

Spanish Faculty trip to La Coruña over the Easter holidays

Monday 1 April 2013



This was our second trip to La Coruña with the focus on a short, intense boost to language with classes and plenty of time with host families. Leaving almost snowbound Shropshire behind we had a good journey out, made a little more interesting by a young Spaniard standing up for himself on the flight accusing an unsuspecting air hostess of having trampled his civil liberties by asking him to sit down (not the kind of Spanish we were supposed to be learning!). Upon arrival, the welcome was effusive, setting the tone for what proved to be wonderfully generous hospitality on behalf of our hosts. Before long boys were tucking into their evening meals, *hora española*, with typical Galician dishes such as pulpo a la gallega, empanadas de bonito and other seafood dishes.

Sunday was spent with the hosts for the most part, full immersion with varying degrees of initial success! Speaking of immersion, it had also started raining, and it wouldn't stop for the next five days, proving why this beautiful part of Spain is called *España Verde*. We met briefly at the 'Domus', comparing notes and learning about the history of man, DNA and how hard we could kick a football among other things!

We then got into a pattern of trips and small group oral lessons. We visited the cathedral at Santiago de Compostela, not looking quite at its best with the iconic Obradoiro façade gushing and dank like a waterfall, and many tourists dripping as they visited the reputed resting place of St James. The tour of La Coruña itself gave an idea of the significance of the place for France and England too, not to mention the Romans given that the seafront is dominated day and night by the ancient Torre de Hercules lighthouse. There was a chance too to visit the Riazor, stadium of Depor – the trophy cabinet not quite as bare as the club's coffers. Sadly international football meant no home game, but we all enjoyed watching Spain's crucial World Cup qualifying victory in France ...

Elsewhere our At'lantik English host company set up a beginners' surf class. Not ideal weather when the difference between getting wet from the Atlantic and from the heavens is hard to distinguish, but as throughout the trip our intrepid Salopians showed real spirit and gave it a go. One or two even looked like they knew what they were doing by the finish!

The key to success for this trip was the quality of the welcome by our host families. The boys gained a real sense of Galician / Spanish hospitality and most (if not all) now have open invitations to return in the future – these are contacts and beginnings of friendships that could last a lifetime with a little care. As well as expressing my gratitude to our Galician families, I

should like to thank Ben Smith and his colleagues at At'lantik English for their personal touch and attention to detail, Mike Wright for organising at this end and, last but not least, all the boys for approaching the trip in exactly the right spirit thereby doing themselves and the School proud.

SHC



Success in the Public Schools' Fencing Championships 2013

Monday 1 April 2013

This year, we had 12 pupils competing in the national Public Schools' Fencing Championships, which took place just after the end of the Lent Term at Crystal Palace. The event attracted 1,392 fencers from schools throughout the UK, with competitors travelling from as far afield as Northern Ireland, Scotland and the Channel Islands. Competitions were held in all three weapons – foil, épée and sabre – for boys and girls, at three age group levels.

The full report follows from coaches Ken and Andrew Holding, but the highlights were Marco Lee's fifth place in the Junior Foil, and Arthur Cheng's tenth place in the Senior Epée.

In the junior foil event Marco Lee finished in fifth place, losing out to the silver medallist Stewart in the quarter finals, after being ranked in first place throughout the preliminary rounds. In the same event Ross Viljoen finished in a respectable 28th place.

In the senior foil, Harry Cox and Jack Viljoen both reached the last 64.

Lucy Petch finished in 26th place in the girls senior foil – her first major competition, paving the way for more of our girls to compete next year.

Junior épée saw an incredible 47th place for Elvis Mak who did so well in such a strong field of fencers.

Arthur Cheng fenced brilliantly all day in the senior épée and achieved a well deserved 10th place much above what was expected; the past year has seen his fencing improve dramatically with well-timed counter attacks being his forte. In the same event Charlie Godman missed reaching the last 16 losing just 13-12 against Tidmarch in a most thrilling and nail-biting fight.

In the senior sabre all five of our boys – Harry Cox, Jack Viljoen, Arthur Cheng, Jonty Small and Charlie Godman – reached the last 32 which shows the strength in depth of our sabre squad. Three of our boys missed the last 16 by only the odd hit.

In the junior sabre we did, however, have a last 16 fencer with Ross Viljoen finishing in 15th place and was very unlucky not to have reached the last 8. A excellent day's fencing from Ross.

Overall an outstanding performance from all of the fencers who took part; with thanks to all of the support staff who helped make it happen, and special thanks to O.B. Chris Williams for coming to help us in our time of need.

Ken/Andrew Holding

www.wrekinsword.co.uk



BOYS SENIOR FOIL (106 entries)

53rd	HARRY COX
55th	CHARLIE GODMAN
58th	JACK VILJOEN
83rd	JONTY SMALL
88th	ARTHUR CHENG
102nd	OLLIE MARSHALL

BOYS JUNIOR FOIL (119 entries)

5th	MARCO LEE
28th	ROSS VILJOEN
43rd	SCOTT REYNOLDS
55th	MATTY OWEN-SINCLAIR

BOYS SENIOR EPEE (109 entries)

10th	ARTHUR CHENG
20th	CHARLIE GODMAN
67th	JACK VILJOEN
72nd	OLLIE MARSHALL

BOYS JUNIOR EPEE (126 entries)

47th	ELVIS MAK
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BOYS SENIOR SABRE (58 entries)

18th	CHARLIE GODMAN
21st	HARRY COX
27th	JACK VILJOEN
29th	JONTY SMALL
31st	ARTHUR CHENG

BOYS JUNIOR SABRE (75 entries)

15th	ROSS VILJOEN
43rd	BENSON CHANG

GIRLS SENIOR FOIL (39 entries)

26th	LUCY PETCH
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Orles Barn – Five Star Lunch

Tuesday 2 April 2013

A group of Old Salopians and Shrewsbury School staff attended a lunch at the Orles Barn (AA 5 Star restaurant with 2 Rosettes) on Sunday 17



March. The attractive 17th century premises owned by Old Salopian Richard Bailey (SH 87-92), boasts a fine modern dining room and a warm, friendly ambience. The mouth-watering menu was certainly worth the journey and a loud, yet jolly Salopian afternoon ensued. Many of the guests discovered that they were close neighbours and several new friendships were forged. On departure attendees requested that something similar be organised a year or so down the line.

Pictured L - R: Club Chairman, David Thomas with Neil Racz, Rob Davidson and Charles Martell



Jeremy Read's 'bonkers' marathon programme - all in aid of Hope and Homes for Children

Wednesday 3 April 2013



Jeremy Read (M 2003-2007) is embarking on what he calls 'a bit of a charitable spree as now is the time to do some good for the wider world'

Accordingly, he has entered for The Virgin London Marathon - 21/04/2013, The Great North Run - 15/09/2013, Tough Mudder North West - 05/10/2013 and above all, the Kalahari Extreme Marathon (250K) - 24/10/2013

Jeremy says that the first three will form his 'training programme of competitions' to prepare himself for the Kalahari marathon. 'This is a seriously gruelling race and will be the most physically demanding task I have ever undertaken.

The top line is a 250KM, 5 day run in the Kalahari Desert with no lifelines; if you get lost 'you're on your own', along with the obvious dangers of venomous animals and flesh-eaters. Bonkers I know.'

More information, here: http://www.extrememarathons.com/KAEM/KAEM_index.html

Jeremy hopes to raise money for the Charity, 'Hope and Homes for Children'. He says 'I was introduced to this charity through my work, a company called BrandFuel. We try and help where we can with various charities but having recently had a baby of my own; this charity makes me realise more than ever how fortunate I and indeed many Old Salopians are. It resonates strongly with me that we have a responsibility not just for our immediate peers, and the work they do is really very empowering. I will let the charity speak for itself however, they do themselves much more justice than I ever could!'

<http://www.hopeandhomes.org/>

If you would like to help Jeremy achieve his target of £2000, please visit:

<http://www.justgiving.com/Jez-Read1>



Saracens Dinner – 23 March 2013

Wednesday 3 April 2013

Alex Baxter writes:

A celebration dinner for the victorious Saracens Cricketer Cup side was held at the Top of the Shop on the evening of Saturday 23rd March. Over 50 players and guests attended. The festivities started with a champagne reception in the Pentagon, hosted by Headmaster, Mark



Turner. After helping Saracens Captain Tom Cox (M 2000-05) to open a magnum of champagne, Mark gave a short address during which he exhorted the Saracens to repeat last season's outstanding achievement. The Top of the Shop had been laid out for fine dining and the Kingsland Hall staffs served an excellent meal during which the wine flowed throughout. Towards the end of the meal, President Nicko Williams (SH 1954-58) gave a witty address and then presented Saracens ties to

every player that participated in the Cricketer Cup.

This was followed by a speech from Tom Cox, in which he highlighted the key factors that contributed to the 2012 team's successful season. At the conclusion of a happy evening, current players gave a raucous rendition of their Devon tour song (to the tune "The Sloop John B") which would have definitely scored "worst in category" at the local Eisteddfod! Special thanks to Paul Nichols (S 1966-71) and his support team for arranging a happy and successful evening. Guests included School masters Paul Pridgeon, Andy Barnard and Will Hughes (G 1988-90), eminent Old Salopian Sir Richard Curtis (I 1946-52) and Salopian Club Director, Alex Baxter.

Pictured: Jack Brydon receiving tie from Nick Williams (excited thumbs up from Paul Nichols).

Dom Gibbons Uganda Experience

Wednesday 3 April 2013



Dom Gibbons (O 2007-12) is currently volunteering on an Africa & Asia project in Uganda. (He is with another volunteer, Ed Nicholson.) The Director of the Africa and Asia project, Andrew Mackenzie, tells us that Dom is the 37th Old Salopian to volunteer with the project.

More information at www.aventure.co.uk



Old Salopians' newsletters - just in

Wednesday 3 April 2013



Several Old Salopians maintain websites, blogs and produce newsletters about their business ventures or charity fundraising efforts and we are delighted to get these updates.

Two regular correspondents are Dan Howie, pictured left (Ch 1998-2003), who is planning to row the Atlantic at the end of 2013 <http://www.atlanticrow2013.com/> (brochure and more details [here](#)) and Oliver Greenall (Rt 2000-2005) whose Easter newsletter can be downloaded [here](#).

If you have news of interest to other Old Salopians, please send links, reports, photos to the office: oldsalopian@shrewsbury.org.uk.



Charlie Marlow (R 1995-2000): More information on his record of 99 appearances for our 1st XI football team

Wednesday 3 April 2013

The recent excitement over Max Pragnell's record number of 1st XI goals (91, over 3 seasons) which smashed Roy Chaterjee's record of 83 goals over 2 seasons, prompted Geoffrey Clarke (honorary Old Salopian and avid 1st XI supporter) to write the following about Charlie Marlow's own record:

Charlie was one of the great all-round Shrewsbury School sportsmen of modern times, excelling in both football and cricket.

In 2000, Shrewsbury's 1st XI won the prestigious Boodle & Dunthorp Cup 1-0 over favourites Charterhouse, at Leicester City F.C. Filbert Street Ground. Charlie was the 1st XI Captain, and a central figure in that victory.

In the three years that he played for the 1st XI, Charlie made 99 recognised appearances.

Rowing camp at Brive-La-Gaillarde, France

Monday 15 April 2013

A total of 42 pupils and seven staff spent seven days in southern France training hard for the race season ahead. Max Kimpton-Smith (O UVI) describes their week.



L to R: 1st VIII, 2nd VIII, Girls' Squad

Having safely navigated two coach journeys and an EasyJet flight, it was a welcome sight to arrive at the lake. The stunning Lake Causse is nestled in the hills in the Limousin region and provided the ideal venue for some quality training and testing over seven days from the 3rd April.

The group comprised 14 J16 oarsmen, 10 senior girls and 18 senior boys. The accommodation was basic but warm and suitably located overlooking the lake. When we boarded the plane we had hoped we had left the unseasonably cold weather behind us in the UK, but unfortunately there was little respite from the cold and wet. However the weather did little to dampen our spirits or the training as we racked up the miles on the generally flat water.

The 2000m course provided a great opportunity for seat racing, testing and work in small boats, which is often more challenging on the relatively fast-flowing and meandering River Severn.

Mr Lapage's French and skills at treating blisters proved invaluable as the days wore on, and the hands wore down. The hire minibus was put through its paces doing shuttle runs in the rain between the accommodation and the catering block.

As the week went on, water sessions, weights sessions, video and telemetry analysis sessions and revision sessions all began to merge into one, as we all got into a routine of waking up in the morning and spending almost the entire day working ourselves to the limit. On Sunday, the weather was much better – a scorching 16 degrees – so we made the most of it, with four training sessions and a lunchtime swim in the lake. Many of the guys agree that some of the best and most memorable moments were the few evening sessions we had after supper, when it was nearly pitch black and eerily still by the time we got back in.

One of the aims of the week was to begin the transition for the longer, head race distances from earlier on in the year, switching from 5km time trials to 2km multi-lane racing – the same format as the Olympics. Whilst we were there, we built up our race profile, beginning with racing starts and then moving on to 250m sprints, 500m, 750m, 1km etc. This built up to the final morning, when all the crews – J16s, Girls, 2nd VIII and 1st VIII – got up early for a 2km race before



breakfast. Pre-breakfast outings are tough, as it is crucial to have eaten enough beforehand so you have the energy to make it through the race. Everyone's first 2km of the season went well, but the times reflected how hard we had all been pushed in the lead up to it.

Overall, the camp was a great success and all the crews stepped on and the atmosphere and camaraderie was highly entertaining. On our final night there, we awarded various 'prizes' to certain people... I should probably not go into too much detail here, but I'll just say that it was a very funny evening. As we left the lake and headed back home, it was clear not only how tired everyone was, but also that there is a strong sense of eager anticipation for the races coming up in the rest of the year.

Many thanks to Mr and Mrs Wilson, Mr Williams, Mr Cooke, Mr Lapage, Mr Clarke and Mr Hundermark for all the time they put in to make the trip so successful.

Max Kimpton-Smith (O UVI)



Shrewsbury's Big Band win a Gold Medal at the National Concert Band Festival

Monday 15 April 2013

Following their outstanding performance at the regional rounds of the National Concert Band Festival in November, Shrewsbury's Big Band were awarded another Gold Medal at the Finals of the National Concert Band Festival held at the Birmingham Conservatoire on 13th April. Director Maria Eglinton was delighted with their performance and describes the lead-up to this the UK's largest wind band and big band festival. Three of the band members were interviewed live on Radio Shropshire just before they went to Birmingham on Saturday morning - the link (below) to the recording of the interview will work until Saturday 20th April.



Big Band rehearsing with Maria Eglinton in the Maidment Building

With the Easter Holidays falling just before the Festival, I thought that it was a little risky to just turn up to the final and decided to hold some rehearsals at School leading up to this. I think the boys were more excited about staying in Emma Darwin Hall than rehearsing in the Music School, but they all worked hard and made some really excellent progress!

The performance in Birmingham went extremely well and I really don't think they could have played much better. The chosen programme was: *In the Mood*, *The Girl from Ipanema* (vocalist: Teresa Fawcett Wood), *St Thomas* and *The Simpsons* theme tune. After a tense adjudication given by Dr Ian Darrington (founder and director of the Wigan International Jazz Festival) and John Ruddick (Director of the Midland Youth Jazz Orchestra), we were pleased to have been awarded another Gold.

Particular congratulations to Henry Thomas (Ch, 4th), who was awarded an Outstanding Soloist Award.

Special thanks to Heyes Music of Southampton for lending us a Flugel Horn for use in 'The Girl from Ipanema'.

Please listen to the recording of the Radio Shropshire interview that Maria and three of the band - Will Heyes, Joe Bell and Dominic Craven - gave just before they left for Birmingham, starting 3 hours and 28 minutes into the programme; the link will work until Saturday 20th April: [Radio Shropshire Breakfast Show](#).



Big Band on their way to winning Gold in the Birmingham Conservatoire



Majorca Tennis Trip Easter 2013

Monday 15 April 2013

"This tennis trip has to go down as the best tennis trip I have run. Quite simply the boys were excellent ambassadors of what it means to be a Salopian. Throughout the trip they were polite, enthusiastic, hard working and clearly enjoyed the tennis and each others company."



The trip got off to a nerve wracking start when one boy arrived to check in 1 minute before the flight was closed – MJH and MDHC were both having kittens as a result. However after this initial scare the trip could not have been better. We were blessed with very good weather both for the coaching sessions 10am-12.30pm and the competitive match play 4-6pm. The coaches were very pleased with the efforts of all of the boys on court and I was delighted by how each boy competed in the afternoon.

Two awards were made to the best player of the tour Alex Webb (R,3) and to the most improved player Harri Holroyd (RT,3). Alex played so well that MDHC declared that he could become Shrewsbury School's finest player ever. Quite a claim but his passion, talent and dedication could well see Mr Clark's words fulfilled. As it is Alex will be playing 2nd pair for the 1st VI this season – a great achievement for a 3rd former. Perhaps for me the highlight was the rendition of gangnam style by Tom Edwards (S,4), David Clark (RB,4) and Luca Mattinson (RB,4) and this was performed as part of the hotel's entertainment.

After a 6 day trip the 13 boys arrived back to the Manchester gloom. Thanks must go as ever to Mr Clark who helped to run the trip and enthuse the boys. I can only hope that the Easter 2015 Trip will be as enjoyable as this one.

MJH

Harry Lonergan (O U6) selected to row for GB

Monday 15 April 2013

After five days of trialling and racing at Holme Pierrepont National Watersports Centre near Nottingham, Harry Lonergan (O U6) was selected to represent Great Britain at the Munich Regatta on the 4th and 5th May.

Harry was a member of the Great Britain Coxless Four that came fourth at the Junior World Championships in August last year.

History trip to Istanbul, Easter 2013

Tuesday 16 April 2013

Alex Walker (O LVI) writes up the 2013 History trip to Istanbul.



Tragically it was bad weather that led to our departure time being brought back to 2am outside the Alington Hall, the trudge through the snow in the middle of the night was a depressing start to what turned out to be a thoroughly interesting and entertaining trip to Turkey. The flight over didn't do anything to contribute to this, though, and the distinct lack of anything to do other than watch the BBC version of *Great Expectations* wasn't entirely satisfactory.

On our arrival at the airport in Istanbul we were greeted by the man who would accompany us quite literally everywhere we would go on the trip. Yasar (or Yoshi as he became more affectionately known) constantly supplied us with his knowledge on just about everything we came across.

Our first day in the city was a busy one to say the least; our first port of call was the world-famous Blue Mosque which was conveniently located within walking distance of our hotel. This impressive structure, which dates back to the 17th Century when the city was under the Islamic Ottoman rule, is an architectural masterpiece with its enormous six minarets and intricate tile work on the interior. From here we only needed to stroll outside to see our next attraction the Roman Hippodrome. It was easy to picture the chariot races of Constantine's rule that would have entertained the crowds when looking at the area. The Hagia Sophia church, whilst not still an area of worship like the Blue Mosque, was personally more historically fascinating due to the remnants that had been uncovered of its time as a church in the years of Christian Roman rule and its huge scale. It was great to see it so similar to how the Crusaders must have experienced it over 900 years ago – staring up in awe. From here we walked to the Basilica Cistern, an incredible underground structure, which was used as a place to store emergency water for the city for many years. Its eerily lit stone columns that loomed into the darkness of the high vaulted ceiling created a slightly unnerving atmosphere and it was a relief to emerge into the sunny streets after visiting its ancient depths. That afternoon we were given two hours to look around Istanbul's archaeological museum that contained what was referred to as Alexander the Great's sarcophagus. This sounded impressive but we later learned it wasn't actually his. The mummy of an ancient king, who still had a considerable quantity of hair and even some skin still on the go, was probably the highlight of the museum which otherwise contained rather too many bits of broken pot that apparently originated from the fabled city of Troy.

From here we still had one more place to visit, the Golden Gate and seven towers. On arrival, we were told to watch out for gypsy children, so were rather worried when as we passed into the old fortified area surrounded by the seven towers to see a multitude of men all dressed in black and swinging AK-47's rather haphazardly. They were "filming" apparently, although we weren't convinced and kept our distance, going for a perhaps even more dangerous walk along the top of



the walls. Health and safety being a rather novel idea in Turkey, these didn't have any form of barriers between you and the fairly distant ground below. All that remained of our first day was to visit a restaurant in the evening and be forced to eat far too much hot bread that would ensure constipation for the rest of our stay.

The next day we went straight to the Topkapi palace, highlights included the world's fourth largest diamond that was apparently bought for four spoons and Yasar's gentle, calming voice telling us repeatedly about the multitude of women that were kept as concubines by the Ottoman emperor. We were treated again to his dulcet tones whilst sitting on a boat making its way slowly down the Bosphorus, this time over a microphone, which made him even more incomprehensible than usual. From here we trekked through the Spice Bazaar and into the Grand Bazaar, where it was possible to buy Dolce and Gabana and Armani aftershaves for less than a pound, although the safety of your skin couldn't be guaranteed.

On our third day we journeyed out of Istanbul towards Iznik, what was the ancient city of Nicaea. That morning an unexpected visitor had arrived. Appearing at breakfast as if from nowhere, Mr Sheppe then decided to join us for the rest of the day, postponing whatever urgent CIA business it was he was meant to be attending to. The bus ride there was lengthy and our patience with Yasar and his incredibly consistent use of the microphone to make sure we were all awake was less than welcome. The Roman walls, that were the first line of defence against the Crusaders when they arrived, were incredibly impressive and our walk along them was enjoyable. Inevitably, we were followed by most of the school girls in the area who luckily weren't able to join us for lunch or who knows what might have happened. The meatballs we had were excellent and made even more pleasant when the news arrived that Henry Dashwood's bank card had been swallowed by the Turkish system and he would only be able to get it back when the bank staff's lunch break ended, which was at 5pm. Ignoring his plight, we took a ferry back to Istanbul, on which Mr Sheppe kindly imparted his knowledge of the Turkish numerical system, and taught us how to count to ten. From here we took a walk through the more modern part of town, whilst Hugo Scott used the toilet facilities he had been dreaming of all day, in Starbucks.

The next day was our last and we were given free time to do as we pleased; expensive Turkish baths were had by some, whilst others used the time to buy as much cheap rubbish as was possible to bring back to the UK as "gifts". Three Turkish coffees and extensive use of the hotel's massage chair put me in a bad way and the flight home was a welcome time to get some sleep, after what had been an extremely pleasurable trip.

Alex Walker (O LVI)

Groups flock in to Shrewsbury School during the Easter 'holiday'

Tuesday 16 April 2013

For many of the staff at Shrewsbury, the three-week Easter period was anything but a 'break'. As General Services Manager Sue Laister explains, the School has been a hive of activity over Easter, with groups from all over the country using the facilities for a vast array of different activities.



With the unseasonal snowfall hastening the end of the Lent term, the Establishment and Boarding House cleaning teams leapt into action to spring clean the houses in time for the arrival of the National School Fives competitors on Sunday 24th March. Meanwhile the Laundry staff made up close to 500 bed sets in addition to dealing with a mountain of laundry from the matrons.



I don't expect that when Seb Cooley agreed to organise the Fives that he had anticipated that competition day would be preceded by Andy Richards and his Grounds team having to sweep the courts clear of snow and grit the whole area, but they rose to the challenge with games starting on time.

Unfortunately the football pitches didn't fare quite as well and we had to cancel the ISFA under-13 Football Festival, not a hard decision to make with 10 cms of snow on the ground but a real shame for the footballers travelling to us from all over the country.

The Maidment Building was in full use throughout the holidays. Wigan Youth Orchestra rehearsed there prior to their performance at the Royal Northern College of Music. They were followed by the National Children's Choir of Great Britain, staying with us for their third year running, whose stay culminated in a performance in front of 500 proud parents.

On the sporting front HD Sportsworld held their boys' and girls' football festivals with England goalkeeper Joe Hart visiting. He was kept extremely busy signing autographs whilst chatting to the youngsters and passing on a few coaching tips.

Not to be outdone, the Andrew Flintoff Cricket Academy held another of their regular non-residential cricket courses with Jimmy Anderson, one of England's leading strike bowlers, in attendance. The highlight of the Q & A session was when one young boy asked Jimmy, "Are you



tucked in when you're fielding?" After repeating the question it became apparent he was referring to his England shirt and presumably he was also checking out that his Mum's dress code instructions were correct!



Jimmy Anderson and Joe Hart surrounded by their fans

In the final week of the holidays, pre-season training camps were very much in evidence for the rowers from King's School Worcester, Lincoln College in Oxford and our own J14s, along with cricketers from Manchester University, with the School 1st & 2nd teams playing Millfield, Worksop, Worcester Academy and Giggleswick School.



Ed Moore and his team organised a range of non-residential holiday activities featuring – for the first time – archery, fencing and canoeing, along with our established swimming, tennis, trampolining and performing art courses, all of which were well attended and great fun.

In conclusion, this was our busiest Easter to date, with 3,200 bed nights and the KH team cooking and serving 9,400 meals. The success of the programme helps to generate profits that contribute to funding school bursaries. My thanks to everyone who played their part in ensuring our guests enjoyed their stay here. Many staff, too numerous to mention, have helped tremendously and there have been many compliments about the high standards of facilities on offer.

Finally I do sometimes get asked why do we host so many groups and organise so many activities. I guess part of the answer lies in the obvious pleasure guests experience from being at Shrewsbury, but also from when I receive a letter from a star-struck Joe Hart fan – and I quote: “Thank you for organising the greatest day of my life.”

*Sue Laister
General Services Manager*



Fives: National Schools' Championships at Shrewsbury: 24th - 29th March 2013

Tuesday 16 April 2013

The dream would have been to defend the Open Title on our home courts. This year we had to settle for being runners-up – though this was an impressive achievement in itself. There were plenty of other highlights for Shrewsbury: our first pairs won both the Under 16 and Under 15 trophies, and our girls' pairs won the Ladies' Festival, a new tournament to replace the Ladies' U17 Beginners, as well as the plate for the quarter final losers. Please read the full report below from Master i/c Seb Cooley, who is himself the current National Fives Champion. He is also a master with the pen, and his entertaining article gives a vivid account of the drama, tensions and highlights of this the most important and keenly fought competition in the Schools' Eton Fives calendar.



The courts now stand eerily quiet, almost still echoing with the efforts, elation and anguish of the last week. Looking at them now, it is difficult to believe that at this time yesterday they were loud with the action and activity of the Nationals. I find myself looking back on a week with the full mixture of emotions, with my nerves in shreds after two days of tension that made Alfred Hitchcock look like Walt Disney.

It does seem aeons ago that I headed out to the courts on a Sunday morning to inspect their condition:

the weather was not kind at the start of the week, but fortunately all the white stuff that had fallen, had fallen mercifully close to the vertical: the floors were dry. The usual marquee had not yet been erected, for fear it would be crushed! The scene that greeted me corroborated that decision.

It was going to be a chilly week! Masters-in-charge were frequently to be heard wailing that last year's championships had seen temperatures of up to 24°C. Hats, gloves and scarves would be the order this year. The wails abated slightly on the discovery that Quod was open and stocked with some of the richest hot chocolate in the northern hemisphere.



The Shrewsbury School Fives courts on the morning of the Schools' National Championships 2013

Despite the skyfull of snow that had got lost in the arctic circle, taken a wrong turn at the Basingstoke roundabout and fallen across the midlands, only two pairs of the entire entry to day one didn't manage the journey (though some who did had spent some yards of it freed from the usual friction-dominated interaction between their car tyres and the road). We started a little later than anticipated but with a

large and keen group of competitors in the U15 tournament.

The day ran well for the competitors, with four Shrewsbury pairs in the last 16 and two in the quarter-finals despite a few notable players falling casualty to family holiday plans. Second pair Matt White and Luke Lloyd-Jones lost 12-13 in the deciding game, just missing out on a semi-final spot; they had played comfortably the best fives I've ever seen from either of them, Luke returned cut like a man possessed and they really showed themselves to be big tournament players. Keep an eye on these two for the future, as well as a number of others in the cohort who have made some superb progress this season. In the semis, Jack Fox and George Panayi had a wobbly start, losing the first game 12-13 to Eton 2. This fired them up though, and with renewed focus and now in attack mode, they blew the opposition away for two games: 12-3, 12-4. Neither did they lose nerve: though Eton fought well, George was too fast, tall and strong and Jack too accurate from the back of court. Shrewsbury won the fourth game 12-8 to bag themselves a place in the final. Meanwhile and not to be outdone, the Churchillian brothers-in-fun Arthur Bowen and Henry Newbould destroyed all before them in the plate competition and thus took home the first trophies of the week. Cheerful on the outside but really rather competitive underneath it, those two!



Meanwhile, however, Sunday was past and with Monday the U16s competition had begun. George Lewis was playing with Tom Breese at first pair, Tom having been promoted from the U15s for the second half of the season and having been up to the task. The Nationals are a sterner test than school matches though and both would find questions asked of them. Second pair was due to be Fred Earlam and Fred Adair, but they fell foul of the Master in charge by getting the balance and timing of competitive focus and relaxed downtime wrong and were sent home. Their hangovers were probably nothing compared to having to face their mothers. The result was that all hopes for reaching the later stages really were pinned on the first pair – though this was very nearly proved wrong by Jamie Humes and Ollie Nolan. We know that Jamie has the pedigree to play at a high standard but didn't think Ollie would be consistent enough, but they played an absolute blinder against top



seeds Harrow, losing in straight games but 13-15, 3-12, 12-14, Harrow having to work far harder than they did in the ensuing quarter-final. George and Tom, through to Tuesday's quarters, had a difficult route through the draw from their fourth seed position. The match against 5th seeded Highgate was, we thought in retrospect when it finished, just the game they needed to get into the tournament and settle. They lost the first game 11-14 but battled back and won 12-9, 14-12, 12-6, looking ever better. This set them up for a semi-final against Harrow.



Monday was the day of the shovel - great avalanches of snow fell from the roof around midday and had to be cleared back to a safe distance. No-one was struck!

Many of our senior boys and girls also arrived on Monday afternoon for the mixed competition, starting at 4pm. We are traditionally quite strong in this and indeed our top two pairs reached the semi-finals before both going out to good Highgate pairs.

On Monday evening – in an excellent idea presented to me by George Panayi during the

day – we all went down for a curry in town. The seniors had arrived and the U16s were almost all still around so it was the best evening for a team event. The evening out was enjoyed by all, especially Ed Barn, who got a good seat and may not have gone directly home when our minibus got back.

So to Tuesday and the start of the Open competition. We had hopes of at least three pairs doing well in this, but understood that we could just as well have none perform on the day! Guy Williams and Henry Blofield had not played well together for weeks (but are known to be able to pull out a good performance in tournaments), Harry Flowers and Charlie White had similarly had good and bad matches and Harry B-D and Elliott Christie can be more volatile than NASA's finest fuel. Shrewsbury 4 (Nick Pearce & Antony Peel) and 5 (Quirk & Hulse) also made it out of their groups. Quirk & Hulse couldn't rattle St Olave's 3 in the second round; Peel & Pearce made it easily to the third round but then met top seeds Eton 1. Pearce & Peel had had a close game against second seeds Harrow in the pools; though they lost, they took from Harrow any air of invincibility their seeding might convey. This was clearly going to be a very open tournament!

Harry B-D and Elliott had had a good pool and had left all their constituent parts and surroundings intact through the pools and round 2. They got the tough draw of Harrow in the third round, but were willing to attack. And it paid off – Harrow were off guard and the match was a good one. 13-15 Harrow the first, then 7-12 Harrow and though 2-0 down, Harry and Elliott kept playing their shots and came very close: 10-13 in the third. In the end, Harrow – now no longer sleeping as they had been in the pools but playing their best fives – were just strong enough to hold us off.

Harry Flowers and Charlie White had started the tournament with precisely the desired result in the pools – according to script and pre-tournament targets, they turned over 4th seeds St Olave's 1 in their group, thus giving them a seeding spot themselves. They subsequently cruised through St Olave's 2 (12-1, 12-1, 12-2) in the third round but were drawn against Harrow in Quarters the following day.



Guy and Blo were unperturbed by their pool. Harry F and Charlie White did ensure that their third round draw was against the deposed Olavian top pair, but they came through that game 12-9, 12-8, 13-12 and got the confidence of beating a decent pair before going into the Wednesday quarter-final against Westminster.

From this stage of the week, various knock-out matches of other competitions are being played before, during or after the day's main competition. So Tuesday morning had seen the final of the U15s tournament, with Jack Fox and George Panayi looking to lift the first cup for Shrewsbury and with an Eton pair standing in their way. The match was to start early and the Head Master had come along to watch a little and was in perfect time to give them a pep talk. As he did so, SKPC had the great misfortune of being the only person at the tournament known to have been victim to a judiciously timed falling of snow – by now mostly ice – from the roof. And he wasn't wearing a hat. Fortunately the M-i-C fives brushes off such attacks with stoic disdain, even if they do knock off his glasses. Nonetheless, back to Panaya and Fox, who if you remember had a 3-1 win against Eton 2 in their semi-final. We note that Eton's two pairs were of a very similar standard this year – indeed they had been the other way around until a result between them a week earlier. Our plan: go in hard, play fast, play early; never give them a sniff! We took the first game 12-7 doing precisely that and followed up taking the second 12-4. Papaya now had the wind in his sails and Fox assisted magnificently, finding length on his approaches from the back court as they took the third game and the tournament 12-6. It had been a well-fought game by the Eton pair, who didn't give much away but were just outpowered by George who, being *citius, altius and fortius*, did indeed look the Olympian in this tournament.



George Panayi and Jack Fox forget to look happy on winning the U15 competition!

George then cheerfully went on to play in the Open competition for the day with Ed Barnard as a wildcard pair. From what I saw of him, he was playing a very statesmanlike game, rightly



revelling in his new National Champion status. Indeed he was to stay in Shrewsbury all week, providing entertainment, company and moral support to the rest of the side.

Tuesday's other knock-out rounds were the U16 quarter-finals whose results are already noted above.

Wednesday: Shrewsbury was invaded from all angles by the Third Form. Eleven pairs played on Wednesday in the U14 tournament and on Thursday in the U14 beginners. The former is something of a warm-up for us and it is usually dominated by Highgate. This year was no exception: we got three pairs through the pools, including the wild-card pair of Nick Davis and Michael Schutzer-Weissmann, who as Shrewsbury 11 managed to get out of a pool which included Highgate 1! However, they were unable to make any impression in their next match against St Olaves 1. Shrewsbury 3, Jesse Mattinson and Max Morris, having lost to Highgate 7 in their pool, went through in second place, where they fell to Berkhamsted1. Meanwhile Shrewsbury 1, Adam Aslam-Baskeyfield and Ed Chapman, effortlessly eased through their pool and then squeezed past Ipswich 1 12-8, 12-10, before falling to a Highgate pair in the 3rd Round. All the pairs played more matches in the plate competitions and gained vast amounts of experience for Beginners' Competition the next day. It is worth highlighting the efforts of Shrewsbury 2, Dan and Ross Orchard, and Shrewsbury 8, Freddie Fielding and Jonty Schofield, who made good progress in the afternoon winning several matches and reaching the latter stages of the Plate Competitions.

U16 semi-finals and Open quarters were also billed for the day and this is where matches can become battles, where mental resilience can be worth just as much as technique and where serious players need to stand up and be counted. Four such players were George Lewis, Tom Breese and Harrow's top U16 pair in their semi-final. They were playing on the river end court, biology side which, as anyone who has watched much fives at Shrewsbury will tell you, is the coldest place on the entire site to watch any sporting endeavour. Meanwhile White & Flowers were on against Harrow 1 in the Open and Williams & Blofield played Westminster. All go! Williams & Blofield won 3-0 without any scares. Harrow's sleeping giant apparently woke up overnight to his coaches' eternal relief and they stormed past White and Flowers, leaving me wishing they could have played on Tuesday evening. Whatever that Harrovian had for breakfast is going straight onto my Championships menu. That leaves Lewis and Breese, who lost the first game 7-12 though it had been close for most of it. They had just lacked accuracy on the approach and volley (Tom Breese's right glove was better padded out than a Hebridean sheep preparing for a particularly harsh winter) and gave away a few points towards the end. They came back fighting though, and won a similar second game 12-8. Both had been decided by unforced errors from the losing pair. George and Tom looked to be on a roll now and to my delight (a few fingers were suffering suspected frostbite) took the third 12-5 to go into a 2-1 lead. The fourth was a bizarre game: we took a 7-0 lead and were probably starting to think about holding it and closing out but Harrow pegged it back to 7-7. It then crept point-by point to 10-10 (always 10-10!) and 14-14 but Harrow nicked it 14-15. There was a brief respite for my hands as I gave Harry Flowers (showered, packed, changed after finishing a match, to give some idea of how long this semi was going on) a double-quick lift down to the station; in fact this could have been during the third game, memory fails! I missed only about eight points scored due to the round trip. I felt George and Tom had the ability but the Harrow pair were returning more than we expected and were staying in rallies, when our shots were wayward it allowed them to find level footing again and it was keeping them firmly in the game: we desperately needed to find greater accuracy to kill the ball. The fifth game was neck and neck (my left hand had become a block of ice), typically, as both sides had tightened up on unforced errors and every point was



being contested vigorously. George Panayi was unable to contain himself at the back of court and became a one-man menagerie, moaning like a grieving sea lion when a rally went badly, sometimes augmenting this expression by hopping up and down like a demented wallaby. And the rest of us were not much better! The game went to 10-10, of course, and was set to 15. These were tense times at the back of court (I would definitely much rather be on court at times like these than spectating). George was showing real class and pulled out some glorious shots and Tom picked off some early volleys which took Harrow by surprise; we scored a few points relatively quickly and ran out 15-11 winners in the 5th. I am fairly sure the game had been on for around three hours (it finished at 8:20pm), and that was just the semi-final. Eton had been confirmed as finalists a good long while previously. Time to defrost, relax and wonder about supper. The boys ordered pizza!

The U14s had their big day on Thursday; we knew Eton and Harrow to be strong this year. We have good numbers of very keen and sound players though and this was borne out when six of our pairs got through to the last 16. Unfortunately just two made it to the quarters, though Shrewsbury 4, Josh Himsworth and George Pearce, came very close against Q E Barnet 1, just missing out 11-12 in the first and third games. In the quarters both of our pairs met Harrovians; Ross and Dan Orchard had performed well over the two days, but found Harrow 1 too strong for them. Ed Chapman and Adam Aslam-Baskeyfield showed themselves not outclassed in their match against Harrow 2 and came close, losing 12-13 in the second: this is very promising and I look forward to seeing their progression next year. There was greater success in the plate competitions; in Plate A, Shrewsbury 8, Freddie Fielding and Jonty Schofield, bettered their performance of the previous day by reaching the final, where they defeated Shrewsbury 6, Will Bedson and Pat Jacob. Meanwhile there was another all Shrewsbury final in Plate B, which resulted in victory in three grueling sets to Shrewsbury 3, Jesse Mattinson and Max Morris, over Radbrook rivals, Shrewsbury 5, George Hargrave and Sam McLoughlin.

Meanwhile I had calmed down just enough from the U16 semi-final to be ready to cope with the final, starting at lunchtime. Tom Breese at this stage decided that a further bruised hand was a risk he was willing to take to give him the usual control of shot. The Etonians are a good pair who will not tire nor concede many points; we are a more attacking, more risk-taking outfit and the questions to be answered were whether Tom could be consistent and level-headed enough and George able to dominate the court successfully. Much like our semi-final, the final started off neck and neck, but we nabbed the first game 12-9. Eton however won the second with the same scoreline. This is where the match began in earnest, with each point a minor victory and a run of a few points being a game-winning event. Both pairs denied each other any of these runs and the pressure on them was huge; unforced errors are enormously expensive. The next game we sensed could be crucial, and it was just as close as the previous two; indeed closer at the close as the scores reached 10-10 and the game was almost inevitably set to 15. George Panayi could have passed for an entire sector of London Zoo. Points were scored; individual nerves were being extracted from me and carefully stamped on; the process was repeated thirty seconds later with a new rally, a fresh battle. George and Tom pulled through 15-13. To a fourth game, with advantage Shrewsbury. I don't know why I watch the first two thirds of these games as the progression to 10-10 seems by now pretty much a given. It purely serves to set the scene for the last ten minutes. But 10-all it once again became and, again, 15 was the new target set. If memory serves (and given the damage being done to my nervous system by each nail-biting point it is perfectly possible that memory does not serve), George and Tom took a lead here and reached 14 and match point. Eton, however, were never going to lie down and they cut superbly through (I think Grant counted) close to 11 hands (so 22 match points) to deny us the finish. There may

have been two rallies on match point. There may have been tension. David Attenborough may have turned up with an entire Out of Africa film crew to document George Panayi's behaviour. Eton pulled back to 14-14 and had both the momentum and the confidence that they could cut us down. They did, we didn't and Eton took the fourth 15-14. Does it always have to be five games? Why must it be five games? My delicate disposition can't cope with too many of these a week. Falling snow and ice: yes; dramatic, emotional and nervous tension stretched out longer than a Lord of the Rings director's cut marathon: difficult. I was in need of a class A relaxant and George Panayi was re-building the Earth's ecosystems from scratch. Lewis and Breese seemed unfazed though – all right for them, they would have felt they had some control over proceedings! Indeed control was precisely what they found. I think they took pity on my ragged-looking nerves (a butcher's mincer would be proud of having done such a comprehensive job) and took a strong lead in the fifth. This time Eton could not pin them at 11; George and Tom both got tight to the butress, took the ball early and closed out the game, match and tournament with a 12-6 win. More silverware to Shrewsbury!



George Lewis and Tom Breese remember to look happy after their U16s victory

Respite needed for the coaches, but none accorded: the court having been cleared after the presentation, the Open competition semi-final pitting Guy and Henry against top seeds Eton went straight on. Merciless. We had come close to various configurations of Eton's players through the season but never won. Again, we knew it possible but both Salopians would have to pull out a good game: James Piggot cuts off anything inaccurate and Charlie Fairbanks Smith retrieves very well and keeps the ball in play. Shrewsbury were fast out of the blocks though and drew first blood with a 12-5 win. This had happened down at Eton and drawn an impressive response of waking up the Etonian pair. Indeed we need to work on holding on to an advantage and making the second game hard work: Eton came back and won that one 12-5 in reply. Once again (oh not again!) we were in a match that either pair could win or lose. We needed Guy not



just to have quick reflexes volleying out of the buttress, but to be accurate with the shot as well; we needed Henry to be quick onto volleys and to find his length. We drifted through the third keeping things close as ever but made a few errors towards the end of it and allowed Eton to take it 12-9. The fourth was looking identical and though the score was 7-7 I wasn't optimistic that Guy and Blo would be more consistent under the pressure than Eton were. At this stage though, the whole tournament took a turn: a firmly hit straight shot towards the buttress by Henry went straight into James Piggot's eye, causing him blurred vision. The game stopped as we assessed James' situation and, when his vision was still not clear after ten minutes, decided it prudent he should go to hospital and have it looked at. Shrewsbury agreed that if he was declared fit to play, the game could be resumed the following morning, allowing for an afternoon final. Fortunately James was declared clear of any permanent damage, though there was some peripheral bruising to his retina. Less fortunately, the drops that had been used to dilate the pupil and allow a proper look at his eye had not allowed his vision to return fully the following morning. His vision still being blurred, Eton were forced to concede the match. That was a huge blow for Charlie Fairbanks Smith in particular: as first seeds, Eton had strong chances and this was his final year. A real chance to win the Public Schools' Nationals had been taken from him. Shrewsbury were to play Harrow in the final.

So on Friday morning only a few competition finals remained to be played and the only one Shrewsbury had outstanding was the Open, starting at 10:30am. Guy and Blo were up for this and got the usual Salopian flying start, then battled to hold off a resurgent Harrow: we reached 11 first but they drew level, we set the game to 14 and held nerve to win 14-12. In the second, the game was again close throughout but it was Harrow's term to reach 10 first, then 11 and though we pulled back to 11-10 they snuck it 12-10. One game each. Harrow were playing with good accuracy and picking off volleys; our chance was going to be taking the ball early, playing fast and using angles to make Harrow retrieve from low. We needed to be disciplined in not playing to their strengths. In the third game it was their accuracy that won out as we didn't make them move enough to play their shots: 12-7 Harrow. It was going to be a long way back, with the Harrovians now playing increasingly confidently and gaining a lead in the 4th. Despite battling on throughout, we lost that game and the match 12-7. A good match but ultimately won by Harrow's greater accuracy into the buttress and picking off our approach shots. Guy had not managed to convert his U16s win of two years earlier. Henry will be back next year.



Guy Williams and Henry Blofield: Open competition runners-up

My thanks are due to Sue Laister and Darren Wood and their teams who did huge amounts of work to make sure Shrewsbury could host the tournament so successfully. Thanks also to KH for looking after us very well indeed: the steady supply of hot chocolate in Quod was particularly appreciated given the conditions.

SKPC

April 2013

National Schools' Championships: The Ladies' Competitions and the Mixed Fives

Andy Barnard reports:

At this year's Championships we competed in three events: the Ladies' Open Competition; the Ladies' Festival; and the Mixed Pairs.

In the Ladies Open, Rosie Parr (capt) and Hannah Pritchard advanced to the quarter finals, played brilliantly but narrowly lost (12-9, 12-11) to Highgate 3. The following day they beat Highgate 5 in a 5th/6th place play-off to claim our highest ever finish and a Plate Trophy. Elen Murphy and Alice Paul didn't manage a quarter-final spot but they also progressed to a Plate Final, which they won on the Sunday night. A just reward for all their hard work over two years.

In the Ladies' Festival (replacing the U17s Beginners Cup) we entered five pairs (three U6th and two L6th) and produced the winners in the shape of Elen Murphy and Alice Paul. Two successes in two days capped off their career at Shrewsbury and went a long way to overcoming the disappointment of losing to Rosie and Hannah in the U17s final in 2012. Becky Home and Tilly Whittingham, Holly Free and Cressida Adams, Jo Cull and Charlotte Harris and Gaby Byrne and Poppy Beckett all competed well despite the bitter conditions. Becky Home and Tilly Whittingham (U6th) produced their best fives for two years and won through to the semi-finals,



whilst beginners Jo Cull and Charlotte Harris made great progress in also gaining a semi-final place.

In the Mixed Competition our 1st pair (Rosie Parr and Guy Williams) and 2nd pair (Hannah Pritchard and Henry Blofield) both progressed to the semi-finals where they lost out to strong Highgate pairs. In this event we are getting closer every year but the girls still have a long way to go. Greater emphasis on technique will eventually bring success, but it may be two or three years off. Our 4th pair (Elen Murphy and Harry Flowers) gained a quarter-final spot before losing 12-3 to Highgate 1, the eventual winners.

This was a strong Championship for Shrewsbury School and the L6th class of 2013 will do well to gain equivalent success next year. But I am certain that the 14 'regulars' who started off their career this year will do all they can to further raise the profile of the sport. As we prepare to accept 13-year-old girls at School, I am sure that Fives will continue to attract more and more girls to the courts. The presence of Sixth Form girls over the past five years have made our Fives courts the envy of all Fives-playing schools across the country.



Cricket: Shrewsbury 1st and 2nd XIs have enjoyed a successful pre-season

Wednesday 17 April 2013

Despite the cold wet weather, on Wednesday 10th April Shrewsbury 1st XI (254 for 4 – Joe Carassco 103) defeated Worksop College (176 for 8) by 78 runs. They followed this on Thursday 11th by defeating a Worcester Academy side containing five contracted players by 146 runs (Shrewsbury 299 for 5 (Edward Pollock 121, Edward Barnard 94), Worcestershire CC Academy 155).

Unfortunately on Friday, their third match against Millfield was rained off. However, the 2nd XI continued the good work on Saturday when they defeated Giggleswick 1st XI by 6 wickets (Giggleswick 124 for 7; Shrewsbury 125 for 2).

ASB

The U14 Easter Rugby tour to Dorset

Wednesday 17 April 2013

22 members of the U14 squad travelled to Dorset at the end of the Lent term, following a season marred by cancelled matches. Playing three matches on consecutive days, the squad gained valuable experience playing some decent rugby against organised club sides.



The first match, vs Lytchett Minster, was a perfect warm-up, with a strong team performance and dominant play at every breakdown - the score 58-5.

The second, vs Bournemouth was always going to be a tough match. Bournemouth had been on a wave, unbeaten all season and a well-drilled and physical side. Again, solid team play saw a keenly contested match that saw the score at 10-12 at half time. Shrewsbury dug in during the second half, keeping control of the ball and scoring two further tries to end up at 24-12.

The third, billed as a match vs Bath and Avon RFC, turned out to be a match against the Bath Academy side, played on Bath's training ground. With a bitter wind chilling the coaches to the core, the U14s played well against a very strong, professional side. Though the vast majority of the match took place in between the two 22s, the breaks Bath made proved too strong for Shrewsbury. Final score 34-0 - in true coach's parlance, there were plenty of positives to take away and it was a very good experience to play a side that will see several professional players in years to come.

Leading point scorers - Josh Malyon (Rt) and Oliver Dixon (PH).

Shrewsbury 58 - 5 Lytchett Minster

Shrewsbury 24 - 12 Bournemouth

Shrewsbury 0 - 34 Bath RFC.



Parents welcome at two exciting summer Old Salopian events

Wednesday 17 April 2013

The Salopian Club regularly organises regional events which parents are always welcome to attend. There are details below of two events occurring in June which may be of particular interest.

Lord Leycester Hospital, Warwick: Reception and dinner on Friday 7th June.

This promises to be the highlight of this year's Salopian events calendar, attended by the Headmaster and featuring musical accompaniment by School musicians. The historic and beautiful medieval venue sits in the centre of Warwick and currently serves as a retirement home for old soldiers (rather like Chelsea Hospital).

There are strong links between the Lord Leycester and the School, as a former owner of the property was Mary Sidney, wife of Sir Philip Sidney.

Guided Tour of the Queen's Galleries – Buckingham Palace Wednesday 26th June.

An evening guided tour of the Queen's Galleries with one of the expert staff. The original tour on Tuesday 25 June sold out within hours so we are delighted to offer another opportunity on Wednesday 26 June to view the exhibition. There are still some tickets left but early booking is advised. The tour lasts approximately one hour (6.30pm to 7.30pm) with a glass of wine in the Gallery Shop at the end. The exhibition is entitled "In Fine Style: The Art of Tudor and Stuart Fashion".

Further details of both these events, and many others, are on the Salopian Club events page www.shrewsbury.org.uk/page/os-events-0 or from the Salopian Office oldsalopian@shrewsbury.org.uk or 01743 280 892.



'Spring Term' - a poem from MSH

Thursday 18 April 2013

The MSH Spring Term poem summarises a great Lent term for 2013, with some photos of the MSH tea at the end of the term.

Spring Term

Not so much Spring, but Winter
Snow cold upon the ground
Snowball fights versus junior boys
Left Matron really dumbfound
Houses dances dominating Saturday nights.
Some costumes left us wide eyed
Skaters, Astronauts, mermaids and lions
Fake Tan made some looked refried
Motherland – Mrs Drew said
“Powerful, moving, dramatic”.
Laura’s performance blew us away
And the rest of the cast were pure magic
House sporting achievement were noted last term
Netball and swimming success
House sport eventually going our way
Causing Eli and Elen less stress
Competitive eating on charity day
An MSH concept designed
To challenge the houses to eat their own weight
In pork product- some left quiet maligned
And now it’s the Summer
For some their last term
Hard work towards final exams
Freedom and parties will have been well earnt
But time yet for a few final scams.



House scarves (house colours) were awarded to Grace Pillsbury, Hannah Partington, Eve Vanich, Anna Olerinyova, Lucy Emms, Alice Sykes Waller.

RSSBC crews in top racing form at Holme Pierrepont

Monday 22 April 2013

Just over 100 Salopian boys and girls made the trip to Holme Pierrepont on Saturday to compete in a new multi-lane racing event run jointly between RSSBC and King's School Chester. Invitations were given to several other Northern rowing schools, giving around 50 eights, octoples, fours and quads.



RSSBC Girls J4X (near side) and J14 Octuple (yellow)

We were greeted by a very pleasant sight in Nottingham: sunshine and a very light headwind – a pretty rare occurrence!

The format of the day was to hold a time trial, after which the crews were divided up into heats of similar speed crews. For example, there could be a girls' J18 Quad, a J14 Octuple, a J15 2nd VIII etc etc, which makes for some very exciting racing indeed! The main point of the day was to introduce crews to multi-lane racing, a very different discipline to the time trialling of the winter months.

Results for RSSBC were strong, with four of our VIIIs in the top seven: 1st, 2nd, J16 and J15.

The Boat Club is now in to serious competition mode, with regattas most weekend leading up to National Schools on 24th – 26th May 24th, the culmination of the season for the majority of our boys and girls.

Paul Manser

Below left - J14 Octuple; middle - J15B VIII (2nd away) and J16B VIII (far side); right - J15s preparing to boat





Chris Conway's Alpine Encounter with Two Old Salopians

Monday 22 April 2013



Careers master, Chris Conway has just returned from Switzerland where he was visiting the 2 universities of Les Roches and Glion which specialise in International Hospitality Management courses.

Whilst at Les Roches I met 2 of our former students - Ollie Darrington (Ch 2007-12 and Tristan Bland (G 2006-11), pictured here with Chris.

DofE Silver Practice Expedition: The first Salopian cyclists

Monday 22 April 2013



Left - setting off from School; middle and right - on Corndon Hill

During the Easter holiday, six boys took part in a Shrewsbury first – a DofE bicycling expedition. This was a practice for the group and was held in the Shropshire hills using minor roads and bridleways. The specially adapted bikes allow the rider to pull a small trailer carrying all their camping gear, food and spare clothes. Thinking that this might be an easier option than walking with a rucksack, the group quickly found out that biking is no easy option.

The practice went very well and the group are now prepared for the big challenge of the qualifying expedition involving a circumnavigation of Cader Idris. This will be held in June.

The boys taking part are:

Alex Powell (M V)

George Whitehead (Rb IV)

Tiger Vechamamontien (M IV)

Jonathan Jones (Rb IV)

Hector Kaye (Rb IV)

Anthony Koch De Gooreynd (O IV)

Standing ovation for Galin Ganchev at his Alington Hall recital, 20th April 2013

Monday 22 April 2013

Since Galin Ganchev's (M V) stunning Shrewsbury concert debut as a Third Former in 2010, news of his rare and extraordinary talent has travelled far. His performances now regularly attract large audiences and his recital in the Alington Hall had been eagerly anticipated by many as a major highlight in the School's 56th Music and Arts Season. As Andrew Petch describes, it did not disappoint.

A dazzling display of youthful pianistic virtuosity delighted the audience at Shrewsbury School's Allington Hall. Galin Ganchev, a fifteen-year-old student at the School, gave a lengthy, musically wide-ranging recital which started with Baroque music and ended in the early twentieth century with Debussy. His programme included works by Mozart, Chopin and Liszt.

The opening of the programme illustrated Galin's maturity and idiomatic grasp of the music.

The *Sarabanda* of the Suite in G minor by Zipoli was sublimely lyrical while the *Giga* danced skittishly. Two preludes and fugues from J S Bach's 'Well-Tempered Clavier' followed, wonderful examples of Galin's poise, control and insight. These were well-chosen; Bach's famous musical architecture was nicely balanced with the warmth and humanity of his music.

The large scale, virtuoso pieces by Liszt and Chopin received thrilling performances; Galin's sure touch was equally evident in moments of bravura playing and in the passages of sensitive lyrical beauty.

Perhaps the most impressive playing came in Mozart's Piano Sonata in C major, K330. The opening movement was a little rushed, not giving the music a chance to breathe, but the second, an inspired *Andante Cantabile*, showed the pianist at his finest. Tempo, dynamics and a beautiful singing tone brought out the almost operatic nature of this glorious music.

Two small-scale works by Debussy were given readings of crystal clarity. 'Voiles', meaning sails or veils, provokes a feeling of its inspirational images. The well-known 'La Cathedrale engloutie' is a masterpiece which received a performance worthy of a mature concert pianist.

Galina Ganchev is a superb musician; he surely has a distinguished career ahead of him.

Andrew Petch, 21st April 2013





Match report: U14B XI vs KES

Birmingham, Saturday 20th April 2013

Monday 22 April 2013

The first match of the season was against KES Birmingham at home. In their first Summer Term at the School, and with only three practices under their belt, it was quite a raw team that took to the field.

Michael Schützer-Weissmann was handed the captaincy, with **Angus Drummond** as Vice Captain. The skipper managed to win the toss and elected to bat and it was Schütz and Drummond who opened the innings. Their instructions were to try and build a strong platform and, if at all possible, to be there after 10 overs and ideally 15 or 20. They did extremely well on this score. All could have been very different if Drummond had been caught first ball (he should have been), but the drop seemed to make him even more determined to dig in. He went on to make 45 off his 90 balls faced, batting for 87 minutes and by doing so, giving the innings the foundation we needed.

Schütz meanwhile also dug in and batted with impeccable technique. The KES bowling was extremely tight and neither of our openers could find any gaps for a long time, but the opening partnership put on 48 before Schütz was narrowly run out in the 19th over for 11. He had faced 60 balls and batted for 50 minutes – a very good Captain's innings. Nonetheless, 48 for 1 after 19 overs in a 30 overs match called for an increase in the run rate and **Tom Atkin** who came in at number 3 looked very much as though he could provide the missing ingredient. He showed controlled aggression from the start scoring 10 off his 11 balls, including two well struck boundaries.

When he was bowled, **George Pearce** joined Drummond and they continued to increase the pace, Pearce making a brisk 13 off his 18 balls before being caught. **Patrick Jacob** (2 not out) and **Will Bedson** (6 not out) were our other two batsmen who had short cameo roles. We had mustered 109 for 4 in the end. It wasn't a big target but it had given us a chance.

In reply, KES made a much more promising start than we had done, their scoring rate reflecting our less accurate bowling and less tight fielding. One of their openers, R. Hama (32), had a fine temperament as well as plenty of flair. He waited patiently for the bad ball which was punished with venom. Indeed he did not score off the first 20 balls he faced, but then smote 4s and a mighty 6 with considerable style.

Our opening bowlers, **Angus Drummond** and **Andrew Kim** generated considerable pace, and Drummond in particular was accurate – 4 overs, 2 maidens, 0 for 2 was a fine display. Kim's figures of 4 overs, 1 for 12 were perfectly respectable. But it was the introduction of spin which turned the game our way. **Patrick Jacob** came on and immediately generated plenty of turn with his offspin. His figures of 6 overs, 1 maiden, 3 for 24 were match-changing because he it was who managed to bowl Mr Hama who had looked so menacing.

Meanwhile, the skipper brought himself on and, bowling terrific legspin, returned a marvellous 3 overs, 3 for 6. **Will Bedson**, bowling medium pace away swing was the other bowler employed, apart from **Tom Atkin** who bowled just 2 balls, the second claiming the last wicket.



KES were 57 for 2 off 15 overs and cruising to victory it seemed, when all of a sudden their batsmen went into kamikaze mode and they ended up 74 all out. No fewer than 7 of their batsmen were bowled, 2 were run out and **Ollie Clarke** took a fine catch at square leg – with the ball travelling very fast.

An unlikely victory perhaps, but reward for some patient batting and some fine spin bowling.
TDJW

Shrewsbury 109 for 4

KES 74 all out

Shrewsbury won by 35 runs

Drummond 44

Jacob 3 for 24 off 6 overs

Schützer-Weissmann 3 for 6 off 3 overs



Old Salopian footballers through to final of Derrick Moore Veterans Cup

Tuesday 23 April 2013

Congratulations to the OSFC Vets - through to the final of the Derrick Moore Veterans Cup (Arthurian League) on Sunday 28 April at Roehampton.



2005 and 2010

Andrew Saunders (M 1990-95 and member of the Arthurian League Management Committee) reports:

'After a rousing comeback from 3-1 down in yesterday's semi-final vs Bradfield to win 5-3 the Vets have earned their place in the Derrick Moore Veterans Cup Final on Sunday 28th April 2013 at Roehampton'

OSFC won the Derrick Moore Veterans Cup in

Venue: Bank of England Sports Ground, Bank Lane (off Priory Lane), Roehampton, SW15 5JQ

Opposition: Lancing Old Boys

Kick-off: 2pm

OSFC website: <http://www.oldsalopianfc.com/>

OSFC AGM and Dinner – Friday 19th April - Report

Tuesday 23 April 2013



Over forty footballers, plus guests attended the Annual General Meeting and Dinner on Friday 19th April at the First Floor Restaurant, Notting Hill. It proved to be a glittering occasion, with the Arthurian League Division One Trophy taking centre stage, testament to the very successful season enjoyed by the 1st XI.

Pictured, left: David Lloyd-Jones (O 1987-92), Simon Jacobs (Rt 1987-92) and David Honychurch (PH 1980-84)

The lively AGM, ably managed by Club Secretary David Cookson (Ch 1993-96) and featuring reports from several OSFC officers revealed that the football club is in rude health. Planning is underway for a tour in late May and to ensure that training pitches, kit and funding are in place for the 2013/14 season.

The dinner benefitted hugely from the presence of several wives and girlfriends and an enjoyable evening ensued. The meal concluded with a short speech from Robin Mouldsdale (I 1942-46) giving an insight into the proud playing traditions of the Club. This was followed by an address from President, David Honychurch (PH 1980-84) and entertaining reports from 1st XI captain Richard McGarry (Ch 01-06), and 2nd XI captain Tim Colman (1999-04).

Pictured, right: Tim Colman (I 1990-04) with dinner guests



The Player of the Season award went to Philip



Westerman (PH 1988-92), who couldn't attend the dinner as he had very recently been at the birth of his son Samuel Robert. The 1st XI posted some impressive stats during its season, scoring a staggering 56 goals and conceding only 14; the objective for next season is to be viewed as a competitive Premier Division outfit. Jack Brydon was the Club's top scorer with 18 goals. Having gained promotion to Division Two last year, the 2nd XI is in 4th place with one game to go. The official and players of the OSFC can look back on the 2012/13 season with a great deal of

satisfaction.

Pictured, above: The Arthurian League Trophy



Sports results w/e 21st April 2013

Tuesday 23 April 2013

Week 1: Beginning Monday 15th April 2013

Date	Sport	Team	Opposition	H/A	Result	Score	
Wednesday 17 th April	Cricket	1 st XI	Shropshire XI	H	L	by 3 wickets	
	Golf		St Edwards, Cheltenham	A	L	0-5	
Saturday 20 th April	Cricket	1 st XI	King Edwards School, Birmingham	H	W	by 10 wickets	
		2 nd XI		A	Tie	130 for 6 v 130 for 8	
		U15 XI		A	W	by 153 runs	
		U15b XI		A	W	by 144 runs	
		U16b XI	Bedstone College 1st	H	L	by 1 wicket	
		3 rd XI	King Edwards School, Birmingham	H	W	by 3 wickets	
		U14a XI		H	L	by 1 wicket	
		U14b XI		H	W	by 37 runs	
	Tennis	1 st VI			H	W	6-3
		2 nd VI			H	W	9-0
3 rd VI				H	W	9-0	
U15a VI				H	W	7-2	
	Rowing	J14-18 Crews	West Midlands Match Race, Nottingham	A	See bulletin		
Sunday April	Cricket	1 st XI	HMC T20 Festival	H	W	by 10 wickets	
			Wrekin College Oswestry		W	by 9 wickets	
		2 nd XI	Cheadle Hulme School T20	A	W	by 22 runs	



Whole School Photo: Behind the Lens

Wednesday 24 April 2013

At 11.10am on Tuesday 23rd April, every pupil and member of teaching staff gathered together on Central for a once-in-five-year event: the Whole School Photo. The creation of this historic memento of a Salopian career is an event in itself. Creating order and serried ranks from a mass of 744 pupils and 135 members of staff is a major undertaking and feat of organisation, as these behind-the-scenes photos show.





We are delighted to welcome Jo Elliot as our new Head Librarian

Wednesday 24 April 2013



Jo has a degree in English and American Studies from Birmingham University and a post-graduate diploma in Library and Information Studies from Liverpool John Moores University. During her career she has worked in a range of library and information roles including school librarian, legal information officer, database editor and early years librarian. Most recently she worked as a librarian at Harper Adams University, where she worked closely with the students to develop their research and academic writing skills. She is hoping to use this experience to ensure students at Shrewsbury are well prepared for university.

“I’m very excited to be working in the lovely Moser Library. My first job will be to install a library management system which will provide an online catalogue of the library’s 30,000 books, DVDs, journals and electronic resources. I look forward to working closely with academic staff and students to ensure that library resources meet the needs and interests of the students and that the library becomes an even more useful and appealing

centre within the School.”



Montpellier Study Visit, Easter 2013

Wednesday 24 April 2013

Nineteen boys from the Third, Fourth and Fifth Forms spent just under a week in Montpellier at the start of the Easter holidays, the aims being to improve their French, to immerse them in the French way of life, and to have some fun. Some of their diary entries (in French, of course) are included here.



Above left: The group enjoying some downtime at the Musée Haribo

Centre: "Wow! We cooked this!"

Right: A grateful Sam Mitchell presents some flowers to his teacher, Maude

The party left school in snowy conditions in the small hours of Saturday 23rd March and returned late on Thursday 28th March. They were accompanied by Mr. Warburg (TDJW) and M. Barré (LB).

The boys were hosted in pairs by very friendly and hospitable French families, spent their mornings in intensive French lessons with native speaker teachers at a local language school and their afternoons on excursions. These included trips to the Pont du Gard and the Musée Haribo, a cookery course in which we ate what we prepared (absolutely delicious to the surprise of some...), visits to a French Resistance Museum and the Musée Fabre Art Museum, some ice skating and a bit of time on the beach, not to mention the joys of wandering around Montpellier when the sun shone for us, exploring the medieval city centre's streets and alleyways and appreciating its fine architecture and shops. Evenings were spent with their host families, where fine food was eaten and plenty of conversation shared.

All seem to have had a rich and varied time, to have made some very worthwhile progress in French and gained an appreciation of why Montpellier is France's fastest growing city and how lucky those who live in the south of France are. Here is a selection of their diary entries:

Le lundi 25 mars

Après un weekend relax dans les familles, lever matinal (huit heures pour nous deux) car les cours commençaient à neuf heures. Certains étaient en retard!

Choses sérieuses : trois heures et demie de cours avec une petite récré d'une demi-heure. On nous a mis dans deux groupes. On a étudié différents thèmes de l'examen. Donc, très utile. Après cela, le réconfort : baguette garnie (pour moi jambon-beurre)!



L'après-midi, on a fait une visite guidée de Montpellier. C'était très intéressant.

Ensuite un moment sportif : l'initiation au patinage. Très drôle mais difficile de ne pas tomber quand on débute, comme moi.

Le soir, retour à la maison chez notre famille d'accueil. Dîner, puis un film français avant de nous coucher après une journée bien remplie.

Louie Stewart (PH IV)

Le mardi 26 mars

Donc, une autre journée à Montpellier! Après nous être levés aux environs de sept heures, nous avons pris le petit déjeuner (pain au chocolat et thé) et puis nous avons quitté la

maison et pris un tramway jusqu'à la Place de la Comédie, avant de marcher à notre école de langues qui s'appelait LSF.

Les cours étaient excellents, et après le déjeuner et un peu de temps libre, à une heure et demie, nous avons voyagé en bus pour aller au musée Haribo! Moi, je déteste les bonbons Haribo mais le musée était très intéressant et j'ai appris beaucoup sur l'histoire de cette compagnie. Aussi, il y avait des bonbons gratuits.

Cependant, une heure plus tard, nous devons aller au fameux Pont du Gard! Le ciel était bleu, donc tout le monde a pris beaucoup de photos car le pont était magnifique.



Arthur Douglas enjoying some sun on the Pont du Gard

A cinq heures, comme il faisait encore beau, nous avons décidé d'aller à la plage. Elle était belle et après une heure, et un jeu de foot, nous sommes allés dans un restaurant qui s'appelait la Chêneraie pour dîner. La plupart des gens ont mangé du bifteck, qui était délicieux !

A la fin d'une longue journée, nous sommes retournés dormir dans nos familles françaises.

Charles Wade (PH IV - pictured above skating)

Le mercredi 27 mars

Nous nous sommes levés vers sept heures, je me suis habillé et j'ai mangé mon petit déjeuner (des céréales et du café), avant de partir en tramway à huit heures et demie. Nous nous sommes arrêtés à la Place de la Comédie pour cinq minutes de marche jusqu'à notre salle de classe dans le centre de Montpellier.

Après les cours, vers midi et quart, nous sommes allés au Musée de la Résistance, avec notre professeur, M. Warburg. J'ai trouvé ça très étonnant et particulièrement intéressant.

Ensuite, nous avons marché à travers la ville afin de suivre un cours de cuisine dans un restaurant typique. Quand nous sommes arrivés, nous avons dû nous laver les mains avant de commencer le cours. Puis, il a fallu mettre un tablier. Nous avons pelé et haché différents légumes, tels que des oignons, carottes et. Après ça, nous avons roulé des boulettes de viande entre nos mains, avant d'ajouter des œufs et des herbes. Finalement, nous avons goûté notre préparation, et je dois dire que c'était délicieux ! (même si, personnellement, je n'aime pas trop les légumes).



Above left: Henry Bradshaw and Ken Lai in full mixing mode

Centre: Paddy George, Ed Chamberlain, Arthur Douglas and Joshua Wong rolling the meatballs

Right: Paul Sharpe and George Young cooking away

A la fin de la journée, nous sommes retournés à notre famille d'accueil. Nous étions tous épuisés mais ravis de cette excellente journée !...

Alex Brinkley (PH IV)

Sixth Form Chapel Interviews - Sam Ansloos

Wednesday 24 April 2013

*In the first half of each Summer Term, a small number of Sixth Form leavers give a talk in Chapel - in the form of an interview with their tutor or housemaster - reflecting on their time at Shrewsbury. The first of these was given last week by **Sam Ansloos (G)**, who was interviewed by his tutor, John Moore. Sam has had an extremely busy Salopian career, regularly performing on both the stage and the concert platform, as well as being a key member of the Model United Nations and Senior Debating Teams. He will be singing the lead role of Escamillo in the Schools's production of 'Carmen' on Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th April.*



Sam on the Ashton Theatre stage: above left - in Henry IV; middle and right - as Malvolio in What You Will
JFM: Good morning Sam, to start with can you give us a little bit about your background and upbringing?

Good morning to you also Mr Moore and everyone in Chapel on this bright Wednesday/Thursday/Friday morning. So just a little bit about my background and upbringing. I was brought up for most of my childhood in the Welsh countryside and went to a Welsh primary school called Froncysyllte - apologies for my poor Welsh pronunciation. At the age of 11 applied for a music and arts scholarship to Oswestry School and managed to get a place there for Year 7. After that year I moved to a village near Shrewsbury called Ruyton-XI-Towns where some of you may know as the place where Packwood is located, with my mum and sister. Subsequently, after only a year at Oswestry I moved to the local state school. I then made my way down the A5 again after a year and ended up in Radbrook as a dayboy and then for Sixth Form at Shrewsbury made another move to The Grove.

JFM: Tell us why you choose to come to Shrewsbury.

I choose Shrewsbury because it was obviously a renowned school in the area, but one of the main reasons is that I found myself getting in with the wrong crowd at my other school. I didn't do any of the art/singing and music that I had done at Oswestry. Now this is quite embarrassing, but I realised after I got caught for smoking in the Year 8 boy's toilets, that this wasn't me and I wanted to get away from the wrong people. I had a look at the Shrewsbury School website and thought this was the perfect place to get back to my old self and so here I am today.



JFM: Do you recognise the person you were at 13 to now?

Well, when I came to Shrewsbury I was even shorter and a little bit chubbier than I am now, so I guess my appearance has changed a little - even though I came in the Third Form as a bit of a chav with a skin head, I'm still ginger, so that hasn't changed. But on a serious note, I still recognise the young person who wanted to achieve great things in school, someone who wanted to get involved in different areas of school life. I was definitely a confident young person back then and I still am today - Shrewsbury has made me all the more confident, especially in the arts which many people know me for. So, I think I do to a large extent recognise the person I was back then, similar to I am now, but obviously Shrewsbury has played a big part in helping me develop that person.

JFM: You talk about the arts; can you tell us why that is important to you?

Well I have taken part in many school productions over my time at Shrewsbury which have really developed my interest and love of the arts. People in 'The Grove' hate me coming out with some of these cheesy quotes, but as Picasso said: "Art is a Lie that tells the Truth". This is why the arts are so important to me in that I agree with Picasso here in the sense that logically art is a lie; however, I think that the truth in art is that it tells us who we are, what we value and the truth about our society. I am so fascinated with the way in which dramatic arts can express who we are and the way in which we connect with the world, that being of the very cheesy reasons why it is so important to me.



JFM: You spent some time recently at a drama school in New York. Was that an eye opener?

Yes definitely. I spent four weeks under the Sanford Meisner Scholarship at the New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts. I learnt a great deal into the ways in which an Actor has to connect to the character and how to not just recite lines, but feel what you are saying and live in the point of view of that Character. Again, every day I had my acting professor Maury Ginsberg,



who will be in the Hangover 3 so look out for him, constantly saying to me "SAM!! CONNECT TO THE BODY". (If Mr Sheppe is in here, I apologise for my terrible American accent.) I now find myself saying to everyone in every Grove House play rehearsal, "Connect to the Body!" I think everyone found it annoying at first but started to understand what I was saying and this is what the main eye opener was in New York; in that we all live in different points of view and in theatre the characters we portray have different points of view also, so we have to connect to the body in order to portray that reality.

I have literally in the past week or so received a Scholarship Acceptance letter to study at this New York drama school in September for a three-year professional program, and after battling with the idea of going to two other drama schools in London I've decided to try and get myself to that drama conservatory in New York which was such an amazing eye-opener.

JFM: What will you miss about Shrewsbury?

I think the biggest thing I'll miss is all the opportunities one gets with an education at Shrewsbury. For instance, the trips to the Edinburgh Fringe with different productions, which I'll greatly miss. I will also miss the great number of MUN conferences I've been on, as they have been such great experiences. I'll also miss the little things like when after every dix notice in Radbrook when Mr Hann would say 'Please and Thankyou', or when you walk into Mr Cowper's office and he gives you that sly grin and you know he's caught you out on something. All these things I think I'm going to miss about Shrewsbury. If there's any advice I could give anyone that is to take advantage of all opportunities that are on offer here at Shrewsbury because I think that will be one of the things all leavers will miss.

JFM: And finally, if you had one message for those in front of you, what would it be?

As Einstein said: "Try not to become a man of success but rather try to become a man of value".

Below left: Celebrating the end of a 4-day Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Expedition across the Caladonian Canal

Middle: With the MUN team in Paris

Right: Senior Debating Team



The annual Confirmation Walk on Offa's Dyke

Thursday 25 April 2013



Spiritually refreshed walkers

A week before their confirmation on Sunday 28th April, twenty-five boys completed their preparation by walking what has now become the customary nine-mile section of Offa's Dyke path from Knighton to Clun in glorious south Shropshire countryside, the weather perhaps not quite so glorious.

It is fair to say that the spiritual benefits of the walk remained a mystery to most of the boys, but in spite of the determination of a few not to do so, they all seem very much to have enjoyed themselves, as the picture above testifies.

The walk was led by Chaplain Revd Gary Dobbie, with orienteering services provided by Mike Wade and Richard Hudson, the Chaplain being too occupied with souls to bother much about maps!
RTH





Revd Michael Tupper (former master and Oldham's Housemaster) and his wife, Jane, celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary

Thursday 25 April 2013



Those Old Salopians and former members of staff who remember the Revd Michael Tupper and his wife, Jane, will no doubt be pleased to hear that they celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 15 April.

The Revd Tupper was on the staff at Shrewsbury School from 1948 to 1980 and was Housemaster of Oldham's from 1962 to 1972.

He can be seen, 3rd from the right on this recent photo of Oldham's Housemasters, past and present, seated between Robin Trimby 1972-1983 and Jeremy Goulding 1983-1989.

More Oldham's information at <http://www.shrewsbury.org.uk/page/oldhams-hall>

The annual 'Shewsy' weekend trip is a resounding success

Thursday 25 April 2013

The 110-year-old link between Shrewsbury House, a youth club in Everton, and Shrewsbury School was celebrated with the annual visit of 20 club members and staff to Shrewsbury. As ever, old friendships were renewed and new ones started through two days of shared activities. Gaby Byrne (EDH LVI), who is herself from Liverpool, has written an account of the weekend.



On Saturday 20th April a coachful of scousers arrived from 'The Shewsy' for their annual weekend full of fun activities. Both Salopians and Shewsyies were enthusiastic to get involved together, whether it was to create new friendships or to build on ones already made during previous visits.



'The Shewsy' brought along a vibrant group of people who were excited to take part in some sport and music, using facilities they do not have back in Liverpool. The activities included mountain biking, kayaking and football but the pupil interaction between Shrewsbury and 'The Shewsy' really got into the swing of things with a delicious BBQ that took place during the late afternoon. Fortunately, the Shewsyies also brought the good weather with them, which added to the chatty and happy atmosphere of the evening.



The most memorable part of the weekend for many involved was the chapel service held on Sunday morning. Two girls from 'The Shewsy' both read confidently when giving the lesson. But it was the address given by Rev Henry Corbett that caught the attention of the Salopians. It was a touching speech about the Hillsborough disaster which had just had its 24th anniversary six days earlier. He spoke about the devastating effect the disaster and the loss of 96 Liverpool fans had on the city of Liverpool and with the telling of several stories about the disaster and the work done since, it brought to light the importance of justice and honesty in our lives today.

Overall, the trip was a success and much fun was had by both communities with the realisation of an important lesson: that regardless of background, people are people and there is much more common ground to be found once you see past someone's exterior or get over the barrier of an accent.

Shrewsbury School are now working hard to further develop our relationship with 'The Shewsy' with many more opportunities to learn from each other and build long-life friendships.

Gaby Byrne (EDH, LVI)





11 Old Salopians cycle from Tower Bridge to the Eiffel Tower for the Alex Wilson Appeal

Friday 26 April 2013



11 Old Salopians set off bright-and-early on 25 April for a 3 day cycle ride to the Eiffel Tower in Paris from Tower Bridge in London in aid of the Alex Wilson Appeal. So far they have raised nearly £3k for their efforts.

Henry Wilson (Alex's brother) is appealing to Old Salopians to help raise some more sponsorship.

The group is led by Ben Langford-Archer (SH 03-08) and includes his brother Todd (G 04-09), Jack Lewis (PH 04-09), Jonny Griffiths (R 03-

08) and David Jenkins (R 03-08).

Donations can be made at the following

website: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/towertotowerlondontoparis>



Cricket: w/c 15th April 2013

Friday 26 April 2013

1st XI

The first week of term was busy for the 1st XI with games on Wednesday and Saturday and the first round of matches in the HMC T20 competition on Sunday.

Our opponent on Wednesday was a strong Shropshire Under-21 XI, featuring OS Steve Barnard (brother of our captain Ed and son of Master i/c Andy). The School batted first and made a respectable 195-5 from 40 overs in quite challenging conditions against a good attack. Ed Barnard (65) and Ed Pollock (59) were the pick of the batsmen. The county, featuring a number of players with Birmingham League experience, batted solidly under the gaze of new county coach Kevin Sharp and reached their target with 3 balls to spare and with 4 wickets in hand.

Shrewsbury 195-5 (E Barnard 65, E Pollock 59), Shropshire Under-21 196-6 (Barnard 3-35)

On Saturday, King Edward's School, Birmingham were the visitors and elected to bat after winning the toss. They were unable to cope with Shrewsbury's accurate attack and were all out soon after lunch for just 114. Shrewsbury set about the KES bowlers with relish and reached their target just before the tea interval without losing any wickets. George Lewis (younger brother of the 1st XI captain in 2011/12) scored his maiden half-century for the 1st XI, while Joe Carrasco was 4 short of his half-century.

KES Birmingham 114-10, Shrewsbury 115-0 (G Lewis 60, J Carrasco 46)*

On Sunday, Shrewsbury hosted the first-round group stages of the HMC T20 competition, with Wrekin College and Oswestry School providing the opposition. Shrewsbury made short work of both games, bowling out Wrekin for just 37 and getting the runs in less than 4 overs, while Oswestry fared a little better in making 41. Ed Pollock was the only victim in the reply to Oswestry and indeed the only batsman to lose his wicket over the weekend!

*Wrekin College 37 (W Cook 5-6), Shrewsbury 38-0
Oswestry School 41, (H Blofield 5-8), Shrewsbury 42-1*

Shrewsbury win the group and their next opponents have yet to be determined. Sterner challenges lie ahead with games against adult sides in the next two games, with the MCC the opponents on Sunday 28th and the Free Foresters next Wednesday.

Other news:

Joanna Cull (EDH LVI) became the first girl to represent Shrewsbury at cricket last Saturday when she represented the **3rd XI** vs KES 3rd XI. Unfortunately, she scored no runs in her innings but did take a wicket.

Many of the games against KES were close finishes: the **U14A XI** lost off the last ball by one wicket and the **2nd XI's** match was tied. There were very comfortable wins for the **U15A XI**, **U15B XI**, **U14B XI** and **3rd XI**. The **U16B XI** lost narrowly to Bedstone College 1st XI.

RHM

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



Obituary: Noel Darrah - former master

Monday 29 April 2013

The Salopian Club announces with regret that Mr Noel Darrah, former master, died on Saturday 27 April, aged 89. Mr Darrah, who had been ill for some time, was recently admitted to hospital where he died.

Former colleague, Hugh Ramsbotham said: 'Noel was a key member of the Common Room from 70-84, a great sportsman, his wife Ann taught Tennis, and he was a regular supporter of OS events at Shrewsbury.'

Mr Darrah's former colleagues have been informed.

Noel's funeral will be at 11am on Thursday 16 May at Shrewsbury Crematorium. Family flowers only and donations to the Alzheimer's society (or via the funeral directors, David Davies & sons, Funeral Directors, 1 Upper Church Street, OSWESTRY, SY11 2AA Phone: 01691 653116, Fax: 01691 650702).

J16 and J15 rowers win gold in Nottingham

Monday 29 April 2013



Above The J16 eight rowing past the scoreboard.... and later, proudly displaying their medals

Shrewsbury was selected to represent the West Midlands at the Inter-Regional Regatta in Nottingham on Saturday 27th April in three boat types: J15 coxed four, J15 coxed quad and J16 eight.

J16s

The J16 eight raced well to win their heat and qualify fastest for A final. In the final they got out of the blocks quickly and established an early lead, which the other crews were not able to contend with. Shrewsbury went on to win by a five-second margin. Congratulations to the crew of: Elliot Robinson-Boulton (R), Alex Powell (M), Charlie Duckworth (O), Harry Poole (Rb), Peter Hammond (PH), Charlie Johnston (R), George Patterson (R), Toby Thomas (SH) and cox Ed Carroll (Ch).

RMW

J15s

This was the J15 A squad's second successive Saturday at Holme Pierrepont - and not quite the tranquil, sunny lake experienced the week before!

The eight was split into two halves, a quad and a four. Sculling is a discipline of the sport that these boys have done very little of in the last year, so a first place in the B final was a great effort from these four. In both their 1500 metre races they showed great tenacity in very tricky conditions and rowed through other crews on both occasions. I am sure they will be relieved to get back into the eight this week!

There was certainly more pressure on the coxed four. When we arrived we soon learnt that our competition included a boat from Westminster, winners of the Schools Head, so it was fairly obvious that they would be our main rivals in the hunt for Gold. As things transpired this was to be the case, both in the heat, where we pushed them into second by a length, and again in the exciting final. Westminster actually drew level with 500 metres to go. However, our boys showed great courage and belief and won the race by around half a length.

The squad now move on to Shrewsbury Regatta on 11th and 12th May.

PM

Below: The Shrewsbury J15 coxed four leading Westminster in the closing stages...and later, proudly displaying their gold medals (from stroke to bow: Harry Lane-Fox, Wil Deacon, Alfie Grocott, Jo Davies, Cox - Ed Carroll) With thanks to Nick Lane-Fox for the photographs.





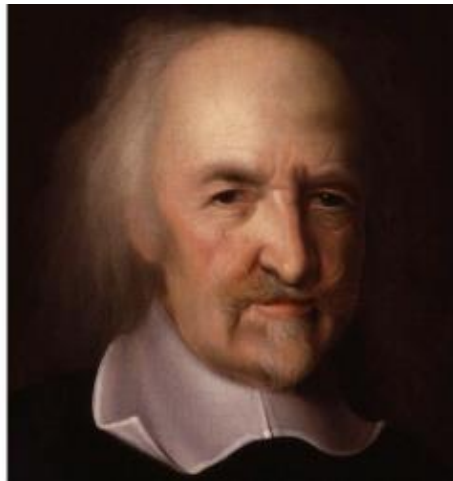
Inaugural Fourth Form Essay Prize Competition

Tuesday 30 April 2013

Thirty-six members of the Fourth Form took up the challenge of the inaugural Fourth Form Essay Prize Competition on Monday 29th April.

The boys were presented with a set of essay questions from a wide range of academic disciplines. The questions were philosophical in nature as opposed to syllabus based, and so candidates had to think on their feet. They had one hour to complete the paper.

The essays will be judged by Dr Tim Harper, a fellow of Magdalene College Cambridge, and the prize for the winning entry will be presented on Speech Day Prize Giving.



Fourth Form Essay Prize Competition 2013 Questions

English

- 'Only through reading do we truly understand ourselves and others.' Explain how any stories you have read have helped you understand yourself or others.
- 'Villains make the most interesting characters.' To what extent have you found this to be true in the literature you have read?

Classics

- 'If Cleopatra's nose had been shorter, the whole face of the world would have been changed' (Pascal). Discuss.
- 'Modern civilisation owes everything to Classical Civilisations.' To what extent do you agree with this?

Philosophy/Theology

- 'Actions are right as long as they produce happiness' (J.S.Mill). Discuss.
- 'All you know for certain is that you exist.' Discuss.

Science

- Living organisms vary in size by many degrees of magnitude. Is it better to be large or small?
- Does a scientific understanding of a flower make it more or less beautiful and mysterious?

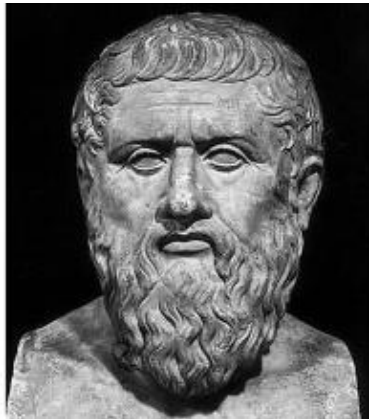
- Several NASA missions are searching for evidence of life on Mars. How would the discovery of life on Mars affect our view of ourselves?

History

- Why study history?
- If you had a time machine with which to travel the past, where and when would you go, and why?

Geography

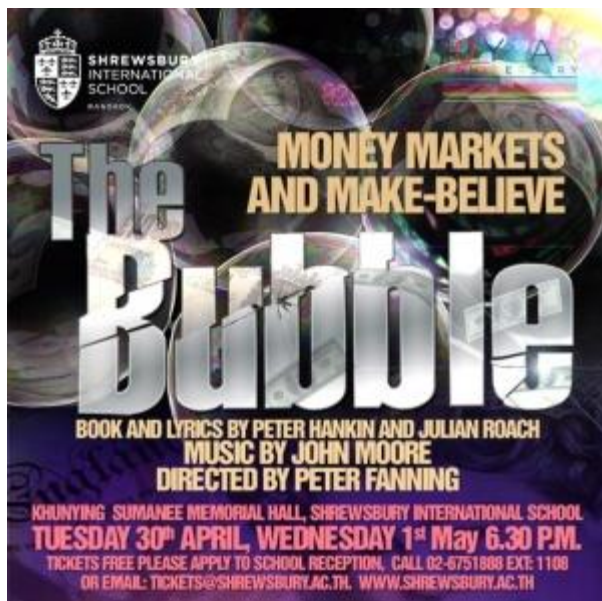
- What is the geography of colour?
- 'Geography is solely about places.' Discuss.



Shrewsbury Musicals on the international stage

Tuesday 30 April 2013

Director of Music John Moore and his former colleague Peter Fanning, who retired as Senior Master last year, have been writing and producing musicals since 1993. Every two years a new show has been staged at Shrewsbury and then at the Edinburgh International Festival Fringe and subsequently in London. By sheer coincidence, two of their acclaimed productions are being given their international premières within a week of each other - 'The Bubble' at Shrewsbury International School, Bangkok, directed by Peter Fanning; and 'Jekyll!' in Varna, Bulgaria, under the musical directorship of Gancho Ganchev, father of Galin (M V).



**"We'll never do it again..."
- 'The Bubble' in Bangkok**

In 1996 Peter Fanning and John Moore's new production of 'Jekyll!', based on Robert Louis Stevenson's 'Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde' won a prestigious 'Fringe First' Award – the only production by a school ever to achieve this distinction.

During the Dot.com crisis of 2000, when hundreds of new companies were floated and then failed, professional television writers Julian Roach and Peter Hankin approached the team with a proposal for a new musical: 'The Bubble', which was staged to great acclaim at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2002 – and at the Linbury Studio Theatre, Royal Opera

House Covent Garden, the following year.

Following the global Credit Crunch of 2007-8, the team made another foray to the Edinburgh Fringe with a production that received 'Five-star' reviews from every critic.

And now it's back in Bangkok as a joint production between Shrewsbury School UK and its sister school, Shrewsbury International, where it is topping the bill at their Tenth Anniversary celebrations.

Peter writes: "It's been enormous fun recreating 'The Bubble' in Bangkok. And as for the show, all I can vouch for is the enormous enthusiasm and resilience of the cast, and their willingness to boldly go where fellow Salopians have gone before.

"Financial corruption didn't end in 1720, as Mr Madoff and friends can testify. So I suspect the audience will recognise one or two familiar features in this tale; and I hope they'll enjoy the authors' wit, and evening of colour and jollity, along with the rousing choruses from the Maestro's pen."



In today's world, where financial Bubbles continue to grow and burst, the moral of the first financial crash remains as true as ever. British Chancellor Gordon Brown spoke in 2007 of 'no return to boom and bust'. How wrong he was!

'The Bubble' will be performed at Shrewsbury International, Bangkok on Tuesday 30th April and Wednesday 1st May in front of an audience that will include the British Ambassador.

'Jekyll!' will be performed by the Varna Children's Opera on Tuesday 7th May; musical director Gancho Ganchev.



The original 2001 production of 'The Bubble' - Nick Holmes (G) as the pieman and assorted Chorus members



Lord Rees (OS) Presents Trophy to University Challenge Winning Team

Tuesday 30 April 2013



Astronomer Royal, Lord Rees (Martin Rees, Baron Rees of Ludlow, S 1956-60, pictured, right) presented the BBC2 University Challenge trophy to reigning champions, Manchester University, on Monday 29th April.

The University of Manchester has become only the second team to retain the title of University Challenge champion in the programme's history. The team beat University College London in the final 190-140 to claim its fourth title in eight years.



Sports results w/e 29th April 2013

Tuesday 30 April 2013

Week 2: Beginning Monday 22nd April 2013

Date	Sport	Team	Opposition	H/A	Result	Score
Wednesday 24th April	Cricket	2 nd XI	Shropshire U17s	H	L	By 88 runs
		U15a XI	Shropshire U15	H	W	By 64 runs
		U14a XI	Shropshire U14	H	W	By 40 runs
Saturday 27 th April	Cricket	2 nd XI	Millfield Schol	A	W	By 3 runs
		3 rd XI		A	L	By 4 wickets
		U15b XI		A	W	By 73 runs
		U15c XI		A	W	By 115 runs
		U14a XI		H	L	By 70 runs
		U14b XI		H	L	By 4 wickets
		U14c XI		H	W	By 5 wickets
	Tennis	1 st VI	Warwick School	H	Play interrupted by poor weather	
		2 nd VI		H		
		3 rd VI		H		
4 th VI			H			
		U15a VI		A	L	4-5
		U15b VI		A	L	3-6
		U14a VI		A	L	3-6
		U14b VI		A	L	3-6
		1 st IV (G)	Midlands' League Tournament	A	See sports report	
Rowing	J14	Birmingham Regatta	A	Please see sports report		
	J15		A			
	J16		A			
	J15	Junior Inter-regional, Nottingham	A			
	J16		A			
Sunday 28 th April	Cricket	1 st XI	Marylebone Cricket Club	H	D	(play interrupted) 80 for 2 v 122 for 4
		U14a XI	North East Wales	H	W	By 51 runs
	Golf		Stowe School	A	L	2-3



Match report: U14B XI vs Millfield School, Saturday 27th April 2013

Tuesday 30 April 2013

Our first ever fixture (at this level) against Millfield was a tense affair and could have gone either way right until the very end of the match. To add a bit of extra drama, half an hour into the match a freak hail storm stopped play for some 20 minutes. Millfield had won the toss and had inserted us.

Angus Drummond and the Captain, **Michael Schützer-Weissmann**, opened the innings. Angus had just opened his account with a sublime drive for 4 through the covers when he dollyed up a catch to a grateful cover fielder with the score on 6. This brought **Tom Atkin** to the crease and, after a few dot balls, Tom started to motor, running briskly between the wickets and punishing any ball not threatening his wicket (and a few that were...) He raced to a fine 50 off 59 balls before holing out. Because he had scored fast, he gave the batsmen who followed confidence to continue scoring relatively quickly. Meanwhile, the skipper was playing another Captain's innings and picking up ones and twos nicely. He was eventually out for 17 off his 37 balls, but once again had occupied the crease for a good long period, 82 minutes.

George Pearce, batting at 4, looked in good form and ran quick singles well, nudging the ball into gaps deftly. He made a very good 17 not out. **Patrick Jacob**, batting at 5 also scored fast, making 14 off his 22 balls.

After our allotted 25 overs (reduced because of a late start and our hail storm), we had mustered a perfectly respectable 122 for 3 – some 4.88 runs per over. In reply we made the best possible start. **Angus Drummond** came steaming in and delivered a magnificent first ball, an outswinging yorker which removed the Millfield opener's off stump. There was stunned silence. It was an absolute peach of a delivery. Both he and **Andrew Kim**, who opened the other end, bowled very tightly and the first 4 overs yielded only 9 runs. Indeed our run rate was ahead of Millfield's all the way through until the 17th over.

Angus Drummond, **Andrew Kim**, **Patrick Jacob**, **Will Bedson** and **Michael Schützer-Weissmann** all took one wicket apiece. **Ollie Clarke** also bowled some fine outswinging deliveries and was unlucky not to take a wicket or two. **Reuben Arkwright** bowled a very tight first over but was a little profligate in the second. **Patrick Jacob** took a fine catch on the boundary to dismiss Millfield's main batsman for 51, and some smart fielding by **Ollie Clarke** resulted in a run out. Eventually Millfield got home with 9 deliveries to spare, having lost 6 wickets.

The match was played in very good spirits by two competitive sides and 10 more runs from us, or some slightly tighter fielding, could easily have seen a different result.

TDJW

Shrewsbury 122 for 3 off 25.0 overs (Atkin 50)

Millfield 126 for 6 off 23.2 overs

Millfield won by 4 wickets