



Celebrating Chinese New Year

Saturday 1 February 2014



KH - Celebrating Chinese New Year, January 2014

Chinese New Year is an important traditional Chinese holiday, known also as the Spring Festival. Although within China regional traditions concerning the celebration can vary widely, it is commonly an opportunity for families to cleanse the house to sweep away any ill-fortune and to make way for good incoming luck.

Friday 31st January saw the students of Shrewsbury School experience a Chinese culinary delight in celebration of Chinese New Year. Along with an authentic menu including a very popular Beef in Black Bean Sauce and Chicken Chow Mein, the serveries were transformed with traditional Chinese décor, predominately including red colouring, following the theme of 'good fortune'.

Wishing everyone happiness, health and good fortune!

James Bradford, KH



RSSH: Continued success in the Independent Schools' League

Monday 3 February 2014

The Hunt continued their Independent Schools' League campaign with some exceptional performances at Worksop College on Saturday 1st February.

A perfect score of 10 points in the Colts saw us take the top four spots, with Ben Remnant (Ch) in 1st, Oscar Dickins (R) in 2nd, Freddie Huxley-Fielding (R) in 3rd, and Will Hayward (R) in 4th. Our 'B' team were in fact the second placed team, with all four 'counters' also making the top 10! Harry Adair (Rt) led the 'B' team with 6th spot, Henry Newbould (Ch) on debut was 7th, Third Former Owen Mock (R) was 9th, and the ever-improving Alex Perutz (Rt) was 10th. A measure of the depth of the Hunt in the younger years was the fact that 14 of the top 20 in the race wore RSSH vests.

In the Seniors, despite resting some key personnel including Huntsman Rory Fraser ahead of Wednesday's National Relays in Coventry, the Hunt scored a highly competitive 73 points, lowering their average. Theo Clarke (S) made the podium for the first time in 3rd, Charlie Godman (M) marked his return from injury with an impressive 5th place, and further top 10 spots came from Roman Faithful (O) in 7th and Junior Whip Sean Sawyer (PH) in 10th. The six 'counters' were completed with 23rd from Toby Harvey-Scholes (R) and 25th from Henry Dashwood (SH).

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Fencing: Impressive performances against Rugby School

Monday 3 February 2014

Excellent fencing by Shrewsbury's foilists Marco Lee (I V), Scott Reynolds ((Rb V) and Issy Codron (EDH UVI) resulted in a 6 -3 win against a strong Rugby side on Saturday 1st February.

Our épée team was without our top fencers Charlie Godman (unavailable) and Arthur Cheng (nursing an injury). However, despite fielding a much weaker side, the team of Jeff Pun (O LVI), Tom Creamer (S LVI) and Archie Free (Rt 3) nevertheless put up strong opposition, losing 6 - 3.

Ken Holding



Shrewsbury's Head of Science is interviewed by the BBC

Tuesday 4 February 2014



Steve Adams

Head of Science Steve Adams was interviewed this morning on BBC Radio Shropshire about risk-taking in science lessons. This was in response to a news story about a teacher at a school in Wolverhampton who has been sacked after a pupil was hit by an air pellet in an experiment in his physics lesson. The pupil was only grazed in the leg and is leading a campaign to get the teacher reinstated as he says he is inspirational.

Steve also spoke about the School's involvement in the International Young Physicists' Tournament.

The first part of the Radio Shropshire interview included a discussion with Professor Andrea Stella, who is Professor of Chemistry at University College London: [Radio Shropshire science interview part 1](#)

The second part of the interview is with Steve Adams: [Radio Shropshire science interview part 2](#)

Later in the morning, Steve was also interviewed by BBC Midlands Today.



Salopian Atlantic Rowers reach journey's end

Tuesday 4 February 2014

Old Salopians Harry Martin-Dreyer and Alex Bland (both Rt 2000-05) have safely reached Barbados after rowing 3,000-miles across the Atlantic. They crossed the finish line at 13.48 GMT on Saturday 1st February, 50 days after setting off from Gran Canaria. Meanwhile a third Old Salopian, Dan Howie (Cb 1998-03) and his friend Will North have also rowed across the Atlantic, taking part in the fearsome Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge. They finished on Sunday 26th January as race champions in their class.



Harry Martin-Dreyer and Alex Bland

Harry and Alex were greeted in Port St Charles by delighted family, friends and locals. And it turned into a double celebration when Harry proposed to his girlfriend a few minutes after arriving. "I am delighted to say that my girlfriend and future wife, Lucy Plant, said yes when I got on/fell to one knee."

The pair were provided with a meal at the local yacht club. Alex said, "The PSC yacht club produced the most amazing starter of burger, followed by steak washed down with cold beer... What more could we have asked for!"

In an interview later with Shrewsbury-based journalist Katy Rink for an article in the Daily Mail, Harry and Alex were asked if they had managed to remain friends. In his reply, Harry said, "I know some people who have done this have walked away and never spoken again, but this has brought a new dimension to our friendship. We've known each other a long time – we used to share a boarding house – we were determined to look after one another. It was about coming off



a two-hour shift and just being kind to the other person, making sure they were alright and caring for them."

Harry and Alex have raised more than £143,000 for their nominated charities Cure Leukaemia and Juvenile Diabetes Research.

To read their blog and to follow their incredible adventure, please see www.rowing4research.com/blog/

Their story was also featured in the Daily Mail. To see the Mail Online article, please see: [Atlantic Rowers - Mail Online, 6th January 2014](#)

Meanwhile another Old Salopian, Dan Howie (Ch 1998-03) and his friend Will North have also been rowing across the Atlantic, taking part in the world's toughest rowing race, the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge. They arrived safely into English Harbour, Antigua on Sunday 26th January and were delighted to learn that they were race champions in the pairs class.

"We are ecstatic to have won our class in the 'Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge,'" said Dan. "Nothing could have prepared us for the treacherous conditions at sea and it feels phenomenal to have overcome the challenges and won our class. Thank you to all who have supported us along the way."

"We had a real ding-dong with the crew behind us which by chance happened to be made up of a Harrovian and Etonian! So school pride was at stake definitely!"

They have raised nearly £150,000 for three charities close to their hearts: Cancer Research UK, Leukemia & Lymphoma Research and St Anna's. Rowing 24 hours a day in alternate two-hour shifts, Dan and Will survived on freeze-dried food rations and dealt with excruciating sores as they battled through a series of testing circumstances - waves reaching up to 50ft, the dangers of rowing in a major shipping lane, deadly wildlife, physical exhaustion and sleep deprivation. There were some morale-boosting highlights too though, including dolphin sightings and being flanked by a pod of whales.

Romantically, Dan also marked his safe arrival in Barbados by proposing to his girlfriend. (When he heard later about Harry and Lucy, he said, "There must be something in the water.")

To read their blog, please see - www.AtlanticRow2013.com, where you will also be able to view some of the videos the race organisers made about the battle for the pairs title.



Music: Four groups win through to the semi-finals of the Pro Corda Chamber Music Festival for Schools

Wednesday 5 February 2014

On Monday 3rd February, four chamber music groups from the School performed in the first round of the annual Pro Corda Chamber Music Festival for Schools, which celebrates the best chamber music-making from ensembles in schools across the country. We are delighted that – highly unusually – all four of our groups have progressed through to the semi-final.

The competition adjudicators were pianist Andrew Quartermain and cellist Lorna Davis, who made some very complimentary comments about each of the groups.

The Senior Saxophone Quartet of Henry Newbould, Alexander Bird, Ben Sansom and Henry Kennedy performed Gershwin's *An American in Paris*. The adjudicators rounded off their comments by saying, *“Congratulations on a stunning performance at a very high level.”*

Charlotte Harris, Kevin Jim and Joshua Wong performed Beethoven's Clarinet Trio in Bb Op.11. – *“It had excellent harmonic colouring with really mature playing.”*

Calvin Chan, Jonathan Cheng, Cindy Lin and Galin Ganchev performed Schumann's Piano Quintet in Eb Op.44 – *“This was a refined ensemble which we found thoroughly enjoyable.”*

The Cello Quartet of Awen Blandford, Harry Sargeant, Kevin Jim and Finn McCormack performed *Rosamunde* by Schubert and *Hungarian Dance* by Yosef Kossovits. – *“A really well contrasted and well presented programme”.*



Chapel Choir Evensong at Tewkesbury Abbey, 29th January 2014

Thursday 6 February 2014



Tewkesbury, January 2015 (courtesy of the Gloucestershire Echo)

'Islanded in Severn stream' (a phrase the poet A E Housman actually used of Shrewsbury itself), Tewkesbury might have seemed an unpromising destination for the Choir's now customary bi-annual evensong trip, but those medieval monks sure knew where to build. Evil-looking water lapped the edge of the cathedral car park where I left my car, but dared not encroach further, seemingly repelled by the divine force which emanated from the spectacular medieval pile glowering over it.

The Choir was on top form, singing to a select group of parents and friends, visitors and local evensong regulars. Musing, as we sang the psalm, on the good fortune which had brought us to the Abbey in the current apocalyptic weather, I was astonished to find myself singing (Psalm 29, v 9) the words 'The Lord sitteth above the water flood'. Several of the Decani in the opposite stalls, perhaps singing more 'in modo automatico' seemed perplexed by my smile of recognition of this divine seal of approval for our presence in the Abbey.

This time the musical fare consisted of the trusty Reading Responses, Charles Wood's Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis, oozing Victorian rectitude, and Vaughan-Williams' evergreen 'O Clap your Hands' whose soaring final encomium rolled around the massive Norman pillars of the Abbey. As ever, the accompaniment and voluntaries were magnificently executed by organist John Godwin, and Director of Chapel Music Alex Mason had every reason to be proud of his Choir, surely one of the jewels in the 21st century Salopian crown.

RTH



McEachran Prizes 2014

Thursday 6 February 2014

Probably the School's most eclectic prize competition, the McEachran Prize is awarded in memory of Frank McEachran ('Kek'), an inspirational teacher at Shrewsbury from 1935 until his death in service (at the age of 75) in 1975.

The prize is awarded for a talk on a 'spell', a spell being a Salopian term for a short passage of poetry or prose, chosen for its suitability for recitation aloud. The word was used to describe passages that McEachran encouraged his boys to read aloud, often in chorus. The playwright Alan Bennett has said that McEachran, about whose eccentric teaching methods he had been told by his friend the late Paul Foot, provided the intellectual model for Hector in his play The History Boys.

A record entry of 16 Upper School and 10 Lower School hopefuls for this increasingly popular competition prompted a last minute decision to split the occasion, with recently retired senior master Peter Fanning (currently teaching at Magdalen College School, Oxford) given the invidious job of judging the seniors, and Dr Michael Morrough from our own History department, the juniors.

The stringent time limits imposed this year - 4 minutes to include both the 'Spell' and the ensuing talk were, astonishingly, rigidly observed by the competitors and talks covered a wider range than ever before, from a personal and completely engaging analysis of William Blake's *The Sick Rose*, via Sartre, Orwell, Huysmans, Eminem, Tolkien, Martin Buber, Pope, Shakespeare's Richard II, King Lear and Julius Caesar, Antony Burgess, the final verse of hymn *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind* (a moving talk with a valedictory feel by Head of School Rory Fraser), Nabokov, Waugh, Hart Crane and others.

What gives this competition its unique flavour is the eclectic nature of the pupils' selections, most of them unrelated to texts they are being taught in the classroom, and the enthusiasm and passion with which they communicate their ideas. This is independent thinking at its best. Like the game 'Morrington Crescent' in Radio 4's *I'm sorry I haven't a Clue*, there are no published rules, other than a time limit, but the competitors seem instinctively to know them nevertheless. Typical of 'Kek' himself, really.

This year's prizes were awarded, in the senior section, to Jessica Walker (EDH LVI), who had chosen as her 'spell' the Orwellian idea of $2+2=5$ and linked it to X factor-type cultural engineering, and in the junior section, Tiger Vechamamontien (M V), after a mesmerising talk on the film *Pleasantville* and his contention that all utopias are in fact inherently dystopic.

RTH

Charity Variety Show: Shrewsbury's definitely got talent

Thursday 6 February 2014

As Lesley Drew describes, Shrewsbury's first ever Charity Variety Show last Friday, masterminded by Sixth Former George Fowler and planned, organised and delivered entirely by students, was a huge success. Shrewsbury School TV have also put together a film of some of the highlights.



Above l to r: Magician Stanley Hau (SH UVI) and the Headmaster; 'Facade' - Chorus from 'Jekyll and Hyde'; Daniel Lo (SH LVI) plays the yanquin (Chinese dulcimer)

Every light bulb in the Ashton Theatre was put to good use last Friday, for Shrewsbury's first Charity Variety Show. Imaginatively choreographed Musical Theatre numbers got the full treatment, with colours, strobes, smoke and spots. Just as with every aspect of the Show, those in the lighting box were students, who had planned and organised the evening as a team.

There was a wonderful jazz quartet, who lived every note of the music; songs composed by those on guitar and keyboards; a Chinese musical instrument played with drumsticks which formed a ballet of their own; ballet itself, rather magically accompanied by a lone 'cellist; followed by magic performed by the self-styled 'Mentalist', Stanley Hau. Having produced a gasp from the audience with his first trick, Stanley's last trick depended on having a reliable, literate, obedient member of the audience as his assistant – and the Headmaster fulfilled this role admirably.



Show organiser George Fowler in Malawi, July 2012



I do hope there will be another chance to see Rory Fraser and Ralph Wade, in the roles that surely they were born to perform: the goofy Wooster and his aloof butler, Jeeves. The evening finished, much to the audience's delight, with a third comic song, involving empty glasses, concentration, co-ordination and team work. The England cricket team should sign them up instantly.

George Fowler (SH UVI) had masterminded the event, as he'd visited the Medic Malawi project two years ago. He spoke movingly about the impact the 'joy' and 'resourcefulness' of people living in tough circumstances had made on him. As a result of the success of the evening, and the generosity of the audience, £630 was raised. Shrewsbury School has already funded the building of a simple, one-roomed Eye Clinic in one of the seven poorest countries in the world. Each operation costs £30, and, as there were 21 students involved in this show, each of them can feel proud to have contributed to restoring one person's sight.



RSSH: Best ever performance at the Coventry Relays

Thursday 6 February 2014

Racing against schools from all over the country in the Coventry Relays yesterday, Shrewsbury's boys' team were Bronze medallists for the second consecutive year. And a stunning 4th place for the girls' team emphatically marks their arrival on the national stage.



Coventry Relays 2014

This is the single biggest race of the schools' running calendar, attracting schools from all over the country, and has in the past been the breeding ground for future Olympians (indeed Olympic champions in the case of Seb Coe and Alastair Brownlee).

This year has to go down as our best ever performance in that both our boys and our girls were superb. Our boys came home with team bronze medals (out of 51 teams from across the country) for the second year in a row, which is the third year in a row we have been on the podium. It was a very young side with two Fourth Formers (Freddie Huxley-Fielding and Charlie Tait-Harris) and two Fifth Formers (Oscar Dickins and Ben Remnant), so we are very much looking ahead to the future, with the 'core' remaining for the coming years. It was a brave team performance, with some hard runs in the final two legs from our Sixth Formers Theo Clarke and Huntsman Rory Fraser, with Rory bringing the bronze home overtaking Loughborough College in the final leg. Our 'B' team were 15th overall again, pointing to the depth coming through.

As good as the boys were, the girls, however, were the real highlight of the day with an incredible performance that saw them not only break into the top 10 for the first time, but in fact surging to finish in 4th place overall (out of 32). Given that our previous best had been 15th in 2012, this marks a crucial moment for girls' running, announcing Girls' Hunt on the national stage. Teacher-in-Charge Kait Weston has been brilliant in enthusing the girls and really getting girls'



running going this year. Their success is a massive achievement for girls' sport generally at Shrewsbury.

Tory Mobley was the star of the show with the third fastest time of the day, but the other girls also ran brilliantly. Sophie Pelling got off to a strong start, and there were terrific team performances from Tatty Hunt and captain Lucie Cornwell-Lee in the anchor leg. We are a few years off from where the boys have reached, but with Tory and Tatty remaining in the squad next year, they will be able to aim even higher in 2015.

PJM

A full report will be published shortly.

Below: Oscar Dickins at the finish, having given his all



Coventry Relays 2014



School's Young Enterprise groups sell their wares in Shrewsbury town centre

Friday 7 February 2014

Three teams from the School took part in the Young Enterprise Trade Fair in the Darwin Shopping Centre in Shrewsbury on Saturday 1st February.



Above l to r: Daniel Delikatny (Sonotos); Sam Kandi, Tim Van Der Hooven, Benny Wong (Artizen); Josh Wong, Michael Pong, Georgia Bruce (Orpheus)

Young Enterprise is the United Kingdom's largest business and enterprise education charity. Every year they help 250,000 young people learn about business and the world of work in the classroom under the guidance of a network of 5,000 volunteers from 3,500 companies.

This year is the first year that Shrewsbury School has introduced Young Enterprise into the list of extra-curricular activities available to pupils on Thursday afternoons. There are currently 30 students participating and they are being supported by advisers from Caterpillar Shrewsbury and Golden Kite Solutions.

All three teams learnt a great deal from their first foray into selling to the general public. They are now preparing for the next trade fair which takes place on the 8th of March.

Sponsored Sports 'All-Nighter' in aid of Medic Malawi

Friday 7 February 2014

In a bid to raise funds for Medic Malawi and the Shrewsbury School Eye Clinic, a group of 32 students and several members of staff will be staging an all-night sponsored sports event on Friday 14th February. In a short film, Mr Cooley and Mrs Drew explain what will be going on - and why!



Steve Fox in training

Steve Fox, Geography Master and Rowing Coach at the School, who has just celebrated his 50th birthday, will be joining the All-Nighter group and attempting to complete a marathon on an ergo in under three hours. He has deliberately chosen to row in the 'graveyard slot' between 2.00 and 5.00am. "I'm very conscious that two former Shrewsbury pupils are currently rowing 3,000 miles across the Atlantic, rowing two hours on two hours off, day and night for about 60 days. So I feel the least I can do is row for three hours in one night."

Steve, who was born in Malawi, took part in the School's expedition to Malawi in 2012, when 18 students and 4 members of staff spent three weeks working at the projects run by Medic Malawi, which include a hospital, orphanage and school. With the other members of the expedition, Steve stood on the site where the Eye Clinic was to be built and he is thrilled to know that construction is underway. Having seen for himself the huge need for the clinic in a country that is the seventh poorest in the world and has, on average, only three nurses for every 10,000 people (compared to 103 in the UK), he is determined to raise as much money as possible for the clinic and its work.

The next school visit will take place in July this year, when Shrewsbury students hope to put the finishing touches to the clinic.

You are also able to sponsor pupils via our event page on JustGiving: <http://www.justgiving.com/Shrewsbury-School-Shrewsbury-School>



Giles Bell's 'Team of the Week'

Friday 7 February 2014

This week, the Hunt.

Some of you may not know that in my day I was a renowned marathon runner and that I once ran in the same London Marathon as Paula Radcliffe. I have London 21 and London 23 Marathon medals to back up my claims. These were useful when erroneously suggesting to new members of School House I had finished 21st and 23rd in the race. In reality I would like it known that I improved on my position of 18,354 to 12,606 and that with that rate of progress had I run a couple more marathons, I would have almost certainly tasted victory down the Mall. So when it was suggested I catch up with the Hunt before the Coventry Relays I felt that here was a sport in which I could give the reader some genuine insight.

Sadly I never did catch up with the Hunt! I arranged to go out for a training run with them and was very excited at the prospect of getting back into my running. I squeezed into my bright yellow Lycra and brand new orange training shoes which help me to be seen on the road; apparently all wide loads are encouraged to be as highly visible as possible. Upon reaching the meeting point, all I could see was a faint mist in the distance which I guess was the spray from their lightening feet as they surged forward in search of an even quicker time. Perhaps they were concerned that they might not be able to get past me, or maybe my fashion sense had put them off! Teacher in Charge of the Hunt Peter Middleton kindly suggested that I would definitely catch up with his 'pack' at Rigg's Hall on Tuesday night, as he was having a pasta party in order to help fuel his team for the next day. Kait Weston, Teacher in Charge of the Girls' Hunt, then invited me to the girl's team pasta party at Emma Darwin Hall. As I had also been invited to go for a curry with Mr Parsons to celebrate his birthday, it seemed likely that I too would have enough energy for my sporting commitments the next day!

Upon entering Rigg's I found the Hunt A Team tucking into a pasta dish that consisted of a tomato and chicken sauce. (For the recipe see 'Eat to Fast' by P Middleton.) I sensed that Papa Middleton and Mama Middleton had been busy in the kitchen and their efforts were certainly appreciated. I was introduced to the super six. There was anchorman Rory Fraser (who bears no resemblance to Ron Burgundy, despite what some of his friends think). Rory is renowned for choosing eclectic pieces of music to train to. A particular favourite being the sound track to 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang'. As Head of School, he finds many opponents will allow him to pass, out of deference to his lofty status.

Then there is Theo Clarke, who is the only other Sixth Former in the team. Theo is very much a stealth bomber. He was inspired by the wildlife he saw whilst on the Hunt's tour to Kenya and Ethiopia last October; he pursues his opponents like a leopard and catches them with the pace of a cheetah. There are two Fifth Formers in the squad; Oscar Dickins from the Dickins dynasty is so quick spectators are wont to say 'who the dickins was that' as he speeds past in a blur of running vest and trainer. Then there is Ben Remnant full of Northern grit (he keeps falling over on the gravel outside his house). Toughness is his middle name and he was my tip for the fastest time on the day, as I suspected the conditions would suit someone who is used to the wind the rain and the cold.

The final places in the team are allotted to two Fourth Formers and Mr Middleton can barely conceal his excitement that five of this year's squad will be back next year. Charlie Tait-Harris is

a great prospect and has been running like the wind this year. His chief job, however, is to try and ensure that his Fourth Form compatriot Freddie Huxley-Fielding stays fit for each event. Freddie is one of the reasons the National Health Service is so over worked. He proudly told me, as he pushed his bits of red pepper round his plate, “I don’t like tomato” and that he had been to hospital five times in the last twelve months. His casualty list is as follows:

1. A broken toe caused by miss-kicking a football. Freddie supports Aston Villa, hence he has never seen anyone connect effectively with a football.
2. Glandular Fever
3. Salmonella
4. Two haematomas; one caused by falling off a hay bale and one caused by a friend kneeling him in the back of the leg.
5. Smoke inhalation from an accident with his heater at home.



L to r behind Peter Middleton: Ben Remnant, Oscar Dickins, Theo Clarke, Rory Fraser, Charlie Tait-Harris, Freddie Huxley-Fielding

When Mr Middleton left the room I asked the assembled gentlemen for a run down on the coaching team. They were unanimous in their praise of Mr Middleton and his serious training schedule. The team have been to run the Coventry Relay course to make sure they know their way round. They have had a variety of training exercises including cross country and track work, hill sprints, stamina work, distance training, balancing exercises and fartleks. They also whispered in hushed tones that Mr Middleton planned to surprise the other schools, as only Rory Fraser had been spotted in a Shrewsbury vest before!

Mr Haworth, another formidable athlete and Hunt coach, is apparently a very sharp dresser whose suits and skinny ties are legendary. He enjoys making other people feel fat by standing next to them and cooking a lot of cakes and encouraging rival athletes and colleagues to eat them. He is generally injured and will always find a dog to fall over if possible. During the tour to Africa it was discovered that he has a high-pitched laugh at altitude.



Then there is the fitness co-ordinator and African tour translator Mrs Bovill. The Queen badger, as she likes to be known, was discovered not to be as fluent in Swahili as had been thought. Her growls and nocturnal activity had led to the team worrying about whether she would survive the recent cull but she has been spotted in KH recently. After their pasta and tactics talk, it was clear that there was a confidence in the camp and Mr Middleton predicted a podium finish for this happy band of pasta pace-setters.

I realised it was time to move to my next pasta party and arriving at EDH I found the party in full swing. The pasta had gone, if indeed there ever was any, and I found the Shrewsbury Girls' Hunt team tucking in to ice-cream and sprinkles, with a good dollop of toffee sauce in some cases. Mrs Weston was adamant that the key to success lay in ice-cream appreciation. This as a mistake that previous teams had made and she predicted the girls would run very well on a 'dairy diet'!

I was introduced to the team and I asked where the athletes ran when they were not at home. Tory Mobley, who is the School's top female runner, told me she likes to run against the horses at home. I sense either she is a very serious athlete or she is the owner of some rather old and not too healthy horses! She is the girl in form and had been delighted to beat the Kenyan national champion when on tour. She told me that her Housemistress was an inspiration and Mrs Weston agreed!

Sophie Pelling will be running the first leg and told me she enjoys running round Macclesfield Forest. She has recently been celebrating attaining a place at Cambridge University to read Land Economy and this is likely to give her a real boost of adrenalin as she powers round. Lucie Cornwell-Lee has been running through Cheshire and stopping to paint her tracks (as she is a top artist). She is really enjoying her running as it enables her to eat a lot of ice-cream. Tatty Hunt lives in Hong Kong and prefers to sunbathe rather than train. We are all hoping the weather is particularly inclement at Coventry, as there will be less chance of her being inclined to stop running to soak up the rays! I asked about their training regime and was told that apart from the ice-cream, it was similar to the boys' However, Mrs Weston has thought about hiring a Mr Whippy van and parking it at the end of the course as an incentive to this crew of dairy divas! Jasmine Douglas was non-travelling but ice-cream eating reserve. She told me she would rather not be sent to Coventry!



L to r: Tory Mobley, Sophie Pelling, Andy Weston, Kait Weston, Lucie Cornwell-Lee, Jasmine Douglas, Tatty Hunt

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The mood in the camps was very serious and I am only sorry I did not get to the B team pasta party with Mr Haworth, which was apparently cake-free! I sensed success was on the way and I was right. The boys' A team finished 3rd out of 52 schools at the most prestigious schools' running event in the country and the B team was 15th. The girls came 4th out of 32 and this was remarkable as they had never been higher than 15th before. Tory recorded the third fastest girl's time of the day and she can try again next year! What a result!!

I have been totally inspired by these young Shrewsbury athletes and I will look out for their results as I think they are on a good run!

GJFB

Shrewsbury competes in the National Final of the UKMT Senior Team Maths Challenge

Friday 7 February 2014

Congratulations to the Maths Challenge Team of Arthur Kung, Dan Hart, Sophie Zhou and Jonathan Cheng, who came 37th in the National Final of the UKMT Senior Team Maths Challenge.



Above l to r: Arthur Kung, Dan Hart, Dr Charlie Oakley, Jonathan Cheng and Sophi Zhou

The competition tests mathematical, communication and teamwork skills and is jointly organised by the UK Mathematics Trust and the Further Maths Support Programme. It includes challenges such as ‘cross numbers’ (like a crossword but with numerical answers, when one pair in the team has the across clues and the other has the down clues) and ‘mini relays’, when members of the team have to answer mathematical questions which they can begin work on immediately but information passed from other members of the team is needed to solve them completely.

A total of 1,147 teams entered the competition this year, 59 of whom reached the final which was held in the Camden Centre, London on 4 February 2014.



Students say “Ta” to Tapas!

Monday 10 February 2014



KH Food File - Tapas - February 2014

The weather of late has been really dire, so our brilliant chefs decided to perk things up a bit with another fabulous Food File. But instead of presenting it at lunch time, they decided to ring the changes and produce Food File for the evening service instead!

They decided on the theme of a tasty Tapas Bar! We enlisted the help of one of our company development chefs to come along for the day to help, and soon the kitchen was filled with wonderful aromas and tangy treats.

It turned out that an evening Food File was just the ticket, as the students, tired out from a busy day (not to mention fed up with the horrible weather) were delighted to be met with the colourful display and array of tasty Tapas. They certainly tucked in with one or two students aided with a few extra plates! The mood was upbeat with a carnival-like atmosphere, and some students seemed almost reluctant to head back to their houses afterwards.

The chefs enjoyed themselves so much that they have decided to have the next food file this Wednesday (12th Feb) at the Supper service, with Sushi being the theme.

See you there!

Carrie Zeiler



Fencing: School v Old Salopians

Monday 10 February 2014

On Saturday we welcomed back Old Salopian fencers for matches against the School fencers in what proved to be a very enjoyable afternoon of tense competition.

Old Salopian Teams

Foilists: Stephen Li, Chris Williams

Epeeists: Ed Bullen, George Lane-Fox

Sabreurs: Harry Cox, Rob Davis

School Teams

Foilists: Issy Codron, Scott Reynolds, Matti Owen-Sinclair, Alec Barnes

Referee: Marco Lee

Epeeists: Jonty Small, Arthur Cheng, Jeff Pun, Tom Creamer, Jonnie Shaw, Archie Free,

Sabreurs: Ross Viljoen, Christian Ferrigno, Benson Chang, Tom Miller, Charlie Godman, Ilya Olkov

Referee: Andrew Holding

Results:

Foil: OS 45v School 41v

Epee: OS 10v School 6v

Sabre: OS 9v School 7v



RSSH: Midlands League, 8th February 2014, Welbeck College

Wednesday 12 February 2014

A report by Tim Foulger

Note to self: never eat anything that's come out of a bucket.

This was my thought as the after match tea at Welbeck Army Sixth Form College - spag bol from a bucket - was served al fresco. For the runners, however, who had braved the keuper marl (glacial mud), wind (beaufort scale 7) and tough competition (Uppingham, Bromsgrove, Worksop, Oundle, Wrekin and Welbeck) this was like ambrosia from the gods.

Particularly god/godess-like in their performances were Rory Fraser (4th in the Seniors), Tory Mobley (1st in the girls) and Alex Perutz (12th in the Inters boys – not bad as he lost a shoe half way round; luckily for him I was there to extract it from the mire; unluckily for him I was there so he could not extract himself from the race).

All in all it was a fine team performance, with the Hunt fielding three teams in each age group. The results will be enough to keep us well in contention to retain the Boys' League trophies we won last year.

Second note to self: I think I've just discovered the perfect way for the country to commemorate WW1...

TRF



The team using the well-appointed dressing rooms at Welbeck Army College



Multiple awards at the Withington Model United Nations Conference

Thursday 13 February 2014

Twenty-seven pupils travelled to Manchester on Sunday 9th February for the Model United Nations Conference held at Withington School. Almost half of them won awards. James Ollerhead (Ch LVI), who was Highly Commended, describes the experience of taking part in his first MUN Conference.

This Sunday I had the privilege to be taken as part of a team to the WiMUN VI (Withington School's sixth MUN). Representing the USA in the Health Committee, I was one of about 30 delegates debating on the subjects of foreign healthcare and HIV AIDS.

Previous to the day, we had all been given the basic outlines of debate and we had all prepared amendments to the Committee's draft resolution. We also had to research the views of our particular countries on these topics, which were to be the basis of our arguments.

The conference started with an opening ceremony, after which each delegation was divided into their committees, where we all had to spend half an hour lobbying and talking to other delegates from other schools representing other countries. In effect this was attempting to warm the others to you and get them to support your amendments and any speeches you might make. The next few hours were spent debating a medley of multiple amendments, some impressive some not so much, but all very much fun to debate.

Then just before we broke for lunch we were shown a video depicting a fake world disaster. The disaster was that the Democratic Republic of Congo had attacked its rebels with chemical weapons it had bought from Zimbabwe. The chemicals used were produced in a Chinese factory in Zimbabwe. The rebels in retaliation then attacked and severely damaged the factory as well as harming many scientists.

After lunch several of the committees were combined, and the actions to be made by the general assembly were debated. This was done without any preparation or previous knowledge on the subject. It certainly was the more challenging part of the day.

The day finished with the closing ceremony, in which the organisers reflected on the success of the day and gave out the awards for both individual performances (for which I was highly commended) as well as the best groups.

After such an enjoyable and intellectual experience, I very much look forward to my next conference in March at the HABS MUN, and I fully encourage people to come along and join the MUN as it is an enjoyable and engaging experience.

James Ollerhead (Ch LVI)

Teacher in Charge of MUN Huw Peach was delighted with the School's performance. "The Withington MUN Conference is particularly focused on beginners and this was the biggest one that they had ever organised. We were representing USA, Ethiopia, Nigeria, United Arab Emirates and New Zealand, with some of our more experienced delegates in the Security Council and the Human Rights Council.

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



"There were three tiers of awards: Outstanding (1 delegate in each committee); Highly Commended (2-3 delegates in each committee) and Commended (4-5 delegates in each committee). There was also another award (Delegates' Delegate), which was a vote by all members of the committee."

Congratulations to the following delegates who won awards:

OUTSTANDING: Sonny Koh

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Esmé O'Keeffe and James Ollerhead

COMMENDED: Amelia Woodruff, Tiger Vechamamontien, Krem Todorova, Archie Trower, Vicki Horbach, Jesse Mattinson, Ilya Olkov and Dan Lo

DELEGATES' DELEGATE (popular vote): Tiger Vechamamontien and Krem Todorova



Wet and windy news from the Boat Club

Thursday 13 February 2014

The Boat Club has had a challenging start to the year, with very high river levels, high winds and flooding. However, as Director of Rowing Athol Hundermark explains - with some atmospheric photos - the crews have been busy nonetheless and the new boathouse has been put to excellent use.



Ergo relay

There have been very few opportunities for crews to get out on the water this term due to the very high river levels, and high winds and flooding have meant that numerous events have been cancelled.

However, the School's new boathouse, opened in September 2012, has been put to very good use with a variety of combinations of ergos, circuits, weight training and tank work entertaining and developing the oarsmen and oarswomen in preparation for getting back out on the water.

On 1st February the Boat Club had a club ergo relay with ten teams made up of boys and girls across the age groups going head to head on the ergo. The racing was tight fought and there was a great club atmosphere, with the lead changing hands regularly in the three races and new J14s racing alongside boys from the 1st VIII.

On 8th February the Boat Club held a hog roast at short notice, as another wet and windy day curtailed plans to train at Nottingham. With access to the boat bays impossible as the river flowed through the boathouse, the workshop was turned into the serving area. The food was enjoyed by all, along with a series of rowing-based fun activities in the boathouse.

ATH



Giles Bell's Team of the Week

Thursday 13 February 2014

This week the Rugby 1st XV, on the eve of their tour to Ireland.

The weather has been more than 'a leveller', as the voice of rugby for people of a certain age, Bill McLaren, might once have said. It was a particularly foul day this Wednesday and the wind was doing its best to bring down the rugby posts and anything else in its way, when I battled my way through storms and floods to catch a glimpse of the 1st XV in training.

Marcus Johnson, the new Teacher in Charge of the 1st XV, told me mournfully that the team have not been tested for the last three weeks, as six matches in a row have been cancelled due to waterlogged pitches. I managed to restore a little twinkle in his demeanour by mentioning the half-term rugby tour to Limerick. His squad are also looking forward to the tour and when I asked them whether Mr Kealy, our Irish Head of Business Studies, was right to predict they would be "in for a good hiding", Stuart Brown replied that last year on the Ireland tour they only conceded one try and won every game! So there is a good level of confidence in the team. Despite the weather, they have played some good rugby when they have had the opportunity, having spent much of last term playing A team fixtures in preparation for this term's matches.

Regular readers of this column will know that I cover a wide range of sports in varying degrees of depth and expertise. I would like it to be known that my son Reggie took one of my London Marathon medals to his school today and showed in to everyone in assembly, thus further corroborating my claims in last week's article on the Hunt, and making me feel strangely proud and strangely fraudulent at the same time!

As a founder member of the Self Preservation Society, I have never really mastered the game of rugby although I did once score a try in an under-10s match. (No, it was not a fathers v sons match!) I spent most of my prep school career playing number 16 and using a flag to indicate whose throw it was. This meant I got to miss lessons and get match teas without actually putting myself in peril, which appealed to me at the time. I feel that my brief flirtation with rugby is good enough for me to be fully in awe of those who are prepared to put their bodies in the firing line, so to speak.



Speed training



Shaun Perry is on the left

I am certainly in awe of Shaun Perry, our ex-England International and coach, who helps add some professional insight into proceedings. The lads describe him as full of ‘bad chat’ but excellent advice. This was strangely contradictory to his view of his ‘excellent banter’! Shaun played his last game for England in 2007 and he now lives in Stourbridge. He, like Mr Johnson, was dispirited by the current weather conditions, although he thought the hurricane strength winds might help our kicking (for at least a half). He is looking forward to the tour, as it means he will get to know the team better – as living together in confined quarters for a few days tends to have that effect. He is also looking forward to spinning out a non-stop stream of quips in the manner our backs spin the ball out wide. Once again there was a divergence of views on this analogy, the lads feeling that his quips will never reach the standard of their passes! Certainly watching Hugo Scott and Oli Brown practising their passing skills led me to think Sean’s quips must be of a very high standard!

Hugo was of course the lead in the Senior School play last term and I asked him how he adjusted to the rugby stage after the adulation he received in the Ashton Theatre. He told me that he has always been good with lines and so he is a natural three-quarter! He enjoys blocking and directing the play. He likes nothing better than gaining a chorus of approval for a good performance and finds it difficult to mask his disappointment when things don’t go according to the script. Oli Brown agreed with Hugo. “I agree with Hugo,” he said.

This year the coaching staff has been supplemented by Guy ‘son of Kirkby’ Kirkby. It should be noted that ‘big daddy’ Duncan Kirkby has been at the heart of Shrewsbury School rugby for many years and is once more the organiser of the tour to Limerick. If there is anyone more devoted to Shrewsbury rugby and rugby in general I have yet to meet him. Guy ‘son of Kirkby’ is an Old Salopian who now plays for Chester 1st XV in the Second Division of British rugby. I asked him what he felt his coaching could bring to the team. He suggested that he was there to “toughen them up” as they are all “a bit soft” but he assured me they are improving. He explained that what I was watching in the Cricket Centre was a number of drills and exercises aimed at improving individual skills under fatigue. This means being able to do amazing things even when you are very tired; I thought the Housemasters should attend this session!



The Cricket Centre in full wet weather mode: left - rugby training; middle - javelin-training; right - bowling session

The Cricket Centre was definitely a good place to be on Wednesday, as the winds and rain lashed the Site. I was intrigued to see not only rugby training going on, but George Day honing his javelin skills with coach Spencer Gunnell, and Henry Blofield enjoying a bowling machine session with Mr Pridgeon.



Roan and Guy "sons of Kirkby" Kirkby

I asked Guy if he enjoyed coaching his younger brother Roan, who is currently playing scrum-half for the team. He said he loved it! Apparently he also enjoys “toughening up” Roan at home. I asked how he would assess his younger brother’s skills. He told me that Roan is an “average



player who needs to work on his individual skills required for his position”. He went on to describe Roan as “lazy and prone to tantrums”. I asked Roan how he enjoyed being coached by his big brother. Somewhat overcome and emotional, he told me, “I cannot compliment my brother highly enough; he is my inspiration.” Stirring stuff. (I very much hope this article will not cause a rift in the Kirkby household!)

The squad were eager to talk about their forthcoming tour, having been starved of competitive rugby for much of this term. Captain Rob Treasure (known affectionately as ‘buried’ as he is often at the bottom of a ruck) is renowned for his inspirational team talks. Ed Harrison assured me that phrases such as ‘let’s make sure we win this one’ had really helped him to understand the technical game plan.

Jonty Newbould, Archie Lywood, James Moulson, Jack Hodges and George Bradshaw were kind enough to tell me that playing for the 5th XI football team (coached by me) had done wonders for their physical and mental conditioning. Jonty insisted that the dynamic training ground methods I had installed last term had dramatically improved his agility and he also alluded to the importance I attached to mentally preparing my team to deal with defeat, which as a Wolves fan he had found very comforting.



Marcus Johnson with Captain Rob Treasure

Sam Hill told me that he thought Guy Kirkby was “not really very big” and that he would “be able to take him on in a tackling head to head”. Sam Roberts and James Plaut thought Sam was quite brave to say that and wanted Guy to know that they really appreciated his “useful input”.

There was certainly a happy and confident nature about the touring squad. When I asked if there was a moment of the season, they all agreed it was when Stuart Brown celebrated a potential try about ten metres from the line, only to be tackled two metres out! I very much hope that they will not find that their matches in Limerick are cancelled when they get there. This is a talented squad of players who deserve to play and express themselves on the pitch. They are well coached and supported and it is clear that Shrewsbury Rugby is in a good place. Mr Johnson, whilst typically cagey, is, I sense, quietly confident that we can compete with anyone at the various Sevens tournaments after half term. So watch this space!



Once again I have been very impressed by another area of Salopian life, and as they are off to Limerick...

*Salopians once went to Limerick
To pass a ball to a boy who could kick.
In ninety-mile winds
It went to the Finns
Which ended the game awful quick!*

I will try again.

*Celebrating a try far too soon
Stuart Brown ended up a buffoon
But he played hard on tour
And scored more and more
So his teammates were over the moon.*

If anyone would like to offer us their own Limerick (to gjfb@shrewsbury.org.uk) I suspect we could rustle up a prize for the best and it may even beat my efforts!

GJFB

Ingram's wins the Junior Swimming Gala – a report by Third Former Bertie Speed

Thursday 13 February 2014



I took part in the Junior Swimming Gala this term and Ingram's Hall won. We turned up to the competition with all of the Third Formers who could swim and most of the Fourth Form. We kept our heads up and tried our best to win our solo races. We started well with a few third and fourth places and then some seconds; one of them was me. Then we got a win. We were all exulted about this and this made us keep up the good results. We got many more seconds.

Then the scores were read out and we weren't even on the listings. We kept this in mind and tried even harder in our solo races and got many more good places. Then it got to the group relays. The scores were read out for the solo races and we were on the listings but not very high up.

We started off well in the relays and got into third place. Then I came up to take my length and I got us into first place. All we had to do now was to keep this place and then it would be very likely that we could get into the top three or even win.

The relays were worth double points, as Mr Wright kept reminding us, and as the second relay started we were all ready to take the trophy. We started well and attained a solid third place. Then we gain two places and reached first. We were sure to win. The final length came and Charlie Speed came to the start of his length and did a solid lap, confirming the win.

We were all waiting to see if we had won overall. The readings went from bottom to top and we were waiting, hearing all the names of the houses that we had beaten. It came to the top three and it was all silent. They got read out and we had won! We all shouted in happiness and Tom Scott-Bell went up to collect the trophy. It was a great competition and all the other houses swam well but just not well enough.

Bertie Speed



The Headmaster's Commendations

Thursday 13 February 2014

The aim of the Headmaster's Commendations is to recognise and reward outstanding academic achievement and intellectual curiosity.

The following pupils have been awarded the Headmaster's Commendations in the first half of this term:

UPPER SIXTH

Alex Walker (O)
Sophia Pelling (EDH)
Ian Yeung (R)
Crystal Chan (MSH)

LOWER SIXTH

Charis Virgo (MSH)
Sylvia Yeo (EDH)
Ed Carroll (Ch)
Dan Edwards (S)

FIFTH FORM

Hamish Partington (PH)
Tiger Vechamamontien (M)

FOURTH FORM

Archie Thomason (Rt)
Alex Lawson (O)

THIRD FORM

William Sawyer (PH)
James Channon (PH)



Fives news

Friday 14 February 2014

Teacher in Charge of Fives, Seb Cooley reports on an excellent first half of the very busy Fives season. Amongst many strong performances from players across the year groups, first senior pair Henry Blofield and George Lewis achieved the notable distinction last weekend of reaching the finals of the National Under-21s.

The Fives Club has enjoyed the usual, busy start to the season: the courts are full to bursting in pretty much every games hour, thankfully unaffected by conditions that have written off both the pitches and the river for most of the term. Just spare a thought for the staff standing at the back watching though: this week I resorted to pointing my car at the courts and watching in warm comfort from behind the hard-working windscreen wipers. Martin Knox would have approved.

We opened the season with a weekend of fixtures against Highgate and Eton. It was the first trip for both the Third and Fourth Form players as last year the weekend fell victim to snow. Highgate's reduced court count meant that we changed the format and our seniors and U16s had a third fixture, taking the form of a high-quality round robin of matches with some of the best recent leavers. Season ticket at Slough Travelodge renewed and supper taken on Saturday evening, we counted the spoils from the Highgate fixture: good wins at 1st senior pair and 1st U16 pair made an early case for seedings. Overall the seniors drew 2-2, as did the U16s. Our U15s and U14s both lost against Highgate, another long-standing tradition as Highgate have about five years' playing advantage.

Eton on Sunday was always going to be a challenge – especially as some of Saturday evening's games had got a little competitive, despite my efforts to the contrary! Would a little extra energy and sharpness have made any difference to Henry Blofield and George Lewis on Sunday? Maybe not: one of Eton's pair has stepped up this year and was playing very well. We lost 3-0. We won at 2nd, 3rd and 4th pairs though, losing a good 5th pair match 3-1. So overall, a 3-2 win at senior (including 5th Formers George Panayi and Tom Breese looking strong even playing up). Without Breese and Panayi in the U16s however (and without Jack Fox, who had academic commitments in Shrewsbury), we lost all three U16 pairs. We lost the U15s 3-1, with only the triumvirate of Arkwright, Morris and Pearce mixing about to win at 4th pair and in the U14s we likewise picked up 4th pair thanks to David Schofield and Dom Ainslie, though Jordan Zaza and Tom Brunskill came close, losing in the decider. That said, we fared well at 1st and 2nd pairs given it's the start of our season. We look forward to the return fixture after half term!

From this kick-start, the term has gone well. The senior pairs were already playing at a good level but saw there was work to do. And work has been done! The quality of fives in training sessions is high across three courts of seniors and the sheer numbers of U15 players never ceases to amaze me on my occasional forays to the Chapel side of the courts. I am beginning to suspect some of the Fourth Form actually live in those courts. They are always expertly marshalled by Torin Morgan from deep inside a very large and very serious-looking jacket, assisted this year by Paul Andrews, cricket specialist and all-round good sportsman who lends both technical and technological dimensions to the coaching. The Third Form are showing some real quality at the top end, again hugely down to Matt Barrett's superb coaching (and the fact that several of them are on the courts after Top Schools on most nights).



Fives U21 National Finals, 9th February 2014

Further fixtures have included Berkhamsted and Westminster, and here the juniors started showing their quality with some strong wins.

The seniors' commitment to the sport includes giving up numerous Sundays for tournaments at Eton: the most recent of these was the national U21s, in which Henry Blofield and George Lewis reached the final. Particularly pleasing was their semi-final victory against Eton's top pair, showing progress in the few weeks since we played them. They are pictured (right) in final against Cambridge University 1st pair.

As is usual in fives, anyone scratching the surface by walking by the courts in the week would see apparent mayhem. Out of all this come quality fives pairs. No-one quite knows how.

SKPC

Hunt Club Championships - a stormy race

Friday 14 February 2014

Wednesday 12th February 2014 will go down as one of the stormiest days in recent memory, with huge gusts of wind, and an ever-swelling River Severn flooding higher and higher. It was also the day that the Hunt chose to run their Hunt Club Championships, battling against some of the toughest conditions we had experienced all season, from the muddy bogs to the formidable wind.



Nevertheless, over 30 gutsy runners took to the start line without even the hint of apprehension. In fact, the runners were champing at the bit and ready for the challenge ahead. Huntsman Rory Fraser's rallying cry of "All hounds who wish to run, run hard, run well, and may the devil take the hindmost" could only just be heard above the roaring wind, but as soon as "hindmost" was on his lips, the pack were off and charging through the mud like galloping wild horses, spraying water and mud almost instantly.

An early lead pack was formed with the expectant favourites at the vanguard, and the Churchill's duo of Fraser and Fifth Former Ben Remnant reviving the rivalry that saw such a dramatic battle over the Tucks course last term in which Fraser 'killed' and took home the coveted Hector Rose Bowl. As the leaders entered the Masters' Garden and headed down School Bank behind Pengwern Boathouse, Riggites Oscar Dickins and Freddie Huxley-Fielding were not far behind their Churchill's rivals, with in-form Theo Clarke from Severn Hill close on their heels. Favourite in the girls' race, Tory Mobley (EDH), was steadily making her way through the field and took advantage of her strength powering up the 'Cresta Run' and surging forward down Oldham's Gap towards the cattle grid and Ridgemount Lane.

As the runners re-entered the school campus and made their way towards the final loop around the school site, it was Remnant who emerged at the lead, with Fraser having taken the brunt of the brutal wind in the early stages and fading fast under the pressure from his younger housemate, who had sensibly sheltered behind the taller Fraser for much of the first half of the race.



L to r: Charlie Naylor (on debut), Freddie Huxley-Fielding almost being blown away, Oscar Dickins, the pack near the race start, Tory Mobley

With the Birley Cup up for grabs, Remnant was determined to get his name on a trophy this year and powered home as convincing winner in 13.26 over the (approximately) 4km course. Fraser took silver in 13.42, with Rigg's Hall's Oscar Dickins completing the podium just three seconds behind in 13.45.

Impressively, Fourth Former Freddie Huxley-Fielding demonstrated his return to imperious form with a majestic 13.47, winning the Mark Mortimer Cup for winning junior, all the more impressive given that his slight frame was in severe danger of being blown completely off course at various points! Second junior was fellow Riggite Will Hayward in 14.18 and 6th overall, with an ever-improving Charlie Home from Ridgemoor 3rd junior in 10th overall (15.37).

Just behind Charlie in a time of 15.48 was Tory Mobley to take the Willie Jones Cup for 1st Senior girl, with the girls' podium completed by Tatty Hunt in 17.03 and 23rd overall and captain of Girls' Running Lucie Cornwell-Lee (MSH) 3rd Senior girl in 17.34 and 26th overall. Following on from their superb 4th place at last week's Coventry Relays, the Club Champs provided further evidence of just how strong girls' running is this year.

33 runners completed the course with two not quite making it round. We salute them all regardless of position! Congratulations, of course, go to the winners, and let me finish by noting one final winner in George O'Brien (M) who won the coveted Nutella Cup for Muddiest Runner!

PJM

Below l to r: Freddie Huxley-Fielding, Ben Remnant and Tory Mobley



Storytelling in the Library

Friday 14 February 2014

The first of a new series of storytelling events run in conjunction with the Drama Department took place in the Moser Library today - in celebration of St Valentine's Day.



l to r: Will Allott, Hannah Sanderson, Alfred Mitchell and Krem Todorova

It has been a long time for many of those at Shrewsbury, since we were read a story. But this morning staff and students from the Drama Department did just that. During morning break, staff and students gathered in the Moser Library to listen to poems and stories about love.

Each reading represented a different aspect of love. Levin's desperate love for Kitty in Anna Karenina showed romantic, sentimental love – “she was the smile that brightened everything around”; Lily's loyalty to Conor in Patrick Ness's wonderful *A monster calls* demonstrated the power and importance of platonic love; Charlie's misplaced love for his friend comically portrayed the confusion of teenage love in the young adult novel *Perks of being a wallflower* and we felt the pain of Theo's unrequited love in Donna Tartt's bestseller *The goldfinch* – “the thought of her gave me such continual anguish that I could no more forget her than an aching tooth”.

The prose passages were interspersed with fabulous poems from e.e. cummings, Carol Ann Duffy and Wendy Cope. Each reading was delivered brilliantly – with real personality and emotion.



All the readings were taken from books available to borrow in the Library. The event was one of a series of initiatives designed to celebrate books and reading and to introduce students to the wonderful titles available in the Moser Library. More read-aloud events are planned for next term.

*Jo Elliot
Head Librarian*



Zimbe! – in the midst of wind and rain, the warmth of Africa comes to the Alington Hall

Friday 14 February 2014

An enthusiastic review of last weekend's wonderful and uplifting concert written by Director of Music John Moore, who thoroughly enjoyed being part of the huge chorus of voices singing their hearts out on stage.



Zimbe! Shrewsbury School, February 2014

Sometimes an event seems to come just at the right moment in life, and for Shrewsbury School and the wider community in Shropshire, Zimbe appeared last Sunday like a burst of warmth and sunshine in the middle of the wettest winter on record, giving the soggy spirits of Salopians old and young a deserved lift, and an injection of joie de vivre. Alex Mason's decision to mount a performance of this inspirational work was itself an inspired decision, and combining the performance of Zimbe in the first half of the concert, with an equally sublime second half of performances from the Chamber Choir and Big Band, proved the perfect partnership.

Zimbe is a composition by one of the UK's leading young composers, Alexander L'Estrange for Children's Choir, Student Choir and Adults, accompanied by jazz instrumental ensemble. To have Alex L'Estrange himself there for the performance was an essential part of the evening's success, from his enthusiastic warm-ups in the afternoon rehearsal, to his leading from electric bass his Call Me Al Quintet of superb jazz musicians. Alexander has taken traditional African tunes and texts, and melded them into a wonderful blend of glorious harmonies, which combine multi-layered with the rhythms and harmonies of jazz, with its African roots, to become truly a



work for today's performers and audiences. Accessible, but never patronising, *Zimbe* holds the audiences attention from its anthemic beginning to its increasingly exciting and rich textured ending. It passes through songs of comfort, through songs of celebration, but at the heart lies wonderfully, in the words of the composer "Ear-Worm" tunes, which stay with the listener long after the final notes have sounded.

Alex Mason worked tirelessly in the weeks preceding the event to pull together nearly 200 or so performers – the biggest choral group to perform in the Alington Hall for many years. He drew his forces from Shrewsbury School's own Community Choir, the School's Chapel Choir of which he is Director, and also managed to bring three prep schools, Prestfelde, Birchfield and Shrewsbury High School Prep together to sing the enchanting children's choral parts. Alex trained and rehearsed all of these forces, with support from the Directors of Music from the various schools taking part, to whom we are of course very grateful for their support and hard work.

Alex conducted the work, and his talents as a wonderful Choral Trainer and inspirational musician were constantly evident during the course of the performance. A beautiful choral blend, attention to detail, a relaxed, happy approach to the music (including some fine moves from members of the Community Choir!), but above all terrific musicianship imparted to his performers and delivered back to the audience in bucket loads. The audience responded by enthusiastically clapping along with the performers and frequently between movements.

The global village that we now live in musically has brought the rhythms of Africa and the West together before. David Fanshawe's 'African Sanctus' was virtually the only kid on the block for choirs before *Zimbe*. Paul Simon in his two albums, *Graceland* and *The Rhythm of the Saints* fused the popular American song tradition with the rhythms and sounds of South Africa. Duke Ellington achieved a near perfect blend in his *Sacred Concertos* for Chorus and Big Band, but Alexander L'Estrange's ability to create a fusion of the two genres in a deceptively simple yet effective way, must be one of the most successful ever.

Mention must also be made of some lovely solo and quartet singing from the Chapel Choir – in particular George Fowler, Henrike Legner, Charlotte Harris, Laurence Jeffcoate, Awen Blandford and Henry Craig – the prep school children singing their hearts out from memory, and of course the excellent singing of the Community Choir, who are involved with the School on so many joyous musical occasions and whose support for Shrewsbury School music is so important. Accompanying all this was Alexander L'Estrange and his *Call me Al* Quintet of superb jazz musicians. The jazz breaks in the piece gave them special opportunities to shine as players, and they took every opportunity to do so. There were some really inspired piano solos from John Turville, a wonderful percussion moment from Tim Goodyer and Adam Riley, and mellifluous sax from Simon Allen, all underpinned by the bass playing of Alex L'Estrange himself.

The second half consisted of a programme from the Chamber Choir and Big Band. The Chamber Choir are a small but perfectly formed group of student singers, who under Dymphna Nightingale's direction produce a wonderfully blended sound, always capturing the essence of their repertoire, and are a delight to listen to. The Big Band under their tireless director Maria McKenzie then rounded the evening off in terrific style, with a really high standard of instrumental ability on display and some fine individual moments, all held wonderfully together by the rhythm section of Joe Dodd on Drums, Jonty Robinson on bass and Andrew Spicer on piano.



The Band were joined by two guest soloists. Ben Higgins, still only in his second year at Shrewsbury, delivered a superb rendering of 'Come Fly with Me', and Connie Osborne, who is in her final year at the School, sang a blistering version of 'Skyfall'. The Band's rendition of 'Harlem Nocturne' featured Henry Newbould on fine form on Alto Sax, and also Andrew Spicer, who has blossomed into a fine jazz player, on piano.

In conclusion, it was a wonderful evening, enjoyed by a packed Alington Hall, and is an undoubted prelude to other similar occasions in the future. It's perhaps worth mentioning finally one other simple stroke of genius by Alex Mason, and that was to preface the performance of Zimbe with a beautifully, hushed, hummed rendition of the South African national anthem. With only weeks having passed since the death of Nelson Mandela, no more fitting tribute could have been paid, and no more fitting sounds could have been heard to start last Sunday's remarkable concert.

John Moore

Rigg's News February 2014

Friday 14 February 2014

A busy start to the Lent term has seen GCSE trial exams, a House play, various trips, and rather a lot of rain. Below are some of the highlights of the first half of term.

Classroom

The Lent term is always a very busy one from an academic point of view, with coursework deadlines, and the final block of teaching ahead of the major public examinations in the summer. The U6th now have the majority of their university offers now in, though one or two will apply post-A Level, unsure what they want to do with their lives. (Do any of us?!) At the start of this week, U6th Former Ian Yeung was named as top of the yeargroup rankings based on the most recent set of reports, well deserved given his hard work ethic and determined approach. Ian was part of the School's team in the International Young Physicists competition who won the national final and will now go on to represent the UK in the international event this summer.

In previous years the 'Physics World Cup' has been held in such exotic locations as Australia, China and South Korea, and this year will be no different as the final will be hosted in the glamorous and star-studded county of Shropshire, with Shrewsbury School hosting the event. Joining Ian on the team will be fellow Riggite Arthur Kung, an impossibly brilliant physicist and mathematician who was this week named as the winner of the prestigious Arnold Hagger prize. I am beginning to suspect that Arthur is employing a PR company to overload the School website and e-news with all his endeavours, and I am told by the head of marketing that she thinks Arthur holds the record for most mentions in one week in the e-newsletter: member of the winning IYPT team; one of the 13 Salopians to receive an Oxbridge offer; and gaining a Distinction in the UK Maths Challenge following a school record score of 125/125. Perhaps more importantly, Arthur has recently gained something of a reputation as a Disco King for his dance moves at the various House Dances (where Arthur is officially the 'Most Popular Riggite' having been invited to every single House Dance so far, though I suspect that again his PR company may have something to do with this...)



The IYPT team (l to r): Arthur Kung, Ian Yeung, Dominic Dootson, Ilya Lapan, Horace Tang and Head of Science Steve Adams



In the younger years, the Commendations come in thick and fast largely due to my offer of a can of coke for every commendation earned. I fear that some of my colleagues may be being harangued and harassed by sugar-crazed psychotic Riggites demanding that they are given a Commendation so they can get their next hit.

The Riggite of the Week award continues to be a good opportunity for me to publically recognise and applaud commendable endeavours, and these have ranged from assistance with organising Inter-House sports teams to impressive academic improvements to simply helping tidy up without being asked.

Sports Field

Speaking of Inter-House sports, this week saw the annual Senior and Junior swimming galas, which is always an exciting affair, albeit not traditionally a strength of Rigg's who tend to prefer a boat to sit in when they get in the water. Nevertheless, we fielded keen and committed squads, put together efficiently by Head of House swimming Ian Yeung. The Senior event came on the Monday, and to our surprise, we ended up finishing a very creditable 5th. Ian Yeung was the real star of the show, though the likes of Hugo Morgan and Charlie Johnston showed the sort of speed that we normally see from them down on the River Severn (rowing, rather than swimming...) The Junior team just about matched the Seniors for success, and we were delighted with their 6th place. Artem Stopnevich was the standout performer - Stop them, they couldn't... I should pause to mention here an e-mail sent from the head of 3rd Form rowing Chris Scrimshaw, who was left speechless following Artem's endurance efforts down at the Boat Club:

Today at rowing we had a couple of spares who couldn't row due to the river being too fast for small boats. After telling them to go and do some stuff on the ergo I was surprised to see Artem had set the distance to 12,000m. Thinking he would only do some of this I came back after the session to check the ergo and it turns out he completed the whole 12k without stopping! It took him 59 mins to complete and this is a very impressive score for a 3rd Former. I was completely speechless that he'd done this without being told to do so and it's such a huge effort it deserves to be noticed.

Well done to Artem, who as I write is somewhere in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean aiming to get to the Caribbean by exeat.

Probably my sporting highlight of the term so far, however, has to be from 4th Former Alex Webb, who achieved the unthinkable by beating Master in Charge of Tennis Myles Harding. For those of you who know Myles, you will be very familiar with his ultra-competitive nature, and indeed, so competitive is he that he once challenged a colleague to a swimming race whilst she was heavily pregnant. Alas, whilst in his heyday a demon on the tennis court, three weeks ago Harding was forced into submission by a relentless barrage of tennis warfare from a young man who has a very promising future ahead of him. Not only was Harding beaten, but he was resoundingly demolished in a straight-sets victory, and ever since he has been sulking in the Common Room, sipping cups of coffee and heard to mutter, "I coulda' been a contender." I have suggested he speaks to the School Counsellor.

There will no doubt be other sporting highlights to follow (including news of the Inter-House squash competition, where Rigg's have progressed to the Semi-Finals) though with the recent rain and flooding a great deal of sport has been cancelled unfortunately, so there is little to report from the Boat Club or the Rugby Club. Nevertheless, as you would expect, running continues apace, and indeed we tend to revel in these sort of conditions, losing the odd shoe in the mud



here and there (and possibly the odd boy) but otherwise carrying on regardless. A number of Riggites are at the very forefront of the Hunt's squads this year, with three members of the house in the Top Tier squad (Oscar Dickins, Freddie Huxley-Fielding and Will Hayward), and 3rd Formers Owen Mock and Niklas Amthor making impressive progress in the juniors. In this week's national relays at Coventry's Memorial Park, Oscar and Freddie were part of the bronze medal-winning team, with both running superbly to help the team retain their place on the national podium. It is a high-pressure event with some of the best athletes in the country competing (indeed, the winning team St Alban's is headed up by the World Biathlon champion no less, and in the past, the race has been the breeding ground for future Olympians such as Seb Coe, Richard Nerurkar, and the Brownlee brothers). Both Oscar and Freddie will be at the heart of the Hunt's bid for national glory in the coming years, as will Will Hayward who ran one of the fastest legs in the 'B' team and is quickly making a name for himself in the sport. As a House, following our team win in the annual Tucks race last term, we will aim to secure further silverware at the end of term with the Inter-House Steeplechases relays where our side will include the winners of the New Boys' Race in 2013, 2012 and 2011!



Oscar Dickins, just after crossing the finish line in the Coventry Relays

Theatre

Shrewsbury School has of course a very strong tradition of theatre, and for many, the place to hone one's talent is in the House plays that take place once every two years. Our policy in Rigg's is one of inclusion, and indeed we like to see as many Riggites as possible involved in the production. This year's 'Aladdin' was no exception, with the cast including over 30 of the boys, with the majority of the remainder involved backstage or in the technical department, with many more contributing to programme and poster design, set building and painting. It was very much a whole-house effort. A full review can be read on the Rigg's section of the school website, but needless to say it was a huge success and greatly enjoyed by all who came to see the show. My Assistant Chris Cook put in an enormous amount of work into delivering such an entertaining and amusing show, with Team Bovill also making the usual contributions to the costume



department and last-minute set building (including a very impressive lamp!). The boys all loved the experience and there was a terrific buzz about the House at the start of term.

The House soiree will be the next cultural adventure for the house on Friday 14th February (Valentine's Day no less!) and we look forward to hearing the talents of the many musically talented boys in the house.

House

The Junior House debaters got off to a strong start this term, with our A team defeating their first two opponents, successfully opposing the first motion, "This House would make school sports voluntary" and then this week successfully proposing the motion, "This House believes that assisted suicide should be legalised". Jacob Rand and Jonty Schofield in the 4th Form are proving tricky opponents for our competitors, and the young apprentices Niklas Amthor and Artem Stopnevich are fast becoming unapologetic in their dissection of opponents' arguments. Add in to the mix 4th formers Robert Hartwell, Harris Huntsman and Will Hayward who have all debated for the House this term and the picture looks very promising indeed for debating in the coming years.

This term has also seen the newly-established House Council meet for the first time following elections to find two representatives from each year group. The following have been elected on to the committee:

George Day (U6th, Head of House)
Toby Harvey-Scholes (U6th, Deputy Head of House)
Will Schofield (L6th)
Elliot Robinson-Boulton (L6th)
Charlie Cooke (5th Form)
Oscar Dickins (5th Form)
Harris Huntsman (4th Form)
Freddie Huxley-Fielding (4th Form)
Niklas Amthor (3rd Form)
Mungo Hargreaves (3rd Form)

The agenda for the first meeting was somewhat jam-packed with a number of suggestions for House improvements, from hooks on the back of shower cubicle doors (actioned and now resolved), a new toaster in the kitchen (actioned and a whopping big 8-slice toaster now arrived), and lighting to be installed in the House yard for football in the winter months (Works Bursar considering...) We also discussed how to make better use of the pool room (for a start we have re-surfaced it and got new balls), and the ideas were very good and have been agreed upon by the Works Bursar so we hope to have a revamped pool room in the coming months. There was discussion of a possible 6th Form House ski trip next year which I think would be a great idea, though have no idea how to organise given I have never been skiing in my life before! We also looked into how we could do more charity events as a House and we are looking in to a suitable local charity to which we can devote our efforts. At the House play, we raised £204.89 for local charity The Ark, and I very much hope that we can do more charitable events, and involve our boarders in more charitable action at a local level.

House trips have seen the juniors head out to the Rednal go-karting track with house tutor CWO (I am resting myself having annihilated the 6th Form last term - don't want to totally deflate the juniors with another dominant performance), and the 3rd Form last weekend travelled to a dark



and mysterious forest somewhere in Wales to spend the day doing something called 'Airsoft'. I have no idea what this is, so asked Ralph Furse to write a few words on the day out:

Airsoft gameplay varies in style and composition but often ranges from short-term skirmishes, organised scenarios, C.Q.B., field, military simulations (MilSim), or historical reenactments and speedball. Combat situations on the battlefield may involve the use of military tactics to achieve objectives set in each game. Participants may attempt to emulate the tactical equipment and accessories used by modern military and police organisations.

At 8 o'clock the Rigg's 3rd Form met in the Link for a long day of Airsoft. We stopped off at the petrol station where altogether we spent £40 on energy drinks and food. When we arrived at the camp we saw men armed to the teeth with guns and kit - it only took 15 minutes or so to relax though and soon enough we were armed up and walking into the woods. We came back eight hours later with big smiles on our faces, but we were exhausted!

PJM



Sweet treats for heart beats

Friday 14 February 2014

Budding chefs in EDH Upper Sixth spent nearly seven hours of their precious time baking goodies for sale on Valentine's Day to raise money for the British Heart Foundation.

Head Chef Charlie Perkins orchestrated the operation and was ably assisted by other Eddies, Cesca Molyneux, Jenny Anderson and Vicky Horbach. Well over one hundred cookies were baked, iced and personalised with notes dedicated to the lucky recipients. Under the cover of darkness, for it had well and truly fallen by the time, this mammoth operation was completed, the cookies were wrapped and delivered. More cookies, squidgy flapjacks and melt-in-your-mouth chocolate brownies were on sale in the Grot Shop the following day too.

With Charity Day falling on February 14th it was felt that the British Heart Foundation would be a worthy recipient of the monies raised (£130 collected to date). However, the irony that these scrumptious snacks may well have contributed to future heart conditions was not lost on the team!

Thank you to all who baked or ate these goodies. You will be delighted to hear that Mrs Weston's kitchen is now (just about) free of flour and the apocalyptic effect of an upturned bottle of red food colouring!



Some of the EDH bakers in action



U19 Cricket World Cup: Ed Barnard is England's Man of the Match

Friday 14 February 2014

A superb 93 from current Sixth Former Ed Barnard helped England's Under-19 team secure an emphatic 213-run victory over UAE in the opening match of the U19 Cricket World Cup in Abu Dhabi today. Scoring his total off just 73 balls, Ed was named Man of the Match.

Under the headline "UAE folds for 102 in 33 overs as England puts up an all-round show to seal thumping victory" and a photo of Ed acknowledging the applause of the crowd, the report on the ICC website says: "UAE went in to its World Cup Group D opener against England having beaten it in one of the three games it played in a friendly series in the Emirates in December. However, England proved it was the more professional side when it comes to serious business by handing the hosts a thrashing at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium."

To read the full report and to view live scorecards of the U19 World Cup matches, please visit www.icc-cricket.com/u19-world-cup

Earlier this week Old Salopian James Taylor (R 2003-08) was top-scorer for the England Lions against Sri Lanka on the first day of the first unofficial Test Match in Sri Lanka, hitting 70 off 118 balls.

Visit by Rodrigo Jordan Fuchs to Severn Hill's Irvine Room

Monday 17 February 2014



Rodrigo Jordan Fuch's visit to Severn Hill's Irvine Room

Mr Fuchs, renowned Chilean mountaineer and social entrepreneur, was the first South American to conquer Everest in 1992 and has since led three further Everest expeditions. With another successful Everest expedition in May this year, he may well become the first person in the world to climb Everest by three different routes.

He is seen in this photo in front of Sandy Irvine's ice axe, which was recovered in 1933 from the mountain, discussing his exploits with the boys. He is accompanied by Mr and Mrs Putnam (parents of Harry Putnam (M 2005-10)) family friends and fellow adventurers.

Sushi Evening in Kingsland Hall

Monday 17 February 2014

We enjoyed a live demonstration of Sushi at Kingsland Hall on Wednesday 12th February, and students even had the opportunity to have a go at making their own.

Sushi is a Japanese food consisting of cooked vinegared rice combined with a variety of ingredients but predominately raw fish and seafood. Traditionally, Sushi is served in a minimalist Japanese style, drawing upon the attention to detail required within the preparation.

Students were able to taste the variety of sushi prepared by the kitchen team in KH, as well as enjoying the opportunity to have a go at rolling their own.

The evening was very popular and enjoyed by the students, many returning for further tastings - proving Sushi is popular with the staff and students of Shrewsbury School!





Severn Hill celebrating Chinese New Year

Tuesday 18 February 2014



Severn Hill celebrating Chinese New Year

More sporting success for School House with swimming victory

Tuesday 18 February 2014

There was yet more silverware for School House in February when we won the Senior Inter-House Swimming Gala. The team, lead by Stanley Hau (U6), finished with 144 points, which represents a huge lead (the runner-up was a long way behind on 116). All the lads (pictured below) swam brilliantly and dominated throughout the competition.



School House Senior Rowing Team 2014



School House Senior Swimming Team 2014



Ingram's Hall House Play: Chekhov's 'The Wedding' – a review by Third Former Thomas Brennan

Tuesday 18 February 2014

On Thursday 13th and Friday 14th of February Ingrams Hall took it upon themselves to perform Chekhov's The Wedding. Dubbed a play in one scene, it takes place in the room of a restaurant after the marriage of Epaminond and Dashenka.



The play started with the bridegroom Epaminond (Will Harvey) is pestering his new mother-in-law Nastasya (Jessica Walker) about promises she made to him of two lottery tickets. He is not angry because he has not received the tickets in particular but that he has been swindled as he finds out that the lottery tickets were in fact placed in pawn. He is also angry that a general, who was promised to be at the dinner, was not there. In response to this Nastasya tries to shift the blame onto a friend of hers who had promised to find the general.

The fact that Nastasya has invited Dashenka's former lover, Yats, argues Epaminond even more. Nastasya then gets fed up of him and starts to ignore him. She calls the guests to take their seats.

Meanwhile Yats (Tom Flowers) is trying to woo a middle aged midwife, Zemyukina. In the background Zhigalov (Ed Harrison), Dashenka's father is enjoying a drink with his Indian friend (Akaash Patel) and asks about various animals that one may find in India. The Indian is a very humorous character and the audience all had a bit of a laugh at the voice that was put on.

When the guests are finally seated the toasts begin and Yats starts to have a conversation with Zhigalov about the pros and cons of electric lighting. Yats then makes a strong statement against Epaminond saying that he only married for the dowry. He tries to pass it off as a joke by saying that the dowry is too skimpy for that. This sparks fury from Nastasya who insists that the dowry is not skimpy. Epaminond is also furious and orders Yats to leave.

After a toast from her father Dashenka notices that her mother is upset. But, as is common at weddings, she is afraid of the imminent parting. The tone is then lightened though because the Indian is called upon for a speech.

After this speech Nastasya's friend Andrey (Robert Treasure) arrives and announces that he has found the General. This is not quite the case, as the General (Tommy Adeyefa) is just a retired sea captain. But nobody knows this.

After introductions the General goes into a long and tedious speech about the navy that nobody really understands. But to make matters worse, he is deaf. So when the guests repeatedly ask him to stop talking he misinterprets their words.



He is finally brought to a stop by Nastasya becoming appalled at his manners. This is the point where the General admits that he is not really a General but a Sea Captain. This brings up the subject of why he took the money. But the General protests that he never received any money. Suspicion is then aimed at Andrey and the General understands all that has happened. Disgusted by the family, the General leaves.

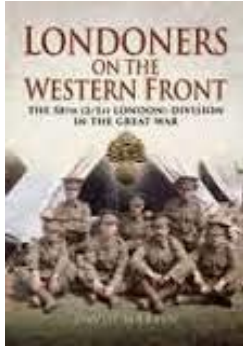
Nastasya then turns to Andrey, furious and gives him a disapproving lecture. Andrey just shrugs it off and gets the band to play a march to drown out her speech. Thus the guests start to depart and the play is over.

It was a really interesting play to watch and a good way to spend 40 minutes or so in the evening.



David Martin's new history book on the Western Front available to order

Wednesday 19 February 2014



Old Salopian historian, David Martin's (Rt 1987-1992) new book 'Londoners on the Western Front' is to be published on 31st March 2014 by Pen and Sword Books Ltd.

Details; 'Londoners on the Western Front' a history of the 58th (2/1st London) Division in the Great War 1914-1919

To order, visit the Pen and Sword website at:

<http://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk/Londoners-on-the-Western-Front/p/6095/>



Oliver Carter-Esdale's 'Take' on the controversial Channel 4 Documentary, 'Benefits Street'

Wednesday 19 February 2014



Oliver Carter-Esdale (Ch 2009-11), described as a 'Third year Classics and English student at Bristol University with journalistic aspirations' has written a critique of the controversial TV Documentary 'Benefits Street' which recently aired on Channel 4.

Oliver's piece which starts:

'As Alex Yeates wrote in his blog, the resentment for those depicted in the recently broadcast Benefits Street is tangible. I don't deny that acts of theft or fraud are wrong whatsoever, it would be foolish to dispute, and we have every right to be angry at such people's actions. When times are tough, to learn that some people have deliberately misled and defrauded the system that aims to help them, it is only natural to find it abhorrent. But I feel this anger at theft, and the right to it so championed by Alex, rather misses the bigger picture.'

Can be read in full at:

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/oliver-carteresdale/benefits-street_b_4610942.html



Rowing news from the half term exeat

Monday 24 February 2014

After a frustrating first half of term, the Senior VIII were delighted to have a chance to get out on the water again during their half term training camp at Lake Bala. And on 22nd February, George Patterson, Toby Thomas and Lettie Tay all performed very well in the GB Long Distance Trials at Boston, Lincolnshire.



1st VIII Training Camp, Lake Bala

Ten Senior oarsmen departed School in torrential rain on Friday 14th February for a training camp on Lake Bala in Wales. More known as a destination for sailing, the 5km lake is an ideal stretch of water for training if the wind is light. But with winds of 20mph plus battering Wales on Friday and Saturday, the crew were put to work in the swimming pool at the local leisure centre rather than attempting to surf the rolling waves.

On Saturday the lake rose rapidly to leave the trailer precariously axle-deep in water with no way out. Fortunately the weather improved, allowing the crew to get out on Saturday evening and then at will from Sunday to Tuesday.





The warm accommodation at Abercelyn Cottages provided an ideal location to rest and get on with work between sessions. On Sunday evening the crew enjoyed a bonfire and BBQ on the beach, kindly put on by the Mr Clarke, father of Charlie (O).

On Tuesday morning we awoke to 5km of mirror-flat water to make use of. With snow-covered hills and not another soul on the water, it was a great way to end the camp and put together all the technical work covered in the preceding days.

Rob Homden (Rb UVI)

GB Trials, Boston

The Boat Club took three athletes to the GB Long Distance Trials in Boston, Lincolnshire on Saturday 22nd February.

A boys' pair of George Patterson (R) and Toby Thomas (SH) finished 11th out of 38 in the 5 km time trial, which puts them in a strong position to advance to the next round of assessments.

Lettie Tay (MSH) finished 11th out of 36 in the girls' single scull, having already participated in a gruelling land assessment. As a whole these were encouraging performances from the three Lower Sixth pupils.

George Patterson (R)



Brandt Beckerman supports Mr Fox in his Medic Malawi marathon row

Monday 24 February 2014



Pictured are Mr Steve Fox (*right*) supported by Brandt Beckerman (O, UVI) as they complete the full 42,195m marathon rowing distance in the small hours of Saturday 15th February - part of the School's Charity Sports All-Nighter event.

Mr Fox finished in 2:57'46.6 at 5.00am and lost 3kg during the process and has raised significant funds for Medic Malawi. Brandt beat this time, despite no preparation for covering such an extreme distance and after getting off his ergo every half hour or so to stretch, on Coach Hundermark's advice. A remarkable achievement.

MDBJ



European Translation Competition: Special Mention Certificate for Ella Williams (EDH UVI)

Monday 24 February 2014



Ella Williams (EDH UVI)

Many congratulations to Ella Williams (EDH UVI), who has received a Special Mention Certificate for her French to English translation in 'Juvenenes Translatores 2013', a translation contest for schools throughout the EU which is organised by the European Commission. As there is only one winner for each EU Member State, Ella was clearly in the final group of contenders for the UK prize in this prestigious competition.

Vicky Horbach (EDH UVI) and Tim Atkins (M UVI) also entered, with English to German and Hungarian to English translations respectively.

Ella, who last year won the Lower Sixth School Prizes for both French and Spanish, has also entered an essay competition run by the University of London Institute in Paris. Her essay is entitled "The importance of language learning".



Rugby Tour to Ireland

Tuesday 25 February 2014

Twenty senior rugby players and coaches Duncan Kirkeby, Marcus Johnson and Shaun Perry travelled to Limerick at the start of half-term to play two fixtures over three days against strong Irish opposition.



Senior Rugby Tour to Ireland, February 2014

The Munster region in south-west Ireland is known for being particularly wet at the best of times, and sadly Sunday's first match against Ennis RFC had to be cancelled due to the awful conditions. Two useful training sessions followed on the excellent 3G synthetic surface at the University of Limerick and at Glenstal Abbey School.

Given wet pitches at home, the squad was desperate to play its first competitive rugby for over three weeks and when the opportunity came, they performed very well indeed, beating a North Munster Academy side by 31 - 0 on the now familiar and reliable 3G pitch, with top international referee John Lacey officiating. Try scorers were Tom Barthen (2), Ed Harrison, Sam Mitchell and Ollie Brown, who was Man of the Match, with three conversions from Roan Kirkby.

Despite a lack of fixtures because of poor weather, some momentum has now been built by the tour, to carry forward into the second half of this term.

MDBJ



Gold, silver and bronze medals in the British Biology Olympiad

Tuesday 25 February 2014

Congratulations to the following Sixth Form students who have been awarded medals in the 2014 British Biology Olympiad.

Gold medal

Thomas Rowe (M)

Silver medals

Stanley Hau (SH)

Jonathan Shaw (Ch)

Bronze medals

Lucy Petch (MSH)

Tammy Wong (MSH)

William Hayes (M)

Elia Umar (MSH)

Highly commended

Lizzie Price (MSH)

Thomas Miller (Rb)

Commended

Nur Besar (MSH)



The British Biology Olympiad is an annual competition open to all post-16 students in the UK, which is run by the Society of Biology and is designed to challenge and stimulate the most talented young biologists in the country.



James Taylor's Double Century may earn him a place in the senior Test Team

Wednesday 26 February 2014



James Taylor (R 2003-08) scored 242 not-out on 21 February for the England Lions' in their four-day match against Sri Lanka, raising speculation that he may now be seriously considered for a place in the remodelled Test team for England.

An article by Mike Dawes in the [Daily Mail Online](#) gives more details:

"The 24-year-old featured twice in the home Test series against South Africa in the summer of 2012 but missed out on a place on the ill-fated Ashes tour of Australia, where England were whitewashed.

As a consequence of that disastrous tour England are looking for new blood, and Taylor's 242 not out in a four-day match against Sri Lanka A in Dambulla will certainly not harm his case for inclusion when the senior Sri Lankan side play two Tests in England later this year.' Read more in the article in the [Daily Mail Online](#)



Update on Oliver Greenall's Racing Stables (Malpas, Cheshire)

Wednesday 26 February 2014



Oliver Greenall (Rt 2000-05) reports , 'As we enter February, we are now well into the season and there is a real buzz in the yard. We have had six runners so far and whilst we haven't had a winner yet, we have certainly hit the cross bar a few times.

Desert Sting was second at Chipley and Our Crusade has run three times with form figures of 433. For the racing club in whose name he runs, he is an ideal club horse giving members plenty of days out and it shouldn't be long before he gets them into the winners enclosure.

It has been quite a challenging time since Christmas, as the volume of rain has made the grass schooling areas "out of bounds". We have so far avoided the extreme winter conditions that we experienced last year. Fingers crossed that continues!

Read more [here](#) in Oliver's newsletter.



The Sports All-Nighter...

Wednesday 26 February 2014

... or 'A night of shenanigans, competition and no sleep at all, in aid of Medic Malawi, somewhere in the intangible haze between 14th and 15th February 2014'

When Lesley Drew first mentioned to me that an all-night sports event might make quite a good charity fundraiser, my first, second and third reactions were all “Yes, obviously!” My fourth reaction was to admonish myself for not having the idea independently. It sounded like far more fun than is usually allowed on a Friday night and had the promise of half term following it to normalise any confused circadian clocks.

The plan for the event pretty much wrote itself. Things needed to be kept fresh, was our advice from the experienced: a different sport each hour would be ideal. Given that the English weather in February is usually English, we decided to keep everything in the Gym, where hell, high water, high winds or anything else would have no effect. So, to find ten different sports suited to the gym was task 2. Task 1 was to find 32 volunteers to form four teams to do battle. I didn't anticipate any difficulty with this and we found them without major or repeated advertising. Then we lost a load (I mean, who would book a skiing holiday in February?) and found a load more, one or two got injured (again, selfish) and at kick-off we had 30, including four staff as team captains.

Battle was to be done with badminton rackets, cricket bats, bicycles, Malawi footballs (you'll see), a normal football, a basketball, table tennis bats, a netball, four ergos and a volleyball. A few came in to support the start before Houses were locked for the night; one, Toby Vickers (M V), thought the idea such magnificent fun that he stayed all night (having sought Housemaster's permission, of course). Dom Dootson (M LVI) and Henry Thomas (Ch V) quickly volunteered to put together a playlist and the result was brilliant! At least I enjoyed, at 4am, bellowing along to Sultans of Swing!

To cap it off, Steve Fox had developed the sort of detachment with usual good sense with which an entire practice of psychiatrists would be delighted and of which he should be very proud indeed. Having visited Malawi in 2012, he wanted to do something to help raise money for the Eye Clinic and decided that a nice long stint on an ergo should do it. I did not previously think (nor do I now) that the words “nice” and “ergo” sit very comfortably together, especially not when qualified with “long”. But there it was: a marathon (42,195m) with a target of three hours for completion (and to earn a bonus on donations). To make sure it was not too easy, he elected to do it between 2.00 am and 5.00 am: a nod to the three Old Salopians who recently rowed the Atlantic in two-hour shifts and for whom the 2.00 - 4.00 graveyard slot would be especially traumatic.



Shrewsbury School Charity Sports All-Nighter, 14th - 15th February 2013

As well as the fun of the ten sports, we had impromptu batting/fielding practices, football skills displays (or ineptitude displays in some cases) and good simple games of catch going on at the side. Malawi football involved making a football out of plastic bags, rubber bands and string and then using it for a penalty shoot-out. Minus points for disintegration of ball. So when one ball had been completed, was being knocked around and flew up in a high arc, it was hugely unsportsmanlike and uncivil of SKPC to take a few paces (chuckling wickedly to himself, it's rumoured) and take an enormous swing at the volley. Minor structural surgery, reinforcement and a few glares followed. Dr Charlie Oakley was scorer for the night, was the only one who seemed to know what was going on all the time and kept scores projected onto a screen showing the teams' progress. Dodgeball was added at short notice and was considered an excellent idea by all.

Steve Fox arrived to prepare for his 2.00 am start, accompanied by Brandt Beckerman (O UVI) whose flight home to Germany had been delayed and who thought, at short notice, he'd have a go at the ergo marathon too. Barnaby Fox (PH IV, son of Steve) withdrew from joining in as a super sub wherever required and put on his main hat: marathon boat support crew. A third ergo was manned by the "rest of the world" team. Rest of the world in this case being defined as anyone else in the Gym at the time, rowing in shifts. In hour three Steve had to battle cramp but he continued at the pace he had set himself, always keeping his projected time around 2:58'. To increasing encouragement from his support crew – now augmented by everyone else as we'd managed to conclude netball – he rowed over the line in 2:57'46.6". Brandt completed, even faster, though I'd note he hasn't recently notched up his half century!



Though a few participants admitted trepidation at the beginning of the night, I was thoroughly impressed that not a single grump was had by anyone (have to admit I came close once, on losing... again) and, barring perfectly legitimate 10 or 20-minute naps when not actively needed (I have photos), everyone stayed the course through to completion. We were treated to a full cooked breakfast in KH (much bacon) and my favourite comment from a participant since is that he remembers walking through his bedroom door, then nothing until his mother shook him awake three hours later having come to pick him up! A lot of us re-surfaced for parent meetings at 11am.

I suppose I'll have to admit that, when 7.00 am swung around, Spencer Gunnell's team had won handsomely despite all of my attempts to rig the system.

Thanks to:

- Everyone who came to support, including the Headmaster, Richard Hudson, Marcus Johnson, Paul Vicars (3.00 till 5.00am!);
- Stephen Drew (Chief Exec of Medic Malawi) for advice;
- Alex Davies, theatre technician, and Rick Smith of IT for setting up the laptop, screen and projector;
- Chris Scrimshaw for turning up at 3.00 am to help see us through to the close uninjured;
- Dom Dootson who, with Henry Thomas, put together a playlist for the evening;
- Paul Kaye for organising the cycling superbly and being around for the first few hours to help set up and run things;
- Charlie Oakley, for keeping time, scores and a level head;
- Lesley Drew for constant support, and doing all of the non-sport-related organisational work before the event;
- Katie Collins for doing most of the sport-related organisational work before the event;
- Everyone who generously made donations to Medic Malawi and supported us in our endeavours;
- **And finally to everyone who took part so cheerfully and helped us raise over £2,200 and counting, which represents over 70 operations to restore sight to someone in Malawi.**

Ladies, Gentlemen, it was epic; it was a pleasure. I genuinely hope to do it again sometime!

SKPC

Revd Canon Mark Oakley Elected Shrewsbury Flower Show President, 2014

Friday 28 February 2014



Revd Canon Mark Oakley (Rb 1982-87) has been elected President of the Shrewsbury Flower Show for 2014. Read more at

<http://www.shrewsburyflowershow.org.uk/chairwoman-announces-society-pres...>



Three of Shrewsbury's top musicians look forward to their Cadogan Hall debuts

Friday 28 February 2014



L to r: Henry Kennedy, Awen Blandford and Laurence Jeffcoate

Laurence Jeffcoate will be performing the third movement from Mozart's IIIrd Horn Concerto in E Flat Major with the School's Symphony Orchestra. In his final year at Shrewsbury, Laurence has just gained a choral scholarship to Oxford. He is principal horn in the School's Orchestra as well as being a wonderfully talented singer and Choregus of the Chapel Choir.

Awen Blandford will be the soloist in Bruch's staggeringly beautiful *Kol Nidrei* for cello and orchestra. Also in her final year at Shrewsbury as a Music Scholar, Awen has gained a coveted place to the Royal Northern College of Music to study Cello from September this year. As well as being the principal cellist in the school's symphony orchestra, Awen is a talented singer and actress, and will be taking a leading role also in the revival of the Shrewsbury School Musical *The Lost Domain* at this year's Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

Henry Kennedy is fresh from being part of a wonderful performance with the CBSO Youth Orchestra in Symphony Hall last weekend, in which he was the solo bass and contra bass clarinettist. Henry is principal clarinet in the School's Symphony Orchestra and has gained also a scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music to study saxophone from next academic year.

Shrewsbury

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These three marvellous musicians will be joined by well in excess of a hundred other pupils to give the performance of their lives at Cadogan Hall on March 9th at 6.30 pm. Tickets are still available for the concert. For those in the Shrewsbury area, we are laying on supporters' coaches so that it will be possible to travel to and from London for the day and have a ticket for the concert for just £25.00. It's still not too late to book. Do please spread the word about the concert as much as possible to family and friends in the London area.

Tickets may be bought online from www.shrewsburyschool.ticketsource.co.uk or from Darren Wood on 01743 280812 or email dkwood@shrewsbury.org.uk

John Moore
Director of Music

Squash news: Rising star Alex Webb (R IV)

Friday 28 February 2014



Alex Webb (R IV)

The 1st V have been unbeaten against school sides so far this term, with home and away victories over Bromsgrove and a home victory over Malvern College. The number 1 player in the 1st V, Fourth Former Alex Webb (R) has on two occasions come from behind to beat Upper Sixth opponents.

Alex has been outstanding in both tennis and squash since his arrival at Shrewsbury last year. He played 2nd pair for the School's 1st VI tennis team as a Third Former and has now progressed to become the best tennis player in the School. He has also become the second player in the last seven years to beat me in tennis (the other boy being Matt Phillips (Rb 2006-08)). Alex combines fantastic speed and agility with a relentless work rate. This is allied to great tenacity and the ability to push himself to improve. I am most pleased with Alex's ability to take on advice and then to implement the coaching tips and this is one of the reasons for his quick progression. Only Zahan Dastur (SH 2007-08) who is now playing squash professionally and came second in the British University Championships, has exceeded the level of Alex whilst at Shrewsbury School.

Alex has also excelled for the U15A football team where he is known affectionately as "The Brazilian Donkey" by U15A coach Paul Pridgeon (which seems a little harsh as Nottingham Forest U16s have recently shown an interest in him). Again it is Alex's ability to take on advice and apply to the situation quickly that has seen him progress so quickly.

Shrewsbury School has excellent depth in squash this year as shown by our 2nd VI beating Wrekin College 1st VI 6-0 and winning all 18 games played. We are expecting to be very successful in the Shropshire Junior Squash Championships that are being held on 22nd/23rd March at Shrewsbury School.

MJH



Left: Squash 1st squad: (back row l t r) Tom Edwards (SV), Ed Graves (R LVI), Tiger Vechamamontien (M V); (front row) Anton Nelson (S V), George Bates (S UVI), Alex Webb (R IV); Right: 2nd squad (l to r) - Billy Riggall (R V), Fred Pook (Rb V), Anthony Koch De Gooreynd (O V), Luca Mattinson (Rb V), Charlie Lennox (M IV), Cameron Annyl (S 3)



Barnard is England's leading wicket-taker in thrilling U19s World Cup match

Friday 28 February 2014

England Under-19s secured a third-placed finish in the World Cup with a nail-biting one-wicket victory over Australia that went down to the last over. Upper Sixth Former Ed Barnard (PH), who had not been given a chance to show his bowling skills until today, was England's leading wicket taker with 3 for 22 off 7 overs, including two maidens.

Chasing Australia's 246 for seven, England fell to 213 for nine with just under four overs left, despite Ben Duckett's brilliant century. Last wicket pair Josh Shaw and Matthew Fisher managed to score 10 from the final over to pull off an unlikely victory with two balls to spare. Thrilling stuff and a fantastic way to end their World Cup campaign!

The photo below shows Ed receiving his Man of the Match award following England's opening World Cup match against Abu Dhabi on 14th February. He hit a superb innings of 93 off just 73 balls. We look forward to welcoming him back home.

Giles Bell's Team of the Week: Fencing

Friday 28 February 2014



The Fencing team with Ken Holding (front row far right) and Andrew Holding (front row far left)

If you read my [last Team of the Week article](#), you will be pleased to know that the rugby team returned from Ireland with a 100% win record! (See their [Rugby Tour to Ireland report](#).) This week my eye has been turned by another extremely successful sporting club: the Shrewsbury Fencing team.

I have always been a fan of good fencing, especially since we now have our own garden. My blind 'working' cocker spaniel Ted keeps disappearing through a hole in the hedge and into the woods beyond. There he gets stuck and barks loudly until someone (me) comes to retrieve him. These disappearances were happening late at night and at other massively inconvenient times (e.g. during Brighton playing Hull in the FA Cup). So it was decided to get some of Shrewsbury's finest fencers round to block Ted's woodland exit holes. I am happy to say that – admittedly after two separate visits (he is a wily hound) – Ted is now firmly encased by good fencing.

Shrewsbury School is also blessed with good fencing, particularly around the grounds sheds! (Apologies for bad fencing jokes. Please don't take offence or a fence as that would be stealing!) Back in 1552 when fencing was literally a matter of life and death, Ken Holding started coaching at Shrewsbury School – one of his first pupils being Sir Philip Sidney. There may be some slight inaccuracies in my last sentence but Ken has been coaching here for 43 years which is quite a record. Reminiscing about his own career as a fencer, he thought that beating the Danish National Squad in an International event with two old Salopians Phil Robinson and John Nugent stood out as a highlight.



Apart from coaching here, Ken has also helped choreograph plays and had lessons with the late Bob Anderson, who worked on fight scenes in *Star Wars* and *Pirates of the Caribbean* among other films. He was quick to mention the work of two of Shrewsbury's finest film star fencers: Ed Bullen (PH 1983-88) who appeared in Ken Brannagh's *Hamlet* and *Dan Morris* (M 1983-88) who played an important part in *Rob Roy*. (It should be noted that it was an important small part.) Dan Morris also fenced for Scotland with Richard Kelly (PH 1985-90). Dan is now the ophthalmologist for the Welsh Rugby team and lives in Cardiff. I know him quite well as I am married to his sister Emily. I asked Dan what motivated him to start fencing. He told me, "It was when Emily was fencing for the GB under-16s and started to be quite aggressive at home. I felt it was important as her older brother not to feel continually threatened and have to wear body armour at all times. So I took up the sport in order to protect myself and my friends." Emily, Esther Schützer-Weissman and Eleanor Bullen were the first girls to be given Shrewsbury School sports colours of any form, as they represented the School whilst winning the West Midlands Girls Team Championships in 1992. (By happy coincidence, Esther will be returning to Shrewsbury next Tuesday to give a Careers Talk on 'A Career as a Barrister' – a chance, perhaps, for a reunion of 'Les Trois Mousquetaires Feminins'?)



It seems the Shrewsbury Fencing club were ahead of their time and perhaps it is no surprise that the current Captain of the Senior Squad is a young lady by the name of Lucy Petch (MSH UVI). Lucy has won the respect of the entire squad by virtue of being a very organised person and also an inspiration to others. Marco Lee (I V), Arthur Cheng (SH LVI) and Scott Reynolds (Rb V) were quick to praise Lucy. "She connects well with the squad and is brilliant at sabre," they said all at the same time.

Ken is hoping that Lucy and Izzy Codron (EDH UVI) will perform well at the Public Schools' Competition (March 18-20th). He also told me that he is very proud of his current fencing squad. He went on to state that he thinks it is the best squad the School has had since he started coaching here.



Sabre coach Andrew Holding is also very upbeat about his current crop of fencers. He thinks their strength is that they are very coachable. Certainly their recent dominance of the Shropshire Open was impressive, as were their results at the West Midlands Championships. Jeff Pun (O LVI) came 3rd in the Epee, Marco Lee was 3rd in the Foil, Ross Viljoen (PH LVI) was 2nd in the Senior sabre and Scott Reynolds, Jonty Small (M UVI) and Arthur Cheng have performed with great skill and are all going to be involved in the National Championships. There is certainly sharpness about this squad and a cut and thrust seldom seen in other sports.

English Master Michael Schützer-Weissman (father of the afore-mentioned Esther) is currently the Master in Charge of Fencing. I asked him what had led him to take responsibility for this clearly vibrant sport. He told me, "A keen riposte has always been a noted feature of the Salopian character, but not all our readers are aware of how sharp it can be. The steely conversation of parry and thrust has echoed across the *salle d'armes* under the expert gaze of Ken and Andrew Holding for many generations.

"A fencer's forte is found in action rather than in words, but we felt that the world at large should know a little bit more about the many successes of the Shrewsbury School Fencing Club. In order to see our results in the correct perspective, it is important to understand that Salopians fence most of their contests against experienced, adult opponents. Results at the Public Schools' Championships show how successful the School's fencers are with regard to their equals and contemporaries.

"Salopian fencers do more than fight among themselves and against others. They also learn to referee matches and, as in the days of chivalry, to become their own armourers."

You do not need any credentials to know that the reputation of the club is a beacon for Shrewsbury. It is quite clear that Fencing at Shrewsbury is more than secure. Good luck to our fencers in their important forthcoming tournaments. Make sure there are no holes in your defence!

GJFB