

OSFC Ease Through to Semi Finals of Arthur Dunn Cup

Wednesday 1 February 2017



Congratulations to OSFC, who eased their way through to the quarter finals of the Arthur Dunn Cup, with a 2-1 win over Lancing Old Boys, on Saturday 21st January. Shrewsbury looked more comfortable than the score-line suggests and were supported by an enthusiastic home crowd.

The squad is: Richard McGarry, Ben Freeman, Oliver Brown, Alex Blofield, Max McClure, Max Lilley, George Wade-Smith, Adam Parker, Tom Kelly, Charlie Pilkington, Campbell Naylor, Will Briggs, Roy Chatterjee

As we go to press, the draw for the semi-final has not taken place, but watch this space and come along to support the team in their bid to make the final and maybe go one better than last year...

Photograph by David Bauckham dbauckham@mac.com

Success for School House boys at the Model United Nations

Wednesday 1 February 2017

During a weekend at MUNHIGH, which was hosted by Manchester High School for Girls and attended by 300+ delegates from 21 schools, the Shrewsbury School delegates got stuck into the thick of the debate, learned a great deal and had fun in the process. They also managed to pick up some impressive awards.

Among the prize winners were School House boys Mill Luangamornlert (LVI) and Peter Stanley (UVI). Mill was the Russian Ambassador and won the Highly Commended accolade in the Security Council. He also drafted a new resolution on a futuristic crisis situation involving GM crops, then lobbied effectively and rallied supporters to speak for it. His resolution passed with a large majority; an outstanding achievement in this sort of forum.

Peter also received a Highly Commended award for his role in the Media Committee. It is worth pointing out that the day before the MUN conference, Peter did an excellent job representing the School in the Oxford Union Regional Debating Competition; he was instrumental in helping the team qualify for the national final in stiff competition as one of eight teams from 54!



Baptism of Fire' - Shrewsbury School commemorates Wilfred Owen

Wednesday 1 February 2017

An article by Sam Bayliss (Rt LVI), submitted for publication in the Shropshire Star, describing a joint Shrewsbury School and Friends of St Chad's commemoration of Wilfred Owen, which took place last weekend.



Photo courtesy of the Imperial War Museum

The life and work of Wilfred Owen, Shropshire's most famous poet, was celebrated with a day of activities on Saturday 28th January, one hundred years after his arrival on the Western Front in January 1917. Sam Bayliss writes.

The day, organised by James Fraser-Andrews of Shrewsbury School's English Faculty to raise funds for St Chad's Church, remembered the household name who not only pioneered war poetry as we know it today, but changed people's views of war.

Helen McPhail, former chairman of the Wilfred Owen Association, led a tour that followed in Owen's footsteps, as they were guided around the town. The church then played host to world authorities on the writer with three lectures in St Chad's Church in the afternoon.



Speakers included Dr Guy Cuthbertson, Owen's most recent biographer, Dr Martin Deahl, ex-army consultant psychiatrist and Iraq veteran, and Dr Adrian Barlow, formerly of University of Cambridge. Insights into Owen's life, explorations of 'shell-shock', and Owen's cultural impact on later writers proved fascinating subjects to the 200-strong audience.

The day concluded with an evening recital of words and music, devised by James Fraser-Andrews. Led by Director of Music John Moore and Head of Woodwind Maria McKenzie, musicians from Shrewsbury School performed music from the period and beyond – including a world-premiere of a new setting of Owen's poem 'The Letter' by student Dan Powell (Ch UVI). Readings included Owen's best-loved poems, letters home, and brand-new writing from the School's Creative Writing Society.

The day was a fitting tribute to the poet who revolutionised war poetry after his first experiences of the Western Front in 1917, and who would tragically lose his life only seven days before the signing of the Armistice, on 4th November 1918.

"The pupils performed with great sensitivity for the kinds of art - by Owen and others - that civilises, dignifies or, at the very least, lays bare the contortions of the soul in times of such terrible violence," said Mr Fraser-Andrews.

The Friends of St Chad's were pleased to raise £1700 throughout the day, which will help maintain the unique church in Owen's home town. The event was a precursor to the major centenary commemorations of Owen's death that are due to take place next year.

Editor's note: As Sam Bayliss was himself part of the group of Shrewsbury School pupils who took part in the concert, he is perhaps a little reticent in stating just how warmly received their contributions were. The Headmaster received the following email after the concert from parents who were part of the audience. It was entitled 'Shrewsbury School at its best':

"The evening recital of poems and music at St Chad's last Saturday evening to mark the 100th anniversary of Wilfred Owen's move to the Western Front was quite brilliant; magnificent musicianship and singing accompanying readings that inspired and moved in equal measure. Owen's baton moves on to a new and worthy generation.

Congratulations to every last participant and to Mr Fraser-Andrews, Mr Moore and Mrs McKenzie for helping to make it all happen."



Woodwind Prizes

Wednesday 1 February 2017

The annual Woodwind Prizes were held on Sunday 29th January, with nearly 50 performers participating in a terrific day that was adjudicated by Katherine Baker, Principal Flute of the Hallé Orchestra.



Senior Woodwind Prizewinners with Katherine Baker

With such large numbers performing, the event was rather epic in proportion but demonstrated the sheer talent of the woodwind musicians at the School.

The Junior Class was for students working up to Grade 6, the Intermediate for Grades 6-8, and the Senior for anyone working at Diploma level.

Katherine thought the overall standard was fantastic and was delighted to give a performance herself at the end of the Senior Class in the beautiful acoustic of the Maidment Auditorium.

Junior Class

1st – Jeffrey Li

Highly Commended – Francesca Harris

Commended – Gordon Chong

Special Mention – George Clowes & Josie Williams

Intermediate class

1st – Oliver Toms

Highly commended – Phoebe Morris (Sax)

Commended – Joe Thevathasan

4th – Harriet Adams

Special Mention – James Snell & Rueben Denison

Senior class

1st – Orla McCormack

Highly commended – William Bedson

Commended – Sophia Price

4th – Jemima Price

Special Mention - Jonty Gould & Ella Johnson (Sax)

Maria McKenzie, Head of Woodwind

Delegate awards at Manchester High School MUN Conference

Thursday 2 February 2017

Shrewsbury's team of 21 Model United Nations delegates representing Russia, Israel and Kenya had a very enjoyable and successful weekend at Manchester High School for Girls' MUN Conference, with more than half of them managing to pick up awards and commendations.



"As always our delegates (veterans and newbies, young and old) got stuck into the thick of the debate, learned loads and had fun in the process," said Mr Peach, Teacher in Charge of MUN. "One great achievement of the weekend was Mill Luangamornlert drafting a resolution on a futuristic crisis situation involving GM crops, then lobbying effectively for this resolution and rallying supporters to speak for it. His resolution passed with a large majority, which is never easy in this sort of forum.

"In addition Rhys Trevor (PH UVI) chaired the Environment Committee alongside two pupils from other schools, thereby building another useful set of skills for the future."

Each committee had 1 Outstanding Delegate, 2 Highly Commended Delegates, 4-5 Commended Delegates, and a Best Junior Delegate.

Max Yale (S UVI) (Russia) was the Outstanding Delegate in the Science and Technology Committee. Mill Luangamornlert (SH LVI) (the Russian Ambassador) was Highly Commended in the Security Council.

Oliver Bureau (Ch LVI) (the Israeli Ambassador) was Highly Commended in the Human Rights Council.

Peter Stanley (SH UVI) (Russia) was Highly Commended in the Media Committee.

Nina Churchill (MSH LVI) (Israel) was Highly Commended in the Environment Committee.

Alec Barnes (PH UVI) (Russia) was Commended in the Environment Committee.

Tamara Fox (MSH LVI) (Russia) was Commended in the Human Rights Committee.

Henry Mayhew (Ch LVI) (Russia) was Commended in the Economic and Social Committee.

Nick Yale (S IV) (Kenya) was the Best Junior delegate in the Economic and Social Committee.

Sam Evans (R III) (Israel) was the Best Junior delegate in the Disarmament Committee.

Ed Plaut (S UVI) (Russia) got a Special Mention in the Human Rights Council.

Next month Shrewsbury will be hosting the inaugural [Shrewsbury School MUN Conference](#), which Ed Plaut and a team of other seasoned MUN-ers are busy organising at the moment.

Hot debate at Shrewsbury School

Thursday 2 February 2017

It has been a hectic week for the Shrewsbury Debaters, not only within the School but on a national platform too.

Last week on Thursday two teams represented the School at the Oxford Union Schools' Competition in the regional round. Peter Stanley (SH UVI) and Alec Barnes (PH UVI) made it through to the Final in Oxford on Saturday 11th March as one of eight teams from a competitive field of 54.

That same day the Junior House Debating Competition started with a great round on whether the NHS is doomed.

On Sunday, a talented Lower Sixth team of Angus Moore (S LVI) and Sam Bayliss (Rt LVI) competed in the regional round of the Cambridge Union Schools' Competition and acquired valuable experience for competing next year.



On Monday, our debating veterans Ed Plaut (S UVI) and James Whitaker (Rt UVI) (*pictured above*) debated on the issue of all-women's shortlists to redress parliamentary imbalance, in the English Speaking Union Competition. The audience enjoyed their way of combating gender inequality and I was proud to see them speak so compellingly on the need to empower women. A great last debate, as they unfortunately did not make it to the next round of this highly competitive competition.

Sonya Milanova



RSSH: Midlands League race at Wellingborough

Thursday 2 February 2017

Report by Dr Oakley.



It was a bright cold day in Wellingborough and the clocks struck two. Eleven Colts and nine senior members of the Hunt (not involved in the Coventry Relays) warmed up to tackle the slippery course of the Irchester Country Park.

The junior team would tackle a course of similar length to the Tucks. They all got away well and then ventured into the woodland being careful not to trip over any doorsteps. They emerged from a gap in the trees for the final kilometre loop towards the finish line. First to be spotted was Paddy Barlow leading a group containing Sam Watts. Calamity then struck. Paddy was misdirected in the final few furlongs, forcing him to double back. Sam took advantage and ultimately overall victory over a Bromsgrove runner, with Paddy in third.

Jonny Snell was not too far behind, holding off further challenge from Bromsgrove and within a whisker of the first Wellingborough counter. At this stage, Shrewsbury and Bromsgrove both had three of their four counters in and the scores were within three. It did not take much longer for Oscar Hamilton-Russell to cross the line in 8th and confirm the victory.

Timothy Clarkson Webb started the B team count with a valiant tenth place, before a throng of Uppingham runners came through the funnel. Alfie Biggs, Will Owen and Will Cowper all ran well but were just beaten by Uppingham to become the best B team. Cosmo Waddell and Louis Street came in before the final Bromsgrove counter, meaning the final score was Shrewsbury 18 - Bromsgrove 43; a resounding victory. Tim Levin finished well ahead of the Bromsgrove B team. The Shrewsbury B team accrued 74 points, narrowly losing to Uppingham's 72.

The Senior team then lined up for a longer course that comprised a short loop just shorter than a Benjy followed by the route that the Juniors followed. Charlie Ockleston started well and

certainly did not regret his choice of impressively long spikes on the softer parts of the course but may have struggled a little on the road.

Toby Spencer Pickup kept the Uppingham fourth, fifth and sixth counters at bay. Mark Pangin tackled the course with purpose, with Ali Harris in hot pursuit. Charlie Naylor was spotted making inroads into the top 40.



At the 2km mark, there was nothing to separate Harris Hunstman, James Snell and Ewan Cunningham Jardine. They then disappeared back into the woods. At 6km, Charlie O seemed to have third place sewn up but tried to run down the second place competitor from Uppingham. He was only ten metres behind him at the end – an impressive run.

Toby appeared in 14th place and held on for a strong finish. Mark came in 24th and Ali just missed out on the top 30. A flurry of Salopians then followed with Harris, James, Ewan and Charlie N finishing within 30 seconds of each other. There was one runner left out there, but where was he? Will Wheeler finally appeared and took an unorthodox route to the finish line for 61st place ahead of three runners from Wellingborough and one from Bromsgrove. The Seniors finished third, well ahead of Oundle.

Overall, it was an excellent display from the Juniors and Charlie Ockleston's third place was a magnificent achievement given the conditions.

CWO

RSSH: Coventry Relays

Friday 3 February 2017

Fresh from our recent victory at the Knole Run in Kent, it was a confident team that travelled down to Coventry for the annual King Henry VIII Relays on Wednesday morning.



We knew, though, that this would offer a very different challenge: six runners tackle the 2.3-mile course around War Memorial Park in relay, against fifty other teams from all around the country. The standard is frighteningly good, and suits some schools better than others – it's short, it's fast, and it's flat; not much like the Knole then!

This is a race we've been close to winning now for several years, and with the quality we've got this year we thought this might be our year. That said, our preparations went far from smoothly, with all but two of the 12 boys and an almost equal proportion of the eight girls succumbing in the week leading up to the race to illness or injury. With some of our fastest runners unavailable, perhaps it wasn't to be our year after all, but we travelled down confident in the knowledge that we have depth on our side. Our replacements were in good form and it shouldn't cost us too much.

In the boys' race, Owen Mock (R) got us underway for the A team, while Toby Pegge (PH) ran the opening leg for the B team. Neither got the best of starts in a frantic first dash up to the corner, but they managed to make up some places as they headed downhill into the wooded section, which had been made treacherous by heavy overnight rain. Both boys struggled to find their rhythm, and probably neither would be particularly happy with their eventual leg times (12:55 and 13.32 respectively). Nevertheless, it was good enough to keep us in contention, and though we had plenty of work to do, this was part of the game plan.



L-R: Libby Hedges, Claire Richards, Francesca Harris

Meanwhile, the girls' race had got underway five minutes after the boys, with Lucy Lees (EDH), a Third Former, getting stuck in amongst mostly Sixth Form girls! Not surprisingly she found the pace a challenging one, but gave it a really good go and showed a lot of potential for future years. For the B team, Sophia Dixon (MSH) was running her first race for a number of weeks after an injury, and found it tough. It wasn't the easiest circumstances in which to make your comeback!

Back in the boys' race, Harry Remnant (Ch) had taken the baton for the A team from Owen and was managing to claw back some places, despite having only just made the team due to a back injury. He wasn't quite up to his usual speed, but he did manage to gain on a significant number of schools and we were noticeably further up the field by the end of his leg, which he completed in 12:36. In the Bs, Sam Western (PH) had taken over from fellow housemate Toby for the second leg. As a Fourth Former, it was a tough ask to make up some places, but he did just that, again showing he's in excellent form this term, coming through in 13:04.

The girls' teams' second legs were run by Libby Hedges (G) and Anna Cowan (MSH). Both had strong runs and were able to keep us in amongst the other schools around us. These two have made tremendous progress as runners this year and will be looking forward to the County Champs at the weekend as a good opportunity to show off their form.



Tom Jackson

For the third leg, the boys handed over to Tom Jackson (R) and Charlie Ockleston (O) for the A and B team respectively. Tom has been in superb form, and for a Fourth Former to make the A team is a wonderful achievement – it means he'll have all the more experience when he comes to 'lead the line' as a Sixth Former in a couple of years' time. He ran a strong leg too, in 12:51, and managed to overtake a good number of competitor schools. At this point in the race, though, victory seemed beyond our grasp. Loughborough Grammar had already fielded three quick runners who had averaged 12:12 per leg, which left us a long way behind. Our tactics had left our three strongest runners in the last three legs, so we knew we'd come through the pack, but Loughborough seemed beyond reach. Charlie had a cracker of a run for the Bs – the fastest in the team on the day, finishing in 12:55 – and this was something of a revelation. He can take a lot of confidence from this performance and will, I hope, provide the springboard for future Hunt success.

Back in the girls' race Chessy Harris (EDH), our pocket rocket, had taken over for the third leg and was tearing through the field. Her time of 14:06 is very impressive, and was sixth fastest of everyone in the race that day – terrific stuff from a 3rd former! The leg managed to haul the A team well up the leader board as she handed over to Huntswoman Immie Evans (G) for the final leg. For the B team, Liza Alekseeva (EDH) was doing a sterling job, but this race doesn't really suit her style – she needed it to be a bit longer and a bit grittier to show off her talents.

Will Hayward (R) had taken the baton for the boys' A team and had made a very quick start. Again, this race doesn't quite suit him as it's too short, but he gave it a good go, powering through the wood section and picking up places in the lower half of the course. He was a little disappointed with his time of 12:22, but it was strong enough to haul us back up into the top ten positions and gave Scott Hatton (S) and Freddie Huxley-Fielding (R) a good platform to build on. For the Bs, Lucien Whitworth (R) was attacking the course as best he could, but was another who couldn't quite find his rhythm and was a bit disappointed with his time of 13:28.

Immie was able to have a real crack at the last leg and managed to pick up a couple of places over the course, hauling the team up to 18th position. Given it's such a young team (only one Sixth Former in Immie, and she herself in the Lower Sixth), this was a good result for us and suggests that we're in a good position to fight for a top ten place next year. In the Bs, Claire Richards (G) had been cajoled into taking off her track spikes and donning a pair of off-road shoes. Her favourite distance being 200m, it's fair to say that the 3.7km course was not exactly designed for her, but she nevertheless gave her all in a gutsy effort right to the line.

The boys' fifth leg was run by Scott Hatton, who had been suffering for several weeks with a bad chest infection, and while he was over it in time for the race, had left him short of fitness. That said, he has got a considerable amount of natural talent and was able to pull out a strong effort of 12:47 to help us get close to some of our rival schools. Loughborough were long gone by this stage, around two minutes ahead, and St Anselm's College in second were some way off too, but we knew that Freddie is capable of a very quick time so there was very much all to play for. In the Bs, Louis Nares (Rb), another Fourth Former, had shown strong form in his leg of 13:26, the third fastest in the team that day, to hand over to Niklas Amthor (R) for the anchor leg.



Freddie Huxley-Fielding



Freddie set off like a man possessed, and made a significant amount of ground in the first half of his leg, overtaking three other schools by the halfway point. By this stage he was locked in a battle with Sedbergh's runner just ahead of him, and a St Albans lad a little further up. Freddie spent the entire second half of the race getting as close to these two as he could, and in the final turn with 100m to go he had caught St Albans and was on Sedbergh's shoulder, but in the end the effort had been too much for him and the other two had just enough in the tank to pip him to the line in a dramatic finish, placing us sixth overall.

Freddie was a little disappointed in his time of 11.53, but in reality it had been a wonderful effort to get us in contention for these higher places. Niklas, who had been struggling with a knee injury since the Knole, nevertheless managed to fight bravely round the course in 13:32, just holding off Judd's B team runner. This meant that ours was the highest-placed B team of the day, which is a significant achievement.

The race was won in fine style by GB athlete Ben Dijkstra of Loughborough Grammar School, who completed his lap in a truly impressive 11.17. While the results were not quite what we'd hoped, we managed to remain extremely competitive (we were only 37 seconds off second place over what is in effect a 13.8-mile race) despite the many injuries and illnesses which had plagued us in the run-up to the race. The character showed by all members of the Hunt on the day was tremendous, and they were gracious in their defeat to Loughborough, who we – as well as everybody else – had to acknowledge as simply too good to be beaten. Well done to all who ran.

Ian Haworth

Treasures of the Ancient Library

Friday 3 February 2017

The School's Ancient Library was founded in 1606 and contains a large and fascinating collection of rare manuscripts and other treasures. It was visited recently by Mr Tim Pye, Curator of Libraries at the National Trust and formerly of the British Library, who wished to visit "a library of national importance".

The School Archivist, Robin Brooke-Smith, hopes to work with him on joint projects in the future.

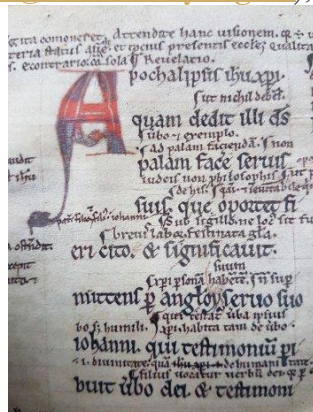
This follows another recent visit by Susan Flavell and Lynn Gough, the Managers of Buildwas Abbey, which lies just south of Shrewsbury. They wished to see the School's 'Buildwas Manuscript' (MS XII). It was originally kept at Buildwas Abbey from c 1150 until it was purchased by the School shortly after 1606.



There are more than 30 surviving 'Buildwas Books', mainly at Trinity College, Cambridge. The Shrewsbury Buildwas Book is the only one surviving in the county, and it contains the Apocalypse and Catholic Epistles with accompanying commentary in a contemporary hand.

Bound at the Abbey, it is possibly the oldest originally bound book in our collections.

The book is among many others on display in the Taylor Library and can be viewed on request by contacting Mr Brooke-Smith (rbs@shrewsbury.org.uk), or on Sundays after Chapel.





'Mr Darwin's Tree'

Friday 3 February 2017

An account by Charlie Johns (I LVI) of a riveting performance of the one-man show Mr Darwin's Tree'. Originally written to coincide with the bicentenary of Darwin's birth, it has since toured England and the United States to critical acclaim. On Sunday, it 'came home' to Shrewsbury, the town of Darwin's birth, and to his alma mater, Shrewsbury School.

On Sunday 29th January, 250 members of the Sixth Form piled into the Ashton Theatre to watch the production of 'Mr Darwin's Tree', written and directed by Murray Watts, with the solitary actor being Andrew Harrison.

A seemingly last-minute but well received change of plan had led them to be in the Ashton Theatre instead of the usual evening chapel. Shockingly, some Sixth Formers were skeptical; others were keen and unbiased, open to having their preconceptions about one-man theatre obliterated by the hammer of dramatic performance. I would put myself in this camp.



Mr Middleton, Deputy Head (Co-Curricular), descended the stairs onto the stage and stood blinking in the spotlight like a TV host. He told us of the critical acclaim that the play had received. I surveyed the packed arena and wondered if these critics would be doing similar acclaiming, or would be baying for blood like in the Colosseum. Actually, everyone was being quiet and well-behaved, obviously tired after the exhausting exertions that come hand in hand with a Sunday at Shrewsbury School.



There was a great deal of intrigue about the stage set-up, and rightly so. To stage left was a lone chair, and centre stage was a bizarre construction, which consisted of a step ladder, from which wooden branches made of what looked like metre rulers, protruded. It bemused me at the time, but upon further rumination and reflection I've decided that it might be some conceptual reference to the tree of life which Darwin devised during his interesting and enduring life. Below that were a round table and two chairs, where Harrison enacted Darwin's frantic writing scenes and also the deeply poignant deathbed sequences. A nice minimalist and portable set, I thought.

But what of the actual acting?

It's astonishing how one man can hold the attention of 250 tired young men and women for upwards of an hour. As Mr Middleton perceptively put it in his summarising evening email, "There were moments when you could hear a pin drop". Too right there were.

There was writing from Watts that would not have looked out of place in a high-ranking poetry book. Harrison's intonation, had this been delivered in French, would have gained him a distinction grade in a Pre-U oral exam. He rolled his 'r's with precision, and glided gracefully over some of the more tranquil narrations. At times he spoke rapidly and heatedly, at others he faltered and feigned, his voice quivered with emotion. This guy was able to portray Darwin as a squeamish university student, a young, shy, seasick yet passionate expeditionary aboard HMS Beagle, his traditional and domineering, yet benevolent father, and even his dying ten-year old daughter Annie. Mesmerising. I now feel like I've got a tangible grasp of the personalities of all these characters, despite having had no prior knowledge of them.

The play challenges many preconceptions about Darwin and his legacy and the supposed conflict between faith and science. Along with the dramatic story of Darwin's own life, struggles and scientific quest, there are the powerful themes of his wife Emma's Christian faith and their poignant conflict on issues of belief in an otherwise perfect marriage, and the personal tragedies and joys of their journey through life together. As a philosophy student, I found it very engaging, and the ideas were discussed in a way that was very accessible, even to those who were new to the ideas being raised.

I attempted to gauge the reception in the immediate aftermath, in Ingram's Hall, a building that fills me with joy to be able to call home. One friend of mine said, "Yeah that was a really good!" I'd never seen such an outburst of passion, derived from a dramatic stimulus, from him before. We even had a brief debate in the Link about exactly what it was about it which was so enjoyable. The air in Ingram's was positively thick with erudite debate; unanticipated.

This was a very powerful piece of theatre. I have to say, my prejudice that one-man shows are naff and a bit boring was dismantled, destroyed and shattered in one hour. I'm sure this was true for all others present.



RSSBC: Head of the Severn

Friday 3 February 2017

Two J16 eights raced at the Head of the Severn held in Worcester on Sunday 29th January.

The crews both performed well, racing in the J18 category, and came away with second and third place.





Giles Bell's Team of the Week

Friday 3 February 2017

This week, Netball.

There was competition for this week's Team of the Week slot as Reggie Bell played his first ever sporting fixture. He donned the tags for a game of touch rugby as Prestfelde Under-9s took on the might of Shrewsbury High Prep. The massive crowd were enthralled by a highly athletic and disciplined game played at a furious pace. I spoke to a number of spectators who had managed to find a 'window of opportunity' to sneak away from the office and watch their favourite player. All of them wished to remain anonymous and I was only watching as I went out to post a letter which suddenly leapt out of my grasp, (it was a very windy day), and was blown all the way to Prestfelde where I finally managed to retrieve it. I have decided not to mention that game however, as many of you will have watched it on Sky. Instead I will be concentrating my attention on the Shrewsbury School netball squads.

I needed no such gust of wind to propel me to the netball courts earlier in the week, where I was a significant percentage of the crowd that turned out to catch the end of senior netball practice, followed by Under-14 and Under-15 matches against Thomas Telford. (Thomas Telford School, not Thomas Telford, as he no longer graces the netball court of life and from what I can gather was not renowned for his goal shooting or defending anyway.)

I was introduced to the recently recruited Karen Hall, our new coach. I didn't stay for her team talk as that was a bit 'Longmynd-ed' (Coach joke alert)! Karen is well known in Shropshire Netball circles. Indeed her name keeps popping up again and again, possibly because she runs her own netball team called 'Recycles'. I asked her for her first impressions of Shrewsbury School netball. She told me that the top squad can run four teams and have great strength in depth. She felt that few schools could run so many teams at such a high level and she was delighted by the enthusiastic and positive attitude to the game to be found among the participants. "I am delighted by the enthusiastic and positive attitude to the game found among the girls at Shrewsbury," Karen said. Lower down the School she feels there is real talent, as evidenced by the Under-14s reaching the Midlands Finals and the Under-15s being undefeated in their age group this season.



I was lucky enough to witness Karen coaching some senior girls who are so enthused by the game that they had stayed behind for extra training. Club Captain Eily Kerr told me: "I am enthused by netball. Extra training is just so much fun, I wish we could do it all day." Eily is a

gifted Philosophy & Theology student and admitted “I can’t ‘Plato’ often”! She went on to say, “I am proud to be involved in such a talented, happy and positive squad of players.”

Another keen exponent of the game, Orla McCormack, was working on her defensive technique. Orla recently won the Senior Wind Prize on her saxophone and she is certainly in tune with Karen. Orla can be likened to a whirlwind, as she engulfs her opponents in a storm force gale of defensive manoeuvres. “There is nothing like a good winding,” she told me.



Mima Price, who is first team captain and an ever-present member of the first team throughout her distinguished time at Shrewsbury, clearly loves her netball. “It is something I love to do when I am not playing the clarinet, working on my A level art or looking forward to a deeply academic and intellectual conversation with my tutor.”

Another devotee of the game, Sophia Price, was keen to tell me how much she enjoyed playing with her big sister. “It is wonderful to be in a team with such an inspirational player as my sister”. “It’s my birthday soon,” Sophia added. “But really there is one person I have to thank for honing my skills and that is my dad, Brian. He just loves netball and has an encyclopaedic knowledge of the history of the game.” Both Sophia and Mima are goal shooters for Shrewsbury. It would be fair to say the Shrewsbury goals come at a fair price!



The Prices are ably supported by midfielders Molly Stokes and Amy Pook, whilst Veronica Parr and Amelia Maunder help goalkeeper Julianne Hinwood keep the Shrewsbury net free of goals. There are others I should mention as the squad rotates regularly, but time dictates that I move to the lower echelons of the netballing ladder.

The Under-15 team were taking on Telford without top shooter Amelie Davies who was gutted not to be playing. "I have no gut any more, I am so gutted" Amelie told me. Poppy Collingwood Cameron is the other main source of goals and she was in fine form, helping finish off the excellent team play with goals that any famous netball shooter (such as Russian star Haveagoyah Poppemin), would be proud of. Despite the setback of losing Georgia Kannreuther to a serious scratch on the hand from a nasty fall (which was extremely well attended to by the medical team who utilised the first aid box to the extent that it is conceivable that every single yard of bandage and sticking plaster in Shropshire will need replacing).



The team won convincingly, 22-8, with fine performances from Eleanor Nibblet, Mary Lees, Marie Nuthjen, Artemis Cooper, Laura Elliott, Katie Ford and Izzy Lewis.

The Under-14s were also missing some key players, with Georgie Nicholas and Eddie Hargraves out injured. Annie Middleton was strong up front and Liv Usher, Ellie Kynaston and Phoebe Morris were resolute in defence. However, they went down by 1 goal: 8-7.



Coaches Emma Kelly, Katie Marriot and Nicola Bradburne were quick to praise all their teams but mentioned that the attitude in the Under-14s is first class. "These girls listen to advice and will therefore improve," said Mrs Bradburne. Alice Hughes told me, "I am quite prepared to listen to our expert coaches. I have been trained very well in such skills by my Philosophy & Theology teacher." Daisy David and Catrin Heath are also good listeners. Elisabeth Edwards is too.

It is clear that netball is a popular and vibrant sport at Shrewsbury, although rumours that the local knitting group are going to sponsor the coaching team have been denied by Head of Girls' Sport Nicola Bradburne. Sam Shantry was just being nice to her husband Adam, who has just finished an ECB knitting course (to help nervous cricket coaches stop biting their nails as they watch their teams for hours on end!).



GJFB

Careers Bulletin for Sixth Formers

Friday 3 February 2017

The Careers Fellow, Mrs Dry, produces a weekly bulletin for Sixth Formers with links to information on gap year schemes, school leaver programmes, work experience opportunities and university taster courses - among other items that may be of interest.

The news this week 100 years ago: 3rd - 9th February 1917

Friday 3 February 2017

This week we remember:

Captain Alexander Armstrong Rees, Royal Army Medical Corps attd. 7th Bn. Royal Sussex Regiment.

Chance's (now Severn Hill), left in 1902. Killed in action in France, 4th February 1917, aged 32. Buried at Wanquetin Communal Cemetery Extension, France. Grave I. B. 15.



Biology Olympiad success

Friday 3 February 2017

Seven of our Upper Sixth biologists joined more than 7,500 pupils who volunteered to take part in the first round of this year's Biology Olympiad, organised by the Royal Society of Biology. They achieved outstanding results, winning two gold medals (awarded only to the top 6%), three bronze medals and two highly commended.



The competition is open to all post-16 students in the UK and is designed to challenge and stimulate the most talented young biologists in the country.

Gold Medals

Josh Bray (Rb)

Ben Jones (Rb)

Bronze Medals

Lucy Price (EDH)

Josh Himsworth (Ch)

Will Bedson (Rb)

Highly Commended

Sasha Lo (EDH)

Jake Elliot (Rb)

Shrewsbury School SparkPoint - 'Words, words, words'

Friday 3 February 2017

This week's edition focuses on the power of language – and some of the people who have done extraordinary things with it.

Please click on the image below to open 'Shrewsbury School SparkPoint – Words, Words, Words as a pdf file.

SHREWSBURY SCHOOL | SPARKPOINT

The Vehicle of Thought

We appear to have reached a point in the history of Civilisation at which we actually take language for granted. When we have a thought, we tend to assume we can express it to another person – in fact, usually, the thought itself is formulated as language in our mind. Words are, of course, extraordinarily powerful things. They are imbued with unusual and peculiar properties – certain words, of course, are offensive and certain words can utterly transform our actions, thoughts and relationships. This week's SparkPoint, then, is devoted to a gallery of luminous people and some ruckies too, of course, who have done extraordinary things with language – using words as a demurge to creativity.

If there is any message to be had here, it is that language is an incredibly powerful and precise tool – we owe it considerable respect!

A Collection of Curiosities

The following words – now, sadly not in regular English usage, are taken from Fayle's Philology – a treasury of unusual words.

serenial – adjective
This word describes something that is – at the same time excessive, irregular, confused and disordered.

limnaceous – adjective
This word is used of anything which has meat as its primary habitat.

nowanary – adjective
This word describes something that has a strong connection with or derives from the number nine.

cardiform – adjective
This word describes any creature that has a form that resembles that of a thimb (genus Functus).



In this extraordinary short story, Henry James demonstrates exactly what can be achieved through the power of words. It details the relationship of two people brought together by a case of linguistic catastrophe and is well worth a read.

SP40 – Jean-Dominique Bouby – 1952-1997

Having suffered a massive stroke at the age of 43, the French writer and author discovered that although he could think clearly, he could only move his lips to make a guttural system of sounds in which his former readers the syllables slowly to form. He dictated his autobiography in ten months, describing his experiences before and after the catastrophe. [Click here](#) for more.

5 Minutes

SP41 – Stephen Sondheim – A Little Priest

Click [here](#) to see the song that perhaps demonstrates more than any other, Stephen Sondheim's mastery of the English Language. Sweeney Todd and Mrs. Lovett contemplates what to do with the body of a recently murdered woman – and it all gets a little out of hand. It's a strikingly comic and deeply sinister number.

5 Minutes

SP42 – The Klingon Language – Mark Okrand

A world-renowned authority on language for the hearing impaired, Okrand became fascinated by the development of the Klingon language from Star Trek. Eventually so excited was he by the concept, he actually developed it into a fully fledged language complete with grammar, syntax and vocabulary. [Click here](#) to get a taste!

5 Minutes



Fives Northern Championships

Monday 6 February 2017

Shrewsbury School hosted the Northern Championships last weekend (4th - 5th February), one of the main events of the Fives calendar.

Nina Lange (G) & Sophia Breese (EDH) won through to last 16 of the Festival and put in a strong performance there. Will Hope (Ch) and Revd Alex Aldous (our Chaplain) also reached the last 16.

In the Main section, Sam McLoughlin (Rb) and Adam Aslam-Baskeyfield (Rb) reached the last 16 and pushed well against a strong OS pair. Although they lost and then entered the Plate, they subsequently went on to reach the final of that competition.

Their opponents in the last 16 went through to face Dan Orchard (PH) and Seb Cooley (Master in Charge of Fives) in the quarter-final of the Main section. The Shrewsbury pair won that match but went on to lose in the semi-final to the top seeded pair – a worthy effort nonetheless!

Other highlights from the event were Issy Wong (G) & Lizzie Ware (MSH) getting to the final of the Plate, and Finn Sansom (PH) – playing his first event – with Marcus van Wyk (Rb) reaching the Plate semi-final.

Well done to all players and hosts.

Service of Epiphany at St Mary-le-Bow

Monday 6 February 2017



If ever an advertisement was needed for the standard of the Arts both at Shrewsbury School and in the Old Salopian community, it was the service of Readings and Carols for Epiphany held on Wednesday 11th January at St Mary-le-Bow Church, Cheapside. Winter blues were blown away by a choir (assembled by Richard Eteson (G 89-93) and Patrick Craig (Ch 82-87)) which resembled a Who's Who of Salopian choristers across the decades and readers ranging from a former Lord Mayor of London to one of the first cohort of Old Salopian Ladies. The service was conducted by Gavin Williams, former Chaplain (93-02), and attended by over 80 Salopians and guests, many of whom repaired to the local hostelry afterwards where there was much talk of a repeat performance next year.



Oxford Students' Gathering

Monday 6 February 2017



Old Salopians studying in Oxford were invited to a gathering in the King's Arms on Friday 3rd February. There was a good turnout of students from the various Oxford Colleges and Oxford Brookes and a good evening was had by all.

The event was organised by Ed Carroll (Ch 10-15) with the Salopian Club picking up the drinks tab.

If anyone would like to organise a similar event at another university please do get in touch.



Football: ISFA Boodles Cup semi-final

Tuesday 7 February 2017

Wednesday 1st February saw the end of an incredible ISFA Boodles Cup run for our 1st XI. Despite a heroic effort from the squad, they exited the tournament with their heads held high.

Steve Wilderspin, Master in Charge of Football, writes:

Our opponents Millfield have been the team to beat in the past five years and have an enviable record in the Boodles competition, so we knew we would be seen as underdogs going into the semi-final. We went into the game as well prepared as we could have been, with a clear tactical plan to take the game to our opponents.

The match started with both teams somewhat nervy due to the high stakes, made more difficult by a strong wind. Kicking into the wind, the first half did not start well for our lads when, with only two minutes on the clock, Millfield took an early lead. It was a terrific long ball that required a perfect touch and finish, which the talented Millfield wide player executed with precision. Shrewsbury were initially shaken but soon gained their composure to settle into the game.

The planned tactic of hitting Millfield on the counter with diagonal passes went out of the window due to the windy conditions, so it was going to be a half of football that required organisation and discipline. However, the tactic paid off at the 20-minute mark when, following good pressure from James Nelson (SH), Charlie Tait-Harris (S) scored a superb goal after a terrific square pass from Tom Brunskill (S).

Millfield threw everything at us, trying to capitalise on the favourable windy conditions, though we were still looking threatening on the counter. Millfield's pressure told with only three mins left on the clock in the first half, as a vicious in-swinging corner was headed in at the near post.

Half time 1-2; all to play for...

The second half was a different story, with our lads exerting long periods of pressure with the wind on our back. A penalty by our ever-reliable captain Josh Malyon (Rt) brought the scores level (2-2) midway through the second half, and we now felt we had the ascendancy.

As the half went on, it was Shrewsbury who were looking to most likely to score, despite Millfield forcing some good saves from Man of the Match Paddy Jacob (PH). A superb header at the near post by George Newton (SH) following another vicious in-swinging corner by Jamie Whelan (PH) put us ahead for the first time in the match (3-2) with ten minutes remaining.

Millfield sensed they were on the way out and threw caution to the wind, which brought its reward when a penalty was awarded with three minutes remaining – a weak infringement but the correct decision – despatched with aplomb by the Millfield captain. Paddy Jacob made a terrific save with a minute to go, to give us the chance to take the game into extra time.

Full-time 3-3; the same score as our meeting earlier in the year.

The extra time period was to see the boys throw everything at Millfield and showing tremendous fitness levels and courage. During the first half of extra time we hit the bar and forced saves from the Millfield goalkeeper. Alas, both teams' defences held firm to keep the score 3-3 at the end of extra time and on to the lottery of the penalty shoot-out.

We missed our second penalty; Millfield missed their third. So having scored our fifth penalty, Millfield had to score their fifth to stay in the match – which they did.

This was repeated for the sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth penalties – with the pressure mounting, as a single Millfield miss, each time, would have put Shrewsbury in the final. However, we missed our tenth penalty, giving Millfield the chance to score for a place in the final – an opportunity that they duly took.



Win together, lose together

Having won the competition twice in the past five years and losing another final, our boys can take huge pride in taking a side of the quality of Millfield to penalties. It is never a nice way to go out of any competition, particularly at that stage, but to lose to an opponent of this quality shows the level of football our boys have produced this year.



Rugby news round-up

Tuesday 7 February 2017

On Saturday 4th February, the Rugby Club welcomed Bishop Vesey Grammar School, one of the stronger outfits of our fixture list.

The **1st XV** lost (19-37), but the score line does not reflect the closeness of the match. The team was bolstered by the return of a number of players – Angus Drummond (O), Kwaku Antwi (SH) and Ivor Fetherstonhaugh (O) – who added an extra cutting edge that enabled a more attacking brand of rugby to be built upon the platform created by the forwards.

There were some excellent chances that, if converted, would have brought the scores closer, but there is plenty to take from the match.

The **U16s** played the Bishop Vesey 2nd XV and won 43-7, further highlighting their dominance of the local LT rugby scene. This is win number 24!

This was a particularly significant match as, when U14s, the Bishop Vesey team pushed the team very close. So although this game was against their 2nd XV, our squad were up for the match. This showed in the first 20 minutes, when the boys played rugby of the very highest order to put lots of points between themselves and the opposition. Bishop Vesey came back strongly in the second half, but the damage had already been done.

Man of the Match was Toby Pattinson (Ch), who showed real threat throughout the match. Tries from: Toby Pattinson (Ch), Joe Scott (O), Tom Plaut (S), Matt Brinkley (PH), Guy Morris (O) x 2, Fingal Dickins (R).

Conversions: Guy Morris x 4.

The U16s were also in action during the week in the County Cup versus Lacon Childe – winning 49-0. Again, a quick start put the game to bed with a 30-point lead by half-time. The second half did not go as well, but further scores secured another easy win.

Tries from: Joe Scott (O), Felix Kenyon-Smith (S), Toby Pattinson (CH), Luka Cassidy x2 (R), Matt Brinkley (PH), Frank Mansell (PH).

Conversions: Guy Morris (O) x 7.

The **U15s** were also in County Cup action vs Adams' Grammar – winning 22-14. A strong Adams team, in an away match, required the team to show resilience and determination to ensure that their county run got off to the perfect start.

Jack Goodall (Rt) and Frank Mansell (PH) controlled the game effectively, enabling the pack to run hard lines and create openings that could be exploited. This is now three wins in a row.

Tries from: Hnoo-Kaew (O), Frank Mansell, Walton (S), Chikamori (S).

Conversions: Frank Mansell.

The Millfield captain reflected on the semi-final the following day via an email conversation with Mr Wilderspin and made these comments: "It was a cracker of a semi-final, two very evenly matched teams giving everything to win and it's just a shame that there had to be a loser at the end of it. Your boys showed real togetherness and fighting spirit that we certainly haven't come up against with any of our other opponents this season, and the last 45 minutes and going into extra time was the toughest battle we've had on the pitch."

To receive such compliments shows just how well our boys did. They gave Millfield a real scare and can take huge pride from the fact that in two games we have drawn both 3-3.

Let's now hope that Millfield go on to win the final so we can say that we went out to the eventual winners! We wish Terry and the Millfield boys the best of luck in the final.

To get to the final four in the blue-ribbon national competition, reaffirms our status as part of ISFA's footballing elite and sets the standard to maintain in the future.

Fencing success

Tuesday 7 February 2017

On Saturday our fencing team welcomed Rugby School.

They gave a superb performance in both the Foil, with a 9-0 win and a 7-2 win in the Epée.

The Foilists were Suky OuYang (MSH), Kimberley Xia (EDH) and Jude Huffer (Rb).

The Epéeists were Jan Tai (R), Archie Free (Rt) and Koby Ferdinand-Okpala (SH).

Fives Northern Tournament

Wednesday 8 February 2017



The Northern Tournament took place at Shrewsbury this weekend and the old Salopians had a brilliant day on the fives court. No fewer than 8 of the 16 players in the quarter finals were Salopians.

Although we all lost in the Quarter-Finals, it demonstrates the talent we have, given that we have only started playing regular division 1 fives again this year.

Special mentions go to Tom Cox (M 00-05) and Rex Worth (S 02-07), who played some brilliant fives all day, and to Grant Williams for organising dinner for a few of us.

The quarter finalists were as follows;

- Tom Cox (M 00-05) & Rex Worth (S 02-07)
- Chris Hughes (S 04-09) and Tom Welti (I 04-09)
- Ed Taylor (SH 02-07) and Sam Welti (I 07-12)
- T Walters (PH 91-96) (with honorary Old Salopian Grant Williams) – T had to retire, but Grant told me that if he hadn't they would have definitely won the match they were playing against the third seeds.

Seb Cooley played with one of the School boys and reached the Semi-Finals. Very nice to see a number of Salopians making headway in these competitions.

Chris Hughes.

Salopian Ninja Warrior

Wednesday 8 February 2017



If there is one thing which is predictable about our OS, it is that they are rarely predictable... or boring!

Many congratulations to Alvin Loh (SH 11-13), who has battled through to the semi-finals of Ninja Warrior UK - a gruelling obstacle/assault course designed to test strength, endurance, balance, speed and other physical attributes.

If you would like to catch up with the show you can view it on [this link](#). Alvin starts at around 12.42 minutes in.

Excellent Turnout for our Seasonal Drinks Parties

Wednesday 8 February 2017

Once again the Salopian Club seasonal drinks parties saw record numbers of OS attending and enjoying the three very different and enjoyable events.

For those who haven't already read it you can follow [this link](#) to the earlier article about the City Drinks party, held at the Traveller's Club on Pall Mall. Once again well over 200 OS from across the generations came along. It really is a good evening and plans are already underway for November 2017, so keep an eye out for details.



The annual Birmingham Drinks Party was held at All Bar One, Newhall Street. We were fortunate to be joined this year by a small group of current Postors and a number of young OS who are living or studying in the Birmingham area, as well as many familiar faces from the West Midlands area.

Our thanks, as ever, go to Richard Woodgate (Rt 54-59) for organising the event.



The final event of the year is our Christmas Drinks party in the Alington Hall here at the School. About 120 OS, along with current and former parents and members of staff came along to enjoy mince pies and mulled wine, Champagne and canapés, before many made their way across to Chapel for the Carol Service. The event has a wonderful atmosphere and is really worth attending if you are able to make it along next time.

Medal-winning performances at the English Indoor Rowing Championships

Wednesday 8 February 2017

Twelve rowers went to the Manchester Velodrome on Sunday to compete in the English Indoor Rowing Championships.



Olivia Moir and Tiggy Cowan-Taylor raced in the women's J15 individual events, coming in an impressive second and fourth out of a strong field. The girls were then joined by Lauren Bermingham and Hattie Haynes to compete in the J16 team event. Despite racing up an age group, the girls produced an excellent performance winning bronze medals in the event.



The J16 boys took two teams with one racing in the J16 event and the other in the J18 event. The team in the J16 event (Petr Rostokin, Cameron Hughes-Williams, Ali Davies and Jack Lockett) were pushed hard over the first 1500m but then started to show their class as they developed a healthy lead to win the title in an impressive time.



J16s

The J18 team of Adam Pattenden, Elliot Crossley, Henry Ludlam and Ed Hart held their own against the older opposition and secured a well-deserved bronze medal.



Mr Hundermark, Director of Rowing



Severn Hill House Play: 'A Respectable Wedding' by Bertold Brecht

Wednesday 8 February 2017



Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL





Netball v Oswestry and Shrewsbury Sixth Form College

Thursday 9 February 2017

Shrewsbury had four senior teams out for the first time ever this week, demonstrating our strength and depth in netball this year.

1st VII v Oswestry 1st VII

The 1st team enjoyed an excellent win on Wednesday 8th February against Oswestry 1sts.

Jemima Price and Sophia Price linked well in the circle and created some great shooting opportunities. The centre court provided some excellent attacking moves down court but also defended well. Orla McCormack and Amelia Maunder worked well as a defensive team and made some great interceptions.

It was good to see the team putting new skills into practice. Final score 23-13.

1st VII v Shrewsbury 6th Form College 1st VII

Our final game was against the Shrewsbury Sixth Form College 1st team and this proved to be a greater challenge. Our shooters were put under a lot of pressure and shooting opportunities were harder to come by. The opposition had the tallest defenders we had ever seen!

However, the girls battled hard and there was some very intelligent play from both Molly Stokes and Amy Pook in centre court.

All the girls should be proud of their efforts.

2nd VII v Oswestry 2nd VII

The 2nd team produced a convincing 23-3 victory over Oswestry this week. The squad had been working hard in training on teamwork and communication and so it was great to see this working effectively in a match.

Harriet Adams (EDH) made the move from centre court into the attacking circle with great success. Her movements complemented Jetty Russell (G) at Goal Shooter, allowing Shrewsbury to take a comfortable lead early on. Katie Oswald and Lizzie Ware (MSH) were a great team in defence, denying Oswestry shooting opportunities. Lizzie Ware was player of the match.

2nd VII v Shrewsbury Sixth Form College 2nd VII

Confident from the win against Oswestry, the 2nd team stormed ahead against Shrewsbury Sixth Form College in the first few minutes of the game and never looked back. The Sixth Form College were always on the back foot and Shrewsbury finished the game 16-1 winners.

Great teamwork led to a great set of results for the afternoon.

3rd VII v Shrewsbury Sixth Form College 3rds

This was a close game for the duration of the match, with both teams playing to their strengths. Despite a very slippery surface, our girls maintained a good performance. Strong defence from Clemmie Baynes (who was later nominated as Players' Player) and Naomi Potts ensured that the Sixth Form College never maintained possession for long.



Excellent shooting from Katie Edwards (EDH) and Ferne Nicholas earned a well-deserved 7-6 win.

3rd VII v Shrewsbury Sixth Form College 4ths

Shrewsbury moved the ball well around the court and moved effectively for each other. Clemmie Baynes dominated the centre third, providing an additional pass to move the ball forwards. Katie Edwards and Ferne Nicholas moved well in and around the circle, providing themselves with the best possible chances to shoot.

A good win of 17-11 for a team that are continuing to improve.

4th VII v Shrewsbury Sixth Form 4ths

Shrewsbury Sixth Form College put up a strong defence putting real pressure on our attackers. Anna Scott-Bell (G) was a very effective Goal Attack both in her positioning on the court and her excellent shooting.

With the first half ending on a 6-6 draw, it was all to play for. Arty Cooper (MSH), Olive Collingwood-Cameron (G) and Rou Ann Lim (MSH) worked well together in driving the ball forward and assisting the team in securing a 14-12 win. A great effort from all players. Artemis Cooper was nominated by the Sixth Form College as Players' Player.

4th VII v Shrewsbury Sixth Form College 3rds

A great, well balanced and end-to-end game, with both teams making the most of their chances.

The score was 5-5 at half time. Good play from Araminta Plumptre (MSH) and Darcie Scimia gave Shrewsbury the lead with two minutes to go. Unfortunately the Sixth Form College came back strongly and just managed to nip ahead before the final whistle, resulting in a 9-11 loss.

A great effort from Shrewsbury 4th team, with some girls representing Shrewsbury netball for the first time.



Lacrosse: North Schools Tournament success and County team selections

Thursday 9 February 2017

The U15 Lacrosse team had a very successful day at Moreton Hall in the North Schools' U15 Tournament last Sunday. They finished sixth, having been victorious against Queen's Chester, Timperley and Mellor and losing by only one goal against national powerhouses Queen Margaret's, Moreton Hall and Bolton.

The Tournament was fast and furious, with each match consisting of two 10-minute halves with no half-time and only two mins between each match.

The girls played their utmost and executed all that they had been practising. Top goal-scorers were Georgia Kannreuther (MSH IV), Poppy Collingwood-Cameron (EDH IV), Mary Lees (EDH IV) and Georgie Nicholas (MSH III). At the other end, Goalkeeper Mimi Mason-Hornby (G IV) was a stalwart in goal and made some amazing saves. Well done to all players.

The U15 county trials took place at Moreton Hall on Wednesday 8th February. The majority of the 42 triallists were from Moreton Hall, but with there were a few from Lucton School and nine girls from Shrewsbury.

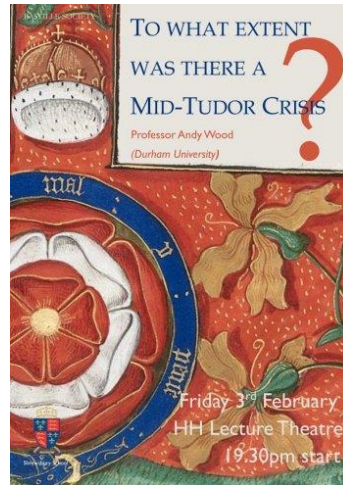
After an hour and a half of competitive play, the A and B squads were announced. Georgia Kannreuther and Poppy Collingwood-Cameron were selected for the A team, and Annabel Naylor (G IV), Laura Elliott (G IV), Mary Lees, Willa Bowman (MSH III) and Lucy Lees (EDH III) for the B team. Laura Elliott was selected as Captain of the B team.

Congratulations to the girls for their hard work.

Mrs Nicholas

Bastille Society Lectures

Thursday 9 February 2017



On Friday 3rd February, the Bastille Society was delighted to introduce Professor Andy Wood, Fellow of University College, Durham, to lecture on the question of: “To what extent was there a Mid-Tudor Crisis?”

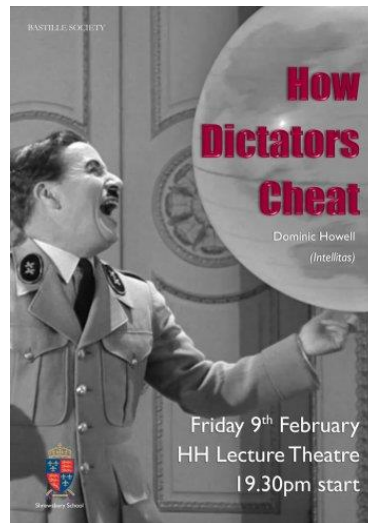
Professor Wood is an eminent historian of the Early Modern Period and is a real expert on the topic of social conflict and rebellion in the Tudor period. He provided us with an insight into the minds of the rebels of the reasons behind various rebellions throughout these tumultuous years.

The lecture ranged across the period from Henry VIII right through to Elizabeth’s reign. Professor Wood demonstrated that the Mid-Tudor Crisis was an amalgam of religious, social, political, economic and, interestingly, ‘environmental’ change. One particular aspect he focused on was the idea of ‘cultural hegemony’ and how the dominance of one social order had created a ‘crisis of authority’. He discussed how the Kett’s rebellion and others in the period were essentially asking for a freer and more open society; demanding a dialogue to be opened between the ruler and the ruled.

He is currently researching the initial Grammar Schools such as Shrewsbury and the role they had in creating a more fluid social order, as well as the Calvinist teachings headed by Thomas Ashton. It was deeply fascinating to see how our school played a part in the ‘Protestantisation’ of England in the wider context of the period. Certainly, what captivated the audience was the continuing relevance of the Mid-Tudor Crisis shown by the striking parallels Professor Wood was able to draw to the present day.

We would like again to thank Professor Wood for giving up his time and delivering such a measured and insightful lecture and we wish him the best as he continues his research.

James Whitaker (Rt UVI)



On 9th February, the Bastille Society welcomed Mr Dominic Howell to continue the School's lecture programme on the topic of 'Persuasion'.

As an international election observer with years of experience observing the democratic process across the world, from elections in the Maasai Mara and Central Asia to Eastern Europe and Russia, Mr Howell's lecture on "How Dictators Cheat" was as entertaining as it was insightful.

Littered with interesting anecdotes about some of the most arcane methods used around the world, Mr Howell demonstrated how dictators can use tactics before election day, on election day and after election day to influence the results of elections and maintain power.

It was also fascinating to hear his take on the electoral processes in the Western world, which are coming under ever closer scrutiny at the moment, and he also touched upon the very topical issue of democracy in the Middle East.

It really was a great evening enjoyed by all – and the Society would like to once again extend its thanks to Mr Howell for coming to speak to us.

Mr Mackridge (Head of History)

ShrewsMUN... a month to go! - by Ed Plaut (S UVI)

Thursday 9 February 2017

On 4th March 2017, over 120 pupils from ten different schools from across the UK and Europe will descend upon Shrewsbury School for a weekend of debating and building diplomatic ties (both real and imagined) at Shrewsbury's first ever Model United Nations Conference, affectionately dubbed ShrewsMUN.

However, although the event itself will be taking place in March 2017, its origins actually lie in an idea that I conceived with a friend of mine, Max Morris, while we were in the Lower Sixth in December 2015. We had both been to MUN conferences in Paris and London over that winter and thought if such metropolises could hold a conference, then so could Shrewsbury. Together, we pitched our idea to our ever-supportive and ever-patient Master in Charge of MUN, Mr Peach, who said that he would happily support our idea. And so ShrewsMUN was born (at least, on paper).



Max Morris and Ed Plaut

After being granted permission by the School, Max and I sat down and began to plan our conference...

While trying to study for our AS level exams, we started to make our first tentative steps into the world of conference organising. As two 16-year-olds, we had little idea where to start with such a task!

We decided that it was pointless to have a conference without people, and so we started to reach out to schools around the UK and Europe that we had a rapport with to try and make them aware of the conference and carefully cajole them to come. Over another bout of MUN conferences in Manchester and London during 2016, the charm offensive continued. Eventually, we sent off our invites to schools from far and wide (at about the same time we were sending our university applications off...).



Michael Schutzer-Weissman and James Whitaker



Seb Hervas-Jones

Once we had schools signed up, the attention turned to each individual detail. Max and the rest of the top team of Michael Schutzer-Weissman, James Whitaker and Seb Hervas-Jones and I quickly realised that there's a lot more to a conference than getting a lot of people to turn up in one place at once! We had to select our chair people for the conference and get together Salopians who were willing to give up a weekend to come and help host the conference, as well as staff. On top of that, there have been flags to buy, badges to make, dietary requirements to note down, committees to organise, nations to allocate and catering to be organised!

On top of all of this, we've been balancing A Level studies, a House Play (featuring in some capacity four of the five ShrewsMUN Executive Team) and sporting commitments. It really has been a busy journey that shows little sign of slowing down as we enter the final month of preparations.

We all hope that all the hours spent poring over databases and emails will result in a great first conference that could one day become a regular feature of the Shrewsbury calendar, and maybe even nurture some of the leaders of the future! However, our collective inputs probably pale into insignificance by contrast with those of Mr Peach, who continues to make a gargantuan effort in the conference organisation alongside all his duties as a dedicated Head of German. The conference would still be a pipe dream without him!

We look forward to welcoming all delegates, guests and visitors in March for what should be a great weekend.

Ed Plaut (S UVI)

Details of the conference, including the topics each committee will be debating, may be found by following the link: [ShrewsMUN 1](#)

Finding inspiration at TEDxOxford

Thursday 9 February 2017

On Sunday 5th February a group of 20 Fifth and Sixth Formers travelled to Oxford for the 2017 TEDxOxford event, the largest independent TED Talks in the UK, given to 1,800 people interested in hearing different ideas from 12 different speakers.

Topics ranged from how visual electronic maps can help people see how things work on a much simpler level to patterns in data affecting wide social relationships to the future psilocybin, more commonly known as Magic Mushrooms, in the treatment of depression.

Following a lecture on Creativity in Maths teaching (who knew it was possible?!), Mr Cowper was mentioned by the host of the talks, Old Salopian Chris Williams, who had clearly been so inspired by the Maths in his Spanish lessons.



It will take far too long to cover all the lectures, so Ebrahim Jamshid (SH V) covers two he found particularly interesting.

David Troy, the creator of Mailstrom, based his talk on the mapping of social relationships using social media statistics and the implications of the patterns that can be observed. Though at first they looked like a Mondrian collection of colour, he soon demonstrated how the connections between different social groups could tell an interpreter about the culture, demographics and even political stances in uncanny precision. Our attention soon turned to the recent US Election and Donald Trump's victory from using all this data. He ended his talk with a rather sincere comment on the fragile foundation on which Western democracy stands and how it is something that needs to be fought for in order to keep.

The second talk came from Priscilla Nagashima Boyd, who based her talk on the effect that driverless cars would have on people's lives. She started with the huge implications that it would have on traffic: an adult driver spends an average of 127 hours in traffic every year and driverless cars could in theory almost eliminate this time altogether. However, she went on to say that it would inevitably create another area in which hackers could infringe upon a person's privacy.



Universally (well, in the opinion of Ebrahim and Chad Usher (S V), the most interesting talk came from Abhishek Parajuli. He talked about how foreign aid can end up hurting a developing country's economy rather than benefitting it. He stated the fact that as humans we consider losses much more seriously than gains, which can be seen in how the news seems to be filled with tragic stories of death and destruction. Therefore, if a political figure is caught unlawfully using money from foreign aid, it is treated much less seriously than when this money was taken from the native people's taxes. He also pointed out that a lot of these countries do not have a reliable system of collecting tax and thus the inhabitants of the country do not seem to care very much about how the government's budget is being used.

In a time in which people are becoming more polarised, Ted talks seem nevertheless to prevail in spreading and discussing ideas. We are very thankful to Mr Percival and Mr Cowper for organising and accompanying such an inspiring day.

Ebrahim Jamshid and Chad Usher



Confirmation Retreat

Thursday 9 February 2017

Just before the last Coach Weekend, 43 pupils who are preparing to be confirmed next term and four members of staff stayed at the delightful Cefn Lea Conference Centre from Thursday evening to Saturday lunchtime.



The facilities in this remote converted farmland, six miles out of Newtown, proved to be a wonderful resource.

The speaker, 'Rev K' Owen, leading four interactive teaching sessions, engaged with all the pupils superbly and quickly won the Confirmands' respect. In addition, pupils were introduced to some early morning Reflection times by Dr Elliot, there was a staff-led Any Questions Forum and on the Friday evening, after a themed candlelit banquet and some lively games, Rev A led a thoughtful candlelit Meditation to which pupils could respond using their own candle placed somewhere near a lit Icthus (Fish) symbol on the ground.



The final act of the weekend came in the form of a Do-It-Yourself service for which all 43 pupils were responsible. It was most moving to hear some of their contributions, with mini speeches prepared by Angus Moore (S UVI) and Arthur Bramwell (R III) and some excellent readings, prayers and poetry, a drama and rapturous singing, led by Mr Lucas on keyboards.

This was a new initiative at Shrewsbury and something all agreed to have been hugely beneficial to their formation of their beliefs as Confirmation candidates before they formalise their commitment next term.

Revd Aldous (Chaplain)

Basketball: A convincing victory for The Sharks

Thursday 9 February 2017

The Sharks have had a rough start to the new season with two losses due to a number of core players being side-lined due to injury. However, they showed some of last year's form on Wednesday 1st February with a convincing victory over Adams' Grammar School (45-21) – a notable team performance.

Harry Zhang (I) and Andrew Wu (S) produced excellent performances at both ends of the floor.



A feast of musical entertainment in the annual School House Soirée

Friday 10 February 2017

On the final Friday before half term, the boys of School House took to the stage and performed to a packed house in the Maidment Building. With a tantalising mix of solo items and ensembles spanning a range of genres from Mozart to the Red Hot Chili Peppers, there was something for everyone!



One of the bands performing "Last Night" by The Strokes. L-R: Tom Kirk (UVI), Fred Blanchard-Butter (LVI), Will Blanchard-Butter (LVI), Lyr Heyward-Jones (LVI) and Peter Stanley (UVI)

One of the main aims of our Soirée is to give as many of the boys as possible the opportunity to have a go. So, in addition to a wealth of highly impressive polished performances from our top musicians, we were treated to some debut acts from those who are relatively early in their musical careers. This was highlighted in the opening item, which was a close harmony *a capella* group comprising almost 30 singers, inspired by our Part Song victory in the House Singing Competition last term.



Intro	
Improvisation by Tom Kirk, Peter Stanley and Mr Besterman	
School House Barbershop Ensemble Oscar Bourke, Andrew Chan, Amos Cheung, Theo Gabb, Douglas Kennedy, Milton Si, Gordon Chang, Punam Vajrabhaya, Freddie Lawson, Punam Vajrabhaya, Kai Yu, Henri Cramsie, Reuben Denison, Koby Ferdinand-Okpala, James Argyle, Fred Blanchard-Butter, Will Blanchard-Butter, Ulyr Heyward-Jones, Eldon Karak, Simon Lange, Scott Walker, Njefeni Okusanya, Mark Pange, Louis Street, Mrs Besterman, Mr Besterman, Mr Cooley	
<u>Goodnight Sweetheart – Carter/ Hudson</u>	
Arthur Yu – Piano: <u>Faux Follets – Liszt</u>	
Band item Tom Kirk, Will Blanchard-Butter, Fred Blanchard-Butter, Peter Stanley, Ulyr Heyward-Jones: <u>Last Night – The Strakos</u>	
Clarinet Ensemble David Wright, Milton Tai, Fred Blanchard-Butter, Oscar Bourke, Jony Gould: <u>Caprice for Clarinets – Grundman</u>	
Andrew Chan (UVI) – Flute: <u>Ballade – Reinecke</u>	
Tom Tartton – Saxophone: <u>Black Sheep of the Family – Norton</u>	
Oscar Bourke – Piano: <u>Sonata in C (3rd movt) – Mozart</u>	
Brass Ensemble Frank Coughlan, Louis Street, Euan Cooper, Mr Welch, Theo Gabb, Ben Stewart, Punam Vajrabhaya, Charles Bane: <u>Scherzo from Moorside Suite – Holst</u>	
Henri Cramsie – Vocal solo: <u>By Strauss – Gerstwin</u>	
Frank Coughlan – Trumpet: <u>Sonata (1st movt) – Hindemith</u>	
Saxophone Ensemble Tom Tartton, Kwaku Antwi, Njefeni Okusanya, Jony Gould, Ulyr Heyward-Jones, Gordon Chen, Gordon Chang: <u>Simple or What – Streets</u>	
Cello Ensemble Amos Cheung, Marco Lo, Simon Lange, Douglas Kennedy: <u>Moon River – Mancini arr. C. Besterman</u>	
Band item Tom Kirk, Will Blanchard-Butter, Peter Stanley, Mr Besterman: <u>Don't Look Back into the Sun – The Libertines</u>	
Amos Cheung – Cello: <u>Truckin' through the South – Mirsky</u>	
Reuben Denison (piano), Henri Cramsie (oboe), Mr McKenzie (clarinet): <u>Trio in B minor (I. Allegro Vivace) – Debussy</u>	
Band item Koby Ferdinand-Okpala, Mark Pange, Ulyr Heyward-Jones, Amos Cheung, Peter Stanley: <u>Dani California – The Red Hot Chili Peppers</u>	
Peter Stanley – Guitar & Vocals: <u>That's Entertainment – The Jam</u>	
Jony Gould – Saxophone: <u>Black & Blue – Cockcroft</u>	
Piano 'Quintet' Henri Cramsie, Tommy Tong, Reuben Denison, Brendon Wain, Con O'Neill: <u>Country Dance – Mozart</u>	
String Quartet James Wang, Arthur Yu, Mrs Besterman, Douglas Kennedy: <u>Spring – Vivaldi arr. Goddard</u>	
Andrew Chan (III) – Piano: <u>Aldnoah Zero Ed 2 – Sawano</u>	
Kwaku Antwi – Saxophone: <u>Dreams for you – M. Garry</u>	
Amos Cheung & James Wong – Cello & Violin: <u>Humoresque – Dvorak</u>	
Upper VI Tribute to Wentao He – vocals, guitar, piano & drums: <u>I See Fire – Sheeran</u>	



The full programme, which shows the great breadth and depth of musical talent in School House. (Please click on the image to open the programme as a pdf.)

Participation in the Soirée is completely voluntary and we are delighted that so many boys wanted to take part. In order to ensure that everyone who wanted to play could do so, without the event taking all night (!), we were very lucky to have the support of Caz Besterman and members of the Music Department, who arranged and rehearsed several of the ensembles specially for the evening. Apart from condensing the programme, this helped to bring together boys from every year group; after all, playing with friends is the key to enjoyment and this certainly came across in the performances!



Part of the trumpet ensemble L-R: Frank Coughlan (IV), Louis Street (IV), Theo Gabb (III), Euan Cooper (IV), Punam Vajrabhaya (IV) and Ben Stewart (IV)

To view a gallery of photos from the Soirée, please click on the image below.

Clicking on the main image above the thumbnails will open the photos at full size. The green arrows will enable you to scroll through the gallery at thumbnail size. (Note: The thumbnails only display as landscape images. To view an image properly - particularly if it is portrait - click on the larger version of the image above the thumbnails and it will open at full size.)

RSSBC: Winning performances at the Wycliffe Big Head

Friday 10 February 2017

On Saturday 4th February, over a hundred boys and girls raced at the Wycliffe Big Head on the Gloucester Sharpness Canal. There were some excellent results from all the age groups.

The Senior boys split into three eights and put in some commanding performances in Elite Eights.



The strongest of the three crews in both divisions produced the fastest times of the day by 20 seconds over their nearest opposition.

The next two boats also produced some very strong results, with the second of the three senior boats coming third and fourth in the respective divisions.

The Senior Girls (*pictured below*) were not to be outdone and won the J18 Quads event with a winning margin of 15 seconds over the next women's quad.



The J16 girls (*below*) came third in their event, having made some excellent progress in recent weeks.



WJ16 4X

The J15 girls (*below*) won their event and posted a very encouraging time, as all the crews start to think about the Schools' Head of the River and the Sculling Head in six weeks.



The J15 boys had a strong row but had to settle for second place out of the nine crews entered.

The J14s had four octuples racing, with the boys coming in first and second in their event. The girls' octuple came third in their event.



Full results can be found at <http://www.wycliffehead.co.uk/BH>
Mr Hundermark, Director of Rowing

Inaugural Darwin Science Competition for Prep Schools

Friday 10 February 2017

We were delighted to welcome teams of young and enthusiastic scientists to take part in our first ever Darwin Science Competition at Shrewsbury School on Thursday 9th February.

It wasn't hard to decide to name a flagship Prep School event after our most famous former pupil, Charles Darwin.

The competition pitted teams of Year 7 pupils from five different prep schools against each other over a number of both written and practical rounds.



In the quiz rounds during the morning, the teams of four demonstrated their general scientific knowledge, answering questions drawn from biology, chemistry and physics together with picture rounds, apparatus, specimens to identify and physics calculations. Particular fun was had with rounds to identify sounds from the animal kingdom and some fiendishly tricky chemistry smells.



After a quick refuel in KH, the pupils moved on to complete a series of fun practical investigations across the Biology, Chemistry and Physics faculties. From structures, to skeletons, to silver reactions, the teams battled to accumulate points through the sessions, as each investigation was judged. Scientific analysis, laboratory skills and teamwork were demonstrated in abundance by all of the teams who took part.



The pupils were able to experience working in our laboratories with equipment and chemicals that they do not have access to at their own schools.

The standard was very high and the results were very tight. Only seven points separated the top four teams in the written quiz! The overall champions of the Darwin Science Competition 2017 were Bilton Grange (Team 1), with the Prestfelde teams coming a close second and third. The winning team was presented with a bespoke designed glass trophy featuring Darwin's 'I Think' Tree of Life doodle and a voucher worth £50 for science supplies for their school. Team members also received individual copies of Darwin's Notebook and a specially designed 'Winners' mug.



Bilton Grange teams 1 and 2

Winners of the practical sessions were: Physics - Terra Nova (Team 2); Biology - Bilton Grange (Team 2) and Chemistry - Prestfelde (Team 1). Each was awarded a fun prize for their efforts.

All students went home with a goody bag to congratulate them for their participation, hard work and excellent science etiquette during the day. The competition will run annually and we hope to encourage as many pupils as possible to investigate their scientific passions as thoroughly as Charles Darwin.



*Mrs Rachel Schofield
Senior Chemistry Technician*

RSSH dominate at the Shropshire Schools' Cross-Country Championships

Friday 10 February 2017

Saturday morning witnessed a terrific team performance by Shrewsbury School at the annual Shropshire Schools' Cross-Country Championships, held in Oswestry. Competing across six categories, we were able to bring back all three boys' trophies as well as picking up an individual gold in one of the girls' events.



The start of the Junior Boys' race

In the Junior boys' event, Tom Jackson (R) led a young team which included Oscar Hamilton-Russell (R), Timothy Clarkson Webb (O), Alfie Biggs (PH), Cosmo Waddell (Ch) and Tim Levin (Ch). In a crowded field of over 70 runners – the most populous event of the day – Tom got away well and quickly established himself in the lead pack, with Oscar not far behind. As the lead pack dwindled to a lead pair, Tom managed to stay in contention with the race leader, but gradually saw the gap increase over the middle part of the race. He was safe in 2nd place though, well ahead of the third-place runner from William Brookes.

Oscar had fought well to take 5th, in amongst some strong runners from other schools, while Tim managed to hold on well for 10th, a little less than 30 seconds further back. Alfie had picked up positions well in the second half of the race and came through as our fourth counter in 24th place, a great effort from him. Runners were coming through thick and fast now, and Cosmo was not far behind in 37th, with Tim Levin completing the team in 64th place.



Francesca Harris

Due to a number of illnesses and competing fixtures in other sports, we only fielded one Junior Girls' runner, but what a runner! Francesca Harris (EDH) continued her dazzlingly successful season with a commanding performance, ahead from 200m into the race. She continued to pull away over the 3.2km course and eventually won by over 30 seconds! In a field of 60 runners, this was quite an achievement and is testament to her form at the moment.



L-R: Anna Cowan, Sophia Dixon, Liza Alekseeva

In the Intermediate Girls, we just about managed a full team of three runners. Sophia Dixon (MSH) led the charge, returning from a recent illness but nevertheless managing to place 12th, just ahead of Anna Cowan (MSH) in 13th, who has improved her running dramatically over the past few weeks. Completing the team was Liza Alekseeva (EDH) with a tenacious run to place 26th. A fine team effort earned us fourth place overall.



In the Intermediate Boys, we were confident of a very strong team performance, particularly from our current Fourth Formers who, though a year young, looked likely to be among the fastest in the pack. Several of them took positions at the head of the pack going up the first hill, and many continued to work well together over the course of the race.



Sam Western

Sam Western (PH) was engaged in a tough battle at the head of the race, but eventually triumphed by dropping two other runners in the second lap of the course, before pulling away to establish a comfortable gap. Sam Watts (Ch) and Paddy Barlow (R) were not much further back and managed to come through only four seconds apart in 4th and 5th respectively. Toby Pegge (PH) took 7th, and was our last counter.



Such a high placing for our top four made them unbeatable, and it was easily enough to retain the trophy. Our strength in depth at the moment is such that what was effectively our B team – our next four counters (Louis Nares (Rb) – 8th, Jonny Snell (Ch) – 10th, Mark Pangin (SH) – 15th, and Jamie Anwyl (S) 21st) – were the third fastest team on the day.

In the Senior Girls, Immie Evans led the line well as Huntswoman and managed a very creditable 6th place, while Hattie Bramwell (MSH) – in one of her first races for the Hunt – came through in 12th. Immie did enough to be called up to the English Schools final held in Norwich next month.



Hattie Bramwell and Immie Evans

In the Senior Boys' race, we were able to field a very strong team, while our competitor schools seem to have struggled. This made the race a little too one-sided in truth, but we were very happy to come back with the silverware! Eleven of our runners were in the top 13 positions, which meant that it was very hard for other schools to get a look in.

Freddie Huxley-Fielding (R) looked in effortless form as he crossed the line almost a minute ahead of fellow Riggite Will Hayward.



Next through for us were Scott Hatton (S) in 4th and Cameron Anwyl (S) in 5th. Charlie Ockleston (O) continued his very strong run of form with a fantastic 6th, with Niklas Amthor (R), Tom Hughes (Ch), Owen Mock (R), Toby Spencer-Pickup (R), Will Sawyer (PH) and Ali Harris (R) taking up the next six positions. Further back, there were strong efforts from Seb Hervas-Jones (S), Sam Bayliss (Rt), James Snell (Ch) and Charlie Naylor (S).



Overall then, it was a dominant display by the RSSH in a quality field. It was a good chance for the team to pick themselves back up after the disappointment of the Coventry Relays on the Wednesday, and they took it with both hands. Three winners' medals and three trophies were a fitting reward for their efforts. Many of those who ran will now represent the county at the English Schools national final, to be held in Norwich on 18th March.

Ian Haworth, Master in Charge of the Hunt



Bertold Brecht's 'A Respectable Wedding' - a review

Friday 10 February 2017

Severn Hill launch the new House Play season.

Tackling Brecht is a weighty task at the best of times, and so Severn Hill's offering of 'A Respectable Wedding' was a brave one.

Director Ben Higgins, ably assisted by Ed Plaut, kicked off the House play season with real gusto, with a witty and interesting take on a play that is reliant on witty repartee. We were quickly involved in the wedding breakfast of the bride and groom, deftly played by Ella Davies-Jones and Angus Moore. Instantly, we were given the idea that the two were not the model picture of married bliss, two hours in to the rest of their lives. Their tension was palpable throughout the performance, until the final and honest reconciliation at the climax.

As with any wedding, hilarity ensued with the rival for the bride's affection, whom Max Morris endowed with a sense of one-upmanship and putdowns that drew inspirations from the greatest of rivalries – the Inbetweeners. The bride's bombastic father wants to hold court and dominate conversation, which Seb Hervas-Jones managed to develop as the play went on. Esther McLaughlin was his counterfoil as the groom's mother, adding a frisson of a 'will they, won't they' to proceedings; the rest was left to our imagination.

Not left to our imagination was the blossoming relationship of the bride's brother, played in sardonic style by Ben Oswald, and Jasper Mitchell as the porter's son, whose inclusion on the guest list leaves us guessing until a fateful scene half way through the play.

Ending the table plan was Cameron Bates, who brought a Captain Haddock quality to his drunken putdowns and sartorial elegance, though I had never known Tintin's companion was so musical.

His long-suffering spouse, played with alacritous zeal by Sebastian Ingram, brought the house down with barbed invective launched at anyone who got in his way.

Severn Hill have lain down the gauntlet to Rigg's and Churchill's, though they can be justly proud of a completely pupil-led production.

TPP



Giles Bell's Team of the Week

Friday 10 February 2017

This week, Rowing.



I am frequently distracted from my computer screen or from some serious tome that I am perusing by the cheerful chatter of dazzlingly lycra-clad figures marching purposefully past my window on their way to or from the river. There is a clear confidence emanating from such types, and I find myself envying their youth and their mental strength: it is clear from their physiques that they are able to say no to seconds of brandy butter. As I reached for another finger of fudge to complete the second hand last Tuesday, I decided it was time to follow the lycra trail down to the Boathouse and see just what the attraction was.

My spies had informed me that the rowers had been busy last weekend at Wycliffe Big Head on the Saturday. And then on Sunday many of them had travelled to the velodrome in Manchester to participate in the English Indoor Rowing Championships. My heart was gladdened to see the Giles Bell (coincidentally a boat with the same name as me), speeding down the river powered by the J16 crew, but it was unnecessary of Harry Marshall to quip that he had never seen Giles Bell move faster!



Third in their event on Saturday at Wycliffe and winners of the English Indoor Rowing Championships last Sunday, Director of Rowing and J16 Coach Athol Hundermark was very impressed with the progress his crew have been making. "I am very impressed with the progress my crew have been making," he told me.

There was clearly a confident and cheerful mood amongst the crew and coach, although the training session looked as if it had taken more out of some than others, as Mr Holehouse struggled to get to his feet.



Chad Usher pointed out to me that if he features in this article, he will have been in three Team of the Week articles this term – a hat-trick of appearances. He was disappointed not to make it into the netball article. “It’s a shame I don’t play netball,” Chad told me.

The senior boys were split into three eights and all of them performed well. The top crew won their event and were well clear of Abingdon. Indeed, cox Tom Sheils was concerned for the mental health of some of our opponents. “They may need some counselling,” he admitted. “After all, when someone with spindly little arms like Matt Rowe is managing to beat you, it must be demoralising!” Matt is hoping that his spindly little arms will be strong enough to help him and Barney Fox into the GB squad as they prepare for trials soon.



The other two Senior boats also did very well, and a team from the Top Squad came third in the Indoor Rowing Championship J18 event on the Sunday.



The Senior Girls four won the J18 Quads at Wycliffe, and that did not surprise me, as I nearly bumped into joint Head of School, Alys Howells, carrying her boat around as if it were very light. “It is very light,” Alys said.



The J16 girls came third in their event and are doing extremely well, and the J15 girls won their event in a very good time. They also came third in the J16 category on the ergos. I am not surprised the J15 girls are doing so well, as four of the squad - Ella Fox Davies, Lucy Lovick, Lauren Bermingham and Hattie Haynes - are my tutees and so of course they are keen to discuss mental strength and training tips at tutorials, with a top sportsman. I think the addition of hot chocolate and the occasional lolly or piece of cake have given the girls extra energy.

However, they may have over-estimated my river skills when Lauren suggested I might like to cox a tutee four. An opportunity suddenly arose to cox the J15 girls' eight, courtesy of their inspirational coach Will Reynolds. I was of course was up for the challenge and flattered that my steering skills were rated so highly, although as the water was apparently already 'heavy', I was a little concerned that I might not make the sport any easier for the crew. Reports concerning the record height of the prow (front of the boat?) are yet to be substantiated. What I would say is that despite the fact that I am looking for a new sport to take up and this one involves sitting down, I am not sure I am built for coxing and I am certain that the modern rowing boat is not built for coxes of my stature.





I was flattered that the girls had every confidence in me and were happy to trust me. Stroke Hattie Haynes found her view was more obscured than usual but was clearly not concerned by the sudden change of personnel, and Lauren Bermingham was very kind after I had steered into a swan, three otters and the open water swimming team, suggesting they should have got out of the way.

The J15 boys came second and the J14s had four octuples racing, with the boys coming in first and second and the girls third in their event.

The Boat Club would not be such a happy and thriving place were it not for a host of talented and enthusiastic coaches. Sam Grant is coaching the top squad this year and he was quick to enthuse about his protégés. He also talked me through some of the extra requirements of the modern committed rower. This involves all sorts of cardiac monitoring and also answering a questionnaire in the mornings about sleep and checking heart rate. The coaches can know if an athlete is likely to be unwell in a few days' time from these results and moderate the training to suit the ailment! I can't go into too much detail about our programme as we would not like our competitors to glean information that could help them to beat us. I can assure you that Shrewsbury rowing is cutting edge and still awesome!

GJFB

National finalists in the Senior Team Maths Challenge

Friday 10 February 2017

On the 7th day of the 2nd Month of 2017, 5 Salopians (David Gao, Linda Zhao, Angela Liang, Isaac Dai and Dr Oakley) went to London for the National Final of the Senior Team Maths Challenge. 1291 teams had entered the competition but fewer than 89 remained to compete for the title.

Report by Dr Oakley (who wins this week's 'Most Prime Numbers in a News Article' prize).

We took the 0733 train and were 73rd to register at Lindley Hall in Westminster. This gave us a well-positioned table on the periphery of the packed arena. The opening round was a poster round. This is a disjoint competition to the main event but gives the pupils time to settle their nerves and the remaining few teams who were stuck in traffic to arrive. The topic was 'cellular automata'. Teams were allowed to research this topic before they came but had to answer three unseen questions to secure a good mark. RGS Newcastle were deemed to have made the best attempt and they can look forward to seeing their poster duplicated on the walls of Maths departments around the country.



L-R: Linda Zhao, Angela Liang, Isaac Dai, David Gao

Dr Oakley was then transferred to table 29 to umpire another team, leaving the Shrewsbury team to tackle the first round of the main event. The group round comprises a deced of problems of varying difficulty and it is up to the team how they spend their time on each one. One part flummoxed them but they only dropped a total of 3 points in the first round, putting them in joint 5th place.

The next round was the crossnumber: like a crossword but with numbers only. One pair is given the across clues and the other the down clues, and the only form of communication is through their entries on a common answer sheet. This is by far the easiest round and it should be a case of minimising the mistakes. An elementary error in angles led to the confusion between 179 and 359, which slipped us down the rankings.



The penultimate round was the 'Shuttle'. There were a quartet of mini relays with the answer of one feeding into the next question. Speed is key, as there are bonuses if the relay is finished within 5 minutes. The team did very well on this, missing out on the marks for only 3 constituent elements. They were still in the hunt.

The final round was new. It was a relay that required a physical element; the definitive 'Mathletics' event. Still in pairs but separated by the width of the hall, the first pair would start, answer their question, then 'race-walk' to their umpire for checking. If they were correct, then they would receive the next question to pass to the other pair; otherwise they were sent back to their table for another go. There were more questions in this round than one could feasibly answer in the allotted time, so reaching question 13 was a fair effort. It was a bit of a tricky one but essentially required nothing more than Third Form maths. The question is after the end of this write up. One team managed to get 19 questions correct, which was very impressive.

The results then came in. Shrewsbury finished in a very impressive 7th position, our best ever performance in this competition.

Congratulations to David, Linda, Angela and Isaac for their mental and physical stamina in what is a demanding challenge. Given that 3 of them are in Lower Sixth, the prospects for next year look very good.

CWO

How would you have done?

In the triangle ABC, AB has length 20, BC has length 11 and CA has length 13.

A line through A perpendicular to BC meets the line through B and C at D.

What is the length of AD?

(With acknowledgement to United Kingdom Mathematics Trust www.stmc.ukmt.org.uk)

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



Shrewsbury School SparkPoint - 'Back to the Beginning'

Friday 10 February 2017

This week's issue celebrates the work of those who have theorised about what might have happened at the dawn of time.

Please click on the image below to open 'Shrewsbury School SparkPoint - Back to the Beginning' as a pdf file:



The news 100 years ago: 10th - 16th February 1917

Friday 10 February 2017

No Old Salopians were killed in WW1 this week 100 years ago.



Old School Ties - Old Salopians vs. Lancing Old Boys

Thursday 16 February 2017

David Bauckham is an award winning photographer who focuses on the non-league football culture. He follows the Arthur Dunn Cup and the Arthurian League, in which the Old Salopian Football Club compete, and he posts wonderful, warm and detailed match reports, along with historical information and vivid photographs, on his website.

The latest 'Old School Ties' instalment covers the recent Arthur Dunn Cup Quarter Final between OSFC and Lancing Old Boys. It describes the match in great detail and contains more than 80 match photographs. More than that it reports on a piece of the history of football few people will be aware of, in which the first set of rules for Association Football were drawn up in 1848, involving two Old Salopians - Henry de Winton and John Charles Thring.

It's a fascinating article and well worth a read, whether you are a fan of the game or not. You can read the whole thing here on [this link](#).



Recognition for elite sportsmen in School House who have represented their countries on the international stage

Thursday 16 February 2017

Congratulations to Matt Rowe (UVI) and Josiah Chilaka (LVI), who have both competed for national teams recently.

Having rowed for Great Britain in the Junior World Championships over the summer, Matt's outstanding achievement earned him an award from the Shropshire Schools' Sports and Athletics Association in January.

Meanwhile, Josiah has earned his first cap for the England Independent Schools football team.

The photos below show the boys with their awards and in action for School House.





Old Salopian Thai Gathering

Thursday 16 February 2017



Old Salopians living and working in Thailand met up shortly before Christmas and we received the following report from the organiser and OS Rep in Thailand - Stuart Markes (S 92-97).

It was a really nice turnout and everyone was in a festive mood with many people back on vacation from university and us older ones on Xmas/New Year holiday.

We met up at “Beer Belly” 72 Courtyard, in the trendy Thonglor area of Bangkok. We had a turnout of approximately 27, including the girls who can more than hold their own with the ‘Shrewsbury banter’ plus a couple of British Old Salopians who just happened to be in Thailand at the time. We reminisced about our former teachers and there were plenty of loud cheers for Colonel Jenkins and for some reason also Mr Giles Bell seems to be quite popular amongst the Bangkok based Old Salopians. We ate, drank, talked, joked, laughed and just thoroughly enjoyed the night. A special mention must go to Peera Rayamas (R 92-97) who was the most senior of the attendees. The mix was nice, ranging from those of us who went to school in the late 90s/early 2000s to those who graduated last summer, and representing nearly all the boarding houses. Now we are all looking forward to the next meeting.

The news 100 years ago: 17th - 22nd February 1917

Friday 17 February 2017

No Old Salopians were killed in WW1 this week 100 years ago.



Salopian pair win U21 Ladies' Fives Plate Competition

Monday 20 February 2017

Congratulations to Issy Wong (G IV) and Adelaide Sillar (G III) who, on their first outing as an Under-15 pair, won the Plate Competition at the Under-21 EFA Ladies' Fives Tournament on Sunday 12th February.



Issy and Adelaide are 1st and 2nd on the right.

Giving up some of their half-term holiday to compete in the event held at Eton College, both girls did extremely well to win through on a bitterly cold day.

They lost both their group matches against Marjolaine Briscoe & Viva Ruggi (Highgate) and Francesca Turnbull (North Oxford) & Sarah Jackman (OS), although the game against Francesca & Sarah was a close one.

They then convincingly beat Colette Rocheteau & Lauren Rowley (Oxford University beginners) and finished off with a good win (12-8, 12-9) against Anna Platz (Old Stoic) & Gemma Smith-Bingham (Highgate) to win the Plate.

ASB

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Shrewsbury School SparkPoint - 'Love is in the Air'

Monday 20 February 2017

This week's issue is themed around 'love'.

Please click on the image below to open 'Shrewsbury School SparkPoint - Love is in the Air' as a pdf file:



Careers Bulletin for Sixth Formers

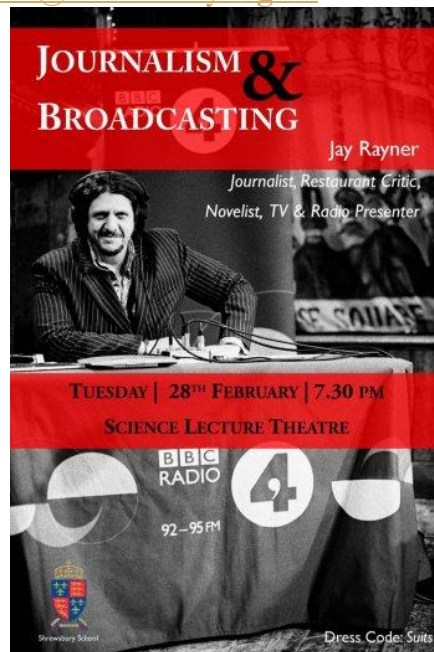
Tuesday 21 February 2017

The weekly bulletin for Sixth Formers, produced by Careers Fellow Mrs Dry, includes information on gap year schemes, school leaver programmes, work experience opportunities, university taster courses and the weekly series of Careers Talks taking place in the School. Next week's Careers Talk is given by journalist and broadcaster Jay Rayner.

Please click [here](#) to read this week's Careers Bulletin.

Next week's Careers Lecture on Tuesday 28th February at 7.30pm is on 'Journalism and Broadcasting' and is given by Jay Rayner, Journalist, Restaurant Critic, Novelist, TV & Radio Presenter. It takes place in the Science Lecture Theatre and is open to parents as well as Shrewsbury School students - and to students at other schools.

If you would like to bring a large group, please contact the Careers Secretary, Mrs Scimia, on 01743 280556 or email kascimia@shrewsbury.org.uk.





Empacher VIII Boat Donation

Wednesday 22 February 2017

A new Empacher VIII was generously donated by Jonathan Beeston (Rb 95-00). Jonathan was a member of the 1st VIII in 1999 and 2000 and Captain of Boats in 2000 at Shrewsbury School. The boat was named after Jonathan's father Robert Beeston, who was sadly unable to attend, but both Jonathan and his Mother, June were able to join the Headmaster and Sabrina Captain Nick Randall (O 72-76) for the naming ceremony.

Also in attendance were the boys and girls of the RSSBC who were grateful for Jonathan's investment in Shrewsbury School's Rowing Programme. Shortly after the naming ceremony, the newly christened VIII was launched by Shrewsbury's 1st VIII crew.





Breakfast with the Headmaster

Thursday 23 February 2017

Oldham's Third Form was kindly invited to breakfast in Kingsland Hall by Mr and Mrs Turner.



Full English was the order of the day, as it is every day at Shrewsbury!

The clean plates are evident, and the Headmaster commented afterwards: "Oldham's boys were on tip top form at today's breakfast parade. A really positive bunch!"



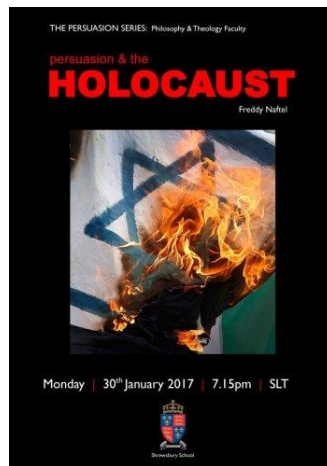
Persuasion and the Holocaust' - Philosophy and Theology Faculty lecture

Thursday 23 February 2017

Angus Kincaid (Ch UVI) reflects on a powerful and thought-provoking lecture given by Freddie Naftel, the son and grandson of German refugees, who describes himself as 'a Holocaust Enrichment Educator'. It was the latest in this year's series of Academic Extension lectures on the theme of 'Persuasion'.

Walking into the Science Lecture Theatre to see gruesome photographic images of piles of bodies, torture methods and Nazi testing on Jews, set to 'emotional' music, is not the way most people envision their Monday evenings are going to start. Mr Naftel's introduction to his talk seemed well rehearsed, making the point that there is nothing physically recognisable to differentiate a non-affiliated individual from a Jew, and that if he hadn't told us he was Jewish, we would have been none the wiser.

He then went on to talk about propaganda and the 'Jewish image' in society, starting out with pre-Hitler ideas and publications. With the audience nodding and agreeing with what he had to say, he subtly slipped in current images from the Charlie Hebdo massacre. The thought that anti-Semitism is occurring in 21st Century France in a way that has similarities to Nazi Germany before the Second World War was truly horrific.



Naftel then made his lecture personal by telling his own family story, with his own personal experiences of not being told about the Holocaust (thus accidentally slipping racist jokes into conversations with his elders), and how his grandparents and great-grandparents were actually involved in the Labour Camps. His own family had attempted fleeing to Great Britain but were denied due to the quota of immigrant Jews already having been fulfilled. The fact that this denial of asylum was essentially a death sentence to his great-grandparents and grandfather did 'hit home' rather hard.

Naftel also made the point that, in this day and age, we make a large point about saying "never forget" and "never again" with regards to tragedies and genocides such as the Holocaust. However, he argued, the election of Trump and the level of support for his travel restrictions on Muslims shows that to some extent we are in danger of repeating history.

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The effect on the audience was mixed, ranging from some thinking he was overly critical of non-Jews, to reducing others to tears over the reality of the Holocaust. But all realised that the freedom in which many of us now live should never be taken for granted and, if we were in his position, we would want people to care about what happened, rather than do 'the British thing' and ignore it because we're too polite to bring up such a horrific event.

Angus Kincaid (Ch UVI)

International pianist Peter Donohoe performs at Shrewsbury School

Thursday 23 February 2017

Such is the standing that Shrewsbury School has within the professional music world, we are regularly able to attract some of the leading professional ensembles and soloists to perform at the School as part of our annual Music and Arts Programme, which this year celebrates its 60th Season. On 3rd February, we were delighted to welcome back Peter Donohoe CBE, who is internationally acclaimed as one of the foremost pianists of our time.

Piano maestro Peter Donohoe treated Shrewsbury to a masterclass in the craftsmanship at the heart of the Romantic repertoire - Chopin, Schubert and Schumann, via the beguiling Scriabin, whose luxuriant harmonic sonorities hid flashes of that Russian Chopin's captivating darkness.

From the start, we were held in thrall by the limpid rivers of sound that Donohoe conjured at the keyboard. Donohoe nurtured the Alington's Steinway D with swagger and elegance through Chopin's Grande Valse Brillante and the éclat and soul of the Polonaise-Fantasia in A-flat. The A minor and E minor waltzes delivered contrasts of more sombre, reflective colours; his sense of command and communication unimpeachable throughout.



At the centre of the programme, Scriabin's Piano Sonata No.3 – prepared as part of as Donohoe's new recording of the complete cycle for SOMM Records – offered his musicianship full voice. The opening of the Drammatico first movement was utterly arresting; the song lines of the second and third, where the return of the theme was astonishingly offset by the individualised shimmering of eddying inner voices, prepared the ground for the anguish of the Presto con fuoco finale before the soul, as Scriabin's programme has it, plunges into the 'abyss of the non-being' in its abrupt end. We had been warned during Donohoe's touching piano-side chat, to expect something terrible in the sudden ending in the piece's minor home key, the sort of terror we may find on the opera stage. Yet even forewarned, when it arrived, it was staggering, and we began to understand why a musician of Donohoe's magnitude would want to re-engage with the visceral charge of this giant of the late Romantic and early Soviet era.

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The second half's Schubert set of Impromptus Op. 142 was clearly an audience favourite. Again, the attentive craft Donohoe lavished on the inner voices gave these miniatures the conversational fizz of chamber music, ensuring folk melodies bejewelled by art remained supple and authentic and fresh. Schumann's Fantasie in C major delivered a fitting virtuosic finale for a performance full of imagination, brilliance and truth.

Donohoe plays the complete Scriabin sonata cycle at the Barbican in London on 23rd April. St George's Day. Shakespeare's birthday. On the strength of this performance, it will be reason to celebrate in itself.

James Fraser-Andrews



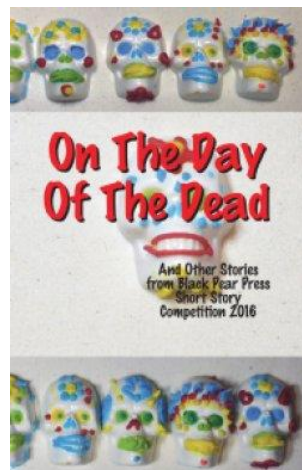
President of the Creative Writing Society is published in a 'Successful Writers in 2016 Anthology'

Thursday 23 February 2017

Congratulations to Charlie Johns (I LVI), President of the School's Creative Writing Society, who has been published in an adult anthology of short stories.

His story 'Cobblestones' was submitted for a competition run by Black Pear Press last summer and was selected for publication in their Short Story Anthology 2016 'The Day of the Dead', described as containing "the finest short story writers in the UK right now".

It begins...



Michelangelo was bringing the Sonata to a close. A resounding G, followed by a more tentative C (played with the appropriate feeling and emotion), this C giving way to a powerful and triumphant E that rang around the concert hall, adding a sense of impressiveness to the beautifully painted angels on the ceiling; mouths open, wings open, arms open. Michelangelo juddered and shuddered as he hammered down these keys multiple times, now looking up at the audience who stared back at him; women in expensive, embroidered ball gowns and pins in their hair, transfixed by the heightened rhetoric of his messianic playing. Some of Michelangelo's charcoal hair came untucked from where it had previously been neatly positioned behind his ear, and dangled loosely. Other locks stuck to his damp forehead. He now began his signature flourish, moving his fingers expertly over the correct keys with a beautiful fluency, and the melody which flowed from the piano was pure. Michelangelo felt his heart soar as he imparted his unique gift to the crowd, just as it had on the night of his first concert. The delicate tones coming from his fingers had that magical quality such that it both relaxed and excited the seated members in front of him. He played his last note and remained motionless as the enraptured crowd brought their hands together in wonder at this piece de resistance, and the curtain was brought down. Michelangelo disappeared from view, all that was left was the memory of his spiritual music. Although he knew the moment could never be repeated, he took comfort from the fact that he'd be creating more history the following night.

The anthology can be ordered from Black Pear Press via the following link: <https://blackpear.net/2016/12/15/successful-writers-in-2016-anthology/> and is also in the School Library.

The Creative Writing Society have been spending this term exploring written responses to extreme settings (most notably the landscapes, both emotional and literal, of the First World War). Braving the elements and "the wind through woods in riot" on Wenlock Edge, they embarked on a Field Day that was devoted to 'The Edge'. This is the theme of this year's edition of 'Fire Engine', the anthology of new Salopian writing, which will be published in the summer.

Led by Mr Fraser-Andrews, they communed with the spirit of the poet A.E. Housman on Wenlock Edge and recited into Major's Leap his poem '[On Wenlock Edge the wood's in trouble...](#)', amid flurries of snow that were "icy" but not, mercifully, "thick".



Over teas and coffees and sweets, they explored the interactions of personal memory, history and fiction during an informal workshop at Much Wenlock Books, proper bookshop and nerve-centre for the acclaimed Much Wenlock Poetry Festival.



Crowds flock to the Shrewsbury School University Fair

Thursday 23 February 2017

We were delighted to welcome 34 universities from across England and Wales and hundreds of students and parents to our second annual University Fair, which took place during the afternoon of Friday 10th February.



More than 300 students and parents crammed into the Alington Hall during the course of the afternoon to browse the university displays and talk to the representatives about university life, the application process and the courses on offer.

They were also able to take advantage of presentations given in the Ashton Theatre by representatives from Bristol, Keele and Durham Universities covering 'Writing a Personal Statement', 'Choosing a University/Course' and 'Student Finance', as well a presentation by the LSE, UCL, Imperial and King's College London on 'World Class Study in London'.

Both venues were busy all afternoon, the flexibility in timings allowing for attendance at the presentations and the exhibition stands.

We would like to extend our thanks to the universities who attended and we hope to continue to build on the success of the event and make next year's even larger!

Mrs Nightingale



Ursule Taujanskaite wins the Sidney Gold Medal

Friday 24 February 2017

The Sidney Gold Medal is Shrewsbury School's most prestigious academic prize, and is awarded to the outstanding academic leaver each year. We are delighted to announce that this year's winner is Ursule Taujanskaite (MSH 2014-16).



Since the introduction of co-education in 2008, many highly talented and high-achieving girls have been at the School, but Ursule becomes the first female winner of the Sidney Gold Medal.

Ursule left Shrewsbury in July 2016 and is now an undergraduate at Selwyn College, Cambridge, studying Psychological and Behavioural Sciences. At Shrewsbury, she undertook the rare challenge of studying five full subjects in the Sixth Form, and gained 4A* grades and a D1 in her Upper Sixth exams, all with outstanding scores. She achieved A* grades in Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Biology and Chemistry, whilst in French she gained the top D1 (Distinction 1) grade, which is loosely described as being equivalent to A**.

Thane Warburg, Ursule's tutor wrote as follows:

As her French teacher it was immediately apparent that she possessed a heady cocktail of incisive intelligence way beyond her years, an extraordinary work ethic and genuine linguistic flair. In common with many of the brightest pupils I have taught over the years, she did not seem to realise how exceptional she was and it was quite common for her to doubt her abilities despite the fact that every shred of evidence placed her at the very top of any academic tree you care to mention. She was invariably kind, thoughtful and full of humility and rarely without a broad smile on her face.

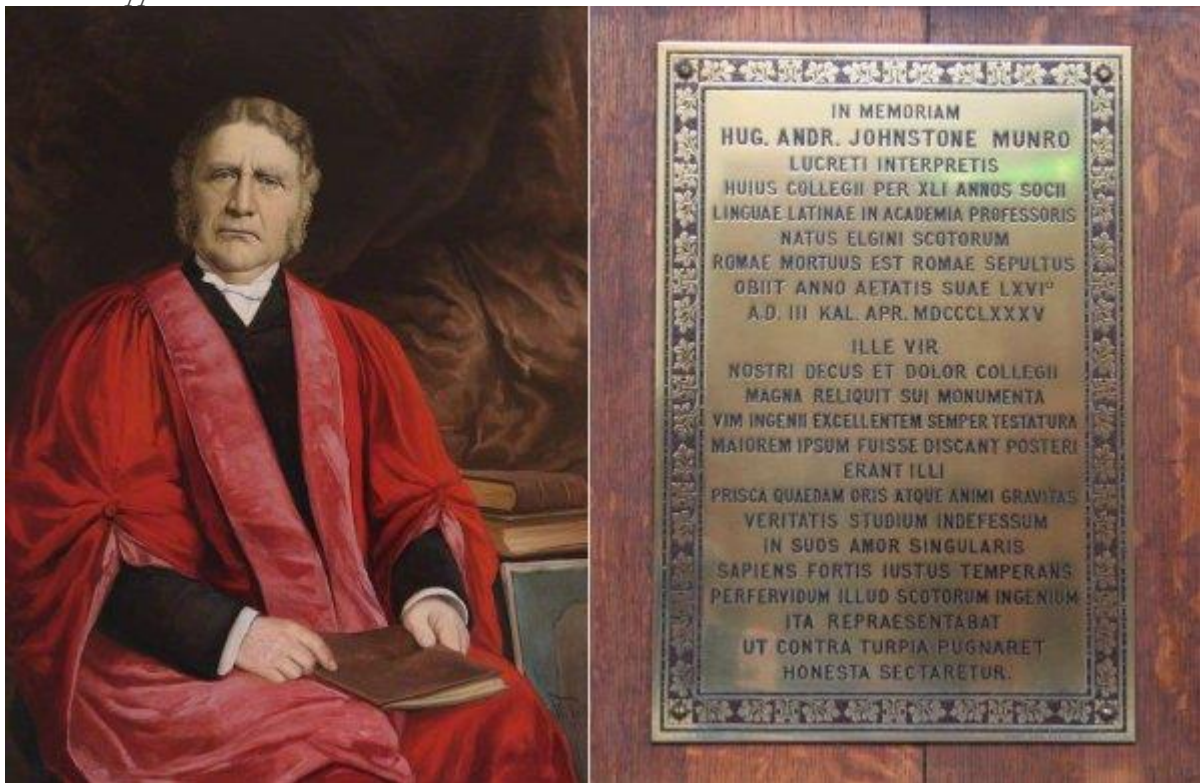


The award is made simply on academic grounds. However, in keeping with Shrewsbury's broad co-curricular life, Ursule was also an outstanding musician and committed sportswoman. She won a Choral Scholarship to Cambridge, having been Choregus of the Chapel Choir at Shrewsbury, and was an outstanding flautist, gaining her Diploma and reaching last year's final of the Royal Philharmonic Society Duet Prize for Young Instrumentalists. She also represented the School in the girls' tennis first pair and ran for the Hunt.

The Sidney Gold Medal was first awarded in 1838, and the initial winner was H.A.J. Munro. He proceeded to a stellar classical academic career, as Scholar and then Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge.

In 1869, Munro was elected to a new Professorship of Latin, founded at Cambridge in honour of Dr Benjamin Hall Kennedy. This underlines the pre-eminence of Shrewsbury School as perhaps the finest school in the country for the study of classics in the 19th century, to which a cursory glance at the honour boards in the Main School Building testifies. For this is the very same Dr Kennedy who was Headmaster of Shrewsbury School from 1836 to 1865, prior to being elected as Regius Professor of Greek at Cambridge University.

Martin Cropper



Images courtesy of Trinity College, Cambridge

Sponsored Walk total reaches £100,000

Friday 24 February 2017

Having originally set ourselves an ambitious target of raising £70,000 from our Whole School Sponsored Walk for our youth club in Everton, Shrewsbury House ('the Shewsy'), we were thrilled when we were able to announce in October that the total had reached £80,000. Now, thanks to the fantastic support of the School Governors, that figure has grown to a magnificent final total of £100,000.

This is double the amount raised by the last Sponsored Walk in 2011.

"Club members and staff have been completely overwhelmed by the amount raised," said Dave Brereton, Senior Youth Worker at the Shewsy. "This funding is a lifeline for the young people of Everton. It has given all of us at the club a massive boost to morale and to what we are able to plan for the immediate future. Thank you!"



Dave Brereton with the Third Form when the total broke the original target of £70,000 in October

For more about the Sponsored Walk itself, please see: our report [Sponsored Walk for the Shewsy](#); a selection of some of the stunning photos taken by staff and pupils: [Sponsored Walk Photo Gallery](#); and a wonderful video that captures the atmosphere of the day: [Sponsored Walk Timelapse Video](#)



The news this week 100 years ago: 24th February - 2nd March 1917

Friday 24 February 2017

This week we remember:

Major Alwyne Percy Dale OBE, 4th Bn. West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own).

School House, left in 1898. He graduated from Clare College, Cambridge in 1902. During his university days he served with the Service Contingent of the C.U.R.V. (attached to the Suffolk Regiment, in the South African War, gaining the Queen's Medal with five clasps. He subsequently took a commission in the 1st V.B. West Yorkshire Regiment, transferring to the Territorials in 1908 and being gazetted Captain in 1911 and Temp. Major, 23 February 1916. By profession he was a solicitor at York, being admitted in 1906.

He was killed in action in France on 1st March 1917, aged 36.

He is buried at Queen's Cemetery, Bucquoy, France. Grave I. F. 3.



Bubble Football

Saturday 25 February 2017



Headmaster's Commendations

Monday 27 February 2017

The aim of the Headmaster's Commendations is to recognise and reward outstanding academic achievement and intellectual curiosity. Congratulations to the following pupils, who were awarded Commendations on 27th February.



Third, Fourth and Fifth Form HM Commendation winners

Third Form

Charlotte Russell (G)

Euan Parr (Rb)

Imogen Morgan (G)

Klim Sizov (I)

Fred Jones (Rb)

Tommy Jarvis (MSH)

Fourth Form

Runjie Liao (MSH)

Olivia Moir (MSH)

Anna Cowan (MSH)

Thomas Jackson (R)

Nicholas Yale (S)

Fifth Form

Reuben Denison (SH)

William Hope (Ch)

Piers Merison (SH)



Mark Pangin (SH)
Adam Pattenden (S)
Oscar Mattinson (Rb)
Thomas Plaut (S)
Lizzie Ware (MSH)

Lower Sixth

Betty Chau (G)
Oliver Bureau (Ch)
Sophie Li (G)
Charlie Johns (I)
Linda Zhao (G)

Upper Sixth

Will Bedson (Rb)
Harris Huntsman (R)
Simran Randhawa (MSH)
Megan Redhead (MSH)
Sasha Lo (EDH)



Sixth Form HM Commendation winners

RSSH juniors dominate in MANISCCC Cross-Country Championships

Monday 27 February 2017



Colts lining up at the start

On Saturday 25th February, the Hunt travelled to Oundle to compete in the Midlands & Northern Independent Schools' Cross-Country Championships (MANISCCC).

The junior team dominated the Colts race, with Tom Jackson (R IV), Paddy Barlow (R IV) and Toby Pegge (PH V) taking the top three positions – a superb achievement.



Tom Jackson, winner of the Colts race

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Such was the strength in depth that not only did the team win the overall trophy, but our B-team came second!

In the seniors, we were narrowly beaten by a very strong Sedbergh team, though Freddie Huxley-Fielding (R UVI) did manage to take the individual win in an exciting race against the top Sedbergh runner.

A special mention, also, to Francesca Harris (EDH III) who came 24th in the English National Cross-Country Championships, competing amongst the best runners in the country – a fine achievement.

Please see the full report by Ian Haworth, Master-in-Charge of the Hunt: [MANISCCC 2017](#)