

The Corinthian 2014

THE MAGAZINE FOR OLD STOICS

Issue 4

BRITAIN'S BEST LOVED ENTREPRENEUR

Jerome Starkey (Chandos 99) talks to our new President, Sir Richard Branson (Cobham/Lyttelton 68).

The Art of Giving

Gordon Darling (Grafton 39) is one of Australia's most significant living philanthropists and was instrumental in establishing the National Portrait Gallery of Australia.

Stowe: A Place of Influence

James Furse-Roberts (Grafton 95) discovers the effect Stowe had on the work of two of our most acclaimed Old Stoic architects.



Stowe

THE OLD STOIC SUMMER PARTY AT THE KENSINGTON ROOF GARDENS

Tuesday 10 June 2014

7.00pm – 12.30am

All Old Stoics and their guests
are invited to join us for this
informal evening.

Welcome reception in the Spanish Gardens,
live bands, barbeque and drinks until 10pm

TICKETS £40

BOOK NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

CALL 01280 818349 or E-MAIL oldstoic@stowe.co.uk
Contact the Old Stoic Office if you would like to e-mail
your year group personally to ensure as many of your
friends are there as possible.
Cash bar from 10pm to 12.30am

Kensington Roof Gardens, 99 Kensington High Street,
London W8 5SA

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

With the celebrations of Stowe's 90th Anniversary year now drawn to a close, the pages of this magazine chronicle the events which took place to mark the occasion. Enclosed with your copy of the magazine, you will find a souvenir programme from the OS Society's celebration, Nostalgic at Ninety. I hope that those of you who were unable to join us on the night will be able to capture the flavour of the evening from the programme. Photographs and a film of the evening are available at www.oldstoic.co.uk

Along with commemorating last year's flagship occasions, this magazine brings news from Old Stoics from around the globe, with word of their achievements, details of gatherings which have taken place and a diverse and eclectic mix of articles on topics I hope will be of interest to you.

Thank you to all those who have sent in their news, as well as to those who have written articles for the magazine this year. If you would like to submit an article for next year, I would be delighted to hear from you. Thank you to the advertisers who have supported the magazine this year. Also, a huge vote of thanks to Caroline Whitlock, who has spent countless hours collating your news, as well as proofing submissions for this year's magazine.

Lastly, an important reminder: please make sure we have your correct contact details, in particular, your email address. The majority of our communications are electronic, so if we don't have your email address, we can't let you know about all the exciting developments we are making and unmissable events that are coming up. If in doubt, email oldstoic@stowe.co.uk

Anna Semler (Nugent 05)
Old Stoic Society Director

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WELCOME FROM... THE CHAIRMAN OF OSS



The Old Stoic Society has had another very busy year and it has been a great pleasure to see so many OSs taking part in our various events and activities. In particular, we have seen and heard from a large number of Old Stoics who have not previously been willing or able to get involved. This has been hugely gratifying, because a major part of our strategy has been to broaden the reach of the Society and to engage with as many people as possible. Ideas are always welcome, and we've responded to several suggestions by giving money and resources to help members make things happen.

Highlights of 2013 included the fabulous Nostalgic at Ninety party which Nigel Milne (Chandos 68) and his events sub-committee organised to mark Stowe's 90th birthday. Andrew Chance (Chandos 71) did a wonderful job of orchestrating the evening and a great time was had by all. In May, Stowe hosted a very special concert by Roger Hodgson (Grenville 68) and the following day saw a Speech Day with delightfully brief and un-boring speeches, with a record number of entries for the OS classic car display, with unusually sunny weather, and with a flypast by the RAF's Lancaster, a Spitfire and a Hurricane.

Around the world, too, we have been busy, with parties in Australia, Hong Kong, the USA and Dubai. We have additional sports groups and a number of new special interest groups including an OS art group, an OS property group and an OS military group. OS Corkscrew, our wine society, has held two excellent events, with more to follow when they sober up. Our online presence has grown too, and we now have 819 members on LinkedIn.

This is only the second year of our ambitious development strategy, so now we are actively recruiting local 'champions' to co-ordinate support, events and activities all around the UK and in the many countries where we do not currently have an active group. Budgets have been assigned to facilitate and subsidise local events, so you no longer have to live near London or Buckingham to get the best out of the Society. Please get in touch if you can help run things in your own locality.

We are also developing our careers support and, at long last, it looks like we can achieve an integrated service that will give advice, encouragement, work experience and networking support that starts with Stoic leavers and continues until retirement.

Stowe is nothing if not an incubator for entrepreneurs, and we have a number of notably successful OS business leaders. As part of the wider career support, in 2014 we will be piloting specific programmes to offer insights, training and support for those wishing to start their own businesses. I'm delighted that our new President, Sir Richard Branson (Cobham/Lyttelton 68), will be helping us in this – as you can read, in his interview in this magazine.

Finally, let me repeat that it's YOUR Society, so DO let us know if you like what we are doing and DO volunteer to help.

Enjoy *The Corinthian* and I hope we will see you at an OS event or two this year.

Best wishes

Simon Shneerson (Temple 72)
Old Stoic Society Chairman

NEWS FROM STOWE

Part of my role at Stowe is to compile the School magazine, *The Stoic*, but I am also responsible for putting together our regular e-newsletter, *Stowemail*, which is emailed out to parents, staff, Stoics and some Old Stoics every couple of weeks and features the highlights from School life.

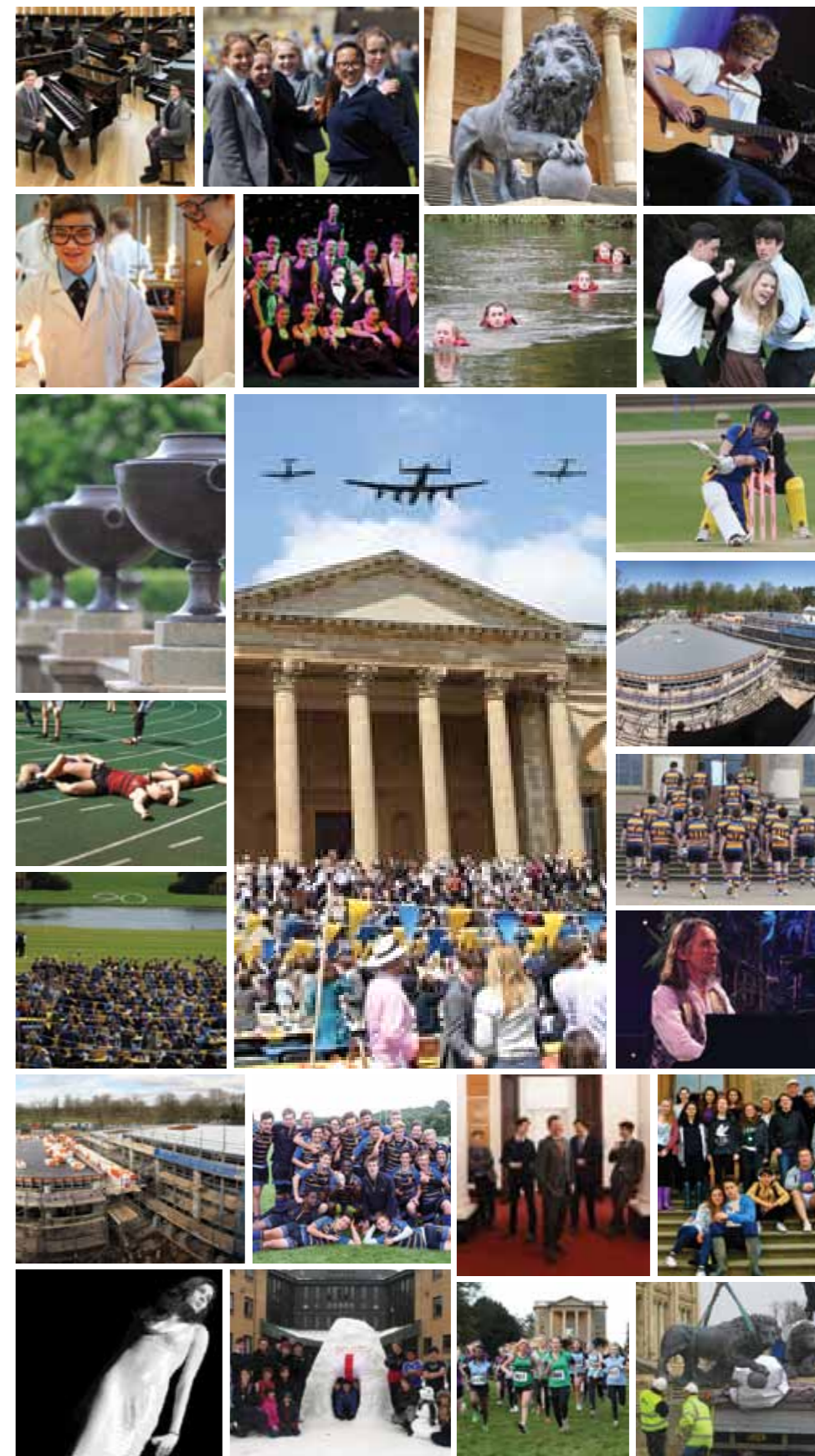
I consider myself very lucky; it is a really enjoyable part of my life a Stowe. So much goes on at the School, the Stoics always seem to have been up to something brilliant and I am the one who gets to share this news with the wider Stowe community.

Asked to highlight some of my favourite news items from the last year, I looked through this year's issues of *Stowemail* and *The Stoic* but found it an impossible task to condense the best bits into a page – on top of regular School life, we also celebrated our 90th Anniversary last year and the sheer number of extraordinary events is incredible. So, unusually for me, I think less words and more pictures will give you a better snapshot of this last year at Stowe. I have picked my favourite snippets which you will see on these pages and I finish with a plug... There is so much going on and you, too, can read all about it! You can sign up to receive *Stowemail* and *The Stoic* by contacting Anna Semler in the Old Stoic Office, or you can follow our twitter feed [@stowemail](https://twitter.com/stowemail) – and if you are really keen, please feel free to do both! Back issues of both *The Stoic* and *Stowemail* are online at www.stowe.co.uk/news-and-events/publications. Even better, come back and see your School in action, you are always welcome.

Tori Roddy, Marketing Director

To sign up to receive *Stowemail* please email oldstoic@stowe.co.uk

To opt in to receive a printed copy of *The Stoic*, please email oldstoic@stowe.co.uk. A contribution of £2.50 p&p will be requested.



📍 (left to Right) Stowe becomes an All-Steinway School as our new music building opens; Speech Day Celebrations; Medici Lions Return; Making Music – Senior Unplugged just one of the many musical events performed by Stoics; Our Academic Life – Stoics in the Classroom; Senior Congreve Present Cabaret – a truly memorable show; Stowe Challenge – not for the faint-hearted; Stoics perform at Bill's Birthday Bash; A whole lot of Urns – Replicas of the original urns are placed on the South Front balustrade; Speech Day Flyby; Setting records – and beating Eton – in Cricket. Our cricketers finished second in the national league; Sports Day – Exhausting for some!; The Music School Rises; Happy Birthday Stowe – a Speech Day to Remember; Advertising Stowe – our 1st XV take part in a photo shoot Rugby Club Magazine; Roger Hodgson returns!; Music School; Winners at the U15 Tynedale RFC Schools Rugby Festival; Preparing the new prospectus – Chandos pose for the camera; Community Support – Stoics get involved in Kidscape; Stowe Fashionable – Stoics put on their glad rags to raise funds for the Cancer Vaccine Institute; Bruce win the 'snowman' competition with a time lapse video of their igloo construction; Run for the hills. The girls compete in the cross-country race; Lions on the move – The Medici Lions return, restored, to Stowe.



FROM THE

HEADMASTER

MUSIC AT STOWE: THE EARLY YEARS

Music runs as a leitmotif through the history of Stowe. The recently restored State Music Room is one of the most remarkable interior spaces in the Mansion.

Decorated by Vincenzo Valdrè, a little-known Italian artist who was resident at Stowe from 1779 to 1790 before leaving to continue his painting career in Ireland, the exuberant wall paintings evoke the frescoes which the Marquess of Buckingham saw first-hand when he visited Naples and Pompeii on his Grand Tour in 1774. Apollo, the god of music, appears twice: obliquely as the sun at the centre of The Dance of the Hours (the original Valdrè painting, sold in 1922 for 140 guineas, which will return this summer having been secured for Stowe through a private sale negotiated by Christie’s); Apollo appears for a second time on one of the wall panels, standing on a pedestal while presenting a laurel wreath to Mary Nugent, Marchioness of Buckingham, an accomplished musician and painter, who in turn presents Apollo with a lyre. The theme of music is reinforced in the decorative gilt frieze of pan-pipes and crossed horns interspersed with bucrania (ox-heads) that forms part of the entablature which frames the room. This magical room has a superb acoustic which is particularly well suited for compositions from the Baroque period.

The culmination of Stowe hospitality in ducal times came in 1845 when the second Duke of Buckingham hosted Queen Victoria and Prince Albert for three days of lavish entertainment. The Duke staged one last magnificent display of extravagant indulgence, before the bubble burst and insolvency beckoned. No expense was spared and the Duke was reputed to have spent £75,000 on refurbishing and redecorating the house in the three months before the royal visit. The Duke conjured up an intoxicating blend of receptions, banquets and music for the delectation of Victoria and Albert (as well as a mass slaughter of game in the park). On the first evening, a Regiment of Lifeguards played a selection of musical treats while guests feasted in the State Dining Room – among

the highlights were a potpourri from Don Pasquale, waltzes by Labitsky, an overture by Adam and a polka by Johann Strauss. The concert after dinner started with Weber’s Oberon overture, a Scotch air by Waddell, more polkas and waltzes by Labitsky and “The Dream” from Balfe’s Bohemian Girl. The Lifeguards were followed by a more rarified postprandial concert in the Marble Hall, conducted by one Monsieur Jullien, whose orchestra played some Meyerbeer (Robert le Diable), a quadrille from Herold’s Zampa and sections from Beethoven’s “Pastoral Symphony”. Victoria and Albert listened from the comfort of the Temple Room (perhaps also an acknowledgement that the acoustic in the Marble Hall leaves something to be desired) and after Prince Albert had given his approbation and thanks to Monsieur Jullien, the royal couple retired at 11.30pm. The night’s festivities did not end there as the Mansion continued to resound to the Overture from William Tell, the post horn gallop (with the fêted Herr Koenig on cornet) and other popular pieces which reverberated all the way to the royal bedroom (the State Bed-Chamber is now a Chandos dormitory; sadly, Borra’s elaborately carved state bed was sold in 1921 for 150 guineas and is now in the Lady Lever Art Gallery at Port Sunlight).

Stowe’s first headmaster, the great JF Roxburgh, declared himself to be “totally unmusical”. When a boy’s mother asked him to listen to an early opus by her musically-inclined son, Roxburgh replied: “I only sometimes go to concerts at Stowe as a matter of duty and only last term I narrowly escaped hearing the Rio Grande performed twice in the same evening. I hardly know when I shall have the courage to go to a Stowe concert again.” In spite of Roxburgh’s professed indifference, music flourished and Stowe boasted a Choral Society, a Madrigal Society, two orchestras, a band and a panatrophe (an early version of a record player). Characteristically, Roxburgh was able to turn his lack of interest in matters musical into a virtue: “there is, therefore, no one to interfere with the musicians, who develop their habitual initiative in every direction, happily for the most part at a considerable distance from my rooms.”



Portrait of Leslie Huggins.

Leslie Parry Huggins, affectionately known as “Hug”, was educated at Rugby and Balliol (B.A., M.A., B.Mus. and D.Mus – “this will look very well in our School list”, commented Roxburgh laconically). He had served with distinction in the Royal Field Artillery during the Great War, winning the Military Cross in 1918 for leading numerous teams of horses through artillery and gas barrages for use at the front. Huggins spent five years cutting his teeth as a schoolmaster at Radley before being appointed Stowe’s second Director of Music in 1929, for the modest salary of £400 per annum. He was an accomplished organist, pianist, choirmaster, arranger and composer (in the tradition of Vaughan Williams and Herbert Butterworth). Before taking up his new post, he was able to secure an interest-free loan of £1,000 from an anonymous benefactor to secure the splendid Rushworth and Draper organ for the new Chapel which was to be dedicated on 11 July 1929 (the estimated cost of the organ was £3,250). The loan ostensibly came from a close friend. Huggins, a man of private means, did not divulge the identity of the mysterious benefactor – although Roxburgh had his suspicions: “it is rather hard to thank an anonymous abstraction, but I am in fact full of thankfulness towards the impersonal source of this unexpected help – and also, as you know, towards you.” The final instalment of the loan, a payment of £333, was eventually given to the Queen’s Temple Fund in 1934, “on condition that it is used solely for building practising rooms”.

A series of successful subscription concerts was launched and Stoics were introduced to an eclectic and sophisticated range of

musical tastes. Huggins directed “The Polovstian Dances” from Prince Igor, with John Saunders, a young master who also arrived in 1929, arranging the choreography. The production was favourably reviewed in The Times. Huggins edited and contributed hymns to Cantata Stoica and collaborated with Roxburgh to cut out “most of the savagery and most of the nonsense” from the Psalter. A notable triumph was the 1935 production of Boris Godunov with the professional, Denis Noble, in the title role (giving rise to Major Haworth, housemaster of Chandos, quipping “Is Boris good enough?”). This was followed by Der Freischütz in a new translation by John Saunders who also took the role of Samiel, the Demon Huntsman. Thomas Beecham travelled overnight from Paris and arrived at the School to conduct the London Philharmonic Orchestra with only minutes to spare. Sir Henry Wood and Adrian Boult also accepted invitations to conduct at Stowe, the former leading the Choral Society in his arrangement of choruses from Handel’s Operas.

Huggins did not suffer from the weaknesses which can sometimes afflict the best musicians (as Roxburgh remarked, “I have known one or two who have the temperament of an actress”). Writing a reference for Huggins who in 1933 had applied for the post of Director of Music at Marlborough, Roxburgh wrote, “Huggins is not an intellectual man, but he is I believe a first-class musician and it is a blessing to find anyone who though being so musical is at the same time so easy to live with and so normal”. Fortunately for Stowe, although Huggins made it on to the “shortest of short lists”, he was pipped to the post by



The Dance of the Hours by Vincenzo Valdrè, sold in the 1922 sale.

The New Music School, formally opening in May 2014.



C. Hylton Stewart, Director of Music at Haileybury. Thereafter, Huggins redoubled his efforts to raise the profile of music at Stowe and achieved remarkable success with gentle persuasion (he never raised his voice), kindness and humour. In another reference, this time for an unsuccessful bid to move to Winchester College in 1937, Roxburgh reflected on how Huggins had been making excellent bricks without straw: “we cannot afford to give him a proper Music School or even proper practice rooms, and yet music of every kind flourishes in the place.” Among Huggins’ more unusual activities was his great enjoyment of hunting in the winter (he became Joint Master of the Grafton Hunt, occasionally hurrying from the

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hunt to play the organ in Chapel with his surplice covering mud-splattered clothes). A man with a strong sense of Stowe’s place in the local community, Huggins also accepted the leadership of a troop of Boy Scouts in a neighbouring village.

A scheme to commemorate the School’s tenth anniversary in 1933 by converting the Queen’s Temple into a Music School did not initially meet with Huggins’ approval. He argued that it was too far away from the School for the boys to use in their free periods; his teaching staff would not be able to supervise music practice when pianos would still be scattered all over the School; apart from the imposing central room on the

first floor, Queen’s Temple did not have adequate space for conversion into suitable practice or recital rooms. Instead, “the ideal Music School would be a simple brick building of one storey shaped rather like an army hut, but wider and longer with a central passage and practising and teaching rooms off on either side. At one end of the building would be a large room for orchestral and singing practices. The ideal site for this would be somewhere in the centre of the School.” Roxburgh won the argument and the Queen’s Temple with its majestic outlook across to the Gothic Temple and Temple of Friendship was renovated to become the home of Stowe’s Music Department. Building repairs were supervised by the architect Fielding Dodd and, in addition to two teaching rooms, eight small practice rooms were built within the rusticated basement. As for the remoteness of the Temple, Roxburgh calculated the walk from Grafton by the North route took him exactly three minutes, covering a distance of 275 paces: “For the whole of the Eastern end of the School the Queen’s Temple is therefore more accessible than Chatham”.

When war became imminent, Huggins, who had kept his commission in the Regular Army Reserve, was appointed as a Major, Royal Artillery, TA on 29 July 1939 and served with 120th Field Brigade, finishing the war as an artillery instructor. He was demobilised in July 1945 and returned to Stowe for the start of the academic year. The post-war years, however, were exceedingly difficult. The loss of 270 Old Stoics broke Roxburgh and he suffered from bouts of depression. While subscription concerts resumed, distinguished soloists visited the School (Huggins would often pay their fees out of his own pocket), the LPO again performed in the school gymnasium, an ambitious production of St Joan was staged,

Huggins suffered from recurring ill health and died in April 1952. A few weeks later, the School received a letter from a firm of solicitors with the news that Dr Huggins had left to the governors £5,000, “for the erection of a new and adequate Music School and his gramophones and gramophone records to be used as a permanent library for the use of the boys”. With this exceedingly generous gift and the creation of the new Music School some sixty-two years after his death, Leslie Huggins will always be remembered at Stowe and his spirit lives on in the building which will be formally opened on 23 May 2014.

OUR PRESIDENT: BRITAIN'S BEST LOVED ENTREPRENEUR



Sir Richard Branson (Cobham/Lyttelton 68) is kite-surfing, somewhere in the Caribbean, with a millionaire model clinging to his back. Or at least that's what his Twitter feed proclaims, moments before we talk.

"Oh?" he says, surprised, when I ask about the picture. "I think that was a few days ago."

There's a smile in his voice and he sounds slightly out of breath. I can't help wondering if he has just waded up his palm-fringed beach: kite under one arm, lithe, brunette socialite from the photograph on the other. And that's probably exactly what he wants.

Britain's best loved entrepreneur, Stowe's most famous old boy and, in the words of one of his 3.8 million Twitter followers, "the planet's coolest billionaire," is talking to *The Corinthian* (via telephone, I am afraid) from his private island, Necker, in the British Virgin Islands.

It is an interview to mark his latest accolade. The rich-list regular and world-record collector, who was knighted in 2000, can now count President of the Old Stoic Society among his many honours.

It is quite an achievement for a man described as a "school dropout" in the Encyclopaedia Britannica, and who by his own account, "was pretty hopeless" in class.

"I can't say I enjoyed it enormously," remembers Sir Richard of his time at Stowe. "I was, and am, dyslexic, and I was pretty hopeless at conventional studying. I had been pretty good at games and then I tore the cartilage in my knee, and that grounded me."

He sent his own children, Sam and Holly, to St Edward's in Oxford.

"I think at that stage I hadn't really realised what a revolution had gone on at Stowe, since I had left" he says. "I honestly never felt massive warmth towards wanting to go back. It's only having seen the absolute transformation, and having met lots of people who have been there recently, who have spoken really highly of it, that I have sat up to take notice."

"The Stowe that I visited recently just seems like the kind of school that I would love to be part of. It's got a really good Headmaster who genuinely cares."

Struggling academically and robbed of the chance to play sports, Sir Richard launched a national magazine, called *Student*, "to campaign on issues that young people felt strongly about."

"It was taking up most of my time in School" he remembers. "Finally the Headmaster said to me, 'You have either really got to concentrate on school work, or leave School and do your magazine'. And I decided to leave School and concentrate on the magazine."

"In those days Stowe was boys only" he adds, as if to explain his decision. "I think going to single sex schools is very unnatural."

It was 1967 and, according to school lore, the late Headmaster, Bob Drayson, bid him farewell with: "Congratulations, Branson. I predict you will either go to prison or become a millionaire."

"I think that was true" says Sir Richard. "Drayson had his good points, but he was pretty old school. The current Headmaster, if one of his pupils was running a national magazine, I think would probably welcome it, not give them a choice: Don't do it, or leave."

Sir Richard says he ran *Student* from the School 'phone box, until he was forced to move to London. Today, the Virgin Group has started up almost 400 companies, in sectors ranging from mobile telephony, travel, financial services, leisure, music, holidays and health & wellness, and they employ almost 65,000 people all around the world.

BOB DRAYSON BID HIM FAREWELL WITH:

**"CONGRATULATIONS
BRANSON. I PREDICT YOU
WILL EITHER GO TO PRISON OR
BECOME A MILLIONAIRE."**

"If I had been able to play sports and if I had been good in the class room I wouldn't have left school and Virgin wouldn't have been born" he says.

He managed to wangle interviews with a raft of notables, including the Prime Minister, Edward Heath, the actor Peter Sellers and the author John Le Carré.

"We would write a lot of letters and we would get a lot of knock backs but, if ten people said yes we would have the makings of the magazine" he says. "There's no question that was an incredible education for how to get on in life, because if you don't ask you don't get."

"And if they didn't say yes, once I had left school, I would turn up at their hotel room, lugging this massive reel to reel tape recorder around, and hope they would take pity on me."

What kind of pupil was he, as a junior in Cobham?

"The first week I turned up at School, I turned up at church and there wasn't a designated seat for me, so I never went to church again and I wasn't missed" he says. "That hour, I was able to work on my magazine."

Dedicated, and it seems, rather resourceful.



☛ Sir Richard Branson with the 2012-13 Branson Scholars.

"I had a Dutch girlfriend in my last term, and I managed to put a tent up in the grounds for a week" he says, still proud of his shenanigans.

"Where?"

"Ahh," he says. "There were enough wooded areas where you could sneak a tent in."

The more we talk, I can't help wondering how his OS Presidency is going to sit with the more authoritarian members of the masters' common room, if indeed there are any left? Being a successful entrepreneur, it seems, requires a healthy sense of mischief, and a good dose of disdain for petty rules and conventions.

"MOST PEOPLE WHO LEAVE STOWE ARE GOING TO FIND THEY HAVE TO WORK BLOODY HARD AT WHATEVER THEY ARE DOING, WHETHER IT'S BUILDING UP AN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS OR NOT."

"I managed to persuade a local farmer to let me go shooting on his land and I hid a shotgun at Stowe and I used to sneak out" Sir Richard says. "And I used to sneak out for the Grand Prix."

It is no wonder the Headmaster thought he'd end up in prison.

"I don't think I did anything different than most kids are doing today" he adds. "Hopefully they are breaking the rules just like our generation did, and having fun. It's all part of growing up."

Sir Richard says he only became an entrepreneur "by default" when he was forced to sell advertising to keep his magazine alive.

"In order for my magazine to survive, I had to become an entrepreneur and that took up even more time than the editing" he says.

"It was perishingly tough just getting enough advertising to keep every edition going but it was an incredible education. It was the university education I never had."

He already supports a Branson Scholars programme, which brings five pupils a year from the Dominican Convent School in Johannesburg, to spend a year at Stowe, and he is full of praise for what the School is doing to try and foster entrepreneurs, "within the constrictions of the formal education system that is set down by Government."

"Most people who leave Stowe are going to find they have to work bloody hard at whatever they are doing, whether it's building up an international business or not" he says. "It's really tough building a business and a lot of people fail on the way. If you fail, make sure you pick yourself up

and try again. If you do succeed, it's a fantastic way of life to be working for yourself."

His advice for aspiring entrepreneurs?

"First of all you have to stand back and think what a business is. A business is coming up with an idea to make a positive difference to other people's lives. If it's not being done well by other people, or if it's unique, even better. My attitude is screw it, just do it."

"Surround yourself with great people and make sure they believe in what you are trying to do. If you have a great team, your idea has a chance of succeeding."

In 1971, a year after Sir Richard started selling mail-order records, Drayson's prediction very nearly came true. The Virgin boss fell foul of HM Customs and Excise, after failing to pay duty on several van loads of records. He spent a night in jail, was bailed out by his mother and had to pay a hefty fine of £60,000.

It was around that time, Sir Richard says, that he was first approached by Stowe on more amicable terms.

"I got a letter from the Headmaster, when Virgin was starting to be successful, and they were thinking about letting girls into the School and he asked whether I could sponsor it, financially?" he says. "I didn't have a lot of money and I thought the best way I could get out of it was to write back and say that I would be happy to sponsor it, but they would have to name it after the company.

"I didn't hear anything from them after that."

However, Dr Wallersteiner had already warned him that were he to make the same offer twice, the School might not be so prudish.

"There's Flamingos making love" Sir Richard suddenly exclaims. They are on one of the two lakes on the island which he bought for \$180,000 from Lord Cobham, just eleven years after leaving Stowe.

"It's a very complex thing for a flamingo to make love" he explains. "The male has to fly in order to make it fit. You have to take your hat off to them."

The glee in his voice at watching nature on his island hideaway makes it easy to believe him when he says he's enjoyed "every moment".

Last year he became the oldest person to cross the English Channel on a kite surf. In 1987, he set the record for the first hot air balloon to cross the Atlantic, while in 1991 he was aboard the first balloon to cross the Pacific from Japan to Arctic Canada. He was also, in 2004, the richest person to present a reality television show, according to the Guinness Book of Records, who estimated his wealth at \$4.6billion.

Any regrets, I wonder? "To be honest, no" he says. But there is one.

"Many, many years [after I left Stowe] I was with the two most famous cricketers in the world, at the time, Viv Richards and Ian Botham and I was flying over in a helicopter and I saw a cricket match going on" he remembers.

"I had never been back to Stowe and I was tempted to land on the cricket pitch, but I didn't have the courage to ask the pilots. I have always regretted that."

Jerome Starkey (Chandos 99)

Jerome Starkey (Chandos 99), is The Times' Africa correspondent. He was recently awarded the 10th annual Kurt Schork Memorial Award for his coverage from Afghanistan and Libya. He also penned the extensive coverage documenting the life of Nelson Mandela, following his death last year. www.jeromestarkey.com

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ROGER HODGSON PERFORMS AT STOWE'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT



© Roger Hodgson.

On the same day that an outrageous south westerly brought down a venerable old tree in the Grecian Valley and ripped up a marquee that had been erected on the South Front, Stowe was about to be hit by another storm of even greater force.

The talents of three Old Stoics and their respective bands were about to deliver an evening of such high octane musical power that not even the ridiculously arctic and inclement weather conditions could outdo! Let me set the scene:

Two thousand people stoically (literally), were trying to cope with their picnics in the wind, rain and Siberian temperatures, some determined to enjoy their supper by wilfully sitting it out on the trestle tables provided. Others huddled in the semi-shelter of the South Front Portico, whilst the VIPs were dining in the State Dining Rooms. However, British to the core, we all took the elements in our stride because nothing was going to stop the anticipation of Stowe Storm 2 – THE CONCERT!

The apocalyptic tones of a disembodied voice alerted the picnickers to the imminent arrival of the first band. With a double beat drum intro, fleshed out by heavy guitar riffing, RYKER SEAR hit the stage with the searing *Tell Me Why*. They are a fresh, young, vibrant act pulsating with energy and with front girl Regan Vincenza's (Nugent 05) commanding

stage presence and vocal delivery coming over like a cross between Pat Benatar and Avril Lavigne.

Hardly had the audience realised what had hit them when the equally driving *Chasing Shadows* forced them into the backs of their seats. But this time the lyrics are tempered with urgent longing 'take me to the bedroom – let me get to know you'. Hmmm, straight to the point, I should say! No dithering about here!

Two more anthemic belters *Wordless* and *Forever Criminal* followed. Then the announcement of an Olly Murs cover! – Whattt??? – Puhleez! – A blistering rendition of *Heart Skips A Beat* ensued – a brilliant interpretation and far more exciting than the original. Suddenly, it is time for the final number, aptly titled *To The Ending*. As in all of the showcased songs, the band delivered a real punch here with tight chiming guitar duets, fearsome riffs, pulsating bass and whiplash drumming. "We are strangers" the band cry out in chorus during the last number – not for much longer they aren't if this performance was anything to go by!

By now, the marquee is pretty full. It is at this point that I really must eulogise about the production of the whole event. The setting was spectacular. Seeing all of the equipment on the stage added a frisson of excitement of things to come. The lighting was dramatic and effective and the sound quality created by a brilliant team of engineers was faultless. I personally have used this team before as well as the producer, Andrew Chance (Chandos 71), and boy, do they deliver!

Back to the stage which, by now, has been totally commandeered by a ten piece combo carrying a myriad of musical and percussive devices ranging from guitars and cellos to flutes, drums and a laptop and led by one of the most charismatic front men that I have ever watched. This is ORLANDO SEALE AND THE SWELL – in fact the whole band is mesmerising. There is so much going on that you cannot take your eyes off them.

Orlando Seale's (Lyttelton 91) songs defy categorisation. Whereas in some cases the lyrics are dark and in others upbeat, the whole aura around the band is one of joy and fun.

Their set began with several bars of sustained strings and choppy acoustic guitar strumming leading into the mysterious *The Lost and the Keeper*. There are hints of Kate Bush in the ambiguity of the lyrics tinged with the



© Orlando Seale and the Swell.

© Ryker Sear.

drama of Scott Walker. It was a fantastic set. After the first number I looked about me and saw the audience slack jawed with disbelief. From then on, Orlando had us all in the palm of his hand.

Dance Little Man is bright and jiggy and in mid-session two of the girls change from spirited drum and tom-tom beating to flute and oboe and back again. In fact, throughout the whole set, instruments are being changed and roles reversed – whilst all the while continuous and insistent rhythms take over your entire being – hypnotic stuff.

These Streets has an infectious sing-along chorus with a lyric content not too far from, but considerably more cerebral than, Jefferson Starship's *We Built This City On Rock And Roll*.

Chanting For Snakes and *Filthy Hope* are moody and introspective but infused with drama and tangible mystery. *Airplanes* drives along with an urgent Bolero-like insistence and the finale *I Love You Beast* is all trembling strings and tribal rhythms and with a resonating climax.

The buzz amongst the crowd outside the marquee during the opening acts was one of euphoria. Ryker Sear had got the party started and had us all fired up with their particular brand of hard driving rock and, of course, everyone was excited about the prospect of seeing Roger Hodgson (Grenville 68) and hearing the

fabulous SUPERTRAMP back catalogue once again – after all, that is why they had all bought tickets in the first place – but no one had expected what they had just experienced from Orlando Seale and the Swell.

Now, by this time, everyone was on full alert. The support bands had more than done their stuff in whipping up a colossal atmosphere and so when ROGER HODGSON materialised on the stage, the whole place erupted. It was like 'The Second Coming' – rather than a homecoming!

I, personally, was thunderstruck by the degree of support and adulation bestowed upon Roger by the audience – Heaven knows how he must have felt.

Graciously and rather movingly acknowledging his reception, RH straddled his keyboard stool, flexed his fingers and launched straight into *Take The Long Way Home* which had us all up on our feet and where we would have willingly stayed if he hadn't, tactfully

gave each song new life and a more contemporary and urgent sound. Hit followed favourite hit. *Breakfast in America* had us all singing along and we all identified with *The Logical Song*, which was inspired by his time at Stowe. One tends to forget just how many superb songs Roger has written, though when he played lesser known songs from his more recent solo albums the tendency was, as is always the case, to feel mildly frustrated. However, I think that we all accepted that the man is a fecund composer who, quite naturally, wishes to give an airing to his newer material of which he can be justifiably proud – as it wasn't half bad!

At one point a curious thing happened. A mosh pit began to develop! – probably not something that such a rock and roll luminary would have expected. And then pretty girls clambered onto the stage and put their arms around him. And there he was, my old school contemporary, with whom my band would occasionally share amps and mics, now elevated to superstar status and living the rock and roll dream of a school boy's imagination and playing back at our old School – how bloody wonderful is that?

The concert just grew and grew and every one of us was rewarded with our favourite Supertramp song. *Dreamer*, the number with which we all used to show off the awesome stereo effects of our brand new sound systems, could never disappoint and was followed by *Fool's Overture*. By this time, no one even wanted to remain seated. Then after two hours and two encores Roger brought this magical evening to a close

"I FELT TREMENDOUSLY PRIVILEGED TO BE PART OF THE CELEBRATIONS AND TO PLAY ALONGSIDE ROGER AND RYKER SEAR – THE WHOLE EXPERIENCE WAS THRILLING." ORLANDO SEALE

invited us all to sit down and by the end of which we were all back in 1980 and very happy to be so. There then followed a succession of familiar Supertramp tunes. *School, Hide In Your Shell* and *Sister Moonshine* were interspersed with selections from his solo albums. Now, everyone knows the Supertramp oeuvre but only the diehards would be familiar with Roger Hodgson's solo output. This is a great shame as there are some real treasures amongst them. *In Jeopardy*, *Lovers In The Wind* and the immensely thought provoking *Death And a Zoo*.

Roger has a distinctive and mildly plaintive vocal delivery which has made all of his songs iconic. His new band is brilliant and, whilst faithfully note perfect to the original Supertramp recordings,

with, appropriately, the happiest sounding song about miserable weather ever written *It's Raining Again*.

There is a lot to be said about the power of music and in this instance it manifested itself in us all filing out of the marquee feeling elated and happy to find that the temperature had risen, the wind had dropped and the rain had stopped.

What more can be said other than, "Thank you, Roger, thank you, Orlando, thank you, Regan and all of your fellow band members, thank you Andrew and your brilliant production team, thank you Artemis for their kind and generous sponsorship – and thank you Stowe for a phenomenal and unforgettable evening."



WILD FLOWER TURF AT THE OLYMPIC OPENING CEREMONY

I enjoyed Stowe (Chatham 1951-56) particularly the music under Dr Huggins, then after shortened National Service in the Navy, I began 5 years of farm training including Cirencester, where I stayed with Pat Smythe.

I bought my first farm near Winchester in 1964. Completion was on June 28 and I was faced with a burnt out grain drier, no 3 phase electricity and 400 acres to harvest.

Luckily, my previous year had been with a fantastic mentor farmer nearby who was hugely supportive. We had to remove a barn end and, in exactly 4 weeks a new drier, cleaner and 3 phase supply was installed and the next day we started harvest. We never looked back. Nat West Bank loaned us 60% of the farm purchase price and has been very supportive ever since (50 years this year and only about 5 bank managers in total!).

However, in 1969 the proposed M3 motorway was announced and would take 40 acres through the middle of the farm. We got paid compensation finally 19 years later. It was a nightmare, so I feel desperately for the HS2 rail affected property owners.

Keen to intensify to replace the 'lost' motorway acres, I was approached by a friend to grow turf in heavy erosion-control netting to supply an instant green product. We had a huge learning curve, trying different zero-soil growing mediums and developing machinery for our 'unique' use. In 1983, we moved and bought this lovely 700 acre farm (600 arable acres) – the motorway having driven us off my first farm

– where we began experimenting with soil free lawn turf and variants. By using compost and no soil, we produced a superb quality lawn with no weeds in it at all.

The system evolved so in one operation we lay a plastic sheet on a field, a netting (of varying thickness on top) and ½" thick layer of compost with seed premixed. This produces a very high quality grass turf to sell 6 weeks later. The turf is length cut in either .75m width rolls for hand laying, or 2m wide, 700kg for JCB type machine laying. The roots enmesh in the netting to enable quite rough handling at this very young age (conventional soil turf can only be lifted when it is 18 months old). The rolls are much lighter than soil-based turf, a very even thickness and the roots have not been cut giving a carpet like quality. Laying is three or four times faster than for conventional turf. Any specific seed mixes can be supplied i.e. for sea defences, river banks etc.

Our eldest son, James, took over the farm ten years ago and developed soil-less wildflower turf, www.wildflowerturf.co.uk, based on the same system but using a small percentage of low growth grass seed with a mix of around 20 perennial wild flower species. Our system of production achieves a very high germination of flower seed, unlike trying to establish wildflowers in soil, which is often a failure. We have this product ready to sell in 10 weeks from starting the process. The inclusion of a wide variety of flowers provides suitability for all soil types on the destination site. The only maintenance required is an autumn cut and removal of material.

2012 was a big year as we supplied all the wildflower and turf areas for Danny Boyle's

Green and Pleasant Land scene at the Opening Ceremony of the Olympic Games. This included the bank of flowers which the athletes paraded around and the 'Tor' where the competing countries put their flags and Lord Coe made his opening speech. Bespoke mixes were also grown for the Athletes Village and this year large areas have been grown for the transformation work in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. As it is such a versatile product it has been used for many films, including all the Harry Potter films. It is also used for green roofs and roof sites supplied include the Cliffs of Moher visitor centre, County Clare, Peppa Pig World at Paultons Park and the Visitor Centre at Cardiff Castle.

Entomologists and ecologists love the product due to its beneficial properties for bees, butterflies and insects, and the media interest and coverage in all things 'wild' has been very helpful with generating awareness for such an important habitat.

Our redundant farm buildings are converted into light industrial units. This income, plus the turf enterprise, has enabled us to build excellent drying floor and seed cleaning facilities for our 200 acres of herbage seed production. The business employs 7 people and another 15 to 20 people work here in the rented buildings, when a farm of this size would normally need half a man.

I have been hugely supported, as a newcomer to farming, by the highly entrepreneurial farmers in this area. I have thoroughly enjoyed my farming life and am delighted to have seen our business survive and thrive over the years.

David Hewetson-Brown (Chatham 56)



- 1 An aerial view of the farm, showing the turf being grown.
- 2 A wild flower bank at the Olympic Opening Ceremony.



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1950s STOWE:

FISHING FOR MEMORIES

The elegant restaurant Vancouver with its spectacular harbour and mountain views was the perfect setting for a reunion dinner.

The Belfast-born, Old Stoic writer and Daphne, his wife, have lived in Canada with their two sons – now well into their forties with their own families – since 1971; the other two men at the table, a second Old Stoic, also named Peter, and his friend John, were on their way home to England after a successful week’s fishing for steelhead on the Skeena River in northern British Columbia.

Fishing, and in the beginning Stowe, brought the two Peters together again for the first time since they went their separate ways almost 60 years before. Their Stowe was a very different place to the Stowe of today. Sweets, bought at the School shop near the tennis courts, were still rationed with coupons required; the inspiring, sprawling estate, with its many ornate temples and monuments had yet to attract National Trust recognition and the ongoing restoration of buildings and grounds.

Back then, with the aftermath of the Second World War still very real, the two Peters, McMullan and Houghton Brown had been assigned to Temple House, the writer at the start of the final year (1949) of the Roxburgh era, his good friend arriving in the autumn of 1950.

More than half a century has elapsed since then and they both still love to fish, moving on from the pike, roach, perch and tench, that still populate Stowe’s Octagon and Eleven Acre lakes, to fishing in the United Kingdom and Western Canada for Atlantic trout and Pacific salmon, brown and rainbow trout and steelhead and also much further afield – Iceland, Russia, New Zealand – when the urge to travel grows too strong.

As boys in their teens Peter Houghton Brown, an Oxfordshire farmer to this day and the writer, a retired editor and communications manager, fished together at Stowe whenever the opportunity presented itself. In the winter months, pike were the principal quarry; in summer their attention turned to the handsome tench found where the Eleven Acre empties into the Copper Bottom, in their time nothing more than a swampy marsh with an evocative name as a reminder of its previous grand history.



The tench demanded a dawn start but no one ever seemed to notice that, in June and July, we were departing our dormitory beds to go fishing shortly after 4.00am. On the way to the lake, Peter H B recalls searching the dew-heavy grass on the South Front cricket pitch for lobworms, along with bread paste the best possible bait for the tench, tenacious fighters weighing four pounds and more.

My first Stowe fishing rod was a whippy, metal affair that possibly started life as an aerial on an army tank while the wooden Nottingham-style reel, which I still have, was bought second hand for a few shillings in the tackle shop in Buckingham. The other Peter adds, “Memories fade over 60 years but I do remember my best great aunt taking me to the Army and Navy Stores, of all places, to get me a rod. A very helpful gentleman produced an Apollo spinning rod made of steel. They are not made any more but it was my pride and joy for many a year.”

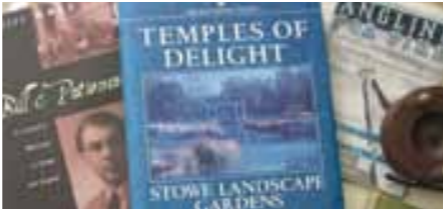
As we approach our eighties we both reflect on our Stowe days with considerable pleasure. I was no great academic but relished the traditions, the sports and inter-house competition, friendships, the fishing and the day-to-day activities associated with an always quite remarkable establishment.

I know the fishing experiences most definitely helped to shape my life as did the influence of Historian tutor, army officer (MC, Normandy) and author, Bill McElwee, not forgetting the remarkable Patience, his wife at Vancouver Lodge, then Dadford’s unconventional cultural retreat. On one memorable occasion, she actually stuffed and baked a five pound pike for us.

Peter McMullan writes on fly-fishing for Chasing Silver Magazine and for www.ariverneverasleeps.com. He also conceived and co-authored a 2010 book on the Babine, a famous steelhead river in British Columbia. He is a nephew of the late Fred Gardiner DFC (Grafton 36), who flew Spitfires in the Battle of Britain.



- 1 Taking a break while winter steelheading on the Skeena River.
- 2 The writer as a well-dressed teenaged angler.
- 3 Stowe memories will never fade.



Sadly, it was not great eating despite a rich sauce and all her culinary efforts: far too many bones. By comparison, her pie made from the breasts of young rooks, shot by Historians under Bill’s supervision, was quite superb.

Measured against today’s norms, life at Stowe in the early fifties was on the free and easy side but we learned to be responsible and polite, to respect others and to enjoy our surroundings and, of course, to follow the inevitable boarding school routines. As Peter Houghton Brown says, “It is with great pleasure that even now I go out with the Stowe Beagles where I meet Chris Mullineux (Temple 52) and get asked to shoot by Sir Richard Sutton (Temple 55), both friends from my Temple days.”

So many of our fishing memories from the 1950s live on for me in the carefully detailed pages of *The Angler’s Pocket Record*, a cherished Christmas gift from my parents, filled with neatly written notes of those long ago fishing experiences. The Stowe part begins on 21 January 1951 – two small pike taken spinning and on dead bait from the Octagon – and concludes on 15 March 1953, ‘very cold, stormy’, when Peter H B and I landed six Eleven Acre pike on perch live bait, none especially large but a fine way to close out the coarse fishing season.

All you have just read is a reflection of a bygone time but very much a defining aspect of my life. We can only hope the present generation of Stoics and Old Stoics feel as good about the School when, in 2074, their turn comes to look back 60 years. Perhaps they, too, will be fishermen.

Peter McMullan (Temple 53)

OLD STOICS WED AT STOWE!

The grounds of Stowe School were awash with Old Stoics, family and friends in the summer of 2013 for an extra special reunion – the marriage of two former pupils.

Old Stoics, Emily Ansell (Nugent 07) and Jonathan Elfer (Grafton 07) exchanged vows in the Stowe grounds before enjoying a lavish reception in the main house.

Their guests enjoyed champagne and canapés, a three-course meal in the Music Room, an evening buffet in the Marble Hall and dancing in the Temple Room. Entertainment included lawn games, a harpist, a caricaturist and eight-piece band, The Dark Blues, who perform at private parties for the Royal family. The couple also surprised their guests when toastmaster Ken Chaproniere taught Jonny to sabrage a bottle of champagne in the Marble Hall before their first dance.

When Cupid’s arrow struck the two Stoics back in 2007, little did they know that they would return to the School six years later to become husband and wife. Emily joined Stowe for Sixth Form in 2005 and immediately became known for her singing voice. She was Head of Altos for the Chapel Choir in Upper Sixth, sang in the Chamber Choir, performed as female vocalist for the Stowe Jazz Band and led Nugent in the

For information about getting married at Stowe, please contact Becky Maclean, Wedding Co-ordinator, by telephoning 01280 818280 or email rmaclean@stowe.co.uk. To see photographs from weddings at Stowe please visit www.pinterest.com/StoweEvents

House Singing Competition. She also held leading roles in the Senior Congreves, playing Fantine in Les Misérables and Connie in Alan Bennett’s Habeas Corpus.

Jonny joined Grafton House as a fresh faced 13 year old in 2002 and went on to become Chapel Prefect, as well as Head of Chapel Choir. He also sang with the Chamber Choir, led Grafton in the House Singing Competition and held leading roles in numerous Congreves. Jonny was renowned for his portrayal of Fat Sam in Bugsy Malone and the eccentric vicar, Canon Throbbing, in Habeas Corpus.

It was when performing together in Habeas Corpus that the pair struck up a friendship and soon became an item.

The duo always said they could think of no better place to get hitched than Stowe – the place where they first met and which had many happy memories. So, when Jonny popped the question at the top of the Eiffel Tower on a trip to Paris, a date was set and the planning began. Emily and Jonny exchanged vows in Stowe Church on Saturday, 10 August 2013 and then danced the night away in the main house.

Old Stoics celebrating with the couple included: Libby Collins (Nugent 07), Chloe Dorrington (Nugent 07), Imogen Midwood (Nugent 07), Siobhan Keeley (Nugent 07), Natalie Scott-Gray (Nugent 07), James Richardson (Temple 07), Harry McCorkell (Walpole 07), Julian Nesbitt (Chandos 07), Jamie Gubbins (Grafton 07), Richard Hill (Grafton 07), Giles Lucas (Cobham 07), Toby Marshall (Walpole 07), Duncan Bennett (Grafton 07), George Coote (Chatham 07), Ollie Ritchie (Chatham 07) and Jack Peile (Walpole 07). Director of Drama, Nick Bayley, also joined the celebrations and Head of Keyboard, Ben Andrew, was pianist for the wedding breakfast in the Music Room.

The couple, who currently live in London, where Jonny is a Barrister and Emily is a

Journalist, declared the wedding a great success and say they are still flying high on cloud nine after returning from a three week honeymoon in Malaysia and Borneo.

Emily said, “It was the most beautiful day. The sun shone and everything went perfectly. My favourite moment was walking down the aisle to the harp and seeing Jonny waiting for me. We went round the Stowe grounds in a golf buggy and had photographs at all the places we loved when we were pupils at the school, such as the lakes and the Palladian Bridge. We enjoyed every moment of the day and it was wonderful to celebrate with all our friends and family.”

Jonny added, “I will never forget seeing Emily come into the church. It was such a magical moment. We had our first dance in the Temple Room, the room where we met for the very first time at a choir supper, and were surrounded by the life-long friends we met at the School. Stowe was the perfect setting for our wedding.”

Mrs Emily Elfer (née Ansell, Nugent 07)



Photos by Stuart Bebb



One of two etchings by Pedro Wonaeamirri donated to the Art School at Stowe.

THE ART OF GIVING

Gordon Darling (Grafton 39) is one of Australia's most significant, living philanthropists and was instrumental in establishing the National Portrait Gallery of Australia.

In celebration of Stowe School's 90th birthday last year, the Australian philanthropist Gordon Darling (Grafton 39) gave two etchings by the contemporary aboriginal artist Pedro Wonaeamirri as a birthday present.

These etchings are the latest addition to the growing collection of gifts from Darling, a collection which includes the Crossroads Millennium Portfolio of Aboriginal Artist prints (which colour the walls of both the British Museum and now Stowe's Art Department) and a soulful watercolour by the late Albert Namatjira. Thus, Stowe now possesses a fine collection of Australian aboriginal art, with thanks to Darling.

In 2011, Darling came from Australia to visit the painting by Namatjira he had donated to Stowe. In doing so, Darling

returned to the School he had known as a student, in pre World War II Britain. Darling is three years older than the School and, like the School, he has charted a formidable career spanning across the worlds of business and art.

Darling's first career propelled him to the top of the Australian business world, where he sat as the longest serving of BHP's directors. BHP (the Broken Hill Proprietary Company) is the largest mining company in the world, and Darlings have sat on its board for a century. Yet, it is his second career for

which he is famed: Gordon Darling's inspirational philanthropic work has transformed the Australian art scene.

Darling remembers Stowe in the 1930s with great fondness, describing his time as a "happy one", and adding that "Grafton (my House) won the Lauris Cup in my final year, 1939". Darling came to Stowe in 1935. His parents had been living in the UK since the First World War, as his father was in charge of the London branch of the family business of John Darling & Son. "My father had been to school in Australia and he had no UK school links", said Darling, "Stowe was new then and he simply chose it."

Darling's philanthropic second career may be defined by the urge to preserve and promote Australian arts, yet – unexpectedly – he took little inspiration from his surroundings at Stowe, instead he was "very focussed on cricket"! Whilst the beauty of the School may not have influenced his later career, he was greatly impressed by his art teacher, and he remembers having "two small Van Gogh prints pinned up in my study – I looked at them long and often". Another inspiration in Darling's life came from his Headmaster, JF Roxburgh. Darling remembers with affection how JF was in his prime. After assembly he would seek out any boy celebrating a birthday and say, "Many Happy's, Gordon" or whoever. "When as a school prefect I was to read the lesson in Chapel for the first time, he went with me to the lectern and coached me. It was a shared moment I will never forget."

When the Second World War broke out, Darling (then aged 18) moved back to Australia, where he spent the war as an intelligence officer. It was during the war that Darling's first eardrum burst, on board a flight from Sicily to Cairo at high altitude on a DC4 when he was on his way to join Dwight Eisenhower's war room for the southern Mediterranean campaign. After the war, Darling became a commodities trader in the family business, with a dizzying 32 year career as BHP Director, until disaster struck in the 1980s with the perforation of his second eardrum during a site visit to the Port Kembla steelworks. Struggling to hear the discussions of billion-dollar deals at board meetings, he was compelled to retire from the BHP board and from the Chairmanship of Rheem Australia in 1986; a move that ended the lineage of the BHP 'Darling seat' that had begun with his grandfather. Forced away from the world of business, Darling instead dedicated his time to improving the arts of Australia.

This period of Darling's life began with his Chairmanship of the Australian National

Gallery during its transition to the National Gallery of Australia (NGA). "There have been very few people who have been lucky enough to open a flagship national institution, the National Gallery of Australia, and to have a really memorable four years there, and then to be involved in the creation of the National Portrait Gallery," said Darling. "So all those things, much to my surprise, have been much higher profile and a much more rewarding experience than 40 years in business."

DARLING IS THREE YEARS OLDER THAN THE SCHOOL AND, LIKE THE SCHOOL, HE HAS CHARTED A FORMIDABLE CAREER SPANNING ACROSS THE WORLDS OF BUSINESS AND ART.

The inspiration behind the National Portrait Gallery came from a trip to Washington in the early 1980s, when Darling visited America's National Portrait Gallery. "I walked down the main corridor and kept on recognising names," he recalls, "I finally said to myself, 'this is ridiculous, we could do one of these', so that was the starting point."

Gordon Darling's campaign gathered momentum in 1992 when he launched a travelling exhibition, Uncommon Australians: Towards an Australian Portrait Gallery. This provided the impetus for a temporary home for portraits in Old Parliament House in Canberra, and later a permanent location in the parliamentary triangle next to the High Court. "There's nothing wrong with giving paintings and money" commented Darling's nephew, a documentary filmmaker and former banker, "but Gordon's campaign for a National Portrait Gallery is up there with the smartest philanthropy. This represented an outstanding piece of long-term strategic thinking... It showed how important it is for the private sector to show leadership to government."

The application of Darling's ferocious business mind to the Australian art scene has meant that, today, Australia boasts a National Portrait Gallery, a National Gallery of Australia print collection, the Gordon Darling Foundation and the biggest collection in the world of Albert Namatjira's work.

Among the very long list of Darling's admirers is our very own Brian Johnson, Stowe's art master. Alongside many Stoics, Johnson has been inspired by Darling's gifts to Stowe, in particular the watercolour by Albert Namatjira.

"This watercolour has taught Stoics how important research into a work of art can be. Examining these images with an

understanding that they come alive with investment of a wider cultural prospective, means you can investigate their importance in a multicultural society. I think the human story behind the art that Darling donated to the School was the lesson he was hoping to impart."

Namatjira (1902-1959) was the first Aborigine to be given Australian citizenship. The watercolour pictures an Australian landscape painted in the Western tradition. The gum tree in the foreground, together with the style and

composition of the painting, all speak volumes on the aboriginal struggle.

When asked why he had chosen to give these gifts to Stowe, Darling replied, "I wanted Stowe to have an example of Australia's first internationally recognised aboriginal artist, Albert Namatjira, from Hermannsburg in central Australia. Both Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip own a work by Albert Namatjira." Darling is bursting with admiration for Australian aboriginal art, and he clearly takes great pride from promoting the "highly rated" Crossroads collection.

Darling's donations have inspired the Art Department at Stowe to take advantage of its independence from the national curriculum and to put on an exhibition of South African and Australian aboriginal art, which will hopefully air at some point this year. Brian Johnson trusts this will give Stoics the opportunity "to look beyond the narrow Western tradition of painting" and into "a much wider level of understanding. Not just purely aesthetic but of the nature of rights and citizenship. Students can learn to see these images as political, cultural and social images, and start to see them as a valuable door onto an understanding of people."

Gordon Darling's second career is now in its fourth decade and it is far from over. The Gordon Darling Foundation was set up in 1991 to focus on visual arts, and it dispenses significant sums annually to provide travel scholarships for curators in regional galleries and to assist institutions that might otherwise be deprived. Over the years it has given out some \$8 million through some 700 grants. Darling's philanthropy will no doubt continue to inspire people the world round. It is a wonderful testament to one great man.



STOWE: A PLACE OF INFLUENCE

Almost twenty years after leaving Stowe, I am enjoying the autumnal colour of the avenue down which I am driving. As I cross over the humped back of the ornate bridge, the sun sparkles off the water that flows underneath.

The lake appears to sit effortlessly in the landscape but I know that its form is man-made, the result of Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown’s design. I am here for a meeting with the National Trust to help them plan how best to make use of this once ducal estate. However, I’m not back at Stowe, instead I am at the 3,800 acre Clumber Park in Nottinghamshire but the similarities are striking. Is this feeling of familiarity with this estate that, until today, I hadn’t visited before just a coincidence? I don’t think so. I can trace direct links from the five years I spent at Stowe, absorbing the atmosphere of its landscape and architecture, to the work I now do as a consultant to the heritage sector.

While at Stowe, I never had lessons in landscape architecture or architectural history; however, I did regularly walk the length of the hand-dug Grecian Valley on the way to games at the Bourbon pitches. I played the clarinet, badly, at recitals in the Queen’s Temple with its classical columns and Roman mosaic and, during school assemblies, I got to stand in the Marble Saloon and gaze at the intricate frieze running around the roof. In many ways, the landscape and architecture were incidental to these activities; however, I no longer play

rugby or the clarinet and couldn’t tell you what was said during those assemblies, but I can close my eyes and feel what being in those spaces was like.

As Old Stoics, we have all been lucky enough to spend time in a world renowned landscape designed to embody within it many stories and messages about politics and love. Effectively conveying these messages to the audience of the time, without the use of language, required its designers to understand how people use spaces and the meanings they associate with them and the symbolism they contain. This is still very much the case today when designing experiences for visitors to gardens and parks. I attribute my interest and understanding of this process to the time I spent living within the work of past masters and was fascinated to discover whether Stowe’s influence on my thinking was replicated in other Old Stoics. So, with the help of the Old Stoic Society, I spoke with a couple of the one hundred or more Old Stoics who have gone on to become architects, landscape architects and designers about their experiences.

Francis Terry (Chatham 88) is an architect who, together with his father, specialises in

HRH the Duke of Edinburgh presenting Professor John Frazer with a British Design Award for Autographics Software 1988 (Computer software for architectural design).

classical design. For him, the architecture of Stowe has played a huge part in his architectural education and the work he produces. Francis says that, “This is sometimes conscious, but at other times completely unconscious. For example, a few years ago I designed a portico to go on an existing building, which I thought had a rather original column configuration. It was only after the work was complete that I noticed it was directly copied from the North Front!”

The classical architecture of Stowe was a major factor in it being chosen as a school for Francis. Having spent his holidays in European cities, such as Venice, Rome and Prague, where he and his father would draw and paint the great architectural masterpieces that can be found there, it was only natural that, while at Stowe, Francis would spend a lot of time of drawing the main building and temples. This was mainly motivated by his desire, at that time, to become an artist. After following this dream for a while, Francis decided that he was better suited to architecture. Had he known he was going to be an architect, Francis hopes he might have spent more time looking at the detail of Stowe’s architecture but his artistic skills still play a vital role in helping him communicate his vision for a building to his clients. Francis and his father run the architectural practice Quinlan and Francis Terry LLP where their drawings often look like those that Vanbrugh or Kent might have used to explain their ideas for updating Stowe to ensure it kept at the forefront of fashion.

Since leaving Stowe, Francis has returned a few times. His most recent visit was with an American client to whom he wanted to show Stowe’s impressive collection of follies, ahead of a project he is working on to design their house and grounds in Kentucky. Thus, Stowe continues to inspire and influence landscape and architectural style.

Another Old Stoic working within the field of architecture is Professor John Frazer (Chandos 63), although his career path and approach to the subject are completely different to those of Francis. John is recognised as the leader in the field of evolutionary digital design and, in the 1970s, founded one of the first computer aided design software companies. He was International Research Co-ordinator for Gehry Technologies, where computer design software was critical in allowing Frank Gehry’s complex designs for buildings, such as the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, to be realised on time and within budget. He has also held

several prominent positions at the universities of Cambridge, Ulster, Hong Kong, Dalian, Fudan and Shandong.

While at Stowe, John studied Maths, Physics and Chemistry but, inspired by the freedom and creativity of the art department, he added Art to his list of subjects, completing the curriculum in six months. This allowed him to go on to

A MUCH WILDER PLACE WITH TEMPLES TO BE DISCOVERED AMONGST THE TREES THAT HAD GROWN UP AROUND THEM.

study architecture at the Architectural Association. With John’s aptitude for mathematics and his interest in computing, one might be forgiven for assuming that Stowe’s landscape had little influence on him. However, John feels that it was an important part of his education. During our conversation he recalled climbing the large cedar tree on the South Front and seeing, laid out in the lawn below, the outline of the formal gardens that were replaced by the ‘Capability’ Brown’s informal English landscape garden. He also spoke of cross-country runs that took him along the old coach road allowing him to contemplate the experience of arriving at Stowe via this route. These examples of an ability to look at things from different perspectives are perhaps indicative of one of the skills that have helped John reach his standing within the architectural world.

John also remembers helping clear trees from the Elysian Fields as part of the Forestry activity. They opened up this overgrown part of the gardens so that the Grotto could once again be accessed. When talking about Stowe, we all know of it as a geographical location but the content of that space changes over time. The landscape of Stowe in the 1960s, when John was there, was by all accounts a much wilder place with temples to be discovered amongst the trees that had grown up around them. During my time there in the 1990s, Forestry still existed as an activity and, with the National Trust’s recent leasing of the grounds, there was a concerted effort to clear the trees unwanted in their vision for the landscape (these ended up providing firewood for pensioners in the local community). Since the 1990s, the landscape and House will have changed again for the current students. The number of trees being felled has decreased while the increased number of National Trust visitors mean that, on a sunny day, the view from the South Front steps now includes families picnicking by the Octagon Lake, something that would be alien to many Old Stoics. As the Stowe House Preservation Trust increases the number of visitors to the Mansion, its wonderful enfilade of State Rooms,

the longest in the country, will be shared more obviously with the public.

Clumber Park, the property I mentioned at the start of this piece, is an estate without a Mansion. Like Stowe and so many other country estates, financial pressures in the 1920s and 1930s resulted in it being sold. However, unlike Stowe, there was no Roxburgh with a vision for Clumber that

buildings and landscape continue to influence those who are privileged to spend time absorbing their genius. While it is important both financially and perhaps even morally that Stowe is open to far more than just Stoics, it is my hope that future pupils continue to have the unique opportunity to imbibe some of the country’s best classical design as part of their experience and education while at Stowe. It might not be part of any curriculum but it is a unique part of an education at Stowe and one that can have a life-long effect.

Dr James Furse-Roberts (Grafton 95)

Dr James Furse-Roberts (Grafton 95) is the founding director of FRLA Ltd, a heritage consultancy that provides master-planning, interpretation and spatial design services to private landowners, charities and public bodies – www.frla.co.uk

Prof John Frazer – www.johnfrazer.com

Francis Terry – www.qftarchitects.com



- ① Entrance – The Oxford Water.
- ② Professor John Frazer giving the opening keynote speech in the new MIT Media Lab building by architect Fumihiko Maki in Cambridge Massachusetts 2010.
- ③ The North Front, Ferne Park, Dorset.



928 STOWE

FEATURE



A DVD about the restoration of the Stowe Engine is enclosed with this magazine.

The forty ‘Schools’ class locomotives of the 4-4-0 wheel arrangement were designed by Richard Maunsell, of the Southern Railway, to both haul 400 ton trains and traverse the restricted Hastings line.

No. 928 Stowe, came from the second batch constructed at Eastleigh, entered traffic in June 1934 and was based at Fratton depot, near Portsmouth. It was repainted in malachite green in July 1938 and performed with distinction on the Waterloo – Weymouth expresses. Stowe holds the highest authenticated speed record for the class of 95 mph, which was attained near Wool, Dorset on a four coach train in 1938.

Renumbered 30928 in June 1948 following the nationalisation of the railways, the next allocation was to Stewarts Lane, London to work the heavy Newhaven boat trains. In June 1949, Stowe appeared in British Railway’s lined black livery and, in May 1955, had its first overhaul at the Ashford works; previously these were undertaken at Eastleigh. The last visit Stowe made to the works was May/July 1959, after a grand total of 1,404,040 miles from new. At the same time, it was fitted with the latest improvements and painted into Brunswick Green livery. Loaned to Tonbridge shed in August 1961, it was finally transferred to Brighton and eventually withdrawn from traffic 12 months later on 17 November 1962. Both Stowe nameplates are preserved.

Into Preservation

Withdrawal of the ‘Schools’ started in 1960, with No. 900 Eton, the first of the

class, being scrapped along with Harrow and others. Stowe was the last to be withdrawn and was purchased by Lord Montagu of Beaulieu for his Motor Museum in the New Forest. Transferred from Eastleigh to Millbrook by rail, and thence by road to Beaulieu on 14 February 1964, the locomotive was placed on a stretch of track along with Pullman Cars Agatha, Fingall and Car 35 to represent the Bournemouth Belle, although there is no evidence that Stowe ever hauled this prestigious train.

Later, the space was needed for an expansion of the catering facilities so the locomotive and Pullmans were dispersed, with Stowe being transferred to the East Somerset Railway at Cranmore. It left Beaulieu on 30 November 1972 and, by a combination of road and rail, was eventually hauled to Cranmore by 9F No. 92203 Black Prince, owned by artist and Old Stoic David Shepherd (Chatham 49), about a year later and put on static display. Two of the Pullmans survive, Agatha in the VSOE reserve fleet and Fingall giving good service on the Bluebell Railway following a period in store at the Isle of Wight Railway. Later, Montagu Ventures arranged for Stowe to be loaned to the Bluebell Railway for restoration to full running order, where it arrived on 10 July 1980.

Restoration

The iconic status of Stowe resulted in a fast-track overhaul, but with 19 years having elapsed since it last steamed, deterioration had inevitably taken place especially within the boiler. This was lifted off on 5 October 1980, enabling all the other parts to be removed and refurbished or renewed as necessary. A new front had to be fitted to the tender, the buffing pads built up with weld and a new water filler manufactured. Then both the tender and the engine were cleaned down to bare metal, ground to a smooth surface and fully painted with eight coats followed by lettering and lining in Maunsell olive green livery. All was finished in a very commendable timescale of just under a year for a return to steam over the weekend of 13/14 June 1981 with the official renaming ceremony on the Saturday when Lord Montagu was guest of honour.

Service

No. 928 Stowe proved to be a popular locomotive on the Bluebell Railway and, in addition to normal services, appeared in special events including the weekend of 14/15 August 1982 with another Maunsell locomotive No. 1618. Stowe also took part in the 50th anniversary of the start of the London to Paris ‘Night Ferry’ service in 1936 when Wagons-Lits sleeping car No. 3801 was displayed at Sheffield Park Station over the weekend of 11/12 October 1986. In August 1990, to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Bluebell Railway, Stowe again took centre stage shortly before being withdrawn for its statutory 10 year overhaul after a total of 13,584 miles on the line. There was no slot in the Bluebell’s overhaul programme, so Stowe was stored as a static exhibit.

New Owner

Early in 2000, Montagu Ventures announced that they wished to sell Stowe even though there were still two years left on the 21 year loan agreement with the Bluebell. The railway had first refusal to purchase but, due to the looming expense of the extension to East Grinstead, they were reluctant to do so, although keen to see it stay on the line. The Bluebell-based Maunsell Locomotive Society was therefore approached and their Chairman felt that this was a good opportunity to add a named engine of Maunsell’s most famous design to their fleet, so immediately started raising the necessary six figure sum.

The subsequent purchase of Stowe by the MLS at the end of October 2000 was made possible by several events coming together. An original nameplate from King Arthur class ‘Sir Dinadan’ was sold at auction and the ex-scrapyard Class S15 No. 830 was sold to a group in Yorkshire, who wished to restore a second locomotive to complement their existing No. 841. The remainder came from MLS funds, plus donations and loans.

In order to justify the purchase of what was now the flagship engine of the MLS, a start was made on its overhaul by tackling the tender which required a new water tank. Having just made one for U Class No. 1638, the MLS volunteer team proceeded rapidly with the fabrication. A new front dragbox was constructed and the wheels sent for turning to Swindon prior to that facility closing. Good progress enabled a re-wheeling of the chassis on 14 November 2003 and the whole tender, apart from welding the tank underside,



was complete by the end of the year. Painting of both the engine and new tender in malachite green, plus lining out and lettering in the Bulleid style, resulted in the locomotive looking very smart with many visitors assuming it was ready to steam. Unfortunately, a major problem had to be resolved first, concerning the copper inner firebox of the boiler, which was life expired and needed to be replaced at an estimated cost of £250,000.

Overhaul

In 2013, the working team started stripping down Stowe, as their work on the overhaul of S15 No. 847 had largely been finished. However, there were only enough funds to tackle the chassis of No. 928, involving sending the wheels away for re-profiling and general refurbishment of all the component parts. The expensive boiler repair needed outside funding to supplement that being received from members of the MLS and from other



schemes. With the assistance of the Bluebell’s fundraising Trustee, a DVD was compiled featuring the well known BBC Newscaster, Nicholas Owen, which it is hoped will close the gap on the additional amount needed to bring Stowe back into working order on the railway, possibly by 2016.

Progress on the overhaul of Stowe can be followed on www.maunsell.org.uk. Contributions towards the cost can be made on www.justgiving.com/Stowe or (with Gift Aid if applicable) to the **Bluebell Railway Trust**, Sheffield Park Station, East Sussex, TN22 3QL

David G. Jones, C.Eng. The Bluebell Railway 21

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.

1930s

Walter Drysdale
(Grafton 37)

Walter writes: I do have a charity called Integrated Water Resources International and we are about to embark on a major project in Ghana assisting local communities achieve a healthy and viable way of living. If there are any Old Stoics interested in Ghana I would be very pleased if they would contact me on walter@iwri.org.uk There is also a website, www.iwri.org.uk

1940s

Dr John Kessler
(Bruce 44)

John writes, “To my surprise I was the only wartime Old Stoic at the Nostalgic at Ninety party at the Park Lane Hotel on 12 October, but I sat next to some very interesting people which made the evening a pleasant one. On 8 March a second great-grandchild was born and another is now on the way. My main business, apart from a few preaching engagements in Spain, Nicaragua and here in Costa Rica, has been re-editing books that have been sold out, but are worth reprinting. It is quite a bit of work because the books have to be updated, in some cases a chapter added, and above all they have to be digitalised. In 2012, I helped with the publication of six books, but for 2013 only three have appeared. A fourth is on the skids but the printer has suffered a big robbery and is trying to reorganise his business”.

The Revd Christopher Dunn
(Temple 46)



Christopher writes, “Elizabeth and I celebrated our Golden Wedding anniversary on Wednesday, 4 December 2013. We had a very happy family reunion with our three children in a hotel, The White Hart in Salisbury.”

Jock Asbury-Bailey
(Walpole 47)



Two former Heads of Walpole met up again in May 2013. Derek Binns (Walpole 46), after a lifetime of farming, shooting and fishing – and seldom venturing south of Yorkshire – is now taking things easy. Jock still retains his interest in St Edmund’s School Canterbury, where he spent all of his teaching career, and manages to travel and play a bit of tennis.

Dr David Read
(Temple 49)

Getting older but still alive!

1950s

Oliver Wall
(Chandos 50)

Oliver attended the christening last September of his two grandsons. This was in a small church in a Munich suburb. The organist played an English hymn for them (*Lord and Father of Mankind*), which they all sang fervently.

James Alexander
(Grenville 54)

James writes to say, “In the previous edition of *The Corinthian* you were kind enough to put in a paragraph about my move to New Zealand, saying that it was quite an undertaking for a 77 year old. So this is just to let you know that the move has been successfully undertaken and that I am now happily ensconced in my new home out here, both I and my belongings having arrived safely. I am much enjoying my golf in my retirement and currently playing off a handicap of 12. As from time to time I do some touring in my motorhome, I would be glad to know of fellow Old

Stoics in this country who also play, with a view to having a game and a good chat.” Please contact me on: chandos08@btinternet.com

Adam Blandy
(Temple 54)



Adam writes, “In July 2012, fires occurred in Madeira Island when temperatures reached 30 degrees. During one night, a hot dry wind from the North East spread flames in the hills above Funchal; town dwellers saw a wall of flames about 20 metres high and thought that homes where we live were destroyed. We were lucky as the fire took hold of scrub and eucalyptus and there was no significant damage to buildings. Since then, we have embarked on a programme of clearing and replanting with Madeira endemics on land below and surrounding the Palheiro Estate. Business conditions in Madeira are challenging, mainly due to austerity measures in Portugal and increased VAT, decreed by the Troika. However, the number of visitors from the UK and Germany has increased and there are better prospects for 2014. Overall, the Madeira Wine harvest which ended on 11 October proved to be an excellent one in terms of both quantity and quality. Funchal harbour continues to be a popular port of call. The New Year’s Eve fireworks display was a major event with 9 ships calling and for 2014, over 300 calls have been booked by cruising vessels. For golfers, Madeira offers 3 courses including the Ballesteros designed course in the neighbouring island of Porto Santo. In November, the Palheiro Golf Club hosted a match against the Hampshire Hookers and surprisingly lost. In 2014, we hope to face the Rye Ragamuffins. It would be good to see OS golfers in Madeira and arrange a match. www.palheiroestate.com Christina and I thoroughly enjoyed the Nostalgic at Ninety ball at London’s Park Lane Hotel in the company of Mike and Diana Ferrier. It was good to meet Dr Wallersteiner, – surely JF (whom I just missed) would have been happy to have such an incumbent filling his boots at Stowe...”

The Revd Donald Reece
(Walpole 55)

Donald celebrated 50 years of marriage to Julia Paget on 5 September 2013.

John Hamer
(Grenville 55)



John writes, “While showing some Australian friends around the grounds this summer, I observed in the recess above the Worthies a bust which was not there during my schooldays. The photo is of John Powell-Rees (Grenville 55) in occupation of the same recess in 1953.

Dougal McIntyre
(Cobham 55)



Having published a booklet on the Agates of Dunure in 2008, Dougal has developed his hobby of collecting, cutting and polishing the local Agate stones of Ayrshire into a family business. Managed by his son Stuart, ‘Stones of Scotland’ exclusively offers these intriguingly beautiful natural images for interiors, artworks and fashion products. www.stonesofscotland.com

The Rt Hon Lord Justice Mathew Thorpe
(Chandos 56)

Mathew writes, “On 30 July 2013, I retired as Head of International Family Justice and Lord Justice of Appeal. I have returned to private practice as an expert: please see my website at www.intfamjustice.com It says it all.”

Charles Dawes
(Bruce 57)

Charles is still working and he is part of a dredging group. He is happy to meet anyone from the dredging industry, tugs and craneage.

Dr Robert Whitaker
(Cobham 57)



Robert was awarded the Farquharson Award from The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in recognition of his important contributions to teaching in the subjects of surgery and anatomy. The award came with £1,000 which

he donated to Selwyn College, Cambridge’s Medical Elective Fund which supports students taking trips to far away countries to observe and participate in medical management different from our own.

John Bryan
(Temple 57)

John’s wife, Gill, writes, “Unfortunately John is now in a Nursing Home in Yeovil. He has had two strokes and suffers from myasthenia Gravis, Neuromyotonia and has vascular dementia. He is still smiling though and enjoys a glass of wine with his lunch.”

Hugo Morley-Fletcher
(Temple 58)

Hugo spends his Wednesday mornings helping children with Literacy at an inner city primary school in Bermondsey, which he very much enjoys.

Alastair Hodges-Nugent
(Temple 58)



Alastair writes, “This year, I am celebrating 40 years as an Independent Wine Merchant and Shipper, which I have run alongside my wife’s and my mainly arable farming business. I have been in farming now for 55 years. My wife, Madeleine, and I have been married for 42 happy years. I am convinced that she is the sister of Lara Croft, so active is she. She has persuaded me to take up sea kayaking at the age of 73! I must be mad. We both sing in a local Choir in Chichester. I enjoy returning to Stowe on a regular annual basis to lecture to The Corkscrew Society.”

John Bouckley
(Temple 59)

John writes, “In September 2013, I flew to the UK from the States, where I have lived for the last 30 years or so, to spend 3 days at the Goodwood Revival with my long suffering American wife who, being reasonably sane, is not as car crazy as me. We met up with two of my study mates, Patrick Hope Johnstone (Temple 59) and Anthony Littlejohn (Temple 59) who are both keen car collectors and were also at the Revival for 3 days. We all stayed at Anthony’s house and it was just like the last 50+ years did not exist and we were back sharing a study again. A really wonderful time. Our old House Master, the Rt. Rev. C Windsor

Richards would have been proud of us, especially in my case where doom was forecast in my last school report. Happily, thank heavens, matters turned out differently.”

Alastair Stone
(Temple 59)



Alastair writes, “We have now been in Arizona a year, and while I am still singing (in 2 choirs – thank you Stowe) and am active on tennis and pickle-ball courts, I believe my stage days are now over. In 2010, I was Maj. Gen Stanley in a concert version of the Pirates in Breckenridge, my swan song... and my O.S. tie was part of my ‘uniform’.”

Richard Miall
(Bruce 59)

Richard and his wife will be moving soon from their home of 20 years in Palm Beach (25 miles north of Sydney centre) to the Southern Highlands in NSW. This is the area of Bowral, Burradoo, Moss Vale and note this simply to seek any OS who may already be there.

1960s

Kit Clucas
(Walpole 60)

Kit writes, “I am quite pleased to report that I have recently become a full member of Styal Golf club after many years wandering in the wilderness without a handicap at any club. After putting in the statutory three cards, I was given a handicap of 22 and by the end of October I had reduced that to 19, winning one competition, coming second in another and seventh in a third. Next year I am planning to reduce to 16, which at the age of 72, will be the lowest handicap that I have ever had since I started playing golf at the age of 12.”

Brian Macoun
(Grafton 60)

Brian writes, “My uncle, Capt Edward Carew Sladen (Bruce 31) was the father of Simon Sladen (Grafton 62). He was killed in Burma in 1944. Simon and I and another cousin are travelling to Rangoon in February 2014 for the 70th anniversary of Edward Sladen’s death. Edward served in the Kenya Regiment in the 11th (East African) Scout battalion, originally the Kenya Coast Irregulars. They were trained on unusual principles to scout and to use ‘tip and run tactics’. It had European Officers but no white other ranks. The CO, Major (Chippy)

Lewin was the only Regular. The Officers were Kenya Regiment including Edward Sladen. They were attached to Orde Wingate’s army and sent on long range patrols many miles behind Japanese enemy lines. Capt Edward Sladen and a Kenyan were killed by a Japanese sniper at the beginning of the campaign which was a hard blow to the Scouts and soldiers. The most decisive battle of the war in Burma, at Imphal shortly after, broke the spine of the Japanese army. The hit and run tactics were very effective. Simon Sladen and my cousin and I will try and find where he is buried and see a bit of Burma.”

Gerald Morse
(Cobham 60)

Gerald (aka-investormorse) has experienced busy times in Cyprus now his financial radio shows are broadcast in Limassol as well as Paphos and on the web, following hydrocarbon finds, venture capital fund buying and the influx of 30,000 Russians who need a visa.

Colin Hughes-Adams
(Temple 60)



Colin writes, “I am trying desperately to segue into semi-retirement, which has meant only three murder cases this year. Just finishing up my last for 2013 – waiting for the verdict as I write!”

Air Commodore Miles Williamson-Noble
(Temple 61)



Miles Williamson-Noble (Temple 61) is High Sheriff of Rutland in Nomination for the year 2014/15.

Ed Bacon
(Walpole 61)

Ed writes, “I was in Walpole House until 1961 and spent the next 10 years or so working in shipping offices and learning languages around Europe, specifically France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Norway and Sweden. After spending 4 years in Manchester, I moved to Milan where I was employed by the Delaware River Port Authority, as Regional Manager covering most of southern and eastern Europe, Africa and the middle East, for 5 years. Having moved from Milan to Madrid in September 1976, in 1985, together with Spanish, German and Egyptian partners, I set up a project transport and forwarding company, in Barcelona, especially directed at

providing logistic services for foreign companies coming into Spain with abnormal loads. Our first clients were British, by coincidence. We are still working on these same lines now, even if Spain is not a very brilliant place currently because of the construction and infrastructure crises. Meanwhile, I have watched my 4 multilingual children growing up – one boy and three girls all now in their thirties: Marc, 38, working in Munich, Denise, 36 is in London, Samantha, 33 in Munich and the youngest, Stefanie 30 lives in Brazil. Only Marc went to Public School (Bedford) in England. The girls were in the excellent German school in Barcelona from 7 to 18 and then the same Spanish University. I have now retired but am still working and travelling a reasonable amount. However, since the transport business is very low now, we are looking into trading on world markets in specific commodities. I still live between Barcelona and Cambrils, and our small company, Universal Trade Transport, has its office in the centre of Barcelona – a beautiful city indeed. I come to the UK a couple of times a year and hope to catch up with some of the Old Stoic activities”.

Hugh Taylor
(Chandos 61)



Sadly, Hugh’s wife died on 8 November 2013. He writes, “We met in New York in 1966 when she was doing a world trip from Sydney after receiving the Australian Photographers’ Model of the Year Award. We married in June 1969, and our son Guy (Chandos 89) was born in July 1971. 12 years of multiple myeloma but, she survived to see Guy marry Jacqueline in January 2013.

Dr Michael Spira
(Chandos 62)

Michael was recently appointed Medical Director of The Smart Clinics which provide private family healthcare including GPs and medical specialists. There are three clinics in Notting Hill, South Kensington and Wandsworth Common.

James Cartwright
(Chatham 62)

James took BEWCC (Barristers of England and Wales C. C.) to Delhi in October 2013, to play in the fourth Lawyers Cricket World Cup. Any Old Stoic Barristers wishing to play cricket in London might like to contact him at 10, King’s Bench Walk, Temple, EC4Y 7EB or email him on jamesiccy@aol.com


Roy Rhode
(Grafton 62)

Roy has created a social recommendation website, together with his son Alan and other entrepreneurs, which incorporates a cashback scheme. He suggests that those who could be interested in the project, look at the Beta on www.ejero.com and then send him an email at: royrhode@hotmail.com

Michael Chapman
(Chatham 62)

Michael writes to say, “I am still here in Kiribati enjoying the remote tropical tranquillity. Our Horizontally Drilled Outfalls should start construction soon which will be technically interesting. Then in my spare time, I am trying to conclusively establish a relationship between earthquakes and solar flares – God knows why!”

Andrew Nahum
(Walpole 63)

 Andrew is Senior Keeper at the Science Museum, has just led the production of a new digital book or app for iPad entitled Journeys of Invention in partnership with Touch Press, the market leaders in this new sphere of publication. Andrew was drawn to this new digital medium because it allows visitors to mirror the behaviour of actual Museum visits. Some like a free search – others want a more structured narrative. The app allows this and it also offers high definition 360 degree views and animations of more than 80 key objects in the history of science and technology which are rendered with extraordinary realism. Currently, the app is configured exclusively for iPad and is available through the App Store. Two journeys are available for free, making it an ideal post-Christmas adventure. <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/journeys-of-invention/id685965924?mt=8>

Peter Champness
(Chandos 65)

Peter is Executive Chairman of SolaQuaGen™, a company which has developed world beating technology in desalination and waste water treatment. At David Cameron’s recent visit to China, a deal was announced for a substantial investment in the

company by a Chinese group facilitating a rapid roll out of the business in China and worldwide.

Peter Rapelye
(Bruce 66)



Retirement after forty years in independent school education (last seven as head of school) became official as of July 2012. Peter is enjoying time with his grandchildren, the outdoors, and auditing courses at Princeton University where his spouse is Dean of Admissions. Their travels took them back to Stowe in the fall of 2012 and Nostalgia at Ninety in London last October. Peter recalls fond memories of Stowe as one of three postgraduate “Yanks” 1965-66.

Charles Graham
(Chandos 67)

Charles has published a novel in 3 volumes – *San Fermin 1/2/3* by Jesse Graham. It’s available on Amazon and on Kindle. It’s a novel about the fiesta and its regular participants over the years.

Angus McDonagh
(Grafton 67)



Angus writes, “I discovered that the title of my book *The Stamp Collection* had already been used for a cookbook, so I repackaged it under a new title *Anarchist Philatelist*. It is the story of my testing the credibility of Royal Mail systems in a humorous way with homemade stamps being successfully sent all over the world. A preview of the book is available in the online Bookstore at Blurb.com Towards the end of October, I had the good fortune to contact a freelance journalist who showed interest and four days later a small story appeared in The Sun. Two days later I was talking to NBC in America, being filmed in our living room by the BBC and that night having a live interview on Radio New Zealand. I also featured as a news item on Have I Got a Bit More News for You. Despite these features and the extensive Google inventory of newspaper articles, I still cannot find a traditional publisher to bring the book to a wider audience. The self published ebook (for iPads) is fairly priced but the hardback is too

expensive for a mass market. Are there any OS publishers out there?” Please contact him on: angusmcdonagh@yahoo.com

Jess Miller
(Cobham 67)



Jess has published a semi-autobiographical illustrated book of humorous, ridiculous, riotous, hilarious and poignant short stories and anecdotes from his 40 years of fishing for Atlantic salmon on Scotland’s river Tay. He is challenging anglers and non-anglers alike to work out 10 stories from the 100 in the book that are not true, for a chance to win salmon fishing, fishing tackle, angling books and more. You can make 20 free entries into Jess’s competition on his website TrueorFalseFishingStories.com. Jess Miller’s ‘100 True or False Fishing Stories’ book and 5 CD audio book are available from Jess’s website and the book is also available from Amazon, Kindle, etc. Old Stoics and media are welcome to talk to Jess on: **07813 908999**.

Gratian Yatsevitch
(Chatham 67)

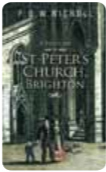


Gratian writes, “Gratian is 5 years old and his sister Clara is 4 years old. The picture is in Southwestern, Pennsylvania, an area now best known for the Flight 93 incident which crashed on 11 September 2001. We live in an idyllic part of Pennsylvania surrounded by farms, now largely run by Amish and Mennonite farmers. One might say ‘far from the madding crowd.’ Monica, my wife, just co-authored a book now out on Amazon entitled *Betrayed: The Shocking True Story of Extortion 17 as Told by a Navy SEAL’s Father* which tells of the terrible incident in Afghanistan where 22 navy SEALs were killed in a fiery helicopter crash. An event in 2011 that could have easily been avoided. The book is selling well. I am working in the what now must be the long passé coal business which I don’t think is doomed by any means.”

Roger Charlton
(Chatham 68)

Having started training flat horses in 1990, Roger had his best season in 2013, thanks to Al Kazeem winning three Group One races, including The Prince of Wales’ Stakes at Royal Ascot and The Eclipse at Sandown.

Paul Nicholl
(Bruce/Lyttelton 68)



Paul writes to say, “My latest news is that I am in the process of publishing my first book! It’s entitled *A History of St Peter’s Church, Brighton.*”

Richard Nicholl
(Lyttelton 69)

Richard writes, “I’m continuing to enjoy retirement very much, remaining in Dorset near to where I was working: a beautiful county! I’ve just joined the Governing Board at nearby Canford, the twin to Stowe in the Allied Schools, renewing the acquaintance I had as a parent and as Head of a feeder prep school. Retirement also allows more time for family, which is both hugely rewarding with much grand-parental travelling coming up!”

1970s

Ian Ritchie
(Temple 71)



Ian writes, “I stepped down as Director of the City of London Festival this summer after eight years to devote more time to a wider range of musical interests. These include the artistic direction of the Setúbal Music Festival, which I recently set up in this city south of Lisbon and, of The Musical Brain, which produces an annual conference exploring the many fascinating frontiers between the arts, science and the mind. I also continue to be involved in a number of musical charities, including Musicians without Borders which works at home and abroad with musicians of all backgrounds and people suffering from the effects of conflict. I have also started to sing once again as a soloist, thereby completing the circle of a lifelong musical journey which began at Stowe.”

Charles Allen
(Bruce 71)



Charles writes, “In January 2013, I was appointed Executive Chairman of Heritage Insurance Management Ltd in Guernsey. We are the largest independently owned insurance

management operation in Europe. Since my last update to *The Corinthian* we have started offices in both Malta and Gibraltar. Apart from that, I have been trekking in the Atlas Mountains visiting Berber villages and learning of their fantastic way of life based on the extended system of family support.”

Dr Jerry Wales
(Temple 72)

Jerry is leaving NHS practice. In his post, he has authored or co-authored 101 publications, 140 conference papers and 28 books and chapters in medical journals and texts. He leaves to take up post as Director of Endocrinology and Diabetes at the new Queensland Children’s Hospital in Brisbane, opening in 2014.

Neil Davidson
(Cobham 72)

Neil started a new filming division, MWP Digital Media, specialising in corporate video and digital marketing. Clients include Royal Mail, Hewlett Packard, Nuffield Health as well as hundreds of smaller businesses. Neil has been selected by Cunard and P&O Cruise Lines as a guest speaker on the history of Hollywood and entertainment. He is speaking in March on The Aurora, cruising from Singapore to Mauritius.

Dr Francis Graham-Dixon
(Temple 72)



The postwar occupation is often overlooked in histories of the Second World War. Francis’ book, *The Allied Occupation of Germany* reassesses ten years of British rule, a civilising mission designed to shape Germany’s democratic rehabilitation. It reveals many paradoxes – the humanitarian catastrophe caused by the expulsion of millions of ethnic Germans, the legacy of wartime bombing and the challenge of reconstruction, control and liberalism and squaring retribution for war crimes with reconciliation. To order online, go to www.ibtauris.com/allied-occupation and enter the discount code AN2 when prompted. Offer expires 31 March 2014. Francis is researching a new book on Italy in the shadow of Fascism.

The Revd John Partington
(Grenville 74)

John recently published a small book, *Spice of Wisdom*, to which the Duchess of Cornwall contributed a foreword: www.kenelmpress.co.uk

David Kneeshaw
(Cobham 75)

David is Chief Executive of Royal London 360, the international division of The Royal London Group, led a management buyout of the company from its parent in November 2013, backed by Vitruvian Partners. Henceforth, the company will be known as RL360 and David will continue as Chief Executive.

Charlie Forbes Adam
(Bruce 75)

Charlie writes, “With my FAB team at Escrick Park Estate, I won The Royal Agricultural Society of England (RASE) Bledisloe Gold Medal for Landowners for 2012, awarded in July 2013. As other recent winners include the Duke of Westminster and the Earl of Leicester, I were reet chuffed, as we might say in Yorkshire.”

Christopher Drake
(Walpole 75)

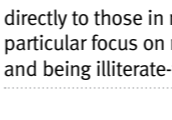


Christopher writes, “As Chairman of The Asia-Pacific Network for Moral Education I led the organisation of a conference at Jogjakarta State University, Indonesia on Learning from Diversity and Commonality: Ways Forward for Moral Education in the Asia-Pacific and we are now getting busy with 2014’s conference, to be held at Fudan University, Shanghai, China on Making Moral Education Work: Tradition and Innovation in the Asia-Pacific. It was also a good and active year for TCK Learning Centre for Migrant Workers, an educational charity for migrant workers in Hong Kong, and we ran a series of workshops at the University of Hong Kong, held two exhibitions on Indonesian Art and Culture each having a day full of dance, song, poetry, traditional dress shows and handicraft displays. I also initiated a group trek to ascend Kilimanjaro which raised over £30,000 for Exeter College, Oxford as well as marking its 700th anniversary in 2014. I’ve also been spending time on HealthPhone www.healthphone.org which uses mobile ‘phone technology to bring health and nutrition information directly to those in need, with a particular focus on rural communities and being illiterate-friendly.

Brewster Barclay
(Grafton 76)

Brewster was appointed, in September 2013, as Business Development Director for Zuhlke Engineering Ltd, a leading European bespoke software development company based in London.

James Bamford
(Bruce 77)



James has an additional role – he is now Chairman of the Lloyd’s Market Association Political Risks, Credit and Financial Contingencies Business Panel. He has held this position since December 2012.

Craig Tranfield
(Temple 75)

After 30 years in IT across several business sectors, Craig went full time with his business Tranlowe Ltd in the new year. He has lined up a 12 month part time contract with Oxford University Department of Computer Science as their

Infrastructure Consultant, but will otherwise be looking to offer his experience and expertise in the London area. www.tranlowe.co.uk

Major General Sir William Cubitt
(Temple 76)

Major General Sir William Cubitt runs his family’s estate in Norfolk. He is Vice Chairman of the Norfolk Branch of the Country Land and Business Association and, from January 2014, Norfolk County President for the Royal British Legion.

Marcus Corbett
(Grafton 76)

Marcus writes, “I released a new album *Strung Deep* with Classical India Tabla players Nitin Gaikwad and Sharanappa Guttragi.” www.marcuscorbett.com

Mark Richards
(Walpole 76)



Mark has been commissioned to make a statue of Matthew Flinders, the man who charted the coast of Australia around 1800 for Euston Station. This will be unveiled in July 2014. Progress of the statue being made can be seen at www.flindersstatue.blogspot.co.uk Bronze maquettes are available, to view visit <http://flindersstatue.blogspot.co.uk/2013/05/purchasing-maquette.html> or telephone Matt Johnson, Australia High Commission, +44 (0)20 7520 9111. Please quote Stowe if you purchase a maquette.

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David Joyce
(Chandos 77)

David has retired from a career in the City and now runs Pinkneys

Court Mews, a country house B&B near Maidenhead, Berkshire www.bedbreakfastmaidenhead.co.uk and would be delighted to welcome any Old Stoics.

Clarissa Edwardsen
(née Whiteley, Stanhope 77)

Clarissa and her husband, Gregg, run Vin Santo a small family owned and operated Italian Restaurant. We are now celebrating our 15th anniversary and are located in Madison, Wisconsin. www.vinsanto.us

Rory Penrose
(Temple 77)

Rory is now living in Matakana, New Zealand and would love to meet up with any OSs, particularly those who left around 1977. Rory’s son, Harry, who goes to Kings College in Auckland, recently had a term’s exchange at Stowe, which was a huge success and he loved his time spent with everyone at Stowe. Please contact Rory on: roryp123@gmail.com

Frank Egerton
(Temple 77)

Frank was appointed Operations Manager for the Taylor Institution Library and Taylor Bodleian Slavonic and Modern Greek Library (University of Oxford) from 1 October 2013.

Mark Bevan
(Chatham 78)

Mark has been appointed a Managing Director of Coumts & Co.

Keith Springer
(Chandos 79)

Keith writes to say that, “My brother, Shaun Springer (Chandos 74) passed away following a heart attack on 25 April 2013.”

Tony Kelly
(Bruce 79)



Tony has taken up a number of new and different sporting interests since turning 50. He has run five half marathons with a personal best of 1:40 and is hoping to take part in the London Marathon in 2014. Those who remember him as the 1st XI scorer at Stowe will not be surprised to hear that he has also become a qualified cricket umpire, officiating most Saturdays in the Cambridgeshire Premier League in summer. Most unusually, he has thrown himself into the world of competitive mini and crazy golf after first coming across it

when he was commissioned to write an article for The Times. He now spends his weekends travelling around the country on the British minigolf tour and represented the Great Britain team at the World Minigolf Championships in Stockholm 2011 and Bad Munder, Germany 2013 as well as the European Championships in Porto 2012.

Marc Hope
(Cobham 79)

 Marc continues to play a pivotal role on driving corporate sponsorship and successful commercial revenues for the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games with sports marketing agency SMAM, part of the Lagadere Group. Games tickets are almost sold out. He has also spent the last three years as a Non-Executive Director of GB Taekwondo and continues to sit on a number of other Boards. Marc has been selected to fight the Whitton Ward, Richmond Borough in the 2014 local London elections. In his spare time, he also presents a sports programme on Radio West Middlesex.

Louise Bryan
(Stanhope 79)

Louise writes to say, “I launched my new website www.paralosgallery.com a specialist website for collectors and lovers of antiquarian maps, books and prints.”

1980s

Simon Burrell
(Chatham 81)

Simon has recently launched a Travel Club and Forum for the readers of his Travel Advisory Website www.omotg.com and would like to extend an invitation to all Old Stoics to register to this free club and take advantage of some substantial discounts and savings on hotels, restaurants, health spas, bars and more around the world. To join please register here: <http://omotg.com/tc/register/>

Marcus Cotton
(Chatham 82)

Marcus continues at Tiger Mountain Nepal, now separate from Tiger Tops and Mountain Travel. With top reviews, the lodge is one of Nepal’s leading tourism products developing the concept of

responsible conservation tourism in the Himalaya. Old Stoics are very welcome to visit. www.tigermountainpokhara.com

Doro Morrison
(Cobham 82)

Doro writes, “My Documentary ‘No Apologies’ has picked up 8 awards around the world including Best Documentary and Best Editing in a Documentary, at the Southampton International Film Festival. Inbetween preparing for the next project, I have been busy commentating and covered the Asia Cup and the World League Hockey in Malaysia, as well as The East Asia Cup (football) for television.”

David Jenkins
(Walpole 82)

David writes, “Following 17 years in the oil industry where I managed the Texaco brand in Europe, I am now working as a director of Woking and Sam Beare Hospices, two charities in Surrey providing end-of-life care to over 1000 people per year.” www.wsbhospices.co.uk


Chris Boxall
(Lyttelton 82)

Chris is Manager of the high performer investment fund, SF Fundamental Energy, and discusses the attractions of the energy equipment services sector in a recent video <http://reut.rs/HTJDR3>

Jules Walker
(Lyttelton 82)

 Jules writes, “My book, *The Cape Crusaders* about my experiences driving a Dennis fire engine from the tip of Europe to the bottom of Africa in 1987, is now available in ebook and print formats from all good high street and online retailers, especially Amazon. Initial demand (150 copies sold on day 1) has created a small wait, but despite my bias as the author, I think it will be worth it. Old Stoic, Paul Calkin (Lyttelton 81) was the Finance Director on the Cape to Cape project.”

Mark Berner
(Temple 83)

 Mark writes to say, “My news for the year is that my family and I, wife Setsuko and daughter Sophie,

continue to enjoy living in Kuala Lumpur and that I have taken up a new position as a Partner in technology consulting at CSC working primarily across Asia, at the beginning of the new year.”


Jonathan Portman
(Chatham 83)

Jonathan writes, “We moved in October 2012 to bigger premises in Lambourn, Berkshire with our Racehorse training business and have had our best season to date in terms of prize money won. We won at Royal Ascot for the first time amongst other notable wins.”

James Rawcliffe
(Walpole 84)

 James writes, “The Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility, our largest captive client, won the 2013 Outstanding Captive Award at the Captive Insurance Company Association Awards in 2013. CICA is the largest captive owner’s association globally and is based in the USA.”

Tim Hall
(Cobham 84)

 Tim Hall has recently published a book of his photographs entitled *Above the Clouds*. It is images of the Arlberg mountains near the ski resorts of Lech and Zurs. Originally commissioned by the Aurelio Hotel in Lech to take pictures for the walls of the hotel, he was inspired to continue shooting the beautiful environment around Lech in order to complete the book. Tim’s landscape work is bought and commissioned to adorn the walls of chalets, hotels, apartments and houses all around the world. Available directly from his website www.timhallphotography.com

Jonathan Gumpel
(Chandos 85)

 Jonathan writes, “Workwise I am still Investment Director for Brooks Macdonald Asset Management in London and lead manager for the Defensive Capital Fund, which somehow managed to get a Citywire AAA rating earlier in the year. I seem to spend a lot of time on or beside rugby pitches

either watching my son or coaching the Guildford U15s who were Surrey League Champions for the fourth year in a row. Highlight of the year though was growing some more facial hair for “Movember” which has now thankfully gone and Mrs G can begin speaking to me again. I attach a photo to show the full horror.”

Matthew Woollard
(Lyttelton 85)

 Matthew is Director of the UK Data Archive, based at the University of Essex. He was made a Professor in 2013 for his work in digital preservation and in data service infrastructure.

Sarah Madden
(née Yearsley, Stanhope 85)

 Sarah has spent the last year travelling throughout Southern Africa with her husband Richard Madden writing The Bush Telegraph – a multi media travel column in the Daily Telegraph about life behind the scenes on safari in the African bush. Their adventures continue in East Africa in 2014. **Twitter:** @SarahOnSafari and www.telegraph.co.uk/bushtelegraph

Simon Kyte
(Chatham 85)

After seven and a half years working as an economist at City Hall, Simon is leaving the Greater London Authority and going to work in South Wales as economist for Natural Resources Wales (Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru), the body created by the merger of the Countryside Council for Wales, Environment Agency Wales, and the Forestry Commission Wales.

Justin Anderson
(Cobham 85)

 Justin and Richie Saville (Chandos 85), cofounders of Flexeye (www.flexeye.com), recently took over the Science Museum in London for the evening and gathered over 500 leaders of UK industry and Government to discuss the topic ‘Smart Data. Safe & secure planet’. The event was hosted by Lord Erroll and there were two panel debates, one on the Internet of Things, the other on Information Security.

The photograph shows Richie Saville being interviewed by Bettina Traz Ryan, SVP Gartner on Flexeye’s new software.

Caroline Cooke
(Nugent 87)

Caroline has been running Share & Care for 7 years. Share & Care is a very low-cost homeshare service which matches elderly homeowners who have a need for some company and practical help, with a younger live-in Sharer who is happy to give an agreed level of help and company in their spare time. Please contact Caroline on info@shareandcare.co.uk or **020 8875 9575** for more information.

Simon Ferrand
(Cobham 87)

After almost ten years of working overseas – Germany, India and Qatar – Simon is back in Whitehall and overseeing a programme of non-humanitarian government funded projects being delivered in Syria. London life is slowly growing on him but he misses summiting peaks in Nepal and exploring remote parts of the world. Closer to home, his eldest son – currently in the Fifth Form at Stowe – is doing the family name proud. His second, and much younger son, is itching to follow in his brother’s footsteps! Simon’s doing some studying of his own on programme and project management with an open mind as to what next steps he might take.

Paul Saville
(Chandos 87)

Paul is currently working for Lionbridge Inc. on the Rolls-Royce Defence Aerospace contract in Filton. Promoted to Project Manager on EJ200 in February 2012, he holds responsibility for technical authoring teams across four defence projects. He is also the Lionbridge STE Trainer, and has run courses in Simplified Technical English for both Lionbridge and Rolls-Royce employees at multiple sites over the past two years. www.lionbridge.com

Guy Hooper
(Grafton 88)

Guy continues to live and work in Chile. 2013 saw him celebrate 20 years in the wine trade. As well as working with the Huneeus family at Viña Veramonte in Chile’s famed Casablanca Valley, he also finds time to make wine from vines in his garden, with the first release scheduled soon! He still actively plays cricket for Chile, and when not travelling, enjoys precious time with his wife and 4 children: Nico (16), Isabel (13), Elena (8) and Amelia (5).

Jonny Kaldor
(Chandos 88)

Jonny’s company, Kaldor won ‘Business to Watch’ at the recent Association of Online Publishers awards. The business is responsible for publishing apps for The Spectator, The New Statesman, New Scientist, The Week, Times Literary Review, The Economist, Hansard and many others.

Roger Potter
(Former Staff 1970-1988)

Roger is Chairman of The Britain-Nepal Society and would welcome enquiries about membership from anyone with an interest in, or connection with, Nepal – especially those who came on his Himalayan expeditions in the 1980s. Please contact him on: rmpotter@btinternet.com

Chris Lascelles
(Temple 89)


Chris recently set up a digital publishing company focusing on non-fiction ebooks www.cruxpublishing.co.uk If any Old Stoics are bursting to have a book published, then he’d be delighted to hear from them!

1990s

Tim Dew
(Chandos 90)

Tim is the founding partner of Mount Parnassus Partners LLP, operating across the UK. They are a business brokerage and also build value in businesses prior to sale.

Alex Saxton
(née Rice, Nugent 90)

 Alex writes, “My company, London Permanent Cosmetics, is coming into its third year and is doing really well. I’m still working freelance for one of the top semi-permanent make-up companies in the UK. Loving the artistry and satisfaction of making so many people happy (special days with Mr Melber in the art school stood me in good stead!) I also feel blessed that I can work from my studio at home. Enquiries to: **07882 660815.**”

Roberta Collier-Wright
(Nugent 91)

Roberta moved to the US West Coast in July 2011 with the London based

PE firm Lion Capital, which opened a new office in Los Angeles. She lives and works in Santa Monica, CA and would love to hear from any OS living in, or visiting, this part of the world. She is the OS and AFS representative for California and can be contacted on robertacw@hotmail.com

Hannah Wright
(née Baker, Nugent 91)

Hannah and her husband have moved back to be closer to Stowe and now own a smallholding in Marsh Gibbon, near Bicester where they hope in years to come to resemble ‘The Good Life’!

Dr Emma Hornby
(Stanhope 91)

Emma writes, “I’m still at Bristol University, now a Reader in Music. Until 2018, I’m running an EU-funded project on early Iberian chant, based in Bristol.”

Mahesh Asnani
(Grenville 91)

Mahesh is living in Nigeria and is married with 3 children aged 6, 6, and 3. He is a Partner and Owner of the Emel Group of Companies, which is a family business trading and manufacturing housewares and building materials. He is also a member of YPO (Young Presidents Organisation).

Ben Holloway
(Chatham 91)


Ben writes, “We are living in Maryland just outside DC. We have three children – William 8, Sam 6 and Lucy, 3. I work as minister of youth and college at Fourth Presbyterian Church, Bethesda, MD.”

Dr Jim Burns
(Stowe-Harvard Fellow 92)

 Jim writes, “I was the first Stowe-Harvard fellow from 1991-1992. I now work at the US Securities and Exchange Commission as Deputy Director of the Division of Trading and Markets, where we oversee US regulation on an array of market related issues. Imagine my delight, the day after the SEC completed its work on the Volcker Rule, to find myself meeting OS Charles Roxburgh (Temple 77), Director General for Financial Services in HM Treasury, discussing that issue, market structure and other cross border regulatory issues, as well as trading stories about


Jeremy Nichols, Tony Meredith and Brian Stephan.”

Katherine Farrants
(Nugent 93)

 Katherine writes, “My news is that I have founded a new online yoga and wellness website. It is called Movement

For Modern Life: Revolutionising Online Yoga & Wellbeing. It is the first British website to bring the Best of British yoga teachers and studios in an online community. We make yoga and wellness really accessible by offering programmes of classes by their specific benefit (e.g. stress/insomnia/core/pregnancy) with classes that range from just 5 minute ‘super-mum’ yoga, to one and a half hours for the weekend. Now the best yoga teachers can be accessed any time, any place – don’t worry about what you wear!” www.movementformodernlife.com

Wendy Saunt
(Stanhope 93)

 After 15 years in journalism, Wendy has recently launched Pole Privé – London’s only private pole-dancing lesson service (where the pole is brought to you, no less!). She is passionate about pole dancing’s redefining of itself as a beautiful and athletic art form; the antithesis of all things Peter Stringfellow. She trains with a former world champion pole dancer and has competed nationally. www.poleprive.co.uk

Jonathan Cheng
(Temple 93)

Jonathan has been working in the HSBC group since 1997, first in Hong Kong and then relocated to HSBC Shanghai Branch in 2004 to help expand their China Franchise. During the 7 years in Shanghai he met his wife and married in 2009. In 2012, he left HSBC to join UOB China (United Overseas Bank), and is now responsible for their Corporate Banking business development in Southern China.

Arvind David
(Chatham 93)

Arvind is a producer of film, television and theatre, whose current projects include a Broadway Musical based on the back-catalogue of Alanis Morissette

Jagged and a West End musical based on his movie, The Infidel which he is co-writing with comedians David Baddiel and Erran Baron Cohen. His first job in the film industry was interning for the late, great OS film producer, Simon Channing-Williams (Chandos 64).

Alexandra Baker
(née James, Nugent 93)

Alexandra is now Business Manager of Old Master and 19th Century Art at Christie's.

Matt Mahoney
(Walpole 94)

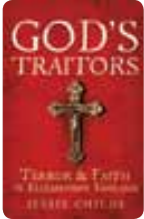


Matt won the Cotswold 100 in 2013. This is a 100 mile non-stop road marathon that circumnavigates the Cotswolds.

The Viscount Hereford
(Chatham 94)

Robin writes, “15 years after doing two weeks’ work experience, I am still working at Bonhams, as a board director in our Art Collections, Estates & Valuations Department.”

Jessie Fletcher
(née Childs, Lyttelton 95)



Jessie’s second book *God’s Traitors: Terror and Faith in Elizabethan England* is to be published by Bodley Head on 6 March 2014. Her first book *Henry VIII’s Last Victim: The Life and Times of Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey* won the 2007 Elizabeth Longford Prize for Historical Biography. The gap between books was filled by research and babies (Isabella, now 5, and Lara, 2). Jessie credits her love of history to the wonderful department at Stowe, namely Mr Johnson, Mrs Green, Mr Rudolf, Mr Cottam and Dr Stunt, who gave a marvellous, impromptu how-to-read-early-manuscripts class one rainy day. www.jessiechilds.com

Angus Campbell
(Cobham 96)

Angus has recently started a new job as Head of PR at FxPro, based in the City.

Stuart Mun-Gavin
(Chatham 96)

Stuart is now working for Brightsparks as their Business Development Manager. Brightsparks has a globally unique concept when it comes to graduate and young professional recruitment. They have directly employed over 9,000 students and graduates throughout their studies. When they graduate and for the next 5 years, Brightsparks endeavours to help them find their ideal career by being able to represent them with a huge amount of certainty.

Louis Aslett
(Temple 97)

Louis achieved a First in Mathematics at Trinity College Dublin and then went on to complete a PhD in Mathematical Statistics. He is now working as a post doctoral researcher at the University of Oxford in the Statistics Department where the application area of his research is medical genomics.

Hannah James
(Nugent 97)

Having spent the best part of a decade on the front line of motorsport in commercial, operational and management roles, Hannah now works as a consultant bringing together some of the world’s biggest music brands with racing drivers, teams and promoters. She works with clients in the UK and North America under the Decibel Racing banner.

Laura Marshall
(née Humber, Lyttelton 98)

Laura writes to say that, “I have recently been promoted to the position of Account Director at Lyons Seafoods. My husband and I have also started up our own business. Please can Old Stoics take a look at www.minimummonthlybills.co.uk and www.makedough.co.uk I would appreciate any feedback!”

Mark Bowman
(Cobham 98)

On 1 May 2013 Mark was promoted to partner at Field Fisher Waterhouse, continuing to specialise in clinical



negligence and catastrophic injury claims. Away from work – he completed his first (but definitely not last) Ironman, at Lake Tahoe in September 2013. This involved a 2.4 mile lake swim, 112 mile bike ride and 26.2 mile run, all at a height of over 2000 metres, and with an outdoor temperature at the start of the race of minus 2 degrees! Finishing time was 14 hours 5 minutes, not 15 (as he didn’t cross start line for 10 minutes).

William Austen
(Chandos 98)

William completed the London Marathon and moved from Summer Fields in August to become Deputy Headmaster of Ludgrove in Berkshire.

Simon Post
(Chandos 98)

Simon has been at Accenture since 2004 and he is a senior manager in their UK/I Digital business.

Samit Gehlot
(Bruce 98)



Samit writes, “Richard Branson recently opened a camp in Kenya together with us, with an Opening Ceremony, which comes 6 years after Richard originally became a recognised tribal Maasai Elder in 2007. This took place on the plains near Mahali Mzuri and began with opening prayers. Along with eight elders, Richard blessed Mahali Mzuri with prayers, honey and a little beer! A ceremonial fire using traditional fire sticks and olive branches was placed onto the fire to produce the smoke, which drifted through the camp as a sign of blessing. This was followed by the local Maasai community singing and dancing around the fire before leading the crowd in a march back up to the plains where they enjoyed a blessing feast. Mahali Mzuri is a joint partnership between Sir Richard Branson and the Gehlot family, who run the Intex Group of companies in Kenya. Members of the Gehlot family joined Sir Richard Branson for the opening ceremony.” www.mahalimzuri.virgin.com

Richard Clapham
(Temple 99)

Richard is a Partner with London law firm *Monro Wright & Wasbrough LLP*. He lives in Sevenoaks with his wife Gemma and their son Alex, and daughter Emilie who was born in October.

Olivia Brass
(née Armitage, Lyttelton 99)

After getting lots of practice doing up her own house, Olivia is setting up a business in 2014, making curtains, loose covers and other soft furnishings across Sussex, Surrey and Hampshire. enquiries@oliviabrass.co.uk

Hugo Douglass
(Chandos 99)

Hugo launched a luxury knitwear label in 2013. The premise behind Plum of London is to create luxury and eco-friendly knitwear and woven accessories in contemporary designs and colourful hues, which have been ethically sourced and made solely in Britain. Using what is arguably the world’s finest yarn, Royal Alpaca, each piece possesses qualities unrivalled by any other, both natural and synthetic. Visit www.plumoflondon.com to find out more.

Hugo Chance
(Grafton 99)

Hugo became engaged to Rebecca Martin in Italy in 2013 and is due to be married in July 2014, in Somerset. He is running an investment initiative ‘Angels & Equity’ under Truestone Investment Management, raising capital for start-up businesses.

Vincent Hobbs
(Grenville 99)

Professionally, after five years at Jetlag Productions, the last two as managing partner, Vincent felt he needed to shake his feet loose so embarked on a six month hiatus, visiting friends and family across the US, Europe and South East Asia. Since August 2013, he has joined Uniplan Shanghai as Associate Director, Strategy to develop cutting edge creative content to the growing live communication industry.

Michael De Butts
(Grenville 99)

Mike got engaged in August to Diana Rose Corbett. The photograph is of his piece for 2012’s Hampton Court Flower Show; an 8 metre working windmill with seating at its base.



Last year also saw PirateTechnics sculptures at The Chelsea Flower Show, The South Bank Centre, The Olympic Park, Oxford University and John Lewis, not to mention Glastonbury and seven other major music festivals. More photos are available at www.flickr.com/photos/pirate_technics/se

2000

Hugh Arbuthnott
(Cobham 00)

Having left the Army, Hughie and Clare live in southern Spain and organise holidays in South America, Morocco and Andalucia. In July and August, they run Family Holidays from their home in the hills overlooking the Straits of Gibraltar. They also arrange bespoke holidays throughout the year. In November 2012, they had an Old Stoic Reunion for a long weekend of golf, walks and long lunches. www.arbuthnottholidays.com

Tom Oliver
(Bruce 00)

Tom recently launched a premium fish oil supplement that contains only the purest, sustainably sourced DHA and EPA Omega 3 Phospholipids, along with Choline. “The Omega 3 MOPL” Herring Caviar contains 300mg/g of DHA, an important fatty acid in supporting healthy brain function – three times the level found in other Omega 3 supplements. DHA and EPA are essential fatty acids that help support healthy skin, joint health, brain function, good vision, weight management and a healthy heart. Available from www.tomolovernutrition.com and selected pharmacies. He has also started another company which is Equine Performance. The product is called EQmach. A game changer in the equine performance arena. www.equine-uk.com

Roderick McLauchlan
(Temple 01)

Roderick writes, “I work as a fitness consultant, based in the Scottish Highlands. I have a range of clients from racing drivers, climbers and Pro footballers. I am training to become a professional mountain

guide, so some of my spare time is spent climbing on very icy, cold, wet and windy mountains. Next year, I am planning to climb the Heckmair route (the original 1938 line) on the Eiger North Face.”

Alex Housley
(Chandos 01)

Alex writes, “My current venture is a tech start-up called Rumble Labs, which acquired my first business, Total Hotspots, in 2009: www.rumblelabs.com I have a side-project called Genome Laser, which plans to broadcast the personal human genome via laser in the Nevada desert in September: www.genomelaser.com.”

Nico Heath
(Grafton 01)



Nico writes, “2013 has been the best year to date due to the recent arrival of Orlando Henry Heath, a happy and healthy baby boy.” Nico lives in Singapore where he is Co-founder of the luxury tour operator, Lightfoot Travel. Lightfoot specialises in tailor-made family holidays, honeymoons, corporate travel and private villas around the world and has just opened a new office in Dubai, adding to its existing Hong Kong and Singapore hubs. Holidays range from African safaris (in which Nico specialises), multi-country tours around South America, Antarctic cruises and beach breaks throughout Asia. “I’ve had a few Old Stoics contact Lightfoot for help planning holidays, and I love how this business has put me back in touch with old friends and classmates,” Nico says. Contact nico@lightfoottravel.com or visit www.lightfoottravel.com The photograph shows Nico teeing off from Mount Cecil, overlooking Queenstown, New Zealand.

Andy Comber
(Grenville 01)

Andy started at Jones Lang LaSalle on 2 December 2013, in the agency/asset management department for the out of town retail division of the company.

Amelia Annfield
(Nugent 01)

Amelia writes that she is living and working in New Zealand as an events stylist.

Oli Cullingworth
(Grenville 02)

Oli continues to work as the Operations Director for Red Box Consultancy Services, specialising in Catering and Facilities Management strategy and procurement in the Business and Industry, Oil and Gas and Education sectors. Oli and his wife, Sally, are also excited to announce the forthcoming arrival of their first child in February.

Alex Dietz
(Chatham 02)

Alex is now a Commercial Manager at Cargill Kenya.

Rosie Armitage
(Lyttelton 03)

Rosie has set up as a freelance tailor and costume maker based in Stratford upon Avon, making bespoke clothing ranging from waistcoats to wedding dresses. Please visit www.rosiearmitage.co.uk for more information and contact details.

Benjamin Forbes
(Grenville 03)

Ben is now working at the Battersea Power Station Development Company and living in London.

Will Gallimore
(Bruce 03)

Will has recently been made Director at work and now runs the UK division of High Finance Group. He has just joined Royal St Georges Golf Club and takes his King Charles cavalier with him to help find the balls. He is still living in London and keen to see more Old Stoics, not just at the wine tasting events.

Angus Nohl-Oser
(Walpole 03)



Angus has recently set up the Chelsea Car Club, a regional Car Club for all Petrolheads who drive sports and performance cars within central London and the surrounding area. From January 2013, the Club has run monthly meets and drives from Hyde Park, followed by a tour to the Lake District at the end of February, as

well as lots of other exciting events in the pipeline for 2014. He would love to hear from any Old Stoics with a sense of adventure. For more information, please go to www.thechelseacarclub.co.uk Current Old Stoic Members include Nick Langridge (Temple 11), Adam Minney (Temple 11) and Oliver Nohl-Oser (Grafton 01) (all of whom came on our Isle of Man Weekender event and feature in the group photo). We do, however, have a handful of other Old Stoics on our books and their ages range across the board!

Matthew Gracie
(Walpole 03)



Although Judy Gracie has finished as housemistress of Lyttelton last year, it seems she has inspired a new generation, as her son Matthew Gracie started running Talbot’s, a boarding house at Bedford School in September 2013. Matt, his wife Katie-Jo and two children, William (6) and Elisha (3) are in their fourth year at Bedford. Their dog Cooper has also quickly become a favourite with the boys in the house. They would be very happy to meet and host any Old Stoics passing through Bedford, particularly any who were at Stowe at the same time or who are old Walpudlians. Email: mgracie@bedfordschool.org.uk

Dr Brian Orger
(Former Staff 1980-2004)



England may have lost but Stowe got its hands on the Six Nations Cup! Retired Stowe masters Lionel Weston, Brian Orger and John Dobbin, father of OSs Richard, Edward and Chris Dobbin, chanced upon the Six Nations Cup while strolling around Cardiff Bay on a boys’ weekend to see the rugby international between England and Wales in March 2013. Sadly, the next time they saw it, it was being handed to the Welsh captain after a sound defeat of England. However, the singing, led by massed Welsh choirs, was memorable, almost lifting the closed roof off the stadium.

Araminta Reeves
(Lyttelton 04)



Araminta writes, “I am now in my fourth year of working for a sports and entertainment management agency as a Senior Client Manager. This means I spend my time looking after clients such as Frank Lampard, Ian Wright & Marco Pierre White! The photo attached is of me at a book signing in Harrods, with Frank Lampard.”

Oliver Collins
(Cobham 05)

Oliver is currently working for Lombard Odier Asset Management as a Junior Portfolio Manager in Global Credit. He has been in the role for 3 years after having spent 2 years at Moore Capital Management, a multibillion global macro hedgefund.

Olivia Brabant
(Nugent 05)

Since qualifying as a vet in 2010, Olivia has worked in cattle practice in West Sussex and then moved north of the border to the south west of Scotland to set up a practice with her partner Hugh. She then moved to the University of Edinburgh to take up a position in the farm animal practice but is now moving even further north to Morayshire to work in a mixed practice and help Hugh on his return to the family farm. In January 2014, she had her first article published in a veterinary journal and hopes to publish many more in the future.

Edward Joudrey
(Walpole 06)

Edward recently relocated to New York and transferred to J.P. Morgan’s North American Diversified Industries Investment Banking division after his successful promotion to Associate. This followed 3 years with J.P. Morgan Cazenove in London focusing on UK Industrials & Infrastructure Investment Banking, having graduated from Durham University in 2010 where he read Natural Sciences.

Jessica Rollo
(née Leon, Nugent 06)

Jessica is now a Nursery school teacher.

Robert Secret
(Former Staff 1978-2007)



Robert has conducted Figaro and Carmen with Stowe Opera (now renamed Winslow Hall Opera) and has conducted orchestral concerts in Prague. He is the viola player in The Metzger Ensemble which has given many concerts recently including St John’s Smith Square and the Schloss Berleburg – the residence of the family of Sayn-Wittgenstein-Berleburg. He continues to run The Buckingham Summer Festival, is conductor of The Oxford Harmonic Choir and is chairman of The Aylesbury Vale Arts Council. Photograph, from left to right: The Metzger Ensemble. Jeremy Sampson, Lisa Nelsen, Robert Secret and Julian Metzger.

Lara-Clare Tarr
(née Bourdeaux, Lyttelton 07)



Lara-Clare and Michael Tarr (Grafton 08) are married and living in Cardiff where Lara is doing a two year Masters in Vocal Performance, at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. Michael set up his online cycle shop, Cycles Direct, whilst at university in 2009. It is going from strength to strength and sells a wide range of bikes, parts and accessories.

Charles Thuillier
(Bruce 07)

Charlie and Harry Thuillier (Bruce 07 and Bruce 04) have founded Oppo Ice Cream, an actively healthy superfood ice cream that matches the indulgence of traditional dairy ice cream. Oppo is launching into the major retailers in Spring 2014. Please look out for us! www.oppoicecream.co.uk

Monty Lewis
(Bruce 09)

Despite his efforts after the Nostalgic at Ninety Ball, Monty Lewis has not become a member of Annabel’s.

Nickleby Evans
(Grenville 09)

Nickleby and Freddie Hicks (Grafton 09) will be running the 2014 London Marathon in support of DEBRA. DEBRA is the national charity that supports individuals and families affected by Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB) – a painful genetic condition which causes the skin to blister and shear at the slightest friction, or even spontaneously. Nickleby’s sister, Francesca, died of the condition. Show your support for the boys by simply texting NEFH90 to 70070 followed by the amount you wish to donate. E.g. NEFH90 £10.

Felix Parker
(Cobham 09)

Felix and Marcus Fountaine (Chandos 09) set up Fairfax and Favor in the summer of 2013 with the aim of bridging the gap between smart and casual. The third Old Stoic involved is Ellie Rix (Lyttelton 11). We offer a range of shoes and beautiful Spanish riding boots. We have plans in 2014 to be at all the big shows with the aim of launching into Harrods. Please see our website at www.fairfaxandfavor.com and use Stowe14 for a complimentary 15% discount on our wonderful products.

Abby Webb
(Nugent 09)

Abby writes, “I left Stowe in 2009 and graduated from Birmingham with a 2:1 degree in Geography. After this, I organised a trip for myself and twelve others to cycle from London to Istanbul for charity. As a team, we raised over £22,000. It was the most epic, challenging and rewarding experience I have ever been a part of. We camped every night for two months and cycled over 5000 km (3000 miles). The money is going towards the Cancer Care and Haematology Unit at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, where they are hoping to raise enough funds to build a much needed extension. After this, I worked for a ski season in Val D’Isere and then did a volunteering project in South East Asia with children and elephants. I am now in France doing a TEFL course and in January 2014, I started on the Leonardo Da Vinci programme, which is a fully funded programme

based in Ales (France) completing work experience for three months. I am then embarking on the Aldi graduate scheme in May as an Area Manager and will be based in Bristol. I recently did some hockey coaching at Stowe and it was so great to see the constant improvements the School is making. I didn’t think it could get any better!”

Nicholas Rewcastle
(Grenville 10)

Nick writes, “I graduated from the University of Chester with a 2:1 in Journalism and Public Relations and am currently working towards gaining the appropriate skills and experience to set up my own Public Relations agency in Hampshire. I am currently working as a Public Relations and Marketing Manager for Hampshire Mezzanine Floors.”

Rupert Leyland
(Walpole 11)



Rupert is thoroughly enjoying the second year of his Marine Sports Science degree in Falmouth and taking full advantage of the year round water based activities. In addition, he is currently playing Wide Receiver and Tight End for the Falmouth Tridents, a combined universities side and has been selected to play for the South West Regional American Football Team (the Cornish Sharks) this summer.

Catherine Cornelissen
(Stanhope 13)

Catherine writes, “In September I began my Undergraduate course at Christie’s Education in London. I am studying Arts of Europe from Cycladic figures in 3000 BC all the way up until arts in the 21st century. I was so happy when I received my A Level results and did not hesitate to confirm my place at Christie’s Education in September. I am very much looking forward to becoming as involved as possible at the Christie’s auction house on King Street and learning more about the art world and market in London. I am adoring my small and cosy flat in St. James and absolutely loving adjusting to my new London lifestyle in comparison to my hometown, Toronto, Canada. I have started an art blog which I try my best to remain committed to and have joined a members’ club in Mayfair to stay fit and socialise at particular cocktail parties and events.”

MARRIAGES

Jeremy Nichols
(Former Headmaster)

Jeremy married Katherine Lambert on Saturday 11 May 2013 in Cornwall. Katherine is the author of Gardens of Cornwall and the Good Gardens Guide 2010-2011.

1950s

David Ridley
(Cobham 59)



David writes, “Three years ago Lida Roe and I decided that after twelve years together we were extremely happy and likely to remain

so for ever, so we decided to marry. There followed three traumatic years of a variety of stressful negotiations on my behalf and exceedingly tedious complications for Lida, establishing her existence with the Stadthaus in Zurich before we obtained a wedding licence. On Saturday 16 November 2013, we married in the Stadthaus in Zurich. Old Stoics in attendance were my brother, Michael Ridley (Cobham 56), my sons Simon Ridley (Walpole 95) and Ben Ridley (Walpole 90).”

1970s

Louise Bryan
(Stanhope 79)

Louise married her long time partner Panagiotis Chantziaras on 19 August 2013.

1980s

Justin Anderson
(Cobham 85)



Justin married Miranda (née Leckie) sister of OS Euan Leckie (Chandos 81) in Chiddingfold, Surrey on 22 June 2013.

Kate Gordon-Watson
(née Reardon, Nugent 87)

Kate married Charles Gordon-Watson on 18 May 2013.

Chris Lascelles
(Temple 89)



Chris married Ewa Prygiel on 24 May 2013. Old Stoics in attendance were, Ralph Hazell (Lyttelton 90), Annabel Struthers (Nugent 88), Ben Whitfield (Grenville 89), Charlotte Brenninkmeijer (née Wilson, Nugent 91), Alison Arnott (née Howard, Nugent 91), Ben Ridley (Walpole 90), Nicola Morrison (Nugent 91), Jane Willcox (née Lascelles, Nugent 87), Jonathan Shillington (Temple 89) and Toby Gauvain (Temple 89).

1990s

Rupert Mayhew
(Bruce 90)



Rupert married Charlotte Louise Hankey on Saturday, 2nd November 2013 at Saint Mary’s Church, Dinton, Wiltshire. Other Old Stoics attending were Michael Robinson (Bruce 91), William Humphreys (Lyttelton 91) and Henry Sword (Chandos 64).

Arvind David
(Chatham 93)



Arvind now lives in Venice Beach, California with his wife, Janine N’jie David and their insane cat, Olive. Arvind and Janine were married on 10 August 2012 in Oxford. OS attendees included Giles ‘Baz’ Thompson (Chatham 93) who was a groomsman, Sam Edenborough (Grafton 93) whose band *The 246* played a rollicking rock set, Shaan Mahrotri (Temple 93) and Arvind’s brother, Armand David (Chatham 98).

Andrew Bates
(Bruce 94)



Andrew married his wife, Amy Dickson, on 23 June 2012 at The Walled Garden at Cowdray in Midhurst, West Sussex – an historic Grade I listed site. James Paravicini (Bruce 94) was his best man and several other Old Stoics attended.

Crispin Marsland-Roberts
(Walpole 96)



Crispin married Victoria Murray on 26 October 2013, in Herefordshire. Best man was Christopher

Harrington (Walpole 96). Ushers included Oscar Marsland-Roberts (Walpole 97), Oliver Gregson (Grafton 96) and James Dewar-Durie (Chatham 96) with a further 11 Old Stoics in attendance.

Simon Post
(Chandos 98)

Simon married Natalie Clearie on 20 July 2013 at Harburn House, near Edinburgh. They live in St. Margarets.

Vincent Hobbs
(Grenville 99)



Vincent writes, “I finally decided to pull the trigger and marry my girlfriend of seven years, Zheng Jie Vicky. We had an official ceremony in Shanghai China on 20 October 2012, followed by an amazing wedding shindig at 300 year old Hoeve Engelendael in Sint-jan-in-Eremo in Belgium on 5 May 2013.”

Alexa Fereday
(née Alexander, Lyttelton 99)



Alexa and Alex got married on Friday 16 August 2013 at Stowe Church and celebrated afterwards at Villiers Hotel in Buckingham; along with Old Stoics Gabriella Alexander (Lyttelton 03), James Furse-Roberts (Grafton 95), Matt Furse-Roberts (Grafton 96) and Thomas Furse-Roberts (Bruce 00). She writes, “Having left Stowe in 1999, it was nice to return, 14 years later, to celebrate our wedding in the beautiful grounds.”

2000

Sally Williamson
(née Clark, Lyttelton 00)



Sally married Simon Williamson on 1st June 2013 in the Music Room at Stowe School. Old Stoics in attendance were Jonathan Boyman (Walpole 00) and Simon Creek (Grafton 00).

Alex Housley
(Chandos 01)



Alex married Micol Molinari on 24 August 2013 in Guilford, Connecticut. They met via Harry Heneage (Chatham 01) who attended St. Andrews with Micol. Harry and Buster Drummond (Chandos 01) were both groomsmen and Gemma Tipping (Nugent 01) was a bridesmaid with his sister, Sophie Housley (Nugent 02). Photograph, left to right: Gemma Tipping, Buster Drummond, Alex Housley, Micol Molinari, Harry Heneage and Sophie Housley.

Nick Verney
(Temple 01)



Nick married Alexandra Munro Ferguson on 4 May 2013 at Inverness Cathedral. Edward Hackett-Jones (Temple 01) was an usher and Philippa Murray (Lyttelton 02) sang a solo in the Anthem.

Benjamin Forbes
(Grenville 03)



Ben married Diana Friedrich on 26 October 2013 in Aylesbury, with a blessing in Buckingham.

Chi Kavindele
(Temple 03)



Chi married Claire McFarlane on 22 June 2013 in Fife, Scotland.

Jessica Rollo
(née Leon, Nugent 06)



Jessica Leon (Nugent 06) married William Rollo on 5 April 2013. Old Stoics present were her two Old Stoic brothers, Henry Leon (Temple 01) and Keith Leon (Temple 06).

BIRTHS

1980s

Jane Lazzeri

(née Baker, Stanhope 88)

Jane gave birth to a son, William Ryan Lazzeri on 10 January 2013 in Camaiore, Italy.

1990s

Caroline Naude

(née Drummond-Hay, Nugent 93)

Caroline and Gary Naude would like to announce the birth of their second son, James Edward, on 27 August 2013, in East London, South Africa.

Susannah Acland

(née Bell, Nugent 93)

Susannah and her husband Alexander had a little girl, Arabella Iona Rose born on 10 May 2011, a sister for Olivia.

Richard Lloyd

(Grenville 94)



Richard and his wife, Heidi, are pleased to announce the birth of Alwyn David on 14 March 2013, a sister for Louisa Alethea.

Robin Hereford

(Chatham 94)



Robin writes, “In 2013 my wife and I had a daughter, Sophia, on 10 January (7lb 2oz).”

Stephen Spencer

(Walpole 95)



Stephen and Angela welcomed a son, Henry Robert Michael Spencer, on 20 June 2013.

Henrietta Black

(née Magan, Lyttelton 95)

Henrietta and Dan are delighted to announce the arrival of Harry George Black, born on 16 December 2013, a little brother for Jamie and Ella.

Angus Campbell

(Cobham 96)



Angus writes, “My wife Katrina and I had a second son, a brother for Monty, born on 27 October 2013 and we have called him Charles Angus Fraser Campbell.”

Leila Brahimi

(Nugent 96)



Leila Brahimi (Nugent 96) had her second daughter, Camille Brahimi Chaves on 27 September

2013. They are still living in NYC but Leila keeps in regular touch with Stowe through the American Friends of Stowe. Her elder daughter Soraya is now 5. They are hoping to make a trip to Stowe for Speech Day 2014, so she can show her family the beautiful grounds.

Stuart Mun-Gavin

(Chatham 96)



Stuart and Catherine Mun-Gavin have become parents for the first time, when Otto James William Mun-Gavin was born on 26 October 2013.

Alexandra Blake

(née Williams, Nugent 97)

Charles Blake (Grafton 96) and Alexandra Blake (née Williams, Nugent 97) had a son, Toby Jonathan Blake, on 20 July 2013, a brother to Edward (Teddy).

Shelley Dawson

(née Wisner, Lyttelton 98)



Another little boy, Ronnie Dawson born on 13 May 2013, big brother for Sidney, who is very proud!

William Austen

(Chandos 98)



William writes, “2013 has been an eventful year in the Austen household. In April my wife Jossie gave birth to Archie our first child. He is

doing well and only thirteen years away from coming to Stowe!”

Arabella Connell

(née Arbuthnott, Nugent 98)

Arabella and her husband, Charlie, had Charles Octavius Douglas Connell on 4 February 2013 in Perth, Scotland, a brother for sister Lucia.

Olivia Brass

(née Armitage, Lyttelton 99)



Olivia is living in West Sussex and had a second baby in June 2013, Annabel Fleur, sister for Bertie, now aged 2.

Vincent Hobbs

(Grenville 99)



Vincent writes, “on 22 November 2013, we became the proud parents of Elvira Victoria Marianne Schoofs. She’s the best.”

Georgina Peace

(née Lee, Nugent 99)



On 1 November 2013, Georgina and her husband, Alex, had a baby girl called Clemmie Annabelle Peace. She weighed 7lbs 3oz.

2000

Vicky Osman

(née Bell, Nugent 00)

Vicky Osman (née Bell, Nugent 00) and Serrol Osman (Grenville 96) had a girl on 7 September 2013, and named her Ziva Belle Osman.

Hugh Arbuthnott

(Cobham 00)



Hugh and his wife Clare, had a daughter, Isabella Charlotte Arbuthnott, on 8 January 2013, in Gaucin, Spain.

Gene Kindell

(Cobham 01)



Gene and his partner, Pepita Del Rio, had a son, Måns Valentine Kindell, who was born on 24 April 2013.

Roderick McLauchlan

(Temple 01)



Roderick and his partner, Iona Wotherspoon of Kiltarlity, Inverness-shire became parents on 1 September 2013 and have a wonderful little boy called William Iain Thomas McLauchlan.

Nico Heath

(Grafton 01)



Nico and Camilla Heath (née Ruggles-Brise, Nugent 01) had a baby boy, Orlando Henry Heath, born on 28 November 2013.

Daisy Gibbs

(née Russell, Lyttelton 02)



Daisy had a son, Somerset Gibbs, on 29 September 2013.

Luke Brewin

(Temple 02)

Luke writes, “We celebrated the birth of our second child, Hudson Philip Luke Brewin he was born on the 28 February 2013, a brother for Tilly.

OBITUARIES

We have provided information about the lives and careers of a number of particular Old Stoics. In so doing, we realise that there are many other Old Stoics who will have made no less a contribution to society, the country and the lives of others. We hope, though, that in reflecting upon the lives of these alumni and their achievements in the world of academe, politics, the arts, the services and business, we are able to demonstrate the enormously diverse contribution of Old Stoics to the world. Due to space limitations, names marked with a * have obituaries available at www.oldstoic.co.uk

1920s

Group Capt Gwilym Griffith-Jones

(Chandos 29) on 20 November 2013, at the age of 102

Mr Nicholas Andrews

(Chandos 43) on 3 September 2010, in the USA

Mr James Kenally-Smith

(Grafton 43) on 22 January 2013

The Revd Timothy Lawrence

(Grafton 43) in March 2011

Mr Graeme McKelvie

(Walpole 43) on 17 June 2012

Mr John Foord

(Grenville 44) The date is unknown

Mr Geoffrey Loftus

(Bruce 44) on 27 February 2001

*Mr Peter-John Mackay

(Temple 44) on 17 April 2013

Mr Peter Morris-Johnson

(Grenville 44) on 17 February 2013

Mr Noel Saunders

(Walpole 44) on 5 January 2013

Mr Robert Abbott

(Grenville 45) on 25 October 2013

Mr Michael Manton

(Chatham 45) on 6 March 2013

Mr Anthony Mulgan

(Grenville 45) on 27 June 2013

Mr Michael Falcon

(Chatham 46) on 18 February 2013

Mr David Morgan-Grenville

(Walpole 46) on 14 November 2013

Mr Harry Gordon Ward

(Former Staff, 1947) in February 2010

Mr John Hemsworth

(Walpole 48) on 24 August 2013

Mr Frank Ruhemann

(Chatham 48) on 24 January 2012

Mr John Withinshaw

(Cobham 48) on 4 February 2013

Mr Peter Hubert

(Grafton 49) on 3 February 2013

Mr Richard Sparrow

(Walpole 49) on 30 November 2013

1950s

Mr Peter Harkness

(Temple 50) on 29 December 2012

Mr Richard Bostock

(Chandos 51) on 30 November 2013

Mr Myles Moorby

(Chatham 54) on 15 December 2012

Mr Michael Shurey

(Cobham 51) on 14 May 2012

*Obituary available at www.oldstoic.co.uk

Air Marshal Sir Reginald Harland KBE CB AE MA CEng

(Chatham 38)

1920-2013



Air Marshal Sir Reginald Harland was one of the RAF's most distinguished engineering officers who held numerous senior

appointments culminating in being the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the RAF's Support Command.

After Stowe, Sir Reginald joined the University Air Squadron in 1938 and took first class honours in the mechanical sciences trips in June 1940. In September 1940 he was mobilised into the RAF.

His war years were spent ensuring that aircraft were in a constant state of readiness in support of the First British Army, firstly in North Africa and then in Italy. Post war, he was one of a small number of engineering officers who were trained as pilots before returning to technical duties, when he became the Chief Engineering Instructor at the RAF College, Cranwell.

Sir Reginald was one of the first RAF engineer officers to specialise in guided missiles. Following five years of immersion in the subject, in May 1958 he was appointed as the first British Liaison Officer on the staff of General Bernard Schriever who commanded the USAF's Air Research Development Command, based in Los Angeles. Schriever, described as the architect of the USAF space and missile programme, had established the Division a few months earlier soon after the Soviet Union had launched its first Sputnik. Thus, Sir Reginald was in the unique position of being intimately involved in the development of all the aerospace systems which have been launched into orbit. This included support for NASA in its Mercury man-in-space and other programmes.

Later, Sir Reginald returned to the Ministry of Technology as project director for the Harrier aircraft. He played a key role in the introduction of the unique short take-off and vertical landing aircraft into RAF service. He also demanded specification changes in order to create opportunities for the Harrier to enter service with the US military forces.

Harland had a questioning mind and felt it was important neither to take things for granted nor to make assumptions and to listen to other people's points of view. He had a fine eye for detail and was exceptionally good at explaining things. He was appointed KBE (1974), CB (1972) and received the Air Efficiency Award. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society, of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers and of the Institute of Electrical Engineers.

Mr Raymond Hall

(Walpole 52) on 22 March 2013

Mr Kildare James

(Temple 52) on 18 June 2013

Mr Michael Preece

(Grenville 52) on 24 July 2013

Mr James Wright

(Bruce 52) on 18 March 2013

*Prof Keith Middlemas

(Chatham 53) on 10 July 2013

*Mr Richard Pearman

(Walpole 53) on 8 December 2013

Mr Michael Peel Cross

(Grenville 53) on 4 March 2012

Mr Simon Waley

(Walpole 53) on 18 November 2012

Mr Jeremy Hawtrey-Woore

(Bruce 54) on 9 July 2013

Mr Charlie Macdonald

(Chatham 54) on 12 April 2013

Mr Ian Milling

(Grenville 54) on 17 November 2013

Mr Christopher Scarlett

(Temple 54) on 24 October 2013

Mr Robert Shelley

(Grenville 54) on 22 July 2012

Mr Gordon Thomson

(Walpole 54) on 10 May 2013

Mr Edward McElroy

(Grafton 55) on 1 October 2013

Mr Peter Clarke

(Grenville 56) on 26 August 2013

Mr Alasdair Osborn

(Chandos 56) on 26 September 2013

Mr Timothy Philips

(Grafton 56) on 5 March 2010 in Dublin

Mr Paul Vincenzi

(Grenville 56) in December 2010

Mr Anthony Robinson

(Walpole 57) on 24 September 2013

*Mr Christopher Vincenzi

(Grenville 57) on 20 November 2012

Mr Peter Aarvold

(Grafton 58) on 21 November 2013

Colonel Julian Fane MC and Bar (Bruce 39)
1921-2013



Julian Fane’s obituary in The Times on 29 August 2013 gave a vivid account of how, as a 19 year old 2nd Lieutenant with the 2nd Battalion The Gloucester Regiment, he won his first MC during the retreat to Dunkirk. He had been wounded but led 12 survivors towards La Panne. He and three men were safely evacuated and he was awarded his first MC for initiative and courage. Following Dunkirk, he was transferred to Phantom, a reconnaissance regiment. Again, he demonstrated extraordinary bravery which culminated in the award of an immediate Bar to his MC following a desperate, and successful, battle against heavy German odds in Holland in January 1945.

After the war he transferred to his father’s old regiment, the 12th Royal Lancers and Michael Berger (Grafton 54) had the privilege of being a junior subaltern in the squadron which Julian commanded. When the regiment amalgamated with the 9th Lancers, Julian transferred to the Life Guards which he commanded from 1962 to 1963. Thereafter, he had a number of staff appointments, left the army in 1968, joined a merchant bank and had a distinguished City career until retiring in 1984.

Apart from his Times obituary, there is a much longer and detailed account of how Julian, together with a handful of his men, eventually got back to Dunkirk in Hugh Sebag-Montefiore’s definitive book: *Dunkirk, Fight to the Last Man*. It is hair-raising stuff and illustrates the bravery and resourcefulness of a very young Old Stoic.

Michael Berger (Grafton 54)

***Dr Paul Bramley**
(Walpole 58) on 25 February 2013

Mr Robert Dunlop
(Bruce 59) on 23 August 2012

1960s

Mr Barrie Irving
(Cobham 60) on 20 February 2013

Lord Alistair McAlpine of West Green (Temple 60) on 17 January 2014

Mr Peter de Havilland
(Chatham 61) on 12 March 2007

Mr Nicholas Martin
(Bruce 61) on 11 August 2012

Mr Laurie Barnard
(Bruce 63) in 2012

Mr Simon Bishop
(Chatham 63) on 1 April 2013

Mr John Tilbrook
(Chandos 63) on 9 March 2012

Mr Martin Bellamy
(Cobham 64) on 5 October 2013

Mr Jonathan Peck
(Walpole 64) on 15 September 2013

Mr Arden Morgan
(Temple 66) on 24 June 2013

Mr Philip Douglas
(Grafton 68) on 12 August 2013

Mr Michael Soames
(Cobham 68) on 2 June 2013

Mr Christopher Edwards
(Walpole 69) on 17 July 2013

*Obituary available at www.oldstoic.co.uk

Mr John Hunt
(Former staff 1958-1969)
on 16 January 2014

1970s

Mr Robin Page
(Cobham 72) on 31 March 2013

Mr Al-noor Manji
(Bruce 74) in July 2011

Mr Shaun Springer
(Chandos 74) on 25 April 2013

1980s

Mr Tom Bannister
(Lyttelton 82) on 22 June 2013

Mrs Margaret Temple, wife of Mr Muir Temple
(Former Staff 1958-1988)
on 3 November 2013

1990s

Mr Luc Ferrand
(Cobham 91) on 3 January 2014

Mr Jamie Christopherson
(Grafton 95) on 12 January 2012

Mr Adam Medway
(Lyttelton 95) in 2008

2000

Mr Joshua Downing
(Bruce 04) on 4 March 2013



Sir Anthony Montague Browne (Cobham 41)
1923-2013

Sir Anthony was one of Winston Churchill’s private secretaries; as things turned out, he was to be the last and, apart from Lady Churchill, saw more of the wartime leader during the final decade of his life than anyone else.

Sir Anthony arrived at Downing Street in October 1952. Churchill was then aged 77 and in his second spell as Prime Minister. In 1955, a few months after Churchill’s resignation, Sir Anthony was seconded indefinitely to the former Prime Minister as his private secretary.

In 1995 he published his memoirs, Long Sunset: Memoirs of Winston Churchill’s Last Private Secretary, detailing his experience working for the great leader. Sir Anthony recalled a lively visit to Monte Carlo where, on one occasion at the casino, Frank Sinatra and his entourage walked by Churchill’s table. Sinatra stopped, vigorously shook Churchill’s hand and said, “I’ve been waiting to do that for ages.” After he left, Montague Brown recalled Churchill turned to his friends and demanded to know, “Who the hell was that?”

Sir Anthony was also on hand during the holiday in the South of France when Churchill fell and broke his hip and was found, “looking like a dying stag.” He was taken to Monte Carlo hospital but, as Sir Anthony related he said to him, “I want to die in England. You’ll see to that.”” Churchill was brought back in an air ambulance and died some months later on 24 January 1965. It was Montague Browne who signed the death certificate.

Churchill played a relatively small part in the planning of his own funeral, only telling Montague Browne, “Remember, I want lots of military bands.” In the event, there were nine. Despite their presence, and the lively hymns that Churchill had also requested, the service threw Sir Anthony into ‘black melancholy thoughts of the decline and decay of so much of what Churchill had stood for. Well might the nation mourn him.’

Following Churchill’s death, Sir Anthony was then seconded to the Queen’s Household for two years. Thereafter, he worked in the City for various companies, including International Life Insurance and Gerrard National. He was a founder member of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust established in 1965, and served as Chairman. He was appointed OBE in 1955, CBE in 1965 and KCMG in 2000.

Mr Stephen Dodgson (Walpole 42)
1924-2013



Stephen was one of the few British composers to establish himself writing primarily for the classical guitar. His prolific output was championed by such masters of the instrument as Julian Bream and John Williams. Dodgson also composed for other instruments, notably the harpsichord, harp and piano.

After Stowe, where he had played horn and viola, Stephen was conscripted into the Royal Navy. Following the war, Dodgson took music lessons privately with Bernard Stevens before entering the Royal College of Music. He won the Corbett Memorial Prize for a string quartet he had written.

While briefly teaching at the Royal College of Music’s Junior Department in 1956, Dodgson encountered the 14 year old John Williams, who three years later made the first recording of his Guitar Concerto No 1 that established Dodgson’s name. He returned to the RCM in 1965, this time as Professor of Composition and Harmony.

In 1986 Stephen became chairman of the National Youth Wind Orchestra of Great Britain. His Partita No 4 was written for the young virtuoso, Nicola Hall.

Mr James Kenally-Smith (Grafton 43)
1925-2013

For many years I counted James as my oldest friend. We first met in 1962 when the Manchester Victorian Society led a walk around Victorian Knutsford. His home, Brae Cottage, was on the list and as with the regular groups of Rolls-Royce owners seeking to admire Henry Royce’s first house, James was quick to move us along. Luckily, a later meeting was more cordial and he introduced me to the Manchester Tennis and Racquet Club, which he had joined in 1947 entering his profession on his application form as ‘coalman’.

I quickly came to venerate his wit and wisdom, discovering with surprise that we had both been in Grafton at Stowe over a decade apart and both scarred by the same Housemaster. One day, aged 16, Jim was called to the Housemaster’s study and told bluntly that his father had died. This was followed by a brusque, “You can go now boy.”

One loses count of all the Old Stoic events, tennis parties, walking tours, skiing trips, carol singing and real tennis tours organised by James. They were always enormous fun, mainly because of the leader’s eccentricity.

A favourite memory is from skiing days when Jim’s Tours had made the arrangements. Arriving at Geneva, his cousin-in-law Christopher enquired where we were headed and James consulted the tour guides in the two buses on the snowy car park. Choosing the one for Val d’Isere, he was told that people there were sleeping in cars, so off we went to Avoriaz. The three brutalist hotels were booked solid and at 11.00pm Jim spotted a restaurant still open. After a good dinner he led us back to the first hotel, strode up to the night porter and requested the three keys hanging behind his head. It was not just his way of getting into scrapes but his Houdini like facility for turning things around, which marked him out as special.

For those who have not read Jim’s memoirs I can thoroughly recommend them, not as literature – for despite his early career as a newspaper proprietor, reporter, hot metal setter and delivery boy, the abrupt end to his Stowe schooling limited his style, but he unquestionably lived life to the full. Who else did we know who had his finger in so many pies? The family coal business, Knutsford Fuel Oil, carnations from Nice, Manchester’s first tourist buses, trade magazines, employment agencies, to name but a few.

A typical late innovation was his weekly real tennis challenge with £100 prize to any pair who could beat him and his partner off level. Many tried, only to fail narrowly, and the fixture became a solid favourite with members. His partner, the Club professional, collected a well-earned £100 at the end of each year.

Jim carefully choreographed his funeral at Rostherne church on 7 February 2013 with the high notes in unknown South African hymns embarrassing his friends. There was many a tear when his widow Bobba, unchoreographed, tossed a real tennis ball into the open grave.

Nick Clayton (Grafton 56)

Mr David Morgan-Grenville (Walpole 46)
1928-2013

David was a great grandson of the last Duke of Buckingham. His grandmother, Lady Kinloss, was the last member of the family to live at Stowe. He died on 14 November 2013, in Knowlton, Canada, having emigrated to North America in 1950.

David was part of the startup team that planned and initiated construction of Churchill Falls; he played a central role in overcoming logistical, technical and political challenges and four decades later, Churchill Falls remains the world’s fifth largest hydroelectric power plant. He was also involved in the project management of the building of the Channel Tunnel and established the Centre for Cold Ocean Resources Engineering (C-CORE) in Canada.

David’s passion was strongest when framing a new venture or embarking on a new endeavour. Days before his 84th birthday he wrote, “Life remains sweet while there are obstacles to be negotiated, surprises to be encountered and much still to learn and do.”

Mr Charles Macdonald (Chatham 54, Former Staff 1964-1996)
1935-2013



Charlie was a man of many facets. He loved music. Why did he choose the trombone as his instrument? Important to him was quite simply that his trombone enabled him to play a part in the school orchestra. He would not have wanted ever to be a solo performer; but he very gladly contributed reinforcement inconspicuously to school music-making, where typically he could give encouragement and yet just be himself.

“Just being himself” was perhaps the most striking thing about Charlie. He never drew attention to himself or treated indiscipline as a personal slight. Instead, he consistently gave all he’d got; sympathy, support, kindness and

intelligent, thoughtful guidance. His energy and enthusiasm were colossal. Again and again as I think about Charlie, I’m struck by what an exceptional encourager he was. There was never anything insincere in his approval. He respected everyone – boy, girl, staff and parents – and encouraged us all in our various tasks. He could forgive their peccadilloes, be amused at their idiosyncrasies, but again there were boundaries. He left no-one in any doubt that bullying was abhorrent to him.

Encouragement was what he gave me when he was Senior Housemaster and for my last year, Second Master. He helped me clarify my objectives. Encouragement was what he gave his colleagues; his was “hands-on” leadership, never pompous, often with light-hearted remarks of self-deprecation and always humane. He recognised integrity and excellence when he saw it. I’ll always remember how, when we last met, he said of some man who had shown special moral courage, “He’s a good man, isn’t he?”

And that aptly describes Charlie himself: a good man of exceptional moral courage and integrity. He had a strong Christian faith, a personal commitment to Christ, which guided and informed his working life and was revealed in the instinctive kindness and respect he showed to all, however different from him they might be. He was a man of prayer, but not at street corners.

Charlie avoided the limelight when he could, but being himself, as ever, he wasn’t afraid of it when duty or humanity required it. He met every challenge which came his way without hesitation. His acceptance of his illness was phenomenally courageous, truly humbling to all of us as we reflect on what had been his notable characteristic, his natural energy and vitality. One of my treasured memories – and Lucia and I will be eternally grateful to him for this – is of the words he spoke publicly to us on behalf of the staff in the farewell party they gave us in the Music Room. They were very well chosen words and it was clear that he understood emotionally as well as intellectually what his colleagues wanted to say; and he said it. Forgive me for how far short these words fall of what you would like said to Charlie. He was a good man and we knew him as a warm-hearted, very human friend. He was fun.

Christopher Turner (Former Headmaster, 1979-1989)



Lord Alistair McAlpine of West Green (Temple 60)
1942-2014

Lord McAlpine of West Green, was an early supporter and confidant of Margaret Thatcher and, as Conservative Party treasurer in the 1980s, was probably the most successful fundraiser the party ever had. He provided the financial sinews that enabled the Thatcherite revolution to change the face of Britain.

Lord McAlpine was never really “into” politics. In the 1970s, he was a fervent believer in the Common Market and was treasurer of the “Britain in Europe” campaign for the 1975 referendum. But he was not then active politically and, at one stage, members of Harold Wilson’s kitchen cabinet even thought of offering him a job as a Labour Party fundraiser.

Everything changed in 1975 after he met Margaret Thatcher. He admired her forceful radicalism; she appreciated his garrulous charm and air of business efficiency. “I told him he would have to give up his German Mercedes for a British Jaguar,” she wrote in her memoirs, “and he immediately complied.” He served as deputy chairman of the Conservative Party from 1979 to 1983 and treasurer from 1975 to 1990.

During the Thatcher years, an invitation to his lavish parties at the annual Conservative Party conference was a sign of high political favour. His job was to persuade the business world that it was Thatcher who represented a new type of Conservatism which would save Britain’s economy. In 1975, the year before McAlpine arrived, the Conservatives raised about £1.5 million. By the time he stepped down, he is thought to have raised about £100 million.

Lord McAlpine was the third child of Lord McAlpine of Moffat, and a great-grandson of “Concrete Bob” McAlpine, who built the West Highland Railway and founded the family construction company.

Throughout his life he was obsessed with collecting all manner of objects, from police truncheons to modern art and sculpture. He seemed to buy more for the pleasure of having things pass through his hands than of owning them permanently. When his interests changed he gave things away or sold them; the Tate and other galleries were among the beneficiaries.

After leaving Stowe, he started work as a timekeeper on McAlpine’s South Bank site in London. He never forgot the bullies who got workers on the site to toe the trade union line. The experience made him a strong supporter of Thatcher’s trade union reforms.

In 1987, McAlpine had to have a major coronary bypass operation, and in 1990 he gave up the treasurer’s job. His name was on IRA hit lists and, ostensibly for reasons of safety and tax, he decided to move to Monte Carlo and Venice.

When Mrs Thatcher fell he remained loyal, continuing to address her as “Prime Minister” and scorning her assassins as a bunch of pygmies and worse. He made no attempt to make the transition to John Major — whom he once described as “hanging around like a pair of curtains.” McAlpine defected to the Referendum Party in 1996. Following James Goldsmith’s death in 1997, McAlpine became its leader. He sat as an Independent Conservative for some time in the House of Lords before rejoining the Conservatives.

In the 1990s he turned to writing. He was the author of some dozen books, including two volumes of memoirs, guides to the world’s museums, and mischievous political parodies. One of his books, *The Servant*, was a brilliant reprise of Machiavelli’s *The Prince*, with Mrs T as the prince.

Lord McAlpine died peacefully at his home in Italy and is survived by his third wife and by the three daughters of his earlier marriages.



Mr Christopher Edwards (Walpole 69)
1951-2013

Chris Edwards, one of the UK’s most respected Commercial Property advisors, has died at the age of 61. He was Managing Director of Commercial Property Advisors Ltd and was previously Chairman of UK top 40 real estate consultancy Phoenix Beard for 10 years. He was past President of the Independent Surveyors and Valuers’ Association (ISVA), Chairman of the Royal Institution of Commercial Surveyors (RICS), Commercial Market Board and advised both the office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Department of Communities and Local Government on a range of issues. He was also a member of both pan-industry steering groups for the two additions of service charges in commercial property; a guide to good practice and was elected Chair of the pan-industry service charge group which created the current RICS Service Charge Code. Chris was a Member of the Standing Conference for Mediation Advocates and an accredited mediator and a member of the RICS Presidents’ panel of independent experts. He lectured extensively on current commercial property matters and the RICS code on commercial service charges.

His firm’s client list read like a Who’s Who of the commercial property industry including some of the UK’s biggest names in development, management and property investment. He also provided independent expert advice to in-house property management teams and external management agents as to how to achieve service charge compliance, lease and code compliance and the best practice in service charge management. He was also a livery man of the Worshipful Company of Chartered Surveyors and a Freeman of the City of London. Away from property, Chris was current President of the Birmingham and Edgbaston Debating Society, which dates back to 1846 and whose former Presidents include Neville and Joseph Chamberlain. He was awarded the Paul Harris Fellowship for his contribution to Rotary, one of the few Rotarians to receive the honour.

Unfortunately, his wife, Catherine, died 7 weeks prior to him. His children paid tribute to a father whom they described as a loving man, who was not only accomplished in business and respected by his peers, but also “a great Dad”.



Mr Joshua Downing (Bruce 04)
1986-2013

In a short but well lived life, Josh managed to bring some joy and happiness to all those whose lives he touched.

In association with the National Trust, a specimen Black Walnut tree has been planted in Josh’s memory, between St Mary’s Church and the South Front of Stowe School.

Mr Tom Bannister (Lyttelton 82)
1964-2013



Tom Bannister arrived at Stowe in September 1978. He quickly became established as a keen and talented sportsman, playing a leading role in the School’s rugby, cricket and

swimming teams. His love for country sports led him to become Master of Stowe Beagles, a passion that stayed with him for life. After Stowe, between 1982 and 1984, he studied at the Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester. More recently, Tom was a well known and much loved businessman and hotelier in the Yorkshire Dales. As Managing Director of the Coniston Hotel, which has been home to the Bannister family since the late 1960s, Tom worked with his mother and father, Ethne and Michael Bannister (Walpole 51), tirelessly to build the business over 25 years.

As well as sport, the land and country pursuits, Tom’s loves included good food, wine, travel and good company. Back in the Dales, he joined his mother and father at Coniston Cold, developing a fish farm at Bell Busk and opening the estate’s own farm shop and fishery. Work experience at Prue Leith’s School of Cookery and leading delicatessens in London led to a love of the catering profession (as well as being no mean cook himself) and the opening of the Coniston Tearooms in 1992, and Tom became one of the driving forces behind the ongoing development of The Coniston into the 71-bedroom hotel and country estate that it is now.

At The Coniston Hotel, Tom was a very hands-on Managing Director, and was often up to serve Breakfast to guests in the morning, and dinner to them in the evening. The business enjoyed steady growth over the years, and last year was runner-up in the Yorkshire Tourism White Rose Awards, a personal testament to how far the business had come. To Tom, the team of staff, some of whom had been with the hotel since its opening in 1998, were his second family.

Tom gave much time and effort to the local community. He genuinely loved living in this part of the Yorkshire Dales, and was a true champion of rural life. Recent roles included being a Member of Manorlands Hospice Fund Raising Committee (including helping the charity raise over £50,000 last year), the Northern Representative of the Point to Point Association, Clerk of the Course at Pendle Point to Point and Master of Pendle Forest & Craven Hunt. As a previous Manager of Cartmel Racecourse, horses and racing (especially Point to Point) were truly in his genes.



2090 MILES AND 12 COUNTRIES

Old Stoics William Childs (Bruce 09) and Freddie Prendergast (Cobham 09) cycle from London to Athens for Breakthrough Breast Cancer.

Summer exams and coursework deadlines at Oxford Brookes were fast approaching. It was clear that Will and Fred needed a distraction, or rather a light at the end of the tunnel. A decision was made that the following summer they would cycle from London to Athens!

They decided to raise money for Breakthrough Breast Cancer and were amazed by the generosity of the strangers passing through Sloane Square tube station (fundraiser), along with friends and family.

14 months later, after dozens of hours researching and training, Will and Fred set off on their completely self-sufficient trip carrying tools, first aid, maps, camping and cooking equipment. After complaining about mild weather on the first day, they were hit with 42°C four days in a row in France. They were each drinking 5-6 litres of water a day to stay hydrated and calculated that by the end they had each drunk around a quarter of a ton of water!

The crystal clear waters of the Dalmatian and Adriatic coasts allowed for several daily dips in the Med. Along the way, they stopped at 3 UNESCO sites, each one as awe-inspiring as the next: Plitvice Lakes and Dubrovnik in Croatia and Meteora Monasteries in Greece. As a mode of travel, cycling is unobtrusive yet thrilling; with challenging 2.5km climbs in the Alps and the excitement of a 60km downhill road through the Dolomites. Often they camped in gardens and restaurant parking areas and, throughout the trip, were never turned away.

After 6 weeks on the saddle, 2090 miles cycled and 12 countries crossed, Will and Fred arrived in Athens for a glorious finish at the Acropolis, astounded by the final fundraising figure of £8,800.

They published a 15 minute documentary of the trip on YouTube (search for ‘London to Athens bicycle tour’).

MUSIC AT STOWE IN THE 1970s

I was interested to read the article in the last Corinthian on pop music at Stowe, and so I'm writing now as an Old Stoic from the 1970s to record events from those years, as I remember them.

It was an extraordinarily rich period for music; my years at Stowe were not marked by academic or sporting achievement, but I left the school in 1977 inspired to follow a career in entertainment, which I have done for the last 30 years.

When I arrived at Stowe aged 13 in 1972, new boys were still expected to perform chores for the Sixth Formers, and I was told to 'skiv' for the Grenville Head of House. It was through clearing up his coffee cups and Hoovering his study that I learnt that older boys had record players in their rooms. These music systems were status symbols, evidence of progress and achievement, and the most enlightened of the Sixth Formers had expensive Pioneer turntables and large wooden Wharfedale speakers, along with record collections with albums by Ten Years After, Deep Purple and Genesis. In the Grenville Houseroom we had limited access to music, other than through transistor radios or visits to the Roxburgh Hall or the Queen's Temple.

In 1973, a typed letter was stuck on the bulletin board in North Hall announcing that a top 10 pop band was coming to Stowe to play in the Roxburgh Hall, and we were asked to vote on a choice between Wizzard and The Electric Light Orchestra. Wizzard won and they arrived to play a full set, including their soon-to-be hits *See My Baby Live* and *Ball Park Incident*. I loved every minute but wondered why the singer Roy Wood avoided talking to the audience. I discovered later that he was impossibly shy, a strange thought, given the band's raucous behaviour on Top Of The Pops.

In 1975 the music scholar, Howard Goodall (Lyttelton 76), was studying for his A levels at Stowe and the studies that lined Cobham Court echoed to Supertramp's *Crime of the Century*, which had just been released. We were impressed by the fact that the band's songwriter Roger Hodgson (Grenville 68) had attended our School and I was inspired to explore how to play music, spending many painful hours in the Roxy attempting to learn the piano break on *School* while Howard

Goodall sat writing and rehearsing in the room down the corridor. Having refused all form of musical tuition, my efforts were truly awful but Howard never objected to my tuneless thumping and he encouraged me to practise more when I quizzed him about the chords to *Benny & The Jets* by Elton John.

In 1976, I bought a cheap guitar and formed a four piece Stowe band called 'The First of The Last' along with drummer Martin Selby-Lowndes (Grenville 78), bassist and singer Jon Jacobs (Lyttelton 76) and our lead guitarist Andrew McAlpine (Lyttelton 78), who owned a sunburst Gibson Les Paul. The star turn in our repertoire was a bad version of Free's *Alright Now*.

At one concert at a local sport centre, we were advised by the experienced headlining act that we needed a novelty trick if we were to leave a memorable impression on the audience and so decided that we would swap guitars mid-song. This trick worked well in rehearsals, but we fumbled the exchange at a concert at Tudor Hall and looked like blundering idiots. Thankfully, the girls in the audience didn't mind.

We spent a year rehearsing noisily at weekends in the Stowe classrooms and, at one of these sessions, we were interrupted by Tom Robinson, who was about to have a Top 10 hit with *2468 Motorway*. He was visiting his cousin, Stoic Ez Robinson (Chatham 78), but despite his encouragement, The First of the Last failed to make any impression and so eventually we broke up.

Our bass player, Jon Jacobs, went on to become a successful producer. His work at Air Studios introduced him to Paul McCartney and Eric Clapton and recently he engineered The Beatles re-released recordings on Apple.

My life changed course decisively in March 1977 when I travelled to London with my Stowe friend Simon Gregory (Walpole 77) during the Easter holidays to see The Jam at a pub called the Red Cow in Hammersmith.



It was before they had a record deal and I was greatly impressed. I returned to School with new ideas; I cut my hair short, gave up my A level studies and spent the rest of the term learning how to play their songs on my guitar. I wanted to leave the education system as soon as possible.

A month later the debut album by The Clash was released, and I remember walking the three miles to Buckingham to buy it on the day of release, only to find that the shop's only copy had been pre-ordered by another Stowe boy. I had to wait over a week to buy one on mail order and I've remembered the incident with vague feelings of bitterness ever since. In those days the ownership of the highly prized new LP by The Clash mattered more than anything else in my life.

It was my last term at Stowe. I formed a three piece punk rock band called The Lovers with Matt Moffatt (Grafton 78) on drums and Sean Burns (Grenville 79) on bass. We wore ripped shirts stencilled with political slogans, black eyeliner and we had safety pins embedded in our cheeks. This look alarmed the School authorities and our first concert was banned. However, common sense prevailed and The Lovers were granted permission to play a single concert at the Upper School Club on Plug Street, where we thrashed out a set of our favourite songs which included *Sheena Is A Punk Rocker*, *In The City* and *White Riot*, inspiring the audience to pogo dance and enjoy 'a riot of their own'. It was great fun.

I've worked in the music industry since leaving Stowe, and enjoy a lasting friendship with three other Old Stoics Matt Moffatt (Grafton 78), Mike Watts (Grafton 78) and Raymond Watts (Grafton 80) and together we've released music on record, CDs and as downloads now for a span of 25 years.

Our band is called The Hit Parade and I'm proud that the music we've recorded together, against the odds, still appeals to fans of obscure pop music from around the world. www.the-hit-parade.co.uk

Julian Henry (Grenville 77)

NOSTALGIC AT NINETY

The Park Lane Hotel was filled to the rafters with 420 Old Stoics, parents and guests for the grand finale of Stowe's 90th Anniversary celebrations, Nostalgic at Ninety on Saturday 12 October. We were overwhelmed by the spectacular display of 1920s costumes, which included chimney sweeps, flapper girls and Downton Abbey themed costumes galore.

The entertainment line up included a solo saxophonist, tap dancer and burlesque show girl, as well as a cabaret performance and live band. Thankfully, there was nothing nostalgic about the food. The Park Lane laid on a delicious feast, which culminated in raspberry soufflés for over four hundred guests; they all seemed to rise to the occasion! Dancing continued until the early hours, there was a constant queue for the 1920s photo booth and everyone agreed it was the perfect warm-up for the centenary. One comment from a non-Stoic guest exclaimed, "Only Old Stoics know how to party like that!"

A big thank you to all of our guests who travelled from far and wide to join us for the celebration and thank you to all those who worked so hard to make the evening such a resounding success. Thank you to our kind sponsor, Stoke Park, for their support of the evening. Photographs and a film from the evening are available at www.oldstoic.co.uk and your copy of the souvenir programme has been enclosed with this magazine.

Anna Semler (Nugent 05)

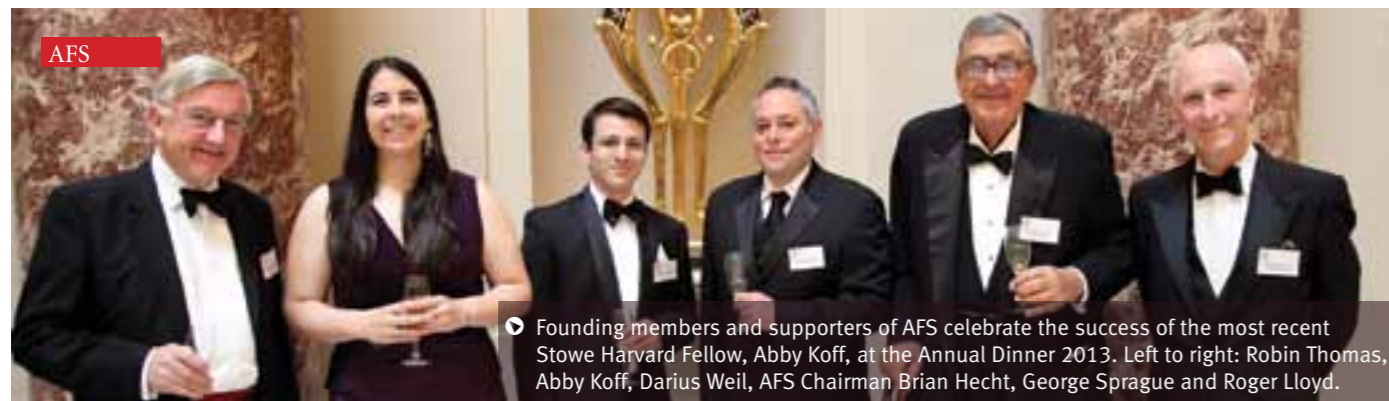


NOSTALGIC AT NINETY PAINTING FOR SALE

Caroline de Peyrecave (Nugent 04) kindly produced this stunning oil painting to feature on promotional material for our 90th Anniversary celebration, Nostalgic at Ninety. This painting is now for sale.

If you are interested in buying the painting, please contact Caroline de Peyrecave by emailing c_depeyrecave@hotmail.co.uk or visit her website to view other examples of her work: www.carolinedepeyrecave.co.uk





Founding members and supporters of AFS celebrate the success of the most recent Stowe Harvard Fellow, Abby Koff, at the Annual Dinner 2013. Left to right: Robin Thomas, Abby Koff, Darius Weil, AFS Chairman Brian Hecht, George Sprague and Roger Lloyd.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP

Stowe has always been an international institution, taking in young pupils from around the world, many of whom go on to travel and live abroad.

Over the past decade, Stowe's global footprint has been greatly strengthened by the growth of American Friends of Stowe, an organisation of Old Stoics, friends, families and supporters living in the US.

Membership of American Friends of Stowe (AFS) now stands at 350, making it by far the largest concentration of 'Old Stoics abroad' in the world. AFS has a dual mission: first, to foster connections and a sense of community among Old Stoics and Stowe supporters in the US, and to raise funds to financially support special projects at Stowe. AFS is an accredited 501(c)(3) organisation, so donations from the US are tax deductible and it is governed by a Board of Directors which is fully independent from the School itself.

The need for an 'American friends' organisation became apparent in the late 1990s. There was growing interest among Old Stoics in the US to donate to Stowe, but there was no convenient, tax-efficient way to do so. Although increasingly frequent visits to the US by the School's Headmaster provide a good opportunity for Old Stoics to meet, these gatherings were largely impromptu and hastily organised. To move forward, efforts in the US needed a central organisation to co-ordinate Stowe-related activities in the States.

In 2002, several years of preliminary activity in both the UK and the US resulted in the founding of AFS by Brian Hecht – who, 11 years later, is still the organisation's Chairman. In its first decade, AFS steadily grew in size, scope and sophistication. AFS has attracted a world-class Board of Directors drawing from a broad range of professions and Stowe affiliations. In 2007, it hired an experienced

part-time administrator, Mona Cavalcoli, who expanded its ability to plan events and conduct organised fundraising.

The rewards have been ample: AFS today provides substantial financial support to Stowe, not just through large donations, but also through dozens of smaller gifts from donors who participate in an annual fundraising campaign. This has made a meaningful difference in the ability to offer scholarships and bursaries and to undertake the massive restoration and construction projects that continue to transform the School.

The organisation has also fostered a deep sense of connectivity within the US-Stowe network with three annual gatherings, where old Stowe friends reunite and new connections are made. The largest event, an annual autumn cocktail party coinciding with a visit from the Headmaster, this year featured the presentation of the first 'American Worthies' award to Peter Sichel (Cobham 41), a US Old Stoic who has made extraordinary contributions to AFS.

Another signature programme is the Stowe-Harvard Fellowship, which each year awards one recent Harvard graduate the opportunity to teach and live at Stowe. The programme, generously supported by AFS members, has become an important part of life for the many Stoics who benefit from their interaction with a young American teacher. Reciprocally, AFS, with its deep network of connections, has increasingly become a contact point in the US for Old Stoics wishing to live, work or study in America.

"We are so proud that American Friends of Stowe has become an important source of support for the School and the Stoics who study there," says Brian Hecht, AFS Chairman. "Thanks to the enthusiasm of our membership, our events have become a unique way to grow and foster the Stowe community abroad. Our first decade has seen much success and the Board and I are eager to support Stowe for decades to come."

LAUNCH OF THE AUSTRALIAN FRIENDS OF STOWE



The launch of The Australian Friends of Stowe took place on 15 August 2013 at the Windsor on Park, Sydney. Chris Chance (Chandos 74) and David Thomas (Chatham 78) masterminded the event and were responsible for attracting an impressive gathering of 45 Old Stoics and their supporters to what became an historic Stowe party. The vintages of those present ranged from David Ash (Grafton 50) to James Norman (Bruce 03), and all five decades inbetween were equally represented.

Mid-way through the evening, David Thomas introduced Chris Atkinson (Chatham 59/Stowe Master 71-97) who was visiting Sydney at the time, and invited him to bring the assembled company up to date with Stowe news. This done, Chris thanked the organisers for orchestrating a memorable Stowe occasion and all those present for attending. Finally, he was proud to announce the official launch of the Australian Friends of Stowe.

The toast was 'Persto et Praesto' and Australian Old Stoics were unanimous in their desire to raise a glass again when next called upon to do so.

Chris Atkinson (Chatham 59)



OS MEMBERS' AREA

Don't forget to visit the OS Members' Area regularly to make the most of benefits and services designed exclusively for Old Stoics. For those of you who are yet to discover its charms, it contains the OS Business Directory, which lists special offers and discounts for Old Stoics; a jobs board for OS employers, a CV listing service and the Online OS Register, so you can keep in touch with your friends from Stowe.

The OS Members' Area is password protected. If you need a reminder of your username or if we do not have your email address, please email oldstoic@stowe.co.uk or telephone **01280 818349**.

On the OS website you will also find details of all the forthcoming OS events, including reunions, dinners and networking receptions. To keep up to date, you can like us on facebook, follow us on twitter and connect with us on linkedIn!



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FINDING YOUR CALLING

Very few are lucky enough to know exactly what they want to do as soon as they leave full time education but, fear not, the Old Stoic Society is here to help.

A large number of Old Stoics have offered to give career advice to those interested in their particular industry so we may be able to match you up with a career mentor. These invaluable connections can also help to provide work experience and internship opportunities.

For more information about the OS Careers' network, log in to the OS members' area at www.oldstoic.co.uk

Can you help?

If you are interested in giving career advice to Old Stoics with an interest in your profession, please email oldstoic@stowe.co.uk or call **01280 818349** to let us know. We would love to hear from you if you can offer any of the opportunities below:

- Careers' talk to current Stoics
- One/two week work placements for current Stoics/recent leavers
- Careers' mentoring via email/telephone/blog
- Internship

Don't forget, if you are looking to recruit, you can list your job vacancy on the OS website and view CVs of OSs looking for a role, at www.stowe.co.uk/oldstoic

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Libby Collins (Nugent 07), left, Tess Collins (Nugent 02), right.

FORMER NUGENT SISTERS CELEBRATE ONE YEAR IN THE JEWELLERY BUSINESS

Old Stoic sisters, Libby Collins (Nugent 07) and Tess Collins (Nugent 02) are taking the jewellery world by storm with Cecily London. As the business reached its first birthday, journalist and fellow Old Stoic, Emily Ansell (Nugent 07) caught up with Libby to discover the secrets of their success...

Having seen Libby and Tess's jewellery label transform from a wistful dream to a thriving reality over the past year, it was a joy to sit down and chat about the astounding rate at which it has grown.

Upon leaving Stowe, the ambitious sisters knew they wanted to turn their passion for fashion into successful careers and immediately set about making it happen. Libby bagged a place at the prestigious London College of Fashion studying for a BA in Fashion Promotion, while Tess made a name for herself as a jewellery designer and buyer. The girls soon realised that two heads were better than one and, a few years down the line, Cecily London was born.

Libby and Tess have created a unique collection of hand crafted necklaces and pendants that add an individual touch to even the simplest of outfits. The former Nugent girls wanted to create a jewellery label that was both fun and luxurious, so their designs centre on gold, silver, bone and semi-precious stones.

The sisters firmly believe that timeless pieces will always have a place in the fashion world but they enjoy adding a unique twist to their designs. Each item of jewellery is inspired by a memory or moment in time and, due to the way it is produced, no two items are the same. Production takes place across the globe, but the whole world is only a Skype

call away, so the girls are in constant contact with the craftsmen who make the pieces.

Business has boomed in recent months with celebrities, including The Saturdays' Una Healy, actress Skyler Shaye and singer Miley Cyrus, snapping up their designs. The next stage for Libby and Tess is to expand their line.

The girls constantly support each other, pushing one another to the next level. There is no sibling rivalry, only a burning desire to grow the business and develop the magical brand. With an abundance of ideas and bags full of passion, the future is limitless for the Cecily sisters.

I met up with Libby to find out more...

EA Libby, can you tell me a bit more about how Cecily came about?

LC Tess had been working in the industry for around six years and knew she was ready to set up her own label. A couple of months after I'd finished my degree we began talking about it in more detail while sitting in the car, which had broken down!

I couldn't help but think: 'How will she do this without me?' And she happily admits she was thinking the same thing. Tess is



from a buying background, whilst I'm experienced in PR – it seemed like the perfect combination.

We were both full of ideas and in those two hours we'd come up with a name and business plan. I was a bit worried I'd feel I was working with my big sister, rather than my business partner, but we decided to give it a go and have never looked back.

EA What inspires your jewellery?

LC Tess had worked with gold, silver and semi-precious stones before and had a natural flare with the materials. But for me it was about my allergies; I can't wear costume jewellery because I'm allergic to nickel. Fine jewellery is beautiful, but how often do young people wear it? There was no jewellery out there made from quality materials that I found casual and trendy. There's so much throwaway fashion these days but our jewellery is made to last and crosses the barrier between fine jewellery and costume jewellery.

There are four themes that inspire our designing process: Defence, Spiritualism, Protection and Serenity. We want our jewellery to form a connection with its wearer and to have its own personality. Focusing on these themes also helps us achieve a source of conversation.

EA Where's your jewellery made?

LC We have some wonderful craftsmen in Bali who hand carve our bone designs and source beautiful semi-precious stones. We're also lucky to work with the finest silversmiths in Italy. We're a team that spreads across the world, and we all work together to develop the most creative and exquisite jewellery possible. Many of our suppliers have been work associates of Tess's for years, so she has developed a really strong relationship with them.

EA Where did the name come from?

LC Cecilia is a name that has run throughout our family for generations. It derives from Saint Cecilia, the Patron Saint of Music. Although beautiful, with four syllables it's slightly long winded so we shortened it to Cecily. This name portrays the strength and support shown by our family, and helps us to reach our potential every day.

EA Was fashion always your dream?

LC Fashion has always been a part of our lives. Our grandfather owned a shoe business in Northampton during the post war era, which was passed down to our mother.



We've been sitting on market stalls, going to trade shows and helping with buying trips since we were in our push chairs! We both have creative minds and have always excelled in the arts rather than academia so it was a natural progression from leaving Stowe and we love it. Life is too short not to do what you love.

EA What's it like working with your sister?

LC We've grown up around family businesses so know the importance of professional relationships within a family. We already know each other inside out, so are able to speak our minds and express all our ideas without offending one another.

Overall, it's been great for our relationship. We're fortunate enough to see each other every day and I think we sometimes take that for granted.

EA What's the best and worst part of running a business?

LC The best part is developing our own ideas and being able to put claim to them. We control the brand and, although a huge responsibility, it comes with so many rewards. It's been the biggest learning curve of our life, but every single creative process is such a joy.

The worst part is the admin side of things. Maths has never been a strong point for either of us!

EA Any tips for Old Stoics starting a business?

LC Don't be afraid to take a chance. Remember, the greatest failure is not to try. Once you find your niche, be the best at doing it and believe in yourself. Don't give up. Never leave home without a pen and paper, you never know who you're going to meet or what you're going to see. Always have your 'phone charged so you can take a picture of anything that catches your eye.

EA So, what's next for Cecily?

LC We're about to launch our new collection – Million Miles. It is a bespoke collection of necklaces and pendants which celebrate the connections between the skies and the earth. There's no intricate design involved; each piece focuses on the simple beauty of a stone found in Bali. We were blown away by the beauty of the stones and through this collection are presenting a tactile and colourful experience that allows products unearthed from the ground, to open a window to the future.

Emily Ansell (Nugent 07)

For more on Cecily London visit www.cecilylondon.com

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BUTCHER, BAKER OR CANDLESTICK MAKER?

We are constantly amazed at the sheer variety and diversity of careers which Old Stoics take up after leaving Stowe. From astro-physicists to orthopaedic surgeons, we are delighted there is such an array of professions amongst us. Keeping up to date with what you all do is quite a challenge, but it is an essential part of making the most of our network.

With this in mind, please make sure that you connect with us via LinkedIn if you can, to allow us to keep up to date as your career develops or, alternatively, we would be delighted to hear from you personally if you receive a promotion, take on a new job or start your own company.

In return, we will be able to hold more events with relevance to your career, invite you to networking opportunities and encourage you to help younger Old Stoics interested in following in your footsteps into your industry, via our career mentoring services.

To update the OS Office with your current profession, please email oldstoic@stowe.co.uk



THE NATURE OF CYCLIC TIME



Julian Boles (Chandos 72) is the Founder and Head of The British Gemmological Institute (BGI) in London. After thirty five years of determined study

and research, he is publishing his life’s work *FLASH TIME MACHINE* in which he disproves the traditionally accepted BIG BANG THEORY of the creation of our Universe and time, as we know it. Here, he explains to Nigel Milne (Chandos 68) his reasoning and what appears to be a major discovery.

NM Well, Julian – The Nature of Cyclic Time – when and by whom was the adolescent Julian Boles’ imagination inspired by such an esoteric subject and, did it have its embryonic beginnings at Stowe?

JB Yes and no: the real thinking did begin at Stowe, in its marvellously atmospheric wooden chemistry labs, looking out over the South Lawns made me wonder about the nature of the universe. I used to take 4-5 philosophy books to football and hockey matches to read in the bus, to which the great PG Longhurst remarked “What’s all this Boles, becoming an intellectual are we?”. Luckily, no one laughed but it took some years to work out what the word meant and, still no one is quite sure of its meaning! CG Jung was also a revelation and the wonder of using the mind as a laboratory had begun.

NM It has to be said that challenging the works and beliefs of such eminent scientists as Hawking, Hubble and Penrose might be considered courageous or even impertinent but, hey, why not?

JB Actually Sir Roger Penrose wrote a book about ‘Cycles of Time’ and Sir Fred Hoyle coined the term Big Bang in a derisory swipe at a linear concept he thought absurd, so a cyclic universe is not as left field as one may imagine. Hawking actually wrote a paper in 1968 with GFR Ellis, who felt cosmology uses far too much philosophy to create its concepts, rather than solid facts. This remains true, so the field was open to new thinking and remains so.

NM But how can you imagine that you may be right when such giants have given their respected opinions?

JB All this conceptual input over the last century has had a very negative effect on astronomy. The plain fact is that the famous experts have no firm idea of how spacetime works. Anyone can add a view that may be correct. It is easy to be put off new ideas by feeling overawed by the great names in current or past science, but all that has to be put aside to see where the evidence leads. As the research progressed, results emerged. It became clear this was no plan for a faint heart, but it called for courage and perseverance. Not easy to find all the time, hence the need to check for a decade or two longer and see what emerged. Alas, it was more proof of a cycle! The myth that recent eras believed the earth was flat is just that, a myth. In fact, Eratosthenes proved it was a sphere in 240BC by working out its circumference, he was right to within 60 miles.

NM In its simplest form, The Big Bang Theory suggests that approximately fourteen billion years ago a “black hole” of infinitesimal size and infinite density started to expand and create the Universe as we know it. Is that right?

JB That is impossible. One cannot get something out of nothing, let alone a whole cosmos, so they happily set aside Newtonian Mechanics to pop in any wild idea they could think of, such as String Theory, which is 100% made up; many think it is wrong, such as Professor Lee Smolin and others. I have checked carefully and all their concerns are

fully justified, as Smolin sets out clearly in *The Trouble with Physics*.

Big Bang theorists firmly predicted years ago that the galaxies would be slowing down by now. They were totally wrong, they found them to be speeding up! This finding made them dream up another piece of pure fantasy, which is the twin forces of Dark Matter and Energy, which ‘must exist’ to push or pull the galaxies on their way. I think we have made the biggest error in history by thinking so firmly that time must be linear. Simply by testing cyclic time, we find that the answers all work, and there is no need of such theories. It works just by giving time the chance to repeat itself.

NM There is a theory that space and time did not exist before the Big Bang – if so, in what environment did this black hole exist?

JB The entire concept of a start date for space time is the error in question. By assuming time is linear, we insist it must have started up one day after breakfast, perhaps. This is pure human nonsense and nothing in reality supports it that can’t be better explained by a cycle. The cosmos exists all the time. Our Western education, even at Stowe, is taken from 2-300 year old ideas of this kind, and now that almost everyone in the West agrees, we see dissenters as almost akin to mad people! Difference is not madness, but a fresh way of thinking that may be correct, and must be studied.

I made the same error and felt sure at the outset that cyclic time was just a crazy idea to be dismissed as soon as possible. It turned out to be unbreakable, so that got my attention. The more I tried to destroy it, the better it looked. The key to cyclic time also lies in the flatness of the CMB (Cosmic Microwave Background) which would have to be random and featureless, if time were long as proposed. It was flat like a sheet of glass, proving that something was seriously wrong with modern astrophysics. The cyclic version in my book gives an answer: time has recently reset, with a 540° triple spin shift that caused this ‘anisotropy’. It appears to be correct to say this and solves the problem.

NM This is not the time to enter into a theological discussion but this has to constitute a gigantic leap of faith – like trying to prove or disprove the existence of God?

JB Actually, there is a huge degree of faith in linear time, not in a cycle of time. When Darwin hit the scene with his famous 1859 book, many thinkers were tired of the religious dominance, so used his theory to attack the

Church. What it contained mattered very little and it remained quite unpopular until after WWII. But, it depends on linear time, and as my book will show, evidence in geology shows that our radiogenic dating must be reassessed, and there is insufficient time for evolution to occur. Within 3-4 years everyone will be saying the complete reverse of Darwin’s thinking and have facts to prove it. My research has found over 1,200 such details, there is no escaping them.

NM Ok, what about an example?

JB Very well, take Neanderthal Man. If they lived as claimed in conventional science for about a million years, there should be 600 billion skeletons. How many have we found? 136 or so. That is a gap in world history that only cyclic time can fill. They have simply extended the time in their line to fill it. This is pure conjecture, there is no evidence to support it. Even carbon dating puts their caves at 20-40,000 years old, but we should dispute those figures as well, since this method is famously inaccurate beyond 2,000 years. A fresh clam in the Murray River of Australia was tested at 3,000 years old, there are many such cases.

NM Before we go any further, can we establish whether you are a Creationist or an Evolutionist?

JB Actually, neither. You’re right, most people fit into one category or the other, but my research stumbled onto another, third option. Namely, the cosmos could be part of a cycle of order and then chaos. Order would contain a degree of entropy after a while, and then degrade into chaos until we reach today. It becomes unsustainable, reaches a peak and creates a kind of apocalypse for a very short time, but does not wipe us all out, you will be glad to hear!

Nature seems to have this pattern and the evidence is all there, including explaining the Cambrian Explosion of Life, where odd fossils like Anomalocaris suddenly appear with no ancestors – geology has never explained that properly. The fossil record has many such oddities, including the Coelacanth [Latimeria chalumnae], which was presumed extinct since the Cretaceous, 65-80 million years ago, until it appeared in a fishing catch on Dec 23 1938, off the Chalumna River mouth, South Africa.

NM It strikes me that after all of the years of research and theorising, scientists have still been unable to state precisely just how our Universe was created. Some have even

admitted that it does appear to be the product of some grand design. In your opinion, can this really be disproved or can it only be excluded on philosophical grounds?

JB The idea of a start remains the key error because nothing supports that. We are left with a cyclic process, whether we like it or not. It makes sense and stands up to evidence, but requires a very different way of thinking. An amazing thing then becomes possible: we can’t rule out a creator, in the sense that there could be a God who ‘re-creates’ the world once again, since science cannot explain how entropy is reversed. If this is true, that would explain the order period as Heaven and the chaos part as Hell: odd, but it works. Therefore, we may indeed live in a cyclic cosmos, and both science and religion can have a role to play in explaining it. That will keep you thinking for a while – endless fun!

NM Do you think your Flash Time theory is powerful enough to create a revolution in Science, or just another idea?

JB I can see so many discoveries within the cycle that solve all the questions I ever had, I feel certain the answer is ‘yes’, a revolution seems inevitable. In the end, we all have to decide, because these boil down to very personal matters – is there meaning in spacetime or not? The Darwinists claim it’s all random, with no God, and so there can’t be meaning at a deeper level. I, and many others, think they are deeply wrong for these reasons, and since they never considered cyclic time as a third option, they have some catching up to do!

NM How do we measure time? Should a definition of time be based on an accurate description of the way naturally occurring motions are correlated?

JB We can measure time but so called ‘deep time’ is another thing. This new research in the book *FLASH TIME MACHINE* shows exactly how it all works. In a word, you are right that nature has the answer to this, since the parts that do not work are man-made. This is why the planets and galaxies all spin round, so spacetime itself can also be rotating. I am now certain it does and time will shortly tell. There will also be larger natural disasters alas, as we are already seeing, so stock up on bottled water and a camping gas fire!

NM If we accept that the Universe is infinite, is it possible that time plays no role in its existence and that whilst there is ‘being’ there is no actual ‘becoming’ and that, in fact, time and motion are just illusions?

JB A very deep question, but essentially you are suggesting ‘Nihilism’, where nothing matters. If time is a cycle, then everything does matter because the timescale is not random, so each action creates an effect for each of us: the law of Karma, or action and reaction, which is also Newton’s third law. This seems to be profoundly true. This is also where the answers can only be personal, yet they seem to contain a spiritual element too, perhaps. This new research does clearly show that time appears firmly cyclic but it is a matter of personal choice about what it means.

My own take on this is that God can exist, so cyclic time can be viewed as evidence that there is a Supreme Being who acts as the ‘Father’ of humanity. This concept is in every culture on earth, except Buddhism, and every ancient culture. I think it is true but that is just an opinion, backed up by the latest science. Curiously enough on this topic, every single ancient culture right around the globe, except one, used to believe in time as a cycle.

NM Which one is that?

JB The modern West. And even then many in the West also think so. 100 years ago or more, this degree of deep ‘knowledge revision’ would have been rejected out of hand, rather as Velikovsky’s work was in his 1956 book *Worlds in Collision*, even though he was correct about his catastrophism. Yet, his book sold out 14 editions in America and 12 here, I believe, so people wanted to see his evidence.

NM Conviction in your argument is all important, and the ability to persuade others to adopt your reasoning is essential. Otherwise the discussion ceases to exist and just becomes a splenetic outburst of fury and a frustrated rant as has been sadly illustrated by the eminent and respected scientist Richard Dawkins in his embarrassingly unfortunate and scantily researched book The God Delusion. This resulted in nothing more than a desperate outburst of the equivalent of ‘well if you don’t believe me then you are all mad!’ which is not the most tactful, scientific or plausible way to convey a point and try to win an argument! Are you sure you need to publish this book?

JB It was never meant to be published at all. I was certain that my research would simply agree with the status quo. When it didn’t, I realised that I had tripped over a hidden reality of time repeating, in which even bizarre things like déjà vu made sense at last. This is why the book took 35 years to check and write, because I was reluctant to say such

controversial things in public. Now that all the research has proved the idea valid, there seems no alternative.

My Stowe geology teacher, the superb Dr Mike Waldman, once said in answer to our incessant questions of ‘how do you know that?’, that we are free to create any answer we like, and if it fits the facts well, or better, it may be true. Does it fit the facts? Cyclic time does, as no other idea has, so it may be true, but it took research into 45 subjects to find the correlations for an informed decision. Now it seems rather obvious.

I can’t quite agree about needing to have ‘conviction’ about one’s own argument. Having seen how much damage linear time has done to human discovery, I take care never to feel too strongly that I must be right. I may be totally wrong, but the challenge is open to anyone to prove the case. I am even offering a reward of £10,000 to anyone who can prove cyclic time wrong, partly to show how firm this new cyclic evidence is, and partly to show how wrong the old concepts actually are, that nothing real can be proven by them.

NM Finally, Julian, in that originally you were convinced of the plausibility of the Big Bang Theory, may I ask you what it was that made you spend thirty five years of your life proving yourself wrong when you might have been out partying?

JB Having done that in my teens, it seemed a shallow way to spend too much time. After travelling round the world from 18, working in shipping and mining, with an amusing aim to solve the riddle of the Easter Island statues, these deeper questions seemed important somehow.

At that age, one looks ahead to wonder how one’s life may end, and I didn’t want to be one more person with a normal or riotous life led, yet nothing to show for it. It has proved very exciting to study such obscure things but to find there was real merit in the ancient idea of a cycle, as suggested by Plato and others, was amazing. To find the latest astrophysics confirms it as the only apparent option is really staggering, but there it is. We will have to get used to a factual reality, it seems, rather than the one our recent ancestors imagined.

NM Julian, thank you for what has been a fascinating and mind stretching conversation. I’m now highly intrigued and greatly looking forward to reading THE FLASH TIME MACHINE when it is published.

Flash Time Machine by J.D. Boles will be available in Spring 2014.
www.bgiuk.com



THE STOWE GHOSTS

Everyone likes ghost stories but I never felt the urge to tell mine until an item in *The Corinthian* in its survey of Ninety Years of Stowe made me sit up with a start.

An entry for the year 1932 was headed ‘Ghostly sighting on the South Front’. It described two silent figures who climbed the steps in the moonlight, passed into the gloom of the Portico and vanished. My memory rocked back to a moonlit night in 1944 when I witnessed exactly that.

Coming back from a walk by the Eleven Acre Lake – I was senior enough to choose my own bedtime – I was climbing the steep grassy slope and paused to take in the moonlit majesty of the Palladian façade glowing whitely in the brilliant moonlight, every window blacked out because it was wartime. The only exception was a brilliant strip of light along the edge of the great door on the Portico, coming from the Marble Saloon within. As I stood there, I sensed movement at the far right end of the gravel path along the frontage. I watched two figures walking along the steps. They were adults of unfamiliar aspect. Strangers. Intruders! At that time of night. This demanded investigation. I hurried up the slope as they drew nearer to the steps. By then, I could see it was a man and a woman walking closely side by side, definitely nobody connected with the School.

I was still twenty or more yards away when they reached the lion on its pedestal and unhurriedly turned up the steps. By the time I reached the bottom step, they had passed over the top of the first flight and were out of my vision. When I reached the halfway platform I just caught a glimpse of the figures disappearing over the top step into the Portico. As I panted after them, I remember keeping my eye unwaveringly on the crack of light round the door’s edge. If it was opened light would come blacking out. It didn’t – the door remained closed – so they must, I thought, be in the Portico. But the Portico was empty. It doesn’t take long to search it. Even in deep shadow there is nowhere to hide and the only other way out is a steep drop which nobody would attempt in his right mind.

As I stood there baffled, looking back down the steps they had mounted, I suddenly felt a flesh-cringing Zoink! of realisation. I hadn’t been following living people! Now I

remembered several things about this odd couple which I hadn’t had time to analyse in their pursuit. They seemed to be totally unaware of me behind them. There had been an old-fashioned period look about their clothes. Above everything else, they hadn’t made the slightest sound – no crunch upon the gravel path, no footsteps climbing the stairway. They were so close I expected them to be talking together but no whisper was audible. I tried to remember details of their costume. I felt sure they wore hats and the man, who was nearest to me, seemed to be wearing an oddly frock-coated length garment of a light yellowish hue. The woman’s skirt was draped and ankle-length. I was never near enough to see their faces.

I did not rush round telling people of my experience, expecting to be disbelieved or ridiculed. But the sensation was so vivid that I have never forgotten it nor sought to explain it, until I received another startling Zoink! reading the paragraph from 1932. So, I was not alone in seeing what I saw! Thanks to Anna Semler who compiled that historical survey: I have now read the full text that appears as the leading article of *The Stoic*, April 1933, headed The Stowe Ghosts – A True Story.

After acknowledging that many readers were likely to be sceptical of what followed, it proceeded to describe in some detail a seemingly identical couple walking along the gravel path and up the steps to disappear into the Portico on a fine, moonlit summer’s night. Their figures were ‘arm in arm’ and both dressed in an Eighteenth Century style, “The man in a yellow coat and knee breeches, the woman in a long flowing muslin skirt.” I had noticed no knee breeches but I never saw what was below his coat, which was indeed yellowish. The other difference was that the 1930s couple were approaching the steps from the direction of the shop, whereas the 1940s pair were definitely coming from the opposite Walpole end. The previous observer had emphasised exactly the same thing that so struck me – the uncanny silence with which they moved.

My predecessor concluded that the couple could not have opened the Portico doors, “which were latched”. Of course it hadn’t occurred to either of us, that if they were ghosts they might have passed through the door without opening it. The description continued: “The witness dashed up the stairs

only to find the door was immovable. Struck with an absolute primitive sense of fear he dashed down the steps and fled.”

Like most ghost stories this leaves a number of unanswered questions. Who was the mysterious ‘narrator’ who tells the story? The piece is signed with the initials N.G.A, whom I guess with confidence to have been Noel G Annan, who was to become a famous Old Stoic, Governor of the School, life peer, university head and adviser to the governments on education. At the time, he was editing *The Stoic* and was no doubt short of a subject for the leading article, as I can testify editors often were. Here was one guaranteed to intrigue his readers, but who told it to him? He goes to such lengths to conceal the identity of the ghost watcher that it can hardly have been a boy currently at the School – why not name him? One of the masters then? But which one? Few of them lived in the main building.

The opening lines of the account might be a clue. “One fine summer night he decided to take the air on the South Front.” Who would more naturally do that but a person whose rooms gave directly onto it – namely the Headmaster? Outside his rooms by the Gothic Library lay the Headmaster’s garden, then recently made, on the ground between the building and the balustrade alongside the gravel path. And if he had sauntered out of a French window across the balustrade to admire the famous view, he would have been

ideally positioned to see the ghostly couple, from whichever direction they came.

In my time, it was widely rumoured that there was a Stowe ghost and that the Headmaster had seen it. But no-one had heard JF Roxburgh admit it. Noel Annan, a first-class scholar (later Provost of King’s, Cambridge) and prize pupil must have been on closer terms than average with JF. For one thing, he was to write his biography – Roxburgh of Stowe. Supposing one day JF had told him the story – perhaps at one of those rather terrifying Prefects’ dinners that he gave? Supposing he had asked permission to use it? And JF granted on the strictest conditions of anonymity. Headmasters are not supposed to see ghosts, which might put off prospective parents. That might explain the extreme discretion observed throughout, as though dealing with a state secret.

The next unanswered question is, who were they? Ghosts are very rarely seen in pairs, which suggests it was an intimate connection between those two, quite probably as man and wife. Ghosts also tend to appear in places with which they have a strong connection. The pair I saw were strolling at a stately pace and mounting the steps as if they owned the place. Perhaps they once did. The costume details so far as they go, I am told, suggest the closing years of the 18th century or early 19th – say 1780 to 1815. Thus, was this during the ownership of Stowe by George Grenville, First Marquess of Buckingham, who

inherited it in 1779? He married Mary Nugent in the 1770s and lived to 1813. But it could also have been his heir, Richard Grenville, who married his childhood sweetheart, Anna Brydges, the Chandos heiress, in 1796, when he was 20 and she was only 16. They were a close couple but his parents were not. The pair I saw were obviously close but not all that young. They became Stowe’s master and mistress in 1813, when they were in their thirties. All this is supposition but I have no doubt that the couple seen in or around 1932 were the same couple I saw in 1944. They definitely belonged to Stowe; possibly it belonged to them.

What would be of consuming interest to me, is news of any more sightings of the couple, in the sixty five odd years since my own. Surely, they have continued to walk – if ghosts do walk when there is nobody about to see them. Any Old Stoic ghost spotters please come forward! It would add greatly to the saga of Stowe’s suitably distinguished ghosts. As an afterthought: the only detail that makes me doubt that Noel Annan’s informant was JF Roxburgh is his concluding sentence – that in primitive fear “he dashed down the steps and fled.” I wonder if he made that up to give the story a creepy ending, because it is impossible to imagine JF departing from his leisurely pace to dash anywhere or flee from anybody, real or ghostly.

Peter Lewis (Bruce 46)

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OUTRAGEOUS FORTUNE... GROWING UP AT LEEDS CASTLE



For more than five hundred years Anthony Russell’s (Temple 70) family has served the Kings and Queens of England as Ministers, Privy Counsellors, Generals and a Prime Minister. Here, he talks to Nigel Milne (Chandos 68) about his autobiography *Outrageous Fortune* in which he recounts his experience of growing up in the extraordinary atmosphere and surroundings of Leeds Castle, Kent.

NM *Anthony, never having written a book myself, I am always in awe of those who have. What initially gave you the courage and confidence to begin?*

AR: It was a very tentative start. Not a smidgeon of courage or confidence on the horizon. In fact, looking back I’m still a little bemused as to how a fondness for having the odd laugh with friends about my two grandmothers’ eccentric exploits graduated to writing three or four vignettes of audience

pleasing tales about them. Quite a while afterwards, a Los Angeles literary agent was persuaded to read my stories and asked me to send her a manuscript. I was off to the races!

NM *How did you find the whole process? Was it fun and totally absorbing or was it an arduous trial?*

AR The ‘arduous trial’ element, curiously, never really played a part. In fact, as time went on, and each successive draft took on its new-and-improved status, the process of learning how to write a book – always moving in parallel with how to construct a book – became something of a challenge; absorbing, yes; hard work, for sure; extremely rewarding, for the most part. I wanted, needed, in fact, to see if I could do it; that is to say, complete the project to an editor’s, publisher’s and my satisfaction – and see the book into print.

NM *I have often wondered about the whole process of writing a book. Having now done so, did you find it cathartic and did it allow you to re-evaluate the experiences of your early years?*

AR I wish I could claim that there had been some cathartic element to the whole process – I worked sufficiently hard to merit, perhaps, some minor ‘road to Damascus’ experience, or revelation! – but what I actually discovered was somewhat more prosaic. Having accepted the challenge of writing *Outrageous Fortune*, it soon became apparent that I think about the people, places and events I was writing about in precisely the same way now as I did back then – with the caveat for modest growth in maturity! What made writing the book an

easier task than it might have been was the fact that all the introspection, and ‘total recall’, which was part of the process, never became a struggle to determine how best to evaluate situations, or problems; I just had to place bum in chair, write as well as I could and try not to be dull.

NM *Writing an autobiography is a very brave thing to do in that one’s reasons for doing it could be construed in a variety of ways. For instance, some might consider it an act of vain indulgence, whereas others will be delighted that one has opened up a world hitherto unknown, which is deeply fascinating. Have you experienced both reactions and what, may I ask, has been your immediate family’s response to it?*

AR Thank you – but I never thought writing about my childhood (“more spoiled than a Buckingham Palace corgi”) was a bold step, other than attempting to achieve some small sense of gratification for a creative endeavour successfully concluded. I don’t think I would have started the project if I had thought for a second my motives had been infiltrated by crude ‘vain indulgence’. Opening up a world ‘hitherto unknown’ was far more the driving force behind my wishing to write the book. Did I think my story of childhood was interesting enough to write a book about? Of course! How many children grew up at Leeds Castle in the 1950s and 1960s where my grandmother, Lady Baillie, was one of the few owners of large estates in England still with the resources to operate at astonishing levels of grandeur? My immediate family’s enthusiasm has been reserved but, in all fairness, I certainly wasn’t expecting a chorus of ‘All Hail!’

NM *The period you write about is quite emotive, with a way of life once commonplace amongst the higher echelons of society dwindling. Having been brought up on the cusp of this social advent, did you find it strange being partly a stalwart of a bygone era whilst also being firmly a child of the ‘60s?*

AR In the book I write, “We were fortunate. Thanks to the skill of her advisers (and, perhaps other indeterminate factors) Granny B’s cocoon of wealth remained relatively intact. And so, from inside my gilded bubble, I observed and absorbed the revolution of Socialist Members of Parliament, rock stars and hairdressers, playwrights, theatre producers, movie stars, television personalities, photographers, fashion designers, models and footballers taking over Great Britain’s airwaves and headlines, with my ears tuned in and an idealistic foot planted in two camps.”

By the time I was old enough to have become fully aware of exactly how privileged my upbringing was, I had decided that the most important thing of all was to ignore it, discount it even, and envelop myself in the music, the ‘vibrations’ of the time. Whilst loving and admiring my mother for her style, manners and beauty, and Lord Margeson (my grandmother’s best friend and Conservative Government Minister) for his old world charm and statuesque bearing, I was also immersing myself, luxuriating to the nth degree, in the outrageous cool of The Beatles, Stones, The Kinks and Cream. What seemed clear to me was that “all those new rich-and-famous Swinging Sixties superstars were, in fact, well on their way to establishing a new aristocracy. And the old aristocracy was so enamoured of this new one that it soon was hard to tell them apart as they swanned around in velvet suits and Cuban-heeled boots at country house weekend parties and fashionable London gatherings!”

I saw nothing strange in this transformation – in fact I revelled in it – apart from the fact that it was failing to register at the castle! My parents thought my obsession was bound to pass. It did not.

NM *Your reminiscences of your time at Stowe do not come across as your happiest. Stowe has always prided itself on encouraging and developing the individual and by your written account, it seems that your Housemaster let you down in this regard. Having said that, it can’t have been all bad? What are your abiding happy memories of Stowe?*

AR The fact that I did not enjoy my time at Stowe can be attributed to a number of reasons which, if put to music, would merit being entitled ‘the Whinge Symphony’. I shall not apportion blame beyond what I write about in the book – though I see it more as recounting rather than blaming. I do, of course, make it abundantly clear

that my views on Stowe have now changed dramatically, and for the good! My happy memories of Stowe, of which there are many, are centered around the friends I made – and still have – and the music which brought me so much joy.

NM *The massive popularity of the television series, Downton Abbey, has fed the public’s insatiable nostalgia for, curiously, a period and lifestyle that they have never experienced themselves. Is it because there is something about such a grand, elegant and exquisitely mannered lifestyle that is at once comforting, reassuring, fascinating and so uniquely British that makes people wish to immerse themselves in films, plays and books such as Outrageous Fortune? Your book could not have come out at a better time! How do sales in Great Britain compare with those in the USA?*

AR I have lived in the US for a long time and it is clear that Downton Abbey fever is an established phenomenon, as in the UK and, I believe, in many other parts of the world. I don’t know exactly what it is that makes normally calm and well-educated people go all askew over the frocks and mansions and servants and banter, but askew they go (myself included) and that’s the way it is. It happened a long time ago with *Upstairs Downstairs*, with *Brideshead Revisited*, and now with *Downton*. There is, in the US, an abiding fascination with how the English upper classes, and those who work for them, have conducted themselves over history and I wonder if it’s not because the revelation of what goes on behind the castle walls, both upstairs and down, is something very few people know about, but legions would like to. Add glorious production values, magnificent storytelling and the highest quality acting and you have a winning show. Of course, there is also the fact of us being historical cousins. Killjoys aside, the American fixation with our Royal Family (stratospheric when the Charles/ Diana, William/Kate weddings hit the television screens) and all things stately-homeish, is something to cherish, and be grateful for, especially when uninspiring politicians on both sides of the pond seem to have lost their way entirely.

All I can hope is that *Outrageous Fortune* will benefit from the huge media exposure given to *Downton Abbey*. It’s the real thing; forty years later. I have no sales figures at this time, and will not have for a while, according to my publishers.

NM *You have a very natural and conversational style of writing, Anthony, and whilst reading your book I really felt that it was as if you were reading it to me. Would you ever consider developing this style into a work of fiction, too?*

AR That is a wonderful compliment. Yes, I am done with writing about myself! I am working on a novel. It is a gentle satire.

I hope it will be amusing and relevant – critics like relevant! Assuredly, it will be written in the same style that you mention.

NM *Throughout your life, pop music has been a contributing factor to your overall happiness, whether in the listening to or the performing of it. What have been your most satisfactory moments and greatest regrets?*

AR Satisfactory moments have been many. So many I shall list just a few: my first guitar (1958); record collecting 1956-2013; the Beatles Christmas Show 1964; rehearsing and playing with my Stowe friends, Max, Oliver and Peter (1965-1969); playing in the London pubs and clubs and recording demos (1972-1976); recording and playing in Woodstock, NY (1977-1978); winning the Concours de Paris at the Théâtre de Champs-Élysées (1979); playing for audiences across Europe (1977-1980); my final recording (in honour of my mother who died in 2001), in 2003. All this encompasses a lot of happiness!

My greatest regret is failing my mother in her lifetime after she’d placed such faith in my coming through in the end. The music failed. The book worked. She only knew about the former.

NM *Several years ago you recorded an album of your own compositions and pretty impressive it is too. Can we expect more in the near future?*

AR Er, no! I’m so far past the sell-by date it’s no laughing matter.

NM *Knowing you as I do, I am very aware that there is another autobiography inside you waiting to emerge! Shall we have to wait very long before OUTRAGEOUS FORTUNE – THE ROCK AND ROLL YEARS is published?*

AR I’m afraid no such work is in the pipeline, nor is it ever likely to be. I have spent a considerable amount of time in the past with people who are well known, some very well known, but I would never contemplate writing about the times I spent with them, or the stories I know about them, because it would be the opposite of everything that I learned growing up regarding what’s right and what’s wrong. I’d prefer to write a bad sex novel than a follow-up memoir telling tales on the rich and famous that I knew.

NM *Rats!!! – Oh well, bring on the bad sex novel I say!*

Thank you, Anthony, for being a most delightful and entertaining interlocutor. I wish you tremendous success with the sales of Outrageous Fortune and may your fortune become increasingly outrageous!

Nigel Milne (Chandos 68)



AND THE NEXT ROOM IS...

Stowe House Preservation Trust's (SHPT) next venture in our long-term restoration project is the Blue Room, known to many Old Stoics as the Grenville houseroom.

This room has taken on many different functions since it was created in the 1740s, including the Family Portrait Room ('The Grenville Room'), the Billiards Room, and a Breakfast Parlour. This is one room of the suite of rooms in the east pavilion – the others include those now known as the Green Room and the Victoria Room – and, at any one time, they have all had these roles.

SHPT aims to restore the State Room interiors to how they were at the turn of the nineteenth century, give or take 10 years either side. This was the date that the Temple-Grenville family was at its height of political and financial power. The Library has been restored to its condition in 1797 when it was created, the Music Room and the Marble Saloon to around 1800 and the Egyptian Hall to 1803, when it was created. For the Blue Room, the date of 1800 is problematic because at this time the Blue Room was known as the Print Room, looking very much like the Library, including bookcases and a corresponding balcony on the west wall. We couldn't take it back to this time because we would be taking out later additions that are now part of the listed building curtilage, and adding back features that we're not sure about. The features that are still in the room today are the 1740s Bacchic ceiling, replacement frames that originally held blue silk damask panels (hence the name of the room) during the mid-Victorian period and the overdoor decoration. However, a key element that appears to have been there from the conception of the room, and sold in 1922, is the fireplace surround:

'An antique white statuary marble mantelpiece with acanthus leaf and mouldings, plain centre panel and sunk jambs enriched with chased and ormolu scroll ornaments; size 6' wide; fitted with an old chased ormolu and steel stove.'

We are searching for this fireplace surround and, although it is quite plain, the one feature that connects it with the Blue Room is the four little rosettes in the corners. These tie into the rosettes found in the corners of the damask frames.

Another key room in the story of the evolution of the main mansion is North Hall, seen here on the occasion of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert leaving after their three day visit to Stowe in January 1845. As a major entry and circulation point, now as then, it is the one room that everyone visiting Stowe will have seen since 1730 and thus makes it a key historical space. An original laid-flat plan survives by William Kent (in the Yale Centre for British Art), shows his design for the room, including two niches in the south wall leading to the Marble Saloon (which, at that time, was a five bay rectangular hall). North Hall will be restored during summer 2014, with the modern floor due to be taken up and replaced with one which is more in-keeping with the original 1670s version. We will clean the beautiful Kent ceiling from 1731, fix the three central canvases back to the ceiling and repaint the walls according to the historic paint analysis.

The image right, taken from Illustrated London News coverage of the royal visit in

1845, shows the magnificent lantern that once hung proudly within the Hall. The lantern was sold during the 1848 auction with the following (shortened) description:

'A magnificent octangular hall lanthorn, the frame of or-molu, surmounted by a ducal coronet, and glazed with coats of arms of stained glass. It was designed expressly for the present Duke of Buckingham, by Collins, of the Strand, by whom the brasswork and glass painting were executed. The coats of arms, alluded to in the above description, include the armorial bearings of the various branches of the family of Buckingham, showing their regal descent. The lanthorn is in the form an octagon, of which each side is divided into three compartments... Subsequent to the sale, the lanthorn proved to have been purchased for Mr Edward Churchill, of the Calverley Hotel, Tunbridge Wells, the entrance hall of which magnificent establishment it now decorates.'

The lantern was described as still being in the Calverley Hotel (now called the Hotel du Vin) in 1898 but there now appears to be no collective memory of the item in Tunbridge Wells.

Since the lantern was created especially for the family and was a real centrepiece of North Hall, it would be amazing to find it, either to have or to copy. So, if you know the whereabouts of it, please do let us know.

If you would like further information regarding these lost treasures, or know where something is, please do contact me by telephoning **01280 818229**. I look forward to seeing what turns up.

Anna McEvoy, Stowe House Preservation Trust



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TIM SCARFF (GRENVILLE 91)

A PRE-WAR CULTURE TOUR

William (Bill) McElwee arrived at Stowe as a history tutor in 1934. By 1936, he was beginning to implement the idea of an Easter holiday culture tour for his group of historians, in order to introduce them to the art and architecture, town, landscape and food and wine of the countries of continental Europe.

The first tour took place in France, the second, of which Edmund Neville-Rolfe was fortunate to be a member, went to northern Italy encompassing Verona, Venice, Bologna, Florence and Pisa. They travelled by train but in 1938 Bill and his friend Humphrey Playford, Housemaster of Bruce House, drove them all to France in their fast and capacious Lancia cars. They arrived via Calais and started conveniently close at Reims, Sens and Vézelay and then proceeded rapidly down to Provence, including Avignon, Pont-du-Gard, Arles and Nîmes (where they were ALL invited to lunch by the father of a French boy who had stayed with the Neville-Rolfes in Heacham, Norfolk the previous summer – an early, and fortunately successful example of an ‘échange’. They then turned towards Carcassonne, Toulouse, Albi, Cahors and then north to the Loire Châteaux, and on to Chartres, Gisors, Évreux and Mont-St-Michel.

A typical gathering, this time in the cathedral square at Coutances, was the scene Edmund chose to recall upon his return – he remembers completing it within

a month in the art room at Stowe. Evidence of the popularity of cameras abounds but a photograph could never quite capture the atmosphere of this relaxed scene.

In 2003, the painting turned up with a picture dealer in Bath, probably consigned by relatives of the Revd Humphrey Playford. It was spotted by eagle-eyed James Huntington-Whiteley, the husband of Edmund’s niece Magdalen Evans and they were able to alert the School to its significance. Colin Anson (Grenville 50) was helpful in securing it as an historical record for Stowe of an unusual and inspiring episode just before hostilities meant that travelling in Europe would be nigh-on-impossible for the next seven years, unless to serve amongst a battalion. The tours did indeed start again after the War when Bill returned to Stowe. Sadly Edmund is the sole survivor amongst those shown in the painting.

Magdalen Huntington-Whiteley, great-niece of Edmund Neville-Rolfe (Bruce 39)



- ① Edmund whilst at Prep School.
- ② Edmund with the Huntington-Whiteley children.



- ③ Edmund’s painting, which now hangs in the History Department at Stowe.



JF’S POETRY CLASS

So much did I enjoy the last issue of *The Corinthian* celebrating ninety years of Stowe that I am impelled to pen an account of JF’s poetry classes held occasionally before one of the upper forms some time in the late 1940s.

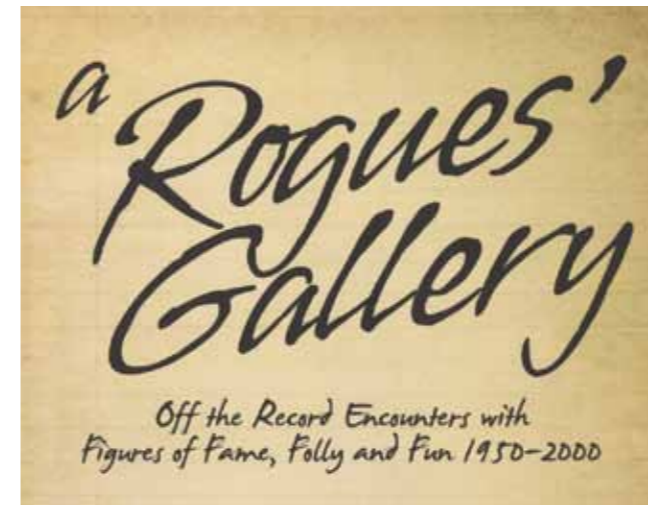
Carrying a suitcase, JF would suddenly appear in the doorway of the classroom. The suitcase would land with a crash on a nearby table and, when opened, found to contain volumes of poetry that were promptly distributed throughout the class.

I have since forgotten the poets and titles of JF’s chosen poems but, thanks to his enthusiasm and sense of rhythm, I can remember to this day the opening lines of two of his favourites. There was, “Just for a handful of silver he left us, just for a riband to put in his coat...” and “It was roses, roses, all the way...”

And I think, by the feel, my forehead bleeds, For they fling, whoever has a mind, Stones at me for my year’s misdeeds.” All too soon the volumes of poetry were collected and disappeared into the suitcase. JF left the classroom as quickly as he had arrived. Good teaching is infectious and JF’s teaching certainly fell into this category.

After writing this, I had the idea of ‘googling’ the lines of poetry I remembered. The idea proved fruitful. I discovered that the poet is Robert Browning and the poems are *The Lost Leader* and *The Patriot*. Some random clicking then produced the poems themselves. It was an uncanny moment as the words came up on the screen of my monitor. For a while, I ceased to be an elderly gent sitting comfortably at home before a PC. I became an eighteen year old schoolboy sitting not especially comfortably in a classroom just beyond the fives courts, hearing JF declaim the familiar lines of two great poems to which he had introduced us.

Oliver Wall (Chandos 50)



Book Review

A ROGUES’ GALLERY

A Rogues’ Gallery comes across as a form of memoir: Peter Lewis (Bruce 46) remembering his life through episodes with the famous and infamous of the last century.

Each short affair gives a personal insight into the lives of those often revered by later generations, and it is perhaps this personal angle that gives this book the feeling of looking into another world. There are few people still alive who could remember that Arthur Miller would go back to a café which he frequented when he was 18 because, as he said, “I like their celery pop.”

This book not only remembers people from the past but it also eulogises a bygone world; the heyday of Fleet Street with press Barons ruling their empires of linotype machines and rotary presses that caused the whole building to stir ‘like a ship putting to sea’ – all next door to the competition. Gone are the days when the front page lead story could get stuck halfway down the chute to the Head Printer, along with the ‘wicked’ Barons to whom profit was merely a secondary motive – succeeded by media moguls like Rupert Murdoch. Lewis laments that, “Today, I seldom recognise my country”, but in his book he manages to bring it back to life, even if it is never to return.

More than anything, this book shows Peter Lewis to be an astute observer and a shrewd judge of character, except in the case of Spike Milligan – “I could never make out whether he was in fact mad or, like Hamlet, pretending to be.” But, I doubt even Milligan himself knew that for sure. Set out almost as multiple diary entries, divided up by decade, this book is perfect to dip in and out of, although the other worldly charm will easily absorb you as you get to know all the main characters from the 1950s onwards.

This book is perhaps best characterised by an idiom repeated by EF Schumacher – the brains behind immediate technology used in Africa – “Small is Beautiful and Big is usually Beastly.” These small anecdotes from Lewis give a glimpse into the people behind the big headlines, and often how different they really are from the public perception of them. The real Diana Dors “would rather stay home than go to orgies – but who would want to hear that?”

Amber Shepherd (Nugent, Upper Sixth)



THE ROXBURGH SOCIETY

As you may well have heard or read in the media, or perhaps from friends, ‘legacy-giving’ is becoming an ever more popular way of giving money to charity. The value of doing so has been recognised by Government too, in the enhanced provision now available for tax relief – and by leaving a ‘residuary gift’ in your Will, you can ensure family and loved-ones are looked after first. In today’s vernacular, it could, I suppose, be described as a ‘no-brainer’.

The Roxburgh Society was established in 2005, by Lord Quinton and an enthusiastic group of twelve others, to recognise those who have signified their intention to leave a gift to Stowe in their Will. What thus started off as a group with only a handful of members is now 116 OSs and Friends of Stowe strong, and growing steadily. This is, I believe, a terrific achievement – and testament to how strongly many of us feel about our alma mater. But I also feel strongly that there are many more Old Stoics who might be interested and inspired to join our august group, in order to support, what I hope you agree with me to be, an enormously significant and formative place for us all in our lives.

By leaving a gift to Stowe, you are able to support either or both of Stowe’s charities: The Stowe School Foundation (which supports the provision of scholarships and bursaries, along with the continual need to update the School’s facilities) and The Stowe House Preservation Trust (which supports the ongoing maintenance and restoration of the House).

Aside from contributing to the future success of Stowe, by indicating to either me or Gabi Murphy in the Development Office at Stowe that you wish to leave a gift to Stowe, you are automatically welcomed as a member of the Roxburgh Society. We convene every summer for a splendid lunch at Stowe and, as most members I am sure will agree, apart from the chance to catch up with old friends and contemporaries, a highlight of these gatherings is the chance to see some of the fantastic talent that Stowe enjoys with post-lunch musical and sporting performances by current Stoics.

The date for the 2014 Luncheon is Tuesday 3 June – I do hope that we may see some of you there as our latest recruits! If you have any questions at all, I would be delighted to hear from you so please do make contact.

Thank you.

Nigel Rice (Chatham 64)



JF ROXBURGH

An inspiration for so many youngsters,
A man who gave so many years to Stowe,
His selfless service – this was quite formidable
As the love of all Old Stoics still will show

I think his heart was broken by the war
When every day he heard of Stoics killed,
Boys he had known from teenagers to manhood
Whose gaps in life will never now be filled

But, at his prime, JF was someone very special,
Old courtesy and kindness were his aim,
And those who had the luck to know him personally
Will smile, with sadness, when they hear his name.

Mrs Liz Zettl (Former Staff 38-42)

Cardiac Risk in the Young

SUPPORTING A CHARITY

I am sure we have all given a little something to a charity from time to time without even giving it much of a second thought. Some of us may even give to a particular charity on a regular basis or via standing order, for whatever reasons.

In January 2012, for no apparent reason, I felt it was time that I did something for a charity beyond just texting £5 to a television advert. I wanted to help make a real difference. I had no idea then what fate had in store for me. On 7 February 2012 at 7.30pm on a freezing cold night, we found our 18 year old son, Adam, collapsed in the garden. He was not breathing and was certified dead later that evening.

If you have not experienced this, you cannot begin to imagine how our world was turned inside out. How do you tell his brother, his grandparents, his close friends? This was a time that we will never forget, and wouldn't want to, but neither do we like to remember it.

We already knew about the charity CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young) due to the untimely death of another teenager in our area. I contacted them and they had already heard about Adam from their network of

supporters. CRY was founded in 1995 to raise awareness of conditions that can lead to young sudden cardiac death (YSCD).

CRY's vision is to work with cardiologists and family doctors to promote the cardiac health of our young by establishing good practice and screening facilities devoted to significantly reduce the frequency of young sudden cardiac death throughout the UK.

We started a memorial fund with CRY in Adam's name and have since raised nearly £20,000 with the support and help of family and friends. This has been ringfenced to provide cardiac screening events in our area.

An average day will screen 100 young people and the resulting statistics are surprising:

(The following statistics relate to the CRY screening programme as a whole)

- 1 in every 300 young people that CRY tests will be identified with a potentially life threatening condition
- 1 in 100 will have a condition that is less serious but could cause problems in later life
- 5-10% will require an ECHO on the day (of approx 100 people per day)



Every week in the UK at least 12 young people die suddenly from undiagnosed heart conditions.

If we can identify just one youngster who may be at risk and save one life, then I will feel we have really made that bit of a difference and prevented another family going through what we have.

If you would like to support us, please visit www.virginmoneygiving.com/AdamGreenCRY

Or you can contact CRY directly for more information at www.c-r-y.org.uk or telephone them on 01737 363222.

They are a fantastic bunch of people, very friendly and understanding and provide a great support to anybody that contacts them. Thank you for taking a few minutes to read this, your help and awareness may save a life, and it may just be somebody that you know...

Tom Green (Walpole 75)



THE TEACHING STAFF FROM 1923

A photograph of the first teaching staff at Stowe appeared in the last edition of *The Corinthian*, accompanying the Headmaster's article. Former Master, David Arnold, wrote in to ask who the fine gentlemen were. Although the Stowe archive can shed a little light on this, we are unable to name some of the teachers, so if anyone recognises any of the faces below, please get in touch with us so we can place names to faces.

Back row, from left: None listed. Front row, from left: 1.? 2. Rev. EH Earle (Bruce Housemaster), 3. JF, 4. IM Cross (Temple Housemaster), 5?

If you can help, please email oldstoic@stowe.co.uk or call 01280 818349.

OLLIE'S ODYSSEY



✓ Camping out in the mountains of Peru during a challenging off-road section.

I remember having the 'gap year' chat one evening sitting with my Dad at the kitchen table. But, it was all the wild, wacky and unrealistic ideas:

"How about you sail around Scandinavia?" he said.

"Dad, I've never sailed properly before! I think walking the Ganges sounds pretty amazing..."

"What, and you think Duke of Edinburgh is enough practice for that?"

"Well...no probably not. What other ways can you travel?"

"Car, balloon, bicycle?"

"What about a motorbike?" I asked.

Over the next few months, the motorbike angle really took a hold of my imagination. I started pulling out maps, reading travel articles and picking out the dream bike of my choice. I was hooked on the idea but still only as a fleeting thought, never in my wildest dreams did I think it would become a reality.

By a stroke of luck, I was awarded £3,000 by the Old Stoic Society and Stowe Parents' Association to get me going on my adventure. Overnight my trip had gone from revelry to reality, it shocked me more than anyone! The important thing about the money wasn't only the huge financial help but also that it now had to happen, there was no turning back...

The next eight or nine months were a bit of a blur. I had to get my exams out of the way before cracking on with everything from buying sturdy tent pegs to actually learning how to ride a motorbike! My Dad was so concerned about my safety: he ended up investing in a Kidnap and Ransom policy! Luckily though, it seems he covered his costs by placing an each-way bet on my survival at Ladbrokes. By the time 7 December came around, I was about ready for anything the unknown world was going to throw at me... or so I thought.

Within three days of arriving in Buenos Aires, I bumped into a couple of friends and ended

up at a Christmas party with some of Argentina's top supermodels. I had a faint suspicion that this wasn't exactly going to set the style for the rest of my trip!

Wednesday 2 January 2013 was the official start day of my trip, with 24,000 miles of road in front of me. A daunting task but, by this stage, I truly felt ready to face the world. Little did I know of the potential hazards that lay ahead: rock falls, bandits, drug cartels, grizzlies and, of course, once I reached Alaska the chance of meeting Sarah Palin.

After I made it through Argentina, I crossed Chile and the thousands of miles of the Atacama Desert, the driest place in the world. Then, in late January, I crossed into Peru with the obvious highlight being Machu Picchu.

During my trip, I met a lot of police. On the whole I did anything I could to please them, although I learnt that the hard way. Three months in and crossing over from Peru into Ecuador, one border official decided he wanted to search me. He picked the most inconvenient place on the bike, to which I politely asked him to look somewhere else. No sooner had I said it than I realised my mistake. I had made myself look like I was carrying something illegal; he proceeded to rip apart my whole pannier, opening everything from packs of dried soup to digging through my dirty underwear bag – good luck to him! I have to admit though, I was scared. Scared as to what he would do when he didn't find anything or whether he was planning to plant something. Well, although not the nicest guy, he wasn't corrupt and when he didn't find anything, he let me go.

After having crossed Ecuador, by early March I was in Colombia having covered about 10,000 miles. It was here that I hit some serious traffic. Weaving through the cars, I drove up to see what all the commotion was about. It was a land slip on the right side of the road. The mountain was shedding layers of rock and debris of all sizes which were exploding on impact with the tarmac and then carrying on down the cliff face to the left. Looking at my map, I knew turning

around meant a 4 hour detour and as it was already late in the day, it wasn't an option. I must have waited for 20 minutes with the feeble hope that the rock fall would stop and when it didn't, I did one of the more reckless things on my trip. I started the bike, ignored the shouts from the police, closed my eyes and opened the throttle. Well I made it.

Tackling four borders; Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico, consisting of a lot of documents and a lot of sweaty bike leathers, and covering over 2,000 miles in three days was about as hard as it got but once arriving into Mexico, I felt like it was only going to get easier.

By 20 May 2013, 10 days after my 19th birthday in Mexico, I had reached America.

Once entering the US and the civilised world, I encountered my biggest culture shock. The disparity between the two countries was greater than any and it really unsettled me. The rest of the journey up the US and Canada is probably easier for you to imagine but, in particular, the Pacific Coast Highway was a real highlight as it meandered along the mountains with the dramatic coastline to my left.

On 7 July, exactly seven months after leaving Ushuaia, I reached Prudhoe Bay, Alaska and the effort all seemed worth it. I stripped down into my boxers, ran into the Arctic Ocean and completed my hope of swimming at both ends of the Earth and becoming a member of the Polar Bear Club – the boxers thanked me for the wash too.

I can confidently say that I wouldn't have made it without the hundreds of people who each did their own bit to help and I am eternally grateful to everyone who has donated to Fisher House UK.

I've hardly scratched the surface as to what it was like, but the real importance of the whole trip has been to support Fisher House UK, which provides a home-away-from-home for the families of wounded soldiers.

When their CEO sat me down and said that we should aim to raise £100,000, I thought that it was a steep ask, not of me, but of the generosity of the public and I am absolutely amazed to say that to date we have raised £98,444. With one final push, we can raise enough to help Fisher House build one room. It is the chance to be a part of helping a family stay close to a loved one and help in their rehabilitation, only a few hundred metres away in a hospital ward. I would like to thank everyone who supported me throughout my trip. It was a life changing experience and I am honoured to have raised money for such a worthy cause.

Oliver Plunket (Grafton 12) 55



THE STOWE BEAGLES

During the 2012/2013 season the Stowe Beagles celebrated their 50th anniversary and this was done in style, on a very snowy evening, at a Dinner held in the Music Room at Stowe on 23 March 2013.

Over eighty guests attended from all eras, with the Headmaster, Jean Atkinson, Nat Thornton and John Fretwell as our special guests. Michael Bannister MH (Walpole 51) was the guest speaker and shared some amusing reminiscences with us all about his time at Stowe and the involvement his family has had with the Stowe Beagles, more recently when he has hosted our visits to Yorkshire.

In June, the Joint Masters, Oliver Beazley and Rory Knight, took some hounds to The Colne Valley Beagles hound show. It was here that they heard the very sad news of the death, the evening before, of Tom Bannister (Lyttelton 82). Tom was a former Master of the Stowe Beagles and a great supporter. Over twenty supporters of the Stowe Beagles travelled north to attend his funeral. Tom will be greatly missed by us all. The Joint Masters also showed hounds at Peterborough and the Alcester Game Fair returning with rosettes from all of the shows.

Hunting commenced in September with support from within the School and the hunt country remaining as strong as ever. Hounds and seven Stoics travelled to Northumberland where they were the guests of the Wailles-Fairbairn family. Three days' hunting, in very windy conditions, followed with meets being hosted by Ian McKie MFH (former parent), George Shirley-Beavan (Grenville 06) and Simon Orpwood, (long time supporter). Rupert Gibson MH (Temple 73) welcomed us into his hunt country. Stowe parents, Old Stoics and supporters also travelled north resulting in over thirty sitting down for dinner one evening. Old Stoics present during the week were: Edward Birch-Reynardson

(Grafton 11), Charles Dedman (Chandos 10), Rose McKie (Nugent 11), Michael Leyland (Walpole 10), Charlie Shirley-Beavan MFH (Grenville 03), Freddie Rolt (Grafton 07), Henry Macpherson (Cobham 13), Hugh Leyland (Bruce 73), Simon Shirley-Beavan (Grenville 72), Lawrie Strangman (Bruce 57) and Alistair McGee (Lyttelton 73).

In December, hounds, Stoics and supporters travelled to Shropshire for two very enjoyable days hunting as the guests of James Beazley, the uncle of the Joint Master.

On Boxing Day, we were very pleased to welcome a gathering of over three hundred people on the North Front, over half of whom then enjoyed a walk with hounds around the grounds stopping at various temples on the way.

A number of fundraising and social events are planned for 2014 to which all Old Stoics and their friends are invited:

Saturday 15 March: Hunt Ball in the Marble Hall and State Rooms at Stowe. Tickets: £45 per head.

Tuesday 18 May: The Stowe Beagles Hunter Trials at Primrose Hill Farm, Gawcott, Buckingham, MK18 4HT organised by Lawrie Strangman (Bruce 57) and his family. There is a class for Old Stoics. The entry form can be found on the Old Stoic website: www.oldstoic.co.uk This is a main fund raising event for the pack and any offers of help would be greatly appreciated.

Saturday 7 June 2014: The Puppy Show at Stowe.

July 2014: It is proposed to organise the second London Dinner at the Caledonian Club.

If any Old Stoics wish to join the Stowe Beagles Supporters Club, please email: oldstoic@stowe.co.uk so your name can be added to the list.

Details of all the above events and meets are available from Phillip Kennedy, KH. Telephone: **01280 813489** or email pkennedy@stowe.co.uk

Alistair McGee (Lyttelton 73), Chairman



RING OF BRIGHT WATER

This year is the centenary of the birth of Gavin Maxwell (Chatham 30), one of Britain's finest authors. To mark this anniversary, the Eilean Bàn Trust has produced a limited edition of his most famous work, *Ring of Bright Water*.

The edition will be limited to two hundred, each individually numbered and hand signed by four individuals: Sir Richard Branson (Cobham/Lyttelton 68), who won the Maxwell Prize at Stowe in 1967; Virginia Mackenna OBE, who starred in the film based upon the book; Sir John Lister-Kaye, the noted naturalist who looked after Maxwell's affairs in the 1960s and Jimmy Watt, whose life as a boy features centrally within the book.

Each gilded copy will be hand bound in leather with the cover blocked in 23 carat gold, illustrated with unseen images and printed on extremely high quality layered paper. Copies can be purchased for the price of £1,500, + £20 p&p. If you would like to obtain a copy of this limited edition please email, maxwell100robw@gmail.com

All the proceeds from the sale of the books will help preserve the land under Skye Bridge, where the Gavin Maxwell Museum is located. The funds will also help the Eilean Bàn Trust to maintain the island's historic lighthouse and animal hide as well as the Bright Water Visitor Centre, located nearby on the Isle of Skye, close to the harbour, from which Maxwell travelled to and from the island. For more information on this organisation please visit www.eileanban.org



DUBAI DRINKS RECEPTION

The first Old Stoic drinks reception to be held in Dubai was hosted by James Bernard (Lyttelton 90) on 24 November 2013 at the Bari Bar – Mina Al Salam. The group represented Old Stoics from the years 1985 to 2003 and from a wide range of boarding houses. "The attendees were obviously rather eager, several had arrived before I had at 6pm. The party continued until 2.30am!"

It was a delightful gathering and the vibrant atmosphere was a tribute to the calibre of individuals who come out of Stowe. It was interesting to find out what everyone had been doing and how they had ended up in the Middle East. They all agreed that they are going to be having many more regular events together.

James Bernard (Lyttelton 90)



DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

The OS Office sends regular news updates and invitations to OS events via email. If you do not receive emails from the OS Society, please write to Caroline Whitlock by emailing oldstoic@stowe.co.uk so we can update your contact details.

If you change your email address, please let us know your new details by emailing oldstoic@stowe.co.uk

STOWE AT WAR

At the 2013 Roxburgh luncheon, I had the good fortune to sit next to Anna Semler (Nugent 05), the OS Society Director, and was able to congratulate her on the 90th Anniversary edition of *The Corinthian* – with one gripe: it had saddened me that so little space had been given to the contribution made in WW2 by Old Stoics. This short article reflects that meeting!

My *Old Stoic Register* shows that, of the 2500 Old Stoics up until 1945, some 1,900 enlisted for wartime service (there was no doubt more than that, where war service was not recorded). By far the largest number enlisted in the Army, where the OS attrition rate was over 11%, but it is not surprising that those OSs in the RAF suffered the highest losses, with over 22% out of over 350 who enlisted, killed in action. A total of some 250 OSs gave their lives, with JF writing personally to the family of each one. By the end of the war, OSs had been awarded 2 VCs, 28 DSOs, 21 DSCs, 111 MCs, 46 DFCs and 34 other awards (taken from 'Stowe' by Brian Rees). I thought that it would be of interest to give details of two of the OSs who gave their lives.

Paul de G H Seymour (Chandos 28)



My father, Paul Seymour, came to Stowe in 1924, leaving in 1928 and becoming a Cadet at the RAF College, Cranwell in 1930; he was commissioned as a pilot in 1932 and was posted to No 26 (Army Co-operation) Squadron that year. After duties in the UK with No 26 Squadron, including as a display pilot at the 1935 Hendon Air Display, he was posted to India with No 28 (Army Co-Operation) Squadron, for flying duties on the NW Frontier. He returned to the UK in mid-1939 and was streamed into Bomber Command for operational duties with No 268 Squadron; I suspect his height of 6'4" meant he was too tall for fighters (he had been flying open-cockpit aircraft in India). Towards the end of that year, he was grounded with a damaged lung for about 12 months, possibly because of oxygen failure in his aircraft, before returning to operational duties with No 158 Squadron as a Flight Commander in July 1942.

On 17 November that year, whilst on a Nickel (leaflet) Raid on Nantes and Strasbourg, his Halifax was attacked by a night fighter and shot down; my father and 6 of his crew were killed, with one survivor parachuting to safety and POW camp. My father and his crew are buried in a tiny farming village near Chaumont in France, where the villagers hold a commemoration service every year on 17 November; they have erected a memorial stone, showing the names of the crew, at the entrance to the village. It is a terrible coincidence that No 158 Squadron, formed in May 1942, lost 851 aircrew killed in action by the end of the War.

Manaton Lord (Bruce 26)



Richard Lord's (Bruce 57) father was one of the original 99 boys who came to Stowe in 1923. He left in April 1926 and began a career with Lloyds Bank in the Black Country. Sometime in 1941 he joined the RNVR and, following initial training, he travelled north with a draft of Ordinary Seamen on Boxing Day 1941 to John Brown's yard in Glasgow to join the newly launched Hunt Class Destroyer, HMS Airedale.

A detailed diary he kept from Christmas Day 1941 to 28 February 1942 records the endless days of working up the ship, the incredibly awesome seas, with a Leading Stoker being swept overboard and lost, major damage to the superstructure and many periods of dull routine, interspersed with plenty of anecdotes of life between decks. Often discussed was the fate of sister ships and the poor condition of the Lend Lease USA WW1 Destroyers. He records meeting up with Roger Hammick (Grenville 40), an OS whose father, to the horror of Richard's father, was the Admiral C-in-C of the Clyde Naval Base! Tragically, Roger was killed in action on 12 October 1945 in

Singapore, when serving with the Parachute Regiment.

February 1942 saw HMS Airedale, now based at Scapa Flow, on escort duty on the Russian Convoy PQ11. On recall to base, she sailed for Alexandria via Gibraltar and Cape Town to join the 5th Destroyer Flotilla. The months of May and early June saw continuous action, including supplying Tobruk and the final voyage to resupply Malta under Operation Vigorous. On 15 June 1942 in the afternoon, HMS Airedale was singled out from the Naval Escorts and attacked by 12 Stukas, when direct hits blew off the stern section of the ship. One officer and 43 ratings died, with Richard's father's gun receiving a direct hit. While Richard has no memory of his father, being a little under 3 years when he was killed, he has a letter from his uncle, Admiral Edward Reeves, to his mother, where the Admiral mentions having spoken with a ship's officer, who said Richard's father had been earmarked for an Officers' Training Course.

Richard Lord comments also: "By a strange quirk when researching details for this short article, I found in my mother's copy of Stowe Chapel – Book of Remembrance 1939-1945, alongside the page of my father's entry, a loose leaf page entitled 'Stowe – War Memorial Trust. Next of Kin may like to be reminded that funds are available for assisting in the education of the children of Old Stoics killed in the War.' Simply, it was through that Trust and the fact that JF wrote on several occasions to my mother that I came to Stowe. In turn, that is why I consider it a privilege and duty to support the Roxburgh Society in its efforts to build a solid base of bequests to Stowe."

Richard's circumstances and mine during our young years are very similar, and I am sure that a number of the OS sons of Old Stoics (and it would be sons post-war) who were killed in action can echo our histories. I fully endorse Richard's sentiments about the value of supporting the Roxburgh Society for the future of Stowe.

These are 2 short stories of the many OSs who lost their lives in WW2. For those current Stoics, please look left as you go into the Chapel by the main door and consider the board with the Roll of Honour; it is also instructive to linger and examine the Book of Remembrance alongside the board. And for those OSs who go to the Chapel, pause, read and reflect.

Stowe should certainly be proud of those who fought in WW2 and in conflicts since then, and should honour those who gave their lives.

Air Commodore Andrew Seymour (Grafton 58)
RAF (Ret'd)



Wounded Warrior is a hub for creative projects designed to raise awareness and financial support for wounded soldiers and their families and the families of the fallen.

Our intention is to organise a series of creative projects as a platform to achieve our mission. We believe that creative projects have a powerful combination of being able to deliver hard hitting stories to raise public awareness, whilst also generating financial support. The first project underway is an art exhibition of portraits of wounded soldiers at a major central London venue. The exhibition will be followed by an auction of the paintings. We will also make a documentary following some of the subjects through the process, using a multi disciplinary approach to get the most out of our resources and deliver the greatest benefit possible to the charities we support.

Caroline de Peyrecave (Nugent 04)
and Timothy Hart (Chandos 92)

WOUNDED WARRIOR

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KENYA-TANZANIA-RWANDA

ELEPHANT BIRD EGG

Jeremy Jessel (Bruce 58) spotted a familiar egg on the Antiques Roadshow programme aired on 6 January 2013 and has written in to shed some light on the extraordinary object, which is now in the Science Laboratories at Stowe.

"This is how I remember it though, no doubt, others do so differently. It was a long time ago. Around 1954/55, my friend and I took to exploring the various monuments in the School grounds after our thorough exploration of the roof spaces in the main building.

In the loft space of the Doric Temple we came across lots of cases of stuffed animals and this egg, which we took to be a dinosaur egg. We took it as a trophy then, wondering what to do with it, used it as a rugby ball, passing it to each other as we ran down the South Front. By the lake, a pass was missed and the egg landed in the lake where we left it.

A few days later, as I recall, an article appeared in The Times noting that this unusual object had been found floating in the lake, how it got there being a mystery."

Jeremy Jessel (Bruce 58)



Rev. Percy Warrington leading Sir Charles King-Harman to the left and Lord Gisborough to the right, along with HRH Prince George and JF Roxburgh, after the opening of the Chapel on 11 July 1929.

THE REVD PERCY WARRINGTON AND STOWE

The Revd Percy Warrington was "the greatest school-founder of the (twentieth) century", whose 14 foundations or acquisitions, including an Oxford and a theological college as well as Stowe, outnumbered those by William of Wykeham, King Edward VI or Nathaniel Woodard. In 1918, he became vicar of Monkton Combe, Bath remaining there for 43 years until his death. He was also secretary of the newly combined protestant and evangelical Martyrs' Memorial and Church of England Trust. Perhaps inspired by an earlier Monkton Combe vicar, who in 1868 founded the public school at Monkton Combe, he announced in 1920, aged 31, his intention to found a new group of schools. He started with Wrekin College in 1921. Stowe followed in 1923 and Canford the next week, with others later, like Westonbirt and Harrogate College.

None of Warrington's schools, however, was represented at his funeral in 1961. His vision and energy – he never took a holiday and said he travelled 50,000 miles a year in the 1920s – became mired in micro-management, financial confusion and worse, compounded by an authoritarian tone which alienated many heads and governors. After dominating Stowe's development for its first decade, by 1933 he was a liability, buying church advowsons and supporting his theological college with school money, while the depression destroyed his weakest schools. To restructure the debts of over £1M at Stowe and the other schools, the Legal & General Assurance Company replaced Warrington and from 1934 to 1980 Stowe, like the other Allied Schools, was run under a 'Scheme of Management' from L&G, Aldwych and then Banbury. Warrington's subsequent bitter accusations made him and his associates an object of pity and even contempt to Roxburgh and others, who had to suffer his tirades while untangling his financial complexities and hoping to avoid the publicity of legal proceedings. Meanwhile, few parents were aware of these

re-arrangements behind the scenes and Stowe, under Roxburgh, had earned an unrivalled reputation.

Stowe's origin must be unique, perhaps the only attempt to found a new leading public school, if possible "among the top six", by a joint committee of the Association of Preparatory Schools (IAPS) and the Headmasters' Conference (HMC). Edward Montauban, head of the Hall School, Hampstead, led the campaign for two years and was the first to see Stowe as the ideal location. He failed, however, to raise the finance: his £30,000 was outbid by Shaw's £50,000 at Stowe's 1921 sale, his subsequent negotiations were unsuccessful, and his attempts to raise funds through endowed places foundered. Shaw, therefore, put Stowe back on the market in 1922.

In contrast, within an hour of hearing this news, Warrington wrote to express interest. A few weeks later he negotiated for the Wrekin Company to buy Stowe for £34,500, forming a new company, Stowe School Ltd, with himself as secretary. He treated the Martyrs' Memorial and Church of England Trust as means to his ends. Lord Gisborough, a conservative politician and Yorkshire landowner, was the figure head as chairman, supported by Sir Charles King-Harman, a former army officer and governor of Sierra Leone and Cyprus, and others. Warrington was secretary and organiser, acting unilaterally: "I did the work, got the schools going and formed the committees afterwards." In 1923 Gisborough implied he had been "forced against his will" into becoming chair of governors at Wrekin, but admitted Warrington's role in securing Stowe: "There was someone with greater power and influence who was there to find the money and induce people to lend their aid to this new school." Despite his serious shortcomings, Warrington could still claim that one of his greatest achievements was Stowe.

Michael Bevington, Stowe Archivist

OLD STOIC CORKSCREW SOCIETY

2013 was a wash out in many areas but not for the OS Corkscrew Society. We had two cracking events which kicked off with an hilarious and informative tasting adventure into Spanish wine. The evening was hosted by wine expert, celebrity chef, food writer and TV regular Joe Wadsack, in a private room at Dean Street's famous hang out, Quo Vadis. The event was oversubscribed and sadly we couldn't accommodate everyone. Note to self.

The second event of the year was a surprising masterclass by one of Riedel's experts, Matt Knight. Riedel has been making wine glasses for 250 years and they know a thing or two about 'varietal specific stemware'. If you're a chap like me, I can assure you this is nothing to do with ladies' clothing! It was a fascinating evening on 'why shape matters' and, blow me down it really does, but then, the difference in taste in the same wine made

in different shaped glasses was astonishing. Riedel were also very generous in providing a set of glasses for everyone to take home. The feedback from the 50 odd guests was very positive and we will be engaging Riedel again this year to give us a similar masterclass in champagne and which stemware suits which fizz!

This year, with the support of John Fingleton (Chatham 66), we are planning an exciting OS Corkscrew trip to France. It's time OS Les Rosbifs carried out a weekend raid on Les Bleus, hopefully to return with plenty of bounty. Full details of this year's Corkscrew events will be announced soon. To join the OS Corkscrew mailing list to ensure you are informed of forthcoming tastings, please email oldstoic@stowe.co.uk

Timothy Hart (Chandos 92)

ANOTHER OS BAND!

In response to Nigel Milne's article on Old Stoic bands, which appeared in the 2013 edition of *The Corinthian*, Barry Eaglesfield (Temple 42) has kindly sent in this photograph of his line-up in the late 1930s!

From left to right:

Mr Peter Clarke (Chandos 38), Mr Robert Fairhurst (Chandos 40), Mr Timothy Aumonier (Temple 38), Mr Ronald Barnes (Grafton 41) and Mr Barry Eaglesfield (Temple 42).



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

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Gerald Morse (Cobham 60)

OS SPORT



In sharp contrast to the way in which the England cricket team ended 2013, we've had an exciting and successful year of sport on which the Old Stoic Society looks to launch us into 2014 with plenty of enthusiasm.

One of the big success stories of the year has been the rejuvenated football team who have now qualified for the Arthurian League, not to mention the golfers winning the Cyril Gray tournament back in June. The reports detail some of these victories and many more, across a huge array of sports. There really is something for everyone whether it is clay pigeon shooting, cross-country, tennis, fives, cricket or squash. One thing that is still absent is a ladies' team. I would still love to see one take on the School at netball, hockey, tennis or lacrosse or even a friendly at a mutually convenient venue. Please do get in touch if you would like to get involved: there are funds available to support both nascent and well-established teams, even for one-off matches.

The teams are always on the look out for new players and, if you've recently left either School or university, then the sports field is a great way to meet others in the OS community. Equally, if you've been meaning to get back into a sport or simply want to play more, then please contact the OS office or relevant captain, whose contact details are on the OS website, and we will do our best to make sure you get back on the pitch, court or field of play.

Lastly, I am really excited to announce a tour of Roger Charlton's yard at Beckhampton, near Marlborough in May which I hope lots of you will be able to attend. Further details to follow but we are particularly keen to gauge interest for a possible horse racing syndicate at this event. If you are interested in the syndicate but cannot come to the yard tour, please email oldstoic@stowe.co.uk for more details.

Hannah Durden (Nugent 01), Old Stoic Sports

SQUASH

In 2012, an Old Stoic team entered the annual squash tournament, the Londonderry Cup, for the first time in 15 years. Unfortunately, our team was out in the first round and in 2013 we were unable to raise a full team.

STOWE TEMPLARS



After the wet miseries of 2012, the sun shone on us in 2013 and, as a result, the Templars had a thoroughly enjoyable year. We were pleased to add some excellent new recruits to the ranks, all our games were played and we completed a good first round win in the Cricketer Cup.

The pre-season supper at the Beaufort House on the King's Road was really only intended to be a biennial event, but it proved so popular that we held it again in 2013 with the same success and good attendance. In 2013, some of the blowhards from the 80s came along to swell the numbers and they have threatened to bring a side down to play the 'yoof' on the Saturday of the Cricket week, which will make for an historically nostalgic occasion.

The main event of the early season was the emphatic victory in the Cricketer Cup against the Old Cholmeleians, with Rob White back in

the fold and Ashley Pearson scoring the first Templars Cricketer Cup century since Rob's last one against Uppingham in 2005. The second round against eventual finalists Old Cranleighans was less successful, but we have good cause for confidence with some of the younger cricketers we now have.

The Cricket week was, as ever, both hugely enjoyable and successful, with wins and losses split equally and the banter as good as ever. Huge thanks to Rupert Rowling (Cobham 05), Ed Hoy (Cobham 06) and Tom Wilson (Cobham 08) for their enthusiasm and good humour in running the week. Finally, the Templars season finished with a good win against Hurlingham.

We look forward to another enjoyable year in 2014 hoping that the weather favours us, and we would like to encourage anybody who would like to be involved to get in touch with any of the following, Adam Cossins (07545 590710), Rupert Rowling (07833 694336) or Oliver Croom-Johnson (07909 962076). Nets are on Tuesdays from 8.00-9.00 at Lord's and start on 18 March, for 6 weeks for those within striking distance of London and we expect to hold our pre-season supper at the Beaufort once again in April, date tba.

Mr Oliver Croom-Johnson (Temple 69)

FIVES

The Old Stoic Fives Club started the season with a game against the current Stoic boys on Speech Day. It was encouraging to see some familiar faces amongst the boys as, too often in the past, boys would only play for a year and then drop the game. As a result, there was much improvement in the Stoics' abilities and I think it is fair to say that everyone thoroughly enjoyed the match. Under the guidance of Mr Skinner, we have now set up a match vs the School once a term, something I know our Club looks forward to, as it allows non-London based players to come in from across the country to play. Our next school fixture will be on 1 March 2014.

As a Club, we still find it hard to recruit Old Stoics back to the game. Although we are not short of numbers to play our league

games, we do struggle to put out a side for the Barber Cup, where the side has to be exclusively old boys. I would like to encourage anyone who fancies some gentle exercise, be they young or old, to get in touch with us, as we can organise a game to suit all levels in a friendly non-league environment.

As far as the League table is concerned, we are currently sitting in the middle which, having only played 3 matches, is not too bad and I expect we shall climb to our usual position of 3rd by the end of the season. It is with sadness that I have to report that we have lost our secretary Jurgen Hütter (Lyttelton 90), who has moved up north and therefore doesn't get to play as much as I would have liked him to. We have, however, gained Charlie Robinson (Walpole 99) who, having got married earlier this year, has moved back down to London and is once again a firm fixture in the squad.

Mike Skjott (Lyttelton 90)

as well as current Stoics. We are hoping to gather a team of players who are interested in forming an active Old Stoic Club to play against each other and take part in the Londonderry Cup annually.

If you would like to play on Speech Day, please email oldstoic@stowe.co.uk for full details.

Anna Semler (Nugent 05)

OS CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING

Speech Day 2013 saw the Old Stoic teams suffer a defeat (albeit narrow) by the School, which retains the prestigious Galitzine Cup. The great thing about Stowe is that all sports are encouraged and supported and the School teams practise competitively, on a weekly basis. Once we arrive in the world outside Stowe, we lose that gift of time and, of course, top class tuition! However, we have plans.

A New Secretary and Captain

Harry Hay (Grafton 03) has enthusiastically volunteered to take on the role of Secretary and Captain of Old Stoic Clay Pigeon Shooting and he is in the process of taking over from David Pickavance (Walpole 72). His contact details are harry@hay.org or via the website at www.stowe.co.uk/old-stoics/sports-clubs/clay-shooting

Harry is a cracking shot and is also from the era when clay pigeon shooting at Stowe really became popular, with top class training and the School achieving significant success in competitions. He is an active Old Stoic and aims to encourage the more recent

leavers to get involved in OS Clay Shooting by creating more year-round involvement.

A New Event

We are in the early stages of planning a pre-Speech Day event for Old Stoics, currently expected to be on 17 May 2014 at the great new shooting ground run by Atkin Grant & Lang in Markyate, Hertfordshire. The plan is for this to be both a clay pigeon competition and a social event, involving competitions and a BBQ. This promises to be a great day out and a chance to catch up with old friends, so we need to know if you are interested and to estimate numbers. Please let Harry or me know well in advance so we can commit to this. More information will be posted on the website as and when we get it and the website will be regularly updated throughout the year.

We wish Harry success with his plans and look forward to 2014 being an active and social year for Old Stoic Clay Pigeon Shooting.

David Pickavance (Walpole 72)

The Old Stoic Society would like to thank David for his dedication and enthusiasm for the OS Clay Pigeon Shooting Team whilst under his captaincy; we are delighted the club continues to flourish.



OS CROSS-COUNTRY REPORT

RACE v THE SCHOOL – 10 MARCH 2013

THAMES HARE & HOUNDS INVITATION RACE – 14 DECEMBER 2013

This has been a year of considerable achievement for the OS Cross-Country Club. In March, we fielded no fewer than 15 runners to tackle the School's 4.5 mile course. Regrettably, this was against a very poor Stowe turnout of only 4, although they did provide the winner in Harrison Dockerty (Fifth Form, Chandos) in a time of 23 mins 28 seconds. Jonny Suttle followed him home (23.43) with Johnny Legge (Bruce 98) (23.55) and Oliver Selway (Grenville 94) (24.10) all under 25 minutes.

Johnny Legge kindly contributes the following: "Running back at Stowe conjures up fantastic memories of when I was there as a pupil, running and competing against other Stoics and other schools. I think the most memorable race for me was last year when we had a number of Old Stoics come back and run.

It was great seeing that sort of turn out."

This report concentrates on the 'away fixture' held in December and organised by Thames Hare & Hounds on their Wimbledon Common 5 mile course. Only 6 toed the line but that was without several stalwarts, absent for good reasons. The young old boys team, Simon Gardner (Temple 95), Johnny Legge (Bruce 98) and Al Rykens (Cobham 98), took us to 8th place out of 21 teams, by far our best result for at least 10 years. There are also competitions for older age groups but we didn't have enough runners for complete teams.

In the December race, mention must be made of Neil Harvey's (Grenville 70) achievements. He has competed in at least the last 9 consecutive events. In all those years, he has had times between 41.27 and 44.15, a spread of less than 2 minutes, with an average time of 42.50, which he beat this year with 42.15.

To our captain, Simon Gardner (Temple 95), for the closing words: "We have a small yet strong core of regular runners spread throughout the age groups at both of our events, usually supplemented by the occasional new face. We really need to get the numbers up somehow. With the ever increasing popularity of marathon running and triathlons, people need to be aware of the massive strength training benefit of cross-country running."

If you would like to join the OS Cross-Country Club please email oldstoics.crosscountry@googlemail.com

Richard Weston (Chatham 65)

GOLFING SOCIETY

Team Competitions

The year started with the Halford Hewitt in April, where our Team lost in the second round at Royal St George's to Eton, who went on to win the final. Charles Rotheroe (Walpole 85) then helped the team to qualify for the Grafton Morrish finals in the autumn at Hunstanton. We drew the holders, Uppingham, who beat us in the first round. The highlight of the season was Stewart McNair's (Grenville 71) team win in the Cyril Gray Tournament at Worplesdon, in June. There were 3 Scottish schools in the semi-finals and Stowe. Merchiston beat Fettes and Stowe accounted for a strong side from Edinburgh Academy and then beat Merchiston in the final. We will field a putting team at Royal Wimbledon again in June 2014.

Matches

The Society played the School team pre-Micklem at Woking, at Stowe on Speech Day and again in the autumn at Stoke Poges. There is some rising talent in the School. We lost to R.C.P.G.C in March before the Hewitt. We also lost to Aldeburgh in the summer and Haileybury in November. However, we beat Canford at Sunningdale and the Gregorians at New Zealand.

Other Society Meetings

The spring meeting produced an excellent scratch score of 73 at Woking by Ollie Howe (Chandos 06). The warm weather in Suffolk was the feature point of the well attended summer meeting, whilst the weather stayed good for our autumn meeting at Brancaster in October. The course at Brancaster suffered damage in the recent tidal surge, covering the course with lots of sea detritus and damaging the Clubhouse building. We hope that the clear-up will not be too expensive. We will play our autumn meeting at Hunstanton in 2014. The Fixture List for 2014 will be finalised shortly.

Charles Dimpfl (Chatham 66) Hon. Secretary

OS TENNIS

Matches against the sixth form took place on Speech Day again in 2013, with the Old Stoics winning overall. A number of the OS Tennis members play individually for the Public School Old Boys' Lawn Tennis Association, which was founded in 1929. www.psoblta.co.uk

If there are any Old Stoic girls who would like to challenge Sixth Form girls to a match on Speech Day, please email oldstoic@stowe.co.uk We have funding set aside to support new OS teams, so if you would like to be part of a girls' OS Tennis Club, please get in touch.

OS FOOTBALL TEAM

2013 witnessed the re-emergence of the Old Stoics as a footballing force with the team gaining entry to the prestigious Arthurian League.

Under the new management of captain James Robson (Walpole 05), Hamish Eggins (Temple 09) and Rupert Rowling (Cobham 05), the football team has built on the stellar work of former skipper Will Dudley (Walpole 00) and developed into a fully-fledged regular league side.

The more youthful tilt of the side, with an average age in the low 20s and oldest player yet to have celebrated his 30th, has resulted in performances full of energy and intensity but equally replete with some horrendous tactical errors and, in the early stages at least, an inability to convert leads at half-times into wins come the final whistle.

Nonetheless, our performances, in the cup competitions and friendly matches that the Arthurian League committee entered us into to test out our suitability and quality for full league membership, were sufficiently impressive for them to enter the side into Division Four, one above the bottom tier from where our fellow newcomers were forced to begin.

Playing in the famous Stowe colours, the team resembled the great Brazilian sides of yore with their yellow shirts and blue socks and shorts. The performances so far have done justice to such illustrious heritage with the Old Stoics going into the Christmas break in second place and well in the hunt for immediate promotion with more than half the games played.

Star performers have been Kyle “Killer” Jordan (Grenville 07) who has shown an assassin’s touch up front and is our top scorer. Close behind on the goal chart, despite having played fewer games, is the equally clinical Jamie Hirst (Walpole 08). Both strikers have been skilfully supported by Archie de Sales La Terriere (Bruce 08), whose dead-ball delivery combined with some stunning lobbed and volleyed goals has added a touch of real class to the team.

The midfield generals of brothers James (Walpole 05) and Ben Robson (Walpole 02) have been complemented perfectly by the Duracell-esque running and harassing of Harry Benyon (Grafton 08), ensuring that the opposition never has time to settle into any rhythm.

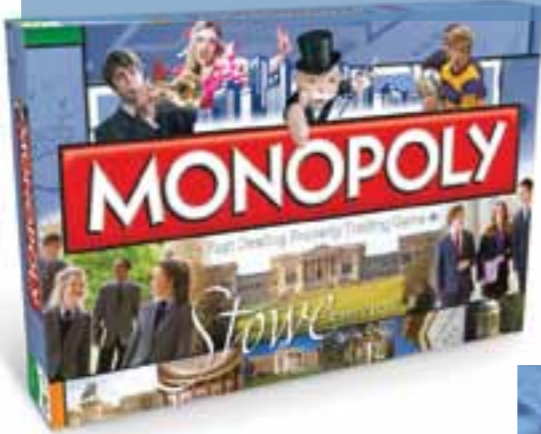
On the few occasions any attacks have not been nipped in the bud higher up the pitch, Stowe’s defence has calmed the ship with Mark Thompson-Royds (Chatham 07), aka Moobs, outstanding between the posts and growing in confidence with every game, ably shielded by the centre-back pairings of either the other set of siblings, the classy duo of Dom (Chatham 07) and Charlie Farr (Chatham 05) or the more visceral combination of Luke Brewin (Temple 02) and Ed Edsell (Grafton 02), flanked by the steady wing-backs of Charlie Hodson (Chatham 05) and Rupert Rowling (Cobham 05).

2013 has been a year full of promise and progress but it is in 2014 when the prizes will be handed out, including a fixture against a School side now taking football a lot more seriously. So, if you want to get involved, there will be plenty of opportunities to showcase your talents. Those interested, please contact James Robson on 07971 504482 or Rupert Rowling on 07833 694336 Rowling. Open to all Old Stoics.

Rupert Rowling (Cobham 05)

2014 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



Stowe Monopoly
Featuring all of your favourite landmarks at Stowe, this special version of Monopoly has been produced exclusively for Stowe.
£30.00 87834



Stowe Pyjamas
Available in blue/pink and white candy stripes. Made from 100% fine cotton with elasticated Stowe waistband and pockets.
£28.00
Blue and White in mens fit
Sizes S 8898, M 8899 or L 8900
Pink and White in ladies fit
Sizes S 8895, M 8896 or L 8897



Silver-Plated Compact Mirror
A stylish gift with double mirror and engraved crest.
£30.00 84130



Old Stoic Ties
Two, recently refined, fine quality silk ties. One with a black background, known to some Old Stoics as the ‘Town’ colours and the other with a brown background, known to some as the ‘Country’ colours.
£30.00 Black 12164 Brown 12171



Old Stoic House Ties
No man’s wardrobe should be without one of these splendid Old Stoic House ties made from 100% silk.
£30.00 (Left to right above):
Walpole 12256 Cobham 49160 Grafton 12249
Temple 123950 Bruce 12188 Lyttelton 27601
Chandos 12218 Grenville 12201 Chatham 12232



Old Stoic Cufflinks with Oval Colours
Old Stoic chain-linked double-sided cufflinks. The Stowe crest in colour on one side and the Old Stoic colours on the other.
£28.00 84543

All cufflinks are boxed as seen above.



Stowe Umbrella
Superior quality traditional golfing umbrella, with plastic mounted handle and spike.
£30.00 4208



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STOWE

To order telephone
01280 818211 or email
shop@stowe.co.uk

2014 EVENTS

CALENDAR



To see more photos visit the OS Event Gallery at www.oldstoic.co.uk

We have endeavoured to organise a wide range of events in 2014 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

Sunday, 23 March 2014

Cross-Country, Old Stoics v Stowe
Stowe

Saturday, 29 March 2014

40th Anniversary Reunion Dinner
Leaving years 1973, 1974, 1975
Stowe

Thursday, 3 and Friday, 4 April 2014

OS Corkscrew Trip to France
France **£390**

Sunday, 27 April 2014

Dinner for OSs in the Pacific North West
The Shaughnessy Restaurant, Vancouver, V6M 4H1 **\$60**

29 April – 3 May 2014

Old Stoic Art Exhibition
Clarendon Gallery, 46 Dover Street, W1S 4FF

Tuesday, 29 April 2014

Old Stoics in Hong Kong Drinks Reception
The Hong Kong Club, Hong Kong

Thursday, 1 May 2014

OS Corkscrew Wine Tasting
Clarendon Gallery, 46 Dover Street, W1S 4FF

Thursday, 1 May 2014

Old Stoics in Singapore Drinks Reception
Singapore Polo Club, Singapore

Saturday, 17 May 2014

Racehorse Trainer’s Yard Tour
Wiltshire

Friday, 23 May 2014

Russian National Orchestra
Stowe **£50**

Saturday, 24 May 2014

Speech Day and the Old Stoic Classic Car Meeting
Stowe

Tuesday, 3 June 2014

Roxburgh Society Lunch
Stowe

Thursday, 10 June 2014

Old Stoic Summer Party
Kensington Roof Garden, W8 5SA **£40**

Tuesday, 14 June 2014

Career Fair
Stowe

W/C 13 July

Templars’ Cricket Week
Stowe

Wednesday, 10 September 2014

Business Networking: Medicine
Chandos House, 2 Queen Anne Street, W1G 9LQ **£25**

Wednesday, 24 September 2014

50th Anniversary Lunch
Leaving years 1963, 1964, 1965
Stowe

Saturday, 4 October 2014

Old Stoic Day
Stowe

Thursday, 20 November 2014

Annual Dinner and AGM
Middle Temple, EC4Y 9AT **£60**

Friday, 12 December 2014

Ice Skating for Leavers
Somerset House, Strand, WC2R 1LA **£20**

To make enquiries or to book any of the events above please call the Old Stoic Office on 01280 818349 or Email oldstoic@stowe.co.uk Please note, payment for events must be made in advance to secure your place.



- Face painting at Old Stoic Day.
- Nostalgic at Ninety at the Park Lane Hotel.

Old Stoic Society Committee

President:

Sir Richard Branson (Cobham/Lyttelton 68)

Vice President:

Dr Anthony Wallersteiner (Headmaster)

Chairman:

Simon Shneerson (Temple 72)

Vice Chairman:

Patrick Cooper (Chatham 86)

Director:

Anna Semler (Nugent 05)

Members:

John Arkwright (Cobham 69)

Peter Comber (Grenville 70)

Colin Dudgeon (Hon. Member)

Hannah Durden (Nugent 01)

John Fingleton (Chatham 66)

Ivo Forde (Walpole 67)

Jonathon Hall (Bruce 79)

Tim Hart (Chandos 92)

Katie Lamb (Lyttelton 06)

Nigel Milne (Chandos 68)

Ben Scholfield (Temple 99)

Jules Walker (Lyttelton 82)



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ISSN 2052-5494

Design and production: MCC Design, mccdesign.com