

## RSSBC: Fours Head of the River - a report by Will Hayes (M UVI)

Monday 2 December 2013



After an early start and a chilly walk to KH, we were greeted by a continental breakfast as we tried to wake up. We then went back to sleep for the three-and-a-half-hour journey to St Paul's School, who kindly let us use their boathouse. We rigged the boat quickly while trying unsuccessfully to keep our hands warm.

We were boating from St Paul's alongside the Oxford crews that will make up next spring's Blue and Isis boats. We then made our way upstream with approximately 500 other crews towards the start at Chiswick Bridge. Along the way I started to play spot the Olympian. The winning quad had four, so it was surprisingly easy. It was awesome to share the river and race against some of the greatest rowers in our generation. No matter how many times I row that course, it never fails to surprise me – the stretch between Barnes and Hammersmith Bridge is seemingly never-ending.

We had a good race, trying to look our best as we went under Hammersmith for all the photographers – difficult to do when you've just raced over 12 minutes! After another nine minutes we finished the race with an encouraging time. We then rowed back to St Paul's, landed and derigged before the drive back home.

It was a good day out for all the crews with some encouraging results to help take confidence into the Christmas training.

*Will Hayes*





## Max Pragnell earns high football honours in the Southern USA

Tuesday 3 December 2013



Footballer, Max Pragnell (G 2008-13), currently a scholar at Davidson College, North Carolina, has been selected for the Southern Conference all-freshman soccer squad, representing Davidson.

The Davidson website reports: 'Pragnell couldn't have asked for a better start to his collegiate career recording three assists and a game-winning strike in his first three contests. Four of the forward's set ups came either on game-tying or game-winning goals.

Maxi was a revelation, because for as much as coaches want freshmen to impact the team straightaway, it's not always a realistic expectation as there is an adjustment to the college game, new team, academic rigor, and campus life. Maxi has lived away from home in another country for a few years, as a Jamaican resident attending school in England. A crucial quality that Maxi brings to the match is his work rate. He gives everything in terms of desire and running. And then you add a great first touch, dribbling prowess, and the ability to combine with teammates. He craved more goals – those will come – but his assists and other parts of his arsenal have already accelerated the program.'



## Atlantic Rowing Team delayed by bad weather

Tuesday 3 December 2013

Alex Bland (and Harry Martin-Dreyer (both Rt 2000-05)'s attempt to row the Atlantic for charity has been delayed by bad weather:

'We have now been on the south coast of Gran Canaria for 10 days prepping the boat and preparing ourselves for today's big departure into the great blue yonder. After such a long time planning we are finally ready, but as luck would have it, it seems the weather is not. In order to ensure our best chances of getting a good start and picking up the easterly trade winds further south, we need to have 2 to 3 days of consistent easterly/north easterly winds in our favour. Unfortunately the weather has recently become quite unsettled with the wind currently blowing from the south west and forecast to continue as such for at least until the middle of next week. It is therefore with much frustration that we have decided to delay our departure until a suitable weather window presents itself. '



They have now raised over £126,000 for their two charities and have the opportunity to test some cutting edge water purification technology manufactured by a company called Nano Bubble Inc. They say, 'We have been given a prototype device that we will be using to pump extremely small oxygen bubbles (hence nano bubbles) into our desalinated water supply. Leaving the complex scientific detail aside, when these nano bubbles burst, they produce extreme heat which kill all bacteria in the surrounding water. We have been asked to test whether water purified using this method has any positive side effects on our health and the way we feel given our constant physical exertion. We look forward to finding out!'

Follow their progress at: <http://rowing4research.com/>



## Oli Webb makes GT street debut in Baku, and confirms plans for Dunlop 24H Dubai

Tuesday 3 December 2013

Oliver Webb (S 2004-09) returned to the world of GT racing recently to take part in the FIA GT Series finale around the streets of the Azerbaijan capital for the Baku City Challenge, before confirming further GT plans which will see him contest the Dunlop 24H Dubai early in 2014.

Series: FIA GT Series  
Track: Baku City Challenge, Azerbaijan  
Track length: 4.380 km (2.721 mi)  
Date: 22-24 November 2013

Qualifying: Pos. 18; Time: 1m45.575s +3.024s  
Qualifying Race: Pos. 15; +40.205s  
Main Race: DNF



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## Dan Howie - Atlantic Row update

Wednesday 4 December 2013



Atlantic Rower, Dan Howie (Ch 1998-03) has sent a last message before setting off to row the Atlantic today with his friend, Will North:

From us both, a quick message to say THANK YOU VERY MUCH for all of your support over the past 2 years.

At 1pm on Wednesday 4th December, the 3,000 mile race to Antigua will start and we will begin the next phase of this challenge.

To date, we have raised £85,000 in order to take part in this adventure through corporate sponsorship, plus we have raised an additional £90,000 for our 3 charities.

To follow our progress ahead, there are a number of tools:

Yellow Brick - an app for your iPhone which is following the race.

[www.AtlanticRow2013.com](http://www.AtlanticRow2013.com) - our website which we will be kept up to date with photos and news from life of board.

[www.TaliskerWhiskyAtlanticChallenge.com](http://www.TaliskerWhiskyAtlanticChallenge.com) - the official race website, which will provide accurate race data.

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/AtlanticRow2013> - our sponsorship page.  
PLEASE keep them coming!

Finally, for short personal messages to help us keep motivated, please email to [AtlanticRow2013@mailasail.com](mailto:AtlanticRow2013@mailasail.com).

# Hunt: ESAA National Cross-Country Cup final

Wednesday 4 December 2013



*L to r: Nicky Davis, Will Hayward, Freddie Huxley-Fielding, Monty Hardcastle, Christian Cavenagh-Thornhill and Owen Mock*

Having qualified through the regional stage of the ESAA Cross-Country Cup in early November, six members of the Junior Hunt travelled down to Southend-on-Sea for the national final. Over 1500 teams initially compete for this event at county level across four categories, so to have made it as far as the final was already a considerable achievement. Having said that, a remarkable 2nd place overall last year meant that the bar of success was raised particularly high.

A forced change of personnel meant that this was a rather inexperienced team who made the journey south, though it was admirably led by the fantastic running talent of Freddie Huxley-Fielding (R IV), who came 5th in the race last year as a Third Former. He was hoping to improve on this result now that he was one of the 'old guard', though on arrival it was noticeable that many of his contemporaries had grown to nearly twice his size!

Fellow Riggite Will Hayward also returned for a second year, though he was still shaking off a nasty cold as he drew up to the start line. Our other competitors were Nicky Davis (PH) making his debut in a national event and the only other Fourth Former. He has shown considerable improvement over the course of the term and was duly rewarded with a place in the starting six. Owen Mock (R 3) has run very well over the course of the term since his victory in the New Boys' Race way back in September, hotly pursued by Monty Hardcastle (I 3) who has been extremely committed to the Hunt and has developed his running really well. The sixth member of our group was Christian Cavenagh-Thornhill (SH 3), who has mainly rowed this term but who has also been steadily working on his running.

A massive field of 145 lined up on the start line in the afternoon of the last day of November and as the gun fired, we got a decent start. Freddie got away very well and was in second position by the second bend. However, after a decent first lap he began to struggle and was losing places in the field down to 19th by the end of the second lap. However, a really impressive fightback, which showed a level of grit in Freddie that he's revealed on more than one occasion this year, saw him work his way back up the rankings to 14th by the finish.

Further back, Will Hayward struggled in the middle of the pack but fought on valiantly for a hard-won 62nd place. Monty overtook the Owen on a final lap which proved just one too many for him, the two finishing 117th and 124th respectively. Christian showed a huge amount of determination against this extremely strong national field and was of huge credit to the School in

# Shrewsbury

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the way that he ran. The team scored a total of 317 points, placing them 23rd out of the 25 teams who had qualified for the final.

Though this was never going to quite live up to the astonishing performance of last year's team, this collection of six runners put in a really fantastic effort a long way from home and can hold their heads up high as national finalists in an extremely competitive event. I am hugely proud of their commitment in their training and on the day. Well done to all.

*IPH*

## Salopians attend Ludlow Quaker Meeting lectures

Wednesday 4 December 2013

*Philipp Eisenhardt (O LVI) reports on two lectures attended by Shrewsbury School pupils and organised by the Ludlow Quakers' Association - one on drone warfare and the other, given by the Former Deputy Supreme Commander Europe of NATO, on "The Utility of Force in an Age of Insecurity".*

On the 2nd October and the 6th November, ten students from Shrewsbury School attended two lectures organised by the Ludlow Quaker Meeting.

The first one was on drone warfare, delivered by Chris Cole. He is part of the Drone Campaign Network, a group that campaigns against the use of drones in armed conflicts. In his talk he spoke about the technical equipment in the drones and about how drones are navigated.



Today 70 countries use drone technology, six of whom are confirmed to be utilising armed drones. British troops made about 360-400 drone strikes in Afghanistan, which makes the topic very current. The big advantage of drones is that you can fight wars with fewer risks to human life.

However, Chris Cole takes the view that, due to the reduced political costs of this 'risk-free attack' you create a "PlayStation" mentality and expand the battlefield. In addition he said that drones aren't as effective as we think and cause huge risks for civilians. According to Cole, the use of drones increases the attacks on NATO soldiers. His speech was very interesting, especially because it is such a frequently discussed and controversial topic.

The second Ludlow talk was on "The Utility of Force in an Age of Insecurity" and was given by General Sir Rupert Smith, Former Deputy Supreme Commander Europe of NATO. In his talk he was able to give us an insider's impression of being a commander and soldier.

He began his talk with a quote from Aristotle saying: "People go to war because they have different ideas about peace". In his opinion, the various global institutions are outdated and unable to give the world peace. According to General Sir Rupert Smith, one problem is that the Security Council is abused by the five big Veto countries. Due to this the Security Council is unable to agree on anything. He emphasised the change in challenges since 1945. Population growth and the scarcity of resources are the latest challenges for security in the modern era.

In his talk, Sir Rupert used some striking metaphors. His depiction of warfare as a series of gladiatorial events was particularly striking. He saw military commanders as producers putting on a spectacle for the public. However, there is a problem. There is another producer putting on his



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gladiatorial event in the same place at the same time, things are going wrong on the stage, members of the audience are turning up late and interrupting the action, and people are trying to sell ice cream to everyone. He said that the audience, in this case mostly the media, tries to analyse the actions as though it is looking through a drinking straw, meaning that the media reporting is not able to show the situation in a lot of detail.

General Sir Rupert Smith came to the conclusion that violence removes power, but is unable to replace this power, and that our international institutions must be updated to reflect this new reality.

## Prep School Big Band Day is a resounding success

Wednesday 4 December 2013

*We were delighted to welcome 60 pupils from Packwood Haugh, Prestfelde, Winterfold and Shrewsbury High Prep to Shrewsbury's first ever Prep School Big Band Day on Friday 29th November – an exciting and inspiration event for all concerned, as organiser and Head of Woodwind Maria McKenzie describes.*



After a lunch of fish & chips (that went down very well indeed!), the children began their afternoon at the Science Lecture Theatre with a lecture on music and science by Kathy Campbell. Kathy gave an intriguing talk to her captive audience on the sounds of the rain forest and the children were given instruments that mimicked the noises of the residents of the forests and were asked to compose pieces of music that brought the rainforest to Shrewsbury School. The children then moved on to the Chapel to listen to the Lunchtime Concert (which are held each Friday during term time) given by students at Shrewsbury School, which showed off the talent of soloists from the brass and singing departments, together with a couple of jazzy pieces played by the trumpet quartet and a rendition of Gershwin's *An American in Paris* by the Saxophone Quartet.

Then it was on to the Maidment Building for the Big Band Workshop - the highlight of the day for many of the children. Together with members of the Shrewsbury School Big Band, all the prep school pupils worked on four numbers which were performed later in the final concert of the day. I was a little unsure of the sound that was likely to be produced from an 80-strong Big Band but was pleasantly surprised when they managed to play through *Rock around the Clock* almost immediately! We continued to work through the other chosen pieces - *Tequila*, the theme from *Sesame Street* and *In the Midnight Hour*. It was very encouraging to see that many of the young students put themselves forward to improvise.

The day culminated with an informal concert to parents in the Maidment Building, which started with the Shrewsbury School Big Band playing some of their extensive repertoire. Highlights were definitely *Skyfall*, sung by Lucie Fletcher (Winterfold Prep School) who gave a superb performance, and *Harlem Nocturne* which featured our lead alto, Henry Newbould (Ch V). The day finished with a performance by all 80 students of the four pieces they had covered in the workshop. It was a real delight to hear the energy that was created by so many musicians.

The concert was introduced by Admissions Tutor Giles Bell, who had helped shepherd the pupils around the School earlier in the day. After the performance he said, "To see 80 young

musicians enthusiastically playing together and making such a great sound was breath-taking. The prep school boys and girls showed off their prodigious skills and were just so accomplished and calm during their solos and general playing. It really was such an uplifting afternoon and I would like to thank all the boys and girls and their teachers for giving me and the rest of the audience such a buzz.”

We have been thrilled with the positive feedback we’ve had from the prep schools who took part. In her email of thanks, Head of Music at Winterfold wrote: *“Best of all for us was seeing our ex pupils really hitting new heights –and also the opportunity for Lucie to sing with your band and all our children doing solos.”*

I look forward to next year's event!





## Classical Reading Competition 2013

Wednesday 4 December 2013

How the ancients actually spoke is a matter that has never been resolved, let alone agreed upon; Cicero wrote a number of works on oratory, but he does not get around to telling us about how actually to pronounce the words themselves. This opens up the intriguing question of whether the Greeks and the Romans employed the ancient equivalent of the best RP ('received pronunciation') of the 1950s BBC, or whether Romans living on the Esquiline or the Caelian hills (in the East end of the capital) spoke with a Romano-cockney twang down the market.

Despite (or because of!) this debate, the second annual Shrewsbury School Classical Reading Competition, organised by Mr Jim Sheppe, took place in the Ashton Theatre on 3rd December.

The event attracted a good number of competitors from the Third Form all the way up to the Upper Sixth, divided into three categories of Junior (Third Formers), Intermediate (Fourth and Fifth Form), and Senior (Sixth Form).

To listen and deliver his verdict on the renditions of Greek and Latin poetry and prose, the adjudicator Mr Adrian Saunders, from the Department of Archaeology and History of Art at Koç University had flown in all the way from Istanbul. He was impressed by the valiant efforts of all the competitors, and stressed the importance of allowing the languages to flow and 'speak for themselves'.

The laurels were dispersed as follows:

- **Junior**  
1st prize - Henry Mayhew (Ch) Aesop's Fables 'The Frog and their King'  
2nd prize - Angus Moore (S) Archilochus' elegiacs
  
- **Intermediate:**  
1st prize - Jamie Channon (PH) Apuleius' The Witches of Thessaly  
2nd prize - Paddy Cope (Ch) Aeneid II Laocoön's demise
  
- **Senior:**  
Joint 1st prize: Olivia Bradley (EDH) Mimnermus' elegiacs  
Ralph Wade (Rb) St. John's Gospel

# Senior House Debating Competition Final - Radbrook v Churchill's

Thursday 5 December 2013

*On Monday, the School witnessed the titanic clash of the Shrewsbury School debaters, when Churchill's went against Radbrook in the final of the Senior House Debating Competition. Dan Edwards (S LVI) - who has himself recently qualified for the second round of the national Cambridge Union Debating Competition - reports.*



*L to r: The Churchill's team - Rory Fraser, Theo Simmons and Sonny Ko; Radbrook Captain Ralph Wade receiving the Senior Debating Trophy from the Headmaster; the Radbrook team - Stephen Chandler, Ralph Wade and Sasha Arridge*

The motion for the evening was "This house would rather go to Summerhill School" - A.S. Neil's brainchild of a democratic and totally libertarian school.

The debate got off to a fiery start. Chaired by two Severnhillians, Mark Huang and Dan Edwards, who had fallen from the competition the round before, Sonny Koh opened the proposition for Churchill's. Sonny was passionate, putting forward a strong and defiant argument as to why academic freedom is vital for self-motivation and success in life. He was followed by the astute and sharp Stephen Chandler for the opposition, whose hounding analysis of the inability for a child to make his or her own decisions so young left everyone thinking.

After this it was the turn of the enigmatic Theo Simmons, whose comforting and, as the Headmaster later described, "highly trustable" style brought a new dimension to the debate, introducing ideas about how democracy in schools is the best reflection of society. He was followed by Sasha Arridge from Radbrook, whose humorous yet enlightening speech told the audience why Radbrook were in the right simply down to a child's reaction to eating a marshmallow.

To close the debate for Churchill's was Rory Fraser, who was taking the historically unique position of being Head of School attacking the school he is head of! Nevertheless his speech was fluid, engaging and brought the debate closer than ever. Finally, the audience were treated to the rhetorical power of Ralph Wade. His speech, which attacked the very concept and impracticality of absolute democracy, certainly had everyone in the room avidly listening.

After this, the audience had their chance to get in on the action. An array of stellar questions were asked. One question by a Mr Allott junior dared to challenge the authority of all the staff sitting in the room. A brave move indeed. Finally, after all the questions were complete, we had two brilliant summary speeches given by Ralph then Sonny respectively. And then the



Judgement. The debate was strong on both sides, but eventually, the committee of judges decided the nays had it, thereby meaning that Radbrook had won. Regardless of the result, it was a great evening for all those present.

But that's not the whole story on Shrewsbury debaters. A few weeks earlier on the 20th November, four Salopians, Ralph Wade, Sonny Koh, Dan Edwards and Guy Cabral, travelled to Adams Grammar School to take part in the first round of the national Cambridge Union Debating Competition. Debating in British parliamentary style, Ralph and Guy paired up as team and Sonny and Dan paired up as another team. We had two motions – one prepared, (this house would give housewives a salary) and one unseen (this house would ban the right to strike in all essential services).

The debate was tough. Each team present was well researched, experienced and had good style. Indeed Guy and Ralph were unlucky to just miss getting through to the next round. Dan and Sonny, however, after an intense final debate managed to win their group and qualify for the next round. By the end of the night both teams returned in good spirits to school, loaded up of course after eating fine quality pizza!

*With thanks to Andrew Spicer (M VI) for taking the photographs*



## Senior School Play 2013 - 'Antigone'

Thursday 5 December 2013



A seedy backstreet in Thebes, littered with various enigmatically juxtaposed items of junk, not to mention a serendipitous motorbike, the whole overlooked by an enormous deformed nude, from the arm of which gazed out an all seeing eye - perhaps a relative of that of Dr T J Eckleburg of Great Gatsby fame - formed the highly symbolic Dali-esque set of this singular and emotionally powerful rendering of Sophocles's harrowing masterpiece, fast-forwarded 2500 years to an undefined 1960s totalitarian location.

This was a production in which there were no junior partners in the quartet of set, lighting, music and acting, though occasionally it did seem as if the first three had conspired successfully to downplay the importance of the fourth, to the extent even of drowning their voices, apart from that of the inflexible tyrant Creon, who, like Julius Caesar prides himself on being 'constant as the northern star' until it is too late.

Deceptively simple, in the sense that relatively little actually happens within the play - most of the action having happened either immediately before it starts or even earlier in the first part of the trilogy - Antigone is a hugely challenging assignment for any non-professional company, let alone a school. Its emotional and psychological power are fully the equal of those of any other play ever written, and need to be conveyed within the relatively static and formal constraints of ancient Greek drama. And this production certainly did not lack emotional power. From the angst-ridden opening dialogue between the two damaged sisters - their mother was also their grandmother - the steely Antigone (Jessica Walker) and her fragile sister Ismene (Amelia Woodruff), played to the atmospheric barking of pariah dogs, right through to the final cameo when the deeply sinister Soldier (Tom Knight), looking every inch the Gestapo officer, sneers contemptuously at the crushed and humiliated tyrant Creon (Hugo Scott), there was no opportunity for audience attention to wander. Hugo managed to sustain his 'sneer of cold command' until the final scenes and made a very convincing Creon. But for me the most striking performance came from Haemon (Harry Al Adwani), who, in a performance of real stature, rejects his father in favour of his betrothed, Antigone, with whom he chooses to die.

Memorable, if a little eccentric, performances also came from Joe Bell as the rather insouciant Sentry, who has the unenviable job of reporting to Creon that his order to deny burial to Antigone's rebel brother has been disobeyed, and Tiresias, played by the irrepressible Tiger Vechamamontien, whose dramatic progenitors appeared to be Jonny Depp and Keith Richard.

Such was the intensity of this production that it was hard to believe that all was over in 70 minutes. With a set, lighting and the haunting music of John Tavener, whose death was announced two weeks ago, not to mention music to accompany the musings and moralisings of the chorus composed by our own Caroline Besterman, it was often difficult not to imagine oneself in a professional production.

*RTH*







## Galin Ganchev (M LVI) performs Brahms' Second Piano Concerto in his native Bulgaria

Friday 6 December 2013

*Director of Music John Moore, who accompanied Galin to Bulgaria last week and conducted his performance, describes a memorable and moving occasion. He was also thrilled to be able to witness a performance in the Varna Opera House of Jekyll, the very first musical he wrote for Shrewsbury School.*



Last week, by kind permission of the Headmaster, Galin Ganchev (M) and I travelled to Galin's native Bulgaria where he had been asked to perform Brahms' monumental Second Piano Concerto with the Varna Opera Orchestra as part of a Winter Music Festival in Varna's Philharmonic Concert Hall. What made the trip doubly worthwhile was that, in addition to being able to conduct Galin in the concert, I was also going to be able to see a performance of the very first musical we created for Shrewsbury School in 1994, *Jekyll*, being performed by Varna Children's Opera at the Varna Opera House.

Arriving in Sofia, Bulgaria's capital, accompanied by Galin's parents, who had been over visiting Shrewsbury School to attend a gala concert organised by Galin's tireless guardian, Gareth Jenkins, in which Galin, amongst others was performing, we were greeted by the sight of Bulgaria's first and very extensive snowfalls of the winter. What is normally a relaxed five-hour drive east to Varna, on the Black Sea coastline, turned into an epic eight-and-a-half-hour journey through driving snow, scudding past many snowploughs, gritting lorries and queues of struggling trucks, many of whom seemed forced to abandon their journey en route. Galin's father, Gancho, himself a leading conductor and figure in Bulgaria's rich musical life, seemed unphased by the journey, and we arrived tired but safe in the picturesque eastern seaport of Varna itself late at night.

Varna is probably the second city of Bulgaria in terms of importance and size, and in the summer months almost doubles in population, being such a popular tourist destination, with its fine beaches and excellent climate. It is also a city steeped in history. Once part of the Thracian



and Greco Roman civilizations, it boasts a superb archaeological museum with simply one of the best arrays of artefacts of any museum in existence. Bulgaria may have only emerged comparatively recently from its years as a communist state, but its pre-history and richness as a culture of immense importance makes it one of the most significant countries in Europe when understanding the growth and development of European society.

We rehearsed hard the day after we arrived with the orchestra, Galin revelling in the chance to finally perform the concerto with a professional symphony orchestra full of players of great experience and talent. Initial rehearsals took place on the top floor at the Opera House itself, though the concert the next day was to be held in the Philharmonic Hall, as part of an extensive Winter Festival of the Arts in Varna. It was a long and tiring day, and also in the programme was Brahms' Academic Festival Overture, so we had much to get through in very little time.

The next day, Thursday, we met up in the Philharmonic Hall itself in the morning to rehearse the Brahms programme on the stage in preparation for that night's concert. Also in the programme was a wonderful Mass by a Norwegian composer, to be performed by massed choirs from Varna with string orchestra, under the direction of Galin's father Gancho Ganchev, so it was to be a busy day for us and all the musicians involved.

Galín coped so well with the rigours of the rehearsals, and also the fact that we were doing the concert on the bare minimum of rehearsal, which tested musicians, conductor and soloists alike. The Brahms Second Concerto is a massive work, which demands everything from the solo pianist, but also demands huge sensitivity and artistry from orchestral players accompanying it. Even at its most grandiose, it retains qualities of Chamber Music in terms of the interplay between soloist and orchestra, and is the best part of an hour long, requiring huge concentration on the part of all involved.

The concert in the evening, which was very well attended, was superb. Galín Ganchev is a remarkable pianist, who combines a fiery technique with the ability to create the most poetic and heartfelt moments in his playing. His performance in Varna, to his home crowd, was a triumph and the orchestra rose to the challenge, with horn and cello solos being carefully managed, and from my own point of view, as conductor, the whole event being a wonderful celebration of both the music of Brahms and also the talents of one of Shrewsbury's finest ever music scholars. Playing the entire concerto from memory, he gave a performance of huge stature and detail, received enthusiastically by the large and appreciative audience.

It was also very fitting, that in addition to Galín's parents being able to see him perform in his home city, an event which due to their living abroad, happens so rarely, that Gareth Jenkins, Galín's UK guardian was able to join us for the concert and the last few days of the trip. It is through the good offices of Gareth Jenkins that Galín in fact joined the School, and Gareth has done a wonderful job of looking after both the interests of Galín and his parents during his time at the School.

Twenty years ago, Galín's parents started Varna Children's Opera as a project for young singers and actors in Varna. During those years they have performed many musicals and children's operas to great acclaim, and are now affiliated to the Varna Opera House, where most performances take place. Galín himself grew up performing in that tradition, and it was obvious when he went back last week that he is held in huge affection by current and past members of the Children's Opera, with whom he performed on many occasions.



I was lucky enough to be able to attend several rehearsals before Sunday's performance of Jekyll, and was able to speak to the young cast about the background to the musical itself, which is based on Robert Louis Stevenson's novella, the Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde.

The similarities between the way we work here at Shrewsbury when creating and rehearsing a musical, and the way in which Gancho, his wife and production team do also in Varna, are quite remarkable. There is the same huge level of commitment and love for the product as is engendered here at the School, the same level of professional intent, and the same desire to attain the highest of professional standards. Seeing then the eventual performance on last Sunday took my breath away, and I felt hugely humbled as a composer, teacher and performer. The energy and talent on display on the stage, with over fifty young Bulgarian actors and actresses as well as a few professionals in lead roles, sang, danced and acted their way through our musical with massive panache, style and brilliance.

The show looked and sounded wonderful, with the dialogue in Bulgarian, and the songs sung in English with Bulgarian sur-titles projected onto screens either side of the stage. As with the Brahms, the audience rose to their feet to applaud such wonderful young talent.

So what a trip for those of us fortunate enough to be able to go. What memories and what impressions of a city and country so rich in artistic life, and what possibilities now exist for future cooperation and cultural links between Varna and Shrewsbury School. Bulgaria should be on any European Gap year itinerary, and anyone wishing to study archaeology should make every effort to go there to participate in a summer dig or similar. It is a remarkable country, full of remarkable people, whose generosity of spirit knows no bounds, and whose determination to make the best of sometimes difficult circumstances is an inspiration to the rest of us.

Shrewsbury School has been a great story for Galin, and the tuition he has received from Peter Bradley-Fulgoni, Shrewsbury's wonderfully talented principal piano teacher and a concert pianist himself of great distinction, has stood Galin in excellent stead for the next phase of his career. Hopefully a major conservatoire will be the next step after his final year at Shrewsbury next year, but there will still be much for audiences to enjoy during his time at the School. Shrewsbury can be just so proud of the huge achievements of this talented Salopian thus far, as can his parents and his wonderfully supportive home city of Varna.

*JFM*



## Old Salopians' Atlantic Row update

Friday 6 December 2013

*As Christmas approaches and the thoughts of many turn to cosy images of candlelit carol services and chestnuts roasting on an open fire, three Old Salopians are setting off to row across the Atlantic - between them raising hundreds of thousands of pounds for charity.*

Dan Howie (Ch 1998-03) and his friend Will North sent a last message to the Salopian Club just before setting off to row in the Talisker Challenge:

“From us both, a quick message to say THANK YOU VERY MUCH for all of your support over the past two years. At 1pm on Wednesday 4th December, the 3,000 mile race to Antigua will start and we will begin the next phase of this challenge. To date, we have raised £85,000 in order to take part in this adventure through corporate sponsorship, plus we have raised an additional £90,000 for our three charities.”

Their website [www.AtlanticRow2013.com](http://www.AtlanticRow2013.com) will be kept up to date with photos and news from life of board. It also includes links for making donations and sending them messages of support

Meanwhile Harry Martin-Dreyer and Alex Bland (both Rt 2000-05), who spoke movingly about their undertaking at the House Singing Competition in October, had hoped to set off on their mammoth journey on 1st December from Gran Canaria. They have been delayed by bad weather conditions, but sent a message to the School this week:

“This message is really to say a big thank you! Without your help and support we would not be here waiting to leave and begin the journey (although it feels getting here was a journey itself), and we would not have raised £126,000 for our two charities; JDRF and Cure Leukaemia. Your generosity means a huge amount to us.”

To follow their progress and to make a donation, please visit [www.rowing4research.com](http://www.rowing4research.com)

## Giles Bell's 'Team of the Week'

Friday 6 December 2013

### *The 1st XI*



As the main school football season draws to a close, it is high time we had a look at the 'Premiership'! To play for the School 1st XI is to realise a dream that for many Salopian footballers begins in the Third Form and is perhaps crystalised even before arriving here. Now that 'Senior' (the first XI pitch) looks more like a premier league club's surface rather than a school pitch (great job Andy Richards and the grounds team), and there are 'dugouts' for the coaches, it may be even more attractive to put on the dark blue shirt and run out in front of one's adoring fans.

This season has been another good one; 9 wins 3 draws and 8 defeats only tells half the story. The standard of football has been excellent and with top striker Max Parsonage missing for most of the season with injury, perhaps we have missed a cutting edge which might have led to a few more wins. As the season has progressed, so the team seem to have found their feet and their last game of the season was an impressive 1-1 draw at Repton, who 'statistically' were strong favourites. The squad leave for Qatar next Wednesday to play in a tournament that includes Manchester Grammar and Hulme Grammar School Oldham. They are in buoyant mood and are looking forward to visiting a very different footballing culture and avoiding the rumoured snow and ice that might be coming our way.



Having watched a number of training sessions and matches, it is not difficult to see why the beautiful game is played so attractively by this talented bunch of players. In Manager and Coach Steve Biggins they have experience and a total understanding of the game. Steve's son Dan played for the 1st XI a few years ago and so he has always been a fan of the team and becoming Chief Coach and Manager was something of a dream job. "I was considering the Liverpool job a few years ago but it just didn't feel right, and when I heard the rumours that the Shrewsbury job might be coming up, a frisson of excitement coursed through my veins!" he told me.

Steve started well by winning the Independent Schools Trophy in his first season with the team. Of course the problem with winning the trophy in your first season is that it raises the expectations of us all, but Steve seems to be quite phlegmatic about such pressures. Indeed Steve has the look of a Gandalf without the beard, and perhaps that is why his teams play such magical football with such wizardry. He began his playing days a long time ago (1066?! - he has recently become a grandfather), and





graced clubs such as Shrewsbury Town, Derby County, Oxford United and Wolverhampton. His only regret was that he never played for a really top club like Brighton and Hove Albion! If you are looking for a really top of the range Christmas present, you could do worse than look at eBay where you can buy stickers of Steve for £1:50. Sadly I have been unable to find a sticker of Steve on his own; he seems to be permanently stuck to his fellow professional Trevor Birch.

In 1st XI goal there is Charles Kidson. He is apparently renowned for always being late and for participating in late night duels when a matter of honour is concerned. Will Cook is a man who puts his body on the line for the team, his tackle has bite and he has even lost a tooth for his team. Ollie Brown is the inspirational captain and player of the season. He nearly made it into the full Independent Schools side. Will Waterworth is the team fashion guru and, like David Beckham, no one is sure what hair style he will be sporting next. He enjoys sprinkling nutmeg on all his food to aid his 'nutmegging ability', which I am reliably informed is prolific. Jo Carasco is lovingly referred to as the Big Mexican. It appears sometimes as if time itself has slowed when he is on the ball, but he is still the team's top scorer.

Adrian Tong is the old man of the team and has not been available for some games owing to his contract with the School House Second Leagues team. Angus Hayward is the team poet. He is the latest of the romantic poets and we are hoping his collection of poems will be available to all of us soon and not just his 'chosen' audience. Jamie Humes is a tricky customer and another player with fancy footwork. He has apparently grown about six inches this season. Sam Green is attempting to grow a little facial hair in an attempt to look more threatening in the middle of the pitch, or is it that he cannot concentrate long enough to shave! Henry Blofield is a languid and coltish defender who is averaging two foul throws a game. Max McClure is the most consistent player of the season and a good summer signing. Dan Durman is keen on training; indeed he knows the timetable off by heart! (He is on loan from Dudley and travels in every day.) George Lewis is fondly known as Tinky Winky and is looked after by Henry Gittins, who is rumoured to be at least 22 years old. Anton 'I like to be near the touch line so that I can be close to the crowd' Nelson is the team's philosopher, having been inspired by his RS Philosophy teacher (me!). Tim Atkins is the maestro of the team who pulls the strings at least of his guitar. Ed Dolphin, Jack Franklin and Jake Morris are also consistent members of the squad but my sources could find a disappointingly insignificant amount of dirt on them!



The team have been a wonderfully committed and enthusiastic bunch and we wish them well in Qatar! Hopefully we will be smiling after the tournament whilst the local teams shed tears; in the words of the Beatles "Shrewsbury win while Qatar gently weeps!"

*GJFB*



## Fencing: Shrewsbury School victory over Wrekin Sword and Shrewsbury FC

Monday 9 December 2013

Shrewsbury School played host to Shrewsbury Fencing Club and Wrekin Sword Club on Sunday 8th December, with 34 fencers taking part in the competitions at Foil, Epée and Sabre.

### Results

Foil: Shrewsbury School - 12 wins    Shrewsbury FC - 4 wins    (match wins 1 - 0)  
Epée: Shrewsbury School - 153 hits    Shrewsbury FC - 147 hits    (match wins 2 - 2)  
Sabre: Shrewsbury School - 93 hits    Wrekin Sword - 82 hits    (match wins 2 - 2)

**Overall Shrewsbury School win 5 – 4**

### Foil Team

Marco Lee, Scott Reynolds, Justin Ko, Issy Codron and Rhys Trevor

### Epée Team A

Arthur Cheng, Jeff Pun, Tom Creamer

### Epée Team B

Jonnie Shaw, Scott Walker, Archie Free

### Sabre Team A

Ross Viljoen, Jonty Small, Benson Chang

### Sabre Team B

Lucy Petch, Tom Miller, Ilya Olkov, Guy Cabral

### Support

Yuki Lam, Sofie Zhou, Jon Trenchard



## School House success in the First House football competition

Monday 9 December 2013

*In a great end to a hugely successful term, School House managed to add the title of Runners-Up in the biggest inter-house sports competition of the year to their title of Winners of the biggest inter-house music competition of the year. This is testament to the all-round talent and spirit that defines School House.*



*Back row (l-r): Mr Gunnell (Coach), Jared Sobol, Freddie Rowley, Nick Entwisle (Goalkeeper), Oli Beressi, Will Hargreaves, Yutaro Sato, Joe Collings, Mr Besterman (Manager), Brendan Parsons (Mascot)  
Front row: Charlie Bibby, Stanley Hau, Ken Ma, Adrian Tong (Captain), Jamie Elderton, Elliot Sobol*

School House fought their way through the prelims, quarter finals and semi finals to earn the honour of playing in the final on the hallowed Senior turf. On the way to finals, they beat Radbrook 2-0 in the prelims with goals from Joe Collings and Freddie Rowley; their next victory in the quarter finals was against Rigg's, again 2-0, with goals from Joe Collings and Elliot Sobol; then they faced Oldham's in the semi finals, which they won 3-1 with 2 goals from Joe Collings... although he tried to claim a hat-trick, but the truth is that nobody knows who had the final touch and it went down as an own goal!

So, it was the favourites, Ridgemount, in the finals. The stands were packed and the atmosphere was electric. The boys went out as under-dogs and put in a very spirited display. They were very unlucky not to be 3-0 up at half time. Half way through the second half, with the score still at 0-0, a serious upset was looking likely because even the neutral supporters could see that School House had dominated for most of the game. However, the dream was not to come true and Ridgemount scored twice in quick succession on the break with ten minutes to go. It looked as if Joe Collings had pulled one back for School House near the end, but it was ruled off-side.



# Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



The lads put on a great fight and deserved to win on the balance of play. The difference on the day was only that Ridgemount put their two chances away (good finishes from the school 1st XI striker) and we didn't quite manage to net any of ours, even though we managed to create many excellent opportunities with our fluid, determined and attacking play. Adrian Tong was a fantastic captain and earned himself a House Scarf for leading School House to the finals.

Throughout the competition, School House put on a great show from the sidelines, our support and chants being the envy of all other Houses; a particular favourite was "we've got two matrons, you've only got one!" Our talented bagpiping, trumpet-playing mascot, Brendan Parsons, added another dimension with his rousing chorus. As manager, Mr Besterman was extremely proud of all the players and fans. The Coach, Mr Gunnell, who is our inspirational resident tutor, provided invaluable advice and motivation to the lads, based on his recent experience as a professional footballer.

## RSSBC: Wallingford Head

Monday 9 December 2013

*Seven Shrewsbury crews took to the water at Wallingford Head on Sunday 8th December. It was a first opportunity for many of them to race in eights against many of the rival crews they will face in next spring's Schools Head of the River.*

All the crews were intended as matched boats from the relative age groups in order to ensure depth in the squads and keep the crews competitive in racing and training. While this makes results difficult to compare between schools, it is useful in keeping everyone motivated and provides them with the attraction of getting into their racing crews for the Schools Head of the River when selection takes place in February.

All seven crews were extremely well organised in getting rigged up and afloat on what was a great day for a race in December.

The J15s produced some encouraging results as a squad. As expected with matched boats, the fastest crew was a bit behind the fastest competitor crews, but the 2nd boat was the fastest 2nd boat. Some valuable race experience was gained. The crews came in 8th, 9th and 15th out of 20 crews.



*J15s*

The J16s were the pick of the bunch, coming in 2nd and 6th out of 18 crews. The boys have continued their great work from last season and will be very competitive in this age group come the national events later in the year.



*J16s*

The two senior eights both put in credible performances and came in 6th and 8th out of 24 other senior crews on show. The squad will be looking to compete for medals at the Schools Head in March and are well positioned to do so.

*ATH*



*Seniors*



## KH Festive Food File

Tuesday 10 December 2013

*It's beginning to taste a lot like Christmas!*



This week we hosted our annual Festive Food File here in the dining room and I think that judging by all of the “oohs” and “ahhs” it has been our best one yet!

The weather was pretty appalling and the students all arrived cold and shivering after trudging across site to get to KH for lunch. But the shivers soon turned to smiles as they were met by the wonderful Christmas-evoking aromas. Needless to say, they lost no time tucking into the platters of goodies!

Our team of talented chefs outdid themselves once again by cooking up a range of festive-themed treats for all of the students and staff to sample. Goodies such as Festive Slice, Christmas on a Stick, Sausage & Cranberry Spiced Snowballs, Festive Crumble and Sundried Tomato & Blue Cheese Muffins were heaped on platters for all to enjoy.

For those with a sweet tooth, there were small slabs of marbled chocolate to pick at. We do enjoy our Food Files, and we hope that this one has helped put everyone into a festive mood. Soon it will be time for the Christmas Dinner and farewells as the students head home for the Christmas break.

Everyone here at KH wishes you all a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

*Carrie Zeiler*

## RSSH v OSH Race, Saturday 7th December 2013

Tuesday 10 December 2013

*The annual match between The RSSH and the Old Salopian Hunt is a keenly anticipated fixture, and this year's race certainly didn't disappoint.*



An enthusiastic group of 15 Old Salopians returned to The Schools undeterred by rumours of the Hunt undertaking high altitude training in Africa specifically for this race. James Humpish (SH 2008-13) and Tom Cousins (PH 2007-12) were two of the most recent leavers, with the usual faithful group of loyal racers returning from previous generations.

The staff team was somewhat depleted through injury, but there was an added element of competition this year with an historic 'first' of a full Hunt girls' team. Some of the older members of the OS looked to be physically trembling as they saw the girls stride out of the Main School Building towards the start line. Many gulped and took in a deep breath, anxious that they may be... beaten by a girl!

As it happened, many of the OS were beaten by a girl – Tory Mobley (EDH LVI) – whose recent form has seen a significant drop in her Benjies PB to 8.32, an astonishing time for a female athlete at her age. It came as no surprise, therefore, that she nearly made the top 10 in the race, and whilst disappointed not to have done so, she can take heart in having beaten Adam Booth, a man who recently successfully scaled Mt Everest!

At the business end of the competition, a fast start by the Hunt's leading runners saw Huntsman Rory Fraser (Ch UVI), Ben Remnant (Ch V), Theo Clarke (S LVI) and Charlie Godman (M LVI) take the race on in the early stages, with Oscar Dickins (R V) generously holding back slightly to keep his Housemaster PJM company.

After the fast flat first section, a surge down the slope by Maidment saw OS runner Olly Mott (winner of this year's inaugural Shrewsbury Half-Marathon) break in to the lead group. He was hotly pursued by former GB cross-country runner Olly Laws, keen to retain the title he won here

last year. Mott, Laws, Remnant and Fraser broke away and formed the front pack, with PJM and Dickins behind.

By the School Bank section of the race, Mott had made his move and had broken well clear of his rival Laws, though RSSH runners Remnant and Fraser had not given up. Remnant looked to have secured the final podium spot but could make no impression on the gap between himself and Laws going up Ridgemount Lane. Mott was well clear by the final stages and came home to 'kill' in a very swift 19.15 for the 5.6km undulating course. Laws made it an OS 1-2 with his finishing time of 19.39, and Remnant for the Hunt also dipping under 20 minutes. Huntsman Fraser wasn't far behind, with Fourth Former Will Hayward next in for the Hunt in 6th position overall. With fellow Riggite Oscar Dickins having taken a tumble down by Pengwern Boatclub, Hayward had used his impressive power to move himself up through the positions, and in a final battle with Lower Sixth Former Theo Clarke down Ashton Road, the younger of the two runners had taken the spoils in an impressive run that sees him cement his position as a runner of considerable promise.

With the staff not being able to field a team, rather usefully for the OS Hunt this meant that PJM was counted as an honorary OS for the day and therefore the eventual scores were quite tight with the OS Hunt on 44 points, and the Hunt on 38, retaining the trophy for the sixth year in succession. The girls (*pictured right*) came home with 135 points, and they were cheered home with enthusiasm and genuine admiration. The season ahead certainly looks very exciting for the Girls' Hunt and we anticipate it being something of a breakthrough season.



With tired legs and puffed-out lungs, runners young and old made their way down to the Stott Pavilion for a post-race tea and a chance to meet old friends and reminisce about a very special running club that has a very special place in so many people's hearts.

*PJM*



## Churchills: 1st House Paperchase cup regained

Tuesday 10 December 2013

The 1st House Paperchase cup has returned to Churchill's after a three year absence.

In a fiercely contested race over a 5.5K course, up, down and around the School bank and Site, run on the last day of the Michaelmas Term, Churchillian Fifth Former Ben Remnant won the race, finishing an astonishing 41 seconds ahead of the next man.

The other members of the Churchill's team (Angus Hayward, Henry Newbould, John Demspey, Alex Shaw and Henry Thomas) secured high enough positions for Churchill's to win the overall team trophy.

*Below (l to r): Theo Clarke (S - 3rd), Ben Remnant (Ch - 1st) and Oscar Dickins (R - 2nd)*





## The "Blues Brothers" Christmas Review

Tuesday 10 December 2013

*The memorable appearance of the Blues Brothers in the Ashton Theatre on Monday 9th December has been preserved for posterity and for all to enjoy, thanks to the efforts of the student-run filming group, Shrewsbury School TV. Please see below.*

Who was the fiendish drummer in the woolly hat? Who was that woman with the huge voice who could sure talk and sing the blues? And where did that accordion player come from?

'The Staff Review', or 'Blues Night' or 'The Great Escape' was - fittingly for one event with three names - a surreal mixture of the familiar and the wonderfully new. The stage was packed with Housemasters, Heads of Faculties and Maths teachers, in roles, and cowboy costumes, that we'd never seen them in before.

The standard of musicianship was fabulous, and the fact that we all knew that it was done on rehearsals squeezed in the tiny spaces they have in their day jobs, made our gasps of surprise and appreciation all the louder. It was terrific to see not one, but two sets of Blues Brothers, five backing singers, complete with changes of outfits and wigs, a fabulous silverware and brass section and two key keyboard players framing the gifted guitarists and soloists.

Maestro Tim Foulger - complete with Gandalf beard - was the mastermind behind this whole joyful finish to the end of term, and his target - to create a Christmas present of donations to The Shewsy, our Youth Club in Liverpool - scored as much of a hit as the music: £800 was raised, and much fun was had. Thanks to everyone who made it happen.

Once again, we are indebted to Andrew Spicer (M UVI) and the Shrewsbury School TV crew for filming last night's Blues Brothers review in the Ashton Theatre.

## Oldham's Christmas Tea Party

Wednesday 11 December 2013

Oldham's held its second Christmas Tea Party for some of the elderly people of Shrewsbury last Sunday, 8th December.

Guests enjoyed tea, sandwiches cakes, mince pies and a glass of sherry, while singing Christmas Carols and being entertained by boys from the House. The Headmaster joined us to welcome our visitors and we ended the afternoon with a Christmas quiz, with many getting full marks! Everybody left replete with a gift from Santa to take home.

*Below: Charlie Steele, Billie Chu and Ollie Pumphrey sing 'White Christmas'.*





## Severn Hill: 15 House success

Wednesday 11 December 2013



*Above: Severn Hill v Ridgemount in the semi-final of 15 House  
Below: Severn Hill v Radbrook in the final*



# Report on the 1988 1st VIII Reunion on Saturday 21 September

Thursday 12 December 2013



Richard Smith, Captain of Boats 1988, organised a reunion of RSSBC's 1st VIII of 1988 on the OS Day that took place at Shrewsbury on Saturday 21 September. This was to celebrate a quarter of a century since we had all last been in a boat together, and also to support Nick Bevan who was due to officiate that day as President of the Salopian Club. We were Nick's last 1st VIII before he left Shrewsbury to become headmaster at Shiplake College.

After meeting up outside KH, in some cases for the first time since 1988, and admiring how much most (all?) of us had changed in the intervening quarter century (less hair and/or more weight generally), we enjoyed a good lunch that set us up nicely for a quick row in the afternoon. A good number of us had not rowed since 1988 when we had celebrated reasonable success. That year we were 2nd at National Schools Regatta (lost by half a length to Hampton) and had made it to the semi-finals at Henley (lost by a few inches to St Edwards).

Nick Randall (who had rowed in the 1976(?) RSSBC 1st VIII) kindly sub'ed for Mark Jones. Mark had, very sadly, the most terrible car accident aged 19 and was unable to take to the water with the rest of us but it was absolutely brilliant that he was able to be with us on the day. In addition James Wheatcroft, our cox in 1988, was unable to stay for the rowing and he was sub'ed by [name - currently a cox at the school?]. Personally, I found it an amazing experience to be in 'the boat' again with the vast majority of our original crew after more than a quarter of a century. After a slightly scrappy first few strokes, things came together quite quickly - perhaps not so surprising when we had all rowed together for the 5 years we had been at school. In fact there were definitely some pieces where it did feel something like the VIII of '88 (perhaps less so when we were puffing a bit towards the end!). If Mark and James had been in the boat (and Nick Bevan had been able to coach us from the tow path on his bike) it might have been the truly authentic experience!

A brilliant day was had by all, and all credit to everybody for making it to Shrewsbury from various corners of the country.

Andrew Pitt (Rt 1983-1988, 1st VIII 1988)



# Severn Hill Christmas Party

Thursday 12 December 2013



# Four Best Delegate Awards and two Honourable Mentions at the Paris MUN

Friday 13 December 2013

*Twelve Salopians spent four exhilarating days at the Paris Model United Nations (MUN), held in the UNESCO Headquarters and attended by 850 delegates from 65 schools and 25 countries.*



*Above l to r: Dan Edwards (India Ambassador), Esmé O'Keeffe (Human Rights Delegate, Mali) and Krem Todovora (Mali - Special Conference - front right in group) in 'caucus' with other countries concerned about the expansion of LGBT rights*

*The Paris MUN is described here by Charlie Duckworth, who achieved the notable distinction of winning an Honourable Mention in his first ever MUN conference.*

## Thursday

As this was my first ever MUN conference, I was really looking forward to going to Paris. We all met at KH at a bright and early 07:15; we were all excited for the next few days. We took a very complicated journey on our way to Paris, passing through ten stations over seven lines on our long journey. When walking to our hotel from the metro station we saw the light that rotates around the top of the Eiffel tower. This moment made everyone happy; we had arrived in Paris! Once we got to our rooms we dropped our bags and then rushed out to a pizza restaurant to have a well-deserved meal after our long journey. We went back to the hotel to have an early night's sleep, all eagerly looking forward to the next few days.

## Friday

We took a ten-minute walk to UNESCO and saw the amazing building and its close proximity to the Eiffel tower. Parts of the Eiffel tower were hidden in the clouds and it gave a perfect photo opportunity. After taking a quick photo we entered the UNESCO HQ. We were then taken on a tour of the building by Mr Peach. After the registration process where we were given our information packs and name badges, we went into the general assembly for the opening ceremony.

We were met by a group of 850 delegates. We had a speech from our Secretary General speech followed by a speech from a UNESCO delegate and we then went to our committees. I was in the Disarmament committee. I walked into the large committee room where I went to meet the chairs and delegates. The committee room came to order and we were told by our chair which topic we were debating – the issue of child soldiers. After a speech from the chair we were given time for lobbying. This was a process when you go and meet other delegates and try to gain support for your clauses and try to create alliances.

I had a clause prepared which I then joined with another country's clause. I gained the necessary signatures from other countries and I submitted the clause to the chair. We then started debating. By the time it got to lunch, we had been through many clauses and only one had passed into the resolution. My clause had still had not been debated and because of the harshness of the committee, I was scared as to whether it would pass. We went and had lunch on the top floor of the UNESCO building where we were met by a fabulous view of the Eiffel tower.

We went back into the committee and it was then time for me to speak for my clause. I took my position at the podium in front of the 150 delegates in my committee and talked on my clause. After a long debate it finally passed.

The day was nearing a close. After walking back to the hotel, we got changed and ready for the night out. We went to a party run by the MUN conference at the Duplex night club (very near to the Arc de Triomphe). After a fun few hours we then went sightseeing on the Champs Elysées, including the Christmas market which got us all into a festive mood.



*Charlie Duckworth asking a question in the Disarmament Committee*

### **Saturday**

Saturday was the day I was most looking forward to, since we were debating chemical weapons in the Disarmament Committee. I am doing my Extended Project Qualification on “the Halabja Genocide of 1988 and its implications on international beliefs of the use of chemical weapons”. So this was a topic that I knew I would be able to talk a lot about.

I had submitted a clause and after explaining to the chair that this was my specialist subject, my clause came up for debate. I took the podium, and unlike on the previous day where I was nervous when stood at the podium, I was completely confident, knowing that this was my subject and hopeful of my clause passing into the resolution. According to other delegates, I spoke for around 10 minutes (despite the time allowed being 3 minutes) but to me it felt like a rather short period of time. I was worried during the debate that I had been too technical, but my worries were put to an end when the clause passed into the resolution.

We carried on debating all day long on this topic and it gave me a chance to speak on many occasions. Towards the end of the day the whole committee suddenly started singing “We Will Rock You”; it was very spontaneous and was very good fun. After this weird moment we carried on debating and the day came to an end.

We went back to the hotel to get changed for the night ahead. We then went to Montmartre to have a meal then we walked to the Sacré Coeur and had a look around the impressive building. We then took the metro to Notre Dame and another metro to the Eiffel Tower. After making sure that we had seen the majority of the sights, we went back to the hotel.

### **Sunday**

This was our last day in Paris. We went into the general assembly for our debate on human rights. After a lengthy debate where many Shrewsbury pupils got to speak, we had the closing ceremony. It was the time when we found out who had been given the prestigious Best Delegate awards and those who had got Honourable Mentions. Each chair took the podium and talked about what their committee had debated and then gave Honourable Mentions and Best Delegate awards. When the chair of my committee took the podium, I was not expecting anything as it was my first MUN conference. The chair spoke and I received an honourable mention. I was extremely happy and it was completely unexpected.

The ceremony carried on with a keynote speech from our Secretary General and the organiser. After saying goodbyes and thank yous, we left the UN building and set off back to England. After a long journey and a mad rush on the underground in London in order to cut our journey by two hours, we all arrived back in Shrewsbury having had a wonderful weekend. Our thanks go to Mr Peach for organising and taking us on the trip and to Ms Burge for accompanying us.



*PAMUN Conference, December 2013*



## **4 Salopians won Best Delegate awards in their committees:**

Dan Edwards (S LVI) (Human Rights)  
Sylvia Yeo (EDH LVI) (Special Conference)  
Sasha Arridge (Rb V) (Environment)  
Guy Cabral (Ch V) (BEST JUDGE in the ICJ)

## **Honourable Mentions went to 2 Salopians:**

Sonny Koh (Ch V) (ECOFIN)  
Charlie Duckworth (O LVI) (Disarmament)

The teams were:

### **India**

Dan Edwards (Ambassador) - Human Rights panel  
Sonny Koh - ECOSOC  
Ed Plaut - Disarmament  
Jamie Nugent - Political  
Sylvia Yeo - Special Conference  
Sasha Arridge - Environment  
Guy Cabral - ICJ

### **Mali**

Theo Simmons - (Ambassador) African Union  
Esmé O'Keeffe - Human Rights  
Charlie Duckworth - Disarmament  
Teddy Briggs - Political  
Krem Todorova - Special Conference

## Nicholas Barber - promoting the study of classics in state schools

Monday 16 December 2013



Nicholas Barber CBE (SH 1953-58, former School Governor) has recently become chairman of a charity called 'Classics for All' which is promoting the merits of teaching the Classics in the public sector. They report a very good response from schools approached so far.

'Nicolas argues that 'the national scandal at the moment is literacy.' He says that teaching Latin is a good way to tackle literacy rates as studies done abroad suggest that learning Latin can actually help improve literacy levels

of young people.

Jules Mann, Executive Director of the charity highlighted the inclusivity of the scheme, not aimed solely at students who wanted to study Classics further. She stressed that one of the organisation's most important messages was that the scheme could have a huge impact in schools with 'so little' funding. She highlighted Kelmscott School in Walthamstow as a case in point: 'Kelmscott received £5,000 in funded tutoring. They are now teaching Latin in school and other teachers are coming forward wanting to be involved.' She added: 'We need to raise well over £100,000 p.a. to provide classes in 100 schools a year!'

Read more here: [Secondary education: learning Latin for literacy by Rozina Sabur](#) (Article in the Daily Telegraph on 9 December, 2013) and the CFA newsletter can be read [here](#).





## Arthur Dunn Cup - Second Round: Old Salopians beat the Old Cholmeleians 6-1

Monday 16 December 2013



The Old Salopian Football Club played the Old Cholmeleians in the second round of the Arthur Dunn Cup on Saturday, 14 December and won 6 - 1.

Further details will be posted along with the draw for the next round as soon as they are available.

# Severn Hill: Paperchases, 10th December 2013

Tuesday 17 December 2013



*Above left - Severn Hill Junior Paperchase team; right - Senior Paperchase team  
Below left - Theo Clarke; middle - Senior Paperchase winners (l to r) Oscar Dickins (2nd), Ben Remnant (1st),  
Theo Clarke (3rd); right - Charlie Tait-Harris - winner of Junior Paperchases*



## New Careers Fellow appointed from January 2014

Wednesday 18 December 2013

Dr Kate Daubney has been appointed as the new Careers Fellow and is scheduled to take up her post in mid-January, 2014. Dr Daubney comes to Shrewsbury from the higher education sector, where she has been most recently a careers adviser at the LSE and Imperial College Business School, and before that an academic and a university admissions tutor. Kate will be working with the Careers Chairman, David Chance (O 1970-75) and the School Head of Careers, Dymphna Nightingale to further develop careers advice and support for all Salopians.

Kate has worked on career development issues with everyone from teenagers to mid-career professionals, and says, 'Young people face many challenges in making good choices about their futures, and I'm really looking forward to bringing what I have learned about the working world - both as a careers adviser and a professional in other areas myself - to helping current and Old Salopians in person, by email and by Skype, wherever you are in the world.'



## Salopian Club Seasonal Drinks Parties - November and December 2013

Thursday 19 December 2013



The annual Salopian Club November and December drinks parties went well again this year. City Drinks on 28 November at the Travellers Club attracted some 160 people and the Club was given a warm welcome to its comfortable and spacious reception room. The occasion gave Chairman, David Thomas (Rt 1971-75), pictured with the assembled company, left, an opportunity to welcome the Club's new Director, Lt Col Nick Jenkins, OBE, who will take up his post in February 2014 (see other news).

A week later, on 5 December, the Birmingham and West Midlands Branch held its annual drinks party at Edmunds Bar, followed by a dinner for some of the guests. The next night, the Shrewsbury Drinks for Old Salopians, parents and current and former staff attracted a good crowd, many of whom went on to that night's Carol Service in the chapel.

Pictured, right, is the scene in Quod at the Old Salopian Shrewsbury Drinks Party.





## Nick Jenkins to become Director of the Salopian Club in February, 2014

Thursday 19 December 2013



The Salopian Club is delighted to announce that, from February, 2014, Lt Col Nick Jenkins, OBE, will be taking over as the new Director of the Salopian Club. Nick is pictured on the right of the photo (left), at the recent Old Salopian Shrewsbury Drinks Party with the current Head of the School Governors, Richard Burbidge (Ch 1955-60).

Educated at Rugby School and Trinity College, Cambridge, Nick was commissioned into The Royal Green Jackets in 1970 where he saw service in Germany, Hong Kong, Cyprus, Falkland Islands and UK (including N.Ireland and MOD). From 1989-1992 was the Commanding Officer 5th (Shropshire and Herefordshire) Battalion The Light Infantry and was awarded the OBE in the Queen's Birthday 1992 Honours List.

In 1992, Nick joined the staff at Shrewsbury School, teaching Classics. From 1995-2009, he was Housemaster of Oldham's Hall. He says 'I

am delighted to be joining the team at the Salopian Club and much look forward to renewing contact with all members including the many Salopians and their families I have encountered over my 21 years at the School'.