

The cognitive revolution and the evolution of humour

Friday 2 February 2018


A report by Jennifer Westermann (M UVI) on a talk given by Dr Gil Greengross as part of our Academic Extension lecture series.

Dr Gil Greengross is an evolutionary psychologist at the University of Aberystwyth whose main area of research is studying the evolutionary roots of everyday behaviours and emotions, particularly humour and laughter. He delivered an informative and interesting lecture on 25th January about how we developed our large brains over our evolutionary history.

The development of these large brains meant that we could process more complex information. This meant that we could develop more intricate social networks, which inevitably led to the evolution of humour.

He described the vital role humour plays in society, although he did show that humour is not the best medicine, it is key in choosing a mate. Interestingly, the role humour plays in choosing a mate differs between men and women. Reportedly men prefer women who laugh at their jokes rather than ones who make funny jokes, and women prefer men who are funny rather than those who laugh at their jokes. Although I don't fall into that category, it was very interesting to learn more about the role humour plays in mate choice and how it evolved.

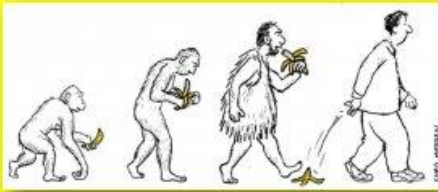
Academic Extension Lecture



Shrewsbury School

The Cognitive Revolution & The Evolution of Humour

Dr Gil Greengross
Aberystwyth University



SLT 7.30pm Thursday 25th January 2018

A visit to the new Shrewsbury International School Hong Kong

Friday 2 February 2018

Eight Committee members of the Friends of Shrewsbury School Hong Kong (FSSHK) enjoyed a very informative visit last month to the Admissions Office of the soon-to-be-opened Shrewsbury International School HK in Tseung Kwan O.

Helen Mayhew, Vice-Chair of the FSSHK, writes:

They were welcomed by the Principal, Ben Keeling, and Pre-Operation Teachers Nicola Thompson and Louise Granger.

Ben and his staff showed Committee Members an introductory slideshow and explained the very distinctive differences of Shrewsbury International School HK compared with other international schools in HK. These included being a Primary Specialist School for 3-11-year-olds, a very forward-thinking English National Curriculum with daily mandatory Mandarin classes, top-notch facilities including an indoor running track and a heated indoor swimming pools (one for junior students and one for more senior ones) – to name just a few!

What makes Shrewsbury School so unique is the support community that it has created around the world. Committee Members of the FSSHK have also been invited to the new school's Cocktail Reception at the British Consulate on 7th March. And we so look forward to visiting the grand opening of the School located this August!



AGM of the Friends of Shrewsbury School Hong Kong

Friday 2 February 2018

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Shrewsbury School Hong Kong took place on 2nd December 2017.



Shrewsbury MUN team win 3 Delegation Awards

Friday 2 February 2018

Shrewsbury School's Model United Nations delegates returned from the Manchester High School for Girls MUN Conference (27th - 28th January) with a very impressive haul of awards.



Both our Chinese Delegation and our Israeli Delegation won **Commended Delegation Awards**.

Our Chinese Delegation also won the award for **Best Delegation in General Assembly**.

In addition the following picked up individual awards in their committees:

Ebrahim Jamshid (SH LVI) won the top award in his committee: **Outstanding Delegate**.
Henry Mayhew (Ch UVI), Chad Usher (S LVI) and Abi Watkinson (G LVI) won **Highly**

Commended Delegate Awards.

Ferdinand Neuling (R UVI), Tom Hughes (Ch UVI) and Joe Shaw (R LVI) won **Commended**

Delegate Awards.

Oliver Bureau (Ch UVI) got a **Special Mention in the Security Council**.



Chad Usher speaking in the Technological Forum on Sunday

"This was a very successful weekend by any standards," said Mr Peach, Teacher in Charge of MUN, "but particular praise must go to Abi Watkinson and Joe Shaw, for whom this was their first MUN. And thank you to Mrs Drew who helped me accompany the trip."

The teams were:

China

Security Council – Oliver Bureau (Ambassador)
Human Rights Council – Mill Luangamornlert
Economic and Social Committee – Koby Ferdinand-Okpala
Political Committee – Niamh Nugent
Science and Technology Committee – Ebrahim Jamshid
Technological Warfare – Chad Usher
Human Rights Committee – Henry Mayhew

Israel

Economic and Social Committee – Ferdinand Neuling
Political Committee – Will Manley
Science and Technology Committee – Abi Watkinson
Human Rights – Joe Shaw

Technological Warfare – Tom Hughes (Ambassador)

Uruguay

Health Committee – Mary Yang

Human Rights Committee – Cici Zhang (Ambassador)



L-R: Ferdinand Neuling, Joe Shaw, Cici Zhang and Mary Yang



Fencing: Three Salopians qualify for the British Youth Championships

Friday 2 February 2018

Shrewsbury School's Epéeists were in fine form at the West Midlands British Youth Qualifiers on Sunday 28th January.

Between them they won three of the four top places in the U18 Boys' Epée and they have all qualified for the British Youth Finals, which will be held at the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield in May.

2nd place: James Hinwood (Rt LVI)

3rd place: Will Holcroft (Rt LVI)

3rd place: Ben Cowley (R LVI)

Nick Hancock and Chums

Friday 2 February 2018

By Giles Bell



On the Saturday night of Coach Weekend there was a rather unusual Old Salopian charity event. It was called 'Saturday Night Detention with Nick Hancock' (I 1975-80). I hasten to say this is not because Nick is in any way an expert at giving out detention or because he has a long history of misbehaviour or imprisonment. The idea was to enable us to hold the event as cheaply as possible and hide behind a school theme, so that it took place in Kingsland Hall with a cheap and easy meal (sausages and mash followed by treacle puddings)!

The evening began with Nick informing the assembled throng that Chris Conway was unfortunately too ill to give a presentation about the charity Restart Africa - which was the reason behind the whole evening - and that I would be doing it instead. At that moment Chris walked in to the room! However, as he had just got off a plane and was feeling under the weather, I tugged at the heart strings with some stories that are difficult to hear without wanting to immediately donate!

Restart Africa is a small charity which runs an orphanage in Gilgil, Kenya for 113 children. It is run by its founder Mary Coulson MBE who currently has four grandchildren at Shrewsbury. Do feel free to go to their website <http://www.restartafrica.org/> or Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/restartafrica/> and donate - or even better, sign up to give a monthly contribution.



Nick then supervised a game of 'True and False' which was followed by Joe Bell (I 2010-13, Rb 2014-15) strumming his guitar in a Harry Styles/Ed Sheeran-like manner. Joe can be seen at various venues in London plying his trade and he is always pleased to see Old Salopians amongst his fans. He goes under the name of Coryndon Bell as there are already some other Joe Bells on the circuit and he wanted something a little different!

Joe was followed by me cracking some awesome jokes (well, they made me laugh). I then introduced a Rising Star of Comedy in the shape of Kiran Morjaria who has been performing comedy on a regular basis in between training as a doctor. Kiran was fantastic and if you find yourself near the Comedy Store in Manchester, he quite often performs there.

After Kiran it was the turn of Nick Hancock to come and entertain the masses with stories from his time on TV and various shows. Despite suffering from the dreaded lurgy, Nick went through the pain-barrier and delivered some very entertaining anecdotes which were hugely appreciated by us all.

I tried very hard to find some dirt on both Kiran and Nick but could sadly find nothing worthy of note. I even turned to David Gee but he was unable to recall anything scurrilous about Nick. They are clearly true Salopians and had learnt to play the game (i.e. not get taught!). I could embarrass my son but I suspect my very existence does that!

I would like to publicly thank Nick, Kiran and Joe for giving up their time for a great cause and helping us to raise just over £6,000.

Giles Bell (Admissions Tutor, Philosophy & Theology Teacher, Comedian, Father and Legend - Ed)



First House Football Cup Final

Wednesday 7 February 2018

Ingram's Hall versus Severn Hill... Giles Bell reports on an historic match.

When one thinks of the big names in Football, one might mention Liverpool, Manchester United, Chelsea, Real Madrid, Brighton and of course Shrewsbury Town. Shrewsbury have recently signed midfielder Abo Eisa from Wealdstone. When asked about his move, Eisa said: "It's a huge club and they are very ambitious. Being here is a really huge move for me." I am sure Eisa would also have been excited by the First House Final, played last week at one of the founding schools of the Rules of Association Football.

"Forty years of hurt." Two members of the 1978 Ingram's Hall football team that won First House in that year were watching to see if the present-day wearers of the 'Slytherin' green and white could regain the trophy they last won four decades ago.



A very nervous Nick Hancock was peeping out from behind the scoreboard and then disappearing again when his nerves couldn't take it anymore. I was reminded of my first encounters with Dr Who. I used to cower behind the sofa and probably only saw about 5% of the action, such was



my fear of the daleks and other such Enemies of the World. Nick was with one of his former teammates, Angus Pollock, and both were as excited by the game as any other member of the Ingram's crowd. "We are both very excited," they said at the same time, as was Angus's wife Sue, although I sensed she was not quite as excited as her husband.

Nick was hoping that his son Harvey would be in the first team from Ingram's to lift the trophy since his father. "It would be nice if Harvey was in the next team from Ingram's to win the trophy since his father." Nick murmured in an almost mystical manner with a faraway look in his eyes. He went on to say, "It's almost as if it is written in the ancient runes of the Moser precinct".

I asked these two senior gentlemen (do you remember the two old codgers in the muppets?) if they remembered much about the match in 1978. Angus was quick to tell me it was 3-0 to Ingram's against Moser's and Andrew Waterworth was on the score sheet. It clearly meant a lot to them both – and anyone who has been involved with a House Football team will understand why.

This year's final had to be moved from the last day of the Michaelmas Term, owing to the significant snowfall that led to the end of term activities being postponed in favour of serious snowballing and a large number of people suddenly finding their inner calling as specialist winter scene photographers. (My pictures are on Facebook – over 140 likes, which was especially satisfying as my wife said rather dismissively "no one will want to see them!")



A reminder of what Top Common looked like on the day the First House Final should have been played

So the teams embarked on what was to be a full-blooded match with no quarter given, as befits a House match. Many school coaches have bemoaned the fact that they have been unable to unlock the extra 20% that players seem to find when battling their comrades from other Houses. No one wants to lose face in front of their peers, and bragging rights are a major incentive for Housemasters, tutors, matrons, as well as pupils.

Severn Hill's Housemaster Dan Nicholas was in the same year as Nick Hancock and Angus Pollock, and their appearance on the touchline added to the pressure he was already feeling. Severn Hill had made all three of this year's House finals but had so far not won any of them – and this was their last chance. "I'm feeling the pressure," Mr Nicholas said, as sweat dripped off his brow despite the bitter wind.



Both Housemasters gave their teams some well-chosen final words of encouragement. Mr Griffiths, in his first year as Housemaster of Ingram's, was very relaxed about the whole affair. As a Liverpool fan he was looking for an expansive and attacking style of play, but as a rugby coach he had no idea of how to implement it. Like all good managers, he had chosen to delegate. "Matron is in charge of tactics," he told me.

Matron (Debra King) took her seat in the Ingram's dugout and proceeded to dispense useful advice. "Matron helped me get my head right," said non-footballing centre mid-fielder James 'It's-curtains-for-you' Draper. "Matron is the King," Alex Powell told me.



Matron with her fitness and nutrition team

Mr Nicholas has a similar knowledge of football tactics to his rival manager. However, Master in Charge of Football Mr Wilderspin is a tutor in Severn Hill, and rumours of a secret master plan to be unveiled were rife before kick-off.

“Not true,” commented Dan Nicholas, “Matron Linda Riley is in charge of tactical awareness. She is really up for this game having just missed out on the England Ladies job”.

“I would do a better job than Philip Neville,” Linda told me with an angry glint in her eye!



Dan went on to say that “Dr Gee’s experience of supporting school matches will be invaluable. He knows just how to ‘Gee up’ the team!”

“I am known as the G force,” said Dr Gee.



The Ingram's supporters were out well before the start of the match working out how to fly their House flag from the lamppost. They managed to get it somewhere near the top, which seemed to be most pleasing to the majority of their fans.



It would be fair to say that the two teams cancelled each other out by working very hard and giving very little space for the attacking players in each side to work their magic. There were some robust challenges and Ludo 'I'm-the-size-of-a-cathedral-city' Lichfield was eventually sin-binned for body-checking Tom 'I'm Severn Hill's major Hazard' Brunskill. "It was an accident," Ludo told me. "I certainly did not mean to hurt Tom" he added. Tom cannot remember the incident. "It's a bit of a blur," he admitted.



Ultimately, due to some good goalkeeping and some chances not being taken, the game finished 0-0 and went into extra time. At the end of half-time it remained 0-0, and so penalties loomed.

Ingram's player-maker Harvey Hancock confidently stepped up to take the first penalty as Dad headed for the car. "I can't watch," he said. Sadly for Harvey a sudden gust of wind took his penalty past the goal, and Severn Hill had the early advantage. Indeed they had a two-goal advantage after four penalties and merely needed to tuck one of their last two away.



Ben Henderson nonchalantly slots his penalty past goalie Ed Stapleton

Angus Moore missed his and then Felix Kenyon-Smith missed his. The crowd were struck dumb as Ingram's equalised and we were into sudden death. Ed Stapleton was the hero of the hour, saving what was to be the last of the Severn Hill penalties. And then James Draper stepped up to win the Cup for Ingram's and their jubilant supporters.



I asked Angus ‘at-least-I-made-the-keeper-work’ Moore, the Severn Hill midfield dynamo, if the pressure had got to him. “Not really,” he told me. He added, “As we were two up, maybe I was a bit complacent”. It certainly made for an exciting climax to the competition. Angus admitted that there was a somewhat gloomy feel around Severn Hill later that evening. “We were all a bit

down, but I guess someone's disappointment is someone else's joy and that takes the edge off our defeat." Perhaps we have found a new spiritual leader in Angus.



The two teams can take great heart from providing the spectators with a very tense and exciting match. No one really deserved to lose. The referee Jack Noble told me it had been a feisty game and he had been worried about the fitness levels of his linesmen Alan Kynaston and Maelor Owen when it went into extra time but was delighted they had survived. "I am delighted they have survived," he told me.





The gallant losers were:

In goal – James Crewdson, the hero of the competition, regularly keeping Severn Hill in matches and having a very good final

In defence – Cameron Anwyl, Charles Shaw, Felix Kenyon-Smith and Tommy Price

In centre midfield – Ben Henderson and Angus Moore

In attack – Leo Walton, Tom Brunskill, Jamie Anwyl and striker Dom Ainslie

There were also cameos from Rob Ford and Johnnie Peel.

The victorious Ingram's team were:

Ed Stapleton (in goal), the brothers James and Alex Powell, Bilal Khan, Victor 'I-never-looked-like-I-would-miss-my-penalty' Scheibler, James 'I-slotted-my-winning-penalty-despite-not-being-known-for-my-composure' Draper, Harvey '40-years-of-hurt' Hancock, Jake 'out-of-the' Woods, Dan Humes, Sam 'I-prefer-an-oar' Branford, Finn Chadwick

Here's to the next 40 years, or whenever the next generation of Hancocks arrive!



Early season wins for the RSSBC at the Wycliffe Head

Thursday 8 February 2018

There were some very encouraging performances by the six RSSBC crews who raced last weekend at the Wycliffe Head over the 4500m course on the Gloucester Sharpness Canal.

The morning division saw the J15 boys race in two eights and the J15 girls in one eight. All three crews produced very good performances, with the boys coming first and third and the girls second in their categories.



In the afternoon the Senior Girls raced in the open eights event and the J18 quads event. The crews won both events in a strong statement for the depth of the squad.



The J16 boys raced in a coxed four in the open event, coming in second to a University of West of England crew.

Athol Hundermark, Director of Rowing



Wind Prizes

Friday 9 February 2018

Nearly 50 pupils took part in the annual Wind Prizes, which were held on Sunday 4th February. adjudicated by Paul Saunders.

The adjudicator was Paul Saunders, who is principally a clarinettist but is equally proficient on the saxophone and flute. He plays regularly in the West End on Wicked and has recently be appointed as Multi instrumental Consultant at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire.

The prizes were awarded to the following;

Junior Class

1st - Christian Nicholas (PH III - oboe)

Highly Commended - Edward Hou (R IV - saxophone)

Commended - Nathan Mielczarek (Rb V - bassoon)



Intermediate class

1st - Henry Lees (Rb III - bassoon)

Highly Commended - Flora Kanan (EDH III - oboe)

Commended- Matthew Thevathasan (PH LVI - clarinet)



Senior Class

1st - Jonty Gould (SH IV - saxophone)

Highly Commended - Henry Mayhew (Ch UVI - clarinet)

Commended - Maddy Baly (M LVI - saxophone)



Girls' Fives: Novice pair reach National U14 Semi-Finals

Friday 9 February 2018

The U14 Girls represented the Shrewsbury in the EFA Schools' National Fives Championships with real pride this week and ensured that our very strong reputation and standing in the game was upheld on the national scene.

The headline act was Issy Morris and Lisette Barden, who played strongly throughout, came first in their qualifying group and only just lost out to a good Highgate 1st pair in a very close semi-final, 13-14 and 9-11. For a novice pair it was an outstanding result, as all the other semi-finalists had played for three years.



Lisette Barden and Issy Morris being presented with their semi-finalist shields by Old Salopian George Thomason, Fives Coach at Eton

Issy Morris & Lisette Barden lost 13-14 & 9-11 to Highgate 1 in the National U14 Semi-Final.

Harriet Shuker & Lauren Taylor also won their group and went on to lose in the last 16.

Pair 3 Phoebe Watkins and Issy Hatton & Pair 4 Ashleigh Pegge & Annie Cox won through their group and round two before falling at the last 16 stage.

Pair 5 Eibhilin Moores & Lottie Waterhouse got knocked out of the main event but went on to play a number of plate matches and had a great win against Ipswich in their last match.

On the day following their fine performances on the fives courts of Eton College, Issy Morris, Lisette Barden and Harriet Shuker were in action in the Cricket Centre of Shrewsbury School on debut with the U15 girls' cricket team. The team won the Lady Taverners Indoor Cricket U15 Area Qualifiers in emphatic style and now look forward to the County Finals next month.



McEachran Prize 2018

Friday 9 February 2018

This year's McEachran Prize competition took place in the newly refurbished Churchill's (formerly Severn) Room in the Moser Library, a wonderfully invigorating environment for 11 talks on 'spells'. The event is dedicated to the memory of Frank McEachran, who taught at Shrewsbury from 1935 until his death in service (at the age of 75) in 1975.

Richard Hudson writes:

The 'spells' were drawn from every type of writer from Edmund Burke, via Shakespeare, Milton, Dylan Thomas and the Bhagavad Gita to the American rapper J Cole. The competition is open to all year groups from the Fourth Form upwards and has become a place where the intellectually bold can cut their teeth in front of the small audience of fellow competitors, a few of their friends and a handful of staff. The intimacy of the event is part of its charm.

Over the years, what constitutes a 'spell' has been broadened beyond any definition of which 'Kek' (as we called Frank McEachran) would have approved: any piece of text, and a talk on any aspect of it, lasting no more than five minutes. Content and intellectual integrity is all, slickness of presentation much less important.

This year's adjudicator was Richard Barber OS. As is customary, he opened the proceedings with a brief reminiscence of 'Kek', describing the experience of being taught by this unique man who inspired a lifelong reverence in all (including me) who came under his own spell. The text of Richard's reminiscence can be found [here](#).

Choosing winners was this year even more difficult than usual, and the adjudicator's instinct exactly matched that of the writer (who remained mute). Winner of the junior section was Tom Allen (Ch IV), whose spell "People will not look forward to posterity who never look backward to their ancestors" was taken from Edmund Burke's 1790 pamphlet Reflections on the Revolution in France. The full text of Tom's talk can be found [here](#). Highly commended was Orlando Williams (Rt IV) who spoke passionately about Dylan Thomas's Under Milk Wood.

In the senior section, the winner was Ebrahim Jamshid (SH LVI) for a deeply personal talk on bani adam by the 13th century Persian poet Saadi, inscribed on the UN building. Highly commended were Henry Mayhew (Ch UVI) for his exegesis of I met a Genius by Charles Bukowski and Otto Rothwell Hurley (Ch LVI) for his meditation on Robert Frost's Fire and Ice.

Many thanks to the brave competitors who enthralled us with their passionate engagement with their texts for 90 minutes, and to our outstanding adjudicator, whose sense of what this wackiest of Salopian academic competitions is really about was so instinctive.



TO THE MEMORY OF FRANK McEACHRAN
MASTER AT SHREWSBURY 1935-1975



WE MUST HAVE CHAOS WITHIN US
TO GIVE BIRTH TO A DANCING STAR



The news this week 100 years ago: 9th - 15th February 1918

Friday 9 February 2018

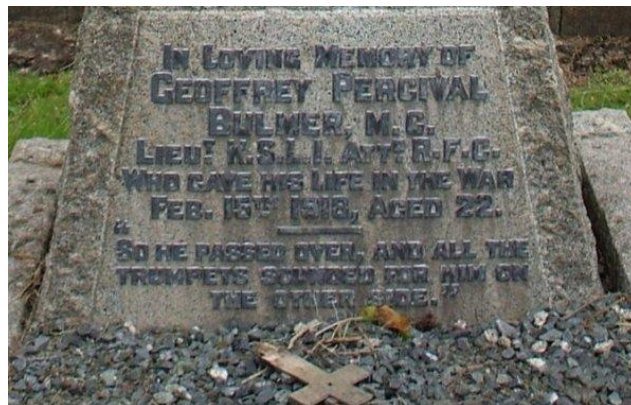
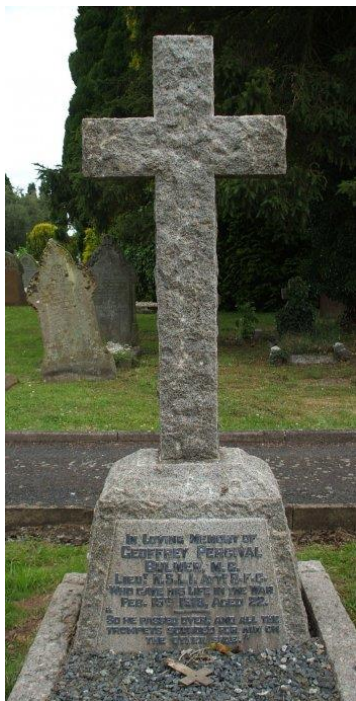
This week we remember Geoffrey Bulmer, who died on 15th February 1915.

Lieutenant Geoffrey Percival Bulmer MC, Royal Flying Corps.

School House, left in 1913. Commissioned into the King's Shropshire Light Infantry he was attached to the RFC. He had "some very exciting adventures in France: on one occasion he was in an aeroplane when his pilot collapsed and the machine fell 10,000 ft on to some trees".

He died "from the effects of war strain on active service" in the United Kingdom, 15th February 1918, aged 22.

He is buried at Hereford Cemetery, England. Grave St. Nicholas. 255.





'Rebecca - The Drowned Bride' - review of the new Shrewsbury School Musical

Friday 9 February 2018

A review by Richard Hudson of the new Shrewsbury School Musical, performed to packed and enthusiastic audiences in the Ashton Theatre, Friday 4th and Saturday 5th February.

"If this is not yet an Alexandrian feast, it ripens towards it."

Helen Brown and John Moore's third collaboration, a musical based on Daphne du Maurier's novel *Rebecca*, is a feast in the final stages of preparation. Billed as an über-dress rehearsal, with disclaimers mixed in with pre-show instructions about fire exits and mobile phones, the audience had in fact no need to lower their expectations.



One-and-a-half hours flew by as we embarked on the emotional Cook's Tour embodied in this darkly melodramatic tale of love, deception, disillusion, dastardly dealing and despair. The full fruition of co-education has secured for the School a seemingly unending stream of exquisite female voices; when matched up with John Moore's attractive and varied score and Helen Brown's appealing lyrics, the result could hardly fail to grip the audience. A veteran of many bands in previous Moore/Fanning productions, the opening number took me straight back to *The Lost Domain*, a rather more whimsical romantic fantasy than the more gritty *Rebecca*. But there the similarity ended. This is an original score, more Kurt Weil than Lloyd Webber, but unmistakably Moore.



Dom Sullivan's portrayal of the hapless Max de Winter, looking every inch the part, a man with a dark secret which from the moment he first appeared on stage he could not quite conceal, was enthralling from start to finish. As the author intended, we were initially taken in by his specious sincerity and palpable vulnerability, and increasingly appalled by his treatment of the hapless '2nd Mrs de Winter' (significantly never graced with a first name), poignantly acted and sung by Theodora Jarvis. In marrying Max de Winter, she merely swaps one tyrant – the vulgar American gold-digger Mrs van Hopper (the inimitable Jessie Inglis-Jones) whose charms, despite her best efforts, can work no magic on Max – for another, in the shape of Max's embittered, sinister and icy-hearted housekeeper Mrs Danvers (nonetheless exquisitely sung by Sophia Price), obsessed by her former mistress, the drowned 1st Mrs de Winter.





All the leads were convincing and committed, as were those characters with important but smaller roles, amongst whom I would single out the serpentine Jack Favell (Freddy Williams), the simian simpleton Ben Carminowe (Ben Lloyd) – who between them unravel Max de Winter’s guilty secret – and the only apparently happy character in the story, the bluff coroner Colonel Julyan (Oliver Shutts), while Jasper the dog and his master Aaron Clark threatened at times to steal the show. I am sorry I can’t mention everyone – there were no weak links in the casting.

A lively chorus sang with gusto and conviction and, trained by their choreographer Sian Archer, broke the tension with their dancing. They appeared particularly to relish their most memorable number, ‘You’re in the country now, my dear’, as, dressed in Barbours and flat caps, they welcomed the 2nd Mrs de Winter to Manderley with supercilious disdain.



Lighting and sound were accomplished, and really the only indications that this is still a work in progress were a few unscheduled dance moves and a couple of unexplained pauses which may or may not have been dramatic. And throughout the whole show, the tireless John Moore did duty for a whole band, which will doubtless materialise when the show goes to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in the summer.

This is a great show, just about ready to come out of the oven. Cast, crew, composer and the director/playwright are to be warmly congratulated.

RTH



School House Soiree is a Hit

Friday 9 February 2018

As is the School House tradition, the House Soirée took place on the final Friday before half term and was a glorious evening showcasing a great diversity of acts, including instrumental and vocal solos, small bands and large ensembles, across a range of genres and abilities.

The reputation of this event has grown over the years together with the size of the audience being entertained in the Maidment Building and as the boys of School House took to the stage and performed there was something for everyone! Participation in the Soirée is completely voluntary and we were delighted that so many boys wanted to take part.

The opening act this year was not a gentle a capella as last year, but a full on throwback rock delight from the 70's.



The band performing "My Sweet Lord" by George Harrison followed with "I Want You Back" by The Jackson Five. Two classic songs which are just slightly older than the 80's style jacket Henri donned for the occasion! (L-R) Ludo de Falbe, Jac Williams, Lyr Heyward-Jones, Koby Ferdinand-Okpala and Henri Cramsie



Showing everyone that you don't have to wait until Sixth Form to perform with utter confidence, Jonty Gould (IV) gave a flawless performance on saxophone with a diploma standard piece by Phil Woods. A few days before this, he won the school's Senior Wind Prize, in competition with the most talented Sixth Form musicians – very impressive for a Fourth Form student!



The Fifth Form Trumpet Ensemble's favourite of Scott Joplin's "The Entertainer" with (L-R) Punn Vajrabhaya, Ben Stewart, Louis Street and Frank Coughlan. Frank then went on to win the school's Senior Brass Prize a couple of weeks later with an incredibly advanced, post-diploma standard, piece that is usually only expected of those in their final year at Music College – another remarkable achievement. (As you can see the chaps were assisted from a special appearance by our very own Francia Besterman.)

The evening was all about giving everyone who wanted to perform, the opportunity to do so, regardless of standard. Therefore, in addition to the experienced musicians, we also had those who had only recently picked up their instruments for the first time. Often they accompanied each other; playing together is key to enjoyment and this certainly came across in performances!

Given the achievements of our strong performances in The House Singing Competition over the years, the House Soirée has a custom of performing a School House Barbershop Ensemble; for some of these boys it was their first attempt at singing in harmony.



School House Barbershop Ensemble Andrew Chan, Amos Cheung, Gordon Chong, Roman Khidirbekov, Henri Cramsie, Ludo de Falbe, Reuben, Lucas Jones Polanco, Arron Lewis, Ramzi Masri Kayali, Con O'Neill, Jac Williams, Fred Blanchard-Butter, Llyr Heyward-Jones, Punn Vajrabhaya performing "I'm Gonna Dance" – a capella



And just how many LVI fingers can play on a grand at once? The fantastic Piano Quintet with (L-R) Reuben Denison, Henri Cramsie, Tommy Tong, Brandon Wan and Con O'Neill



Cello Duet (L-R) Amos Cheung and Douglas Kennedy performing "Air on a G String" by Bach



Clarinet Ensemble (L-R) Jonty Gould, Fred Blanchard-Butter, Milton Tai and David Wright performing "The Bare Necessities" by Gilkyson



Above, Jac, Llyr, Henri and Ludo performing in the Soiree, and below with Koby rehearsing in our new band practice room



We are very fortunate to be the only house in the school with the space and means to provide such a fantastic music facility, complete with PA system, amps, drum kit and the boys' own pop art on the walls!

Our Sixth form have made a wonderful contribution to music at Shrewsbury with their considerable musical achievements on top of their academic and sporting commitments. In addition to some truly outstanding performances from all year groups, we were also treated to acts from those who are relatively early in their musical careers. We were delighted that so many wanted to get on stage, despite the flu epidemic that has spread amongst the community.

For a full list of performances, see below:

Band Item Henri Cramsie, Ludo de Falbe, Llyr Heyward-Jones, Koby Ferdinand, Okpala, Jac Williams: My Sweet Lord – George Harrison
I Want You Back – The Jackson Five

Reuben Denison – Piano: Impromptu in G flat major – Schubert

Cello Duet Amos Cheung, Douglas Kennedy: Air on a G String – Bach

Milton Tai – Piano: Nocturne in Eb major – Chopin

Trumpet Ensemble Ben Stewart, Frank Coughlan, Louis Street, Punn Vajrabhaya: The Entertainer – Scott Joplin

Douglas Kennedy – Own composition: Ritornelli
Piano: Gavotte – Shostakovich

Clarinet Ensemble Fred Blanchard-Butter, David Wright, Milton Tai, Jonty Gould, Mr McKenzie: The Bare Necessities – Gilkyson

Amos Cheung – Piano: Senbonzakura (Thousand Cherry Blossoms) – Miku Wagakki band

School House Barbershop Ensemble Andrew Chan, Amos Cheung, Gordon Chong, Roman Khidrebov, Henri Cramsie, Ludo de Falbe, Reuben, Lucas Jones Palanca, Arran Lewis, Ramsi Masri Kayali, Con O'Neill, Jac Williams, Fred Blanchard-Butter, Llyr Heyward-Jones, Punn Vajrabhaya:
I'm Gonna Dance – a capella

Chris Wong – Piano: Amazing Grace (traditional)

Albert Horne – Piano: All is Calm – Alexander

Andrew Chan – Piano: Bios/My Dearest medley – Supercell/Sawano

Piano Quintet Con O'Neill, Tommy Tong, Brandon Wan, Reuben Denison, Henri Cramsie: The Three Friends – Collins

Llyr Heyward-Jones – Saxophone: Concert Solo no2 – Harvey

Jonty Gould – Saxophone: Extract from diploma piece by Phil Woods

Frank Coughlan – Trumpet: 1st movement, Trumpet Concerto – Tomasi

Henri Cramsie – Oboe: Morceau de Salon Op 228 – Kalliworls

School House Part-song Gordon Chong, Milton Tai, Llyr Heyward-Jones, Reuben Denison, Henri Cramsie, Jonty Gould, Jac Williams, Theo Gabb, Fred Blanchard-Butter, Freddie Lawson, Amos Cheung, Marcus Cheung, Eldon Kwok, Koby Ferdinand-Okpala, Eadi Masri Kayali, Douglas Kennedy, Albert Horne: Danny Boy and Raindrops Keep Fallin' – arr. C Besterman

Saxophone Quartet Jonty Gould (Soprano), Gordon Chong (Alto), Tom Tarlton (Tenor), Llyr Heyward-Jones (Baritone): Funk Dunk – Street



A School House Production

I am very grateful to the large number of people who helped to make the evening such a success, not least the performers themselves, but also the audience who so readily supported our boys. However, it could not have happened without the members of the Music Department and especially Mrs Caz Besterman who, not only organised all the rehearsals, she also arranged the music for various ensembles in order to get as many people involved as possible in the limited time available.

Ebrahim casts his winning spell over The McEachran Prize 2018

Friday 9 February 2018

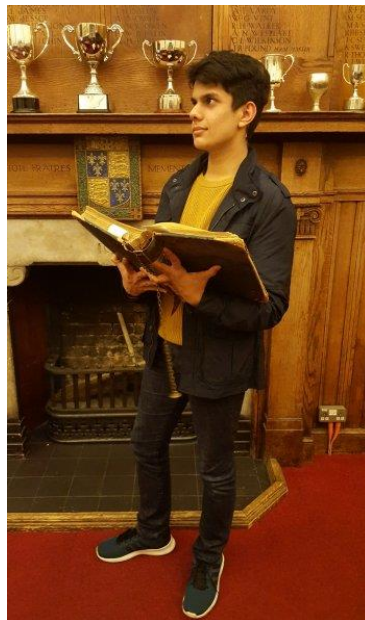
This year's McEachran Prize competition took place in the newly refurbished Churchill's Room in the Moser Library, a wonderfully invigorating environment for 11 talks on 'spells'. The word is linked with Frank McEachran, one of the most remarkable men to have who taught at Shrewsbury, and this event is dedicated to his memory.

A 'spell' is a special Salopian term for a short passage of poetry (or prose) chosen for its suitability for reading aloud. It is any piece of text, and a talk on any aspect of it, lasting no more than five minutes. Content and intellectual integrity is all, slickness of presentation much less important.

The competition is open to all year groups from the Fourth Form upwards and has become a place where the intellectually bold can cut their teeth in front of the small audience of fellow competitors, a few of their friends and a handful of staff. The intimacy of the event is part of its charm.

The brave competitors enthralled the panel with their passionate engagement of their texts for 90 minutes in what is the wackiest of Salopian academic competitions.

In the senior category, following on from his MUN debating success, Ebrahim Jamshid was victorious once more in winning the Senior McEachran Prize. He gave a deeply personal talk on Bani Adam by the 13th century Persian poet Saadi, which is incidentally inscribed on the UN building, very fitting for an MUN winner.





Riding High in the Barber Cup

Sunday 11 February 2018

The OS played Lancing in the semi finals of the Barber Cup on 11 February at Eton. OS won 2-1 and are through to yet another final which is being played next week at Eton (2.30pm start). Scores as follows;

- Ed Taylor (Rb 1987-92) & Sam Welti (I 2007-12) lost to George Campbell & Tom Betts 1-3
- Chris Hughes (SH 2004-09) & George Thomason (G 2006-11) beat Doug Foster & Milo Scudder 3-0
- Rex Worth (S 2002-07) and Tom Gerrard (SH 1999-04) beat Will Betts & Jamie Betts – 3-0.

OS play the Olavians in the final.

We are also through to finals day of the EFA trophy which is also being played on Sunday 18 February at Eton College. The Salopians could well win both national team events on the same day which would be a great achievement (and perhaps a record?).

NB. There is a sad post-script to the above, in that Shrewsbury lost 2-1 to the Olavians in the final. Bravely fought, although it came to nought.



Cambridge Union Schools Debating Competition Finalists

Wednesday 21 February 2018

Each year over 1,000 young people enter the Cambridge Union Schools Debating Competition. Congratulations to Tamara Fox (MSH UVI) and Henry Mayhew (Ch UVI) who have succeeded in reaching the finals.



During half-term they attended the Midlands regional round of the competition, held at Solihull School. They performed remarkably well, gaining enough points over four rounds of intensive, unseen motion debates to be put through to the final.

Finals Day will be held on 3rd March at the Cambridge Union, which has a long and famous history of hosting presidents, prime ministers, celebrities and sports stars.



Global Social Leaders launch their community projects

Thursday 22 February 2018

Over the past twelve months, a group of Lower Sixth students have been developing social action projects that they hope will benefit the local community. Three of these projects have recently gone 'live', as Mr Percival explains.

In November 2016, Anna Peak and I accompanied a group of then 5th Form pupils to the launch of the Global Social Leaders project, whose aim is to empower young people across the world to develop their leadership skills in order to create action projects in their local community. Initiated by a charity called Future Foundations, its tagline is 'think globally, act locally' as it tries to get more young people engaged in having a positive impact on the world.

One of the standout features of GSL is that it is completely student-led and organised, with staff offering the lightest of touches in planning, development and implementation. As such, led ably by Elliot Crossley, the group have worked over the last year on three projects, liaising both with school staff and external agencies.

The first project, called 'Student Insight', is a PSHE drama piece to offer to schools, whose budgets might not be able to stretch to a professional group. The six Salopians involved have devised their own short play on the theme of integration and tolerance, which they will be launching to local headteachers in coming weeks with the help of Shropshire Council. Their aim is to convey important information and ideas in a way that teenagers will appreciate differently than if done in a classroom.

The second project is a podcast called 'ShrewsNews', which aims to distil the important, national and global news stories in bitesize chunks to Salopians. At the same time, the group wish to highlight the vital work done by the support staff for them in interviews with different members of staff, starting with Executive Head Chef Matt Warburton. Finally, in an attempt to spread news of all sectors of Salopian life, each podcast will focus on recent and future school events.

The most recent addition to the project list sees a group of Lower Sixth students work with the charity Refugee Action to provide a link for some unaccompanied young refugees in Shrewsbury with people of their own age, to aid their integration into the local community. We are very excited to see how this will develop in time.

Alongside all of this, the pupils are developing their leadership and organisational skills by taking charge of stand-alone school events. The first sees them organise a tea party for elderly people in Shrewsbury, which will take place on Field Day later this term.

If any parent has any ideas on how the GSL group could provide support to the local community, they are welcome to get in touch - email tpp@shrewsbury.org.uk.



Darwin Society Lecture: 'Evolutionary mismatch and the brain'

Thursday 22 February 2018

On Friday 2nd February, we welcomed Professor Frederick Toates of the Open University to give the fourth of this year's enrichment lectures for the Darwin Society, entitled 'Evolutionary mismatch and the brain'.

He gave an interesting and topical talk on how the present environment is very different from that in which we evolved and yet our brains' evolution took place largely in the early environment of hunting and gathering. This creates what is termed 'evolutionary mismatch' between brain and environment.

Professor Toates described how this evolutionary mismatch can give powerful insight into a number of phenomena of modern life, such as addictions, depression, obesity and social exclusion. However, understanding this principle can also give insight into how motivational processes of the brain work in particular the 'wanting' and 'liking' analogy.

He also linked this to the modern digital world and how this has impacted on social psycho behaviour.

This was a thought-probing and entertaining talk and gave an excellent insight into the field of biological psychology.



Parents' Telephone Campaign

Thursday 22 February 2018

This term the Shrewsbury School Foundation will be holding a second Parents' Telephone Campaign, where we contact parents of current students at Shrewsbury.

The campaign in the Lent Term 2017 was very successful, as our parents generously donated almost £70,000 for the Moser Library redevelopment, and for bursaries.

The Foundation is hoping to build on this success with this term's Campaign. This year we are raising funds for the redevelopment of the Ashton Theatre. With increasing numbers of pupils taking Drama GCSE and Theatre Studies A Level, our theatre provision is inadequate for the rigours of today's syllabus and our own high ambitions of creating the best learning environment for our students. Essential improvements such as a new grand foyer, green rooms, dance floors, washrooms, dressing rooms, and new sound and lighting are urgently needed. These upgrades will surely improve drastically the pupil and audience experience alike.

The Foundation is confident that our major donors including the Friends of Shrewsbury School Hong Kong will assist with the building of the facility itself. The Foundation asks that you join fellow parents and Old Salopians and support the purchase of items that are essential to the theatre's function such as sound and imaging, sets, modular storage and costumes. These items will help our pupils take full advantage of this tremendous new facility.

The Campaign also provides a tremendous opportunity for our parents to talk to recent Shrewsbury leavers and hear about other developments at the School.

The Foundation Director has written to all those the Foundation will be telephoning, but if you would like to support this important project, please contact jhutchinson@shrewsbury.org.uk or telephone 01743 280889.

Bentley Elocution Prize

Friday 23 February 2018

The annual late winter ritual of the Bentley Elocution Competition, the School's principal exhibition of verse recitation, brought a splendidly attentive audience of elegantly suited Third Formers, 16 well-rehearsed and confident competitors, a gaggle of dactyls, a troupe of spondees (and a few sneaky slant rhymes) into the Ashton Theatre for the great event.



Tom Allen, Eddie Cracknell, Rev Dr Gavin Ashenden, Anya Tonks

All performers not only got through to the end of their chosen pieces without interruption or hesitation, but most also invested their performances with a rich variety of tone and a measure of feeling successfully communicated to the audience.

Our judge, the Rev Dr Gavin Ashenden, widely known writer, broadcaster, and temporarily eye-patched ecclesiarch, was faced with a difficult set of choices. In his summary comments he powerfully emphasised the importance of the alchemy of collaboration between poet and performer on the one hand, and between the reciter's brain and heart on the other.

According to these criteria, in the Third Form Class Henry Weir (O) was highly commended for his version of Kipling's *If* and first prize was awarded to Eddie Cracknell (O) for R.S. Thomas' *Cynddilan on a Tractor*.

In the Fourth Form Class, Lucy Lees (EDH) was highly commended for *One Art* by Elizabeth Bishop and Tom Allen (Ch) took first prize with his rendition of Housman's *On Wenlock Edge*. Elizaveta Stolyarova (G UVI) was highly commended for her performance of Margaret Atwood's *Variation on the Word Sleep* in the Senior Class (Fifth and Sixth Forms), leaving Anya Tonks (MSH V) in possession of first prize for her rendition of Rupi Kaur's *Selfish*.

For a successful and enjoyable evening we must offer our thanks to Dr Law, chief organiser of the event, to our judge Dr Ashenden who so effectively shared his insight, urbanity and discernment with us, to Mrs Leslie and her colleagues in the English Department, to Sara Luzny for her help with publicity materials and above all to the competitors themselves for yet again making this event such an important part of what we are about.

Mr Sheppe



Royal Society of Biology Olympiad 2018 success

Friday 23 February 2018

Eight of our Upper Sixth biologists joined more than 7,800 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, amassing between them one gold medal (awarded only to the top 6%), two silver medals (10.7%), three bronze medals and one 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 medal:

Robert Ford

Silver medal:

Betty Chau

David Wright

Bronze medal:

Michelle Hung

Jennifer Westermann

Ben Ford

Hattie Bramwell

Commended:

Kevin Siao

Giles Bell's Team of the Week

Friday 23 February 2018

This week, Basketball.

I was thinking of taking a look at the boys' hockey teams this week, but then it started snowing and it's not that easy taking pictures with gloves on. Looking for a warmer option, my Upper Sixth Form tutees thought I should focus on their prowess at curry-eating. Despite the brilliance of Orla 'Poppadum' McCormack, Sophie 'Chutneys' Cormack, Clemmie 'Masala' Baynes, Tara 'Korma' Swords and Nifemi 'Jalfrezi' Runsewe in devouring a fine selection from Abdul and his team at Café Saffron, I felt that as we are yet to arrange any fixtures, I had better seek a more actively competitive sporting outfit.



The Spice Girls

Still searching for warmth, I remembered that the gym is covered and I discovered that there was plenty of heat being generated by some very committed and hardworking basketballers. It was there that I turned up to see how the Shrewsbury Sharks have been getting on.

I am a big fan of the names adopted by many Basketball teams. Coach Josh Crutchley plays for the Shropshire Warriors, which conjures up images of ancient chieftains leading their armour-clad troops into battle on snow-topped hills. In fact Josh confessed that he plays without armour and seldom on snow-capped hills. "I have never worn armour or carried a spear on court," Josh told me. Nevertheless, he is still very much a warrior, as no quarter is given when he is on the court.



Josh's fellow coach is Geoff Parry, who is a retired solicitor renowned for his performances in court as well as on the court. He referees in the National League and has a natural interest in the laws of the game. "I like to see justice done in court and on the court," he would have told me had I asked him the right question. He represented Wales in the Edinburgh Commonwealth Games in 1972. He omitted to mention the name the Welsh team were known by at the time; maybe they didn't have scary nicknames in those days, but if they had I am guessing it would have been 'the Dragons' rather than 'the Leeks' or 'the Daffodils'. Geoff has played a lot of basketball in Shrewsbury for Shrewsbury.

The School teams have been playing well under the leadership of these two fine coaches. The Under-18 Boys' team, ably led by Upper Sixth Former Marcus Cheung (SH), have won most of their matches and only lost heavily to Newcastle-Under-Lyme, who are a specialist basketball school.

I asked Marcus if he would like to thank anyone for his prodigious form. He told me the School House matrons have looked after both his physical and mental health extremely well and helped him prepare for what has been a gruelling season. "Matron Tania Jones has taught me how to talk a good game and Matron Nadine Jones has helped me work on my evil stare," Marcus confessed, before adding, "Please don't let them know I told you this". Your secret's safe with me, Marcus!



Marcus talked me through the rest of his team. He believes that Fifth Former Anthony Siu is the star of the team. “He is a talented point guard.” I wondered if that might lead to a career on the railways but apparently I was on the wrong track. Coaches Geoff and Josh both told me at the same time that Anthony has the potential to make it as a professional basketball player. So watch this space, as I am not sure if we have had a professional basketball player before!

Marcus continued to tell me that Adrian ‘I-think-I’m-the-coach’ Lam is a good defensive organiser, Tom ‘shooter’ Xue is good at scoring baskets and is not an assassin. Alvin ‘never-misses’ Jinn scores lots of three pointers and Harry Bae has great potential. (He is in the Third Form.)

Then there are the three brothers Sisov, Igor, Gleb and Klim. Gleb and Igor are known as the ‘big units’ and are difficult to get past, and their younger brother Klim is not much smaller.



The Under-16 team has also been successful and is regarded as a conveyor-belt of talent by both coaches. “The under 16s are regarded by us as a conveyor-belt of talent,” they both told me.

The girls’ team has been successful too. Michelle Lam is regarded as one of the best defensive players in the world by Captain Betty Chau. “Michelle is awesome,” Betty told me. Michelle told me that Betty is one of the world’s best captain’s in women’s basketball. “Betty is awesome,” she told me. The fact that both ladies are in The Grove and are good friends has nothing to do with their deep admiration for each other; they are just both slightly afraid of each other.

The newest star in the ladies’ firmament is Nejla Hidic. Nejla is a summer signing from the Bosnian League. She is a very strong player who has played for the boys’ team, and I was very impressed by her confidence and in awe of her power and pace around the court.



Nejla told me that she really loves the atmosphere in the Basketball Club. The boys and girls train together and there is a great sense of camaraderie and togetherness, she told me. Nejla would like to see more strength in depth in the girls' squad, and if there are any girls reading this article, please think of joining the Basketball squad.

Hannah Cheng is another keen player, who admits that she sometime gets confused with netball, which she has recently taken up. Viktoria Kazachkova is another young player who has caught the eye of Captain Betty. "Viktoria shows much promise, as does Silvia Pacheco Lozano and Karina Ho. Nifemi Runsewe could be good but she has started eating too much curry."

On that note, it was time to go for supper, safe in the knowledge that basketball at Shrewsbury is vibrant, competitive and fun. I must just go and throw some hoops – and not just the spaghetti variety!

GJFB

Shrewsbury School pioneers complete first ever D of E Snowshoe Expedition

Friday 23 February 2018

It was a challenging half-term for six students from the Lower Sixth, who chose to undertake their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition under very different conditions from normal.



Alexander Ainslie, Luka Cassidy, Felix Kenyon-Smith, Jasper Mitchell, Edward Moreau and Harry Remnant decided that a snowshoe expedition in winter conditions was a little more exciting.

The weather was kind in that it threw every training scenario at the team possible, from heavy snow, white-outs and some blue sky. Take a look at their exciting story! <https://aspenuitdoors.co.uk/2018/02/22/snowshoe-duke-of-edinburghs-award-expedition/>

Thank you to Aspen Outdoors, who put together such a well planned training package!

Major Billington





Sports All-Nighter for Medic Malawi

Monday 26 February 2018

On the eve of half-term, almost 30 pupils and staff staged an all-night sponsored sports event to raise funds for Medic Malawi and the Shrewsbury School Eye Clinic. Starting at 9.00pm they went on to play 10 sports in 10 hours, finishing at 7.00 on Saturday morning - as the indefatigable Mr Cooley explains.

The biennial Sports All-Nighter is by now a tried and tested premise, enjoyed by students, so recruitment for the 2018 version was easily done. Slightly worse news was the particularly virulent disease that ran through the School just before half-term, decimating houses and pushing the population of the Medical Centre well past its theoretical capacity. Over the days before the event, a handful of students and one member of staff had to drop out, being in variable but serious states of ill-health. Unlike in previous years when at least two teams had been captained by Sports Graduates, this year it was entirely academic staff, all of whom were looking forward to meeting Lower Sixth parents on Saturday morning as a cheering neon light the end of the tunnel of nocturnal sport.

There were a couple of last-minute adjustments to the programme before the start, owing to disappeared posts for the volleyball net and difficulty sourcing table tennis tables. Sports were extended (cricket, for example, to innings of a generous 3 overs per side) and dodgeball (with tennis balls) was added to fill the programme.

The other addition, replacing 2016's lacrosse (which had been recognisable as such only by virtue of the equipment being used at the time), was indoor frisbee, introduced, explained and refereed by Mr Wray and somehow, astonishingly, won by his team. It was a clear sign of things to come that they were engaged, competitive and working hard for results, for points. My own team, by contrast, philosophers to a fault, seemed to place rather a higher value on being in the moment and enjoying themselves. With the joyful abandon of youth, they aspired to the spectacular above the dull but effective. I suspected then that this might lead to friction later, if fatigue should get the better of my own inner philosopher.



Quite soon on the programme was netball; at least in my memory it seemed quite soon. Maybe my memory is warped, for I know it was pulled forward to make sure it had been played before 4am. Shrewsbury as a busy place surpassed its usual exceptional standards; not even overnight could we command the students' undivided loyalty; two of the participants had to leave at around 5 o'clock to join the Art History trip departing for Paris. One was a netballer, so netball was moved to make sure she would be able to participate. A naïve agreement on my part, as I learned when lined up against her: I distinctly remember doing a great deal of running to absolutely no effect whatever, destroying my feet in attempts to twist and turn in the various directions in which I was being sent and finally finding myself in exactly the place where the play had not been, just a second or two after it had not been there. The girls' team demonstrated what could be done with well-timed movement and quick decisions and reactions; everyone else largely tried to keep up. Aside, of course, from Mr Wray's team who, with focus and determination, were annoyingly more competent – or at least significantly less incompetent – than the rest of us.



Dr Oakley was doing his usual sterling work. He kept tallies on scores, who had won what, and produced a regularly updated leaderboard. I am not sure he had got my memo about designing a complex scoring system as the night went on which, in the best Corinthian traditions, subtracted points from anyone who seemed to be taking it too seriously or trying too hard. Despite terrible ungentlemanliness in these two regards, Mr Wray et al. were inexplicably in the lead from pillar to post. They also seemed to act under the careless impression that it mattered. Indeed, in the basketball hour as the night wore on, as the hot chocolate became warm chocolate, as the energy started draining from those of lower reserve, I was myself very nearly drawn under this unseemly spell.

In basketball I sniffed a chance to take on Mr Wray, for though his team were nimble, they were diminutive, and we had a giraffe called Sam. With an almost entirely undisguised desire to beat Mr Wray at something, I berated one of my team – the one with both the greatest reserves of joyful abandon of youth and greatest desire to use them. How could I? Why would I bark at the one member of my team who had single-handedly done the most to keep our morale high and our smiles on? He, with both consternation and confusion, patiently explained to me that, far from hampering our efforts, he had in fact been buying us time by not passing the ball, as we were in the lead. After a little while and a tepid chocolate, my inner philosopher regained consciousness.

Mr Wray's lead extended.

Some may have seen, in the past, that hunted look passing across the eyes of a deer just as it realises it's being stalked, or experienced the moment's silent tension which follows, before the chase. Rarely can you watch the hunted throughout that chase: adrenaline rising, fear constant, thought irrelevant, subservient to reflex and will to survive. In dodgeball, one can watch this. One sole, surviving player, hunted by eight of the opposition hurling tennis balls like spears. The entire hunt is slowed into almost existential catharsis, which is somehow heightened at 6:30am

when well over 9 hours of sport have been played. It is a bizarre, cruel scene as the dodger limps, unarmed, about the back line of the gym, while the opposition, not frenzied but intent, are frustrated by successful dodges and somehow allowed to enjoy the making of that inevitable, eventual hit which closes the game and the night.



Mr Wray, poised to strike again

Aside from passing niggles and an earnest desire to spend Saturday watching curling for its more soporific qualities, all made it through the night unscathed. The two Art Historians made it to Paris; only two others fell, and then only in the last hour. One was suddenly struck by how comfortable two chairs in the corridor looked and spent an hour or so making sure his suspicion was correct; the other discovered that he had inadvertently brought a pillow and, having done so, felt it would be unjust to deprive the poor thing of being used for a while.

My sincere thanks must go to a number of people who made the event possible. Steve Drew, who in opening the event reminded us what we were really there for; Dave Wray and Charlie Oakley who stayed through the night and helped refereeing, scoring and keeping the atmosphere competitive but safe; Naomi Pritchard, Charlotte Rule, Lauren Temple, Colm Kealy, Kevin Lloyd and Ian Payne (3am to 5am: what a star!) all put in an appearance to support and chat and keep up morale. Lesley Drew deserves perhaps the most thanks of all, having done all of the 'invisible' organising: of hot (initially) chocolate, mars bars and other sustainers of energy, of facilities and of the fundraising website.



Finally, to the participants themselves: not only were they delightful company throughout the evening, they also did a great job of getting sponsorship and got us past our fundraising target. We have ensured funds for hundreds of sight-restoring operations which will change the lives of hundreds of families.

If anyone would like to sponsor us retrospectively, our online giving page is still open: <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/shrewsburyallnightsports>
SKPC



Brass Prizes

Monday 26 February 2018

There were some outstanding performances in the Brass Prizes held on Sunday 25th February.

The competition was adjudicated by Rhys Owens, who studied at the Royal College of Music where he was a brass finalist in the BBC Young Musician of the Year. He joined the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra in 1991 as fourth trumpet and was promoted to Section Principal in 1998.

Awards were given to the following:

Junior Class

1st - William Owen (Ch IV)

Highly Commended - Jonjo Wood (R IV)

Commended - John Bugge (Ch III)

Senior Class

1st - Frank Coughlan (SH V)

Highly Commended - Harry Lawrence (O UVI)

Commended - Edward Hart (PH LVI)

Note: The Singing Prizes also took place on Sunday 25th February. A list of the winners will be published on the website shortly.

OSGS STOP-PRESS NEWS

Tuesday 27 February 2018

The 21st Grand Scottish Tour, May 16th –May 18th, appears to be over-subscribed. This is unprecedented and the claim may be treated with caution.

The tour was founded by Sandy Bell (S 1950-54) in 1996, with a Black Tie Dinner at the Marine Hotel, North Berwick, chaired by Michael Walker CBE (SH 1947-52).

The tour enables Salopians to play on some of the finest links on the East Lothian coastline. It includes hospitality from local Salopians, notably the incorrigible Lister brothers – “boundless as ocean’s tide”.



As in 2018, we are oversubscribed for Muirfield, an overspill meeting has been arranged at the two superb championship courses at neighbouring Archerfield, thanks to sponsorship from Angus Stormonth Darling, father of Douglas Stormonth Darling (Ch 1904-09). Details of the Tour are attached [here](#).

Our picture (right) shows Simon Mellard (Ch 1973-78) approaching the 18th green at Muirfield, as featured appropriately and recorded by BBC TV Nationwide in May 2016.

On Tuesday 27th March, OSGS meets at Denham for the first Spring Southern meeting of the Fasti. Please find further details [here](#). It is the last to be organised by Anthony Parsons (Rt 1959-64), Bucks Champion 1975 and 1978, who has played in over 100 matches for Shrewsbury in the Halford Hewitt.



Sabrina: Ahead of its Class

Tuesday 27 February 2018

The Sabrina crew has now competed in two Heads of the River races, Wallingford (where it won its class) and Wycliffe (where it came a very creditable fourth after getting badly held up behind another crew in a no overtaking zone). It has one more Head to go before the 2,000m racing starts in earnest. This photo was taken at Wycliffe.



We would love as many of you and your families as possible to come to support the crew and enjoy the company of other Sabrina members at one or more of the coming events:

- Tideway Head on Sunday, the 11th March at 10.15am. Come to London Rowing Club on the Embankment at Putney at 10.00am for refreshments and then cheer our crew past the finish line.
- Schools' Head on Monday, the 12th March. Come to the Blue Anchor at Hammersmith any time from midday. The School will have several crews competing, with the race starting at 1.00pm. Coffee, tea and biscuits will be served from midday and free lunch for all attending. We are expecting about seventy five people; let's try to get up to a hundred this year.
- Family Day at the School Boat House on Sunday, the 13th May. This is the final day of Shrewsbury Regatta so there will be plenty to watch, including our Sabrina eight. Tea and coffee will be served in the Bowring Club Room from 11.00am, with Pimms and soft drinks from midday.
- Metropolitan Regatta at Dorney on Saturday, the 2nd June and Sunday, the 3rd June. Numerous of the School's crews will be racing that weekend and the Sabrina eight will be racing on the Sunday.
- Marlow Regatta at Dorney on Saturday, the 23rd June. The Sabrina crew will be trying to repeat the win it had at this regatta in 2016.
- Huntercombe meeting on Tuesday, the 3rd July. This is our combined day with the Old Salopian Golf Society and will be the last one before their Secretary, Tim Lewis, retires after many years of great service. Those who are interested attending, either to play a round of golf or just to come for the excellent supper, should email Rod Spiby Rod.Spiby@bulleys.co.uk. Thirty people came last year; it would be lovely if we could get more this time.
- Henley drinks and lunch on Saturday, the 7th July. This ever more popular event, at which more than two hundred people attend, takes place in the Henley Cricket Ground from 12.30pm. Free food and drink for all attending.

Check you diary now and put down as many events as possible. We will look forward to seeing you at what I am hoping will be a memorable spring and summer.

Aubrey Higgin: An Emerging Artist

Wednesday 28 February 2018

Taking part in one of the most exciting art exhibitions for young UK talent is Aubrey Higgin (O 2006-11). The exhibition, 'Emerging Artists: An Edit' runs at 45 Park Lane in London until 27th March and showcases work that is diverse in both subject and medium. Each artist has been selected for their raw talent and are seen as being the future stars of the art world. Catch Aubrey while you can!

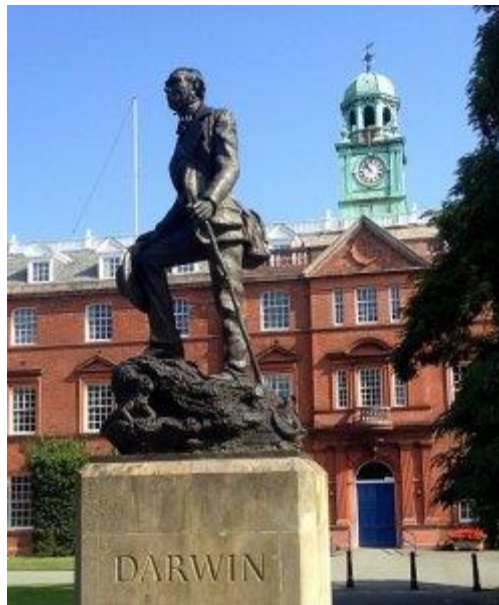


Announcing the Start of Something Special: the Salopian Drivers' Club

Wednesday 28 February 2018

The inaugural Meeting of the Salopian Drivers' Club will be taking place at Shrewsbury School on Saturday, the 6th October (the weekend of the Old Salopian annual gathering).

So far, thirty two people have said they would like to become members of the Club, but I believe that there must be many more people who would be interested in joining if they knew more about what we have in mind!



The Club is aimed at Old Salopians who own classic, or otherwise interesting, cars or motorbikes or who do not, but are car or motor bike enthusiasts. We are also keen to involve the non-Salopian parents of children currently at Shrewsbury, who fall into either of the two categories.

The plan is for as many potential members of the Club to assemble around the Darwin Statue on Central between 11.00am and 12.00pm on the 6th October, then to join other Old Salopians for lunch in Quod before the inaugural meeting takes place at 2.30pm. Only people attending the inaugural meeting (with or without a suitable car or motor bike) will be eligible to become founding members of the Club. Anyone who cannot attend the first meeting but wants to become a member will potentially be eligible to do so. Membership will be free – there will be no joining fee or annual subscription to pay.



I am hoping that, for those who can stay overnight on the Saturday, at 10.00am on the Sunday, a group of us will drive through the Site before going to Attingham Park for a guided tour followed by a cheap and cheerful lunch together either at Attingham or a nearby hostelry.

There are about 8,500 Old Salopians. I am hoping that at least a hundred will join the new Club. If you are interested in doing so, please email me at miles.preston@milespreston.co.uk.

I hope and believe that we can have a lot of fun together and have a chance to look at and drive, or be driven in, some fascinating machines.

Miles Preston (DB 1963-68)



Celebrating Chinese New Year

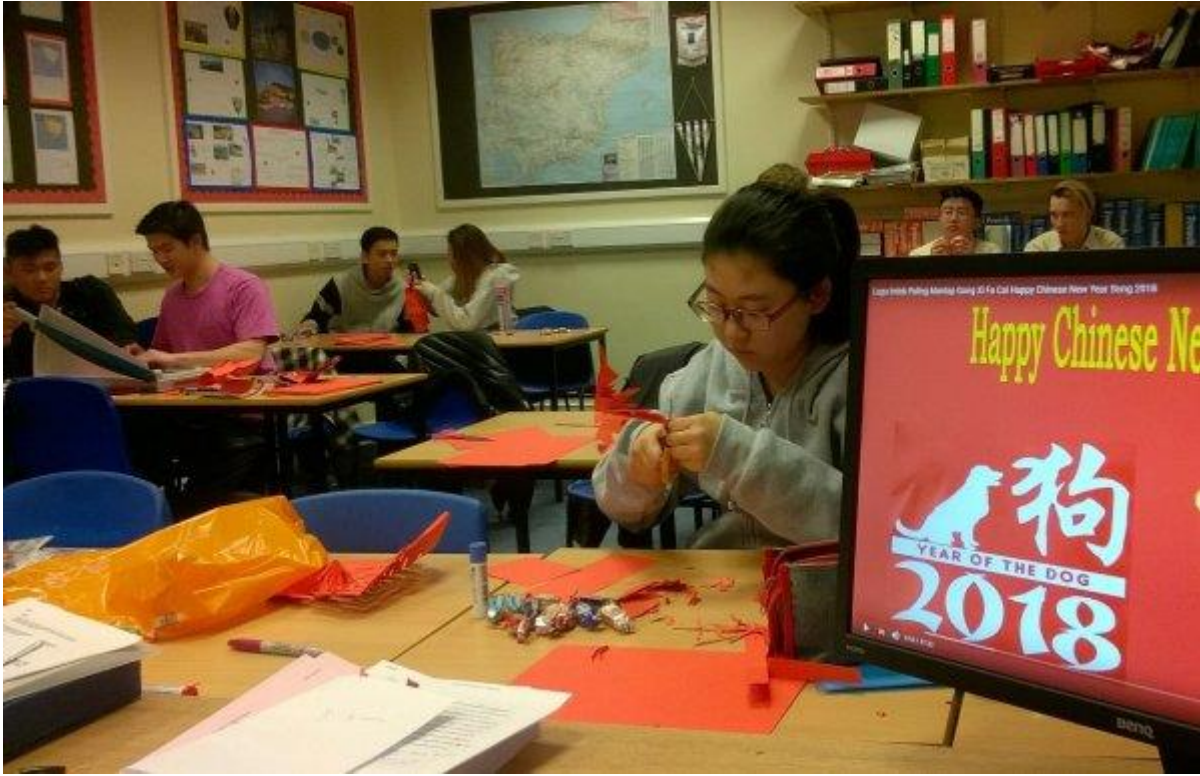
Wednesday 28 February 2018

In addition to the Chinese New Year celebrations that have been taking place in many of the Houses, over 80 Salopians of all nationalities and ages enjoyed a Chinese New Year Party held in Quod on Sunday 25th February.



The first day of the Chinese New Year fell during the half-term exeat, on 16th February, but tradition dictates that celebrations can continue for two weeks afterwards. So on the return to school, planning and hosting a New Year party was a priority for the School's Integration Coaches.

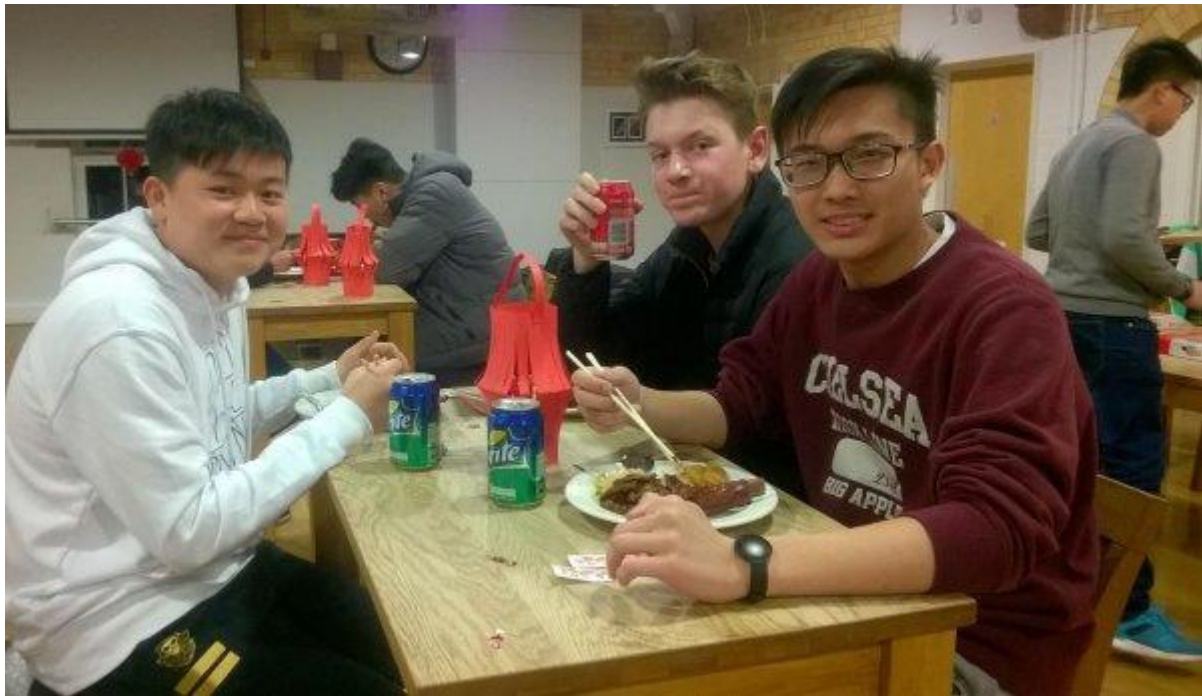
Firstly, they ensured that all pupils who follow the lunar calendar received the traditional red envelope containing good wishes for the New Year from their housemates. They also spent an afternoon making creative decorations.



With Quod colourfully decorated with lanterns, traditional dress and origami, and Eastern music playing in the background, the scene was set for a wonderful party. More than 80 guests of all nationalities and ages enjoyed traditional Chinese food and were offered the opportunity to learn how to use chopsticks, play traditional board games and practise writing their name in Chinese calligraphy.







Pupils commented that they hope this celebration of culture, food and togetherness will develop and continue for many years to come.

Mr Wright, Director of Internationalism

Evensong at Temple Church, London

Wednesday 28 February 2018

Over forty intrepid Salopians braved the icy temperatures brought by the Beast from the East to battle their way through to the Temple Church, London, on Wednesday 28th February to take part in Evensong. They were not disappointed. In this historic church, built as the English Headquarters of the Knights Templar and dating back to the 12th Century, they were treated to choral music at its most sublime.



After the service and liberal refreshments, they sat down to hear a most amusing and informative talk on the church and the Templars by the Master of the Temple, the Rev Robin Griffith-Jones. Those that lingered long enough were then taken on a tour of the Middle Temple Hall, kindly arranged by His Honour Judge John Colyer QC (SH 48-53). The hall boasts what is said to be the best hammerbeam roof in London as well as countless historic artefacts.

Particular thanks for the evening are due to Richard Eteson (G 89-93) for organising this magnificent event and providing the wine and canapes.

