

'Science in Action' at Warwick University

Thursday 4 January 2018

On Wednesday 5th December, 31 Fourth Form budding scientists travelled to Warwick University for a Science in Action enrichment day.



They attended five lectures on a range of topics, delivered by some of the UK's most eminent scientific speakers:

- 'Bring Back the King: the science of de-extinction' – how advances in genetics are trying to make de-extinction a reality
- 'The Wonders of Life' – a talk by Professor Robert Winston, who led his audience on a breathtaking voyage through the earliest stages of life
- 'Cassini-Huygens and the Lord of the Rings' – celebrating the spacecraft's incredible 20-year mission prior to 'crashing' into the surface of Saturn in September 2017
- 'Kitchen Chemistry' – how materials available in the supermarket, pharmacy and hardware store can be used to illustrate the wonders of chemistry
- 'Dangerous Equations' – Marty Jopson illustrated how a set of equations is enough to keep him away from danger.

The lectures were excellent and very interesting. The students also enjoyed having time to look around the university campus.

Dr Andrew Briggs, Head of Science

Headmaster's Commendations

Thursday 4 January 2018

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 at the beginning of Lent Term School Assembly. (Fifth Form Commendations will be awarded following the trial exams.)

Third Form

Ossian Finch (R)
Mew Hansiriphan (O)
Ella Ho (MSH)
Ranulf Prentis (Ch)
Poppy Stephens (MSH)
Dylan Tyack (PH)

Fourth Form

Albert Koch (Ch)
Phoebe Morris (EDH)
Charlotte Russell (G)
Adelaide Sillar (G)
Maarten Straube (O)
Billy Watkinson (S)

Lower Sixth

Veronica Munday (EDH)
Suky OuYang (MSH)
Adam Pattenden (S)
Chris Wong (SH)
Jenny Xu (G)

Upper Sixth

Damian Kam (I)
Boris Kwok (Ch)
Fiona Lim (EDH)
Angus Moore (S)
Eleanor Wycherley (MSH)



School Firsts

Thursday 4 January 2018

Each term a committee of Sixth Form pupils meets to award the School's highest form of 'colours' – a 'School First'.

The committee members take their work seriously, for two main reasons: firstly, this is a good example of pupil power – while teachers may make nominations, it is only those ten or so Upper Sixth pupils sitting on the committee who have the power to vote; secondly, to retain the value of the 'School First', precious few are handed out.

Nowadays School Firsts have been split into two types: sporting and non-sporting. Below is a list of those pupils who were given the coveted award during the final School Assembly of the Michaelmas Term for their exceptional contributions to School life in non-sporting activities.

For their unstinting and exceptional contributions to the musical life of the School:

Ella Johnson, Henry Mayhew, Angus Warburg, Edward Acton, Jessie Inglis-Jones and Linda Zhao

For their outstanding contributions to School Drama:

Freddy Williams, Abi Watkinson, Nina Churchill and Tom Brennan

For his outstanding work in Physics, Maths and Chemistry:

Isaac Dai

For his outstanding leadership of Global Social Leaders:

Elliott Crossley

For his exceptional commitment to the study of German:

Will Sawyer

For their outstanding and varied contributions to the life of the School:

Charlie Johns and Amelia Marriott

Piano Prizes

Friday 5 January 2018

We have some extremely gifted pianists among our pupil body at Shrewsbury and almost all of them took part in the annual Piano Prizes competition at the end of the Michaelmas Term.

Thank you to them all for a very enjoyable and entertaining series of performances. And congratulations to the winners, who are listed below.

The competition was adjudicated by Helen Krizos, who is Deputy Head of Keyboard Studies at the Royal Northern College of Music. We are very grateful to her for her time, expertise and thoughtful comments.

Intermediate Class

Winner – Henry Lees (Rb III)
Highly Commended – Isobel Hatton (MSH III)
Commended – Oliver Toms (PH IV)
Commended – Tommy Price (S V)

Senior Class

Winner – Milton Tai (SH IV)
Highly Commended – Oscar Kanan (Ch LVI)
Commended – Jason Tan (Rt IV)

Advanced Class

Joint Winners – Nateewat Rucheuseh (Ch UVI) & Kanei Nishii (Ch IV)
Highly Commended – Crystal Lee (EDH UVI)
Highly Commended – Reuben Denison (SH LVI)
Commended – Linda Zhao (G UVI)



Tackling Plastic Waste at Shrewsbury School

Friday 5 January 2018

The recent David Attenborough 'Blue Planet' documentary series graphically drew attention to the shocking statistics regarding plastic waste that ends up in our oceans.

According to the Plastic Oceans Foundation, this amounts to 8 million tons of plastic a year. We all have a responsibility for looking after our planet, and as a School we feel that we can – and should – be doing more.

Therefore from the start of this term we aim to reduce the plastic waste at Shrewsbury School, specifically by getting rid of single-use plastic water bottles. Last year as a School we used a total of 32,952 water bottles. Given the breadth of activities that we undertake, this is perhaps understandable. Nevertheless, it is a staggering statistic and one that we aim to do something about.

So on the first day of term, every pupil was supplied (free of charge) with their own School-branded litre bottle, which they will be asked to use for sports fixtures and trips and expeditions.

Keeping hydrated and drinking plenty of water remains a key message that we will continue to articulate to pupils. But it is hoped that through this drive, we will also be sending a strong message to pupils about our collective responsibility for the environment and the planet in which we live.

Peter Middleton, Deputy Head (Co-curricular)

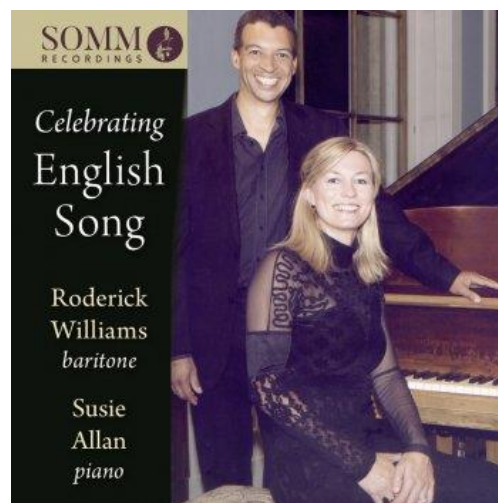


Photo source: © SAF — Coastal Care

The plaudits roll in for Shrewsbury School piano teacher's CD

Friday 5 January 2018

'Celebrating English Song', a recording made by Susie Allan, who has taught piano at the School for several years, and baritone Roderick Williams, has won rave reviews from music critics since its publication in November.



In addition to her teaching commitments at Shrewsbury School and her nurturing of a number of gifted young pianists, Susie has a very busy life as a performer of national renown – as do a great many of the peripatetic music teachers at the School. She and Roderick have given numerous concerts together over many years – most memorably for Shrewsbury audiences in the Maidment Auditorium in 2016, when actress Jenny Agutter joined them for a wonderful performance of Schubert's 'Schwanengesang'.

Their latest CD is a collection of Roderick's and Susie's favourite English songs and includes some of the best-known songs of the periods between the World Wars – among them six songs from 'A Shropshire Lad' by George Butterworth and works by Ivor Gurney, John Ireland and Ralph Vaughan Williams.

'Celebrating English Song' was the name given to a famous concert series staged each summer at Tardebigge, Bromsgrove, which played an invaluable role in popularising English song. Sadly, the series closed down last June with a final recital given to a standing ovation by Roderick and Susie. The CD duplicates that last programme. It also pays a poignant tribute to some of our greatest composers of English art-song.

More information about the CD can be found at <https://www.somm-recordings.com/recording/celebrating-english-song/>

You can also read an interview with Susie Allan at <https://crosseyedpianist.com/2017/11/26/meet-the-artist-susie-allan-pianist/>

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



The news this week 100 years ago: 5th - 11th January 1918

Friday 5 January 2018

This week we remember Roger Marshall, who died of his wounds on 7th January 1918.

Lieutenant Roger Charles Marshall, Royal Field Artillery.

School House, left in 1907 for Pembroke College, Cambridge. Only son of Revd F.C. Marshall, Doddington, Cambridgeshire.

*Died of his wounds in the United Kingdom, 7th January 1918, aged 28
Buried in Doddington (St Mary) Churchyard, England.*



Giles Bell's Team of the Week is back!

Thursday 11 January 2018

Giles Bell - teacher of Philosophy and Theology, Admissions Tutor, Housemaster of School House for 14 years, football and cricket coach, Brighton FC fan and general sports enthusiast - has picked up his pen and camera again. This week he turns his spotlight and wit on Fives.

I hope you all had a very Happy Christmas and that you have had a good start to the year. I know you will now want to know if I have too. The answer is a resounding yes. My family and I went to Lapland to see Father Christmas and learn how to ski and drive snowmobiles, husky- and reindeer-sleds. We spent a week inside the Arctic Circle in Finland and apparently it was warm for the time of year as it was only minus 12°C. Ironically, we nearly got snowed into the UK and were lucky that Manchester Airport was unaffected by the snow that submerged Shropshire.

Being a true professional, one of the reasons I was keen to spend a week in sub-zero temperatures (apart from when I was in the sauna) was to condition my body for the hours I will be spending over the next few weeks watching Lent Term sports. I am now able to watch Fives in my jacket and no overcoat for up to 15 minutes.

Sadly some of my colleagues have not been quite so far-sighted. Mr Andrew Barnard took the 1st XI cricket team to Perth in Australia and found the weather to be quite warm. "It was quite hot in Australia," he told me as he shivered in his smart red Shrewsbury School player layer coat. "It is quite cold here in Shrewsbury," he observed with his usual incisive powers of perception. Mr Barnard is a geography teacher and they love talking about the weather. "I love talking about the weather," Mr Barnard said as he glanced down at the weather app on his phone. I was just about to ask him how he thought the girls he coaches would do this term when his phone rang and he went off to talk to Mr Fox about whether the cold front would mean that he would need de-icer for his car in the morning.



I caught up with Georgie Nicholas and Adelaide Sillar, who told me they are the number 1 pair for the Under-15 girls' team. I was unable to corroborate my findings as their coach was looking at the long-term forecast for June and thinking about whether he would need spinners or fast bowlers for the fixtures on Speech Day.

Adelaide and Georgie both did very well last year when playing with experienced campaigners such as Ella Windle and Izzy Wong. This year they are hoping to become a formidable pair and destroy all who dare to step on the court with them. I enquired as to whether they really liked Fives and they said they enjoyed the banter with the coaches Mr Barnard and Gwen Davies. Georgie asked me not to make too much of her success as her dad Dan is still coming to terms with never making it into a Fives team when he was at Shrewsbury and is still valiantly hoping to catch Mr Cooley's eye. "He practised every day of the holidays and I have tried to gently suggest that he takes up Crown Green bowls, but he is still determined to make it as a Fives player. Why else do you think he returned to teach at Shrewsbury?"

I gently asked Mr Nicholas about his Fives playing ambition. His eyes clouded over and with faraway look he told me; "I just want to stand on a court with a Shrewsbury School shirt on and play the best game of Fives I am capable of. Is that too much to ask?" Mr Cooley told me that it was.

The Under-14 and Under-15 girls' teams are full of promise. "I promise to try really hard," said Ashleigh Pegge. "I have promised Father Christmas to be really good this year," said Hetta Harris. I did not have the heart to point out to her that Mr Barnard, despite his red coat and smart little beard, is not infact Father Christmas. But then again, maybe he is... He was strangely absent just before Christmas...





Eibhilin Moore is finding Fives to be a real joy and Charlotte Waterhouse thinks she might enjoy taking out her aggression on the court. Charlotte Russell and Kim Barnett were keen to start playing what Kim described as “the rare sport” and Imogen Morgan enjoys Fives because it is fun. They are all very keen to purchase some new navy-blue leggings so that they look the part. “Navy-blue is my favourite colour,” Kim told me.





The Under-15 boys' squad under the watchful eye of Dr Morgan were warming up for what promises to be another good season. "There is a lot of promise here," said Dr Morgan.



In another court, French number 1 Antoine Legais was training with Giles Mcloughlin, James Hinwood and Joe Kynaston. Antoine is considered to be the finest French player on the courts at the moment, though Mr Cooley was having trouble thinking of any other great French Fives players.



The Under-14s have a squad of 39 players, which suggests that their coach Mr Barrett will have his hands full. “I think I will have my hands full,” said Mr Barrett as he held on to three balls, a hat, a scarf and five training tops.



Joe Archer and Harry Cooke were playing one of their first games of Fives and enjoying doing something new. “It is great to be learning a new sport,” they told me. “I bet you can’t do this at many schools. What a rich and varied sporting diet we are lucky enough to have here at

Shrewsbury,” they both said at once. It certainly seems that the choice of sporting options at Shrewsbury is indeed like a smorgåsbord of delights.



Tom ‘smorgåsbord’ Bromley-Davenport was part of a group of senior players who were training with World Champion Fives player and Master in Charge of Fives Seb Cooley. Tom reminded me of a Team of the Week I wrote about the Under-14 football team when he was in the Third Form and I apparently gave them all nicknames. I promised that would never happen again.

Tom is hoping to be in the School first pair. He takes his Fives very seriously and chose not to improve his cricket in case he had to go to Australia with the first team squad. “That would have seriously affected my cold-climate conditioning. I have seen Mr Barnard and the lads who went to Perth struggling to adapt back to the perfect Fives conditions we have here at present. I am delighted I just had a quiet Christmas concentrating on my courting.”



‘Genial’ George Garratt agreed that although he had tried to protect himself from the sun, it had been difficult not to catch a few rays when he was out in Perth. “Most of their batsman were called Ray,” he explained.

Other players keen to make into the first pair include Peter Clark, Karist Ng, Gen Songthanmakul, Arthur Garratt and Archie Free. Actually Archie was keen to state that he played Fives for fun and that he did not intend to make a career out of it, unlike Mr Cooley (rumoured to be the ‘Neymar’ of the Fives world).

Finally I must mention Will (not Peter) Sissons. Will has come to Shrewsbury on a September transfer from Rydal Penrhos. He was very modest about the transfer fee but as he was National Under-13 Champion, rumours are circulating that it was considerable. When asked, Mr Cooley merely stated, ‘I wanted him and the Chairman obliged!’ Without putting Will under too much pressure, all I will say is that he is a Welsh Champion Fives player and cricketer and he is promising a lot!

So it would seem that there is a lot of promise being displayed on the very busy and popular Shrewsbury Fives courts. I look forward to popping out of my warm office and watching the odd point from time to time! Good luck to all the handy players I met and the ones I didn’t too!

GJFB



Oxbridge Success

Friday 12 January 2018

Congratulations to the 14 Salopians who have received offers from Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

It is notable that once again this year, the successes are spread across a very wide range of subject areas.

"It's great to see that so many of our Salopians have been rewarded for serious effort and endeavour," said Maurice Walters, Deputy Head (Academic). "We're especially pleased to be reporting back on successes across the whole range of academic disciplines, with pupils receiving offers to read English, PPE, Geography, the Sciences, Languages, History, Engineering and Classics and we remain absolutely committed to providing a fully rounded education which plays to the talents and enthusiasms of all pupils, whatever their interests may be. We hope our boys and girls are justly proud of their efforts and wish them all the best as they prepare for their all-important A Level examinations."

The following have been offered places conditional upon their A Level results:

Glory Chan (MSH) - History at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge
Stephanie Christenson (M) – History and German at Murray-Edwards College (formerly New Hall), Cambridge
Isaac Dai (S) – Natural Sciences at Trinity College, Cambridge
Tamara Fox (MSH) – PPE at Exeter College, Oxford
Sophie Li (G) – Engineering at Trinity Hall, Cambridge
Angus Moore (S) – Classics at Christ Church, Oxford
Jennifer Westermann (M) – Biological Sciences at Magdalen College, Oxford
Lucien Whitworth (R) – English Language and Literature at Pembroke College, Oxford

The following took their A Levels in 2017 and have been offered firm places:

James Nelson (SH) – Geography at Hertford College, Oxford
Megan Redhead (MSH) – Geography at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge
Fintan Simmons (Ch) – Classics at St Benet's Hall, Oxford
Sam Russell (Ch) – Classics at St Hilda's College, Oxford
George Hargrave (Rb) – PPE at Hertford College, Oxford
Mathew Hedges (Rb) – Engineering at St Edmund Hall, Oxford

Physics Olympiad Medals

Friday 12 January 2018

Four Shrewsbury School Sixth Form Physicists have won medals in the first round of the British Physics Olympiad.



Gold medals were awarded to both Isaac Dai (S) and Boris Kwok (Ch), Kelvin Tam (O) won Silver and Naveen Hari (PH) won Bronze II. (*They are pictured left to right above*). Congratulations to them all.

Isaac's achievement is particularly impressive, as he did well enough to finish in the top 50 out of 1,680 candidates nationwide - a feat he also managed to achieved last year. This qualifies him for the second round of the competition and takes him a step closer to gaining selection for the UK team in this year's International Physics Olympiad.

Isaac has already recently been one of five students selected from schools across the country to represent the UK at the International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics. The competition took place in Phuket City, Thailand and in November.

He has also just received an offer from Cambridge University to study Natural Sciences.



Cricket Tour to Australia (8th - 23rd December 2017)

Friday 12 January 2018

The 1st XI Cricket Tour to Perth, Australia for a very young development team (Fourth Form to Upper Sixth) proved to be both successful and enjoyable.



Andy Barnard reports:

The side only lost one match throughout the entire tour. Whilst our batting remains a concern, a number of players showed real application and grit to help the team to victories.

The destination was a perfect environment for the group to progress their cricket and come together as a strong unit.



The team also enjoyed a day at the Test Match

Given that there were a number of players who were sadly not able to make the tour because of injury, the prospects for the upcoming summer season are encouraging.



Christ Church Grammar School

Playing Record: Played 9 Won 6 Lost 1 Abandoned 2
MATCH ANALYSIS



Captain George Garrett

12th December: Christ Church Grammar School (50 overs)

Shrewsbury 164 for 9 (G. Garrett 67, L. Litchfield 37) CCGS 97 for 8 (P. Clark 5 for 32)
WON BY 67 RUNS

13th December: Scarborough CC Match 1 (20 overs)

Shrewsbury 134 for 7 (J. Crawley 50, L. Litchfield 22, G. Garrett 27 no) Scarborough 135 for 3
(R. Grandhi 2 for 27)

LOST BY 7 WICKETS

13th December: Scarborough CC Match 2 (20 overs)

Scarborough CC 117 for 7 (T. Spencer Pickup 3 for 25, R. Grandhi 2 for 15, J. Pattenden 1 for 8)

Shrewsbury 118 for 4 (J. Crawley 43, P. Clark 13, W. S-Davis 11, W. Sissons 14, L. Litchfield 15 no)

WON BY 6 WICKETS

14th December: Scotch College (50 overs)

Scotch College 97 all out (D. Davies 2 for 21, J. Pattenden 2 for 24, P. Clark 2 for 9, F. Kenyon-



Smith 1 for 16)

Shrewsbury 101 for 7 (J. Whelan 29, W. Sissons 38)

WON BY 3 WICKETS

17th December: Hay Park CC (40 overs)

Shrewsbury 158 for 6 (37 overs) (J. Crawley 92 no, T. Spencer Pickup 41 no)

RAIN - MATCH ABANDONED

18th December: Bunbury Cathedral School XI

RAIN - MATCH ABANDONED

20th December: South Perth CC Match 1 (25 overs)

South Perth CC 111 (W. Sissons 2 for 11, A. Garrett 4 for 15, J. Pattenden 3 for 18)

Shrewsbury 123 for 3 (A. Garrett 50 no, J. Zaza 13, W. Sissons 25 no)

WON BY 7 WICKETS

20th December: South Perth CC Match 2 (25 overs)

Shrewsbury 131 for 8 (P. Clark 61, T.S-Pickup 23)

South Perth CC 129 for 8 (D. Davies 1 for 20, H. Sutherland 1 for 16, T. Spencer Pickup 1 for 14, J. Pattenden 2 for 9)

21st December: Claremont CC (25 overs)

Claremont 148 for 9 (P. Clark 2 for 14, A. Garrett 2 for 28, J. Pattenden 2 for 32)

Shrewsbury 151 for 2 (J. Crawley 80no, W. Sissons 53 no)

WON BY 8 WICKETS

INDIVIDUAL RECORDS



Toby Spencer Pickup and Jamie Crawley



Batting

Jamie Crawley (Vice Captain) scored 284 runs at an average of 71

George Garrett (Captain) scored 105 runs at an average of 35

Toby Spencer Pickup scored 67 runs at an average of 33.5

Will Sissons scored 141 runs at an average of 28.2

Bowling

Peter Clark took 10 wickets at an average of 7.80

Joe Pattenden took 10 wickets at an average of 12.00

Arthur Garrett took 8 wickets at an average of 13.00

Ritesh Grandhi took 4 wickets at an average of 14.75





The news this week 100 years ago: 12th - 18th January 1918

Friday 12 January 2018

This week we remember Brigadier General Arthur Howell, who died on 15th January 1918.

Brigadier General Arthur Anthony Howell CMG TD, General Staff

Churchill's, left in 1878 and trained at the London Hospital, (MRCS 1886, LRCP 1891). He saw active service in the South African War and in the first two years of WW1 before being gazetted Brigadier-General in command of the 1st London (Reserve) Infantry Brigade. He was presented with the Order of St Anne by the Czar of Russia.

*He died suddenly at Aldershot on 15th January 1918, aged 56.
Buried at Brookwood Cemetery, England. Grave G. 180429.*

Salopian Club Epiphany Service 2018

Friday 12 January 2018

A total of 90 Salopians and friends took part in an wonderfully uplifting Salopian Club Epiphany Service at St Mary-le-Bow Church, Cheapside, on Wednesday 10th January.



A choir of over 20, organised by Richard Eteson (G 89-93) and directed by Patrick Craig (Ch 82-87), sang a remarkable medley of carols and anthems, culminating in a spectacular rendition of 'The Heavens are Telling' from Haydn's Creation.

The service was taken by the Rev Gavin Williams (Chaplain 92-02), supported by a distinguished list of Salopian readers and the consummate organ playing of Richard Dacey (Staff 87-94).

This event, followed by a chance to chat to fellow Salopians and refresh the vocal chords at the nearby Fine Line pub, is fast becoming one of the highlights of the Salopian Club calendar and should not be missed.



The Shrewsbury CCF Royal Navy 'Beagle' section is launched

Friday 12 January 2018

On the day before the end of the Michaelmas Term, the School's new Combined Cadet Force Royal Navy section was formally opened by Vice Admiral Peter Hudson CB CBE.



Admiral Hudson talking to Cadet Rhys Woodward during the CCF parade

Shrewsbury CCF already has three very successful sections (Royal Marines, Army and Royal Air Force) and 122 cadets (87 boys and 35 girls). The Royal Navy were very happy to grant the School permission to form a new section, partly to reflect the growing demand amongst Shrewsbury pupils for the benefits of the 'cadet experience'.

Admiral Hudson was 'piped aboard' the School premises by Cadet Oliver Toms, who did very well in making the right sound on a traditional bosun's whistle. At the CCF Contingent Dinner that evening our guest congratulated the 16 founding cadet members of the section, which is to be known as the RN Beagle Section, and wished them well.



Admiral Hudson presenting the award for Best RN Recruit 2017 to Cadet Oliver Toms

Sub Lt Philip Lapage is Officer Commanding RN Section. "I chose the name Beagle for the Section for reasons other than the obvious link to Darwin and his voyage," he explains. "Beagle's captain, Fitzroy, was a man ordered by Their Lordships in the Admiralty to survey and chart the coast of South America, to include the Falklands, Tierra del Fuego and of course, the Galapagos. Making charts is a long and involved business if it is to be done accurately, and hence Beagle was anchored, or was at least very slow-moving, on a given section of coast, for months at a time. While this certainly released Darwin to travel inland, up mountains and across plateaus collecting and observing, it also yielded some of the best charts of the time. In this context, 'On the Origin of Species' is a lucky and random offshoot from the prime task of the voyage, and the level of detailed observation and recording that Fitzroy and his officers and midshipmen performed stands proudly juxtaposed with it. Sections of the charts are, to this day, still in use, such was their quality.

One focus of the RN section at present is cartography and navigation, in Fitzroy's memory. Another is weather interpretation and forecasting – that being the other major contribution Fitzroy made in his era, under the watchful eye of his Naval patron, Admiral Beaufort. Another focus is to have a lot of fun afloat on the river!"



Sub Lt Lapage has been a member of the Chemistry Faculty as well as a Rowing Coach with the RSSBC for more than 35 years and was also Housemaster of Churchill's Hall from 1994-2005. He adds, "For any wondering what a soon-to-retire schoolteacher is doing proudly sporting one wavy stripe in a brand new RN section, I ought to explain. Having taught navigation for 15 years to Yachtmaster level, and taken school sailing trips for nearly 20 years, my fascination with cartography is still growing. Add to that one elderly (deceased) relative who, as watch officer, pushed 'Action' on board HMS Tiger as the High Seas Fleet hove in to view and took part at Jutland, and another who flew Seafires in 807 squadron, Fleet Air Arm, about 27 years later, I feel a certain affinity for the deep blue of the Senior Service. I am, in fact, in possession of the pictures from the photo reconnaissance of Marseilles harbour the day after the Axis troops withdrew in 1944.

"More: it serves the very DNA of Shrewsbury School that a small group of pupils may be inspired by the slightly lunatic enthusiasm of a teacher and learn how to join the fun. So when asked, I naturally said - yes!"

He will be assisted in his role by Lt Alex Russell. Chief Petty Officer Ed Hart is the first RN senior cadet NCO.



Philip Lapage on the Rovers expedition "over the sea to Skye", July 2016

The broad function of the Combined Cadet Force is not recruitment to the Services (although it does inspire some cadets to carry on into the Reserve or Regular Forces after they leave school) but, to quote from its Founding Charter, *"to provide a disciplined organisation within a school so that boys and girls may develop powers of leadership by means of training to promote the qualities of responsibility, self-reliance, resourcefulness, endurance and perseverance, and a sense of service to the community. It is firmly believed that the self-discipline required in Service life is equally important in the civil life of the nation today."*





RSSH: Shropshire AA County Cross-Country Championships

Friday 12 January 2018

The new Hunt season opened with a bang on Saturday 6th January, as many of the Club's leading runners took part in the annual cross-country championships held at Attingham Park.



This was a good test for them, providing an opportunity to test their fitness and see whether or not those mince pies over the Christmas break had affected their speed! It's generally a good quality field at this race, and the many age groups enable our pupils to get a good sense of where they stand in the local scene. For those preparing for the Knole Race (13th January), it also gave an ideal opportunity to stake a claim for a team place, and to get in some vital race practice.

In the **U15 girls' race**, we had two talented representatives in Livy Elliott and Flora Kanan, both of Emma Darwin Hall. They both made good progress over the course of the Michaelmas Term, and Livy in particular managed to build on her first place in the Third Form Race with some strong performances in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Both girls managed a really strong effort at Attingham, with Flora managing to place 16th in a field of around 30 runners, and Livy placing 10th, meaning she just managed to qualify for a place in the Shropshire team for the UK Inter-Counties race in March, which is a tremendous achievement.

In the **U15 boys' race**, Oscar Hamilton-Russell (R) was looking to make a statement after a very strong Michaelmas Term, which saw him win the Junior Paperchases and also place very highly (30th nationally) in the ESAA Cross-Country final in Kent. Tom Jackson (R) used this race as a chance to test his fitness after coming back from glandular fever in November and December, and with the Knole the following week wanted to prove he was worthy of a place in the team.

Harrison Cutler (R) also had a point to prove, having placed 2nd in the Junior Paperchases in December. A year young for this age group, however, he will probably eye next year as his opportunity to really shine in this competition. It was great to see a few new faces representing the Hunt in this race, too, with Ed Forde-Johnston (O) and Finley Parr (Rb) also donning the white vest.



Tom Jackson managed a very good performance indeed, placing 3rd overall, while Oscar Hamilton-Russell managed 6th. Both qualify for the UK Inter-Counties. Harrison was the next counter for us, in 17th, meaning we won the team gold in this age category.

Some good performances were put in by Tim Clarkson Webb, Alfie Biggs, Ed Forde-Johnston, Cosmo Waddell and Finley Parr, meaning we were able to make a positive statement about the strength in depth of the squad in the younger years.



In the **U17 girls**, Anna Cowan (MSH) had an excellent run to place 10th, just ahead of Stan Dixon (MSH) in 11th. Anna qualifies for the UK Inter-Counties on the back of this performance, and it's a mark of how far she's come in the last 12 months as a runner.



Anna Cowan and Stan Dixon

Felicity Hayward struggled with an injury but still managed to get round in 13th, showing impressive determination. Isabelle Anwyl took 17th place in this race, in one of her first races for the Hunt. All four girls will be travelling down to Kent to compete in the Knole race. As a team they had done enough to win a bronze medal, which was a great effort.

Our best hopes in the **U17 boys' race** lay with Harry Remnant (Ch) – winner of this year's Tucks race – and Sam Western (PH), winner of the Senior Paperchases. Both looked to be in excellent form at the end of the Michaelmas Term. There was also strong support from Sam Watts (Ch) – the Hunt's highest-placed finisher in the OS race in December – and Toby Pegge (PH), who missed the Michaelmas Term because of his football training, but had managed to keep himself in good shape over the holidays and was keen to stake a claim for a Knole place.



Rider Hartley and Artur Sarsenov

Rider Hartley (Ch) has come on in leaps and bounds over the last few months, and this was a good chance for him to put that development into practice in a challenging race. Artur Sarsenov (SH), Jamie Anwyl (S) and Jonny Snell (Ch) also competed for the Hunt amid a very strong team in this age category. Indeed, the current Fifth Form has all the hallmarks of a 'vintage year' of cross-country runners, and will be looking to achieve big things in the next two seasons.



Tom Jackson, Sam Western and Harry Remnant

Harry managed to place 2nd overall in a strong field, doing enough to prove that he'll be a crucial part of our Knole team. Sam Western came 4th, a little further behind Harry than he'd have liked, but close enough to show that he's maintained some excellent form over the holidays. Sam Watts went off a little too quickly, which was a good lesson for him, but he had enough left in the tank to mount an impressive charge in the last couple of hundred metres, overtaking Toby in the process (they came 12th and 13th respectively). Artur had a very encouraging race, placing 15th, while Rider was only two seconds behind in 18th. Jamie Anwyl and Jonny Snell completed the team effort in 20th and 21st. This was enough to win another team gold for the Hunt.

Our Upper Sixth runners were racing the **U20 category**, and our Huntswoman Immie Evans (G) was our sole representative in the **women's race**, but she managed to place 2nd in this with a strong run.



Immie Evans

Among the boys, our Huntsman Monty Hardcastle was unfortunately unavailable due to illness, but the line was led admirably by rising star Charlie Ockleston (O), who put in his best performance of the year to date to place 2nd, ahead of Cameron Anwyl (S) in 3rd.



In fact, our runners managed to take nine of the top eleven positions in this age category, showing exceptional depth in this one year group alone. Of particular note was Alastair Harris's performance, placing 4th – he has enjoyed a meteoric rise over the course of the past 12 months to become one of the Hunt's strongest runners.



Alastair Harris

This was a great team performance, with over 30 runners representing the Hunt, and making a strong statement about the health of the Club. Well done to all who competed.

Mr Haworth
Teacher in Charge of the Hunt

Fives: the Richard Barber Cup

Sunday 14 January 2018

On Sunday 14th January, the 7th Richard Barber Cup competition was played at Eton. This is a competition whereby old boys partner current boys in a best of three pairs matches (same match format as the Alan Barber Cup is played i.e. two of the three pairs need to win in order to win each match.)



Shrewsbury brought down 6 boys, and the OSEFC brought 6 players so we had two teams enter the competition – the only school to do so.

The top team (made up of Chris Hughes (SH 2004-09), Sam Welti (I 2007-12) and George Thomason (G 2006-11) and Tom Bromley-Davenport (U6 Rt), Will Sissons (L6 Rt) and Nav Hari (U6 PH)) were unbeaten in the group stages, going through top. In the other group, the second string Shrewsbury team didn't get through their group but they would have learnt a lot playing with seasoned pros Mike Hughes (SH 1975-80), Marc Quinn (M 1983-88) and James Skelton (O 1980-85).



The top team faced St Olaves in the semi-final, after an upset in their group saw St Olaves come second. The semi-finals were finely poised at 1-1 in all three pairs. Sam Welti and Nav Hari managed to win 2-1 in their pair three game, however Chris Hughes, Tom Bromley-Davenport, George Thomason and Will Sissons both lost 2-1 in very close games.

It isn't all bad though – the St Olaves team had multiple Kinnaird Winners (the national fives competition – the top fives competition in the calendar) with James Toop and Howard Wiseman playing in their team, and the fact that Shrewsbury really should have won bodes well.

Darwin Society Lecture – 'Listening to the universe with gravitational waves'

Thursday 18 January 2018

On Friday 12th January, the Darwin Society welcomed Dr Alberto Sesana from the University of Birmingham to give the third of this year's science enrichment lectures, entitled 'Listening to the universe with gravitational waves'.



A computer simulation of gravitational waves radiating from two merging black holes

Dr Sesana is a Lecturer in the School of Physics & Astronomy at Birmingham University and University Research Fellow of the Royal Society. He gave a fascinating and topical talk on gravitational waves and black holes.

In October 2017, the eminent US physicists Rainer Weiss, Barry Barish and Kip Thorne were awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics for their work on gravitational waves. Dr Sesana described the groundbreaking work that led to the first historic observation of gravitational waves on 14th September 2015.

They were triggered by the violent merger of two black holes a billion light years away, and two detectors at the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) detected this disturbance. This tiny signal was the echo of a very loud song, sung by a pair of black holes merging during the last fraction of a second of their lives. This will go down in history as the day we listened to the universe for the first time.

*Dr Andy Briggs
Head of Science*

Early success for U14 Boys' Hockey team

Thursday 18 January 2018

Congratulations to the U14 Boys' Hockey team, who have qualified for the West Midlands Regionals.

A great start to the season!

A strong start to the Rugby season

Thursday 18 January 2018

The 1st, 2nd, U15 and U14 XV's were all in action during the first week of term - with excellent results.

The U14s started their first season at Shrewsbury with a midweek win versus Idsall School (35-17). Tries were scored by Alex Shi (Rt), Gregor Beardsmore (Rt), Louis Graham x 2 (Rt) and Rory O'Neill (SH) and there were five conversions from Oliver Clark (O).

Saturday 13th January saw matches for our 1st XV against Repton and our 2nd and U15 XV's vs Oswestry. All matches were won.

Shrewsbury School Eye Clinic Minibus for Medic Malawi

Thursday 18 January 2018

The School's fantastic fundraising efforts for Medic Malawi have paid for a much-needed minibus for the Shrewsbury School Eye Clinic.

Medic Malawi is a small, dynamic charity that is transforming a very poor, large rural community in the seventh poorest country in the world. It funds a hospital, orphanages, schools and feeding centre in work that has been described by the local Bishop as “a beacon project for the development of the whole country”. The charity is also remarkable for the fact that it has no UK costs: it is run from a kitchen table in Shrewsbury by Stephen Drew, husband of Lesley Drew who has taught English at Shrewsbury School since 2011.

Every two years since 2012, groups of Shrewsbury School students have visited Medic Malawi to witness the work of the charity and muck in at the orphanage, school and farm. In 2016, the group were joined by young people from Shrewsbury House (the Shewsy), the School's youth club in Liverpool. The joint visit was a particularly successful one and will be repeated this summer.



During this time, the School has raised over £40,000, which has built an Eye Clinic at the hospital. The group that visited Malawi in 2016 were able to witness the genuinely life-

transforming work carried out by staff at the clinic, restoring sight to people who had been blinded by cataracts.



More recently, the hospital in Malawi has been asking for a minibus – to act as an ambulance, to collect the blind patients who live miles away from the hospital so that they can be brought to the Eye Clinic for cataract surgery, and to take medical staff out to remote areas for follow-up visits.

Thanks to the fact that Shrewsbury School has consistently raised significant amounts of money for Medic Malawi, their wish has now been granted. The plan is to put the Shrewsbury School crest onto the minibus.

In a message to pupils and staff telling them this news, Mrs Drew said, "Thanks so much to everyone for making such a major contribution to the work of this charity".

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Note: Last September, the Headmaster took part in a 100-mile sponsored cycle ride as a major fundraiser for Medic Malawi and the Shewsy. His online donation page is still open and donations will be very gratefully received: <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/headmastershrewsbury>



Senior House Debating Competition

Thursday 18 January 2018

The long-awaited final of the Senior House Debating Competition took place in a packed Maidment Building on the evening of 11th January between Ingram's and Emma Darwin Hall.

Both teams had acquitted themselves superbly in the competition thus far and were worthy contenders for the much-coveted Senior Debating trophy.

The motion set was topical and multi-faceted: 'This House Would Ban Elected Officials From Posting On Social Media'. Ingram's proposed the ban whilst EDH spoke in favour of free political speech and individualism.

Pleasingly, both teams addressed the broader principles at stake and were not drawn into a list of President Trump-centric evidence. Harvey Hancock opened the debate with a measured, eloquent speech and was duly pegged back by EDH's opening speaker, Mary Lees, with some sharp rebuttal.

Alex Sparkes and Rosie Davis contested the second round of speeches and extended the debate into new, insightful realms of thought. Charlie Johns delivered the speech of the evening with a thoughtful, mature defence of the ban, whilst Poppy Collingwood-Cameron provided some sharp analysis regarding problems of implementation.

There was a brief floor debate before judges Mr Walters and Mr Percival retired to make their decision. Ultimately, it was agreed that Ingram's team structure and analytical arguments won the day and thus Ingram's were awarded the Senior House Debating trophy.



Credit is due to both teams for excellent performances throughout the competition and for an engaging, spirited final.

Mr Mackridge

Fives: Richard Barber Cup

Friday 19 January 2018

Current and former Shrewsbury School Fives players were out in force and on form for the seventh Richard Barber Cup on Sunday 14th January.

This is an annual competition whereby Old Salopians partner current pupils in a series of best-of-three pairs matches (i.e. two of the three pairs need to win in order to win each match).

This year's competition was played at Eton, and Shrewsbury School and the OS Fives Club each brought six players, so we entered two teams – the only school to do so.

The top team made up of Tom Bromley-Davenport (Rt UVI), Will Sissons (Rt LVI), Nav Hari (PH UVI), Chris Hughes (SH 2004-09), Sam Welti (I 2007-12) and George Thomason (G 2006-11) were unbeaten in the group stages, going through top.



In the other group, the second string Shrewsbury team didn't get through, but Karist Ng (Ch UVI), Gen Songthammakul (I UVI) and Dom Ainslie (S UVI) will have learned a lot playing with seasoned pros Mike Hughes (SH 1975-80), Marc Quinn (M 1983-88) and James Skelton (O 1980-85).



The top team faced St Olave's in the semi-final, who included multiple Kinnaird Winners (the National Fives competition). The semi-finals were finely poised at 1-1 in all three pairs. Sam Welti and Nav Hari managed to win 2-1 in their Pair 3 game; however, Chris Hughes, Tom Bromley-Davenport, George Thomason and Will Sissons both lost 2-1 in very close games.

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Navigating around Hume's 'Rock of Atheism'

Friday 19 January 2018

An article written by Mike Tonks, Second Master at Shrewsbury and teacher of Philosophy and Theology, has been published in the journal 'Dialogue'.

'Dialogue' was originally published to support the teaching of A-Level Religious Studies in British Schools, but it now has a much wider readership that includes college and university departments worldwide. It includes high-quality introductory articles on the Philosophy of Religion, Ethics and Biblical Studies by specialists in the various fields.

Mike 'Tonks' article is published in a recent edition of the journal and discusses 'The Problem of Evil'.

Please click [here](#) to read it.



The news this week 100 years ago: 19th - 25th January 1918

Friday 19 January 2018

This week we remember James Partridge, killed in action on 20th January 1918.

Private James Adams Penell De Woodston Partridge, 687168, 54th Bn. Canadian Infantry.

The following report appeared in the Worcester Daily Times, Friday 1st February 1918:



Many friends will learn with regret of the death of Pte James Adams Partridge, killed in action on January 20th at the age of 23. He was the only son of the late Mr J.A. Partridge of Woodston and Mrs Partridge of Lindridge House, Tenbury. He was educated at Shrewsbury School (1909 – 1913), was a keen classical scholar, head of his house (Haydon's), and played for the 1st School Football XI. He left school when 19, going out to British Columbia in the following April, 1914. On the outbreak of war he shared with many Englishmen the disappointment of not being able to join the C.E.F. in August 1914. In 1915 he joined the 172nd B.C. Regiment. He came home in the Autumn of 1916, was sent out immediately to France, and drafted into the 54th Battalion. He was a guide and runner to his company. He was in France for 13 months and had just been home on leave this Christmas, returning to France on December 27th. The following letter was received from his Company Officer last Saturday:

Dear Madam, we suffered a great loss in our Company this evening, when your son, Private J.A. Partridge was killed. I have known him in this Company since last May, and the longer I knew him the more I considered him one of the best and bravest soldiers. He always performed his duty with the greatest cheerfulness and his bright and cheery manner was always a pleasure and help to his comrades in times of stress. We can ill afford to lose such men as he. He was unfortunate, too, in the way he met his death. He was going along with a party to bring up the rations, when a shell dropped in their midst. Others were killed and injured by the same



shell. He was killed instantly. His body will be taken out tonight for burial in a military cemetery well behind the line. Your son was very well known to all the officers of his Company. They all feel his death very keenly, and wish to convey to you their deep and heartfelt sympathy. Yours very sincerely, T.S. McLanders, Lieut Commanding B. Co, 54th Battalion, Canadians.

Pte J.A. Partridge was, like his father, a keen sportsman, full of the joys of life, and was at school and everywhere always loved and appreciated.

He is buried at Villers Station Cemetery, Villers-Au-Bois, France. Grave XI. B. 17.

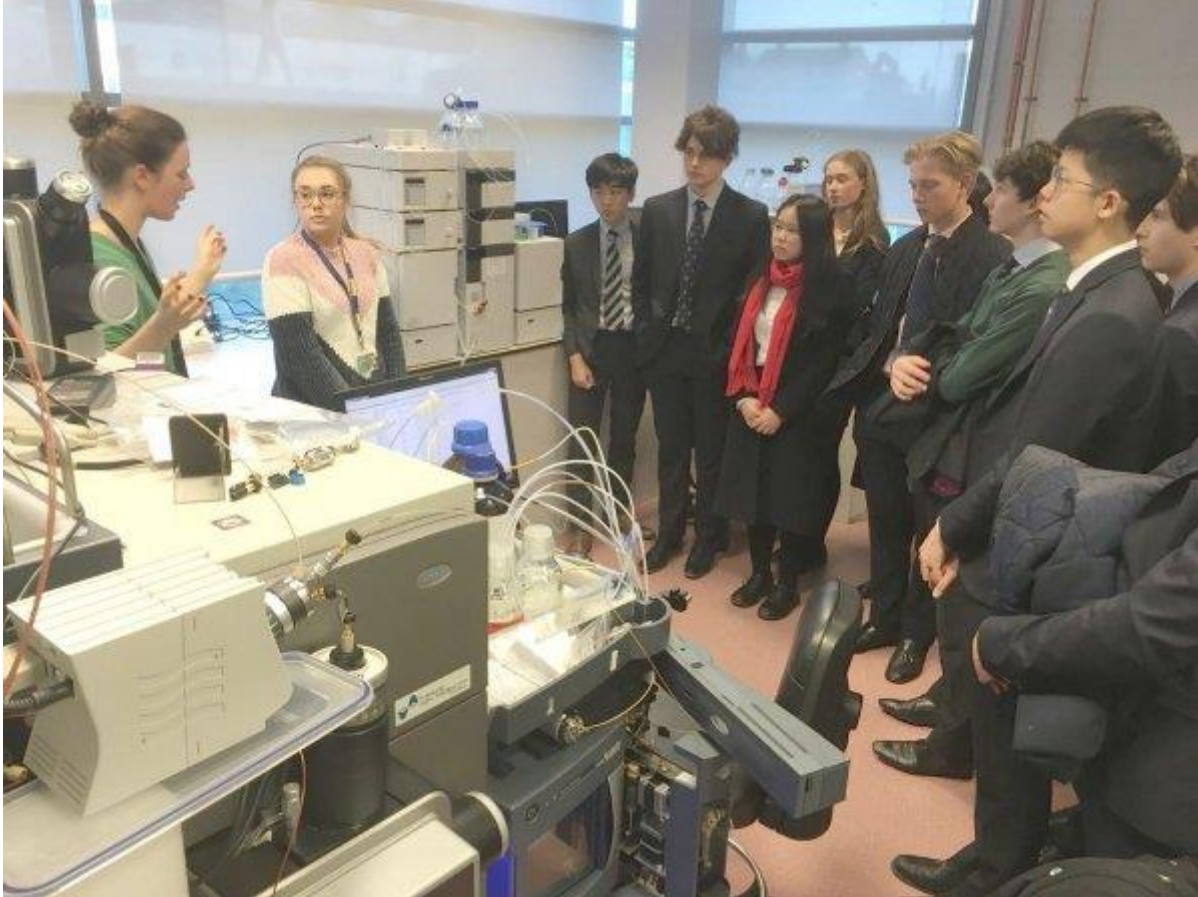


The cross originally marked the grave of Private Partridge. The photo is published on the Teme Valley North Parish website. <http://temevalleynorthparish.co.uk/local-history/tribute-to-those-from-lindridge-who-lost-their-lives-in-world-wars-i-and-ii/brief-biographies-of-those-who-died-in-world-war-i/>

Genomes, cell-imaging and proteomics

Friday 19 January 2018

The Lower Sixth Biology visit to Liverpool University's Institute of Integrative Biology.



With a world-class biological research facility only a couple of hours away, it would seem silly for us not to pay them a visit each year, and once again we were generously hosted by Professor Alan McCarthy - Head of Undergraduate Admissions for Liverpool's School of Life Sciences (and Shrewsbury School Governor). In the morning we heard talks giving overviews of the key technologies we would later be seeing.

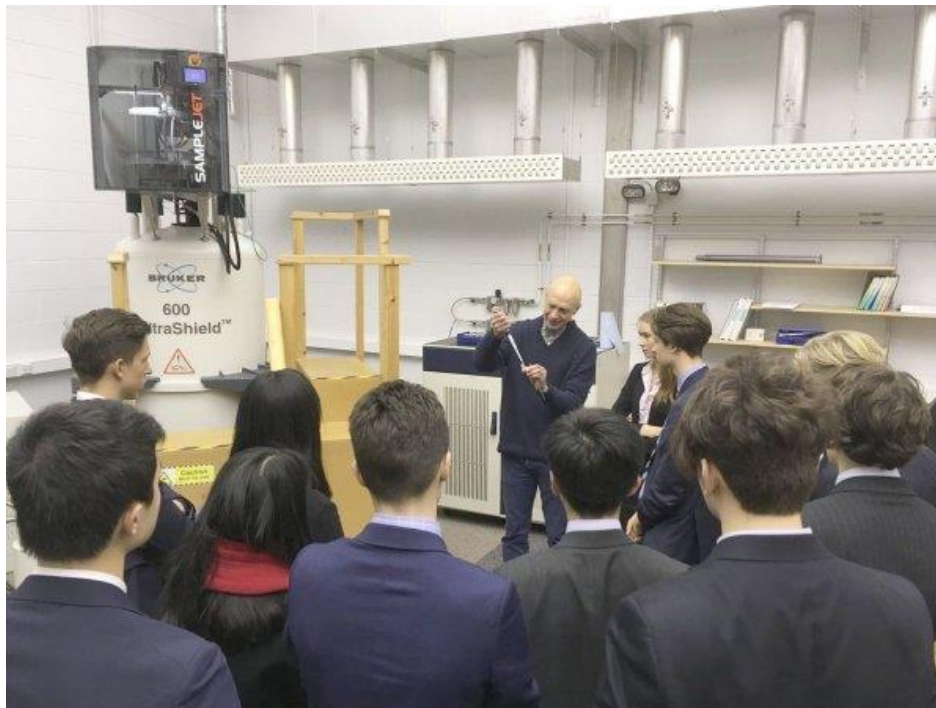
Liverpool's Centre for Cell Imaging is at the cutting edge, and the talk on "5-Dimensional" Cell Imaging ended with a sensational video of live cells, labelled with different colours, multiplying in three dimensions. In the words of Jetty Russell: *"The fact that the spread of cancer cells through the brain can now be mapped in both 3D colour and in actual time is incredible and hopefully this can be used to find an effective and long-lasting cure for multiple diseases and to work out how they spread and develop."*

The talk on Next-Generation DNA Sequencing was eye-opening even for the teachers who accompanied the trip, such is the astonishing rate of progress in this technology. A whole genome (the complete genetic instruction set of an organism) can now be read in a few hours, having taken many years only two decades ago. A pocket-sized sequencer was passed round – the sort of thing that soon could be plugged into a smartphone for use in forensics labs or GPs' surgeries.

In the afternoon we were shown round the Centre for Genomic Research – the second largest such facility in the UK after the Sanger Centre in Cambridge. The implications for society are huge, as Jack Lockett writes: *“I found the talk and tour of the process of sequencing a genome very interesting as it has so many positive implications for medicine in the future. It was amazing to see how much the cost has fallen and is still, as well as the time to sequence the genome. The possibilities this can create in the future will make such an impact on people if the cost falls below \$1000, which it will soon after costing millions of dollars only ten years ago.”*

On the tours, the ability to capture individual cells for genetic analysis was demonstrated live and we saw the GeneMill, where novel sequences can be turned into real DNA for incorporation into living cells: it’s a new era of “synthetic biology”.

Proteomics only appeared in Sixth Form Biology very recently, and Pre-U requires a good understanding of it. The talk by Professor Beynon on protein structures set us up with the idea that there are more possible protein structures than atoms in the known universe...



We then saw the x-ray crystallography suite and nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometers and met the staff and students who use them to elucidate new structures – perhaps in the hunt for future medicines. Maddy Baly writes: *“We helped demonstrate the spectrometer’s power by dissolving some sugar in a test tube and suspending it in the machine that contained a superconductor coil which produced a magnetic field. We then read the results, which showed the sugar’s structure. I found this particularly fascinating as we got to take part in the experiment.”*

And as a neat counterpoint we heard a talk on the nature of evidence itself in science, and how scientists can bias or misinterpret the data that all this technology produces. For many this was a revelation: as Daisy McMullen said: *“I found this very interesting as I had no idea that this sort of thing could happen.”*

We can’t wait to return in 2019: there are new wonders to see every year.

Dr Morgan, Head of Biology

RSSBC: First race of 2018 for the J14s and J15s

Friday 19 January 2018

On Sunday 14th January, the J14 squad (boys and girls) and the J15 boys travelled to Bedford for the Star Rowing Club New Year's Head.

Despite the very early start and a chilly day, it was great for the boys and girls to get their first race of 2018 under their belts – and, for the J14s, their first race ever.

Although there was little competition for the youngest members of RSSBC, it was a perfect opportunity for them to showcase what they had learnt in the Michaelmas Term. The J14 girls proved their strength, beating King's Ely by 8 seconds in a time of 6:18, while the boys competed in an RSSBC showdown, with the winning crew setting a time of 6:13.





The J15 boys raced in two events, J15 4+ and J15 8+, providing each crew member with the opportunity to race twice across the 2000m course.

The J15 4+ event was another all-RSSBC affair, which was won by O. Ryley (M) (cox), H. Compston (R), R. Shepherd-Cross (O), S. Yuen (Ch), N. Dee (G).





The J15 8+ event provided the opportunity for the boys to race other schools in matched crews. Both crews set impressive times of 6:58 and 7:00 to take 1st and 2nd place, a great start to the term.

The J14s were fantastic on the day and the coaches were very impressed by the level of maturity and ability they showed. We hope all the parents who came to watch enjoyed themselves and we look forward to seeing many more along the river bank soon.



Mr Reynolds

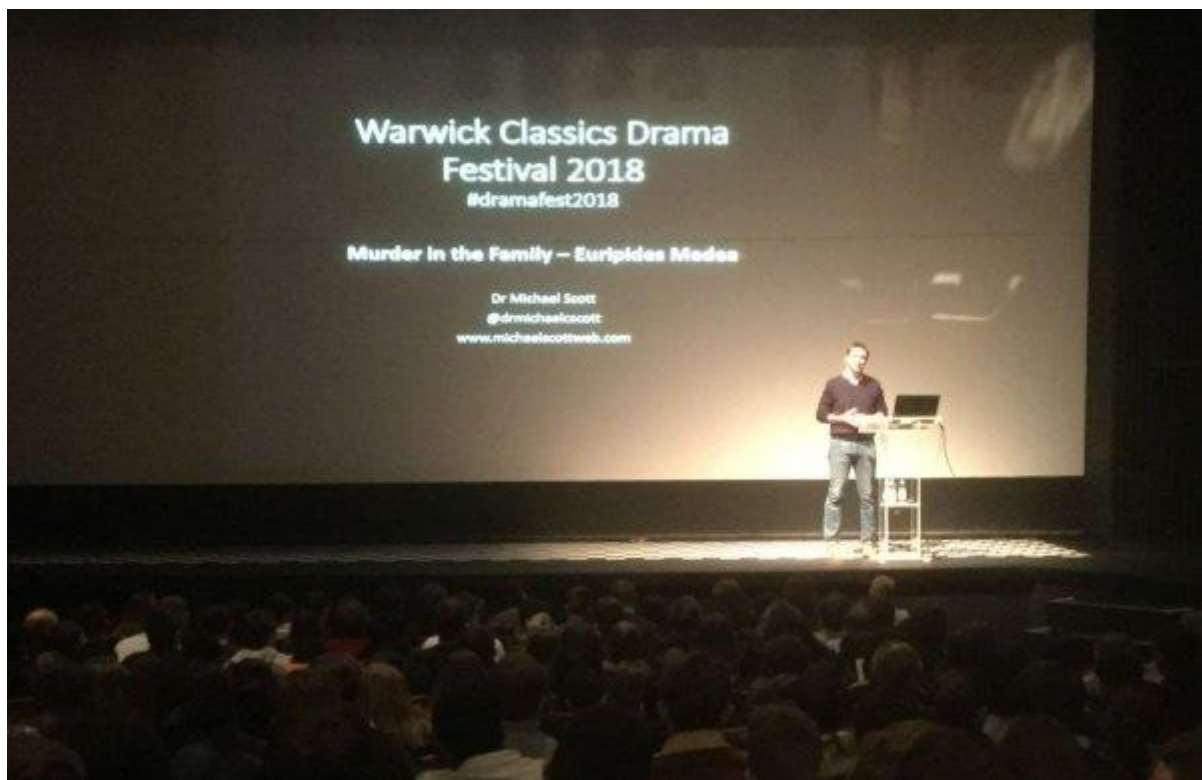
Sent to Coventry – what a tragedy!

Tuesday 23 January 2018

Seven Upper Sixth pupils studying Classical Civilisation went to the Belgrade Theatre in Coventry last Friday for a day of lectures on Greek Tragedy, organised by the Classics Faculty of Warwick University.

The day focused specifically on Euripides' masterpiece 'Medea' and culminated in a performance produced by undergraduates.

The play is a set text for this year's A level and confronts the ancient, yet timeless and current issues of gender, feminism, ethnicity, betrayal and revenge. Not for the faint-hearted, it culminates in Medea killing her own children in order to punish her errant ex-husband Jason. Not many laughs, granted, but powerful and provocative it undoubtedly is; almost 2,500 years old, yet it still delivers a dramatic punch which leaves audiences feeling pity and terror – just as Aristotle wrote they should.



The day was divided into four sections: an introductory talk by Dr Michael Scott, Associate Professor of Classics and Ancient History, on the play's unique position in the tragic canon of surviving works; a lecture from a Harvard graduate on women in Fifth century Athens; after lunch, the pupils had a taster of what a university seminar will be like – for most in a matter of months – and were challenged to think about the difficulties encountered in how we respond to Euripides' text; and to finish the day, we were treated to a well-paced and projected performance of the play by Warwick students.



The day was useful not only in terms of A-level study, but also because it gave our boys and girls a taste of what to expect a formal lecture to be like in Higher Education.

Thanks to Mr Fitzgerald for organising.





Bastille Society Lecture: The Information Crisis of the 12th Century

Tuesday 23 January 2018

It was a pleasure to welcome Dr Emily Winkler, specialist in Medieval History, to Shrewsbury School on 19th January to share her expertise on the changes in historical writing in the 12th century.

Report by Glory Chan (MSH UVI)

The 12th century was a significant era in the flourish of historical writing. Many attributed this phenomenon as a reactive response to the Norman Conquest of 1066, arguing that it was the trauma and fear of losing the English past that motivated writers to revisit and document the past. However, through the writings of famous historians Eadmer of Canterbury, William of Malmesbury and Orderic Vitalis, Dr Winkler presents the view that writers were instead drawn by the promise of an expanding canvas of history, driven by the attraction of accumulating potential unlimited knowledge.

According to Dr Winkler, one of the elements contributing to the expanding historical universe was the historical knowledge of foreign countries brought in by Crusaders. This served to instigate William of Malmesbury's desire to write history, as "certainly it would be lazy and shameful not to know even the names of the great men of our province, when on other fronts our knowledge extends as far as the expanses of India, and any land that lies beyond, facing the limitless ocean". Another element was the overwhelming number of accounts and debates over events of the past, influencing Eadmer of Canterbury's decision to seek "in every way harmonize with the conventional history of events".

Dr Winkler also presented a thought-provoking idea that writers of history might not necessarily document what was well-known and familiar, but rather events that might have been obscured. Citing Eadmer as an example, he "[did] not see why [he] should write anything about [well-known events] since those events are so clearly evident without a single word being written".

Providing insight to 12th century historiography, Dr Winkler succeeded in presenting an interesting and informative lecture. Therefore, once again, we would like to extend our thanks to her.



James Snell and Glory Chan, Joint Presidents of the Bastille Society, with Dr Winkler



Giles Bell's Team of the Week

Thursday 25 January 2018

This week, Netball.



While I imagine that netball has always been played at Shrewsbury (Charles Darwin was a very good netter; just ask the butterflies he caught), I think it would be safe to say that recently the standard and prominence of Netball has dramatically increased.

Speaking to Karen Hall, the 1st team coach at Shrewsbury, I couldn't help but hear the elation in her voice as she reminisced about how much the team has been improving this year. "We are doing so well this year," she told me with tears in her eyes.



Emma Kelly, who is something of an expert on netball, told me that she also found it hard to talk about the improvement in Shrewsbury without getting emotional. “I care deeply about netball,” Emma told me.

Emma has worked hard with girls like Sophie Cormack, Clemmie Baynes and Sophia Price. “They can catch now and look how happy that has made them,” Emma told me. She went on to say that Sophia, like Emma herself, has worked so hard that she has become shorter through dedicated running around the court, which has worn her legs down.





“I used to be much taller, but I saw the commitment that Mrs Kelly has to the sport and I realised that losing height is not really a problem unless you want to stand out in a crowd,” Sophia told me.

Sophia is very proud of the fact that the 2nd team are currently unbeaten, having won all five of their matches this term. “We have scored 139 points and only conceded 33, which makes me feel very proud,” she said.

The 3rd team is also unbeaten and Clemmie and Sophie are also very happy at present. “I am never happier than when I am playing netball at Shrewsbury, apart from possibly having a profoundly life-changing and seriously academic chat with my very wise tutor,” they both said at the same time. As their tutor, I like to feel I have had some input in Sophie and Clemmy’s netball career – especially as it is a sport that has never featured at the Olympics but is on the rise across England, with record numbers of participants playing the game.

“Netball is thriving, a lot of girls live and breathe netball,” says England Netball development officer Pauline Knight. There was a 44% increase in participation at grassroots level in the last year, with nearly 30,000 players pounding the courts across England – and a good number of those are at Shrewsbury School. (I don’t advise trying to ‘breathe’ a netball at home unless an adult is present.)

I am looking forward to watching the World Cup in Liverpool in 2019 and I even know the rules. Just in case you don’t:

Netball in a nutshell:

- There are seven players who each have their own position and can only move in certain areas of the court.
- Only two players - the goal shooter and the goal attack - can score and they must be inside the goal semi-circle.
- A match is split into four quarters of 15 minutes.
- Players are not allowed to run when they are in possession of the ball.

I caught up with Shrewsbury School Captain of Netball Amy Pook, who plays in the Shrewsbury Netball League with Coach Karen Hall on Monday nights. Amy feels very honoured to play in the same team as Karen and I imagined she enjoyed learning from playing with and watching a seasoned professional. “I have learned a lot from watching Karen,” Amy told me. “I know she leaves the house at 8 o’clock every morning and...” I had to stop Amy at that point.



Amy went on to pay tribute to the younger members of the team. “Amelie Davies and Poppy Collingwood-Cameron have had their shooting hands on and it’s very helpful when the goal shooters score. Mary Lees has clearly been watching her dogs, as she seems to have as much energy as a Jack Russell.”

Amy also paid tribute to the rest of the team, including the senior pros Veronica ‘I can throw the ball’ Parr and Molly Stokes. “Ronny and Molly are both amazing players and just live and breathe netball but only with an adult present,” said Amy.



Then there is the Lower Sixth gang of Lizzie Ware, Katie Oswald, Jetty Russell and new signing Kitty Taylor. “Kitty has settled in well. She is known as ‘the Seamstress’ because she has the

opposition sewn up, and all opponents are very Wary of Lizzie. I can't think of any more poor quality nicknames I'm afraid," Amy confessed.



The U15As

The junior teams are also pleasing their coaches. The Under-15A team and the Under-14A teams are both unbeaten and their respective B teams have only been beaten by narrow margins. Miss Turbill is pleased with the Under-14s' start to their netballing careers at Shrewsbury and Miss Katie Marriott is very pleased with her Under-15 charges. "It's all very pleasing," they both told me.



The U15Bs

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Despite the fact that the games are played behind a wire mesh fence, the Netball girls are not as violent as their surroundings might suggest. “We are actually quite nice,” Coralie Williams told me. “I am not violent,” Maddie Cracknell admitted. Catrin Heath confessed she really looks forward to netball and Daisy David says it’s the highlight of her day after PE lessons.

Ella Windle regularly seeks out one-to-one coaching with Miss Kelly as she is determined to improve her all round game. “I live and breathe netball,” she told me. It would seem the netball bug is catching! But what a healthy, popular and successful bug it is at Shrewsbury!

GJFB

Musical Theatre Workshop

Friday 26 January 2018

Last Friday, we welcomed 80 excited pupils from our feeder Prep Schools for a fun day of Musical Theatre.



Shrewsbury has a long and proud tradition of creating original shows, which we have performed to great acclaim in Shrewsbury, London and Edinburgh. We are currently working on a new adaptation of Daphne du Maurier's 'Rebecca', to be premiered in school on the 2nd and 3rd February. Our young guests were able to see the show in development; throughout the day, they attended workshops in acting, singing and dance alongside senior members of the cast, before performing three numbers to an audience of parents and teachers. They also got to hear a sneak preview of some of our soloists...and to meet the star of the show, a puppet cocker spaniel called Jasper!

Sadly, our composer and Director of Music, John Moore, was unable to be with us, but the Music Department rallied round in true Salopian style. Particular thanks are due to Kathryn Turpin for leading the singing workshops and to James Taylor, teacher of Jazz Piano, for stepping into the breach as accompanist. Even our esteemed Director of Admissions Martin Cropper proved his credentials as a Renaissance polymath by accompanying Dom Sullivan in a fabulous rendition of 'The Angel's Wings'.



Our visitors tap-danced their way out of the theatre still humming, and we have had lots of lovely messages of gratitude:

"Thank you so very much for the stimulating and entertaining workshops yesterday. We would never have known that plans had changed at the eleventh hour! All our children enjoyed it very much and got a lot from each session. The Shrewsbury pupils were a credit to the School; they looked after our younger children with kindness, consideration and good humour, helping them and encouraging them in all the activities. Good luck with 'Rebecca'; I hope to see rave reviews from Edinburgh!"

Helen Brown, Director of Drama



Biology Brain Day

Friday 26 January 2018

Dr Guy Sutton, Honorary (Consultant) Assistant Professor, University of Nottingham Medical School, first came to Shrewsbury in 2017. His afternoon of lectures to the Upper Sixth Pre-U Biologists on the brain was received so rapturously he was invited back on the spot. This year he delivered another masterclass, including a live dissection of a sheep's brain.



Some of the Upper Sixth biologists wrote about the afternoon.

Michelle Hung, Richard Walker, David Wright all chose to write about the 'criminal brain':

"Dr Guy Sutton is a breath-taking speaker, with so much enthusiasm about what he does; he really engages the listener. One fascinating part of the afternoon was when he discussed criminal brains, the fact that people committed crimes because of brain damage in the area of the brain that controls judgement, and that once their brain tumour is removed they returned to normal.

"One example was of a murderer. After his conviction, he had a brain scan which revealed that his frontal lobe (an area of the brain responsible for understanding consequences) was damaged. This led to him being unable to think about his actions as he committed his crime. This also led the audience to think about how the crimes committed by these people should be adjudicated."

Tom Hua wrote:

“Epigenetics – the study of environmental effects on one's genetic expression – was another topic incorporated in Dr Guy Sutton's lecture, whereby he described the environmental influences that may trigger diseases like Huntington's. He explained the mechanisms that are only now coming to be understood – like DNA methylation and histone acetylation.”

Llyr Heward-Jones added:

“A part of Dr Sutton's talk that caught my attention was the effect of drugs on the brain. We used an interactive way of observing the effect of heroin, MDMA and LSD on the synapses in the brain. We were told that drugs such as MDMA can have the effect of punching holes in the blood-brain barrier which can potentially allow viruses into the brain. I preferred his thought-provoking account to the fear-mongering that usually surrounds information on drugs.”

Finally, Amber Wilkinson said:

“Towards the end of the talk we looked at the result of new findings in neurological research in the field of neurobionics. This aims to substitute failed and damaged parts of the human brain and spinal cord by artificial, implantable systems. We saw a paraplegic woman who was able to pick up a glass with a bionic arm and drink from it through a straw. Her triumph made me reflect on the new possibilities that this could offer so many more people in the future. It was pretty cool.”



As part of the Academic Extension Programme, Dr Sutton stayed on to give an evening lecture on ‘The Mind & Brain in the 21st Century’.

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



Jenn Westermann organised the evening and wrote:

“This proved to be a fascinating tour of the latest developments in neurobiology. The latest understanding of neuroplasticity was discussed: how the brain can learn to redirect the synapses around the damaged area, even if you have a hemisphere or cerebellum missing!

“However, it was the development in neural decoding that fascinated me and others the most: not only are we now able to decode our nerve impulses into meanings, we can now use this to communicate with patients in a coma and allow patients with tetraplegia to move bionic limbs using only their minds. The development of technology to scan our brains used in the Human Connectome Project, and neurobionics implants seem set to revolutionise not only our understanding of our brain, but the lives of many people living with paralysis or in comas.”



The news this week 100 years ago: 8th - 16th December 1917

Friday 26 January 2018

This week we remember John Church, who died of his wounds in Egypt on 10th December 1917.

Second Lieutenant **John Victor Church**, 3rd Bn. attd. 6th Bn. King's Shropshire Light Infantry. School House, left in 1915. (OTC records: Joined the School House Company on 21st February 1912).

*Died of wounds in Egypt, 10th December 1917, aged 20.
Buried at Alexandria (Hadra) War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt. Grave B. 32.*



The news this week 100 years ago: 26th January - 1st February 1918

Friday 26 January 2018

This week we remember three Old Salopians on the centenary of their death during World War 1.

Chaplain 4th Class The Rev. Arnold John Bennett MC, Army Chaplains' Department attd. 230th Field Amb. Royal Army Medical Corps.

School House, left in 1900, serving for a while in the Baden Powell Constabulary in South Africa, later living in Canada. Ordained in 1908, he became Curate of Pewsey, Wiltshire before responding to the Archbishop's Western Canada Appeal and going for four years to the Railway Mission, Regina, Canada. Volunteering as a temporary Army Chaplain with the Royal Warwick's, he won his MC in July 1916, before being transferred to Palestine, where he contracted a fever.

*Died of illness in Egypt, 26th January 1918, aged 34.
Buried at Kantara War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt. Grave E. 135.*

Lieutenant Guy Henry Goad Crosfield, 5th Bn. attd. 1st Bn. Rifle Brigade.

Chance's, (now Severn Hill), Head of House, left in 1915. One of his Senior officers remarked that he was "one of the most delightful lads I ever met and that kind of English Gentleman who makes the ideal officer whom men look up to and follow anywhere; he was calm, steadfast, determined and brave.... He did not know what fear was."

When attempts were made to recover his body, one of his friends endured being shot three times, such was his loyalty.

*Killed in action in France 26 January 1918 aged 20.
Buried at Monchy British Cemetery, Monchy-Le-Preux, France. Grave II. B. 21.*

Captain Alfred Gordon Whitehead, 25th Sqdn. Royal Flying Corps.

Churchill's, Head of House, Football XI (an exceptionally strong one), he had considerable mathematical ability, left in 1911 for Caius College, Cambridge. He received his commission in 1915 with the West Yorks. Regt., seconded by the R.F.C. in January 1917. By January 1918 he was gazetted temporary Captain while acting as Flight Commander.

Killed in action in France, 29th January 1918, aged 25. Younger brother of Geoffrey Nield Whitehead, who died 15th October 1917.

Buried at Grand-Seraucourt British Cemetery, France. Grave VI. J. 16.

Oxford Universities Gathering

Friday 26 January 2018



Once again a gathering of Oxford Salopians took place at the King's Arms, Holywell Street, organised through the energetic notifications of Ed Carroll (Ch 2010-15). Also present were Dr Paul Pattenden, former Housemaster of Moser's (2010-16) and the Director, Nick Jenkins, former Housemaster of Oldham's (1995-09). Oxonian Salopians were keen to rival their Edinburgh and Durham counterparts in chalking up a healthy bar bill and are very much looking forward to doing the same at a similar event and similar time next year.

Super Cyling Man Calling in!

Friday 26 January 2018

Good morning, good afternoon, good evening wherever you are reading this in the world.....



....SuperCyclingMan (AKA Will Hodson Rt 1990-95) here, enjoying a few minutes off my bike on my journey around the world to let you know I'm sending you a FREE Super Schools newsletter with this email.

One of my New Year's resolutions is to keep in touch better with schools that I have either visited or who are interested in following the round the world bike journey across all 7 continents. So, around the middle of each month, I'll send you a newsletter like the one attached with my most recent news.

The PDF attachment [here](#) can easily be emailed, uploaded, printed off for reading. Some schools are following the round the world adventure with a world map on a display and are sticking pins in it to chart my progress.

Thanks for your sharing the newsletter attached as I pedal around the planet in my pants for Parkinson's!

Hope you're all well. Have a SUPER day!



Sixty Years On...

Friday 26 January 2018

... And still going strong! Andrew Dalton, Head of Philosophy and Theology, describes the occasion last weekend when staff and pupils gathered together to pay tribute to Dr David Gee on the 60th anniversary of the first lesson he ever taught at Shrewsbury School.

“I wonder,” Dr David Gee asked me one lunchtime, with a slightly mysterious and twinkly look in his eye, “if I might be allowed to teach a lesson in the Philosophy and Theology Faculty on the morning of 20th January? I won’t tell you the reason why, but it would mean a great deal to me if I could.”

There was never any question of denying such a request. We agreed on a class – a Fifth Form GCSE group – and discussed the lesson that he had in mind.

It wasn’t difficult to work out the reason for his desire to teach some pupils on that day. “I don’t want any sort of fuss,” he added. That was the request I denied.

And so it was, just before Break that morning, that I interrupted David in his characteristic full flow about the ending of John’s Gospel (helping the fascinated pupils to draw out the possible layers of meaning within a biblical text), and asked him to step outside onto the spacious landing of Hodgson Hall.

It wasn’t easy to get him to leave the classroom; it’s his natural environment... A small crowd of staff and pupils had gathered. I explained to them that on this very day, 60 years ago, a young man had taught his very first lesson at Shrewsbury School – oddly enough, a Fifth Form German class – and here he was, still firing on all cylinders, weaving his spells, captivating his young audience, as he had been doing for decade after decade at The Schools.





We presented him with a suitable certificate, beautifully crafted by Sara Luzny, the School's Print & Design Administrator, with its list of some other significant events that had happened on that day in History (plenty of US Presidential Inaugurations), concluding with a mention of his 2018 lesson, and the remark that, *“the general consensus was that it was **even better than the 1958 one**”*.



ON THIS DAY 20th January

225 Birth of Gordian III, Roman emperor

1095 Death of Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester

1265 English Parliament summoned by Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester

1649 Charles I goes on trial for treason and other "high crimes"

1841 China cedes Hong Kong to the British during the 1st Opium War

1886 The Mersey Railway Tunnel was officially opened by the Prince of Wales.

1900 Death of John Ruskin

1920 Birth of Federico Fellini

1921 Republic of Turkey declared out of remnants of Ottoman Empire

1936 Edward VIII succeeds King George V

1958 David Gee teaches his first lesson at Shrewsbury School

1961 J.F. Kennedy is inaugurated – the youngest ever to be sworn in

1965 Birth of Sophie, Countess of Wessex

1981 52 Americans, held hostage in Iran for 444 days, are freed

1982 Yassar Arafat elected as President of the Palestinian National Council

1987 Terry Waite taken hostage in Beirut by Islamic militia group

2009 Barack Obama inaugurated – the first African-American USA President

2018 To popular acclaim (and respectful disbelief) David Gee teaches another lesson at Shrewsbury School, precisely 60 years after the first.

**The general consensus is that it was
'EVEN BETTER THAN THE 1958 ONE.'**



Our sincerest congratulations to David on such a remarkable milestone, and our very best wishes to an extraordinary schoolmaster; not only has he written about the School's history [['City on a Hill', published in 2015](#)], he is personally very much still making it.

School House students win top delegation awards at the MUN

Monday 29 January 2018

Shrewsbury School's Model United Nations delegates spent their Coach Weekend very productively at the Manchester High School for Girls MUN Conference (27th - 28th January) and returned with an impressive haul of top awards.

This year, the conference theme was "Technology" where its role in the future of humanitarian aid was explored through issues and committees. Hundreds of delegates from schools across the country attended the event. On this occasion, Shrewsbury's delegates were representing two countries – China and Israel.

School House was well represented by three dedicated Sixth Form students taking part within the China delegation:

Human Rights Council – Mill Luangamornlert (UVI)

Economic and Social Committee – Koby Ferdinand-Okpala (LVI)

Science and Technology Committee – Ebrahim Jamshid (LVI)

Ebrahim Jamshid achieved the top individual award in his Committee: Outstanding Delegate.

We are very proud of all that the boys achieved.



Ebrahim is in the front row wearing the pale suit, with Koby to his right and Mill to his left



Fives: Shrewsbury School senior girls and boys reach national EFA Under-21 finals

Tuesday 30 January 2018

Congratulations to Shrewsbury Fives pairs Sophia Breese & Lizzie Ware, Ella Windle & Issy Wong and Will Sissons & Tom Breese (OS) on their outstanding showing in the EFA Under-21s Tournament on Sunday 28th January.

Both girls' pairs progressed to the semi-final stage after qualifying out of their groups. Unfortunately, they then had to play each other.

The semi-final was a great match, with Ella & Issy winning the first set before eventually losing 2-1 to Sophia & Lizzie.



In the final, Sophia & Lizzie lost to the Oxford University 1st Pair. Nevertheless, being runners-up in an U21s tournament when they are still only under-17s is a triumph in itself.

The following is taken from the EFA official report:

Oxford University pair beat all comers at the EFA Under-21 Tournament at Eton College on Sunday but standing in their way were seven other pairs equally determined to win the trophy, especially the Shrewsbury School pairs Sophia Breese & Lizzie Ware and Ella Windle & Issy Wong, with Shrewsbury undoubtedly the coming force in women's Fives.

The field was split into two groups for the morning qualifying rounds; current Highgate school pair Mia Barry and Emma Williets were unlucky to miss out on a place in the last four, losing a tight match against Windle & Wong, who made it through in second place behind Briscoe & Valensis in Group A.



Breese & Ware dominated Group B, with the Oxford second string of Allen & Elena Zanchini in second place. The semi-finals were therefore two derby matches as the Oxford pairs and the Shrewsbury pairs battled it out for a place in the final. Allen & Zanchini never managed to get started against Briscoe & Valensise, who raced away with their match to qualify for the final without breaking sweat. In complete contrast, the other semi-final was turning into the match of the tournament. The hard-bitting and athletic Issy Wong and the much-improved Ella Windle flew out of the blocks in the first game, taking the game to the more fancied first pair, who fought hard but eventually went down 14-12. The expected pecking order was restored in game two as Breese & Ware took control right from the start to win 12-2 and level the contest. Wong & Windle showed that they are made of stern stuff, though, refusing to go quietly and pushing Breese & Ware all the way in the third game before finally going down 12-8. An epic encounter.

It is difficult to say how much the effort of winning that semi-final took out of Sophia and Lizzie, and how much their performance in the final was affected, but it quickly became clear that they were not able to live with the consistency and precision of the Oxford pair. Marjolaine and Carolina dominated from the start and never looked in any trouble, winning comfortably 12-1, 12-3 to take the trophy and finally break Carolina's duck.



Meanwhile on the other side of the arch, the boys had been battling it out in their tournament. OS Sam McLoughlin and Adam Aslam-Baskeyfield topped their group to book a place in the quarter-finals; OS Tom Breese (brother of Sophia) with Will Sissons (Rt LVI), having not played together before, got used to each other's game quickly enough to do the same in their group.



Edited from the EFA report:

The quarter-finals went to form, with Olavians Ravi & Sathiamoorthy impressing against Breese & Sissons despite losing 15-9 and Aslam-Baskeyfield & Mcloughlin seeing off the Cambridge/ Imperial pairing of Turnbull & Shah.

Much to their disappointment, Aslam-Baskeyfield & Mcloughlin found themselves up against Oxford students Kirkby & Denby in the semis, rather than fellow Salopians Breese & Sissons, against whom they clearly fancied their chances. Defending champion Kirkby, playing this year with Old Harrovian Oxford fresher Oskar Denby, looked very strong in the semi-final, withstanding the Salopian whirlwind of arms, legs and volleys and producing a very low error count, something matched by his partner. The result was too many Salopian mistakes and an excellent win for the Oxford pair.

There was more high tempo Salopian volleying going on in the other court as Tom Breese and Will Sissons finally ended the challenge of Millbillians Plummer & Kidd. Tom was showing some of the flashes of brilliance that marked out his school Fives career, which was slightly hampered by injury as a senior, but was also beginning to show signs of cramp, possibly a result of a lack of recent Fives, this being his first outing since reaching the Universities semi-finals for Durham back in October.

The final followed the script: Breese again produced the most memorable and eye-catching moments, with Sissons displaying the classy touches that have marked him out as one to watch from a young age. However, Tom was suffering from more and more bouts of cramp, and Kirkby and Denby were consistency personified, unshowy but effective on the set piece, playing good tight lines into the buttress, choosing the moments to volley and making very few unforced errors. The Salopian pair stayed in contact for the first half of the first game before a run from the



Oxford pair took them ahead to win 12-6. With Tom's cramp worsening and any improvement highly unlikely, the Salopian pair were forced to concede at 1-6 down in the second game, leaving us wondering what might have been. There is no doubt Tom and Will are good enough players to have made that an exciting match.

Mr Cooley & Mr Barnard





The Old Salopian Property Society

Tuesday 30 January 2018

The Old Salopian Property Society has been given a new lease of life.

The Society had its first gathering for many years in November 2017, with 27 meeting for drinks and then sitting down for dinner in London's West End.

This event was organised through word of mouth but if you would like to register for further events please email oldsalopian@shrewsbury.org.uk and if you use LinkedIn a group has been setup under the name 'Old Salopian Property Society'.

The aim of the Society is to facilitate Salopians enhancing their careers. This could be through networking events held throughout the year to helping with making a connection to someone that could assist with a deal or project.

Toby Clowes (M 99-04) who reignited the Society said, 'I was pleasantly surprised to learn how many Salopians worked in the property industry and really wanted us to be able to meet, socialise, have fun and hopefully do some business together'.