



A final word from our 2010-2011 Head of School, Alex Collins (S)

Wednesday 3 August 2011

Our Head of School regularly writes in [The Salopian](#) towards the end of their tenure. This article was originally printed in the Summer 2011 edition.



As I write this, less than five days away from my last timetabled lesson, my time as a Salopian is fast nearing its end. My brother Rob and I are the last of four siblings to have passed through the School so the end of term will also mark the end of a nine year family connection.

Afternoons spent watching regattas, and my first nerve-wracking experiences of Shrewsbury in auditions and entrance exams now seem a very long time ago. So now, five years on, what feelings will I take away with me about my time at Shrewsbury?

Above all, I will look back on five years of fantastic opportunity, whether that be in the form of football and rugby tours to Spain and Italy, two-week runs at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival or trips to Prague and Bordeaux. Perhaps just as important as these experiences themselves is what they have done for me as a person. Certainly, as a somewhat shy third form clarinettist, I would not have seen myself getting up on stage four years later with school friends to play at the Big Chill Festival.

For me, it is this emphasis on a more rounded education, rather than one focused entirely on the classroom, that has made my time here so enjoyable. With the recent arrival of girls in the sixth form and a new headmaster, much has been made of the changes that have taken place. But for all these changes, that indefinable 'Salopian spirit', which was clear to see during my brothers' time here, still remains and will remain with me after I have left. For all my very positive experiences here, I certainly feel ready to move on, and this is something for which I feel my time at Shrewsbury has prepared me very well.

Alex Collins (S)



Beekeeping at Shrewsbury

Wednesday 3 August 2011

The following article was originally published in the Summer 2011 edition of [The Salopian](#).

Geoffrey Hopkinson's interesting article in the June edition of *Beekeeping Quarterly* on "The Decline in School Beekeeping" and his mention of Shrewsbury School prompts me to review the history of the School's Beekeeping Society and to outline some of the problems we now face.

The Shrewsbury School Beekeeping Society was founded in 1974 by myself and a colleague. It began with just two second-hand hives but over the years it increased in size and was moved around the School site, finally ending up in the orchard of a boarding house and an adjacent woodland. Numbers of boys taking part varied. Some years they exceeded twenty; at that time, the ethos of the School was very much to encourage extra-curricular activities such as beekeeping, but fitting meetings into a crowded School timetable was not easy. However, the problem was largely resolved in about 1977 when the School instituted a 'Societies Hour' after lunch on Mondays, with a corresponding reduction in time allocated to sport.

The programme was straightforward. During the winter terms, we offered a course of lectures based on the British Beekeepers' Association Junior syllabus. In summer, there was practical instruction in hive management. Towards the end of the summer term, boys took the Junior exam – twenty written questions and a ten-minute interview with Geoffrey Hopkinson, for whose help and encouragement we were most grateful. Nearly all pupils passed and were awarded the Junior certificate as well as the School's beekeeping tie.

The Junior syllabus was later extended to include a requirement that pupils should keep a diary. While this accords with good practice, it proved unpopular with students whose pleasure in beekeeping gave them the chance to get away from the exigencies of academic work; they were not prepared to do it and the Junior exam was dropped. This did not, however, diminish our activities.

I look back with nostalgia at those early years. Hives produced an average of 30 pounds of honey, which was sold in the School shop to fund the purchase of equipment. There were no varroa mites and little evidence of disease. We took off supers (separate boxes placed above the hive chamber, which have a series of shallow combs where bees store extra honey) in September at the beginning of the Michaelmas term and hives were given sugar syrup if needed to help them gain extra stores for overwintering – usually it was not. During the summer, some inspection of hives took place as part of the instruction on swarm control, but generally the hives were left undisturbed and combs lasted from one year to the next. The Shropshire Beekeeping Association were very supportive and welcomed small groups at their apiary meetings.

Running a school beekeeping society has certainly become more demanding in recent years. There are two main reasons for this. In the first place, students face increased academic pressure, while sport seems to receive greater emphasis. Changes to the academic timetable have reduced the Societies Hour to 45 minutes, which is not really enough for in-depth study of a number of colonies. Then the advent of computers and the Internet are compelling distractions; a boy needs to be really keen to leave his console for the apiary.



For staff, too, running the Society has become much more demanding. Fewer hives come through the winter than was the case previously and we have become increasingly dependent on splitting colonies that survive or on swarms to repopulate them. Much of the work has to be carried out in holiday time, for example, taking off supers in July, putting on Apiguard in August and preparing feed. Whereas in the past, we seldom had to replace brood comb, the need to make up large numbers of new combs with foundation takes up time and is costly. At least this is a good winter activity for members, who also make candles and brew mead, along with more formal instruction.

Despite the difficulties, our Beekeeping Society continues to attract a number of boys who either have previous experience or are sufficiently interested to embark on a new hobby, to which many will return in later years. We are encouraged by the complete refurbishment of our store and extracting room to comply with food processing regulations. We are conscious of the importance of beekeeping to the national economy – in fact, we are the only School activity that contributes to agriculture in both theory and practice. The challenges are great but we look to the future with some small degree of optimism.

Selby Martin

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



The Shrewsbury Hong Kong Dinner - Friday 21 October at 8pm

Wednesday 3 August 2011

Members of the Hong Kong Salopian Community are warmly invited to a dinner in Hong Kong on Friday 21 October at The Chater Room at:

The Happy Valley Clubhouse, The Jockey Club, 25 Shan Kwong Road, Hong Kong

This event, now in its 6th year, is a reflection of the growing and vibrant relations within the Hong Kong Salopian Community.

Last year's dinner was attended by 80 people and we are hoping to make it least 100 this year!

Letters and invitations have been sent to all those in Hong Kong for whom we have addresses but if you have not received your copy please contact Catherine Bryan in the Registrar's office:

catherinebryan@shrewsbury.org.uk for more information.

Tickets cost £50 per head (\$HK580) and can be made online at <http://www.shrewsbury.org.uk/page/os-events> (scroll down to Hong Kong Dinner)

Our Chairman's family meets the Queen

Wednesday 3 August 2011



On 20 July, Nick Randall, his wife Dianne and other member of the family were afforded the rare honour of being introduced to her Majesty the Queen.

The occasion was the Queen's visit to Lichfield Cathedral for a thanksgiving service, at which she awarded medals to selected members of the Royal Mercian and Lancastrian Yeomanry following their tour in Afghanistan.

This memorable family occasion was made all the more special, when Nick, along with his wife Dianne and daughter Victoria, met and spoke with the Queen. A short BBC clip of the Queen's visit ceremony can be accessed [here](#).





Canon Mark Oakley (Rb 1987) appointed Canon Residentiary and Treasurer of St Paul's Cathedral

Thursday 4 August 2011

Canon Mark Oakley (Rb 1982-7) has been appointed Canon Residentiary and Treasurer of St Paul's Cathedral, London. His responsibilities at the cathedral include the Arts, Fabric, and Collections. He remains a Deputy Priest in Ordinary to HM the Queen. St Paul's has been in London for over 1400 years but the present cathedral celebrates its 300th anniversary this year and a fifteen year clean and restoration has just been completed.

On his appointment, Canon Oakley said:

"I am delighted to be joining the team at St Paul's. It is an honour to be asked to contribute to the artistic and imaginative vocation of the cathedral and to help ensure that its magnificent building is encountered as a profound witness to the Gospel and a place for prayer."

More information can be found at the [St Paul's Cathedral Website](#).



Shrewsbury School County Cricket Festivals 2011

Saturday 6 August 2011

The 2011 County Cricket Festival dates are as follows:

- Under 11's Festival: Monday 25th July to Friday 29th July
- Under 12's Festival: Monday 1st August to Friday 5th August

The results from each day are posted here as soon as possible after the day's playing is finished. Photographs are on www.kidzinsport.org.uk.

Under 12's Festival:

- [1st August results and league table](#)
- [2nd August results](#)
- [3rd August results and league table](#)
- [4th August - 8 Twenty20 matches](#)
- [5th August winners and results of final matches](#)
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Under 11's Festival:

- [25th July results and league table](#)
- [26th July results](#)
- [27th July results and league table](#)
- [28th July results - 8 Twenty20 matches](#)
- [Finals Day \(29th July\) fixtures](#)
- [29th July winners and results of final matches](#)

Please see our [Cricket Festivals leaflet](#) for more details. Further information is available from our Master i/c Cricket, Andy Barnard 01743 280697 or asb@shrewsbury.org.uk



OS races at Silverstone in the World Series by Renault

Monday 15 August 2011

Young British racing driver Oliver Webb (S 2004-2009) returns to Silverstone over the weekend of 19th – 21st August, in Round Seven of the World Series by Renault.

Still only 20 years old, Oli has shown real promise with the PONS Racing team in the opening races of his rookie season. He goes into his home round hoping to build on this performance, and with a strong potential for a points finish.

Oli has also been working closely with two children's charities, Starlight Children's Foundation and Caudwell Children. He will be joined over the weekend by a number of inspirational youngsters, who are supported by these worthy causes.

For more information on Oliver Webb, and to track his progress throughout the season, visit <http://www.olwebbracing.com>.





Cricket: OS James Taylor scores two centuries for England Lions team against Sri Lanka

Wednesday 17 August 2011

Old Salopian James Taylor (R 2003-2008) captained the England Lions team against Sri Lanka A in the three-match, one-day series at Northampton.

Jimmy scored two centuries in three games, giving England Lions a tremendous 2-1 victory.

Please see the ECB's article [Lions series win Taylor-made](#) for more information.

A Level results break the records

Thursday 18 August 2011

Our recent leavers from the Upper Sixth have broken records with their A Level and Pre-U exam results.

2011 is a particularly tough year for university applications, but despite the extra competition, the vast majority of our leavers have achieved the grades they needed to continue to their chosen universities. The average UCAS points per candidate was our highest ever at 401.0.

Well above 99% of the exams taken were passed, and a record-breaking 22% of our exams were at the top A* grade. We had 160 A Level candidates this year, of whom 60 (38%) achieved three or more A*s or As, or the Pre-U equivalent, and an outstanding 13 students achieved three or more A* grades.

In total, 56% of our exams were awarded either A* or A grades, and 81% were awarded an A*, A or B grade.

Along with many other top schools in the UK, Shrewsbury will not be including its results in the press league tables again this year. Our curriculum now includes the new Cambridge Pre-U alongside the increasingly complex AS/A2 qualifications and the Extended Project Qualification. This fragmentation makes precise comparability with A Levels far from reliable, undermining the value of the league tables.





2009-10 Head Boy on duty at Edgbaston for the third Test against India

Friday 19 August 2011

Old Salopian Ben Williams (Rt 2008-2010; Head Boy 2009-2010) was on 12th Man duties at Edgbaston in August for the senior England team vs India. This followed Ben's successful first half of the season for Warwickshire CCC 2nd XI, Oxford University and Berkswell CC in the Birmingham & District Premier League.



England won the four-day match by an innings and 242 runs

Ben has impressed so much at Oxford that he has already been named as MCCU Captain for the 2012 season. He has commented:

"Being involved with the England squad for their third Test match against India at Edgbaston was a truly fantastic experience; I hope I can bring one or two things from the experience to OUCC."

Congratulations Ben!

PG

World Challenge 2011 - Malawi

Friday 19 August 2011

Please find below brief reports from Rob Wilson, leader of the 2011 World Challenge expedition to Malawi that took place over the summer holidays.



Tuesday 9th August

After a long while without an internet connection, I now find myself on a hired laptop overlooking the sunset on Lake Malawi - it's a hard life at some points on expedition!

Last week we were in the small rural village of Thanthwe in Southern Malawi. We were there to help lay the foundations for a new building to contain a library and a new office for staff. Our help mostly consisted of collecting building materials from around the local area (bricks, sand, stones, water) in any container we could find (rucksacks, buckets, a broken wheelbarrow). It was back-breaking work at points, and was always uphill; but the team pulled together and got the job done. The community is also in the process of making bricks for some new buildings. These unbaked bricks were strewn across the school playground so we helped by adding manpower to clear them into one area so that when school starts in September the children have somewhere to play. Some members of the groups also taught some lessons in the afternoons ranging from English to Maths, German to Bible Studies.

The last couple of days have been spent in the Liwonde National Park where we were lucky enough to see elephants, hippos, crocs, antelope, kudu to name but a few.

Now; back to that sunset....

Friday 29th July

I am pleased to report that the team now finds itself in the town of Blantyre having all completed a trek across the Mulanje Massif. Our guide, George, who has lead a number of school groups across the mountain, said that the Shrewsbury team were by far the fastest he had seen, often making it to our nightly destination by lunchtime, and on a couple of occasions beating our porters!

The next two items on our itinerary are our project, and a safari in the Liwonde National Park. It seems strange to say that we only have two weeks left of the expedition!

Saturday 23rd July

We have now returned from the Dzalanyama Forest Reserve where the whole team completed a very challenging 4 day trek.



We now head to Dedza tonight (a slight change to our planned route), but will be back on track to take on Mount Mulanje next week.

Sunday 17th July

The team arrived safe and sound in Lilongwe at lunchtime yesterday. We head off tomorrow for our acclimatisation trek in the Dzylanjama Forest Reserve.

5th September 2011

The members of the 2011 World Challenge expedition have now gone their separate ways, some to university, some and gap years, and the remainder have returned to school to complete their studies. I am sure that the experiences of Malawi and the lessons learned there will stay with them for a long time to come.

I have already heard plans being made by various team members for exciting trips to far flung places in the not too distant future.

Rob Wilson



Oli Webb - 'rookie' F1 driver - scores valuable World Series points at Silverstone

Monday 22 August 2011



British racing driver Oli Webb (S 2004-2009) scored valuable championship points at his home race in the latest round of World Series by Renault this weekend, 19-21 August. Competing at the legendary Silverstone circuit, Webb finished 7th and 12th in front of a home crowd of more than 150,000 motorsport fans.

20-year old Webb showed strong potential during qualifying for Race 1,

posting competitive times throughout the session around the 5.901 km circuit. Feeling increasingly comfortable with the set-up of his PONS Racing car, Webb went out for one final

run but, in one of the closest grids this season, a small mistake in the middle sector meant Webb lost valuable time and ended the session 12th.



Oli says: *I love the Silverstone circuit and have had a string of good results over the past few years, so I hoped to repeat that again this weekend. It was fantastic to see so much support, and it was great to be on the podium as 2nd-placed rookie in Race 1 in front of my home crowd, with the Union Jack on my racesuit and boots! It was a just a shame that we weren't able to repeat that on*

Sunday as we definitely had the speed.'

Read a full report [here](#):



Walking Home from Mongolia - Rob Lilwall undertakes a major new expedition this winter

Monday 22 August 2011

Rob Lilwall (SH 1990 - 1995) will be undertaking a major expedition this winter: [Walking Home from Mongolia](#).

Rob says that it will be the toughest thing he has ever done.

Accompanied by his friend, Leon McCarron, starting on 1st November, Rob will set off from the windswept wilderness of the Gobi Desert in Mongolia, and then walk south for over 3,500 km until he reaches his home in Hong Kong. As well as travelling by foot, the two will also carry portable kayaks in their backpacks to make use of the waterways they will encounter en route (namely the Yellow and the Pearl River, which both flow south for extended stretches).

A sequel to Rob's previous [Cycling Home from Siberia](#) expedition, the planned highlights of the journey are:

- Walking through the Gobi Desert as winter sets in
- Hiking along a deserted section of the Great Wall
- Paddling down the gorges of the Yellow River for almost 1000km
- Trudging through the snow-swept hills of central China until finally making it to the skyscrapers of Hong Kong

The exhibition will raise money for **Viva**, a charity which works with children at risk around the world and also for [Shrewsbury House](#). Rob has been working with Viva in Hong Kong for the last year .

Rob says: *'We are aiming to raise as much money as possible to help these children, so we would be grateful if you wanted to show your support to us, and help children by sponsoring us.'*

If you are in the UK you can donate to Viva through [Virgin Giving](#). If you are in Hong Kong or the USA, the donation pages will be coming shortly. This is really a major goal for the journey, so please do consider giving.'

National Geographic has commissioned a TV series about the expedition so Leon, who is a professional cameraman, will play a key role in filming it.

Rob asks that any Old Salopians with connections with companies who would like to sponsor the expedition either with gear, or would like some really good branding, download the [sponsors pack](#) from the website, or get in touch with him.

More information can be found at: www.walkinghomefrommongolia.com



Profile of Mark Holloway – award-winning kitchen designer

Monday 22 August 2011



Mark Holloway (SH 1985 – 1990) has successfully combined his various talents as engineer, designer and businessman to win a prestigious design award for his bespoke kitchen firm, [Holloways of Ludlow](#). In 2010, after only 5 years of specializing in kitchen design, Holloways won the top award of Kitchen Designer of the Year.

Mark grew up in Ludlow ‘surrounded by design’ where his parents ran an architectural salvage business. Mark developed his knowledge and love of antiques while at Shrewsbury School by regularly visiting antique centres in town looking for bargains and then selling them in the family business.

A degree in engineering at Oxford further developed both his eye for detail and an understanding of manufacturing processes and materials. His 5 years as a management consultant with Sainsbury’s, Mobil and Lufthansa came in very useful when later growing and developing his own business.

Established in 1984, in Ludlow, and completely re-launched in 2002, Holloways of Ludlow – now based in London - has built a reputation for supplying beautiful and unusual fixtures and fittings for residential refurbishments throughout the UK and beyond. In 2005 the firm diversified into offering bespoke kitchens.

Mark's projects have included numerous Jamie Oliver restaurants, Shoreditch House Hotel, Cath Kidston stores and many pubs, clubs and restaurants. Mark says,

‘Traditional or contemporary, simple or a little bit different, every Holloways kitchen reflects the character of the customer and the space it is designed for and is designed in every detail from scratch. With our well-appointed workshop and design team all based in and around London you can also rest assured that you are buying the very best of British.’ Read more [here](#).



OS James Taylor selected for the England team

Tuesday 23 August 2011

Old Salopian James Taylor (R 2003-2008) has been selected for the senior England team for Thursday's one-day-international against Ireland. Read more [here](#).



Last week, James captained the England Lions team against Sri Lanka A in the three-match, one-day series at Northampton. James scored two centuries in three games, giving the England Lions a tremendous 2-1 victory.

Please see the ECB's article [Lions series win Taylor-made](#) for more information.

James has been playing for Leicestershire since leaving Shrewsbury in 2008, and also took part in the [Saracens'](#) cricket tour last year.



'What You Will' receives 5* reviews from Edinburgh Fringe

Wednesday 24 August 2011



The School's production of *What You Will* at Edinburgh Fringe from 15th - 21st August received three 5-star reviews, and played to audiences of around 90 people each day (quite a feat for a lunchtime performance slot). The British Theatre Guide described it as 'a production that oozed professionalism and was performed with energy and commitment' and 'a sheer delight', and Broadway Baby as 'a pleasure to watch, a real treat for the eyes and the ears.' The reviews are reproduced below,

Our Senior Master, Peter Fanning (who wrote the script for *What You Will*) was interviewed by Radio Shropshire on his return from Edinburgh. In this short clip, he talks about how to set about getting a show on at the Edinburgh Fringe, and what it is like being a part of it: [Peter Fanning's interview with Radio Shropshire](#) (mp3 file).

Peter Fanning also wrote a report on the Edinburgh tour: [What You Will - Report](#).

www.britishtheatreguide.info/otherresources/fringe/fringe11-32.htm

The British Theatre Guide: What You Will

Lyrics by Peter Fanning, music by John Moore

Shrewsbury School

C Central

Shrewsbury School have established an excellent reputation for their productions at the Fringe and this year is no exception. What You Will is a magnificent musical reworking of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night and is a sheer delight.

The beautifully costumed confident cast give highly polished performances throughout in this vibrant musical with a rich score ranging from sentimental ballads to rousing chorus numbers performed live by a talented orchestra under the highly competent musical direction of John Moore.

The thoroughly talented young cast perform with zest and dedication and sing beautifully with some impressive harmonies.

Malvolio finally dressing up in black leathers and chains was hilarious and worked superbly, as did the simple white wrought iron set.

With powerful performances from the main characters and strong support from the remainder of the cast this was a production that oozed professionalism and was performed with energy and commitment.

Director Peter Fanning should be exceedingly proud of this sparkling production. I urge you to go. This show should be high on your must see list.

Robin Strapp



www.broadwaybaby.com/edinburgh-fringe/11973-what-you-will

Broadway Baby Review

What You Want: 5 Stars

Reviewed by Fen Greatley

August 30, 2011

Shrewsbury School here lives up to its gleaming reputation with a technically flawless production. Their telling of Twelfth Night, cleverly titled using the play's alternative name, is of the highest quality in every respect. Gleaming vocals, beautiful couture and the work of, I suspect, a dozen stage hands feature in this show.

Most importantly, of course, the rendering of the plot is marvellous – never have I ever seen a cleaner, clearer exposition of the storyline; and Twelfth Night's a complex one, what with all the deception amidst the general tomfoolery and skulduggery.

It was a pleasure to watch, a real treat for the eyes and the ears. Each cast member possesses the necessary empathy and intelligence to really engage with their part and bring it to life. All size parts were artfully played, each actor bringing in something personal.

The role of Antonio was highly emotionally charged and for once didn't seem oddly under-developed. Gus Haynes's solo brought shivers to my spine, caressing every note and delivering it beautifully.

Maria (Hebe Dickins) and Sir Toby (Ed Key) are brilliant as the agents of conspiracy, as were the Festes (an unusual choice to have two, but having them as Artful Dodger types did work), Rob Cross and Ali Webb. The Festes' voices were the strongest male vocals, so it was wise to manipulate the role of Feste into a narrator of sorts, as it gave them more stage time and opportunity to showcase their talents.

Malvolio's melodrama brought the house down, his pomp and ceremony played out wonderfully. His singing style reflected his role nicely, overly florid and operatic, and complementary to Olivia. At no point did he seem like a boy or an actor pretending to be someone else. It was most fascinating.

A paragraph must go to our leading lady, Viola (Izzy Osborne), whose voice was heavenly. A beautiful actress, she captured the essence of her character fantastically, conveying the torment Viola feels at being torn between loyalty to, and love for, Orsino.

The score is a real triumph. The script is cleverly and skilfully adapted into song form, with each song enhancing the emotions felt in what is really a series of private monologues, perfectly suited to a musical presentation. There are a couple of numbers with an inspired coming-together of the the play's themes, which gently reminds you what's going on and refocuses the dramatic tension, as well the wonderful duet between Cesario and Olivia that I'd been wanting, and a rousing anthem at the end.

The Stage

What You Will

Shrewsbury School

C Venues

15th - 20th August

If you are a die-hard fan of the Bard, this almost entirely sung version of Twelfth Night may not be for you. However, it is not without its own charm. For one thing, amongst dozens of glitzy musicals with trans-Atlantic Disney influences on the Fringe, it was refreshing to see one that had not only a live band but also a quaintly English feel. The set – white painted iron garden decor with climbing roses – reflected this, as did many of the melodies, which were reminiscent of the Music Hall tradition, particularly those sung by the two Artful Dodger-styled Festes (Ali Webb and Rob Cross, a fine tenor and baritone pairing).

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Composer John Moore's vocal parts intertwined in rich harmonic polyphony and the young cast showed great ability for maintaining the key and time signatures, which were challenging at times.

Director Peter Fanning preferred a happy-go-lucky breeze through the synopsis to a thematic interpretation of the text; that said, the elements of farce were strong, particularly the Sebastian and Viola/Cesario identity confusion in the last two acts, and there were some toe-tapping numbers. Top marks to Shrewsbury's ensemble, within whose midst were some truly excellent singers, notably Webb and Cross, Izzy Osborne (Viola) and Sam Ansloos (Malvolio). Adopting the play's alternate title, this was an enjoyable alternative retelling of Twelfth Night.

Review by Steve Graney



Biology trip to Indonesia Summer 2011

Wednesday 24 August 2011

Please find below a couple of reports from Richard Case on the 2011 Biology trip to Indonesia.

Thursday 4th August

We are now in Bau Bau in southern Sulawesi having completed all our flights. It has been a long and exhausting journey but all are well and in good spirits. Our transfers have all gone smoothly and in a few hours time we will begin a three hour journey by road to the village of Labundobundo (5 mins from Lawele on your schedules). We will spend the night in the village in local houses before our 5hr trek into the forest tomorrow.

Bau Bau is a small place and all are excited by the atmosphere and sights. As Ramadan has just started, the evocative call to prayer resounds everywhere and the local karaoke bar (which sounds remarkably similar) evidently stayed open for most of the night as the locals celebrate.

I'll try and report back on our jungle experience before we head for the Island of Hoga - opportunity permitting.

We have now completed our time in the jungle and are now on the Island of Hoga. Apart from a few minor upset stomachs, all remain in good health.

We spent three nights in Labundo Bundo with local villagers which was a fantastic experience. On each day we went into the forest in small groups with scientists choosing which groups we wanted to go with. Options included birds, civets, bear cuscus (google it!), butterflies and bats. We then trekked deeper into the jungle to the remote and lovely Bala camp where we spent the following three days. Highlights included seeing frogs which are so new to science they have not yet been named and the third ever specimen of a new skink species. We have bathed in jungle pools, swung from lianas and seen some great wildlife. Conditions have been tough. In the humidity it is impossible to remain dry, the terrain has been very tough (steep and muddy) and leeches were abundant. Fortunately, everyone in the group has dealt with the hardships with great fortitude (indeed some have flourished) and all have made the most of their time, enjoyed the experience and learned much from the encyclopedic scientists on site (all of whom have trench foot after ten weeks in the forest).

Hoga is another world and the ideal antidote to the rain forest. It is a tropical, coconut-fringed paradise (search on Youtube for diving on Hoga to see for yourselves). Today we completed our first dives (a refresher dive first and, after lunch, the first dive of the Reef Ecology course looking at coral identification). We also had a chance to snorkel which is as good as the diving. On these first dives we have seen colourful nudibranchs, camouflaged scorpion and crocodile fish, banded sea kraits (very poisonous but docile sea snakes), blue-spotted rays and a multitude of beautiful fish, invertebrates and coral.

We have another three full days of diving before we begin the very long journey home. We are all looking forward to home comforts, sit-down loos and settled stomachs, but it will be difficult to leave!



Old Salopian Club - Facebook Group now available

Thursday 25 August 2011

A new [Old Salopian Club Facebook group](#) has been set up and is being jointly run by the Old Salopian Club office staff and Old Salopian members.

This is open to any Old Salopian and is designed to facilitate communication between members and provide an instant source of news/information. If you don't already have a [Facebook account](#) it is easy to set up by following the instructions. You can then search for and request to join the Old Salopian group.

Another communication route open to Old Salopians is the [Shrewsbury School LinkedIn Group](#) which has recently taken off and is particularly useful for making business contacts or sharing business-orientated news. It has already attracted several Old Salopian and School staff members.

Sharing contact details: There has also been an excellent response to our request to Old Salopians to 'opt-in' to sharing their contact details with other Old Salopians on request to the Old Salopian Club office. We get many requests for contact details and once we have finished processing the list of current 'opt-ins' (available on request after 31st August), this should make this process easier.

DATA PROTECTION: We often get requests such as 'please could you send me a list of all the Old Salopian solicitors living in xxxx'. Unfortunately Data Protection rules mean we cannot do this. After 31st August, we will, however, be able to put people in touch with anyone who has opted in and happens to be an Old Salopian solicitor living in xxxx! (Alternatively you could post your request on Facebook or LinkedIn).

Old Salopians support School production at Edinburgh Fringe

Thursday 25 August 2011



During the week of 15 to 20 August, the School presented its latest musical, *What You Will* at the Edinburgh Fringe.

The show played to packed audiences throughout the week, including many Old Salopians. It was a smash hit, with some excellent performances by the pupils, outstanding scripting from Peter Fanning and superb musical accompaniment by the composer, John Moore, and his musicians.



On **Thursday 18th August** a small group of Old Salopians met at the Greyfriars Bobby public house after the matinee performance to reflect on the originality of the show and to catch up with one another. The Fringe provides an excellent opportunity for Old Salopians with an interest in the Arts to get together and to enjoy what the festival has to offer.



Old Salopian Golfing Society in Glorious Cornwall

Thursday 25 August 2011



Did you know that once a year at lovely Trevoze Golf Club here in glorious Cornwall, there is an Old Schools competition?

Bill Higson (O 52-57 (13)), secretary of the Old Salopian Golfing Society and local resident, David Balmford (Rt 48-51(17)), took part on 22nd August and Bill would be delighted to see more OS Golfers taking part next year.

Bill and David set off in foursomes format for a delightful afternoon. Playing with a young Old Etonian couple (whom they trounced!) they carded a creditable 31 points.

Read more on the [Golfing Society](#) page.



2011 GCSE results smash all recent records

Thursday 25 August 2011

Shrewsbury School's outstanding 2011 GCSE results have smashed all recent records.

98% of the exams taken were passed at grades A* – C, and 40% of our grades were achieved at A* grade – the highest that Shrewsbury School has ever recorded. An impressive 68% of our grades were achieved at either A* or A grade.

Ten boys gained straight A* grades in all their subjects.

Our GCSE boys will enter the school's co-educational sixth form next term. The introduction of girls into Shrewsbury School's sixth form in 2008 has been such a success that a second girls' house, Enma Darwin Hall, will be opening this September.

Summary of results

No. of pupils	127
A*	40%
A* + A	68%
A* to B	91%
A* to C	98%



Harry Cox - with 10 A* grades



L-R: Will Heyes, James Kynaston, Harry Boutflower, Ben Gould and Charlie Farquhar



Shrewsbury School's 1st XI Football Tour 2011

Wednesday 31 August 2011

The 1st XI squad (15 players) are on a pre-season tour in Bristol from 25th August - 1st September, accompanied by Steve Biggins, Paul Pridgeon and our new sports coach Steve Clancy. They are staying at the Holiday Inn Express in Filton, North Bristol, and using Bristol University's sports facilities.

Friday 26th August 2011 - *Match 1 v Weston Super Mare Academy*

We arrived at Weston Super Mare on a very wet and slightly cool evening. However, we did not let this affect our preparation, and after a slightly rushed warm up the game began.

In the opening period it was clear to us that Weston-Super-Mare were a well organised outfit who played their football at a high tempo and passed the ball around nicely; but in the opening twenty minutes we felt we started the better of the two teams. We were rewarded with a goal from Max Pragnell, who latched onto a fatal mistake from their goalkeeper, 1-0 to Shrewsbury. The game was quite even up to the break, but unfortunately they equalised on the stroke of half time.

After some words of encouragement from the coaches we started the second half very brightly. However after the hour mark it was obvious that we started to tire due to the early tempo of the game and our lack of preparation/training. Weston Super Mare struck twice in the final 20 minutes to lead 3-1. In the last ten minutes Shrewsbury fought hard and created some decent chances in order to reduce the deficit but were unable to find the back of the net, the game finished 3-1.

This was the first match for some of our players since last November. With the players having only two training sessions before the match, the performance was very encouraging.

Mark Prescott

Monday 29th August 2011 - *Match 2 v Bath City Academy*

A rare warm and bright morning welcomed us as we travelled and reached Bath to play against their Under 18 Academy side. Despite a tactical Jaffa cake pit stop, we arrived in enough time to thoroughly warm up and felt far better prepared to face the opposition than in our first match.

As a result we started brightly, throwing together some neat passing moves and it wasn't long before Alex Styles broke down the right, reached the by-line and pulled the ball back towards the penalty spot. Jack Hudson-Williams then met the cross and tucked the ball away into the bottom left hand corner for the games opener. There were some more tidy passages of play with Sam Welti regularly finding himself in threatening positions on the left hand side, and sooner or later he tucked away a parried shot for the games second goal. Bath City then replied with some bright passages of play themselves but Ben Gould rose well and claimed several threatening crosses before any danger could manifest itself. More fierce defending from our back four particularly some well timed but borderline rash tackles from Alex Styles led to a switch in the play and soon Styles swung the ball into the box and a rush of bodies in front of the keeper caused him to miss the ball and it rolled tantalisingly into the goal mouth where Max Pragnell



pounced and poked the ball into the net. Bath City replied with a goal of their own just before the end of the half with a long ranged effort which swerved away from goalkeeper Ben Gould leaving the score 3-1 at half time.

Despite several words of encouragement and all four subs being made at half time, Bath City's stern half time team talk caused them to up their game and they retained the ball much better in the second half, leading to several chances being created but a combination of resilient defending and good reaction saves kept the score at 3-1. We continued to string passes together but struggled to break down Bath City's defence, this led to Max Pragnell being isolated from our midfield and we then struggled to retain the ball for any great periods of time. As a result we came under some pressure and Bath managed to score as Ben Gould spilt a tough effort and a waiting striker pounced. We returned with new energy despite being tired and through a quick passing move George Ellery found himself in some space on the edge of the box and a precision strike saw the score move to 4-2. Bath returned again and they scored taking the score to 4-3 and in reflection our dip in performance is possibly due to a lack of match fitness and the lack of "roll on roll off" subs.

James Board and Howard Stringer

Latest News (31st August): Our goalie, Ben Gould, broke a bone in his hand yesterday morning and was unable to play in last night's match - he will be out of action for 4-6 weeks.

30th August 2011 - Match 3 v Bristol Rovers Under 16's

The Combe Dingle was buzzing in anticipation of another competitive encounter against a strong academy side. Our preparation was slightly hampered by an injury to goalkeeper Ben Gould which meant we had to 'borrow' one of Bristol's 'keepers.

The match was a high tempo affair, with good passing play from both sides. Although both teams looked threatening on the break, there were no major chances due to tidy work from both defences. Captain Henry Lewis organised the back four well, and made several key defensive headers.

Unfortunately, our hard work was undone when we gave the ball away in a dangerous area, leaving their striker with a clear view on goal, and he gave Bristol the advantage. However, their lead did not last long, as some slick one-touch football between Max Pragnell and Henry Lewis opened a channel for Jack Hudson-Williams to run into, round the keeper and slot the ball home.

The scores were still level at half-time and we hoped to take our momentum into the second half. But Bristol struck early after the break to lead 2-1.

Even with constant changes, we kept our shape well and look menacing on the attack. Max Pragnell grew as the match progressed, making clever runs and holding the ball up well. His hard work was rewarded when a ball from Jamie Board, a good turn and a well taken finish brought the scores level.

It was testament to our determination and resilience that we managed to grab a draw against a quicker and fitter Academy side who had been training all summer.

A very encouraging end to a very encouraging tour.

Ben Gould

RSSBC: Salopian wins silver and bronze medals for GB in the Coupe de Jeunesse in Linz (Austria)

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Sam Lapage (R LVI) was selected to represent GB in the Coupe de Jeunesse in Linz (Austria) in July. He was placed in the top boat, the coxless four. In two separate events on successive days he gained a bronze and a silver medal, narrowly missing the gold to a strong Spanish crew.



Old Salopians represent GB in the World Under 23 rowing competition in Amsterdam

Wednesday 31 August 2011

James Scott (M 2008-2010) and Patrick Lapage (R 2003-2008) both represented GB in the World Under 23 rowing competition in Amsterdam in July.

James, in the coxed four, finished fifth overall. Patrick, stroking the Eight, got a bronze medal. The heat in the eight deserves a mention - GB all but beat the Americans, losing by 0.07s and thus having to yield the favoured lane in the final. In the final itself, rowed from lane 4 in a strong cross tail wind, the disappointment in not beating the Americans (lane 7, calm water, gold) and the Czech Republic (lane 6) was mitigated a bit by the satisfaction of knocking the Germans (lane 5 and normally very strong) into fourth place with a huge mid-race push. All three medal winning crews were sub 5 min 30s, and beat the existing class record time.

Lapage rowing dynasty featured on Radio 5 Live & Radio Shropshire

Wednesday 31 August 2011

Radio Five Live and Radio Shropshire recently carried interviews with three generations of the Lapage family: grandfather Michael Lapage, who won a Silver medal in the 1948 London Olympics, was interviewed with his son Phil Lapage (Chemistry teacher and River Master), and his two grandsons Patrick and Sam Lapage (R 2003-2008, and R UVI respectively). Both Patrick and Sam have rowed for Great Britain, and both have hopes of following their grandfather to the Olympics in the future.



Michael Lapage had never before seen footage of his epic Olympic final, but Radio Shropshire tracked it down and showed it to the family. Michael described seeing it as "quite emotional" and talked about the differences between the 'Austerity Games' of 1948 and the razzamatazz surrounding the 2012 Olympics.

The BBC also have a piece on their website about the Lapage

dynasty: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-shropshire-14574924.