



## Rigg's News: April / May 2012

Friday 1 June 2012



### Sport

The cricketers looked on forlornly as the rain kept coming down over the first few weeks of the summer term and Rigg's was turning into something of a madhouse with frustrated bowlers desperate to get googlying and yorkering. We had to wait some time, but eventually the ducks vacated Top Common and revealed some grass for the boys to play on, and ever since they have been in fine form. At the top end, we have had strong representation in the 1st XI, with Jimmy Aston racking up the wickets, and Jack Bailey in impressive form with the bat, particularly his 96 in one of the 20/20 matches. 3rd Formers Charlie Cooke and Ed Hemmings have demonstrated their promise with some strong performances in the U14 As (Charlie also was a member of the Shropshire 20/20 champions at U15 level, despite only being in the 3rd Form), and Reiss Rashid and Freddie Thomson continue to offer valuable contributions to the U15 As. In house matches, there has been an impressive run of form for our A Leagues side, ably captained by 4th former Ed Graves, who have only lost one match so far and are in contention to win the league. We also recently saw off School House in the quarter-final of the U15 House knockout tournament, and are widely favoured to make the final. Watch this space!

In rowing, our Senior IV crew of Tom Fitzpatrick, Josh Mason, James Aitken and Josh Barnard (coxed by Ali Tsim) were a force to be reckoned with on the Severn, and during the four weeks of competition did not drop a point and were unbeaten even without seeming to break a sweat. We picked up valuable points for the Leadbitter Cup which we very much hope to retain



by the end of term, particularly given what look to be three incredibly strong crews for Bumps in the last week of term. Tsim was making his debut as a cox, and by my reckoning, he is the only cox in the entire school who is unbeaten!

Our school rowers have also been busy in their preparations for the major racing of the summer, and given the results they have been having, it all looks very promising for the Nat Schools this weekend and Henley in June. With half of the 1st VIII crew coming from Rigg's, it was no surprise that the major awards at the Boat Club Dinner went to Riggites, with Lower Sixth former Judah Rand being a worthy winner of the cup for Most Improved on the river (Judah has had a phenomenal year, leaping from the 3rd VIII crew he was in last year to the 1st VIII crew this year). The Guy Lovett trophy for all-round contributions to the boat club was shared by two upper sixth Riggites- Sam Lapage and Fred Day. We wish all our rowers well in the competitive racing ahead!

And finally, as far as sport is concerned, Riggites fared well at the recent Inter-House sports day held at the London Road track, an event that has been revived after over 20 years of absence. House vests were worn, and a high proportion of the house were able to compete in the event across all the age-groups. In the Junior boys, Oscar Dickins was our top performer with a gold medal in the 800m and a silver in the 1500m, whilst Jake Carter was just outside the medals in the shot putt with his throw of 8.36. Arthur Douglas was another double-medal winner, with bronze medals in the 100m and the triple jump. Our team total placed us 6th/11, an excellent achievement given our small numbers.



In the Intermediates, George Patterson picked up a silver in the 100m hurdles, Harry Tomkinson was third in the 100m, and George Day was a double medal-winner with silvers in the triple jump and javelin. 7th/11 was our placing in the team event.

The seniors saw Rigg's at their strongest, however, with gold medals for Sam Lapage in the shot putt (10.84m) and Nick Douglas in the triple jump (11.46m), with Nick also picking up a bronze in the senior 100m. Oli Kemp's time of 2.11.7 earned him silver in the 800m, whilst James Aston also gained a silver

in the discus. Just outside the medals in 4th place for their events were Josh Mason (200m), Rob Morgan (400m), and Paddy Lynch-Staunton (long jump). We narrowly missed out on winning the Senior Cup, placing 2nd behind Severn Hill but only by 7 points.

In the competition overall, Rigg's pushed up to 3rd place out of all the houses with a team total of 284, narrowly behind Port Hill's 287, with Severn Hill deserved winners with 348 points.



Guy Leslie gets a helping hand from Mrs B with his bow-tie



Fred Day, Jack Bailey and Sam Lapage discuss Renaissance art



Fish Course at Dinner

## Evening at Mytton Hall

Not that the Gentlemen of Rigg's Hall needed it really, nevertheless our U6th were invited out to Mytton Hall by Mrs B for an 'Etiquette Evening'. There was speculation in the air as to what form this evening might take place, with many wondering whether they might get important advice on moustache cultivation, cravat selection, or simply some good old advice on how to deal with one's servants. Nervous that none of us would quite 'cut the mustard', we arrived by carriage (well, minibus) as the clocks chimed eight of the clock and were greeted not by footmen but the chatelaine Her Majesty Joan Bovill don't you know.

We were rather splendidly attired, with dashing garb and side-partings neatly pressed down with lashings of pomade. There was the slight embarrassment when Bosco Ho realised he was wearing the exact same burgundy trousers as his Housemaster, though they resolved to stand at opposite ends of the room at all times during the evening and no further mention was made of this shameful fashion faux pas.

A champagne reception in the drawing room was a nervy time, with all of us rooted to the spot, fearful of knocking any of the countless antiques and fine ornaments. A slight rotation of the head was all that we risked, and voices were hushed to a mere whisper when asking for more blinis. However, storming in like Boadicea, Mrs B commanded the room and held a session on 'How to do up a proper bow-tie.' Almost all failed, except Tim Zeng, who demonstrated a surprising

natural adeptness in the art.

This was followed by a seven-course dinner (yes, seven courses!) with the highlight being the Crème brûlée. We learned about table settings, the pouring of wine, and James Aston eventually conceded that it probably wasn't the done thing to dip one's bread in one's soup.

The ladies left the room at this juncture, leaving the men to smoke cigars, drink port, and discuss politics and how to get the best out of one's valet.

(Ok, the last paragraph I made up, but it was a fabulous evening and Mrs B put in a huge effort to provide a seven-course meal for sixteen people, and everyone left feeling distinctly more civilised!)

## Family Lunch and Concert

Whilst we were a little nervous about the weather, nevertheless the rain held off for the Rigg's concert and family lunch on Sunday 20th May. The Rigg's quod was duly furnished with benches, chairs, sofas, and newly-potted plants provided the semblance of sophistication and calm in what is otherwise an arena of chaos and flying missiles (including the occasional torpedoed piece of fruit - though the boys assure me that this is the 'House Thrush').





A good number of current and prospective parents attended the concert, with grandparents, aunts, uncles, godparents, and even dogs making the pilgrimage to the hottest ticket in town. The concert commenced with the honeyed melodies of Tom Fitzpatrick's bagpipes, and seamlessly continued with Sam Lapage's 'Is She Not Passing Fair?' which essentially echoes the words often used by Riggites in the Link (though not in their useless parlance...) Toby Harvey-Scholes revealed that he actually plays the bassoon in his free time alongside making extortionate amounts of money through various entrepreneurial initiatives, whilst Conrad Morson sang from 'My Fair Lady' (these 'fair' females seem to crop up all over the place!). Some impressive piano playing was on show from 3rd former Arthur Douglas, already well on his way to grade 6, and Lower Sixth Former Alex Norman decided (and why not?) to have a bash at Rachmaninov's 'Prelude in C# Minor'. Rach on a Sunday morning is not an everyday occurrence, so we were certainly very lucky to hear such prodigious playing! Further highlights included brothers Fred and James Aitken whose 'Panis Angelicus' was quite exquisite. Fred Thomson and Jack Kinnaird catered for the more 'hip' amongst the crowd (matron mainly) with an acoustic guitar and voice rendition of Benjamin Francis Leftwich. And the event was concluded with the magnificent reuniting of our Part Song competitors, who blasted out Gloria Gaynor's 'I Will Survive' with aplomb, even without James Aston who was playing cricket for the 1st XI (he was ably replaced by Dr Oakley - fortunately they look physically very similar so nobody noticed).

The afternoon continued with a wonderful buffet lunch and BBQ in the gardens, and some fun on the hired inflatable human table-football arena (yes, such things do exist!) All in all, a great day, and most importantly, the rain stayed away! Well done to Mr Mason, House tutor and director of chapel choir, who put the musical programme together and prepared the musicians. There was a very high standard on show, so we very much look forward to next year's event.

## House Improvements



As an elegant and sophisticated old lady of 151 years old, Rigg's Hall does need looking after, for she has picked up various bumps and bruises along the way (and, dare I suggest it, some fractures too). Whilst not in need of any drastic surgery (a hip replacement might be too much for the old dear), it was time for a bit of sprucing up. First up was the garage, which has been cleared, tidied up, and has now got enough space to act as a small gym for the boys. Incredibly, in our excavations, we found that the garage actually has a floor!

The quod has had some work done too in making more practical use of the area, with the central flower bed having been removed and covered over. This does make the quod more at risk of being the scene of impromptu cricket matches, but the Housemaster has snipers on the turrets just in case...

Probably the most significant improvements currently under way is a new paint job throughout the house. Rather on the dark side, it was time to lighten things up, so George and Phil have come to the rescue, now proud temporary Riggites, working at impressive speed and already making a big difference to the look of the house. There was, as you can imagine, significant debate about the colours, with some highly impassioned suggestions- some lurid, others more palatable - though in the end we have gone for light and bright with hints of blue (no, not a house colour, but clearly symbolic of the vast 'ocean' depths of talent in the house... Or possibly the 'sky' of possibilities awaiting these young men... or perhaps I'm clutching at straws here...).



I am currently awaiting confirmation regarding a re-carpeting of the entire house, which I am pushing hard for as this will make the greatest difference. Alas, we are rather threadbare at the moment and in dire need of it, so hopefully this will start to get laid down in the Michaelmas term.



### Jubilee Celebrations

Although the official Diamond Jubilee celebrations are to take place in the half-term holiday, we thought nevertheless we'd hold our own party in the last week of term, with the quod transformed by matron into a patriotic sea of Union Jacks and bunting. The BBQ Boys were back in action (Will Minshall; Will Angell-James; and Josh Barnard), and an impromptu House Wii basketball competition provided the entertainment, with aforementioned Master Barnard taking the honours in the final.

The Queen, unfortunately, was unable to attend.

### And Finally...

In closing, let me pause to mention the latest member of Rigg's Hall - Frank the Fish. His owner - 4th former Jack Kinnaird - arrived with Frank at the start of the term, having won the fish at a local fair. Rather foolishly, his Housemaster scoffed that there was no way the fish would survive until half-term, as the little thing looked rather miserable in his small fish tank. A wager was even put down that if Frank was still alive by half-term then Jack could buy his beloved fish an expensive present from the pet shop courtesy of his Housemaster, so confident was he that Frank's time in this house was going to be brief.



His Housemaster should have done more research. For Frank is a survivor, a hardened warrior of the waves. Indeed, after having been purchased from a fair, Frank was actually transported by minibus in a water-bottle and attended the J15 training camp in Oxford. His home for these first days was a Travel Lodge. To be specific, the sink in the bathroom of said Travel Lodge. And then, the bumpy road north again and this time to his new home in Rigg's Hall at the very top of the

tower. Within a week he had a new tank, then another, this time with top of the range filter system and even plants! This isn't fair, protested the Housemaster, clearly irked at the new conditions. Yet Frank still did not have one of those nice walled tunnels - how could he possibly survive without this most required of accoutrements?



Alas, he has survived, Frank has made it through seven weeks in this hostile, wild environment, and is in fact positively thriving. A new friend (lover?) for Frank is being sought, as a reward...

*If you wish to purchase copies of 'Rigg's Hall' by Minter Kemp, please e-mail [pjm@shrewsbury.org.uk](mailto:pjm@shrewsbury.org.uk). You can buy packs of 10 cards for £8.*

# Old Salopian takes Olympic Torch through Cressage

Friday 1 June 2012

OS Philip Wood (M 1992-1997) took the Olympic Torch through Cressage on Wednesday 30th May.

During his time at Shrewsbury, Phil was an active sportsman and was House Captain of Rowing. More recently, he has become involved with the Bridgnorth Rowing Club both on and off the water. His enthusiasm has brought the club many new members, and much needed funds, and it is this work that earned him the nomination and ultimate selection for the role of Torch Bearer.





## Oldham's Fourth Form mini sagas

Friday 1 June 2012

Could you write a complete story in a few lines? Or in exactly 50 words, no more, no less? The 3rd and 4th form took on the challenge, entered their 'mini-sagas' in a national competition, and 40 of them have been rewarded with the chance to see their stories in print.

Four Oldham's stories made it into Mrs. Drew's top eight:

### **The City**

The mighty walls towered high above the dusty surface, as did the other buildings inside. The magnificent cathedral sat behind the protection of the large walls. The thick, powerful gate guarded the entrance of the city. The architect stepped back and smiled; his model of ancient Rome had been completed.

*Nicholas Pearce (I IV)*

### **9/11**

To jump, or not to jump, that is the question. The building is falling down. I may have to suffer the planes of the hijacking terrorists. Or to take arms against a sea of stairs; by opposing them, to die? To jump? The heartache and one thousand natural shocks of jumping?

*Charlie Duckworth (O IV)*

### **Villain versus Victim**

In view, the hunter saw a vision of his humble vaudevillian prey. He viciously climbed the tree, violating its bark. He cast his vast arrow as both victim and villain, by the vicissitudes of fate, were vowed together.... He shot. He hit, therefore vanquishing these venal and virulent vermin forever.

*Guy Hunter (O IV)*

### **The Scene**

- I'm going to kill you! You murdered my mother and you will die for that!
- She was my mother too, and I did not kill her! I loved her and you know that I would never do that!
- Go to hell!

"Stop! Stop! That acting was terrible!" said the director.

*Dmitry Lesnevskiy (O IV)*

### **The Meeting**

He stood there. The rain splashing down around him, the pitter-patter of the raindrops hit the ground around him, as he waited. Nothing else moved, and, as he stood there, he thought of the message he'd received earlier. He was wrong. He turned and left. The rain swallowed his emotions.

*Charlie Steele (O IV)*



## RSSBC: J14As victorious at National Schools' Regatta

Friday 1 June 2012

The J14A VIII were victorious at the National Schools' Regatta today, securing the Cherwell Cup for the second time in three years.

Having made it through the processional and semi-final with some comfort, the final was always going to be close between two qualifiers each from three semi-finals. Shrewsbury edged home by approximately half a second with Great Marlow second and St Paul's third in a close and pulsating final.

Congratulations to coach Mr Rob Wilson, cox Guy Cabral and crew Paddy George, Henry Thomas, Alfie Grocott, Stamos Fearnall, Alex Matthews, Wilf Deacon, Joe Davies and Harry Lane Fox.

PG

Please also see [Rob Wilson's full report on the J14 crews' success](#) - both our B octuple and our B quad made it through to their semi-finals.







## RSSBC: Girls' 2X set the form at National Schools' Regatta

Sunday 3 June 2012

Nat Schools Championship Girls 2X

The recently formed crew of Bridget Lapage and Amy Stockdale culminated their short time together with a successful campaign at Nat Schools. Their only goal was to qualify for one of the 18 spots available in the semi finals from 24 crews. With only one race with which to draw experience from it was an unknown entity, but the pair approached the task with commitment and determination. They sculled the time-trial impressively and with confidence. They maintained absolute focus in their boat responding well to pressure from other crews. They were rewarded with qualification in a time of 7:14. Job Done! "Ecstatic" barely describes their response.

The crew then approached the semi final with excitement and reality. Whilst they were not in the race so to speak for a spot in the final, they were very much focussed on delivering a race of equal measure. And so they did, finishing in a time of 8:26 they were just 1s off their race two weeks' earlier at Notts City, in much faster conditions.

Congratulations to the young crew, who have raised the bar and established form at a national event, having only picked up an oar for the first time 9 months ago.

They now have their sights set firmly on a finals place next year.

*CHLW*



# RSSBC: Full report on the tremendous success for the J14s at National Schools' Regatta 2012

Sunday 3 June 2012

***J14A's the National Champions** - winning the Cherwell Cup (again). Both the J14B 4+ and the J14B 8+ made it to the semi-finals in their categories too.*

Two octuples and a quad from the J14 squad travelled to Holme Pierrepont near Nottingham for the first day of the National Schools' Regatta.

The quad was racing in the B category (our C crew for the day, and nominally our E quad), they performed above and beyond expectations. Racing first in a time trial of 18 crews for 12 places in the semi-finals, the crew put together a sparkling performance, finishing with the 6th fastest time. This is the first time since 2007 that our C crew has made it to this stage, a superb achievement. The top 3 crews from each semi-final would proceed to the final, and although our boys raced with real grit and determination, racing in the faster semi-final they finished in a creditable 5th place, only 0.05 seconds slower than 3rd place in the other semi.

Huge congratulations to the crew, they have great potential for the future. Many thanks and congratulations too, to their coach Mr Huw Peach.

*J14B 4x+: George Young (O), Tom Marques (Rt), Charlie Rassmuss (I), Mischa Manser (Rb) and cox Ed Jones (M).*

Our B octuple qualified for the semi-finals. Drawing an outside lane, they were racing well until a crab, and a subsequent broken blade, cost them the chance of a place in the final. It was unfortunate, but all too common at J14 level. They enjoyed their 6 lane racing experience and the atmosphere of a major regatta. Hopefully they will want to come back for more next year! Many thanks to their coach Mr Steve Fox.

*J14B 8x+: George Whitehead (Rb), James Walker (Rt), Douglas Major (S), Alex Brinkley (PH), Hector Kaye (Rb), Alfie Mitchell (SH), Tom Sykes (PH), Jake Carter (R) and cox Ed Chamberlain (Ch)*

The A crew had found speed week by week in the run up to the regatta, and hopes were high of contending for a medal. They raced the time trial in a composed and controlled fashion - when the final results were published they were 10th out of the 18 qualifiers. The crew were placed in the 2nd of 3 semi-finals alongside Abingdon, Radley, Westminster, Latymer and London Oratory. Racing with real maturity the crew pulled out to a one length lead which they extended to clear water by the finish line.

In the final they were placed between the winners of the other two semis, Great Marlow School (alma mater of Sir Steve Redgrave) and perennial rivals (and Sculling Head winners) King's Chester. Aside from the Grange dropping back, at 250m there was little to choose between the other 5 crews; by 500m Shrewsbury had pulled out to a narrow lead over King's Chester. As the race progressed Shrewsbury were able to extend their lead, and leave 3 crews battling for silver

and bronze. Shrewsbury won by just over one second (2nd to 4th were separated by 0.27 seconds). A gold medal, the right to call themselves National Champions, and Shrewsbury's second Cherwell Cup in 3 three years.

*J14A 8x+: Paddy George (M), Henry Thomas (Cb), Alfie Grocott (PH), Stamos Fearnall (I), Alex Matthews (PH), Wilf Deacon (Rt), Joe Davies (M), Harry Lane Fox (Rt) and cox Guy Cabral (Cb).*

A truly outstanding squad performance, and one that indicates a potential for great things in years to come for this group of young Salopians.

RMW





## RSSBC: Summary of successes of 1st and 2nd VIIIs

Thursday 7 June 2012

### *2005 onwards*

#### **1st VIII**

*Henley Royal Regatta Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup for School Eights* (the international event for school eights)

During the six years between 2006 and 2011, the 1st VIII has been the second fastest school eight on three occasions, and the winner once.

*Schools' Head of the River Race*

During the eight years between 2005 and 2012, the 1st VIII has always been in the top three school eights - winning on three occasions

*National Schools' Regatta* (cancelled in 2005)

During the seven years between 2006 to 2011, the 1st VIII has been winner on two occasions, silver medalist once and bronze medalist once.

#### **2nd VIII**

*Schools' Head of the River Race*

In the eight years between 2005 and 2012, the 2nd VIII has been winner on three occasions, and second on four occasions.

*National Schools' Regatta* (cancelled in 2005)

In the six years between 2006 and 2011, the second eight has always been in the top three with three wins, two second places and one bronze place.

*Henley Royal Regatta Temple Challenge Cup*

The second eight sometimes enters and qualifies to race in the Temple Challenge Cup at Henley Royal Regatta. This is University eights event (only one entry per school is allowed in the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup).

The school second eight qualified in 2007 and 2008. In 2008 the 2nd VIII beat Eton 2nd VIII in the first round and reached the second round (Thursday) and then raced a USA University crew, losing by only 1¼ lengths.

A few other notable facts:

- Since 1919 the School Boat Club has won an eights event at Henley Royal Regatta on 14 occasions, which is only matched by Eton College during the same period. (There are almost twice as many boys at Eton as there are at Shrewsbury.)
- The RSSBC has provided the second most oarsmen to the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race after Eton College.
- There are 11 known RSSBC members who have competed in the Olympics, with two winning Olympic Gold medals.
- There are many RSSBC members who have won subsequent events at Henley Royal Regatta and competed for GB seniors in the World Rowing Championships, the Commonwealth Games, and in what used to be the European Championships.

*Nick Randall (O 1972-1976)*

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



# Old Salopian Lodge: Summer Meeting and Family Lunch on Saturday 16 June

Thursday 7 June 2012

The Old Salopian Lodge will be holding its summer meeting on **Saturday 16th June** at Shrewsbury School.

Masonic meeting in the Ashton Theatre at 11.30 am, followed by a family lunch in the Moser Library, with drinks from 12.30. The lunch is open to all, tickets £40.00 adults, £22.00 for children/under 16s.

Contact - Chris Williams (R 1978-83) - 07956 964937 - [chrisjwilliams@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:chrisjwilliams@yahoo.co.uk)

## Forthcoming Events

Wednesday 26th September 2012, 5.00 pm - Old Salopian Lodge Meeting, City University Club, 50 Cornhill, London EC3V 3PD - Contact Lodge Secretary - Chris Williams - 07956 964937 - [chrisjwilliams@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:chrisjwilliams@yahoo.co.uk)

Tuesday 27th November 2012, 5.00 pm - Old Salopian Lodge Meeting, City University Club, 50 Cornhill, London EC3V 3PD - Contact Lodge Secretary - Chris Williams - 07956 964937 - [chrisjwilliams@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:chrisjwilliams@yahoo.co.uk)



# Old Salopian Rower Takes Part in Diamond Jubilee River Pageant

Thursday 7 June 2012

OS Sabrina member, **Roger Pitts-Tucker (SH 1959-64)** put together a rowing crew to row a Shackleton Gig ( 5 fixed seat oars) in the River Thames Pageant (Queen's Diamond Jubilee) on Saturday 2nd June.

Roger reports:

We completed the course without the need for a tow in accordance with the prescribed time, average speed 4 knots, with me stroking my boat from bow side. I was very lucky and privileged to be selected as only 1,000 out of 4,500 crews applying were selected for the pageant. There were 270 "man-powered" boats in the first flotilla.



For me the experience was a little 52 years 'Deja Vu', as at The Schools in 1961 I stroked my School House ( Headroom) four, which was fixed seat in those days, to head of its division, making Headroom head of all four divisions in the [Summer bumping races](#) (this link is to a photo of the November 1961 edition of *The Salopian* report).

Our boat in the Pageant was called "The Farringdon Mermaid" since I am a Committee member of my City Ward Club in Farringdon , which contributed generously towards our expenses. Sadly we did not have room at the transom of our boat for more than two flags, as otherwise I would have asked to fly the Sabrina flag, if indeed there is one [*There is!*].

We collected money for our individual charities, eg. **Cystic Fibrosis Society, Alzheimer's Society, The City of London's Lord Mayor's Appeal.'**

After Shrewsbury, Roger attended Clare College, Cambridge, in 1964, and his crew on Saturday included two Clare oarsmen. The crew also included two from Pembroke College ( ex-Goldie crewmen), a Thames Rowing Club nephew of one of the Clare oarsmen, and an experienced dinghy helmswoman as cox, and also one passenger, Roger's cousin/ niece - a rower at Derby University.



## Interested in Fixed-Seat Rowing on the Thames?

Roger would like it to be known that there is a flourishing series of regattas for traditional fixed seat rowing on the Thames throughout the year, and any OS who would like to participate could contact him - [rpt@farringdonc.co.uk](mailto:rpt@farringdonc.co.uk), or write to him at 3 Nursery lane, Holwell, Leics LE14 4UF.

The next race is the **Great River Race** taking place in mid September, from Hampton Court to the Tower of London, approx 3 hours of steady rowing.

## SSDPA's annual Jazz Evening & BBQ raises over £2,000

Friday 8 June 2012

Torches and fire pits lit the KH lawn, and fairy lights decorated the trees for the annual Day Parents' Association Jazz Evening. The music, provided by Will Heyes (Ch LVI) and his Jazz Band, drifted atmospherically over the grass as 200 parents, day and boarding, chatted and ate a delicious meal.

The Parents' Association Chairman, Grant Williams, was able to announce that over £2000 was raised during the evening, which will all go directly to an orphanage and hospital supported by the charity Medic Malawi. Led by Sam Pinches (Rb UVI), who provided the Landrover, and Steve Fox and Duncan Kirkby from the staff, students who will be visiting the project in July helped to set up the venue for the evening, putting up the marquee and setting out two dining rooms (one inside KH - in case of rain).

As an extra bonus, the Christie family persuaded Experian, a national company, to double the first £250 that was made – in itself, enough to pay a nurse's salary for four months.

The rain held off and the chat went on into the night....

*LJD*



Luke Champion, Elliot Christie, Matt Davies, Eliza Hodgson, Seb Pope and Chairman Grant Williams set up the marquee.



Charlie Straw, Will Heyes, Sienna Holmes and Ali Webb take a break from providing the Jazz.

## RSSBC: 2 gold medals at National Schools' Regatta

Friday 8 June 2012

Friday 1st June saw the J14A octo emerge as National Champions. In their third race of the day they rowed through an early lead established by King's Chester, to take a 2s victory in an exhibition of some powerful rowing. The quality of the opposition is demonstrated by the fact that the next three places covered a mere 0.3s; King's, having set a new course record in the heat, came in 4th! It is an excellent result.

Please see our [full report on Friday's racing](#) for more information.



Saturday's racing did not yield the results we sought or expected; the 2nd VIII's 4th place after some hard racing was the best result. May we thank our supporters for just that - their support. Our thanks also go to the catering team for their now-typically 'best at the event' spread. It is much appreciated.



Sunday 3rd brought an unusual straight tail wind and a LOT of rain. In their third race of the day the stern four of the 1st VIII were level off the start with Abingdon's top four and St Georges, with Radley, Hampton and Bedford Modern having fallen away a bit already. Through sheer determination they inched their way forward stroke by stroke in a very good race. Half a length at 500m, a bit of clear water by 1000m and 2.5 lengths at 1500 set up a convincing win in what turned out to be a record time, last established in 2004.

The Hedsor Cup, last won by Shrewsbury in 1999, is back in our hands.

*PHL*





## KH puts on a right royal Jubilee lunch

Friday 8 June 2012



Friday 1st June saw KH throw a right royal Jubilee lunch for the pupils before they broke for half term!

The serveries were duly decorated with bunting, banners, flags and balloons, the end result reminding us of a street party. Mark Johnson, our Head Chef, baked and decorated a giant fruit cake which was cut up and served to the pupils and staff. The menu was themed totally around all things Royal and consisted of Brown Windsor soup, (a classic hearty soup which was very popular at the castle in the 19th and early 20th century - Queen Victoria was particularly fond of it!), Balmoral Beef with Highland oaty dumplings, Jubilee Chicken with a citrus and ginger creme fraiche, Caribbean Commonwealth vegetarian casserole, topped off with Queen of Puddings - a beautiful pudding worthy of its name, filled with jam, fruit preserves and egg custard, crowned with a layer of soft, chewy meringue.

Everyone agreed that it was a wonderful start to a perfect Jubilee celebration!

*Holroyd Howe*

[www.holroydhowe.com](http://www.holroydhowe.com)



## School Sport Magazine: Focus on sport at Shrewsbury School

Sunday 10 June 2012

*School Sport Magazine asked Paul Greetham, Director of Sport, to give his views on sport at Shrewsbury for the 40th issue of School Sport Magazine.*

*Paul's answers to their questions are given here; they give a good flavour of the diversity and strength of the school's sporting provision, and the ongoing commitment to equip all of our pupils with a lifelong love for sport. Please also see a [pdf file of the article in the magazine](#).*

*What have been your proudest sporting achievements in recent years?*

Cricket at Shrewsbury has enjoyed its most successful period ever in recent years. The 1st XI were the HMC U18 National T20 winners in 2011. The U15's have won the Lord Taverner's National Trophy (2005), the ESCA T20 National Competition (2009) and were runners-up in 2011. Several pupils have gone straight into the professional game, most notably James Taylor (Leics CCC, Notts CCC, England), and the current Oxford University (UCCE) Captain Ben Williams was Head Boy at Shrewsbury in 2009-10.

The RSSBC (rowing) has consistently placed in the top five schools in the UK for some years. In 2007, the 1st VIII recorded a memorable Princess Elizabeth Cup win at the Henley Royal Regatta.

The RSSH (cross country) is once again at the top of schoolboy running, finishing third at the National Knole Run and second at the National Schools Relays in 2012. The Hunt won a staggering total of 13 trophies in 2012, improving upon the 9 in 2011, and were Midlands Independent Schools Champions in 2011 and 2012.

More boys are playing football for school teams than ever (18 teams in 2011-12), and our 1st XI were Independent Schools U18 Champions in 2010 defeating Repton 3-0 in the Final.

In the senior age groups particularly, Shrewsbury is cleaning up on the national Eton Fives scene. The top Shrewsbury pair were National U21 and U18 Champions in 2012, and once again the senior pairs won the Williams Cup for best overall team in 2012.

*What are the secrets of your success?*

Sport is placed as an integral part of a pupil's day at Shrewsbury. Be it a competitive fixture, squad practice or recreational session, there is a culture of 'taking part'. On a daily basis, there is time for sport; added to this is investment in the best facilities and coaching we can find. There is no secret – it's down to hard work by pupils and staff, and quality and quantity of access.

*How has sport improved at school in recent years?*

Sport has improved by focusing on the quality of our coaching input, by training our own staff and employing the very best sessional coaches in the region. We have employed Graduate Sports Coaches in the last two years who have improved the quality of our coaching input greatly. There has also been an opportunity to focus on the breadth of what we offer – sports such as swimming, fencing, shooting, archery, and badminton are more invested in and more popular than ever. In addition, we now employ specialists in the fields of physiotherapy and strength and

conditioning in order that our squads get the best possible preparation and rehabilitation.

*How important is competitive sport at the school?*

Intramural sport is as important as inter-school competition at Shrewsbury. Pupils are passionate about weekly house football, fives and cricket leagues, which give every member of the House an opportunity to compete and for house rivalries to flourish! A great deal of effort has gone into developing the number and quality of school fixtures for C, D and E XI's of late, so that if there is a desire to represent the school from pupils, then the demand is met. Competitive sport at Shrewsbury is fundamental to the School's ethos and 'amateur' roots; however there are sports and activities for pupils who are not so motivated to take part competitively.

*How important is sport for all?*

Imperative. Year 9, 10 and 11 pupils are expected to take part in a minimum of four sport sessions (nicknamed 'changes') per week, and 6th formers are asked to choose a minimum of two per week. Unusually, pupils get a free choice of activity as soon as they enter the school, so Shrewsbury does not ask or expect everyone to take part in football, rowing or any of the 'major' sports for example, but plenty do of course. The choice is with the pupil, and it means pupils are extremely motivated to practice and compete for the school.

*Have you a particular sporting ethos at the school?*

At the core of our sporting ethos is our aim to reduce drop out from sport at 18 years old, and to enthuse for a lifelong involvement, be it for the 4th XI on Sunday morning or representing England vs Australia in the 2014 Ashes. To do this, the pupil has to be fully involved in their sporting choices, while remaining firmly grounded in realising that facilities and opportunities do not get much better than their time at Shrewsbury. We want to educate pupils so that they stay motivated enough post-Shrewsbury to go and find opportunities to take part in.

*Have any former pupils gone onto international sporting success?*

Yes. Cricketer James Taylor is our most recent, and we have fingers crossed that he will make the Test Squad in the not so distant future. There has been a terrific run of success of oarsmen rowing at an outstanding level. Two Olympians, several Salopians at Senior World Championships, two recent U23 GB internationals at World Championships, and four U18 GB internationals in the last ten years, and we are second only to Eton for the number of oarsmen rowing for Oxford or Cambridge in the Boat Race. As for athletics and cross country, recent leavers Oli Laws, Charles Robertson-Adams, Oli Mott and John Greenwell have all represented GB in a variety of disciplines. Our most famous athlete dates back to the Los Angeles Olympic Games in 1932 – 400m hurdles gold medalist Bob Tisdall.

*What sporting links have you with the neighbouring community?*

Many of our pupils compete for local cricket, football, and rugby clubs as school commitments allow. The majority of our pupils board so logistically it is harder for them to take full advantage of community sport, but we do encourage and make it happen where possible. Our facilities are used extensively by the community, not least the Neville Cardus Cricket Centre and Gemini Swimming Pool, both opened in 2006. We also have an extensive old boys' network of sporting clubs nationwide.

*What sort of sports scholarship system have you in place at the school?*

We offer Sports Scholarships and bursaries for talented boys and girls at 13+ and 16+, with assessments in October and November each year respectively. At 16+ we also offer the Margaret Cassidy Scholarship which is specifically for a talented rower, cricketer or footballer who would



not get this sort of opportunity without significant financial assistance – a life-changing award. On receipt of an award, we believe that we need to continually invest in our scholars and other gifted and talented pupils, by running a mentoring scheme and twice annual review for each pupil, as well as a comprehensive lecture programme with invited guests from the world of professional sport. In the last 12 months pupils have been inspired by Floyd Woodrow (motivational speaker), David Parsons (ECB Performance Director) and Nigel Stockill (renowned sport scientist) amongst others.

*If someone could do anything to improve sport in your school what would it be?*

Finding comprehensive block fixtures for our high participation sports is tough in this area of the country, but we work hard to ensure that Wednesdays and Saturdays remain ‘games day’ for most teams. We are about to invest in additional indoor space, but have been in need of more multi-sports indoor space for some time to enhance the breadth of our provision further. We are 100% committed to ensuring that from 2014 girls get the same quality of provision as our boys have enjoyed for years.

*What’s the biggest single issue facing sport in schools in general at the moment?*

Unhealthy competing interests and a growing culture from pupils of dipping in and out, rather than making a commitment to a sport, club or activity. Also there are seemingly fewer ‘all round’ staff that enjoy, and are prepared to contribute to sport in and outside the classroom.

*What’s the most frustrating thing about sport in schools?*

We need to raise the bar and expectations with regards to early years activity and sport in the UK. We should perhaps be focusing more of our best coaches to introducing sport to school pupils and young people in the community. Having taught and coached in the 11-18 age range most of my career, I believe the pupils who arrive at senior / secondary schools are in general not as ‘physically literate’ as they might be, due to poor foundations in core skill development.



## Old Salopians captain both Cricket and Rugby teams at Oxford this year

Monday 11 June 2012

We are delighted that this year's Captains of the Oxford Cricket team, and the Oxford Rugby team, are both Old Salopians.

Ben Williams (Rt 2008-2010, Head of School 2009-10) is the Captain of the Oxford University Cricket Club. The OUCC is one of the most prestigious cricket clubs in the country, and their first-class facilities at the University Parks have been graced by some of the most famous cricketers of all time, producing many 'Blues' who have gone on to represent their country such as Imran Khan, Douglas Jardine, and M.J.K Smith.

Ben is also Captain of the Oxford MCCU, and has been filmed by Lord's TV in a 'day in the life' piece to try to encourage the next generation of talent to consider the MCC University scheme: [Ben Williams on Lord's TV](#).

Ben joined Shrewsbury in the Sixth Form, and went on to become the first Sixth Form entrant to be appointed Head of School. Ben helped our 1st XI to victory in the 2010 Silk Trophy - amongst his many other sporting and academic achievements in his two years here.

We will be watching the 4-day Varsity match at The Parks with particular interest this year!



Captained by OS John-Henry Carter (Rt 1994-1999), the Oxford University Rugby Club (OURFC) have had a successful season, with the highlight probably being their victory in the Varsity Match at Twickenham in December.

Please also see our [full report](#) of this exciting match - Oxford's biggest win over their deadly rivals from Cambridge since 1988.



# RSSBC: 1st VIII report from National Schools'

Tuesday 12 June 2012

It is always difficult to write a report when things have not gone to plan and this is one of those occasions.

The 1st VIII failed to make the final of the Queen Mother this year; it was a huge disappointment to all. However, this is Schoolboy Sport at the highest level and a small mistake can be very costly. Put simply a loss to Radley by a small margin in the heat cost us the chance of a medal (Radley came 3rd).

The 2nd VIII fought a great battle against an extremely strong 2nd VIII 8 field this year, their 4th place was probably where they should have come, however they did battle all the way down the 2K course to get on terms with Hampton. This has been a great learning exercise for the 6 boys who return next year.

Sunday's racing consists of racing in 4's for our boys, this year we raced a J16 coxless 4, this was a great experience for these 2nd VIII oarsmen, who just missed out on getting through the time trial by a couple of seconds.

Our top boat had proven speed through the head season this year and although this unit had not been out in the boat prior to the Regatta, we were confident that the boat would go well. This was proved correct when our boys put to bed the Saturday disappointment to romp home well clear to claim victory in the Hedsor Cup for Championship coxed 4's well ahead of Abingdon's top boat in 2nd place!



So forward to Henley in a few weeks - it seems that a plethora of American crews are making the trip this year. We will have to wait to see the results and I certainly will not be making any predictions!

*Photo: National Champions in Coxed Fours (Hedsor Cup)  
Back L/R Rupert Chitty, Sam Lapage, Harry Lonergan.  
Front L/R Tom Marshall, Sophie Walker (Cox)*

## CREWS

1st 8. S. Lapage, R Chitty, H Lonergan, T Marshall, F Day, J Rand, M Kimpton-Smith, R Morgan. Cox S Walker.

2nd 8. C Clarke, W Angell-James, M Pattison-Appleton, D Beeston, P Gadsden, R Homden, J Kynaston, C Lane-Fox. Cox J Eardley

J16 4- C Clarke, C Lane-Fox, W Angell-James, R Homden

J18 4+ S Lapage, R Chitty, H Lonergan, T Marshall, Cox S Walker

*P Manser*

## OS wins prize from St Hilda's, Oxford

Tuesday 12 June 2012

We were delighted to learn that Old Salopian Alex Beaumont (SH 2005-2010) has been awarded a College Exhibition in German from St Hilda's College, Oxford, at the end of his first year there.

Alex was a Foundation Scholar at Shrewsbury, who was always extremely focused and organised. Despite attending every possible Oxbridge seminar and talk while he was here, Alex wasn't confident that Oxford was the right university for him. His housemaster, Giles Bell, thought otherwise, and eventually persuaded Alex to try for Oxbridge. Giles then had to apply even more pressure to get Alex to his interview, all the while promising to keep his application quiet, but he was confident that Alex would fall in love with Oxford once he'd been for his interview and seen it for himself. Giles is unlikely ever to forget the phone call that he later made to Alex's family, which started with the suggestion that they should sit down before he told them some good news.

Chris Minns, Head of Modern Languages, commented *"As one of our best Germanists in recent years, with a particular flair for literature, Alex is clearly continuing to impress."*



## The Blue Chair Calendar raises £5,000 - endorsed by Joe Hart

Tuesday 12 June 2012

*Never one to miss an opportunity, Giles Bell pounced on Joe Hart - with a couple of Blue Chairs - when he was here over the Easter holidays.*



Over the Easter holidays the school opened up its football pitches to HD Sports World for a national schools' football tournament. One of the organisers of the competition was Charles Hart, Joe Hart's father.

As I was bundling my family into the camper van for an afternoon jaunt to Home Farm, I saw a distinguished bunch of gentlemen standing next to a very tall young man in front of the Darwin Statue. Despite my advancing years, it didn't take long to work out that the tall young man was

England's No. 1, Joe Hart, who had come along to support his father and the competition. I quickly yelled at Blue Chair enthusiast and general slave, Joe Bell, that I needed the Blue Chairs fast. He willingly obliged and we set off in pursuit of our quarry. We caught him near the Darwin Statue and he readily agreed to meeting the Blue Chairs, who he admitted were something of an inspiration to him. "I take heart from all their many exciting journeys and it would be a real honour to sit on one of them", said an obviously awestruck Joe!



Joe Hart is well known at Shrewsbury Cricket Club and there were rumours that Messrs Holroyd and Barnard were trying to tempt Joe to come to Shrewsbury School in the Sixth Form, but sadly for us Shrewsbury Town got in first. I still think he would have done better to follow the advice of most sensible people and ensured he had decent A levels before embarking on a football career...

It should be noted that Joe was very generous at signing autographs - although I personally think that being the lead in the Junior School play has gone to his head!

GJFB (*proud father*)

*Giles would like to thank everyone who bought a 2012 Blue Chair Calendar, which has raised over £5,000 for MIND, The Shropshire Blood Trust, and Cure Leukaemia. The next Blue Chair fundraising event will be the Eve of Speech Day Concert, which will be in aid of the Motor Neuron Disease Association.*



## Galin Ganchev's recital at The Gateway Centre - Wednesday 30th May

Wednesday 13 June 2012

Although not strictly a School event, the success of the full-length recital given in Shrewsbury's Gateway Arts Centre by Galin Ganchev (M 4) should be of interest to musically-minded members of the community.



The programme began with works by J.S.Bach, a composer about whom I have mixed feelings. It is unfashionable at least, and in the eyes of many, heretical, to say that I find much of his music mechanical and repetitive, but I mention this only to reinforce the effect of Galin's stunning interpretation of the Chromatic Fantasia. Exploiting the power of the modern instrument and employing liberal *rubato*, this was Bach in the grand manner, Bach in the style of Liszt. No doubt a purist/puritan would have walked out. I found it thrilling, and it was only a pity that music of such imaginative impact should have to be followed by a fugue. Fugues are beyond redemption.

Having heard Ganchev in the first movement of Beethoven's "Waldstein" sonata, I anticipated something special in his first public performance of the finale. I was not to be disappointed. Rather it was the case that this was a reading of such electrifying intensity that words are inadequate to describe the experience. That he can play *very* loudly without ever sounding coarse, that he can take on and sustain a seemingly impossible *prestissimo* are accomplishments familiar from earlier acquaintance and both are essential to bringing off this *rondo* of stark contrasts. What made this occasion so memorable was the attention to detail in every bar, technical difficulty never getting in the way of bringing out the finest nuance, each a contribution to the overall structure. Whether this is intuitive or calculated I know not, but I can say that I have never heard the like.

In introducing the second half, Gareth Jenkins, to whom we are indebted for bringing Galin to Shrewsbury, mentioned his protégé's affinity with Chopin, the composer for piano. Of the five items scheduled, the highlight was the Scherzo (Op 31, not 32 as in the programme), which went far beyond the lightness of spirit suggested by the title. Conventionally, the contrasting themes are presented as complementing each other, opposing in balance rather than in conflict. Galin brought the second in so instantaneously as to sound like an interruption, an interpretation convincingly sustained throughout the entire piece. The development was a veritable civil war, the coda almost a riot, were it not that that might suggest loss of control. Nothing could be further from the truth, for, seemingly immune from error, the playing remained crystal clear, however hectic the writing. As in the Beethoven, thematic relevance was present – and could be discerned - in the densest of passages, the most dazzling of runs, the most thunderous of chords.

A standing ovation followed, and much wonder besides. "Only fifteen!" "How does he remember it all?" "Did you see those fingers?" I would like to add a further compliment. As

befits one visiting a centre for adult education, I came away from the concert with deepened understanding of the genius of Bach, Beethoven, and Chopin.

*Martin Knox*

Galin also performed Beethoven's "Waldstein" at the Wigmore Hall in February 2011, and a recording of this can be seen on You

Tube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XfpZ2v3NVkc>.

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



# Cricket: U14's through to national Lord's Taverners County Final

Wednesday 13 June 2012

On Tuesday 12th June, the U14As won the Lord's Taverners county semi-final when they defeated Bridgnorth Endowed School by 43 runs. They now progress to the final against Thomas Telford - date TBC. The winners of the county final will qualify for the U15's Lord's Taverners in 2013.

*Shrewsbury 140 for 1 (20 overs); Harry Adair 50 not out, Toby Mason 25, James Harris 33 not out. Bridgnorth Endowed School 97 for 4 (20 overs); George Panayi 1 for 8 (4 overs), Charlie Cooke 1 for 6 (4 overs).*



## A Week in the Life of Sam Ansloos (GLVI)

Wednesday 13 June 2012

*Sam spent much of half term kayaking his way across Scotland for his Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award, and kindly agreed to write up the experience for a 'Week in the Life' article. Sam has also been going to a number of auditions recently with various casting agencies, such as [All Star Casting](#) and [Casting Call Pro](#), and will be heading out to New York in the summer holidays to take up his Sanford Meisner Scholarship place at the New York Conservatory's four-week summer programme.*



Besides exams, one of the main worries on my mind throughout the start of the Summer Term was the perils of the final Duke of Edinburgh Expedition. We had discussed going to Croatia or Thailand, and James Halliday even went as far as planning a full trip to Turkey, but in the end, we thought it best to stick to the Highlands of Scotland where we would kayak 62 miles across the renowned Caledonian Canal. Only one third of the length of the canal is man-made, the rest being formed by Loch Dochfour, Loch Ness (slight nervousness about bumping into the monster), Loch Oich, and Loch Lochy. We had been through two practice expeditions, the first kayaking through the choppy Lake Bala and the second through the waves of Anglesey. Both of these had been exhausting and a true test of our physical and mental strength.

### Tuesday 5th June

I was slightly apprehensive at the early morning wake up in comparison to the previous wake up times during half term, but all the team managed to make it to the CCF block for Major Billington's start time of 0800 hours. We were delighted to meet Major B's friends Charlla and Wendy who were going to join us on the eight hour mini-bus journey to Scotland, along with her two energetic dogs Millie and Jasper, who kept the journey interesting. As Dr Case who had gone up several days earlier with the expedition boats and kit, we weren't too cramped in the 17-person minibus.

A few hours into the journey, we stopped at a service station in Cumbria – the very same one that the cast and company of What You Will had stopped at on our way to the Edinburgh Fringe last August. Quite a contrast, a musical in Scotland to kayaking across Scotland, I thought to myself. Soon we were back on the road and before we knew it we were in Scotland, and most of the team had answered the 55 questions that our instructor Doug could ask us and we had familiarised ourselves with the route. We battled through the long winding roads of the highlands and arrived at the Inchree hostel, only to be hit by the midges. I quickly instructed Katie Williams to start sharing her Avon Skin So Soft so as to reduce the number of Midges



around us. Soon after we met our instructor Doug who asked us about the route, then we finalised our last minute packing and went straight to bed - ready for a tough first day of kayaking.

## **Wednesday 6th June: Day 1**

An early start and a full English breakfast in the youth hostel, and then we were ready to set off for a 25 kilometre kayak from Neptune's Staircase at Fort William. The team soon got onto loading the boats and that is arguably one of the most worrying things: will we fit everything in the boats (including Harry Boutflower's kitchen bag and kag trousers)?

Soon we were on the water and I started to regret not doing much gym work before the expedition because even in the first half an hour I was starting to feel the pain in my shoulders. After a pleasant paddle with a slight wind against us we came to Loch Lochy which was our first portage of the expedition. The total time for portage was more than we had estimated - over 45 minutes - due to our lack of experience in portaging. After this, we had a well needed lunch, which for myself included water crackers with tomato puree and grated cheese, and of course the much needed calories of quality chocolate. Loch Lochy was extremely large and it opened out with strong winds going against us causing waves to go over the kayaks; Katie and I were terrified of capsizing half way through the first day of the expedition. To take our minds off the strain we sang songs from the musicals which included, The Phantom of the Opera and Oliver! - my favourite song being the 'Music of the Night' from Phantom. We also decided to entertain ourselves with ridiculous and over the top American accents which kept our spirits up and spurred the team along to finish an exhausting first day. We turned the corner at the end of the Loch and saw the campsite and we stopped for the night in Laggan Lochs.

## **Thursday 7th June: Day 2**

Bruised. Back pains. Sore shoulders. My tent group woke up at 5am which consisted of Harry Boutflower and Ratanon Suemanotham where we started cooking golden syrup porridge straight away. To our delight the sun beamed upon our faces and my gaze was locked onto the cloudless sky.

The day started with another long portage which felt like running The Tucks for the second time. However, an hour passed and we successfully managed to get all of the boats on the water after meeting Major B who gave us a motivational talk. I think the beautiful summer's weather made me feel at ease on the beginning of the journey and soon the kilometres seemed to quickly go by. After passing one of the lock gates our sights were soon set on arriving where we would break into the world-renowned Loch Ness. We soon arrived in Fort Augustus which was our last portage of the day when we saw Major Billington, who told us that the weather on Loch Ness was a force five, which meant we were too inexperienced to cope with paddling against that weather. Soon we had to think of an alternative route where some of us were worried at delaying the expedition an extra few days. However, luckily when Major B's back was turned her friend Charlla let us into her plans and we were able to impress Major B with our exact match to her plan. Our faces couldn't stop grinning so it didn't take her long to realise that Charlla had told us. The plan was to camp in Fort Augustus and go to the planned finishing line on Day 4 and paddle back to Fort William, meaning that we would be going with the wind. This was an exciting prospect and so we could just about smell the first aromas of the finishing line.

We had a long and exhausting portage to the campsite where Non and I started cooking a curry which we had been looking forward to for most of the day - it was definitely worth the wait. We were all zipped up in our sleeping bags by 10pm for an early set off time to Inverness at 7:30am.



## Friday 8th June: Day 3

5.30am start, and a cold morning. The hour's drive to Inverness soon went by, as I slept for most of it. Our third day of expedition began with another long portage, but we were certainly getting the hang of it by then, so we were soon all on the water.

The final day was planned for 15km and so we were soon racing down the narrow stretch of water with the wind going with us this time. We arrived at the lock gate just before the Loch Ness in extremely quick time and so we thought we may as well push on and have lunch in Loch Ness. We then attempted a bit of sailing with the group shelter which wasn't very successful, but our faffing around with the shelter did mean that we had drifted another kilometre down the Loch. We weren't 100% sure where we were going to stop for the night, but our intention was to get as far as possible.

It was quite a shock when we entered Loch Ness. The waves of the Loch were relentless and the boat felt as if it were a bucking horse, thrashing around violently. At this point my concentration was so focused on not falling in, that all of the pain I was going through seemed to disappear. Water was falling over my spray. We were actually making great progress raced to the campsite after breaking for lunch. The ferociousness of the waters actually made for a more exciting journey and we were travelling at around 7km an hour which is nearly double our usual pace. We were greeting my Major B and Charlla on the water an hour later and an additional hour ahead we saw a wild campsite with the luxury of a dilapidated barn, and so we decided to stop there for the night. The final straight was soon in sight...

## Saturday 9th June: Day 4

I would love to say that our final day began with glorious sun shine, a calm flat Loch Ness beckoning us to venture on to her and the sound of birds waking us to our final day of travel, but I cannot as we woke to the sound of rain pattering on the tent, the loch was choppy and the wind whistling. However, the end was in sight, a final home straight and in the words of Chris Pearce, 'A bloody long home straight!' In the excitement of getting onto the water, we almost forgot our VHF radio!

The last 18km stretch of loch Ness was a daunting prospect, as we still hadn't seen the end of the loch, and the gentle breeze on our backs didn't make much difference. As we got into the stride of paddling, people began to fantasise about the first acts they would do as free men and women from D of E. 'A shower for half an hour,' 'sit down and do nothing for an hour.' To an outsider these may seem a bit boring but after 4 days of solid travel these are fantasies that you wish to come true. At around 12pm we caught our first sight of Fort Augustus, the end of our trip; 6km to go. After a final break, 18 cereal bar wrappers produced and 1.5 litres of water drunk, we got into the kayaks for the last time.

We headed towards the end at full steam, but the toll of 4 days of solid kayaking and nearly 90km travelled was beginning to show through, and we became slightly detached. We were all tired, worn out having survived midges, force 5 wind, midges, long tiring days, midges and more midges, but we pulled together into formation for the final 300m. As a line we crept ever closer to the finish. Ed Mallet began to modify one of his York City chants, which he had tried, and failed, to teach us over the past few days; 'Que cera cera, whatever will be will be, we're finishing D of E, Que Cera cera.' The whole team started to sing along as Dr Case began to snap our arrival. Katie and I were celebrating as we came into the end, exhaustion and happiness was all over our faces. As the final act of our D of E experience Harry Boutflower, who had worn a full body wetsuit the entire trip went for a swim in loch Ness, with the water at a modest 7 degrees.



We unpacked to find out that the Olympic torch would pass through the town that day so overall the trip ended with a moment of glory, one way or another.



## **Sunday 10th June**

We all woke up with sore back muscles and aches and pains all over, and the prospect of another eight hour journey home, but Doug our assessor had been to see us the night before at the Morags Youth Hostel, and had seemed to be very impressed with our efforts. We had time to reflect, and we really felt we had come together as a team, and there had indeed been ups and downs.

We were soon on the minibus and one couldn't hear a pin drop for most of the journey we all caught up on much needed sleep.

I would like to thank the team the members for helping write parts of this 'Week in the Life' and also to Dr Case who was a fantastic photographer throughout the expedition. Lastly, and on behalf of the whole expedition team, a thank you to Major Billington who took the time to train us and then motivate us through the expedition.

# Musings from our Head of Science: Physics Philosophy and International Travel

Thursday 14 June 2012

Shrewsbury has been in the vanguard of schools offering the Cambridge Pre-U and I was fortunate enough to be invited to write the Physics syllabus and to be involved in syllabus development and teacher training for both Physics and the new Global Perspectives (GPR) course.

The Pre-U philosophy is to nurture independent thinking and research skills along with a love of deep academic study, encouraging students to apply their knowledge in unfamiliar contexts. These critical and research skills are exactly those that top universities seek (and have often failed to find in school leavers in recent years). As a physicist I am delighted to be able to teach on a two-year linear course and to push both the mathematical and philosophical aspects of the subject further than on a modular A-level course.

As more Faculties embrace the Pre-U at Shrewsbury, the Pre-U philosophy is also catching on internationally. In late June 2012 I will join a small group of teachers and executives from the Cambridge International Examinations Board (CIE) for a week-long training event in Miami. The US College board has asked the CIE to develop a new course, similar to GPR to be taught alongside its own Advanced Placement courses and we are launching the pilot scheme.

Shortly after my return to the UK, I will be taking our own Shrewsbury School Physics Team to Germany to represent the UK in the final of the International Young Physicists' Tournament (aka 'The Physics Olympics'). It's going to be a busy summer (but fun too!).

*SFA*



*Steve Adams in a cable car in China in 2009 during a break in the International Young Physicists' Tournament. Shrewsbury School, representing the UK, won a bronze medal.*



## OS Terry Chiu (SH 2007-2011) receives award from Morgan Stanley at UCL

Thursday 14 June 2012



Terry Chiu receiving Third Prize in his assignment at UCL, which was sponsored by Morgan Stanley



## Attention All Sailors!

Friday 15 June 2012



The Old Salopian Yacht Club is looking for people who'd like to take part in the Arrow Trophy, the annual boarding schools regatta at Cowes, on the weekend of 6/7 October.

Sailors of all ages, experience and ability welcome. Contact me, [David.richards@trinity.oxon.org](mailto:David.richards@trinity.oxon.org) for more details.



# Old Salopian Day at Edgbaston: 3rd Test Match England v West Indies – Saturday 9 June 2012

Friday 15 June 2012

Forty four Old Salopians, staff members and guests enjoyed the luxury of a 'hospitality box' at Warwickshire County Cricket Ground at Edgbaston on Saturday 9 June. The previous two days had been rained off so it was with some relief that the party arrived in fine (if cold) weather.

As England had already won the series, Anderson and Broad were rested and replaced with Onions and Finn. England won the toss and put the West Indies in to bat, presumably in the hope of getting some quick wickets.



A combination of a slow, still wet outfield, unseasonably cold weather and good out-fielding meant scoring was slow (2.86 per over). There was some good cricket – England's pace attack was steady and Onions was the pick of the England bowlers. Samuels hit some excellent cover drives for the West Indies. Swann, the England spinner proved ineffective, 2 sixes being dispatched from his bowling and the cold weather may have contributed to a lot of 'playing and missing' from the batting side and three easy slip catches being dropped.

Facilities at Edgbaston in the Jaguar suite were excellent with a large dining room for lunch, all-day free bar and a balcony with uninterrupted views of the pitch, scoreboard and replay screen. Nearby, there were covered seats for those wishing to concentrate exclusively on the game.



The event attracted some Salopian cricket fans from well outside the West Midlands: **Simon Worthington (Rt 1980-85)** visiting the UK from Melbourne, Australia, **Mary Evans, wife of David (Ch 1968-73)**, a keen cricket supporter, who had flown in from Chicago that morning and **Philip Kynaston (Rb 2001-2006)** with his brother Stuart and four RAF colleagues out for a great day before being posted to Afghanistan.

A raffle for a signed English Cricket bat raised £500 for **Neil Carter's** benefit year. Neil is the South African born Warwickshire bowler and the bat was fittingly won by Jeremy Penn (M 1954-59), whom many older Salopians remember as an outstanding sportsman. Many thanks are due to **Richard Woodgate (Rt 1954-**

**59)**, chair of the Birmingham and West Midlands OS Branch for his help and support in organising such an enjoyable occasion.



## Charity run: Salopians win, and one boy runs with 2 Blue Chairs on his back...

Thursday 16 June 2011

**Cure Leukaemia 10k Run:** Sunday 12th June 2011



As the rain struck the windowpanes of most Salopians' bedroom windows with increasing ferocity on Sunday, four intrepid runners met by the Darwin Statue ready to brave the elements and the early morning start as they endeavoured to reach Sutton Park in Birmingham by 10.00am. The Blue Chairs were comfortable in the boot and the four musketeers Ian Howarth, (History teacher and runner extraordinaire), George Mallett (S LVI, keen huntsman), OS Matt Lim (SH 2002-2007, dressed as Jack Sparrow) and Henry Young (SH IV, the Chair Bearer) discussed tactics in the comfort of the School Espace. One can imagine the conversation; "I think I'll just go out and win it" says Mr. Howarth. "I'll follow you round Sir and make sure no-one gets too close", comments the valiant bodyguard that is George Mallett. "Aarghah", muttered Matt, and Henry said nothing but his eyes said it all as they turned a steely shade of blue!

Having registered, the intrepid athletes made their way to the start. Mr. Howarth made mincemeat of the 10k course, as one would expect from someone who finished 157th in the London Marathon. It must have been a stroll in the park for him. He won by some distance emulating Mr. Middleton's feat from the year before. George finished second and Matt and Henry both charged round in their own inimitable fashion, although carrying two blue chairs on their back is something guaranteed to slow you down. Henry has raised over £100 in sponsorship for Cure Leukaemia and the Fab Four are hoping to top the £500 mark.

If anyone else would like to contribute to their effort please send cheques payable to Shrewsbury School to Giles Bell and he will ensure they reach Cure Leukaemia through the Blue Chair Fund. Many thanks to all four for a tremendous effort.

*GJFB*

Interestingly, Matt Lim and Henry Young are old friends, their fathers (Steve Lim and Nick Young) having both been at School House from 1968-1972. Matt is now at Cambridge.





## Rory Fraser (Ch 5): Stuff GCSEs – Mess around on the Riverbank!

Monday 18 June 2012



For a school which is situated barely a Hunt run from the Welsh border, and is considered to be the last civilised outpost in England, it is surprising that it is commonly said - as people get to that stage in a meal when men smoke cigars, (setting off fire alarms and get ordered bullishly outside by their wives); and the dispraxics get muddled up as to which way to pass to port – that Shrewsbury out of all the public schools, really knows how to use a good summer.

The weeks of Shropshire typhoons ended last week and coincided with my release from hospital. Wednesday afternoon stretched out before me with that feeling of pure carefreeness that only comes through years of training. My exams were over for that week and the Great Outdoors beckoned! I had barely stepped into my bedsit before fellow Churchillian Charles Gillow turned round from his perch watering our collected conservatory of geraniums, cacti and box plants on my windowsill and asked if we should do something together, what with being fellow ‘off changer’s’.

So within five minutes, be-shorted and straw hatted we made our way down to the only acceptable place to be on a hot day in Shrewsbury – (except if there’s a cricket match on, where you are permitted to wallow under an Oak listening to leather on Willow, mixed with flashes of white flannel) – the river. Armed with sketchbooks, watercolours, *The Importance Of Being Ernest* and two chilled Shandies, we made our way down the School Bank. Whilst on our way we happened to meet Andrew Spicer who had had the same stroke of genius as us. We stopped briefly at the boathouse to admire Mr Wilson reclining in a wicker chair with Times, a megaphone and his obedient Vichler to hand.

As ever the boathouse was a throng of excitement, teeming with activity. Rowers scurried to and fro whilst uneasy third formers sculled over the still, flat water (punctuated by the occasional high pitched yell and a splash). We made our way downstream and on finding a little nook that I had recently come across in CCF we set up camp; dangling our feet in the water I drew a small scene of a little bridge and surrounding foliage. Gillow and I spoke of many important schoolboy issues such as the price of chocolate bars in the Grot Shop, how we thoroughly disapproved of people ambling about without tops on, the extreme heat being no excuse, and the calibre of the staff’s linen suits. Of course this flitting conversation was interrupted by long deep gulps of the refreshingly fizzy Shandy, and a brief visit from Art Angpanitcharoen, a fellow Churchillian, in a single sculler who informed us of events on the river.



All the while Spicer potted about taking photographs which will doubtlessly be named ‘Messing about by the river’. Our philosophical ‘convos’ were frequently paused by our shrieks of ‘Go on Churchill’s!!!’ – our primary reason for being by the river being to support Senior Fours. So we supported as the Churchill’s crew in their splendid house colours (navy and sky blue) with blazer’ed coxes toiled upstream. Churchill’s did very

# Shrewsbury

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well coming second to overall winners Rigg's, who could be clearly seen by Charlie and I from our vantage point to have had a very unfair start.

So by and by the afternoon slipped away as flies danced over the dappled water with the Cowslips and Maytrees swaying very gently in the warm breeze. Charlie, Spicer and I (the triffic trio) returned back to our houses, only to find along the way Doc Elliot lurking in the undergrowth in – as he insisted – a French colonial hat (rather than a British one due to the size of the rim). He was on the lookout for soggy scullers whose elementary swimming lessons were coming back into play!

*Rory Fraser*

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



## Cricket: OS Ben Williams (Rt, Head of School 2009-10) on Lord's TV

Saturday 16 June 2012

As Captain of Oxford MCCU, Ben Williams has been filmed by Lord's TV in a 'day in the life' piece, giving a feel for what it is like to be a cricketer at one of the six MCC universities and trying to encourage the next generation of talent to consider the MCC University scheme: [Ben Williams on Lord's TV](#).

Please also see another recent [article on our website about Ben](#), who somehow also finds time to be Captain of the Oxford University Cricket Club. The OUCC is one of the most prestigious cricket clubs in the country, and their first-class facilities at the University Parks have been graced by some of the most famous cricketers of all time, producing many 'Blues' who have gone on to represent their country such as Imran Khan, Douglas Jardine, and M.J.K Smith.



## Double prizewinning poet

Monday 18 June 2012

*Budding Fourth Form poet Theo Simmons (Ch) landed two prizes with his poetry at the School Prizegiving ceremony which took place last Friday. 'Soulweight', and a talk about it, won him the prestigious McEachran Prize, and the same poem along with with two others submitted won him the R S Thomas poetry prize. His housemaster Richard Hudson asked Theo about 'Soulweight' ....*

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*"I wrote 'Soulweight' last year on a dark wintry evening sometime around the death of my Grandmother. McEachran once said that there has to be an element of chaos involved to produce something of creativity. Well, as I'm sure many of you will have experienced, there are few things in life that bring more chaos internally than death. Consequently I would describe this poem as having two parents, my experiences at the time being one of them. The other, however, was an article that I read in the New Scientist. It was entitled 'soul weight' or something similar, and went on to describe how several scientific studies claim to have recorded the loss in grams of the human soul, at the exact moment of death. This was a concept that fascinated me, not so much the reputability of the various studies, but simply the pure idea. The poem, I suppose, was something spontaneous that came out of that. Truly grappling for the first time with ideas of life and death, the concepts around the physical soul provided an interesting entry point into questions surrounding our existence and the human condition to which no one I know of holds the definitive answers.*

*The result is perhaps a poem that attempts to stand a little indeterminately in the middle of that rather worn out rope bridge which dangles, precariously, between science and religion. This, I think is quite reflective of our modern world in which these two viewpoints on our universe seem to be constantly chasing at one another's heels, and though I don't claim to have found any answers by writing the poem. I feel I have probably have followed the age old practice that runs through much of the art created in our time on this planet- the practice of reiterating the question!"*

### **Soul weight**

In micro chips and memory cards hides no secret life  
 nor any life at all,  
 for one cannot imagine weathered leather hands like hers  
 slipping over touch screens or keys  
 to type one last message to the world,  
 Hers was a realm of paper,  
 inviting blank pulp waiting for hands to form  
 with mud, blood and ink  
 what took God six days.  
 In cold ceramic pots and uniform drawers hides no secret life,  
 nor any life at all,  
 for one cannot imagine scientists measuring a body like hers,  
 a body so like before  
 before dancing strip lights,  
 sleepless nurses and  
 one telephone call  
 Now her soul has become science,  
 one single gram,





and laboratories bright temples,  
and me religious,  
me religious while I can.  
*Theo Simmons (Cb, 4th form)*



# Athletics: Shropshire Schools Track and Field Championships

Monday 18 June 2012

*34 medals, including 13 golds.*

On Saturday we took 24 athletes to the Shropshire Schools Track and Field Championships and returned with 34 medals, 13 of which were golds. Very damp conditions meant that times and distances were generally not very fast (with a few notable exceptions; see below) but in some areas, especially the junior boys' events, the competition was very stiff indeed.

The seniors in particular excelled, with fine performances from Libby Naylor (2 golds), Rob Cross (2 golds and a silver), Ollie Kemp (1 gold and 2 silvers) Charles Cameron (2 golds and a silver), Howard Stringer (3 golds), Josh Mason (2 silvers and a bronze) and Nick Douglas (1 gold and 1 silver). Several of our top athletes were otherwise engaged on a Biology trip, but we showed great strength in depth by picking up 19 medals in total in this age category. Libby Naylor was excellent in the 400m Hurdles and 400m, winning both by some distance. Charles Cameron continued his fine season in the throwing disciplines, winning both the shot and the hammer, with Josh Mason also throwing very well to take second place in the hammer and javelin. Howard Stringer managed to win both the 200m and 400m, following an earlier gold in the pole vault. Ollie Kemp also had a busy day, winning the 800m in an encouraging time of 2:15.6, as well as taking silvers in the 400m behind Howard and the 400m Hurdles behind Rob Cross, who also won silver in the Long Jump and gold in the High Jump. Nick Douglas ran very well to take silver in the 100m, in 12.0 seconds, and jumped an impressive 11.41 in the triple to take another silver.

In the Inters age category, most of our 5th form were unavailable through exam leave, so we only entered a total of eight athletes, most of whom were up against athletes over a year older than them. They performed very creditably, picking up nine medals in total. Special mention should go to Chike Kandi, in what was probably his last performance for Shrewsbury School before joining Chelsea FC in the summer. He went out with a bang, picking up gold in the 100m in a lightning-quick 11.0 seconds. This time broke the previous track record in his age category (11.1 seconds) which had been held since 1961! He also picked up a silver medal in the High Jump (just ahead of Jonathan Hurcomb, who placed joint third). James Plaut ran extremely well, but was disappointed not to pick up a gold medal, finishing second in both the 100m (0.8 seconds behind Chike) and the 200m (in a time of 23.6 seconds). Rory Fraser put in a superb effort by competing in the 800m, the 1500m and the 3000m all in one day - truly an achievement in itself, but he remained competitive throughout and was able to pick up silver in the 3000m. Times were not fast by his standards, naturally enough given the awful conditions, but he showed what a gutsy performer he is in these middle-distance events. Anton Nelson proved what a talent he is in both track and field, picking up two bronze medals (shot and discus) and a silver (400m), despite being the youngest in his age category by several months.

In the juniors, there were fine performances from Tom Flowers in the Javelin, throwing 32.06 but placing just outside the medals, and Leo Sartain, who picked up gold in the discus and placed 5th in the shot. Nick Entwisle had another strong day in the sprints, coming second in the 100m and 200m and picking up a bronze in the High Jump. Gene Ratanadaros achieved silver in the Triple Jump and bronze in the 800m, while our other middle-distance runners, Ben Remnant

and Oscar Dickins, were unfortunate to finish just outside the medals in the 1500m. Oscar probably would have picked up bronze, were it not for having to stop to vomit on the last lap! There were solid performances also from Arthur Douglas, Sam Mitchell, Charlie Rogers and Finn McCormack.

Overall we were the most successful school by some distance, and we look forward to next year when we can build on this achievement, hopefully with an even bigger haul. Well done to all who participated.

*Mr I. Haworth*



## Cricketer Cup 17 June: Shrewsbury Saracens through to the 2nd round after a 'nail-biting' finish at home

Tuesday 19 June 2012

Alex Baxter reports: 'The Saracens were in action on Top Common at the weekend, when the



team took on Uppingham Rovers in the first round of the Cricketer Cup Competition. Despite the damp conditions some excellent cricket was played by both sides, with the result in doubt until well into the last over. Uppingham was first to bat and at one stage the side looked to be in real trouble at 55 for 5, but despite accurate bowling by the Saracens's second tier bowlers, Uppingham posted a very respectable score of 194 for 8 off their 50 overs.

The Saracens, fielding a young side with several debutants, realised that the run total required would be a good test of the side's character. Midway through the Saracens's innings matters looked to be well in-hand with the score at 140 for 3. Thereafter a mini-collapse occurred and it was left to the number 9 and 10 Saracens batsmen to hit the winning runs midway through the final over.'

Click [here](#) for the Captain (Tom Cox's) match report.

The next match in the Cricketer Cup will be on **Sunday 1st July** at **Shrewsbury School** when the Saracens will play **Whitgift Mitres**.

Please visit the [Saracens page](#) and check the [OS events calendar](#) for more Saracens fixtures.





# Cricket vs Manchester Grammar

## Saturday 16th June

Monday 18 June 2012

*There were good wins for the 1st XI, U14A XI, and U14B XI in the matches vs Manchester GS that survived the weather.*

The 1st XI and U14B XI's were comfortable victors – both sides batting first in tricky, damp conditions. For the 1st XI, captain Henry Lewis and Ed Pollock both scored half centuries, whilst U14B player Antony Koch de Gooreynd completed a half century off the final ball of Shrewsbury's innings.

The U14A match was a closer affair – captain George Panayi scoring a half century for Shrewsbury in a commanding first innings total. However some strong MGS batting saw them close, but were just short by a solitary run!

Coming up in the next three weeks are important cup matches for the U14A XI (Lord Taverners County Cup Final vs Thomas Telford), the U15A XI (ESCA Midlands T20 ¼ Final vs Bromsgrove), the U17 XI (National Schools ¼ Final vs Bedford School) and for the 1st XI (HMC National T20 ¼ Final vs either Bedford School or Felsted). Add to this the U15 Millfield Festival and in the final week of term the Silk Trophy, hosted here at Shrewsbury, then this is a bumper few weeks of cricket! Best wishes to all teams.

*Mr A. Barnard*

## Academic Prize Giving 2012

Monday 18 June 2012

‘A great moment of pride’ was the way Professor Nick Foskett, Vice-Chancellor of Keele University and the visiting speaker, aptly described Prize Giving last Friday. The achievements and range of interests of the prize-winners certainly bore him out.

The Headmaster emphasised that the prizes had been fiercely competed for. The citations were impressive; our students have been offered places in top universities, and they were being rewarded on Friday for their ‘excellence in scholarship’. There were the keenly-fought individual prizes for academic subjects, and then there were the Competition Prizes, which had been awarded for individual essays, presentations or performances. It was good to get a glimpse of the range and complexity of the subjects covered: a presentation on ‘round triangles’, the relationship between science and spirituality, whether water pricing reflects its scarcity, and performing a ‘spell’, for the esoteric McEachran prize. Also notable were the prizes awarded to individuals who had made a mark in person: the student who is going himself to judge a Prep School Creative Writing competition, the student who has befriended a 97 year old on her weekly visits to a nursing home, and this year’s recipient of the Guy Lovett Award, for ‘the qualities of courage, resolve and concern for others.’

The Headmaster quoted Bacon, who talked about ‘the hurt of learning’, but it was the resulting pleasures that we were able to celebrate, as both speakers agreed that both school and university should embody ‘The pursuit of truth in the company of friends’.

LJD

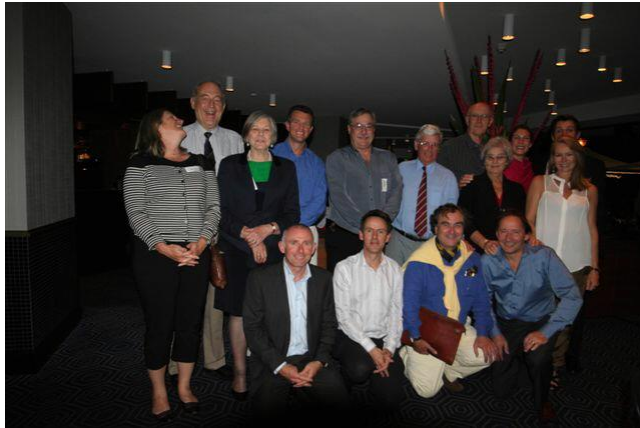




## Hugh Ramsbotham's 'Down Under' Trip - March-April 2012

Tuesday 19 June 2012

**Hugh Ramsbotham**, former Housemaster and OS President has been planning for some time



to make a trip 'down-under' to visit old friends. Hugh says that it seemed an ideal opportunity to encourage some Old Salopian gatherings in the cities he was visiting.

First was a brief stop-over in Mumbai to visit Nitij Arenja (SH 1990-95) and his brother Anuj (I 1994-96). Both brothers now work with their father in a variety of businesses including the 'health and fitness' industry.

The next stop was Western Australia and Perth where Hugh was hosted by Martyn Thompson (SH 1951-54) who with James Lush (S 1983-85) organised a gathering at a splendid waterfront pub/restaurant where a dozen Salopians and their wives had an enormously enjoyable drinks and dinner party. Others there included Tim Ward (I 1974-79), Gordon Gow (Rt 1981-86), Mike Gray (S 1965-67), Dr Nick Hayter (R 1944-49), John Laird (SH 1964-69), James Martin (DB 1978-82), Dr Peter Platt (S 1960-95), Nick Robotham (M 1962-67) and Mark Williamson (O 1956-60)

It was unanimously agreed that this sort of occasion must be repeated and visitors to Perth would always be made welcome.

Hugh went on to New Zealand where Doug Pollock (I 1979-84), Richard Kearney-Mitchell (SH 1983-87), John Weaver (SH 1944-48), William Eckford (S 1958-63) and three current 'gappers', Nick Oakes (SH), George Hanmer (Rt) and Fiennes Davey (G) met in the Wellington Club.

Back in Australia, Hugh had a marvellous evening in Sydney organised by Patrick Cadman (SH 1970-84), Nigel Swain (SH 1990-95) and Justin Lees (O 1985-90) where with Andy Head (O 1992-97), Nic Andrews (M 1970-75) and Ben Parry (I 1986-91) we had a delicious dinner and much laughter.

On the way home, Hugh visited Shrewsbury International School in Bangkok, and reports that 'The School is flourishing and very exciting and it is a 'must visit' place for any Salopian reaching Bangkok. Stephen Holroyd is always hospitable, there are 'gappers' who I am sure will always show you round, and how good it is to find men like Simon Baxter (and soon Peter Fanning) so obviously enjoying teaching there.'

Hugh is a great advocate of these kind of gatherings, and he says,

*"The aim now must be to get Salopians round the world to agree to put their names forward as link men - someone who might perhaps be contacted by a new arrival, who might agree to organise the occasional get together similar to these ones held, who might be 'Our Man in Havana' - or anywhere."*

Read Hugh's full report in the latest issue of 'The Salopian' magazine, due out in early July.

# A Week in the Life of Rob Morris [RHM] – Geography teacher

Tuesday 19 June 2012

## Saturday 9th June

I have chosen to start my diary (or blog as it might now be termed in the technological age) on the Saturday before we returned to school. There is a good reason for this as I was fortunate enough to be able to attend a day's play at the Edgbaston test match courtesy of the Old Salopians. The OS Birmingham branch had arranged to hold a day for former pupils and their guests in the new Edgbaston Terrace hospitality area.

A great day was had by all, including some 30 OS's, 3 staff, 1 present pupil (my son) and various other guests including 5 RAF Chinook pilots, who were flying to Afghanistan this week (one was a brother of a recent OS). After two days of washout, we had a full day's play and saw the West Indies inch their way to 280-8.



## Sunday 10th June

The day before the half term started was spent doing preparatory work for this week's teaching (8 Lower 6th lessons) and doing my preparation for my external marking commitment. I am a senior examiner for Edexcel for their A level Geography qualification. This time round I am doing 2 units: Unit 2 – Geographical Investigations and Unit 4 – Geographical Research. My Sunday morning was spent practising with the mark scheme and marking some 120 test items online to ensure that my marking was up to speed. Apart from 2 items (2 questions out of 120) was within 1 mark of the score given by the Principal Examiner, so reasonably pleased with myself. I then had to embark on marking another 120 items that had to be completed within 48 hours.

## Monday 11th June

An early start (0545) saw me complete my 120 items by breakfast – I find that I can mark far





more effectively in the morning than I can late in the evening and this is the pattern I tend to work to when exam marking ( I also mark January modules as well most years).

Teaching first lesson on Monday was a bit of a shock as I hadn't taught a lesson since the Monday before half term, though I had spent the week improving my knowledge of Google Earth and Google Sketch-Up (more of which later).

After lunch I got the news that I could now do another 40 of each question that will probably take me until the weekend. The afternoon was spent invigilating a 4th Form Maths exam that was relatively straightforward, followed by cricket practice with the 1st XI, who I help coach and analyse their performances (as well as tweet the latest school cricket news -[@shrschcricket](https://twitter.com/shrschcricket)).

## **Tuesday 10th June**

Another early start – this time at 4.15, though not to mark but to catch a train to Birmingham Airport to catch the 8am flight to Dublin. After I had spent a month as an 'expert blogger' for Hodder Education's Geography website in April, I was invited by Google to attend their Geo Teachers Institute that was to be held in Dublin and London in June.

After some surfing on the net, it soon proved that the cost of getting to, and staying in Dublin would be significantly cheaper than London in this Olympic year. So it was in Dublin that I arrived soon after 9am, accompanied on Ryanair by about 40 Roman Catholic priests from the Midlands on their way to an International Ecumenical Conference for the day. I knew that nothing would happen to the flight and I was comforted further when they were all on the same bus to the City Centre as well!

My course was not due to start until around 5.30pm, so with a few hours to kill, I went off to re-acquaint myself with Dublin. I was last here in 2007 celebrating a significant birthday, before the banking crash. Then the city was a jungle of cranes (as seen from the vantage point of the Guinness Brewery); today many of the building projects have been finished but depressingly few of the office buildings seem to be occupied. My hotel is near to the Google complex in the Dublin Docklands and this area has undergone a massive transformation, similar to Canary Wharf. I snapped many photos that will feature in my talks and lessons about Urban Regeneration.

I eventually wound up in O'Connell Street and once again checked the General Post Office for the bullet holes left from the 1916 Easter Uprising, before repairing to a watering hole to take a small sample of the delights of Dublin's finest and grab a sandwich. I had a brief walk around Temple Bar, Trinity College and Grafton Street, picking up some items that I was allowed to carry in my hand luggage. I am also fascinated by mass rapid transit systems, so I walked back to Tara Street and caught the DART (a tram that runs on rail tracks) back to the Docklands and my hotel to get ready for the course.

## **Wednesday 13th June**

The day started early with an 8am start, fortunately the venue for the course was opposite the hotel in one of 4 office blocks that Google occupies in the Grand Canal Dock area of Dublin. Here I was introduced to the Google way of doing things. On every floor there were fridges stocked with healthy snacks and soft drinks, coffee machines and 'chill out' areas. These had bean bags and a different theme on each floor (see photo). The 'music room' that I saw on a later tour had guitars and a drum kit.



The first day was about Google Maps and Google Earth and we had various speakers and instructors covering different aspects and elements of the two applications. They came from as far away as Alaska and San Francisco, while the participants were from Ireland, Eastern Europe, the UK, Canada and the USA.

A colleague from the Geographical Association was also on the course and we spent the evening discussing a collaborative project that we are working on together. This was done obviously taking in a tour of Dublin City Centre, sampling Dublin's finest export.

Dublin seems a lot more cosmopolitan than on my two previous visits. Last time I was here was at the start of the Eastern European Diaspora, but now there seems to be a lot of foreign students – many from South and East Asia, Africa and the Middle East. The Eastern Europeans are still here and appear to be most of the people employed in retail and tourism – an excellent geographical case study. This seems to have had a beneficial effect on the city as the number of ethnic restaurants has definitely increased. This has only confirmed my opinion that Dublin is still my favourite European city, even though it reminds me of Liverpool a lot!



*Left: O'Connell Street with the Dublin Spire in the background Right: Temple Bar*

### **Thursday 14th June**

Thursday morning was spent looking at SketchUp, a design application that can be used for drawing 3D objects such as buildings that can be manipulated to place into Google Earth using photo-realistic imagery from Google Street View. After designing a barn (it should have been a kennel) and doing a 3D model of a Washington DC fire station, I felt happy that I had mastered SketchUp!

The afternoon was spent looking at advanced features on Google Earth, including programming that left my head spinning. The last hour was spent looking at other Google products such as Google Art Project – rather like Google Street View but for art galleries. Its worth checking out!



All too soon the course was over and I was on a coach heading out of town for the airport, along with about 1 million Dubliners who had the same idea to get home early to watch the Spain vs Ireland game. My flight back to Birmingham was trouble free even arriving ahead of schedule, though Arriva Trains Wales weren't quite as efficient as Ryanair and after a cancelled train; I eventually made it home by 1am.

## **Friday 15th June**

Friday was far more mundane and much more like a normal day, a double Lower 6th lesson and two lots of exam invigilation before cricket practice after school and evening of external marking.

## **Saturday 16th June**

Overnight rain on Friday night that followed the deluge on Thursday put the school cricket in danger of being called off. Very early on, the away matches in Manchester were called off and the start of the 1st XI, who I work with, was delayed to 2pm. The later start enabled me to catch up with some admin, have a more leisurely lunch and be ready to greet our visitors, Manchester Grammar School (one of my previous employers!)

In the event, we lost the toss and made 208-5 off our allotted 40 overs in bowler friendly conditions and showers curtailed their innings, so they only faced 30 overs. As the school's cricket analyst I was tasked to come up with a suitable target. We agreed a revised target of 157 (Duckworth-Lewis tables suggested a higher target and we felt that a lower total would be better, so simple run-rate calculation was made.)

MGS crawled to 101-5 and a win by 55 runs was duly recorded to maintain our excellent record, though sterner challenges lie ahead in the last few weeks of term.



## RSSBC: Henley preparations

Tuesday 19 June 2012

Gonzaga High School from Washington DC, undefeated US Champions visited Shrewsbury this week for a few days sparring with our 1st 8. Both crews last paddled together on the Anacostia river in DC at Easter, when we were on our Easter training camp.

This Henley is going to be particularly interesting with the US, Canadian and Australian Champions on show, together with the usual culprits from the UK.

Certainly our boys have a point to prove after a disappointing National Schools, however spirit is high for another good run. The crew depart on Friday for their Henley base.



*Shrewsbury hunting down Gonzaga in a time trial on the Severn on Monday*

## Maiden pole and a podium finish for OS Racing Driver, Oli Webb, in Detroit

Wednesday 20 June 2012

British racing driver **Oliver Webb (S 2004-09)** recorded a hard-fought third place finish at the Raceway at Belle Isle Park in Detroit this weekend, 1-3 June, after claiming his first pole position in the Firestone Indy Lights championship, and the 50th for the Sam Schmidt Motorsports (SSM) team.

Crossing the line third, Webb matched his best result in the Firestone Indy Lights championship, and claimed his first podium of the 2012 season.

Commenting on his podium finish, Webb explained: 'I am very proud to have claimed the 50th pole-position for Sam and the SSM team here in Detroit. I am slightly disappointed that I couldn't convert that into the 50th victory for the team, but we had a strong package here and I am really pleased to be on the podium. We have made some real steps forward since last week, and we are back at the front of the grid, which is where we should be, and the car felt really strong. The lap times were competitive throughout the race, and hopefully we can fight for the team's milestone victory at the next round in Milwaukee in a couple of weeks.'

Series: Firestone Indy Lights Championship  
Track: Detroit Belle Isle  
Track length: 2.07 mile (3.33km)  
Date: 2 April 2012

Qualifying: Pos. 1; Time: 1m17.772s  
Race: Pos. 3; 40 laps (reduced from 45)

Log on to <http://www.indycar.com/indylights/> for additional details about the Championship or, for information on Oliver Webb, visit <http://www.oliwebbracing.com/> or follow him on twitter, [www.twitter.com/oliverjameswebb](http://www.twitter.com/oliverjameswebb).





## New Facebook page for Australians 'Down Under'

Wednesday 20 June 2012



A new Facebook page for Old Salopians 'Down Under' has just been set up.

<https://www.facebook.com/OldSalopiansDownUnder>

**Justin Lees (O 1985-90)**, who has set up the page, says, 'I'm one of the ex-pat gang who enjoyed an excellent evening with Hugh Ramsbotham on his visit to Sydney this month. It was a great occasion and, thus inspired, I have set up an Old Salopians

Down Under Facebook page.

It's essentially a very informal online point of contact for any Old Salopians or connected people in (or interested in) Oz, New Zealand and the wider Asia-Pacific area.

It may also be useful for any current Salopians considering a Gap year trip to these climes. In fact, given teenagers' use of Fbook, maybe it's required reading!

However, to be of value it relies on people knowing it exists - so it would be super if you could spread the word in any way, and encourage people to visit it and "Like" it. At present it's in absolute infancy.'



## Sports results: w/c 11th July 2012

Thursday 21 June 2012

Week Beginning June 11th 2012

Date	Sport	Opposition	Team	H/A	Result	Score (Shrewsbury's score is first)
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Cricket	<u>Bridgnorth</u> Endowed	U14A XI	A	W	43 Runs
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Cricket	<u>Prestfelde</u>	U14C XI	H	W	8 Runs
	Tennis	Malvern College	2 <sup>nd</sup> VI	H	W	8-1
	<u>Rounders</u>	Ludlow College	1 <sup>st</sup> VIII Mixed	H	W	15-6
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> June	Tennis	Packwood <u>Haugh</u>	U14C VIII	A		Cancelled
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Cricket	Manchester G.S	1 <sup>st</sup> XI	H	W	50 Runs
			2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	A		Cancelled
			U15A XI	A		Cancelled
			U14A XI	H	W	1 Run
			U14B XI	H	W	1 Run
		Ellesmere College	U15B XI	A		Cancelled
	Athletics	Telford	All Squads	A		See Bulletin
	RSSBC	Marlow Regatta	Top Squad	A		See Bulletin
RSSBC	<u>Womens</u> Henley Regatta	Girls Squad	A		Cancelled	



## Five extraordinary days in the life of Henry Thomas (Ch 3)

Thursday 21 June 2012

*Henry has written a fabulous account of the J14's tremendous win at the National Schools' Regatta just before half term, then being whisked back to school to perform in the Churchill's soiree that was taking place that same evening. The following morning, he had 3 days of rehearsals with the National Children's Orchestra, before performing (and playing a trumpet solo) in front of The Queen during the Jubilee celebrations on Tuesday 5th June.*

### **Friday 1st June**

I had been looking forward to today for WEEKS! Not because half term had finally arrived (almost!), and not even because tonight would be the Churchill's House BBQ and Soirée. Finally, today was the day we were going to the National Schools' Regatta in Nottingham!!! A full day off lessons, lots of rowing, and maybe the chance to win some medals! The downside was that we had a VERY early start at 5am, and the KH staff had even forgotten that Mr Wilson had requested an early rowers' breakfast (although they did rush about and sort it out for us). Actually, talking of Mr Wilson, the word that best describes him was TENSE. He told us to just ignore him, then he changed his mind and said we should just do whatever he said.....hmm.

We arrived at Holme Pierrepont and started to rig the boats and get ourselves organised, and then we went and watched our B Quad in its time trial. They qualified with a very respectable time! Around an hour later we also watched our B octo, who also qualified with a very respectable time. It was going to be a good day.

Quite a few parents had come to watch the rowing, and after our qualifying processional race (yes we qualified as well) we met up with them in order to fill up on the picnics from home, oh and because we wanted to see our families of course! So all three crews had qualified for their semi-finals, but the B octo caught a crab and snapped a blade in their semi-final, and the B quad did not manage to make it through to their final either. But everyone seemed optimistic as our A octo waited to boat at around 4pm. Or at least that's what they told us! I have to admit that by now I was a bit nervous. We made a good start and won the semi-final comfortably, but we then found out how fast Great Marlow and Kings Chester had rowed in their races, and we realised that we had a lot more to do.....

By the time we boated for the Final, all the parents seemed to have manic smiles and wild eyes, and I had never seen Mr Wilson so quiet. We set off, and now it was up to us. We already knew that we had stiff competition, so as we sculled up to the start, we decided in our minds that whatever we wanted we could achieve. And then the race began. After around 500 metres we managed to pull ahead, by which time my leg muscles were screaming and I was wondering how I would repay our cox, Guy Cabral, when the race was over. I didn't hear any of the screaming crowd as we approached the finish, I couldn't hear the commentary, and when we crossed the line I wasn't certain we had won.....until the scoreboard showed the result after a long long pause! WE HAD WON!!! We were ecstatic, I cannot explain it.





de-rigging the boat, Mr Wilson sitting holding (more like cuddling) the trophy and Mr Peach grinning like a Cheshire cat.

The whole crew (Guy Cabral, Harry Lane Fox, Joe Davies, Wilf Deacen, Alex Mathews, Stamos Fearnal, Alfie Grocot, Paddy George and I) were trying to spot Mr Wilson in the crowds, but we couldn't find him.

We had to stay on the water to receive our medals, The Cherwell Trophy was ours!!! Eventually we were able to get off the water, and suddenly there were my parents, waiting to whisk Guy and me back to Churchill's for the soirée! It was already 7pm as we jumped into the car, leaving a very happy J14 squad

Ninety minutes later I tried to run up the stairs at Churchill's to put on my suit, but my legs wouldn't do as they were told, and it took me forever to get changed and rush over to the Maidment building. There was Mr Gibbon waiting in the foyer, and I went to warm up as my parents and Guy slipped into the auditorium, where John Dempsey was about to start playing a flute solo. They had unfortunately just missed seeing Mr Lucas and Rory Fraser's William Tell Overture, and Guy had arrived too late to sing in the Part Song, but I had arrived in time for my performances. I was not nervous at all when I played my trumpet solo, and I even managed to slow down Mr Moore as he accompanied me, mainly because by now my brain seemed to be working in slow motion. I was exhausted, but I wasn't. The adrenaline rush of winning Nat Schools was there. When the high notes seemed too high, they just happened because I knew they would. And when the Churchill's Funk Shed played their set, the riffs were good, the playing and singing was good, everything was just GOOD! Suddenly it was over, and I was going home.....throwing my belongings into our car and rushing to set off for home. I bumped into Guy Cabral, my cox, with his parents, and I remembered my screaming legs. I grinned at him and told his parents that we would not have won without him. And I meant it.

## Saturday 2nd June

Suddenly it was 7.30am and my mum was telling me to get up....WHAT??? Then it slowly came back to me. We had arrived home at 11.30pm last night, and 15 minutes later I had fallen into bed, having eaten a huge pile of toast! And today I was going down to Heathrow to rehearse with the National Children's Orchestra for three days solid, before performing for the Queen at Westminster Hall as part of the Jubilee celebrations. Apparently I was rather grumpy! My legs ached, my arms ached, my whole body ached. My mum had packed the wrong t shirts, the wrong socks, the wrong deodorant, the wrong everything! I was told to shut up and get in the car, charming!

Two hours later we arrived at Cranford Community College, five minutes after the end of registration thanks to the M25, and I walked into the rehearsal hall just in time to start rehearsing the first of around 20 or more pieces of music. The rest of the day passed by in a haze of music, until rehearsals finished at 8pm and I boarded a coach to go to the nearby Premier Inn (classy!). I was sharing a room with two friends from previous NCO courses, Alex and Nick, so that was great. I have no idea what time I fell asleep, but it was probably later than it should have been :-)

## Sunday 3rd June

Rehearsals went on all day, what else can I say apart from that they finished at 8pm again.

### Monday 4th June

Yep. More rehearsals....around 11 hours to be precise! But staying at the Premier Inn had its advantages. Usually on NCO courses we stay at boarding schools, and the “social staff” are very strict about us going straight to sleep and not talking after lights out. But Premier Inns have TVs in every room, and other guests.....so Alex, Nick and I put the sound low on the TV and watched Elton John and co. at the Jubilee concert until much later than we should have....

### Tuesday 5th June



Getting up at 5am shouldn't be allowed, especially not during half term! We had to arrive at Westminster Hall ridiculously early so we could get through the security as well as have a quick rehearsal before any of the Queen's guests began to arrive. Later on, during a short break, Fiona Bruce suddenly walked into our waiting room and sat down on a chair at the back of the room. The room went quiet and everyone's heads had turned to stare. Then, suddenly, there was uproar, and explosions of “Can I take a photograph of you, please, can I have one with me in it?” This went on for some time, until suddenly we were told we had to be on stage. Everyone hurried to grab their instruments and line up. And then it began...

The concert I have to admit was much more enjoyable than I had expected. We had a lot of fun with our pieces and, surprisingly, managed not to be too loud for the guests eating lunch right in front of us.

When the Queen arrived the state trumpeters played a fanfare (and I distinctly remember someone telling me that if they split one single note that they would be sacked on the spot! No pressure then!) Then it was our turn, and we played “Roast Beef of Old England”, which included a string solo, followed by a brass solo (ME! But the cameras were focused on the Queen, no surprise there!) and then a wind solo.

After the concert (around 3-4 hours later!) we were carted back to the Premier Inn at Heathrow, and when we got there we found that all the guests had gathered in the foyer and clapped us as we walked in as if we were some type of celebrities. It was brilliant!

Now all that was left was a long journey home and a big relax, And then I remembered all the exam revision I had not yet started! And I even thought to myself, “Should I do a music practice when I get home?” Hmmmmm..... NO!

*Please also see RMW's full report on the J14's success at National Schools (with no mention of any personal feelings of tenseness, or cuddling trophies): [Success for the J14s NSR 2012](#).*





## Double Prizewinning Churchillian poet

Thursday 21 June 2012

*Budding Fourth Form poet Theo Simmons landed two prizes with his poetry at the School Prizegiving ceremony which took place last Friday. 'Soulweight', and a talk about it, won him the prestigious McEachran Prize, and the same poem along with two others submitted won him the R S Thomas poetry prize. His housemaster Richard Hudson asked Theo about 'Soulweight' ....*

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*"I wrote 'Soulweight' last year on a dark wintry evening sometime around the death of my Grandmother. McEachran once said that there has to be an element of chaos involved to produce something of creativity. Well, as I'm sure many of you will have experienced, there are few things in life that bring more chaos internally than death. Consequently I would describe this poem as having two parents, my experiences at the time being one of them. The other, however, was an article that I read in the New Scientist. It was entitled 'soul weight' or something similar, and went on to describe how several scientific studies claim to have recorded the loss in grams of the human soul, at the exact moment of death. This was a concept that fascinated me, not so much the reputability of the various studies, but simply the pure idea. The poem, I suppose, was something spontaneous that came out of that. Truly grappling for the first time with ideas of life and death, the concepts around the physical soul provided an interesting entry point into questions surrounding our existence and the human condition to which no one I know of holds the definitive answers.*

*The result is perhaps a poem that attempts to stand a little indeterminately in the middle of that rather worn out rope bridge which dangles, precariously, between science and religion. This, I think is quite reflective of our modern world in which these two viewpoints on our universe seem to be constantly chasing at one another's heels, and though I don't claim to have found any answers by writing the poem. I feel I have probably have followed the age old practice that runs through much of the art created in our time on this planet- the practice of reiterating the question!"*

### **Soul weight**

In micro chips and memory cards hides no secret life  
 nor any life at all,  
 for one cannot imagine weathered leather hands like hers  
 slipping over touch screens or keys  
 to type one last message to the world,  
 Hers was a realm of paper,  
 inviting blank pulp waiting for hands to form  
 with mud, blood and ink  
 what took God six days.  
 In cold ceramic pots and uniform drawers hides no secret life,  
 nor any life at all,  
 for one cannot imagine scientists measuring a body like hers,  
 a body so like before  
 before dancing strip lights,  
 sleepless nurses and  
 one telephone call  
 Now her soul has become science,  
 one single gram,



and laboratories bright temples,  
and me religious,  
me religious while I can.  
*Theo Simmons (Cb, 4th form)*

## KH chef is finalist in 'Apprentice of the Year' Award

Friday 22 June 2012

It was congratulations all round for Shrewsbury School's Apprentice Chef Sam Wainwright, who managed to get through to the finals of the Apprentice of the Year Award, run by the Shropshire Council and the Shropshire Business Awards. The glittering award ceremony took place on Friday 15th June.



Apprentices from all around Shropshire entered in the hope of bagging this prestigious title, so Sam faced some really stiff competition from the outset! We were delighted when we heard that Sam had made it through to the preliminary round of the competition, and even more thrilled when he made it through to the finals, beating off many hopefuls along the way.

James Bradford, Shrewsbury's Catering Manager who attended the ceremony with Sam and his Mum, said that we can all be very proud of Sam for this brilliant achievement. The Shropshire Star will be running an article and supplement about the event which should be published this week.

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



## RSSBC: Henley - first race on Wednesday at 11:10 v Monmouth

Sunday 24 June 2012

The draw took place on Saturday afternoon for this year's Regatta. Shrewsbury were the 1st of the 32 crews out of the hat, giving them a first round race at 11.10 on Wednesday against Monmouth School - an ever improving and well drilled group of boys. The winners of that round are likely to race on Thursday against Ridley College, the Canadian national champions.

Our crew is now holed up at their base just outside Henley, and training on the hallowed stretch of the Thames at Henley.

Please see the [full draw details](#); any further information is on the Regatta website: <http://www.hrr.co.uk>.



## RSSBC: Girls win Novice VIIIs at Ironbridge Regatta

Sunday 24 June 2012



In an event that was contested by RSSBC and club crews, our girls were significantly younger and lighter. However this did not get in their way.

In the semi final the crew struggled to find their rhythm and fought hard to hold their own on the less favoured station. At the half way point the crews were level, but as Shrewsbury pushed off the bridge they took a half length lead to win over Warwick Boat Club. This was to be their toughest race as in the final, just one hour later, they relaxed into a longer stroke and powered through Northwich Rowing club and were able to row through the finish in style. This marks a significant achievement, as it is the first time a Girls crew has lost their 'Novice Status'.

Congratulations go to the crew of Amy Steventon, Amy Stockdale, Libby Wood, Bridget Lepage, Katie Williams, Rainbow Satchatippavarn, Eliza Hodgson, Georgia Bustin and Dorit Haselberg.

*CHLW*





## Shrewsbury Saracens - Squad Announced for Cricketer Cup 2nd Round on Sunday 1st July

Monday 25 June 2012

Shrewsbury Saracens Captain, Tom Cox, has announced the squad for Sunday's 2nd Round Match against Whitgift Mitres on Sunday.

The game is at Shrewsbury (on Senior) and the squad includes **James Taylor (Nottinghamshire CCC and England Lions)**. Sunday's XI will be announced here as soon as possible.

For more details please see our events page for 1st

July: <http://www.shrewsbury.org.uk/page/os-events-0>

### Shrewsbury Saracens Squad:

Michael Barnard (Rb 2006-08)

Steve Barnard (Rb 2009-11)

Alex Blofield (PH 2005-10)

Jack Brydon + (O 1999-04)

Ben Chapman (Rt 1995-00)

Scott Corbett (G 1994-99)

Tom Cox \* (M 2000-05)

Dion Holden (G 2007-09)

James Kidson (O 2003-08)

Joe Leach (M 2004-09)

David Lloyd (G 2008-10)

James Taylor (R 2003-08)

Ben Williams (Rt 2008-10)





## RSSBC: Selection for Junior Welsh Girls' crew

Monday 25 June 2012

Bridget Lapage (EDH LVI) has been selected to row for Wales in the Junior Womens' Quadruple Scull.

This selection comes after a mere 9 months in a boat. Bridget has represented the school at all events this year, and over the Easter break, trialled in her single for the second time in a bid to secure a place for the Welsh Junior Team at the Home International Regatta on the 21st July.

Bridget was also selected earlier in the year to compete for the region in the Womens' J16 Double Sculls at Nottingham, and she was in the winning crew at Ironbridge earlier this week.



*Bridget in her Welsh kit*



## Cricket: 1st XI through to the HMC T20 Finals at Arundel

Monday 25 June 2012

After an impressive and emphatic win over Felsted in the quarter finals on Sunday 24th June, our 1st XI are through to the Finals Day of this national championship.

*Felsted 123-8 (20) H Lewis 5-20 Shrewsbury 127-3 (15.2) R Smith 54, J Hudson-Williams 24.*

As reigning champions, Shrewsbury will be keen to keep the trophy - and since nine of our current 1st XI were in the winning team last year, we have some grounds for optimism!

2012 will be the fourth consecutive year that Shrewsbury's 1st XI have played in the HMC T20 Finals Day, which this year takes place at Arundel on Thursday 28th June.

## Visit of Colegio San Bartolomé, Rosario

Tuesday 26 June 2012



Last week a party of 43 pupils and staff from our Argentinian exchange school flew from the winter of Rosario to the summer of Shropshire – to find that they were glad to have packed warm clothes! However, a warm welcome more than made up for the weather – and they shared our determination to carry on regardless with BBQs and a packed programme of visits locally and slightly further afield to Bath, Chester and Manchester.

The students joined in with the Challenge of Management Conference, boogied on the Sabrina on the Severn, learnt about Darwin and the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution and generally enjoyed reacquainting themselves with old friends as well as making new ones.

Those of you still bemoaning the England team's inability to win on penalties will find some small consolation in the knowledge that a Shrewsbury XI regained the 'Copa Intercontinental' Trophy 4-3 on penalties, having drawn 3-3 in normal time in a very entertaining match.

We wish them well as they now enjoy a week in London before heading off home.

*SHC*



# A Week in the Life of Finn McCormack (Ch 3)

Tuesday 26 June 2012

## Monday 18th June: Team challenge day



Back at my old school, we would have one Sunday every so often where we would set out on some exciting adventure far away from school or home. These would include adventure rope courses and climbing walls, but the favourite for most of us was Lake Bala. Here we tried out some new, and some familiar, water sports such as the extremely fiddly wind surfing, the known-to-most canoeing and the universally unsuccessful raft building. On the journey to the place clearly described on our outdoor week plan as “Lake Bala”, someone said that we were two minutes away. Half an hour later, we arrived at a house with a large field and a river; definitely not a lake. What’s more, only one of the activities we competed in for “points” involved getting on the river.

However, rather than rant on about the minor disappointment which was no fault of the Get Wet Company, the bus driver or Mrs. Kirk, I will highlight the highlights. The activities, although simple, were well designed to encourage teamwork, and were also very original. The Swamp Crossing involved leadership, the Arial Crossing called for some problem solving, while the Bomb Disposal required some neat dexterity and strong resistance to cold water. The best one, obviously, was the rafting. Once again, leadership was needed in the “cox” of the boat who, in our case, was Sam Mitchell, while both mental and physical strength were needed from the paddlers as well as forward thinking.

## Tuesday 19th June: Conservation Day

The most constructive and, at one point, also the most destructive day of the week was Conservation Day. Two activities which taxed our muscles for an hour and a half were dry stone walling and greenwood bench building. Dry stone walling came first, and we were shown this ancient craft by a nice old man who worked 50 hrs a week to repair and build various walls. This skill is a rare one and, although simple at first sight, became increasingly difficult as we progressed. Finding exactly the right shaped stones and placing them so well that they stay stable was almost like a super-tricky 3-D jigsaw puzzle. While one half of us went about building on a new wall, the other half were asked to demolish an old, derelict one to make space for our instructor to carry on with his job.



After finishing our packed lunches, we went on to our wood cutting. In this activity we were shown what to do by a burly, bearded man who made some of our jobs look very easy. However, when it came to stripping layer after layer of wood off the legs of our benches, some of us needed help from the instructor! Although my group didn’t quite finish ours, the other group proudly brought a homemade bench back for the Churchill’s quod.



## Wednesday 20th June: Activities Competition Day

I, and many of the dayboys too, had been to Nescliffe Training Camp before, on a school trip. Many years later we came back to this Telford army base for some more activities. The Gun Run, based on an old Boer War story and an old British Tradition, involved running a course while dragging a scaled down model cannon behind us. However, at each obstacle we had to stop, dismantle the whole thing, run with the bits over the tyres or planks or whatever there was, rebuild it and then run again to the finish.



My second favourite activity was the golfing. Like regular golf, we had a ball, a club, a tee and a hole. Unlike regular golf, we had six tennis balls each, and the hole was a human being in a Velcro suit. The aim was simple, but tricky.

On the climbing wall we had to do a normal climb, a blindfolded climb and a timed climb. "No one's going to beat that," said the



instructor about my 36 second ascent. That was before Gene Ratanadaros nailed the harder wall in 28 seconds flat.

What I have liked most about the week so far is the weather. We were very lucky not to have had to pile huge heavy stones in the rain! However, the forecast for Thursday isn't looking good and that's when my group is walking. But I suppose it's better to finish, get dry and put it behind you than have to suffer from sunburn for days afterwards, as many of the campers did.

## Thursday 21st to Saturday 23rd June: Camp Phase

After a hard, hot half-week of wall climbing and rafting, it was finally time for Group A to embark on their D of E expeditions. It was unlucky that we had to go second, because that was the rainy half of the week and we were hoping for something other than constant precipitation after what we had been through on our practice expeditions, in which, if you don't already know, we were soaked and frozen (some people were nearly at the point of hypothermia). The first day wasn't too bad; we got any of the kit we didn't already have from the CCF stores, such as tents and Trangia stoves, planned our routes and went to Sainsbury's to buy some food for the journey. Following that we headed down to the Long Mynd to our campsite for the night in Womerton. There we pitched our tents, cooked our first meal (ours was pasta and meatballs), listened to a briefing from our instructor, Nick Fisher, and went to bed.

The next morning we were woken up by the annoying tapping of raindrops on the roof of our tent. I was extremely tired because the same noise had kept waking me up throughout the night, so it took a good nudge from the other people in my tent to persuade me to pack up my kit and get going. Nick gave us a quick talk about what to do in an emergency or if we got lost, then we were off.

The walk was a challenging trek up hills and across rivers. A short while after we had started, when we were fairly high up, a thick mist surrounded us so that we could only see things about five metres ahead of us. Luckily, some skilful map reading got us out of some potential sticky situations, such as going on the wrong side of a fence and ending up in the wrong place completely, like another group did. The wildlife on the top rarely varied from sheep, although on



two occasions we were lucky enough to spot some wild horses. I, living in that area, was excited to see some landmarks with which I was familiar, although most of the first day's route consisted of the western side of the Mynd, which I didn't know so well.

We finally set up camp in a field in the small village of Norbury, right next to the village hall. We were pleased when Nick told us we were allowed to use the toilets there rather than have to dig a hole, and use the hot water to clean our stoves. Because it was raining by then, we were even given permission to stay in there and dry off for half an hour. After that we had to return to our tents, but I am still thankful that we didn't have the campsite that one of the other teams did, which had been reduced to a mud bath. We were also visited by Dr. James, the owner of the hall and an ex-biology teacher at Shrewsbury.

The next morning was, at least for my tent and me, frantic. The night before had seen me losing my phone, and I had an hour to look for it. I didn't find it. This was topped by the tent losing the food bag. We ate our last three cereal bars for breakfast, then that would have been it, food-wise, for the day. However, we met Nick in his van while walking down a road, so we told him and he promised us something at the next checkpoint. He didn't want to see us starve!

I liked this day because we walked up on top of the Long Mynd, past all the places I knew and loved. We walked up to the highest point, where there were two trig points, got our food from Nick and carried on walking. One team member had to be evacuated in the last few kilometres because of a badly sprained ankle. We carried on.

We all cheered and gave sighs of relief when we returned to our campsite at Womerton Farm. The expedition, the hardest part of D of E, was over. We dried our tents and got back on to the minibus. Back at the CCF office, we handed our borrowed kit back to Major Billington (some unfortunate people had lost tent pegs and were charged), and said our last goodbyes to Nick. He had been a great assessor, and had helped us through what seemed like an odyssey.

We were rewarded with a barbecue, which was delicious and reviving, particularly after two nights of pasta and noodles. Then we walked back to our houses, had a good warm shower and then slumped, helplessly but comfortably, on to our familiar and dearly missed beds.



# Making the most of the sunshine

Wednesday 27 June 2012



## 20 Jun 12 – Talk Given by Major General Sir Robert Corbett, KCVO, CB

Thursday 28 June 2012

At the request of the history faculty, **Sir Robert Corbett (1953-58)** accompanied by his wife Lady Susan came to Shrewsbury on 20 June and gave an excellent presentation on the collapse of the Berlin Wall.

In front of a packed audience, he began talking about the gift of languages, and how his knowledge of French and German, which has its roots in his time at Shrewsbury, had stood him in very good stead throughout his military career. Sir Robert underlined this by describing an incident on his first visit to Berlin as a young Army captain in the early 60's. A flare-up occurred between one of his soldiers and an East German border guard, resulting in weapons being drawn and cocked by British and German military personnel. Through his ability to speak German, Sir Robert was able to diffuse the situation and managed to get his troops safely delivered to West Berlin albeit a few hours later than anticipated. He did not realise at the time, that one day he would return to the city as the Commandant of the military garrison.

He went on to give a fascinating insight into the days leading up to German reunification, its immediate aftermath and the political and military considerations at that time. His diary entry on the night the wall came down, on 9th November 1989, reads "A busy night." His listeners learnt that there were many sleepless nights leading up to that particular evening (and after), as NATO military commanders prepared contingency plans in response to the civil unrest in E Germany. The fact that the surge of East German residents flooding into West Berlin on that historic November evening went peacefully was due in no small measure to the military and diplomatic skills of Sir Robert. He took steps to ensure that West German riot police were present to protect a small contingent of Russian troops based just inside West Berlin and visited the Soviet soldiers on that extraordinary evening to let them know that they would be safe. This action may well have prevented unnecessary bloodshed, which could easily have resulted in a very different outcome to that remarkable event.

Sir Robert finished his talk by stressing the importance of a good education at a school such as Shrewsbury and learning the art of communication. His talk struck a chord with many of the younger members in the audience, and there was a long queue waiting to shake his hand at the end of his riveting lecture.

Report by Alex Baxter

*Pictured (above) Ian Haworth, Laura Whittle, Sir Robert Corbett, Lady Susan Corbett and Dan Nicholas.*







## Old Salopian Legal Talk and Dinner – 26th June

Thursday 28 June 2012

The Salopian Club hosted a productive legal careers talk in the Moser Library on the evening of 26th June. The event was attended by 22 pupils drawn from the 4th, 5th and Lower 6th forms. Keynote speakers included:

**Huw Dolphin (current parent)**, partner at DLA Piper, (current School parent), discussing entry requirements into the profession.

**Andrew Espley (SH 1979-84)**, barrister at 6, Pump Court on the life of a barrister working at the criminal bar in London.

**Simon Mallet (S 1975-80)**, barrister at KBW, and current School parent) – presenting on working as a barrister at the bar outside London, as well as civil law.

Shrewsbury pupils displayed a keen interest in the financial rewards a legal career might offer, as well as the variety of roles that exist within the profession. The audience gained an insight into case histories that have appeared in the recent news headlines, as well as some understanding of the demands the profession places on individuals.

Afterwards a dinner was held in the Peterson Room, in Kingsland House, allowing pupils and



guests to continue discussions in more relaxed surroundings. Other Old Salopians and parents that attended the evening included **David Parry (Ch 75-80)**, partner at Darbys, **Sam Elsby (Ch 72-77)**, Elsby's Solicitors, and **John Philpotts (current parent)** – Barrister & Recorder at Linenhall Chambers.

The next OS Careers will take place in November and will be centred on the Banking Sector.

Report: Alex Baxter

*Pictured: Andrew Espley with Cressida Adams L6 (EDH) and Charlie Farquhar L6 (S)*



# Cricketer Cup Newsflash! Saracens announce strong side for Sunday 1 July match v Whitgift Mitres at Shrewsbury

Thursday 28 June 2012

After a thrilling 1st Round match against Uppingham on 17 June, The Saracens are up against the Whitgift Mitres on Senior - all support will be most welcome!

The match will start at 11.30am and please check the [events section](#) for more details and numbers to ring if the weather looks poor. The Saracens XI - announced today - comprises a number of strong players and past School 1st XI captains, including **Jimmy Taylor (Nottingham CCC and Captain of England Lions)**, and also includes **Ben Williams (Head of School 2009-10, current Captain of the Oxford University Cricket Club)**.



Michael Barnard (Rb 2006-08)

Steve Barnard (Rb 2009-11)

Alex Blofield (PH 2005-10)

Jack Brydon + (O 1999-04)

Ben Chapman (Rt 1995-00)

Scott Corbett (G 1994-99)

Tom Cox \* (M 2000-05)

James Kidson (O 2003-08)

Joe Leach (M 2004-09)

James Taylor (R 2003-08) <http://www.ecb.co.uk/stats/player-profiles/james-taylor,618,PP.html>

Ben Williams (Rt 2008-10)

More information is on the [Saracens area of the website](#)



*James Taylor*

# Henley: 1st VIII got to the Quarter Finals

Friday 29 June 2012

Friday 29th June

In today's Quarter Final race in the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup, Shrewsbury were knocked out by Radley who won by just 1¼ lengths.

*More details to follow.*

Shrewsbury raced the Canadian Champions, Ridley College, on Thursday. Hopes were high that we could repeat last year's trick of putting out a foreign, selected crew on the second day of the Regatta.

With a fairly stiff head wind blowing, our boys settled into a strong rhythm from the end of the island, and started to pull away from their heavier opponents.

Today we face our old foe, Radley College, who we'll be racing for the third year in succession! At present the results stand at one all; we sincerely hope we can win the decider!

*P Manser*

## Thursday 28th June: Round Two

The 1st VIII beat the Canadian national champions Ridley College, by an impressive 2¼ lengths, in the second round of the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup this afternoon. Their winning time was 7.24.

They now meet Radley in the Quarter Finals at 11.35am tomorrow.

More information to follow.

## Wednesday 27th June: Round One



Our first VIII crew defeated Monmouth School in the first round of the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup on Wednesday 27th June, by just one length - the first step in their 2012 PE adventure. They led Monmouth School from the barrier and were pleased to finish a length to the good in what was always going to be a relatively tough race.

However, Thursday's second round race (**at 4.05pm**) will be a step more difficult when the Canadian Champions Ridley College step up to the mark. Both crews had similar times today, so a close race is expected!

# Sponge-throwing at the teachers for charity

Friday 29 June 2012

Sponge-throwing during a spell of glorious sunshine between heavy showers last Thursday afternoon raised a total of £35 for Medic Malawi - with the help of the Headmaster's accurate aim, and some stoic masters.



# Inter-House Quarter-Mile and Sidney - Darwin Dash 2012

Saturday 30 June 2012



These two races were revived for the first time last year, over 140 years after the original quarter-mile trophy was awarded to a certain 'W Hughes' in 1869.

The new quarter-mile route takes the boys around Central and the Alington Hall, and the 'Sidney - Darwin Dash' is a flat sprint from the Sidney Statue to the Darwin Statues.

Last year, extraordinarily, both senior events were won by Howard Stringer (PH, then LVI). This year, Howard again took the Senior Quarter Mile title, but the Senior Sprint title was awarded to Oscar Heap (I LVI).

Severn Hill took both the Junior titles, with the Junior Quarter Mile race being won by Anthony Nelson (S 3), and the Junior Sprint trophy by James Plaut (S 4).

## Charity Fund-raising hits the £70,000 mark

Saturday 30 June 2012



*The sponsored walk across the Long Mynd September 2011 that raised £50,000*

Since September, when the whole school walked back from the Long Mynd on a glorious sunny day and raised £50,000 for Shrewsbury House, the school has gone on stepping out to raise money for charity.

Shrewsbury House, the Liverpool Youth Club, with which the school has had a thriving connection since it was founded in 1903, will use the money raised to improve the facilities it offers to teenagers in Everton. Every year, students from Shrewsbury help out at the Club on three day residential visits, and host a weekend here for the club members. Every visit includes a keenly-fought football match.

Events in the Music Department, competitive Moustache-growing amongst the staff, collections in Chapel and a splendiferous Christmas Raffle, hosted by Father Giles Bell Christmas, have made almost £10,000 for a range of local, national and international charities. The student-led Fashion Show, Open Air Pop Concert and Blue Chairs Calendars have raised over £6,000 for Leukaemia and Motor Neurone Disease research. Traditionally, two blue chairs have travelled the world, and had their photographs taken, raising money for causes close to the hearts of Shrewsbury students.

The 18 students and 6 staff who are going to work at a project in Malawi this summer, which comprises an orphanage, a school and a hospital, are not only loaded up with 240kg of donations of bandages, toys and teaching resources, but have nearly doubled their target of £5,000 to take with them. This money will go directly to the project, and has been raised by car-



# Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



washing, bag-packing, sponge-throwing, bike-riding, cake-selling, baby-sitting, farm-working, wristband-selling, jazz-playing, breakfast-cooking. A generous donation came from the profits of 'Salopian Ventures', the sixth form small business scheme, all of which will contribute to a lasting Shrewsbury legacy in Malawi.

When they return, the students will be holding a Medic Malawi Report Back evening, on October 11, to inspire the 2014 expeditioners, and to explain just how the money was used. They will be loaded, on their return, (I can guarantee!) with happy memories, new friendships and the grateful thanks of those they worked alongside.

The next step? A student-chaired Charity Committee will be meeting for the first time next term – the Blue Chairs Committee – to inspire new fund-raising initiatives and maybe, just maybe, beat this year's magnificent total.

LJD

*The Medic Malawi trip has its own blog, which will be updated by Laura Whittle while the team are away:*  
[www.shrewsburymedicmalawi.blogspot.com](http://www.shrewsburymedicmalawi.blogspot.com).