to go on training runs which just happened to take us to Silverstone. Sometimes we got tips in advance, one notable occasion being the introduction to the press of the Rover Gas Turbine car. Imagine the scene, the world's press and two schoolboys!

After Stowe, Colin went on to become a very distinguished automotive engineer. Tommy Sopwith had a successful period racing cars and power boats. I had a few very happy years racing cars professionally, driving for Lotus, which included class wins at Spa and Le Mans.

My son (alas not an Old Stoic) is the well known Formula 1 commentator, James Allen. Would any of this have happened without Stowe and Silverstone? I sometimes wonder if today's Stoics are affected in the same way.

Bill Allen (Grenville 51)

THE BIG BAD WORLD



No Old Stoic can forget the exhilaration of driving out of the Stowe gates as a leaver, no doubt with a stinking hangover from the Leavers' Ball. It can take weeks, months or even years to miss the comfort and protection that is Stowe but sooner or later realisation will hit: "What on earth am I going to do next". For many, this daunting feeling comes at the end of University alongside the inkling that it may be time to find a job. At some point, a helpful friend or relative is bound to utter the famed words, "It's not what you know, it's who you know", at which point you might be thinking, "I know a hell of a lot of students, all of whom are brilliant at drinking games and last minute essay writing!" Not to fear, the OS Society is here!

We provide a range of services to give you confidence, a head start and connections to support you as you take your first steps into the working world.

Career Mentors: We'll match you up with an OS working in an industry that interests you. This can lead to work experience and placements.

Online Networking: Interaction between members is encouraged via the OS Register which integrates with LinkedIn to help you to grow your online connection portfolio.

Find a Job: Check the OS Jobs Board on our website for positions being offered by other OS members.

Careers' Fairs: All recent leavers are welcome to attend the annual OS Careers' Fair at Stowe, which takes place in November. OS Speakers are needed; please get in touch if you can help.

Online Advice: Downloadable help sheets are on hand with advice on writing a CV, interview tips, start-up tips and many more.

You may well have left Stowe but the OS Society ensures that Old Stoics across the world remain supported with the tools they need to go far in life. Full details about these services are on our website, www.oldstoic.co.uk

CAN YOU OFFER WORK EXPERIENCE?

We're looking for Old Stoics to come forward who are able to offer current Stoics or recent leavers work experience in their companies. We hope to collate a number of placements which can be offered to those starting out in their careers.

It could be as short as a few days or could extend to full year long internship: we welcome all offers that members can give. We will leave it up to you to select suitable applicants and timings for the placements, so you can control how you manage this within your company.

If you can help, please complete the form on our website: <http://www.stowe.co.uk/school/old-stoics/member-services/os-jobs-board> or email oldstoic@stowe.co.uk

We hope to be able to list a collection of placements in future editions of this magazine for members to peruse.

THE CHURCHILL £20 COMMEMORATIVE COIN 2015!

In 2014, I was approached by the Royal Mint to design a coin to mark the 50th anniversary of the death of Sir Winston Churchill in 2015. In 1965, the Royal Mint had commissioned Oscar Nemon to design and model a crown coin. Nemon had made a career sculpting Churchill with statues in the Houses of Parliament and other prominent locations worldwide. Few sculptors knew him better. He had not, however, made the greatest statue of Churchill, the one in Parliament Square unveiled in 1973 and made by Ivor Roberts-Jones, later to be my tutor at Goldsmiths' College. Roberts-Jones' work, which I had seen at Stowe in a group show in 1971, had inspired me to apply for Goldsmiths on leaving Stowe and he was working on the Churchill statue in my first year at art school. The commission to design a coin representing Churchill was a great

responsibility both to the subject and to his previous sculptors!

My inspiration came from the famous Yousef Karsh photograph for *Time Life*. This image, the most successful and most familiar of Churchill, the wartime leader, has a power surpassed by no other. Karsh took the photograph on 30 December 1941 after Churchill gave a speech to the Canadian House of Commons in Ottawa. In a moment of boldness, Karsh snatched the cigar from Churchill's mouth. "By the time I got back to my camera", he later recalled, "he could have devoured me." It became the most enduring portrait of Churchill and one of the most reproduced photographs in history. It was the obvious image on which to base the coin design.

Designing and modelling a coin was a new direction for me and this was my first.

Coins are made to extreme precision compared with sculptures. My relatively free style of modelling had to be pared down to a closed surface and, though made 30cm in diameter, restricted to a depth of less than 2mm and still had to incorporate all the detail required to achieve a likeness. I modelled it on a levelled clay bed with runners either side to allow me to check my modelling was kept below 2mm. The model was tipped vertically on an easel, more like a painting, and strongly lit from above. This was the only way to see the slightest nuances in fractions of a millimetre in the modelling. Though modelled large to allow for detail, it is viewed reduced to final coin size. Once completed and moulded, the cast was photographed and reduced to final coin scale to be inspected by the Royal Mint's Advisory Committee and, in this case, members of the Churchill family for approval. It was approved and is now available.

Etienne Millner (Grenville 72)



THE STUDIO OF ETIENNE MILLNER (GRENVILLE 72)



On 26 September 2015, I had the great fortune to join a small group of Old Stoics and parents on a visit to the studio of sculptor and OS, Etienne Millner.

I hadn't seen him for the best part of forty years when we had been contemporaries in Grenville. Even then he was an exceptional talent and someone you felt destined for greatness. Quiet, assured and given his extensive achievements, one of the most understated Old Stoics of his generation. He studied at Goldsmiths and the Royal Academy and was a contemporary of the YBAs. He resisted the temptation to cut up cows and put sharks in tanks and focused on the less fashionable but considerably more challenging art of taking a human being, often with a huge ego, and recreating their image in bronze.

His ability to capture not only the likeness of his sitters but also the essence of their character has led to him being in constant demand over the last four decades. With clients as varied as Lord Harris, Rumer Godden and Arsene Wenger.

For over two hours, he held us captive with his talk about the complex technicalities of the sculpting process and gave us an insight into the challenges of sculpting sitters varying from young children to captains of industry.

His most recent triumph was winning the commission by the Royal Mint to design the new £20 coin in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Winston Churchill's death (see article above) and following in the footsteps of another great OS sculptor, David Wynne (Grenville 44) who created a design for the 50p piece commemorating our entry into the EEC.

Etienne is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Sculptors and a Past President of the Society of Portrait Sculptors. I only hope he can be persuaded to make a return visit to Stowe to impart some of his knowledge and experiences to the present generation of Stoics.

Mark Flawn-Thomas (Grenville 72)

"MARSDEN! MARSDEN!"

It was about 6.30am on a sunny summer morning when I was awakened from a deep sleep by shouts of my name echoing from the walls of Walpole Court, towards the end of the summer term in 1949. Looking out of the dormitory window, I was surprised to see my respected housemaster, Mr Kinvig, wrestling a boy in the house, Richard Sparrow (Walpole 49). Going downstairs and out of the front door I saw Richard being wrestled to the ground and Mr Kinvig explained that Richard had been sleepwalking. The event was over, Richard returned or possibly went up to his bed and peace returned to Walpole Court.

The explanation of this bizarre event was as follows:

The relatively long period of abstinence occurring in the summer term had been hard for Richard to bear, and he had formed a satisfying friendship with a young lady on the domestic staff.

Returning to the house after a night of passion, he had encountered his housemaster. Now Richard was a quickly thinking boy and a talented actor, having recently starred in the school play, *Night Must Fall* (incidentally kindly witnessed by the distinguished London actor Sir Cedric Hardwicke whose son was in Chandos House at the time and later became the epitome of television's Dr. Watson). So Richard went into his brilliant, if unrehearsed, act of sleepwalking. This rather unusual event ended without sequelae, apart from some damage to the housemaster's watch. Mr Kinvig later retired to his native Isle of Man, and Richard Sparrow became a Deputy Lieutenant for his native Cheshire County.

Respectfully submitted.

John Marsden (Walpole 49) 55

MEET THE OLD STOIC SOCIETY COMMITTEE

The OSS Committee meet regularly throughout the year to generate ideas and decide on the direction of the Society.

We're always looking for new members, so if you're interested in getting involved please get in touch by emailing oldstoic@stowe.co.uk

	What's your greatest Stowe achievement?	What's your contribution to the Society?	What's your favourite view at Stowe?
 Jonathon Hall (Bruce 79)	Surviving springs to mind but that may not be the most diplomatic response!	Chairman. Turning up on time and focusing us on becoming more commercial.	The Garter, if only I had a bed beneath it! Failing that, the view from the Corinthian Arch to the School.
 Hannah Durden (Nugent 01)	Beating the boys in the Coldstream Cup.	I have been encouraging OSs to participate in any sport possible whether an old boys/girls' competition or on a more informal level. Recently promoted to Vice Chair [aka Chair of Vice].	It's got to be the South Front. Playing lacrosse there was the sole reason for deciding to come to Stowe for Sixth Form. I thought it was the most beautiful place I'd ever seen.
 Peter Comber (Grenville 70)	Selected for 1 st XV rugby aged 16.	Act as the Treasurer to keep control on finances.	South Front from the Marble Hall.
 Anna Semler (Nugent 05)	Playing 1 st XII Lacrosse and winning eight matches out of ten in my last year.	Old Stoic Director.	The Gothic Temple high on the hill, when jogging in the grounds.
 Paul Burgess (Cobham 89)	Running in the county cross-country championship.	Newly elected. Look forward to making a difference.	View from South Front.
 Tim Hart (Chandos 92)	Being awarded Congreve colours in Fifth Form, for Romeo and Juliet. I was one of the first in my year.	Generating ideas and setting up OS Corkscrew. Since getting involved, I've helped to rev up the OS Events programme.	The vista of the South Front from (inside!) the Corinthian Arch.
 Jonathan Keating (Cobham 73)	Getting my dismal adolescent poetry published in the School magazine.	Hopefully to bring a commercial eye to the organisation.	Looking down over the small valley and water, to the Temple of Ancient Worthies.
 Katie Lamb (Lyttelton 06)	The achievements in my final year, including sports captaincies, Head of House and school prefect.	Over the last couple of years, I have been heavily involved in Old Stoic events.	The view from the Corinthian Arch, looking towards the South Front.
 Ben Mercer (Development Director)	Getting in!	I try to give the School's perspective on matters arising, but most importantly love to encourage the Society to help with careers and mentoring and, of course, get as many Old Stoics to events as possible.	South Front, no question.
 Nigel Milne (Chandos 68)	Breathing life and fun into the Old Stoic Society.	Being Chairman of the Networking, Marketing and Events Committee and broadening the Society's vision.	The Kent Pavilions and Corinthian Arch viewed from the South Front Portico – pure Claude Lorraine! And the reverse, with the South Front framed by the Corinthian Arch and reflected in the lake.
 Simon Shneerson (Temple 72)	The work I did with Community Service we were looking after about 300 pensioners each week in the days when welfare benefits were negligible.	As Chairman, I was able to help shape the Society for the future, encouraging its wider vision and facilitating new activities which will make a real difference in the coming years.	The Routemaster speeding down the hill and leaping over the hump-backed bridge over the Oxford Water.
 Jules Walker (Lyttelton 82)	Becoming an Old Stoic after the full five years.	Creative thinking and ideas.	From the Cobham Monument.

Which OS project excites you most?	Naughtiest moment at Stowe:	Why did you join the OSS Committee?	Recent OS event highlight:
Careers to OS Benevolent Fund, the fully rounded proposition: something we will do better than anyone else.	Too many to mention!	I joined to turn Stoics on to or away from Advertising as a career or more generally to help guide where guidance was lacking.	Becoming Chairman and neatly avoiding a calamitous skating incident...
There are exciting plans for involving our President in an OS event over the next year which will require mass-participation across the globe. Watch this space!	Hiding under a desk in a boy's study room because his Housemaster was showing a prospective parent around. There were also a couple of particularly enjoyable cigarettes, having climbed head first out of a window in Nugent, on the roof of the study block whilst reclining in a deck chair in the evening sun. The perfect antidote to exam term at the time.	Super-interesting mix of OS personalities that I meet and a huge variety of projects to get involved in, not to mention career and business opportunities generated from networking events. I have also loved meeting and mentoring current Stoics at the OSS Careers' events.	The tour of Roger Charlton's training yard in Wiltshire in 2014.
The new OS Benevolent Fund and focus on social and/or financial assistance to OSs.	Caught smoking in Cobham bike sheds and received 6 of the best.	Desire to give something back.	OS Careers' Fair at Stowe.
Developing the online networking so everyone can interact with one another.	Hiding wine under my bed and a raucous evening at the Leavers' Ball which, 10 years later, I think I've finally lived down.	I saw the potential to make the network of Old Stoics more useful for everyone and I love meeting people and hosting events.	Careers' Fair at Stowe, it's great to see so many OSs coming back to help the Stoics widen their horizons and discover what they might want to do with their lives.
Careers' development	Best left on tour...	To be able to help others and put something back from my experiences.	Nigel and Anna ice skating!
The networking capacity of the new website.	Getting demoted from Deputy Head of School within two weeks of being appointed.	I thought there was a huge network of interesting people that was not being properly utilised for the benefit of the OS community.	Summer Party, a great evening!
All are good news, but the ambitious launching of a London Club is really exciting.	Drinking six pints of beer in Akeley and then staggering back across the fields to throw up all over the Cobham dorm.	Having recently had a son at the School and another one coming in 2017 thought I had better keep an eye on things.	Great skating, though due to a bad back, stuck to the drinking.
I'm looking forward to establishing official 10 year reunions at Stowe.	That would be telling...	Fingers and Nige roped me in!	The 90 th Anniversary stands out as my favourite event.
Mentoring	Gosh, I shouldn't have one should I?!	As part of my role at Stowe, the Old Stoic Society falls within my mandate. I am very glad that it does.	Hearing Old Stoics delight about their time in DT and how it changed the way they lived their lives.
The Stowe-X Rock & Blues Collective!	After attending Catholic Mass in Buckingham every Sunday morning, I would return to the School, having fulfilled my shopping list at the off-licence and then do my deliveries around the studies while all of the pupils and staff were attending Matins! My first experience of Retailing!	I was suitably flattered by Johnnie Arkwright's request that I should do so!	Being kissed by THE PINK CHAMPAGNE SISTERS at a recent OS Dinner.
The OS Benevolent Fund that we are now starting up – I think there's a huge unmet need for this.	Brewing beer in the cellars underneath the Powerhouse Yard Boiler Room.	I was conned into it by another committee member, who promised me lots of wine and no work. It turned out the other way round!	All our events are great but probably the most memorable moment for me was meeting Sir Nicholas Winton.
School centenary collaboration.	Now that would be telling, wouldn't it?	I like doing things for others.	Getting the go ahead for all new initiatives.

STOWE-X ROCK, BLUES AND COUNTRY MUSIC COLLECTIVE



▶ The Metropolis Recording Studios.

- ▶ JJ Rosa.
- ▶ Orlando Seale.
- ▶ The Metropolis Recording Studios.



Things are so much more fun if shared with like-minded people, don't you think? It is with this in mind that I have established the Old Stoic Rock, Blues and Country Music Collective.

Our inaugural gig was in April with two phenomenal bands – the jaw-droppingly awesome JJ ROSA and the string driven magnificence of ORLANDO SEALE (Lyttelton 91) AND THE SWELL. JJ Rosa's guitar playing style owes a great deal to Prince and Jimi Hendrix and with a sizeable nod to Nile Rogers, too. Her Amy Winehouse flavoured vocal delivery and tight backing band blew us all away. It really was a brilliant set. Orlando Seale's material is almost cinematic in its bravura. Big melodies with sweeping strings which are totally uplifting but whose lyrics can be tinged with dark menace. Orlando is a charismatic performer with great charm and elegance.

Since then, we have had three inspiring gigs at The Metropolis Recording Studios in Chiswick – the birthplace of many an iconic album by stratospheric artists and most recently noted for giving birth to Adele's 21 and 25 albums, the latter being the fastest selling album in history.

At these Metropolis Sessions (which, incidentally, are FREE!) we feature four or five different sets by brand new and established artists. Memorable highlights from the three sessions up to the time of writing this article have been the extraordinarily talented 16 year old (yes 16!) NATALIE SHAY whose beautiful voice and aggressive guitar playing style had us all in her thrall. A delightful Southern Rock infused outfit called

RUMHONEY punched out infectious and driving rhythms topped off by a wailing harmonica resulting in grinning faces throughout the audience – excellent stuff!

WARREN – an urban funk-bunny (appropriate with a name like that) playing keyboards and accompanied by a single Fender-wielding colleague produced a contemporary feel tinged with Latin rhythms. HATTON MANOR is definitely a duo to look out for, exquisite voices and harmonies accompanied by superb guitar picking.

The two stand-out acts from the last session were ROZELLE – an excellent quintet with a very unsophisticated image belying a colossal talent. Brilliant vocals by the two girls with strikingly different styles, the main singer's being sweet and lovely whilst the other's is astonishing in its huge range, depth and intensity. Secondly, JOE CORBIN, a great bluesey voice, wonderfully dirty guitar riffs and just enough excellent virtuoso guitar bursts to let one know of what he is capable but without being tempted into long self-indulgent meanderings.

A visit to SHOREDITCH LOFT to see the much vaunted THE PRISCILLAS resulted in a mixture of intrigue and slight disappointment in that we had been led to believe that this band was the "best-kept-secret" in the music business and that we would be given a taste of what a gig in the Bowery district of New York was like in the Seventies. Whilst that claim was undoubtedly true, in that the all-girl band resembled The Kramps and The New York Dolls, they were time-locked in 1974. About four out of the dozen or so songs were slickly delivered, the remainder were chaotic and one led into another without any discernible variation, which I think that we have all rather grown out of now, haven't we? Still, it has to be said it was good fun.

So, there you have it. Now, my intention for this club is to alert everyone to interesting gigs by emerging and established artists in the smaller venues around London. However, music is a very subjective thing and so I am very keen for other members to flag up any forthcoming gigs that you think will appeal to the rest of us, so please do let me know nigel@nigelmilne.co.uk and I shall publicise them on the regular e-bulletins. I would like the membership of this Club to increase and not just with OSs – please involve your like-minded non-OS friends too. After all we can't actually explain such an emotive passion to the uninitiated can we?

Nigel Milne (Chandos 68)

To join the club email oldstoic@stowe.co.uk

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COLIN DUDGEON'S DEPARTURE

There is a popular misconception in some quarters of the Common Room that fundraising is all about peeling Plover eggs and sipping vintage Dom Perignon from Murano champagne flutes while cultivating potential donors in exotic destinations.

The workaday reality of the Campaign Office is about as far removed from this decadent image as it is possible to be: our benefactors prefer to see their donations being spent on supporting the School, enhancing facilities or increasing the endowment and frown on conspicuous consumption.

Colin achieved a huge amount over the last decade by raising £25m for the Campaign. I've seen grown men weep when Colin comes into a room but without his tenacity, perseverance and energy we would not have the new Athletics Track, Equestrian Centre, Music School, the completely refurbished Roxburgh Theatre, the transformation of Lyttelton and the significantly enhanced Science Building which is currently being developed.

Colin's finest hour at Stowe was on 29 November 2007 when Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh visited Stowe to open Queen's House, something which had begun with a casual remark by The Queen when I met her in 2003 and turned into a production of epic proportions. Colin found himself organising a Royal Away-Day which took in The Queen's opening of Milton Keynes Football Stadium, the Hub, a new St John's Ambulance Brigade Headquarters as well as a tour of Stowe House and Gardens, a Service of Thanksgiving in Chapel, the opening of Queen's House, lunch for 300 invited guests and a completely separate programme for HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

During the final dress-rehearsal Colin confided to me that he could feel a tingling in his left arm. He did not look reassured when I told him that the Medical Centre had acquired a defibrillator especially for the occasion and that he could be the guinea pig to find out whether it worked. Of course, all went smoothly on the day itself



and Colin's impeccable organisation made it a complete triumph. There were comic moments: a rower capsized in the Octagon Lake just as Michael Righton was explaining his plans for the future of rowing at Stowe, The Queen showed great solicitude and care for the Stoic artists whose hands had turned blue with cold while sketching in the grounds and then spent more time with the Beagles than anyone could have predicted. It was a magical, never-to-be-forgotten day.

At Speech Day last year, I said that a school cannot be better than its best teachers. I should have added that neither can it be better than its best support staff. It has been a privilege to work alongside Colin and we have been fortunate to have him leading the Campaign for Stowe over the last decade. So much has been achieved and his legacy is secure. The following tribute to Sir Christopher Wren can be found engraved in stone under the dome of St Paul's Cathedral: "Lector, si monumentum requiris, circumspice" (Reader, if you seek his monument, look around you). The transformation of Stowe over the last ten years owes a great deal to Colin Dudgeon and we wish him the very best of luck as he develops his career at Radley. Fortunately, Colin and Lucy are not entirely lost to the Stowe community as their two daughters will ensure that they remain very much part of the Stowe scene.

Dr Anthony Wallersteiner, Headmaster

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MY PLACE OR YOURS?

We're looking for places and spaces to host Old Stoic events. If you own or work in a space that would be good for a wine tasting, drinks party, lecture or similar and you are happy for us to bring a group to you for an entertaining evening, please do get in touch. We aim to host events across the country and the world for Old Stoics living far and wide, so no matter where you might be, we would be interested in speaking to you if you can help. We welcome offers of spaces big and small, as the OS events we host range from around 20 people up to 200. Please email oldstoic@stowe.co.uk if you can help.



GROUND BREAKING PROGRESS WITH ONLINE NETWORKING

Last year, the Old Stoic website was pulled, kicking and screaming, into the 21st Century. I hope you will find it an engaging and useful area containing a myriad of services for members. The website acts as our online hub, connecting members worldwide, recounting news and advertising OS events and activities. We've made it a little bit special, to encourage you to come back regularly and make use of it.

The Old Stoic Register is now an advanced connection tool which integrates with LinkedIn. You will be asked to sign on using your LinkedIn username and password (please set up an account if you don't have one). The OS Register is now searchable on name, house, year, industry, profession and location. These advances allow you to track down friends as well as make new connections for business or travel purposes. You can connect directly with an Old Stoic on LinkedIn to communicate and network with them, to increase your contacts.

In order to make the OS Register to work to its best advantage, we need everyone to sign up right away to link their LinkedIn account to the Register. Please go to www.oldstoic.co.uk to get started.

The new website also contains numerous other online services, including a jobs board, business listings, careers' advice, career mentors, sports teams, special interest groups and helpful information. I hope you enjoy the new services on offer. Please do send feedback about the new website to oldstoic@stowe.co.uk

OSS IN SCOTLAND AND THE FAR NORTH OF ENGLAND

All Old Stoics living in Scotland and the Far North of England are invited to a Black Tie Dinner at

**The New Club,
Edinburgh, EH2 2BB,**

Friday, 20 May 2016, 7.30pm.

**Tickets £65 per person,
to include a three course dinner and wine.**

**To book visit www.oldstoic.co.uk/events
or telephone 01280 818349.**

Old Stoics who work in London or elsewhere in the country and hail from Scotland are warmly encouraged to return for the event.

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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.

The Roxburgh Society is made up of those Old Stoics and members of the Stowe community who have pledged a legacy to the School. They have chosen to support either the Stowe School Foundation, which provides incredible educational facilities and much needed scholarships and bursaries, or the Stowe House Preservation Trust, which funds the restoration and preservation of one of England's historic gems.

The Roxburgh Society now numbers over 130 members, each of whom has pledged a legacy bequest supporting the aspect of Stowe which is closest to their heart – be it bursaries, the restoration etc. Since our inaugural lunch in 2005, 50 legacies have been realised. Every bequest received has had an extraordinary impact upon the School and its pupils, for which Stowe is very grateful.

The Roxburgh Society has gathered twice over the past year, bringing together members and guests in June and November. Each occasion has included an opportunity to see the incredible work of

the Stowe charities they will be supporting and the enormous difference their gifts will make.

The Roxburgh Society events are always enjoyable occasions, filled with good food and bonhomie, allowing members to reconnect with the School as well as with each other.

Please do consider supporting Stowe with a bequest in your Will. If you would like further information or to discuss your wishes in confidence, please contact the Development Director, Ben Mercer at bmercer@stowe.co.uk / 01280 818249.

Thank you.

*Nigel Rice (Chatham 64)
President, Roxburgh Society*



OLD STOICS MASTER THE CRESTA RUN

High up in the Swiss Engadine valley, sits the alpine town of St Moritz, the birthplace of winter sport. In 1884, residents of Badrutt's Palace Hotel decided that some gentle tobogganing would be an excellent way of passing the gloriously sunny winter days. They selected a route from the near the bell tower in the Town, that passed through the hamlet of Cresta and ended up at the bottom of the valley in the village of Celerina. The Cresta Run was born. The St Moritz Tobogganing Club controls the Run with military precision, essential given the potential danger of the sport.

Early riders rode their toboggans in the seated position until one Club member (they thought he was bonkers) elected to go down the Run head first. Little has changed over the intervening 131 years and the sport remains totally amateur, although the modern rider in skin tight lycra and protection equipment is barely recognisable from his predecessor clad

in Plus Twos and tweed. However, beginners, who are most welcome at the Club subject to complying with protocol, frequently elect to dress in the traditional manner.

An Olympic sport in 1928 and 1948 when the winter games were held in St Moritz, the Cresta Run is the forerunner of Bob Skeleton, a sport in which GB enjoys considerable success at present.

The Grand National was the first official race and it is still contested today – the blue riband event in the annual calendar. There are now some 40 races during a season, which starts shortly before Christmas and finishes in the first week of March.

The diamond hard ice run is constructed afresh each year. There are no permanent formers and it is set out by eye. As a result, it is subtly different every season. Top to Finish is approximately ¾ mile long with an average gradient of 1 in 7.7, and the best

riders can reach speeds in excess of 80mph on their skeleton toboggans, which weigh around 40-45kg. Unlike Bobsleigh and Luge, falls are frequent at certain bends, although serious injuries are, mercifully, few. The fastest will achieve descent times of sub 52 seconds and the all time record was lowered to just under 50 seconds during last season by, Old Etonian, Lord Wrottesley. But, whilst a steely nerve is a useful characteristic, athletic prowess is not a necessary physical requirement, and the sport is open to those men who wish to test their mettle on the ice during the morning and their social stamina during the afternoon and evenings.

Many Old Stoics visit St Moritz each winter to take on the challenge of the Cresta Run each season and the current Senior Champion from Top and holder of the Crawford Cup (on handicap) is Nicholas Rice (Lyttelton 71) who, at the age of 61 broke his personal best time (57.66 secs) and speed record (74.67 mph) during last season's race. Jonathan Seccombe (Walpole 66) has held the post of Seniors' President and his sons, Sam Seccombe (Chatham 05) and Tom Seccombe (Chatham 03) represent the Army in the Inter Services race – both are very capable young riders. In Harry Sheppard (Grenville 03), Stowe has a serious contender in the highly competitive Open races.

There is, most definitely, something about the St Moritz lifestyle that appeals to an Old Stoic!

Further details can be found on the Club website: www.crestarun.com

Nick Rice (Lyttelton 71)



0-60° IN 3 YEARS

When my family and I moved from the equator in Kenya to the north of Sweden, just a day's drive from the Arctic Circle, describing it as a shock to the system would be putting it mildly.

Kenya will always be home, it's where I grew up and started my career. We lived a bohemian lifestyle, going on safari regularly, listening to the lions calling and inspecting the footprints in the morning to try and identify our night time visitors. The blinding white beaches and the warm turquoise sea water of the coast were a great pull for half terms. We would have sundowners on the roofs of our coastal retreats listening to hyraxes and sipping gin and tonics.

While holidaying in Sweden, my fiancé and I were invited to look around an English speaking 'Free School'. The Headmaster was an animated Canadian with an uncanny resemblance to Voldemort! After discovering we were English and teachers, he invited us back for interview and subsequently offered us positions. Very spontaneously, we took the offers and 6 months later said goodbye to family and friends and left for Sweden.

To my fiancé's disappointment, Sweden isn't full of leggy blondes and ice bars. We immediately detected huge differences between the education systems. Our new school is strict and pupils must follow stringent rules such as no hats, no mobiles in class and (oh horror) teachers must be addressed by their surname. But alongside these tough rules are other curious trends. Expulsion is against the law and there are no 'houses'; also the School doesn't coach any sports teams: the students play sports in their own time outside school.

When it comes to tests, the Swedes and Kenyans are successful in different ways. In Kenya, students are given notice about a test. They would study for it, take it and then receive their results. In Sweden, students must be given written warning of the said event two weeks prior to it. When the day comes, half the students will be ill. Then if they are dissatisfied with their results you must allow them to retake it repeatedly until they are!

Sweden is beautiful; we were recently treated to a magnificent display of Aurora Borealis, painting the sky in magically ethereal pink and green swirls. Ironically, we feel confined and restricted in an egalitarian country, whereas, we felt wild and free in a conservative one. So why did we move? Well, life is an adventure and although a humble and painfully low paying profession, teaching can take us anywhere in the world, with brilliant holidays and full immersion into a variety of cultures and communities. Where will life's adventure take us next? Watch this space!

Kimberley Harries (Lyttelton 01)



CALLING BATTERSEA

BY EDWARD HOPKINSON (CHATHAM 15)

Edward painted this iconic image of Battersea Power Station in 2014, the original painting hangs in the main reception at Battersea Power Station and measures a staggering 5ft x 4ft. This painting of the iconic London Landmark has proved such a hit that a limited run of 250 numbered and signed giclée printed canvases have been produced. If you are interested in purchasing a print, please contact Edward directly for further details, edhop16@gmail.com



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AMERICAN FRIENDS OF STOWE

The storied connection between Stowe and the United States dates back centuries. Thomas Jefferson and John Adams visited Stowe in 1786 and both wrote about the grandeur of the mansion and the beauty of the gardens. The transatlantic ties have grown stronger ever since.

Since the School was established in the early 20th Century, Stowe has welcomed Americans into its community and encouraged Stoics to explore the United States. American Friends of Stowe is the culmination of this special relationship.

AFS is an active group of Old Stoics, current and former Parents of Stoics, Stowe-Harvard Fellows and other friends and supporters of Stowe. The organisation raises funds for critical School initiatives and provides a social network throughout the United States. Each year, we host a variety of social events, including a lively summer Pub Night in New York City and our annual Fall Cocktail Party.

Last year's elegant Cocktail Party featured remarks by Headmaster, Dr Anthony Wallersteiner and the presentation of the American Worthies Award to acclaimed art historian, Sir John Richardson (Chatham 39). The Award was created to honour Old Stoics living in America who have contributed in a significant way to Stowe and its ties to America. The event, boasting record attendance, embodied everything our organisation is about as supporters of Stowe, old and new, reconnected, socialised and honoured one of our most distinguished Old Stoics.

Our Annual Reception is only one of the many ways that American Friends of Stowe serves the international Stowe community. AFS also raises funds to build a sustainable endowment for the continued administration of the Stowe-Harvard Fellowship. This year will mark the 25th anniversary of this fellowship: an opportunity for a graduating senior of Harvard College to live and teach at Stowe for a year.

The role of the Harvard Fellow varies from year to year but, most Harvard Fellows teach classes in one or two academic departments, coach sport and assist with other activities and live in a boarding house with the students. A major responsibility of the Harvard Fellow is to supervise Stoics who wish to apply to American universities. In the recent past, Stoics have matriculated at top American colleges and universities including Stanford, University of Chicago, Northeastern, Cornell, Boston University, Fordham and New York University. The Harvard Fellow guides students in every step of the application process, from preparing for SATs to selecting an appropriate range of colleges and crafting the various components of the application.

In the past year, our organisation sponsored Stowe-Harvard Fellow Michael Chilazi, a Harvard graduate, who went on to spend a remarkable year living and teaching at Stowe, giving Stoics a unique international perspective. His year concluded with an elegant black tie dinner at Stowe co-hosted by AFS.

Each year, the connection between Stowe and the United States becomes stronger as more Old Stoics find themselves living in the US. Although our network of Stowe supporters is concentrated in the bustling cities of New York and Los Angeles, our membership is geographically diverse, with a good number of Old Stoics living in the Midwest, the South, and the Pacific Northwest. AFS serves as a way for these far-flung friends to stay connected to their time at Stowe and to help ensure that Stowe will continue to provide an international education for years to come.

Brian R. Hecht, Chairman, American Friends of Stowe



THE BEATLES

A new photograph has surfaced from the famous Beatles Concert at Stowe. We are hoping to identify the Stoics in the photograph. If you can help, please email your suggestions to oldstoic@stowe.co.uk



AMERICAN WORTHIES AWARD

Last 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 T S 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 (Cobham 41), 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, Chair of the American Friends of Stowe. From the outset, it became clear that John still has enormous affection for Stowe and he spoke fondly of his time in



◉ Sir John Richardson, (Chatham 39) with Brian Hecht.

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 the rest of 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 twentieth 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 the 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

SPLIT PERSONALITY

Poems by Dennis Levet (Grenville 43)



Dennis, who now lives in Tasmania, Australia, sent news to the Old Stoic Office last year and kindly enclosed a copy of his poetry book, *Split Personality*.

Dennis writes, "For five years I wrote a poem each month for a newsletter. I feel that much of today's poetry has fallen under the spell of free verse which to me, on the whole, is prose broken up into short lines. I feel that poetry needs the rhythm of a basic meter. I acquired a book by an American author from which I learned the basics of writing poetry. I have recently retired from this activity but my family demanded that I have the collection of poems published. The poem published below links England's past with that of Tasmania both in historical terms and personal terms and because, as its title suggests, the site is capable of leaving such an indelible impression on the mind."

For the Term of Your Natural Life

A view across a turquoise bay with headlands far beyond from a building more in keeping with an old baronial hall. The scene: a winter's eve of table seated guests and a place of cast proportions filled with fire to keep them warm. Roo is on the menu with the finest reds from France, choicest fruits and rich desserts, cigars and foreign port.

Conversation quickly centres on the larcenists below who've slaved all day in darkness mining coal, and now, hungry and exhausted, deprived of light and heat, are locked in cells beneath those very diners' feet.

It is said...Can't be true...I regret to say it is... Surely not...Too obscene for words...

The site of these obscenities is now a sandstorm ruin.* Visit at your peril if you dare because its many ghosts are bound to mortify your soul ...for the term of your natural life.

* Saltwater River near Port Arthur.



STOWE LODGE 9002

What one gets out of being a Mason

In the article last year, I tried to summarise what Freemasonry is about (Friendship, Charity and Integrity) and what Stowe

Lodge stands for (maintaining the Masonic standards and to do so with a sense of style and fun). I am happy to say this must have been a helpful article in that a large number of people contacted me and have decided to join.

This year, I thought it would be useful to give you a sense about what one actually gets out of being a Mason. As such, I asked a couple of our members, both Masonically experienced and relatively new, to outline their thoughts and these are given below.

Friendship

“Since joining, I have met some fantastic people of all ages. These people will, without doubt, be friends for life and without Freemasonry I would have never come into contact with them. I also like the fact that the Lodge likes to enjoy itself and whenever we get together, whether this is at a meeting or for drinks in the City, we always end up having great fun!”

“All my friends have shared good times with me but it is my Masonic friends who have been the most constant in supporting me in difficulties. Through Freemasonry I meet an ever growing number of amazing people who have never let me down, always give me a warm welcome, are generous of spirit and are genuinely concerned for my welfare – there are not many other walks of life where you can find that!”

Charity

“One of the things I had not realised is the amount of money Freemasonry donates to charity, which is many tens of millions every year; an example of which is the recent donation of £30,000 to help the communities in Cumbria deal with the recent floods. I was also surprised to find out how much charitable work is done by individual Masons and the range of this. For instance, every weekend hundreds of Masons free up their time to take out mentally disabled and disadvantaged children for a day’s fishing. This small act not only provides the children with a day out in the countryside, but helps them to develop their confidence, meet new challenges and allows them to experience something that may otherwise have been unavailable to them. For many of the children, this small act of charity is a life changing experience.”

“The fact that the Lodge provides a bursary to help Stoics whose parents are in financial difficulties remain at the School was a major cause of my initial interest in joining the Lodge. Freemasonry promotes charity and it is very gratifying to know that through our assistance we are able to help Stoics continue to fulfil their potential, who otherwise may have had to leave the School. Stowe gave me so much and I like it that I am now able to give something back.”

Integrity

“In the three years since I joined, I have developed more as an individual due to being a Mason than I would have done on my own. It has been one of the best decisions I have made and I thoroughly recommend others to consider joining.”

“This can mean different things to different people but at the heart of it is a desire to know one’s self, nurture a solid moral code and to conduct oneself accordingly. In this context, I find the values of Freemasonry are a constant source of help and guidance to me in this ever changing world.”

To summarise, I think I could not put it any better than one of our members when he says:

“This, in short, is what I get out of Freemasonry; the pleasure of charitable giving, the opportunity to improve myself as a person and to have a positive effect on others, and in being a member of a band of brothers whom I will support, and who will support me, through thick and thin.”

I hope these reflections are helpful and if the above resonates with you and you would like to find out more then please contact me at ianBendell@hotmail.com

Ian Bendell (Walpole 87)



STOWE LODGE

(No. 9002 in the register of the United Grand Lodge of England)

Stowe Lodge is the Masonic Lodge for Old Stoics

We are a charitable and sociable London-based Lodge which meets three evenings a year in London and once at Stowe. We very much welcome new and joining members and for more information, please contact the secretary: ianBendell@hotmail.com

RETURN TO SENDER

The address this magazine reached you at will be the address we hold for you on the Old Stoic database. In many cases, this might be somewhere you’ll always call home but you might not visit very often. Many Old Stoics leave their parents’ home as their main address until they live somewhere permanently.

If you would like to supply us with a secondary address, we will be able to invite you to business networking and social events

taking place near that address. If you have a London address, please make sure we have this on file so we can invite you to London events. Please specify which address we should keep as our principal means of contact. Simply email oldstoic@stowe.co.uk to update us.



FEATURE

THE VIEW FROM NEPAL

I have lived in Nepal for almost thirty years since leaving Chatham in 1982. The period has been characterised by interesting, at times, turbulent changes.

Mainly, these upheavals have been on the political stage but in April last year natural forces inflicted a massive earthquake that was severe but widely predicted – insofar as seismic events can be. Luckily, loss of life, though tragic, was limited, and damage to property likewise.

The details have been exhaustively scoured over in the world’s media who descended on the country but, as any spotlight, the unlit areas remain invisible with only a harsh glare on a small area. Out of 75 districts in the country only 7 have significant impact for tourism; these are northwest, north and northeast of the Kathmandu Valley. The remaining 68 are, largely or entirely, unaffected.

Nepal’s economy has moved on from Gurkha recruitment, albeit this is still an element in focus in 2015 and 2016 as we celebrate 200 years of the Anglo-Nepal relationship. Export of labour and the invisible export that is tourism are both significant contributors to the economy. The former is in conflict with the needs of earthquake reconstruction – it enables the raising of funds for rebuilding but ensures a dearth of manpower behind the shovel.

Tourism is a force for domestic employment in Nepal, offering opportunity and sustainable futures for the country’s youth population. Responsible tourism is a force for good to underpin a real economy based on the robust principles of commerce. Real jobs, people, products that can be traded; this is the bedrock on which Nepal can move from being a ‘beggar’ economy, reliant on aid hand-outs, to an independent economy balancing its books through trade.



- 1 The Annapurna Mountains.
- 2 A local Family.
- 3 Durbar Square, Shrestha.
- 4 A village Walk in Rajbansh.
- 5 A Buddhist Monk.



Many Old Stoics of a certain vintage will remember Roger Potter’s Stowe Himalayan Expeditions. Visiting Nepal in the 1980s and working to support Sir Edmund Hillary’s Himalayan Trust projects in the Everest region. These expeditions supported rural development and provided Stoics with an insight into another world, far removed from Arcadian Stowe. Now is the time for all Old Stoics to be part of a new programme of support for Nepal by returning there on a holiday.

The April 2015 Gorkha Earthquake has not affected the country’s primary infrastructure – hospitals, roads, airports, hotels, shopping and services are all functioning normally. Mountain trails for breathtaking walks are open for business – only Manaslu, Langtang and Rolwaling are currently not viable for visitors. Everest and Annapurna have been checked by specialist international engineers to reassure everyone. Miles of mountain trails are open and eager for business. Abundant flora, fauna and rich culture await the wise ‘slow walker.’

In Pokhara, the award-winning Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge offers stunning views and is a comfortable base for day walks and post-trek relaxation. The wildlife

of Nepal’s southern Terai plains are unaffected and a range of safari lodges, including Tiger Tops Tharu Lodge in Chitwan and Karnali Lodge in Bardia are ideal bases from which to explore the national parks in search of tiger, rhino, leopard and more. Both Tiger Tops and Tiger Mountain companies are Old Stoic owned, and welcome visits from Old Stoics of all generations.

Please visit Nepal and support the building back better campaign with your economic support. For more details please contact: marcus.cotton@tigermountainpokhara.com www.tigermountainpokhara.com

Marcus Cotton (Chatham 82)

Those who remember the Stowe Himalayan Expeditions might enjoy reading a transcript of a talk given by Roger Potter (Former staff) at The Alpine Club in 1984, which can be found via this link http://himalaya.socanth.cam.ac.uk/collections/journals/bnsj/pdf/bnsj_08.pdf

Thank you to James Rossiter (Cobham 87) for bringing this to our attention.



George Clarke, centre.

CAPABILITY CLARKE

This year, George Clarke (Former Staff, 1950-1985) will retire from the Hall Bequest Trust, after 32 years of involvement.

As a fresh faced 25 year old, George arrived at Stowe in September 1950, signing up for a salary of £320 a year and accommodation. Having recently completed his National Service in the Navy and finished his Cambridge education, he was brought to Stowe by Eric Reynolds (former Headmaster, 1949 – 1958) who was keen to have him initially to teach History and English. He also offered to teach Classics and was asked to add Greek to this list (but admitted he needed to brush up on this!).

A letter from February 1950 thanking Reynolds for his first visit to Stowe he wrote, "The work has all the openings I could wish for and Stowe is a delightful place. I can't believe that anyone who has wandered round the park would not want to live there." His longer July visit confirmed that he had "seen enough of the House and Park to be charmed by both."

George excelled at teaching and many generations of Stoics are indebted to his patient ways, clear, enthusiastic explanations and wide-ranging interests. George was Housemaster of Grenville between 1962 and 1974; joint compiler of a new edition of *Cantata Stoica*, to be used in Chapel; editor of *The Stoic* for a number of years; Senior Tutor in 1977 and contributor of many a House and School play. By this time, his virtues were firm and familiar.

Despite this brief outline, omitting a great deal of his dedication to the School, it is George's love of Stowe for which he is best remembered and admired. His accounts of

the early history of the buildings, with fascinating drawings and photographs accompanying them, formed the core of many issues of the magazine, and still forms the basis of much historical research today.

It is, however, for his work in the Stowe grounds that George will be most vividly remembered outside the classroom. His love for Stowe, both its buildings and its grounds, clearly grew apace from the time of his arrival. That love manifested itself in vigorous, insatiable research into the history of the estate which eventually took him across the Atlantic to the Huntingdon Library, California, where the Grenville papers lie, for a few months sabbatical. In January 1975, he wrote back to Stowe saying, "The whole setting seems quite unreal the problems of Boycott and Finmere interspersed with camellias and cacti." Back home, he set himself, and work parties of Stoics, the task of restoring the grounds as far as possible to what they had been in their hey-day in the late 18th Century, while initiating fundraising for the restoration of the garden buildings.

George has been involved with the Hall Bequest Trust since it was founded in 1983. The Trust has three aims: to purchase and display historic and cultural items relevant to Stowe, to support educational projects at Stowe, and to provide bursaries for pupils at the School. George is a long-serving past Chairman and a mainstay of the Trust until his retirement this year, after his 90th birthday. During his time with the Hall Bequest Trust, under his watchful eye, the paintings, statues, family heirlooms that we see in the house today are thanks to his dedication and keen knowledge of Stowe. His vast archive is now with the National

George and I arrived in September 1950 – both new boys! He was this fresh faced young master teaching me history, who always looked dashing in his Naval rig on CCF days! We did seem to spend ages studying the voyages of Columbus and other explorers. I may still have the book we used. There was no syllabus laid down in those days, especially as I did not do History for O Level! Indeed, the rule was that you could only do it at 16, so we spent a year in the Forty and one in the Twenty, before doing O Levels in the Lower Sixth! George had a wonderfully mellifluous voice and exuded a measured calm, so that we never played him up! I spotted him often with a group of acolytes digging in the River Styx with Capel-Cure trying to fix the dam, so I realised he was very keen on the gardens at Stowe. Lastly, we thought his wife, Tricia, looked like Ava Gardner and was one of the three best looking women at Stowe then – her companions were Biddy Walker (later Stephan) and Miss Johnson, the Walpole House Matron. By 1976, he was looking and sounding even more distinguished than ever, especially as the instigator and researcher in chief of the history of Stowe! It was, of course, delightful to meet up with him, as Senior Tutor, on my return in 1976, to become a teacher myself.

Andrew Rudolf (Cobham 55)

Trust. *The George B Clarke Prize for Research Pertinent to Stowe* has been established by the Hall Bequest Trust in conjunction with the Georgian Group, as a mark of the great contribution that George made to Stowe over more than 60 years. He truly is our very own Capability Clarke!

Anna McEvoy, Stowe House Preservation Trust



WHERE IT ALL BEGAN: LANCELOT 'CAPABILITY' BROWN AT STOWE

Behind the seamless creation of the gardens at Stowe lie the designs of the glitterati of eighteenth-century gardeners and architects and amongst these names is that of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown.

Starting as under-gardener to William Kent, Brown rose through the ranks to Head Gardener. He sculpted the large Grecian Valley with views out to his parkland, with monumentally large temples sitting atop the high points whilst naturalising the shapes of both the Octagon and Eleven Acre Lakes.

Stowe was also Brown's home for 10 years and witnessed many life-changing

events: he married at Stowe Parish Church in the heart of the gardens and started a family here. Lord Cobham's patronage allowed Brown to travel across the country to wealthy estates, advising landowners that their estates had 'capabilities' and suggesting changes. Following Cobham's death, Brown struck out as a consultant, thus making Stowe his first, and only ever, place of employment.

To celebrate the tercentenary of his birth, in 2016 there are a whole host of activities and events to take part in at Stowe. From insightful lectures to the *Capability Found* exhibition, you can visit the festival hub to discover Brown's life and work at Stowe, take themed tours of the garden, visit the house where his patron lived, explore the church where Brown was married or relax over a cup of tea in the Grecian Valley – Brown's masterpiece at Stowe.

Working collectively together the National Trust, Stowe House Preservation Trust, Arts@Stowe and Dadford and Stowe Parish Church are building a diverse and wide ranging programme of activities, under the umbrella of the national Capability Brown Festival. Keep an eye out on the Stowe House website for the programme listings and bookable events.

STOWE



Standing 'neath the gentle moonlight
Looking at the lakes below,
Could anything be much more glorious
Than the wondrous grounds of Stowe?

And in the clear, fresh light of morning
When a gentle breeze may blow,
With the fresh green lawns around it
What can beat the charm of Stowe?

When the midday sun strikes warmly
On its grey walls now aglow,
Surely there is nothing better
Than the sight of ancient Stowe?

Then the gloaming of the evening
When the sun is sinking low
And the darkness wraps the building,
Sleep enfolds the walls of Stowe.

So, for me, there is none other
Of all the places which I know
Where I find complete perfection,
So, I give my heart to Stowe.

Mrs Liz Zettl (née Duncan,
Former staff 1938-1942)



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OLD STOIC ENTREPRENEUR RUBY LAING (LYTTELTON 06)



RASPBERRY
LONDON

Ruby Laing (Lyttelton 06) has just launched an online market place for affordable art called www.raspberrylondon.com. The aim of the site is to support emerging artists, exposing them to the right market and saving them time and money on marketing. She has gathered an eclectic mix of beautiful prints, which are for sale at affordable prices, hopefully making art more accessible for young adults.

Ruby says, "I am currently working hard to bring in small, home accessory brands to work in the same way, alongside a range of own brand pieces, starting with Raspberry London scented candles. There are also regular posts on the site, including interviews from artists and tips from the professionals.

I've had a great interest in art from a young age, and continued to study it after leaving Stowe. I also work in Interior Design so the idea came about when I spotted a gap in the market for nice pieces of art, which don't cost the world something which is surprisingly hard to come by.

It's been challenging getting the business up and running but very worthwhile too. I've really enjoyed the process and am constantly on a steep learning curve. My friends and family have been extremely helpful throughout, always ready to lend a hand or give some good advice. It's always been my ambition to run my own company and to see it happen has been very exciting. Although it is still very early days, I would really encourage others to put their ideas into action, there is a good amount of free support available for start up businesses and many opportunities for funding too, so no reason to hold back."

COFFEEHOUSING



After leaving Stowe in 2000, I studied at the University of Guelph (ON, Canada) and

guess what? Now I'm the only highly skilled 'Bachelor of Computing' barista in my home city of Vladivostok, in the Far East of Russia.

Helping my parents in their coffee business at first, I remember the day I decided to leave my programming career and plunge into the vast field of professional coffee. It was September 2003 and I had just served my first cup of coffee, complete with latte art, to a sad customer and watched him become happier with every sip.

Since then, I've worked as a Coffee Sales Manager, certified Equipment Technician, Head of Service, Coffee Coach and many more. In 2010, I won the title of Russia's Far Eastern Barista Champion, coming first in three consecutive coffee championships in our region. Shortly afterwards, I realised that my next step should be opening my own business.

My beloved wife, Yulia, who has been very involved in all of my coffee endeavours with her numerous talents and advertising background, agreed to my plan and in 2013 we opened a small coffee counter

under the brand *ProCoffeey* in the Contemporary Centre of Arts on the outskirts of Vladivostok.

Skilled preparation of delicious beverages, sincere attention to our guests and a great, small team quickly gathered a loyal crowd of constant clients and built us a solid reputation. We successfully sold our small counter in mid 2014 in order to move closer downtown, rent more room and increase our customer base. It proved very wise to have invested most of the profits in quality equipment and renovations at the new location, before the currency crisis hit at the end of the year.

The long financial recovery was very tough both physically and emotionally, at some point becoming very critical and only the support of good friends helped us. Finally, we opened our small café in the summer of 2015. Seeing smiles of people, hearing compliments and sharing the excitement on a daily basis makes it all worthwhile and now we know that this is exactly what our city needed – a vibrant intelligent place with proper coffee, a cosy atmosphere, great quality music and, in every brewed cup we infuse our motto 'Persto et Praesto'!

Follow us on Instagram as [#procoffeey](https://www.instagram.com/procoffeey)

Vladimir Karpov (Chandos 00)

OLD CHANDOSIANS GATHERING

For the 10th time, a group of Chandosians from the mid 50s got together for a truly memorable gathering at Bucks Club, in London. We have all known each other for more than 60 years. This year, as usual there was much giggling about some of the things that we had got up to, whether swimming in the 11 acre lake, long before an indoor swimming pool (Chandos won most of the swimming cups under the captainship of Donough O'Brien); cooking spam on meths stoves in Plug Street (rationing was still in place for some of us) or remembering some of the masters who tried to teach us: 'Slug' Gibson; 'Paddy'

Pinchbeck; 'Windy' Dick; not forgetting Bertie Stephan, our Housemaster. Memories of defaulters for activities such as: untidy hair, insolence, disobedience and listening to the radio were fondly discussed and thankfully recorded as part of an outstanding education in preparation for life's adventures. Between us we have had more than quite a few adventures!

We are all fit and healthy and are planning our next event at Stowe itself. Persto et Praesto

Robin Hunter-Coddington (Chandos 59)



From left to right: John Coleman (Chandos 58); John Perriss (Chandos 59); Anthony Mash (Chandos 58); Robin Behar (Chandos 59); David Rimmer (Chandos 59); Robin Hunter-Coddington (Chandos 59); Hugh Searle (Chandos 58); Donough O'Brien (Chandos 57); Michael Likierman (Chandos 58); John Utley (Chandos 57).

SUFFRAGAN BISHOP OF ISLINGTON: THE RT REVD RIC THORPE (WALPOLE 83)

Last year, The Queen approved the nomination of the Reverend Ric Thorpe to the Suffragan See of Islington in the diocese of London which has been in abeyance since 1923.

Headboy whilst at Stowe, Ric then went on to Birmingham University and trained for the ministry at Wycliffe Hall. He served his title at Holy Trinity Brompton with St Paul, Onslow Square in the diocese of London and was ordained priest in 1997. He went on to serve as Priest in Charge of St Paul's Shadwell in 2005 before becoming Rector of the same parish in 2010. He served as Priest in Charge of All Hallows, Bromley by Bow between 2010 and 2014.

Since 2000, Ric has been actively involved in supporting and enabling church planting in the Church of England. He took a team of 100 to St Paul's Shadwell in 2005 and then went on to send planting teams to four other Anglican churches in Tower Hamlets to revitalise their parishes. In 2012, Ric was appointed as the Bishop of London's Adviser for Church Planting and has been invited to support church plants in a number of other dioceses. He is also Tutor in Church Planting at St Mellitus College.

Ric is married to Louie and they have three teenage children, Zoe, Barny and Toby, along with a springer spaniel called Tasha. Ric's interests include sailing, rowing, music, eating chocolate, and he has competed in the London Marathon and London Triathlon. The OS Society congratulates Ric on his appointment.



WE'RE GAINING GREAT STOWEMENTUM



It's been an exciting twelve months in the Development Office, which now has new leadership. I arrived last July as the new Development Director.

You may remember that last year our focus was on raising funds for a spectacular new Science Centre and we are pleased to report that construction is now underway. Progress is both on time and on budget, with the fantastic new facilities due to be opened in the Michaelmas term. Support from the Stowe community for this project has been incredible, for which we are immensely grateful – thank you. There is still time to add your support, we would be delighted to receive further donations.

There are exciting plans stirring elsewhere in the School: significantly a donation has already been received to start the ball rolling to revamp the Design and Technology department. Today this is a challenging and vibrant area of the curriculum and, importantly, it is one of the few subjects where Stoics can forge and maintain close comparisons with the practices and processes found in the world of industry and design. The concept and user briefs are in place and we are looking to design and future proof the project, seeking the counsel of major engineering corporations to help us produce a forward thinking project. Please do get in contact to learn more.

The need for an expansion to our indoor sports facilities has also come to the fore of late. The increasing provision of sports, now numbered at 27, makes the need for indoor space pressing. Additionally, we invite around 15 teams to play us regularly on a Saturday with many additional fixtures during the week. This increases the need for changing facilities and a complete upgrade of our pavilions not just to host teams but to house our increasingly successful Sports Departments. We boast incredible results against much bigger schools and even universities in multiple sports. The talented sports stars of tomorrow being educated and coached at Stowe are extraordinary: we have many more international, regional and county players than we should. With this need in mind, a concept for expansion has been

passed and we are working on designs and pursuing planning. We look forward to bringing you more news on this and other exciting developments in the coming months.

The impact of improvements to our facilities is immediately obvious through the increased achievement of Stoics. Since the opening of our stunning new Music School, Stowe's musicians have gone from strength to strength, not least those in receipt of a Scholarship or Bursary place. Their thirst for improvement and their drive to succeed is inspiring, as are their achievements. This year alone, three of our Music Scholars have been accepted by the prestigious Royal Academy and another has been selected for the National Youth Orchestra.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the South African Scholarship programme which provides truly life-changing opportunities and experiences for young people from the Dominican Convent School in Johannesburg. These pupils, who spend a year at Stowe on the Scholarship programme, have the opportunity not just to be educated by superb teachers in magnificent surroundings, they also have the chance to break down borders and drive the next generation of global citizens and entrepreneurs. Their time and friendships at the School also help Stoics to look beyond their own horizons, forge new partnerships and see how others live, helping to demonstrate the opportunities available through hard work and determination.

All the Scholarships and Bursaries available at Stowe sponsor the pursuit of excellence. They offer the opportunity to pupils from all backgrounds to add to the exciting and increasingly diverse Stowe community; every donation to our Scholarships and Bursary Fund is an investment in the future of a talented and deserving Stoic.

If you haven't already done so, please do visit the Support Us section of the School website to see more about the Development Office and the projects which need your support.

www.stowe.co.uk/school/support_stowe

Thank you.

Ben Mercer, Development Director

TOWARDS 2023:
ARCHIVE COLLECTION

DR LESLIE HUGGINS

Perhaps I may be permitted to comment on the letter of Stephen Suttle replicated in the last edition of *The Corinthian*:

For four out of my five years at Stowe, I was Dr Huggins' pupil, studying the piano, the organ and, for a short while, the basics of composition and harmony. His untimely death as the result of a riding accident in the spring of 1952, came as a dreadful shock, not only to me, but his many friends and, of course, other music pupils.

I feel, in consequence, what I may have to add has some relevance. I am absolutely confident that any comment that may have been made by JF Roxburgh was not actually meant in any way to be critical of Dr Huggins in view of what JF said to my father and me when I first visited Stowe several months before my arrival as a pupil, in the summer term of 1949. On that occasion, my father explained that I was anxious to extend my music studies to learning to play the organ. JF's comments are as clear today as they were then. He commented that Stowe had a fine organ in the Chapel and that I would study under Dr Huggins who, as a brilliant musician and teacher, had advanced music at Stowe to a very high level. I am sure there must be contemporaries of mine who can testify to the high standard of the School Orchestra, the Choral Society and musical productions, noticeably Carmen in full.

Of course, Stephen Suttle is right. Dr Huggins' academic achievements speak for themselves. I think what was intended to be understood was that Dr Huggins was not an academic i.e. someone who paraded his attainments. In my experience, he was a very practical musician in his performing, his tuition and just explaining what music of all sorts was about.

All I can say, in testament to Dr Huggins, is that his lessons were fun and that what he taught me, apart from playing the piano and organ, has brought me immense pleasure and expanded my musical knowledge.

Robin Moore (Temple 53)

Martyn Downer Works Of Art



A George III silver cake basket by Edward Aldridge, London 1762, 14 1/4 inches long; 31.5 oz. engraved with the coat of arms of Richard Plantaganet Temple-Nugent-Brydges-Chandos Grenville 2nd Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, KG, GCH (1791-1867) accollé with the arms of his wife Lady Mary, daughter of 1st Marquess of Breadalbane.

This basket was Lot 700 on the twentieth day of the auction of the contents of Stowe House, Friday 8th September 1848.

Martyn Downer (Chandos 84) is a specialist dealer in historic works of art, silver and jewels.

Martyn Downer Works Of Art Ltd | www.martyndowner.com | martyn@martyndowner.com | 07708 667448

FAREWELL TO THREE PAST CHAIRMEN

At the recent AGM we said farewell to three long serving members of the Committee who were standing down. All three have been immensely loyal and active supporters, each of them has made a significant contribution to many Old Stoic activities, and at different times each of them took on the heavy workload of being the Society's Chairman.



John Arkwright (Cobham 69) was a committee member for 17 years and Chairman from 2006 to 2009. During his Chairmanship, the Society undertook a major strategic review of its activities and since then he has become famous as

the organiser of the very popular Classic Car Display at Speech Day (if you haven't been, come this year – it is truly fantastic!). John is also now a Governor of Stowe School, where he uses his professional expertise as a Chartered Surveyor to take lead responsibility for the buildings, grounds and new developments.



Ivo Forde (Walpole 67) was a committee member for 20 years and, as Treasurer, oversaw the Society's finances with great diligence and responsibility, a fairly thankless but most important task. As Chairman, he steered the Committee and

the Society through three very busy years between 2009 and 2012 and during this time the format of the Annual Dinner was further modernised. Ivo's Chairmanship concluded with the recruitment of our very excellent OS Director, Anna Semler (Nugent 05).



John "Fingers" Fingleton (Chatham 66) was also a committee member for 20 years and Chairman between 1996 and 1999. One of Stowe's great enthusiasts, his love for the School comes second only to his love of cricket, and if he

isn't at Stowe he is probably at Lord's! Fingers continues to undertake the important role of monitoring the media for OS births, marriages and deaths and, occasionally, representing the Society at funerals and thanksgiving services.

Many thanks to all three and we look forward to seeing them as often as possible at future OS events and activities representing the Society as ambassadors.

Simon Shneerson (Temple 72)



SHOOTING AT STOWE

Shortly after arriving as a new boy at Stowe in 1963, I was handed a book of School Rules, these included that firearms and ammunition were strictly forbidden. As it proved, walking on forbidden grass was probably more of a crime. To my delight, some enterprising seniors in Bruce had acquired their own small shoot just outside the Stowe grounds: a syndicate I soon joined. Guns were kept under lock and key in the Housemaster's study (then Mr Deacon). However, access was easy and I also eventually kept a folding .410 as a wall piece in my study. I well remember Mr Deacon leaning against the inside of my study door on a coat which had a very high pheasant behind it, saying that my study smelt awful! He then eyed the wall piece and insisted on taking the firing pin and he checked the barrel which I had blocked with cotton wool! Having persuaded a friend of mine to make a replacement pin in the metal workshops, I was back in business.

Regrettably, we lost the Bruce shoot since the farmer had other plans for his land. Our syndicate continued with the authorities in ignorance of our loss, we were now poachers. We made many forays up the roman road by day and night to Tile House Woods after hares and pheasants. We knew that the keeper's name was Roberts but, fortunately, never encountered him. Cobham had its own team of poachers who did and were nearly caught. We got the blame when the whole School was held to ransom in assembly unless the boys owned up. Fortunately, they did.

On one occasion we lined guns between the Octagon and The Eleven Acre Lake early one Sunday morning; I put the ducks up from the other end. There was a fusillade of shots and as we were retrieving the ducks, there were shouts coming our way. I had forgotten that Freddie Fox, prefects and monitors might be shooting, we escaped via the ha-ha and got away with it. I was challenged another time by Freddie Fox when returning from the Corinthian Arch with three hares, two rabbits and a fox adorning my bicycle which I had snared on legitimate ground. Later, when in Lyttelton, I was on a foray near the Paper Mill Spinney and spied a duck on a pond: as I raised my gun to shoot, the reeds opposite me parted and there was my Housemaster, Mr Donaldson, gun in hand! Nothing was ever said, I suspect we were both poaching!

Eventually, I joined the gamekeeping profession in 1980 and spent 22 happy years as Headkeeper at Molland on Exmoor developing a shoot at which some Old Stoics may have shot.

The photograph is a recent one with the original .410!

Paul Beazley (Lyttelton 68)

COMEDY WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Paul Joynson-Hicks (Lyttelton 89) has founded the Comedy Wildlife Photography Awards, a photography competition, raising awareness for *The Born Free Foundation*, aimed at saving lives, stopping suffering and protecting species in the wild. The competition brief was 'seeing the funny side of the majestic creatures we love to photograph and protect'.

The competition received over 1,500 entries from 52 different countries all around the world and Paul lined up an impressive judging panel including Kate Humble, Hugh Dennis and Will Travers OBE of the Born Free Foundation.

Paul, who is a wildlife photographer, said, "I can't believe the incredible amount of entries we have achieved in our first year and from so many different countries, it's very exciting indeed. Judging was incredibly hard as we had a lot of hilarious images to try and whittle down to the final 45. I think people have really enjoyed this competition, something a little bit different. It definitely exceeds our expectations for our inaugural year!"

Julian Rad from Australia won the prestigious award for his photograph *Rush hour*. His prize was a week's photographic safari holiday consisting of three nights at Kigelia Ruaha and four nights at Sand Rivers Selous in Southern Tanzania for two people courtesy of Nomad Tanzania and a NIKON D750 with 24-85mm lens.

Paul said, "Judging was really difficult as we had so many amazing entries, but in the end we found an incredible selection of technically brilliant photographs which are hilarious!"



Winner: Julian Rad



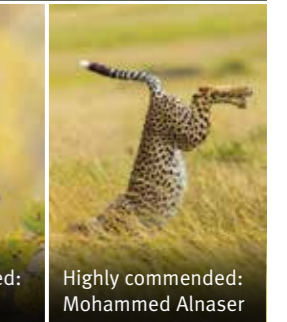
Silver runner-up: William Richardson



Bronze runner-up: Oli Dreike



Highly commended: Julian Rad



Highly commended: Mohammed Alnaser



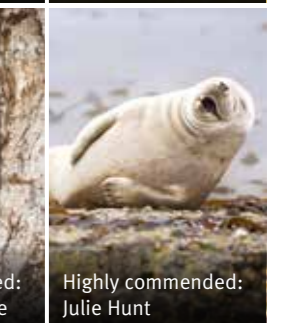
Highly commended: Alison Buttigieg



Highly commended: Charlie Davidson



Highly commended: Graham McGeorge



Highly commended: Julie Hunt



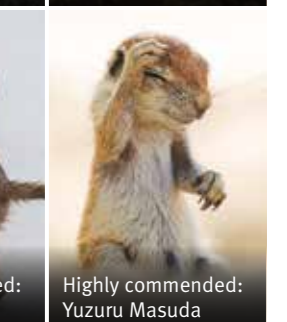
Highly commended: Marc Mol



Highly commended: Megan Lorenz



Highly commended: Tony Dilger




Highly commended: Yuzuru Masuda

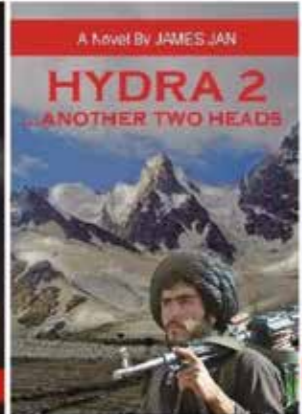
THE HYDRA TRILOGY

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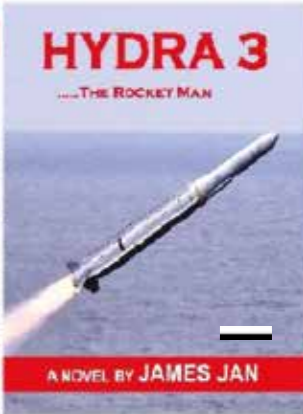
www.jamesjan.com



HYDRA 1
A HYDRA TRILOGY
A NOVEL BY JAMES JAN



A NOVEL BY JAMES JAN
HYDRA 2
ANOTHER TWO HEADS



HYDRA 3
THE ROCKET MAN
A NOVEL BY JAMES JAN



ROYAL TREE PLANTING AT STOWE

Royal visits to Stowe have long been commemorated by tree planting, five times under the School and at least twice previously.

A drawing, generously presented by John Massey Stewart (Walpole 51) shows Queen Victoria planting the oak tree south-east of the Temple of Concord and Victory on 17 January 1845. It was perhaps inspired by Landells' engraving in the Illustrated London News of 25 January 1845. The report there stated:

"A most interesting scene occurred on Friday afternoon...Shortly after three o'clock her Majesty left the mansion, leaning on the arm of the Duke of Buckingham, and proceeded to the above spot. Prince Albert followed with the Duchess of Buckingham; and many of the other guests were of the party. On reaching the south side of the Temple, the Royal party paused; and the Duke of Buckingham having handed the Queen an oak sapling, her Majesty placed it in the ground, and then received from Mr Ferguson [the gardener] a spade, with which the Queen covered the roots. The Duke of Buckingham and Mr Ferguson completed the work, whilst her Majesty kept the tree in an upright position.

But this we hope in future years
When high its royal head it rears
Above its fellows round –
That long 'twill be
A leafy tree
Near 'Concord's Temple' found!
While she that plac'd it there still prove
The idol of her people's love!

Prince Albert then planted a young cedar tree at a short distance from the spot; and her Majesty and the Prince having planted two other similar trees on the north side of the Temple, the Duke of Buckingham called out 'God bless her Majesty the Queen,' a sentiment answered, first, by the cheers of the noble party present, and re-echoed by

about two hundred persons who were congregated in the park, at a point from whence a view of the pleasing ceremony was obtained."

This was not the first royal planting. On Wednesday 13 January 1808 Louis XVII, King of France from 1814 to 1824, planted the Clumps, the 32 oak trees in four groups of eight, around the Keeper's Lodge near the Bourbon playing fields, together with six Bourbon princes, since the seventh had been taken ill. This was then renamed the Bourbon Tower. The Latin inscription recorded that this event was to commemorate the residence of the exiled French monarchy in Grenville houses. Some of the oak trees survive. The Marquess of Buckingham at dinner that night proposed the toast, "The House of Bourbon", adding: "May their Posterity last longer than the latest acorn of the latest Tree they have this day planted."

Inspired, no doubt, by these royal trees, the School arranged, in its second term, for the planting of the 'Imperial' Oaks on Friday 2 November 1923, when some Delegates to the Imperial Conference paid an informal visit to the School. Among them were Major-General J.H. MacBrien, CB, CMG, DSO, Rear-Admiral Hotham, CB, CMG, RN, Senator JP Malan, Colonel J Obed Smith and Mr CW Schmolke. They planted five young oak trees between the North Front and the current Science Laboratories, on behalf of the Dominions which they represented: Newfoundland, Canada, Australia, South Africa, and New Zealand. The Stoic noted that "The Delegates were entertained chiefly by the Prefects. The School would be false to its origin and out of joint with the times if it were not in a special degree an Imperial School; for in 1923 the British Empire means something more than it meant when the older Public Schools were being founded or becoming famous. And it not only means something more; it means something different. We used to think of the Empire as belonging to us. We now think of ourselves as belonging to the Empire – belonging to a free society of friends and kinsmen. The pride of possession has gone,



- ◆ JF Roxburgh at the planting of the 'Imperial Oaks' on the North Front in 1923.
- ◆ Queen Victoria planting the oak tree south-east of the Temple of Concord and Victory in 1845, with the second Duke to the left and Prince Albert on the right.
- ◆ HM Queen Elizabeth planting a Scots Pine tree near the Temple of Concord and Victory in 2007.

and with it all the associations of empty thinking, and vain-glorious speech which once clung to the word Imperialist. Yet these oaks have been planted (like many other things at Stowe) not for us, but for the next generation. They will still be small trees when not one remains alive of the men who saw them put into the ground in the autumn of 1923. It is difficult to compete in longevity with oaks. But the School itself can say to them with confidence (in Browning's words): 'Grow old along with me. The best is yet to be.'

At the School's 10th anniversary, on 1 June 1933, HRH the Prince of Wales planted a commemorative copper beech near Stowe Church. This tree was raised from a seed sown in May 1923, and is therefore exactly the same age as the School.

On 1 July 1938, for the School's 15th anniversary, HRH the Duke of Gloucester planted a cedar of Lebanon near the first green of the golf course, west of the south lawn. The Duke had been in Major Haworth's company at Sandhurst before Haworth became the first housemaster of Chandos.

On 10 June 1963 HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother marked the School's 40th anniversary by planting a liquidambar tree near the Temple of Venus.

On 11 May 1973, to celebrate the School's Jubilee, HRH the Duchess of Gloucester planted three ornamental hawthorns, two Paul's Scarlets and a May, on the edge of the North Front lawn near the Swimming Pool.

Most recently, on 29 November 2007, HM the Queen, after opening Queen's House, with HRH the Duke of Edinburgh planted Scots Pines east of the Temple of Concord and Victory.

Michael Bevington, Stowe Archivist

ADMIRAL LORD MOUNTBATTEN REVIEWS THE CCF IN 1957

Always the biggest day in the Corps' year and this year not just any of the normal high ranking officers, but Mountbatten, so that more than the usual diligence was applied to preparation and rehearsals. To avoid much of the endless drill and 'bull' that comes with such occasions, a good friend of mine, Chris Wates (Bruce 58), a cornet player in the Corps' band, managed to smuggle me into it in the guise of a side drummer, which needed the least skill of any of the instruments. The drill and spit and polish required for the band was minor compared with that for the rest of the cadets all we had to do on the day was march onto the South Front, form up and play while the main body of the Corps formed ranks in front of us, were inspected, then manoeuvred to march past the saluting base on the steps.

After reassembling in ranks, we all had to engage in a carefully rehearsed 'informal' gather round for Mountbatten to address us from beside one of the lions. Of course, the band had to rehearse as well, but mostly on our own and more informally than the rest of the Corps. Thanks to our band master, we gelled well but there was one major problem. In one of the march past numbers, the side drums had to come in on their own and if we came in early, which was not infrequent, we would put the marchers out of step. Eventually, we got it right more often than not and, on the day just to make sure, we had a couple of perfect 'run-throughs' off on one side before taking up our positions. All went well as we played away during the inspection and continued as the ranks formed into columns, peeled off and marched along the South Front for Mountbatten to take the salute. About halfway through this the tricky number came up. One of us (and who knows who?) came in early putting the second half of the march past out of step as we watched in shame and horror.

The formalities completed and the troops back in their ranks, the order was given for the informal gather round and, in an orderly fashion, we went to our pre-selected positions to listen to Mountbatten's short speech with its current, mildly jingoistic exhortations. He praised the Corps' smartness, its exemplary drill and then, almost as an aside, mentioned that it was a pity that some of the marching had not matched the excellence of the band's performance.

Jeremy Jessel (Bruce 58)



ANOTHER STUNNING SEASON

Now in its fifth season, Arts at Stowe has a growing reputation for bringing high quality arts, theatre and music to this small corner of Buckinghamshire. Following the great success of last season's events with the Poet Laureate, Carol Ann Duffy, the legendary singer song writer Judie Tzuke and stunning theatre productions, there are many reasons to come to Stowe. Our Spring season offers some wonderful opportunities to experience great music and theatre from professional companies and artists, as well as performances by Stoics and staff from the School.

Continuing our seasonal exhibitions, we are very excited to have Cornish landscape artist, Mark Spray exhibiting his work at the Watson School of Art from **11 March** to the **1 April**.

The Uglad Auditorium has a definite vibe this Spring with the local jazz legend Miles Nottage returning on **16 April**, and the Steinway will respond to the virtuosic mastery from Ben Andrew on **27 April** and the acclaimed Philip Fowke on **4 May**. We are also delighted to have Mugenkyo Taiko Drummers on **20 April** with their high energy, physical performance *Way of the Drum*.

Taking advantage of our wonderful new facilities in the Chung Music School and the Stringer Recording Suite, we are launching the Stowe Creative Academy, with our Music School at Easter **4-8 April** with Rock and Pop for 10-18 year olds.

Theatre for all the family includes classic funnies *Stones in his Pockets*, performed at breakneck pace on **30 April**, which has been described as hilarious and loveable and *SWING* on **6 April** will make you want to dance.

We have Tony Hadley (legendary former singer of Spandau Ballet) performing on the eve of Speech Day on Friday **27 May** and for those of you who would appreciate an evening of glamour and parlour theatre we have a dinner date with The Fingask Follies in the State Rooms on Wednesday **25 May**.

The Summer Season will see more Opera Della Luna, The Florence Academy of Art Classes and Shakespeare in the grounds with The Handlebards.

In past seasons, the Arts at Stowe programme has included Old Stoics, such as Francis Terry (Chatham 88) talking about his career as an architect and exhibiting, whilst Jeremy Hunter-Coddington (Chandos 61) gave a fascinating talk on the Cult of the Kims in North Korea. We would welcome any suggestions for future programmes.

We launched Arts at Stowe Membership last season and we have been delighted to welcome so many supporters as Members. We are very pleased to offer a 50% discount on our membership fee for Old Stoics. Membership includes discounts on tickets and exclusive Membership events all for only £5 a year or £12.50 for families of two adults and two children. Contact us for more information.

We look forward to welcoming you to one of our events.

thearts@stowe.co.uk | Box Office: 01280 825710 | www.artsatstowe.co.uk | Enquiries: 01280 818012





My very first race in the School cross-country team took place in the first few months of 1949. I found myself suddenly picked to run in matches mainly because I had, most unexpectedly, come second in the School cross-country race in a field of over sixty runners. I had trained in advance for the race with my House, Chandos, but it was the first cross-country contest in which I have ever taken part. Indeed, had the race been twenty yards longer, I believe I would have won it.

Our first fixture was an away match against a nearby RAF station, Halton, if I remember correctly. We travelled there by coach. On arrival, we were taken to a changing room to get ready for the race. The room was crowded with our opponents, mostly young men in their twenties who were feverishly massaging their legs with all sorts of lotions, tinctures, oils and other ointments, which caused the room to smell like a hospital. Inexperienced as I was, I was deeply impressed by this display of professionalism and feared that we were about to undergo the mother and father of all drubbings that afternoon. My fears were immediately realised the moment the race started for the RAF set off at a cracking pace and were quickly way ahead, only just in sight. There was not much we could do about it, I felt, and accordingly dropped into a steady, stoical plod. This went on for a good ten minutes or more, after which it began to dawn on me that the figures we were chasing were not actually getting any smaller. On the contrary, they seemed to be getting bigger. Did this mean we were catching them up? It did! Presently, I drew level with the leading runner. As I passed him, he turned to face me and gasped out loudly, "These fags!" So, well oiled legs were evidently no substitute for lungs filled with cigarette smoke, I thought unkindly. Stowe crossed the finishing line ahead of the RAF and so we won the match outright. The mental element is a powerful factor in competitive sport, and we all learnt a valuable lesson that afternoon. This of course was, "Never, ever let yourself be fooled by appearances, however compelling."

Oliver Wall (Chandos 10)

OS SPORT



It's been another busy year of OS sport but one more of consolidation and growth as opposed to multiple trophies. That's not to do down any of the teams' achievements. The

key is that we have seen more 'young' (i.e. recent leavers and U25s) OSs getting involved than ever before both as a result of increased funding from the Society as well as the success of the School teams driving enthusiasm to participate in your sport of choice well beyond the Leavers' Ball.

I won't steal the thunder of the Sports' captains and encourage you to read their reports detailing what they've been up to during 2015. The fixture lists are quite staggering and I doff my cap to all those who contribute so much time and effort to organise their respective matches. Thank you.

Always worth a mention are those nascent teams that are making their first foray into old boy fixtures, or even just a regular league. Of these, the OS7s team have made a fabulous start with some tough matches and victory at one of their tournaments over the summer. Get in touch if you fancy a run out: I will happily come and support at the Dubai 7s if there is a supporters' bus.

In addition to the 7s we saw the beginnings of what could be quite a handy OS Triathlon team with top 3 victories at the Stowe Triathlon in July at both Half Ironman (men) and Olympic distance (women). It was a challenging weed-heavy swim, with a pretty flat and windy bike course, but the pièce de résistance was a hilly run which the competitors were pleased to see the end of. An excellent excuse to go back to Stowe and enjoy the

scenery and we will be looking to do this event again in June.

My highlight of 2015, however, has to be the OS Footballers' final match of last season which saw them avoid relegation against a strong Old Sevenocian side who went on to win their League and gain promotion. It was a thrilling match with the Old Stoics scoring first, then going down to two goals in quick succession before our goalie turned the game by saving a cracking shot and then coming back to score a stunning equaliser which had the whole team celebrating, as well as me on the side line.

Looking forward to 2016 and we have Henry Kimbell (Chandos 04) building on the success of our Roger Charlton yard tour in 2014 with an OS horse racing syndicate. We will be writing to all those that attended the yard tour but please do get in touch with the OS office if you would like to register your interest. In addition to this, on Sunday 20 March, we are holding an OS Sports & Family Day at the School. Alongside the OS Day in October, this will provide everyone with the opportunity to come back to the School for the day and either support or participate in an array of sports against the School or other OS teams. The cross-country team will be in action and I hear mumbblings of water polo, golf, horse riding, clay pigeon shooting and much more. There will be entertainment for kids too, so bring the family. We look forward to seeing you there.

If you have any interest in taking part or organising your own team then please get in touch with the Old Stoic office or contact the team captains direct, via the details available on the OS website.

Hannah Durden (Nugent 01), Old Stoic Sports

OS CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING



Speech Day 2015 was not a good day for the OS Clay Pigeon Shooting Team. We were defeated by over 20 clays to the Stowe side. The School shot very well and the out of practice Old Stoics just couldn't compete with the level of performance. It looks as though the Old Stoic side needs to get some practice in beforehand to compete with the level of the School's team. We'll come up with a plan of action and hopefully this year's Speech Day on Saturday, 28 May 2016, will be a better day for the OS side.

Harry Hay (Grafton 03)

OLD STOIC GOLFING SOCIETY

2015 was a year of change for the Old Stoic Golfing Society under the Captaincy of Christopher Luddington (Chatham 82). Haydn Brooks (Cobham 04), winner of the prestigious Alba Trophy in 2014 with Jean-Michel Hall (Temple 06) (now turned professional), was the new First Team Captain and introduced several new younger players for both the Halford Hewitt and Grafton Morrish team competitions. Although the team did not progress in either competition, they gained valuable experience for the future.

Matches: In addition to playing the School team at Woking, Stowe and Stoke Park there were matches against Royal Cinque Ports at Deal, Old Haileyburians and Old Canfordians at Sunningdale, The Templars at Deal, Old Gregorians at New Zealand and Aldeburgh Golf Club. The Society won all its matches until the final fixture against the Old Haileyburians when the opposition coped with the thick fog better than the Old Stoics.

Meetings: The Society Meetings were well attended at Formby (Northern Meeting), Woking (Spring), Aldeburgh (Summer) and Brancaster (Autumn). The performance highlights were Charlie Consett (Cobham 96) winning the inaugural David Hadfield Salver at Formby and another quality round from Neil Gray (Chatham 78) at Brancaster in

tough conditions to win the scratch competition. However Chris and Nicholas Luddington (Chatham 78) did stop Neil Gray and Nigel Wright from winning the Lucas Langley Foursomes yet again. The Society also entered a team in the new Dick Watson Trophy at Aldeburgh in October with Jeremy Scowsill (Temple 76), Don Jeffreys (Grenville 64), Nick Rice (Lyttelton 71) and Hugo Douglass (Chandos 99) coming a respectable 7th out of 11 schools.

Mr Nigel Stern (Bruce 57): 2015 saw the death of one of the leading OSGS golfers. Nigel was a great supporter of the Society for many decades and his golfing achievements included being a member of both Old Stoic Halford Hewitt winning teams (1979 and 1988), winner of the Senior Cyril Gray in 2014 with Mike Anderson (Cobham 57), long-term member and Past Captain of Worplesdon Golf Club, Winner of the Worplesdon Mixed Foursomes and member of the Moles and Royal St Georges. Nigel was a regular member of the OSGS team to play the School and in his last match in September 2014 memorably scored a hole in one at Stoke Park.

Discounts for younger golfers: Over 65 different Old Stoics played in the fixtures in 2015 and encouragingly, the number of under 30 year olds involved increased

significantly with Hamish Edwards (Chandos 10), Ben Wackett (Temple 12), William Berner (Chatham 11) and Roddy Blackburne (Walpole 12) representing the Society for the first time. We are keen for more younger players of all standards to be involved in the largest of the Old Stoic sports clubs and 50% green fee discounts are available to those under 30 for all matches and meetings.

The year ahead: 2016 promises to be an exciting year for the Society with more playing opportunities and more Old Stoics on our database. The 2015 AGM saw Lorne Williamson (Temple 56) take over as President from John Luddington (Chandos 54) while Nick Luddington was appointed Vice Captain of the Society. First Team Captain Haydn Brooks haydnbrooks@googlemail.com would certainly like to hear from low single figure handicap players who want to be considered for the Halford Hewitt and Grafton Morrish. However, **players of all standards and eras, male and female**, are welcome at our matches and meetings taking place at some of the best courses in the country. If anyone wants to know more about the Society check our section on the Old Stoic Society website or contact Peter Simmons p.j.g.simmons@herts.ac.uk or 07957 141826

Peter Simmons (Cobham 69), Secretary

OS CROSS-COUNTRY

The 2015 race against the School took place on 15 March 2015. A healthy 25 runners of all shapes, sizes, ages and sex toed the South Front line. 'Healthy' may describe the contestants' mental and physical state but does not necessarily mean 'fit'! 3.5 miles twice round the Lakes and up past the Gothic Temple awaited them, with the winner for the second successive year, Harrison Dockery (Chandos Upper Sixth), recording 22 mins 38 secs and the tail-end Charlie over 46 minutes, so there's plenty of scope for new people to have an enjoyable run around the grounds, gorgeous as they always are with the awakening Spring.

A close second was Simon Gardner (Temple 95) (22.43), fortified by his triathlon training, followed by Chris Hutter (Chandos 87) (4th, 25.42), then Chris Lascelles (Temple 89) (6th, 26.53) and Charlie Clare (Chatham 94) (8th, 27.18) with Oliver Selway (Grenville 94) and Kate Chambré (Lyttelton 97) completing the OS team. They were supported by Francis Graham-Dixon (Temple 72), Tom Chambré (Grafton 95), Sophia E Chambré (née Calvert, Lyttelton 95), Toby Gauvain (Temple 89), Marc Hope (Cobham 79) and Richard Weston (Chatham 65). Special mention then of the



well represented Chambré family, almost a team on their own.

The OS team can take heart from the overall result. Officially we lost but only by 37 points to 41. A bit of trivia: adding up the times, the times totalled 156 mins exactly for the School and 158 mins 40 secs for the OS team, an aggregate difference of only 2½ minutes!

In fact, the scores should have been equal on 39 each because Kate was sent off course, losing several places and about 2½ minutes so this biased reporter will call the 2015 result a draw both on points and time!

This was the best turn out for many a long year and could be swelled still further if

some of the OS Triathlon and Adventure competitors got in a little early season practice.

There is also the race for old boys of invited schools every December hosted by Thames Hare & Hounds on their scenic five mile course on Wimbledon Common. That's a great cross-country opportunity for Home Counties based Old Stoics. Details via the OS office. It's difficult to commit ahead at the time *The Corinthian* comes out but please do think about registering interest having read this report.

Richard Weston (Chatham 65)

OS FOOTBALL

2015 has been a year of consolidation for the OS Football Team with the 2014-15 season characterised by a relegation battle rather than the cup final appearance and near-miss on promotion of our debut season a year earlier. Thankfully, relegation was successfully averted but not without a dramatic last-minute equaliser in our final game that ultimately ensured the Old Stoics remained in Division Four by a solitary point. Goalkeeper, Mark Thompson-Royds (Chatham 07) was particularly outstanding in that game, pulling off a series of stunning one-on-one stops, and this was a fitting culmination of a great season for him, with his peers duly voting him Player of the Year.

James Robson (Walpole 05) remains Captain of a youthful side as we go into the Christmas break of our third season comfortably ensconced in mid-table hopeful of a more sustained cup run as well as a push further up the league to look forward to in 2016. The Club continues to build steadily with a core of players such as centre back pairing Jamie Hirsch (Walpole 08) and Rupert Rowling (Cobham 05), while the team always looks

stronger whenever Harry Wolrige Gordon's (Chatham 08) name is down for the left back slot. In midfield, we have our version of the Neville brothers Harry (Grafton 08) and Thomas Benyon (Walpole 10), ably complemented by Alex Jollivet (Grenville 08). Goals of course are the currency of the game and the team is lucky to have Jamie Hirst (Walpole 08) and Tolly Leech (Temple 10) as scoring bankers.

Off the field, the side voted in its first proper committee and Hamish Eggins (Temple 09) has shown impressive maturity in his new role as Fixture Secretary, as well as being arguably the Club's most improved player.

To supplement this core, it has been fantastic to see recent leaver Nyan Patel (Grenville 16) and 2011 departee Nicolas du Bois de Montule (Grenville 11) contact us wanting to play with both making their debuts this season. As these two players ably demonstrated, there clearly is plenty of footballing talent emanating from MK18 as the School takes the sport more seriously. Anyone interested in playing regular 11-a-side



football on grass in and around the London area, please don't hesitate to contact either Rupert Rowling on **07833 694336** or James Robson on **07971 504482**.

Whilst those wanting to monitor the side's progress, full details are available at <http://full-time.thefa.com/DisplayTeam.do?teamID=748704707&divisionseason=689848553>

Rupert Rowling (Cobham 05), Chairman

We then played the 'Find Rugby Now 7s Tournament' held at London Wasps RUF. OS7s made it through to the group stage after knocking out some big names on the circuit and played the host team *Find Rugby Now* in the quarter finals. We started strongly and put FRN to the sword and came out winners 29-12 and then went into the semis. In the semis, OS7s faced a team called *Project Waterbodies* who have been on the circuit for a few seasons. OS7s started slowly and PW went up by 12-0. OS7s had a man sent to the bin but came back well in the second half but unfortunately left it too late and lost 28-22.

The 4th and final tournament of the summer saw OS7s invited to Help For Heroes 7s. We won the tournament coming out 56-0 in the final.

We are going back on to the 7s circuit of 2016 and hope to win one of the major tournaments. Our aim is to play in the Dubai 7s in 2016, if anyone is interested in sponsoring us please do get in touch.

I would like to take this opportunity to thanks all the boys who were involved and James Clark's (Temple 12) girlfriend for being there to support him! If you would like to get involved, please do get in touch by emailing luke.brewin@edstaffing.co.uk

Luke Brewin (Temple 02)

OS7s WIN SILVERWARE IN THEIR FIRST SEASON



After meeting several boys playing on the 7s circuit for different teams, I came up with the idea of entering an Old Stoic team into the MK7s. With some help from Anna, Alan Hughes and Craig Sutton we managed to put a team together of 12 Old Stoics.

On one of the wettest days of the summer, we turned up to MK7s with no preconceptions and with ten rugby shirts for a squad of 12. We managed to get to the quarter finals where we lost by two points with some very dubious refereeing.

After a great start from the MK7s, we decided to enter one of the biggest tournaments of the year being held at Saracens pitch at Allianz Park, with England winning the Invitational. The Men's Open Cup welcomed the best 7s teams on the circuit looking to make an impact. OS7s did themselves proud, considering it was only our second tournament and we were up against some very well established teams. It was a great experience running on the main Saracens pitch at Allianz Park.

STOWE TEMPLARS



Following on from the success of the 2014 season, 2015 was, happily, equally productive, albeit in slightly different areas. Whereas the feature of 2014 was the performance in the Cricketer Cup, 2015 gave us a Cricket Week to remember.

Prior to this, we comfortably disposed of a Stony Stratford side in a game that we had hoped would be a Cricketer Cup practice match, romped home by 1 wicket against a surprisingly 'gobby' Hampshire Hogs, and lost in traditional manner to the strength of the Flashmen and then to the School on Speech Day.

The Cricketer Cup campaign started well with a convincing win over a slightly disconcerted Old Reptonians, the batting stars being Rob White (Cobham 98) scoring 56, Harry Wolrige-Gordon (Chatham 08) on 46 and the returning Richard Harris (Cobham 97) on 68, and the bowling being led by Rupert Rowling chalking up only the 4th ever Templar 5-for in the Cricketer Cup. However, the highlight of the match came deservedly from last-minute call to the colours Mark Thompson-Royds, who produced the catch of the season to change the game's momentum just as the Repton top order were beginning to eye up

the Templar total. The second round found us at home against the Old Cheltonians, who produced an excellent example of cup-winning cricket. They had the advantage of the toss (which to be fair we had had at Repton) and benefited from a couple of 'interesting' stumping decisions from one of the umpires, but in truth they produced a highly efficient bowling performance in defence of their par total of 267 and were well worth their in-the-end comfortable win.

2016 sees us up against a strong Old Wellingtonians team in the first round, which will be an excellent test for our improving side.

This all led up to the Cricket Week, in which we boasted not only an unbeaten run for the first time in many years, but posted victories in every single game that was played (the Monday v. the Nomads being rained off). This is the first time this has happened in this scribe's over-extended memory, and featured a first win against the South Oxon Amateurs and some fine performances by Templars old and new. It was, as always, a very happy week, and thanks again must go to Harry Wolrige-Gordon, Rupert Rowling and Ed Hoy for overseeing so successfully what is

one of the very few remaining residential Old Boy Cricket Weeks in existence.

Julian Stocks has happily undertaken to bring down his gang of vintage Templar reprobates on the Saturday of the Week in 2016 to make a real Templar day of it as per 2014.

One other pleasing facet of 2015 was our continued introduction of younger players, with the last game of the week against the Frogs featuring three of this year's 1st XI to add to three from the 2014 side. The plan is to slightly expand the fixture list in 2016 to try to ensure that we continue to provide good competitive cricket for as many Templars as want to play. Anybody who is interested in joining in, be sure to get in touch with us – any of Adam Cossins (**07545 590710**), Rupert Rowling (**07833 694336**) or Oliver Croom-Johnson (**07909 962 076**) would be delighted to hear from you. Nets at Lord's start on Tuesday 15 March 2016.

Oliver Croom-Johnson (Temple 69)

In addition to the Templars' Report, we have recently received word of a lovely mention in the MCC Newsletter about the MCC v Stowe match which took place on 7 June 2015. The point of note was not the result, a well fought draw, but reference to the ground: "...with express intention of setting an early declaration to force a result on the superb Stowe surface" and "it was a cracking day for all at one of the best grounds in the country."

THE STOWE BEAGLES

In pouring rain, at the Puppy Show in June, 2015, a stalwart gathering of Old and current Stoics, puppy walkers and guests attended the judging of the year's young entry by Henry South MH (Temple 11) and Edward Birch-Reynardson (Grafton 11). At the end of what was a very enjoyable day, the Master, Theo Shepherd-Smith (Cobham 15), handed over to our new Joint Masters: Annabel Wailes-Fairbairn, Hamish Beaton and John Shin.

In July, hounds were shown, at Peterborough, by former Joint Master Rory Knight (Chatham 14) and current whipper-in Roddy Bannister. An enthusiastic gathering of supporters including, Laurie Strangman (Bruce 57), Nick Bannister (Lyttelton 77) and former Masters, Martin Wood (Bruce 65), Robin Bell-Irving (Chatham 70), Alistair McGee (Lyttelton 73) and Charles Carter (Grafton 01) followed progress during the day.

Hunting commenced in September with support from within the School and the hunting country as strong as ever. In October, we travelled to Northumberland where we were the guests of the Wailes-Fairbairn family. Meets were hosted by Adam Waugh MFH (Bruce 89), The Fairfax Family and Ian McKie MFH (Former Parent). Two excellent days were enjoyed by a large gathering of followers including: Hugh Leyland (Bruce 73), Michael Leyland (Walpole 10), Nick Bannister (Lyttelton 77) and Oliver Beazley (Chatham 14). Sadly, fog prevented hunting on the third day. We are grateful to Rupert Gibson MH (Temple 73) for welcoming us into his hunt country.

In December, many supporters and a minibus full of Stoics travelled down to Dorset as the guests of the parents of Bertie Alexander, the Huntsman. We enjoyed very generous hospitality and two challenging days' hunting.



Driving rain and a steep climb to the top of Hambledon Hill tested the stamina of all.

During the year we have, sadly, lost two very loyal supporters, Chris Mullineux (Temple 52) and Jo Wilkins. Supporters and Stoics attended their funeral services. At the service for Jo Wilkins, the Joint Masters and Whips were present in uniform together with two couple of hounds. Bertie Alexander blew *Going Home* in the churchyard. A moving occasion for all.

Alistair McGee (Lyttelton 73), Chairman, Stowe Beagles

2016 Gift Collection

This page features some of the growing range of Stowe and Old Stoic merchandise available in the Shop at Stowe – a blend of traditional apparel and some new clothing and gift items that we have introduced in the last few months. We would be delighted to serve you in person, or to deliver an order to you by post. To order, please call 01280 818211 or email shop@stowe.co.uk. You can see the full gift collection on the OS website: www.stowe.co.uk/old-stoics



Cushions and Mug
A bright and colourful map of Stowe and the grounds printed on the highest quality linen/cotton. Each one comes with a luxury feather inner or just the cover, in our presentation gift box. Available in 2 sizes.

Backing colours: White or Navy Blue
Large Cushion 20 x 18" £30
Small Cushion 20 x 12" £25
Cover only 20 x 18" £25

This design also comes in a Mug and Greeting Card.

Mug £8.00
Card £1.99

The mug is ideal for coffee or makes an excellent stationery holder.



Bespoke Cards
...and many more...

£3.25



Stowe Pyjamas

Our bestselling pyjamas are available in Blue or Pink and White Candy Stripes. Made of the finest cotton with 'Stowe' woven into the waistband. Cool and comfortable.

Sizes XS – XL £28.00

OS Socks

Stowe thin socks. Cotton/lycra. One size. Short or long.

£12.95



Stowe Travel Journal

A hard cover artist's notebook with alternate plain and lined cartridge paper. Elastic retaining band. A5 128 pages.

£10.00



Silver plated bottle stopper

Engraved stylish silver plated wine stopper. Presented in a smart navy blue box.

£30.00



Photograph Frame

Silver plated translucent enamel colour frame. 7.5cm x 7.5cm. Presented in a smart Navy Blue box with pale blue ribbon.

£32.00

Decorations

Handmade decorations for the Christmas tree or perfect for door handles all year round.

Stowe House £8.00
Stowe Crest £8.00



Watercolour print of the South Front, Stowe

A classic, soft, architectural watercolour print of Stowe's South Front. By Louise Cowley.

Unframed with mount 30 x 17" £60.00
Framed £120.00

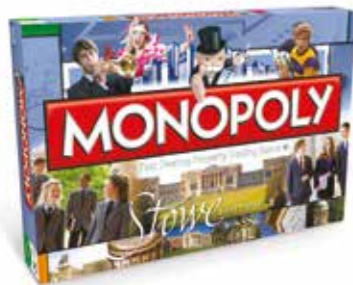
Cards also available £1.00

Dressing Gowns

Luxurious long towelling dressing gowns.

Navy Blue with Stowe crest, White with 'Stowe' in Blue.

£60.00



Stowe Monopoly

Special offer £25.00



Stowe Lion

Best selling Stowe Lion, 19cm sitting, wearing an embroidered navy blue Guernsey sweater.

£12.95

2016 EVENTS

CALENDAR



We have endeavoured to organise a wide range of events in 2016 that will appeal to Old Stoics of all ages. To make enquiries or to book any of the events below please call the Old Stoic Office on 01280 818349 or email oldstoic@stowe.co.uk. Full details of each event can be found at www.oldstoic.co.uk

To see more photos visit the OS Event Gallery at www.oldstoic.co.uk

Saturday, 5 March 2016

Stowe Beagle Ball, Stowe

£50

Friday, 27 May 2016

Tony Hadley Concert, Stowe

£50

Wednesday, 9 March 2016

Northern SOS Lunch, Shrigley Hall, Cheshire

£40

Saturday, 28 May 2016

Classic Cars at Speech Day, Stowe

Wednesday, 9 March 2016

Northern OS Drinks Reception, Great John Street Hotel, Manchester

£20

Saturday, 17 September 2016

OS Day and 20th, 25th, 30th, 40th and 50th Anniversaries, Stowe

Sunday, 20 March 2016

OS Sports Day, Stowe

Saturday, 8 October 2016

Stowe Ten Years Out, Stowe

Monday, 18 April 2016

Old Stoics in Hong Kong Drinks Reception, The China Club, Hong Kong

Thursday, 10 November 2016

OS Dinner, Details to be announced

Wednesday, 13 April 2016

London SOS Lunch, The Savile Club, London

£50

Saturday, 19 November 2016

OS Careers' Fair, Stowe

Friday, 20 May 2016

Dinner for OSs in Scotland and the Far North, The New Club, Edinburgh

£65

In addition, regional representatives are now in place across the UK, so there will be an OS event taking place near you soon. If you live overseas, we are working with representatives to increase activity. If you would like to host an event, please get in touch.



- 📍 OS Careers' Fair.
- 📍 Old Stoic Day.
- 📍 Face painting at Old Stoic Day.



To make enquiries or to book any of these events please call the Old Stoic Office on 01280 818349 or email oldstoic@stowe.co.uk. Tickets can also be purchased at www.oldstoic.co.uk using PayPal. Please note, payment for events must be made in advance to secure your place.

To order: Telephone 01280 818211 or Email shop@stowe.co.uk

Old Stoic Society Committee

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