

OS Squash vs The School

Monday 2 March 2015

OS Squash played in a very entertaining series of matches against Shrewsbury School on Saturday 28th February.

There was a good turnout from both teams (pictured below), with the OS team gaining a narrow victory. The final results were as follows (with OS Squash shown as the away players):



MJH beat Rupert Parry 3-1

Tom Edwards lost to Jonny Williams 0-3

Tiger beat Ben Stirk 3-2

Fred Earlam lost to Will Briggs 0-3

Ed Graves lost to Nick Howell 1-3

Anthony Koch De Gooreynd lost to Nick Davies 1-3

Fred Pook beat Fiennes Davey 3-0

Overall score: School 3 - OS 4



Global Week

Monday 2 March 2015

Armenia, Egypt, Swaziland, Bulgaria, The Isle of Man... 50 flags from the 50 nationalities represented in the School were hanging proudly in Kingsland Hall when we got back from Half Term. At lunch that day, Brendan Parsons (SH UVI) brought his bagpipes and gave the diners a cheerful blast, setting the tone for a week of globally-flavoured activities.



Global Week School Assembly Speakers Vicky Quzhang, Guy Cabral, Will Allott, Dan Delikatnyi, Huda Hasan, Batool Alufairi

In Assembly, Huda Hasan (MSH UVI) had explained the idea behind 'Global Week at Shrewsbury School'. She had wanted to 'open doors' to new conversations. Her fellow presenter, Guy Cabral (Ch LVI), surprised many of us by revealing not only his knees, in his Yacht Club-style national dress, but also the fact that, despite his home-counties accent, he is actually from Bermuda. Vicky Quzhang (EDH LVI) introduced us to the delights of Taiwan, Batool Aljufairi (G LVI) presented herself as proof that Muslim women aren't voiceless, and Dan Delikatnyi (O UVI) spoke movingly about his experience of having a violent protest arrive literally at the door of his apartment in Kiev, and the choices he and his family had to make in response.



There was an International House Quiz on Wednesday evening; food from five continents showcased each day on the Theatre Bar in KH; Kenya and Hong Kong starred in Third Form presentations by Eve Hartley (G 3) and Jasmine Lo (EDH 3); the weekly Model United Nations session was held in the Ashton Theatre; and there was the build up to World Book Day in the Moser Library. A pop-up French Crêperie, run by Charlène Piquard, our Bordeaux Fellow, helped to raise money for the six charities we support, in the UK and Malawi. In Houses, an American foodie theme emerged: Hot Dogs, Rocky Road, Brownies and Cheesecake were the top sellers.

KH looked at its most colourful on Friday lunchtime, as it was charity non-uniform day, and those in National Dress wore it with pride. Colourful, flowing robes from Asia, Africa and Europe were represented – along with Mr Bell's Panama hat and cream flannel trousers, carefully secured with an old-school tie.

Will Allott (Ch UVI) had spoken at Assembly about Stephen Hawking - "the most famous disabled person on earth" – and of his powerful influence, despite having no voice of his own. Many new conversations have been had this week, and Global Week, while including a great deal of delicious food, has also been a feast for the eyes and ears.

Many thanks to all those who helped to make it happen.

LJD



OS Football vs the School

Monday 2 March 2015

On Saturday 28th February the OS Vets played in a well matched contest against the School, eventually emerging victorious. The final score was Shrewsbury School 1, OS Vets 3 (Hughes, Cooke (pen) and Shepherd).

The team (pictured below) was: Dave Morgan, David Lloyd-Jones, James Leach, Andrew Saunders, Simon Jacobs, Tim Shepherd, Rob Cooke, The Honourable Kenelm Cornwall-Legh, Phil Dyke, Julian Mitchell, Will Hughes, Robin Bennett and Hugh Raven.



Shrewsbury reach final of KES Stratford Invitational Rugby Sevens Tournament

Tuesday 3 March 2015

At the King Edward's School Stratford Invitational Rugby Sevens last week, the 1st VII beat all teams in their pool (RGS Worcester, Magdalen College School, Bloxham) before then defeating the home side, KES Stratford in the semi-final.



Back row: Ben Smith, Max McClure, Guy Balogun, Charlie Adams (C), Sam Hill, George Birt; Front row: Roan Kirkeby (VC), Leo Sartain, George Lechmere, Bertie Gilliat-Smith, Nick Pearce; (Not pictured John Dempsey, Sam Mitchell, Rufus Litchfield)

In the final Shrewsbury lost by three tries to a very able Stowe outfit. This is the first time Shrewsbury has reached the final of a major sevens tournament and builds on the success of last year's VII who reached the semi-final at Stonyhurst.

Pictured are members of the squad after their close loss to Old Swinford Hospital in the quarter final of the Bowl Competition at the Marches Sevens on Sunday 1st March in pretty awful conditions.

The 1st VII's next challenge is the Solihull Sevens on Wednesday 4th March, with Stonyhurst on 18th March and culminating in the National Schools' Sevens Tournament at Rosslyn Park on Wednesday 1st April.

MDBJ



Jason Rebello Trio perform at Shrewsbury School, 27th February

Tuesday 3 March 2015

We are grateful to Ian Mann of www.thejazzmann.com for allowing us to publish his review of the recent sell-out concert given in the Maidment Auditorium by jazz legend Jason Rebello and his trio. The concert also included star turns by Shrewsbury students who had been lucky enough to spend the afternoon with the trio in a Jazz Workshop.

Shrewsbury School is one of the leading fee paying educational establishments in the UK with a thriving music department presided over by Head of Music John Moore. The School also hosts public concert performances in the auditorium of its music facility housed in the Maidment Building.

Co-ordinated by Events Manager Darren Wood, the concert programme is primarily classical but jazz events are also held periodically with a particular emphasis on the sound of the piano. Previous jazz performances have seen Neil Cowley, Philip Clouts and the highly popular Joe Stilgoe grace the keyboard of the School's rather splendid grand piano. Indeed several years ago Cowley gave the instrument such a pounding that he managed to damage one of its pedals which resulted in his trio's performance being cut short.

Fortunately there were no such incidents tonight as Jason Rebello treated the piano with rather more decorum. He was leading an all star trio featuring Tom Farmer on double bass and Troy Miller at the drums. During the day Rebello had conducted a workshop with a number of the School's music students and the trio were joined by student instrumentalists and vocalists on some of the tunes, the young musicians all acquitting themselves very well. The Maidment Auditorium was almost full to capacity, with parents and school dignitaries joining Shrewsbury's jazz enthusiasts in a large and appreciative audience.

Rebello, born in London in 1969, first came to prominence at the tail end of the 1980s jazz boom and released his debut album "A Clearer View" in 1990. He has released a total of seven albums as a leader but is perhaps best known for his lengthy stint as the keyboard player in Sting's band. He has also worked with guitarist Jeff Beck and in the band of French drum superstar Manu Katche. As a practising Buddhist he spent some time away from the music business in the 1990s before returning to the fray as a session musician.

Rebello is a highly versatile musician who has always played electric keyboards in addition to the acoustic piano and his recorded output has embraced elements of jazz, soul, rock and pop. I remember seeing him lead a group at the short-lived Birmingham branch of Ronnie Scott's sometime in the early '90s and being highly impressed by both his piano and synthesiser playing. Since then I've seen him make a strong contribution on piano with Manu Katche's band at the 2008 London Jazz Festival. Recently he has been working with soul/jazz vocalist Joy Rose.

Tonight's show in Shrewsbury saw Rebello returning to his jazz roots and demonstrating what a versatile and accomplished jazz pianist he is. The self penned opener "Hole In One" saw him combining chunky, Thelonious Monk chord patters with more open and expansive soloing. I was also highly impressed with his comping skills as he accompanied Farmer's solo on double bass.

Rebello acknowledged his former boss with an arrangement of “La Belle Dame Sans Regret” co-written by Sting and his guitarist Dominic Miller. This subtle adaptation retained the structure of the song (incidentally the original lyric is entirely in French) while allowing for subtle but colourful improvised solos from Rebello and Farmer, with Miller providing sympathetic brushed support.

Following this lyrical interlude a turbulent take on the jazz standard “But Not For Me” saw a tumbling piano solo from Rebello with powerful left hand rhythmic figures. He was given vigorous support by Farmer’s rapid bass walk as Miller switched from brushes to sticks as the piece gathered momentum. After laying down an increasingly propulsive groove, Miller climaxed his performance with an energetic solo drum feature.

Rebello revealed that the great Herbie Hancock is his all time keyboard hero. A gently lyrical arrangement of Hancock’s classic “Dolphin Dance” was a fitting tribute, with Farmer taking the first solo followed by Rebello. Farmer’s brief use of the bow and Miller’s cymbal scrapes made for a distinctive ending.

An energetic solo piano performance of Errol Garner’s “Play Piano Blues”, a stride piano piece written in the 1940s was hugely impressive with Rebello’s left hand again playing a vital role as he tackled the syncopated rhythms.

A return to the Herbie Hancock songbook and the eternally popular “Cantaloupe Island” saw Rebello welcome three young student musicians to the stage. Bassist Richard Walsh and drummer Brooke Plumtre took over from Farmer and Miller, with Ben Sansom adding the sound of the alto sax to the musical mix. Rebello revealed that he and the students had been playing along to Hancock’s recording of the tune before coming up with their own arrangement. Sansom opened the soloing, impressing with a blues inflected tone that reminded me variously of Jackie McLean and the Russian-born, London-based Zhenya Strigalev. Rebello followed him before handing over to Plumtre for an impressive solo drum feature. The three student musicians were given a tremendous reception by a highly supportive audience.

Rebello maintained the positive, effervescent mood going into the break as Farmer and Miller returned for a good natured romp through “The Flintstones Theme” - a tune based, like so many others, on the chord changes of George Gershwin’s “I Got Rhythm”. Rebello opened the soloing as he danced above Farmer’s vigorous bass walk and Miller’s skittering drum grooves. Farmer and Miller also enjoyed solo cameos and there was a delightful exchange of ideas between Rebello at the piano and Miller at the drums as the first half ended on an energetic high note.

Rebello has a penchant for creating swinging jazz arrangements out of children’s songs and the second set began with a playful take on the theme from Thomas The Tank Engine with solos from Rebello and Farmer. The Empirical bassist deployed strumming and slapping techniques in an engaging solo as Rebello again demonstrated the comping skills that have made him such an in demand accompanist and sideman.

As a long term fan of Pat Metheny and his associates, my personal set highlight was the trio’s version of Lyle Mays’ “Chorinho”, a tune sourced from the keyboard player’s 1988 solo album “Street Dreams”. This breezy Brazilian flavoured tune was given the samba treatment with solos from Rebello and Farmer, the latter accompanied by the gentle patter of Miller’s hand drums.

It was back to the bebop repertoire for Charlie Parker's "Billie's Bounce", introduced solo by Rebello at the piano before another series of engaging exchanges with Miller as the tune developed.

Rebello called teenage vocalist Nina to the stage to sing "Summertime". Initially her voice was a little too low in the mix but prompt remedial action by the sound engineer soon corrected the situation. The young singer received sympathetic support from Rebello and his colleagues, with the pianist taking the instrumental honours with yet another fine solo.

Solo piano introduced the ballad "The Londonderry Air" (aka "Danny Boy"), a song rarely heard in jazz circles. Rebello and the trio treated the timeless melody with sympathy and respect with Farmer producing his best solo of the night. His bass had been rather too deep in the mix in the first set but was altogether more resonant in the second as his feature here testified.

To close the second set Rebello invited three teenage singers to the stage. Loren Kell, Emily Skelton and Ben Higgins were also joined by Brooke Plumptre who shadowed Miller on an auxiliary snare drum. The expanded group gave a good humoured rendition of "Spider", a song from Rebello's second solo album, 1993's "Keeping Time". Rebello revealed that the song was co-written by himself and vocalist Marianne Jean-Baptiste. The former singer has gone on on to have a high profile career as an actress, recently playing the prosecuting barrister, Sharon Bishop, in the second series of "Broadchurch". The three young vocalists clearly relished tackling the vocal harmony parts that swirled around the Afro-Cuban rhythms with Rebello the featured instrumental soloist.

The pro musicians and students took their bows to well earned applause with many of the audience members getting to their feet to express their approbation. The trio then returned to play an encore in the form of the jazz standard "Someday My Prince Will Come", introduced by unaccompanied piano but subsequently including features for all three musicians.

By involving the students, the concert organisers had ensured that this was a highly successful school event that was greatly enjoyed by the audience. Rebello's relaxed and humorous presenting style also helped and he'd obviously done some great work with the students and established a happy and healthy rapport with them.

For the hard core jazz follower it was also an excellent reminder of Rebello's abilities as a straight ahead jazz pianist. Farmer and Miller also made excellent contributions and it was good to hear the latter playing in a variety of jazz styles. He can be a very powerful player and when I've seen him before with Jean Toussaint, Soweto Kinch, Andrew McCormack and Roy Ayers, he's really driven the band hard. Tonight it was good to see him deploying a lighter touch on the ballad items in the trio's repertoire.



Gregynog Young Musician of the Year Competition

Wednesday 4 March 2015

Two Shrewsbury pupils have been selected by competitive audition to play in the semi-finals day of the Gregynog Young Musician of the Year Competition in April this year.



Henry Newbould and Henry Thomas performing at our recent Prep School Big Band Day

Henry Newbould (saxophone) and Henry Thomas (trumpet) - both Lower Sixth Formers in Churchill's - submitted audition CDs for the first round and were chosen from nearly 40 entrants from all over the United Kingdom, including many from specialist music schools.

This is now one of the UK's premiere music competitions for young musicians, and both pupils have done extremely well to get this far. The semi-final and final day takes place on Saturday April 18th at Gregynog Hall, Newtown, Mid-Wales. Audience members are most welcome, and the competition begins at 10.00am, continuing throughout the day, and culminating in the finals in the evening.



OS David Sharpe is Youngest Chairman of a Professional Football Club.

Thursday 5 March 2015



David Sharpe (G 04-09) has taken over from his Grandfather Dave Whelan as Chairman of Wigan Athletic Football Club. This is thought to make him the youngest ever Chairman of a professional football team in the UK. Quite an achievement at the age of 23.

Dave Whelan has been in charge of the club for 20 years and saw them lift the FA Cup in 2013. However Wigan are currently struggling at the bottom of the Championship, after being relegated from the Premiership just three days after their remarkable FA Cup win.

So David has some big boots to fill and a tough battle immediately ahead of him, but his Grandfather has said that he has every faith in David, who has been visiting the club since he was a little boy, and that he will have his family right behind him for support.

RSSBC: Hammersmith Head

Thursday 5 March 2015

Strong performances from the 1st and 2nd VIII's ahead of the fast approaching Schools' Head.

The Boat Club took the 1st and 2nd VIII's to race at Hammersmith Head on Sunday. The intention had been to take ten crews to race but this was reduced owing to the forecast of strong winds. The winds made the boating conditions challenging but settled as the tide changed to allow for some fast tailwind conditions. The provisional 1st and 2nd VIII line-ups got their first chance to race part of the course that they will be racing on for the Schools' Head on Monday 16th March.



1st VIII

The 1st VIII was entered into the IM2 VIII's category and produced a strong performance to win their category and secure 6th overall. The 1st VIII was the third fastest school crew and can be encouraged by beating some strong opposition crews but is firmly focused on trying to overhaul St Paul's and Westminster who finished 3 seconds and 9 seconds ahead respectively.



2nd VIII

The 2nd VIII showed pleasing speed and were the fastest school crew in the IM3 VIII's category. They beat some strong other 2nd VIII opposition and will be hoping to build on that result to target a top three position at the Schools' Head.

Photos courtesy of <http://rowingphotography.co.uk/>

Teddy Briggs achieves Distinction in Silver LAMDA Award for Acting

Thursday 5 March 2015

Having achieved an Outstanding Distinction in her Grade 6 Bronze Medal LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) exam last summer, Teddy Briggs (EDH UVI) has now been awarded Distinction in her Silver LAMDA exam.



L-R: Teddy Briggs in 'The Lost Domain', 'The Trojan Women' and 'On the Razzle'

Teddy took the exam in London in December and had to prepare a challenging set of performances – a Shakespearean monologue and two more modern pieces, one pre-1980 and one post-1980 – as well a considerable amount of background knowledge and history.

She chose Hermione's monologue from *A Winter's Tale*, a monologue from *Back To Methuselah* by George Bernard Shaw, where she played the Serpent, and finally Mercy's monologue from *I Am Yours* by Judith Thompson.

“After performing these, I had a formal interview with the examiner where he asked me about the history of Shakespeare's writing and the significance of his use of certain rhyming schemes/use of blank verse as opposed to free verse. He also asked about the character's intentions and motivations as well as why they use the language they do.”

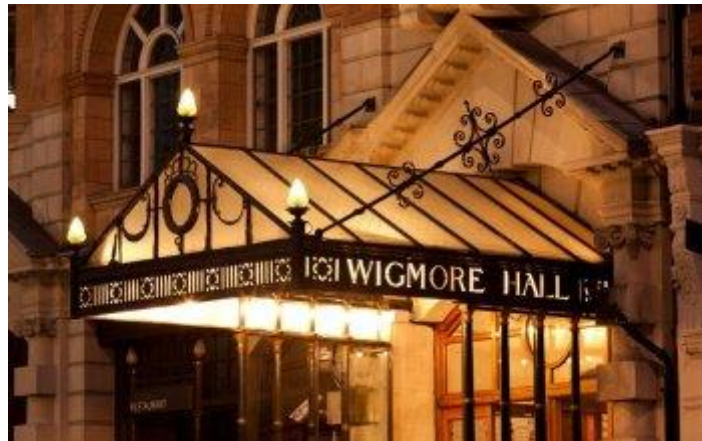
Teddy was awarded a Distinction with a very impressive mark of 80/90. She received full marks in her knowledge section and no less than 13/14 on each section on intention and portrayal.

She is now working towards her Gold LAMDA Award and is applying to study at drama school next year, hoping to pursue her long-cherished dream of pursuing acting as a career.

Shrewsbury School musicians in concert at the Wigmore Hall

Thursday 5 March 2015

Martin Knox reviews a memorable concert. "If there has been a better show these forty years, I must have missed it." - Praise indeed.



This year there is to be no mass migration of the Music Department to London or Birmingham, but instead a select group of performers was up very early last Thursday, bound for an 11am start at the Wigmore Hall, the capital's premier recital venue. Awaiting them, in addition to parents and friends, was an impressive turnout of Old Boys, loyal men who rally round the Salopian flag wherever it is raised. They love their school and they love their music, too, as witness their generous support over the years. It was also good to see a few recent leavers, who were taking a couple of hours off from their studies. Happily for all, the concert was an occasion for joy and pride in equal measure. If there has been a better show these forty years, I must have missed it.

The ninety-minute programme began with Bach's cantata, 'Jauchzet Gott', in which the versatile Henrike Legner (soprano) was the impressive soloist, joined in the outer movements by the glittering trumpet of Henry Thomas. David Joyce stepped forward from the accompanying string ensemble to lead a movement from the 4th Brandenburg Concerto, in which John Dempsey (flute) and Hannah Sanderson (recorder) also made a lively contribution.

Rich tone and a sure sense of Mozartian style was evident in Loren Kell's presentation of an aria from 'Don Giovanni'. I trust she will feature in the production of 'Figaro' scheduled for next term.

The leader of the strings, Calvin Chang, teamed up with Galin Ganchev in a sonata for violin and piano by Brahms, a performance notable for the unity and balance which they have developed over the time they have been playing together. They pulled off one explosive entry with immaculate timing and the hushed ending was perfectly judged.

Ursule Taujanskaite has only recently joined the Sixth Form and has already made an impact as an exceptionally fine flautist. Her technique was equal to the very demanding piece which she offered on this occasion. Henry Newbould, who has been winning the Senior Wind Prize since



he was in the Third Form, also chose a fiendishly difficult number, producing an astonishing range of sounds from his soprano saxophone. Regular attenders of the lunchtime concerts could be forgiven for thinking that half the school played the saxophone, so it was not surprising that Henry went on to play in a quartet of the same. Proportional representation? They were all very good and, believe me, they are only the tip of a considerable iceberg.

Shrewsbury has been fortunate to have had Galin Ganchev in its ranks for a full five years and readers of these columns will be familiar with glowing reports of his accomplishments. He is a superb pianist and his “high definition” playing of a Chopin Polonaise-Fantaisie saw him at his very best, a lyrical, emotionally-charged performance, worthy of the venerable surroundings in which it took place. He moves on to the Royal Academy in September. Catch him while you can.
MWK



‘Sleepwalking into a Global Famine’ – Geographical Association lecture by Nobel Peace Prize winner Benny Dembitzer

Thursday 5 March 2015

On Wednesday evening, the Geography Faculty were honoured to host the Nobel Peace Prize winner and highly acclaimed economist Benny Dembitzer to talk as part of the Geographical Association series of lectures.

Benny's talk was entitled 'Sleepwalking into a Global Famine' which tackled the dynamic and topical issues of food shortages in the developing world, with particular focus on the African continent.

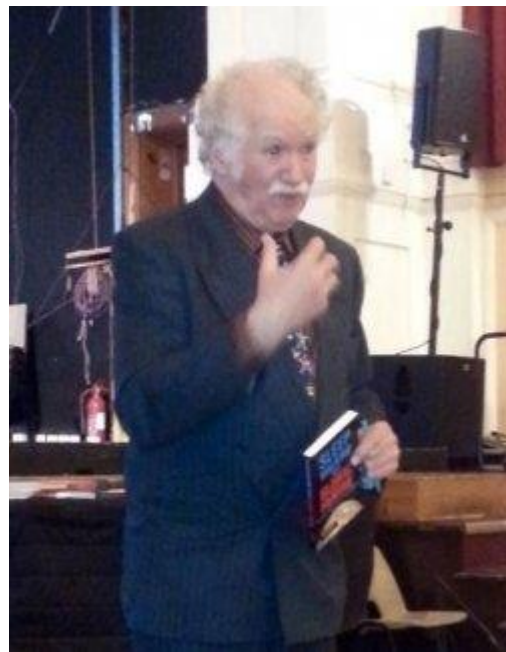
He explored the reasons why food deficits occur from both a Geographical and Economics perspective, looking at factors such as soil quality, the status of women and the often detrimental role of International governments and organisations.

Benny's talk was highly relevant to the Sixth Form curriculum and of particular interest to those embarking on the Global Perspectives course next year. He is also the Director of Grassroots Africa and appeared very keen to explore possibilities of working with Shrewsbury School, due in part to the rural backgrounds of many of our pupils but also their experiences with Medic Malawi.

A renowned author and examiner who attends every lecture without fail, sent me the following email: "Benny was a truly amazing man to listen to... We were privileged to get to hear him... his vision was spellbinding".

We were delighted that Benny is very keen to venture north again next year!

CER





Midlands & Northern Independent Schools' Cross-Country Championships 2015

Thursday 5 March 2015

In wild and tough weather conditions on Sunday 1st March, Shrewsbury hosted this year's Midlands & Northern Independent Schools' Cross-Country Championships. There were many very impressive team and individual performances from the Hunt runners, particular highlights being the Junior Boys A and B teams, who came 1st and 2nd respectively, and an individual silver medal for Olivia Papaioannou in the Open Girls event. Report by Mr Middleton.



Harry Remnant pushes up one of the muddy banks

The Midlands & Northern Independent Schools' Cross-Country Championships has a long and proud tradition going back over 55 years, with previous winners including a certain Alastair Brownlee who went on to win Olympic gold in the London 2012 triathlon. Shrewsbury's Hunt has won the Senior Boys title seven times in the 55 years of competition (with individual champions in Oli Laws in 1996 and 1998 and Ed Mallett in 2013) and whilst last year saw the

end of an unprecedented run of three titles in a row, there was an impressive victory for the Junior Boys (the only other time that the Hunt have won the title was in 2011 when Shrewsbury last hosted the event) with Freddie Huxley-Fielding becoming the third Hunt runner to win the individual junior title following in the footsteps of last year's Huntsman Rory Fraser and Simon Black in the first year of the Junior competition in 1998. The highlight of last year's competition, however, was a first team victory for our girls at this level and a first individual title for Tory Mobley.

After a tough course on the hills of Sedbergh last year, it was Shrewsbury's turn to host the event this year on a course of our own design. There would be tough competition from some strong opposition but 'home advantage' would mean we would be able to put out large squads for the races.

Indeed, in the first of the day's races, the Hunt put out two teams of six runners and were able to pack in well in the early stages of the race. By this point the heavens had unleashed an unrelenting deluge of rainfall and conditions were therefore pretty tough out there. Owen Mock (R) revealed himself to be something of a fair-weather runner by running the opening 400m as if it was Sports Day and then deciding he didn't really like running in the rain, fading back through the field as the race progressed. Step in Monty Hardcastle (I) and Third Former Harry Remnant (Ch) who showed no signs of tiredness following his rugby match for the U14As (still undefeated!) the previous day.

The lead pair from Wellingborough established a commanding lead but with Monty coming home in bronze position in a time of 14.47 for the 2.5-mile course and Harry just a second behind in fourth, the Hunt began their defence of their title. Crucially, counters three and four came home not far behind both in the top 10 (Third Formers Toby Pegge (PH) in 8th in a time of 15.17 and Ben Henderson (S) in 10th in 15.22). This brought home a team total of 27 points with Wellingborough unable to add to their top pair's efforts and falling to 4th in the overall team rankings.



Ben Henderson, Will Barton and Jamie Crawley pack in

In fact it was the Hunt's Junior 'B' team who took team silver with a team total of 58, five points ahead of Malvern College. Third Formers Charlie Ockleston of Oldham's (11th), Will Barton of



Port Hill (12th) and Alex Schoelles of Oldham's (21st) were invaluable in the cause, aided by some strong support from Fourth Formers Sam Bayliss and Jamie Crawley of Ridgemount (14th and 25th) and Niklas Amthor of Rigg's (16th). It has been very exciting to see so much inter-year group competition between our promising Third Formers and it is becoming increasingly difficult to predict the order in which they will finish! Certainly it was a terrific start to the day as the Hunt retained the Junior R.S.S.H. Cup (appropriately!) for the first time.

The Open Girls ran next and follow the same 2.5-mile course that encompassed much of the school campus before dropping down the bank and along the river before returning for a Top Common finish emerging rain-sodden and mud-drenched. A weakened girls' squad were without four key runners but they were determined to put in a strong performance even if retaining the Stowe Shield would be difficult. The girls got out of the blocks quickly, though perhaps too quickly in one or two cases as the race progressed and some of our squad faded into the middle of the pack. Showing strong stamina and perseverance, however, was Olivia Papaioannou (EDH LVI) who moved into a podium position in the early stages of the race and by halfway had closed the gap on the race leader from Malvern. Going down Oldham's Gap, Papaioannou was on her heels and looking strong. As they emerged through the Moss Gates for the final finish following the steep climb up the School bank, it was the Malvern runner in the lead, though 12 seconds behind in 15.24 Papaioannou had held on for individual silver, well clear of Wrekin's lead runner in third. She has been in superb form all season and is beginning to realise her potential.



Olivia Papaioannou and Sophia Dixon in foreground

Behind her an impressive run from Third Former Sophia Dickson (MSH) saw her come home in 18th, closely followed by Abby Attenborough, a decent scalp to push ahead of her UVith housemate! The fourth counter - Martha Pownall also of MSH - was a matter of seconds behind again in 22nd position, with Fourth Former Immie Evans of The Grove coming home in 24th out of over 50 runners, ensuring all girls' houses were represented in the race! A team total of 61 points was a respectable effort given the runners who were missing, but alas the Stowe Shield would be presented elsewhere this year to Malvern College (two points ahead of Sedbergh with 27 points).



Martha Pownall battling against the elements

In the final race of the day, the Senior Boys contested the championship over the longer 4-mile course, and the Hunt were determined to challenge their rivals Sedbergh with a strong performance. A total of 21 Hunt runners took to the startline and from the off Huntsman Theo Clarke (S UVI) and Oscar Dickins (R LVI) were amongst the lead runners. Like the animals entering Noah's ark before the biblical deluge, it seemed that most schools were opting for this policy of 'two by two', with the race leaders in the opening kilometres being a pair from Welbeck College, followed by a pair from Sedbergh and not far behind the Hunt's own pair. All that was missing was an ark.



Theo Clarke crosses the line



The big hill bringing the runners up from the river to the Queen's Terrace allowed the opportunity for the Sedbergh runners to demonstrate their hill strength and by the end of the first lap they had overhauled their Welbeck rivals and looked in imperious form. Indeed, they ran the remainder of the race together before a final sprint finish to claim the title. Over forty seconds behind came the Welbeck pair before Theo crossed the line in 5th and Oscar in 6th (24.03 and 24.08).

With six to count in the Senior Boys race, there was good packing behind, with all four remaining counters coming through together in 12th-15th (Will Hayward (R) in 12th, Charlie Rogers (Rb) in 13th, Charlie Godman (M) in 14th and Charlie Tait-Harris (S) in 15th). A team total of 65 points was a strong effort though not quite enough to overhaul Sedbergh's impressive 45 points, allowing them to retain the appropriately named 'Nutter Cup'.

The Hunt, nevertheless, demonstrated their strength in depth with the 'B' team placing fourth overall, beating 'A' teams from the likes of Malvern College, Adams' Grammar and Rugby. Amongst their number there was a breakthrough performance from Lower Sixth Former Rory Marsden (Rt), who placed in the top half of a very strong field and ran in such a manner as to suggest that he could be a key runner for the Hunt next year as he moves into his final year at the School.

A good day of racing, then, and whilst the conditions were tough and there was some disappointment not to have brought home the senior trophies, there was nevertheless some encouragement with superb performances in the juniors which certainly bodes well for the future.

PJM



Fives: Victory against Eton

Friday 6 March 2015

The Fives squad registered their first big win of the season on Saturday 28th February against Eton.

The senior pairs played exceptionally well. Although the top pair George Lewis (I) and Samson Yick (S) lost their match 15-14 in the 3rd set, the other seniors all won their matches, thereby winning 3-1 overall. A special mention and thanks to Nick Pearce (I) for stepping into the team.

The U16s won 3-0 without dropping a single match, which highlights the progress they are making and demonstrates how much there is to come from this group.

The U15s won 2-1 and delivered the match of the day. Following a loss and a win for the 1st and 2nd pairs, the 3rd pair came through a 5-set match to win 12-10 in the 5th set. Well done to David Schofield (O) and Gen Songthammakul (I) who showed excellent energy levels to secure their match in the final stages.

U14s 1st pair Dan Humes (I) and Marcus Cope (Rt) won their match but the U14s lost 1-2 overall. Nevertheless, they continue to progress and show great promise for the Beginners' Nationals at the end of term.

RSSBC: North of England Head victory

Sunday 8 March 2015

On Saturday the 1st VIII achieved their second victory in as many weeks by winning the headship at the North of England Head of the River Race.



The crew consisting of George Whitehead, Freddie Bonthron, Toby Thomas, Nick Cabot, Gavin O'Dwyer, George Patterson, George Rowley, Paddy George and Alex Powell held off strong competition from King's Chester and Agecroft to win the trophy the Boat Club last won in 2012.

This victory, along with winning their division at the Hammersmith Head of the River last weekend, provides a timely confidence boost as the crew prepares for the Schools' Head of the River on 16th March.

ATH

Sabrina 8 at the North of England Head, Chester. Saturday 7th March 2015

Monday 9 March 2015



North of England Head is an old favourite of our School crews. This year, due to the clash with coach weekend, the only School crew to compete was the first 8. However, our Sabrina boys were out rowing in division two, on a blustery Saturday afternoon.

Results were certainly positive, with the crew coming in 2nd from 10 starters in IM3 8's. They beat several University 1st 8's and were only beaten by the decent Liverpool University 1st 8.

Crew- W Dodson-Wells, J Russell, R Shropshire, I Dick, J Kynaston, M Walker ,R Homden, C Randall. Cox J Lambie





Celebrating World Book Day

Monday 9 March 2015

On 5th March, 100 countries around the world celebrated World Book Day. We seized the opportunity to celebrate books and reading here at Shrewsbury School, where celebrations went on all week.

Every student in the School was given a book to keep. Lower School pupils were given a copy of *Killing the Dead* by Marcus Sedgwick – a gripping page-turner set in a boarding school which was written especially for World Book Day.

Sixth Form students each received a commemorative Penguin 60s title, which contain extracts from Penguin's vast back catalogue. The books were given out during Monday's tutor period, when the whole school was invited to 'drop everything and read'.

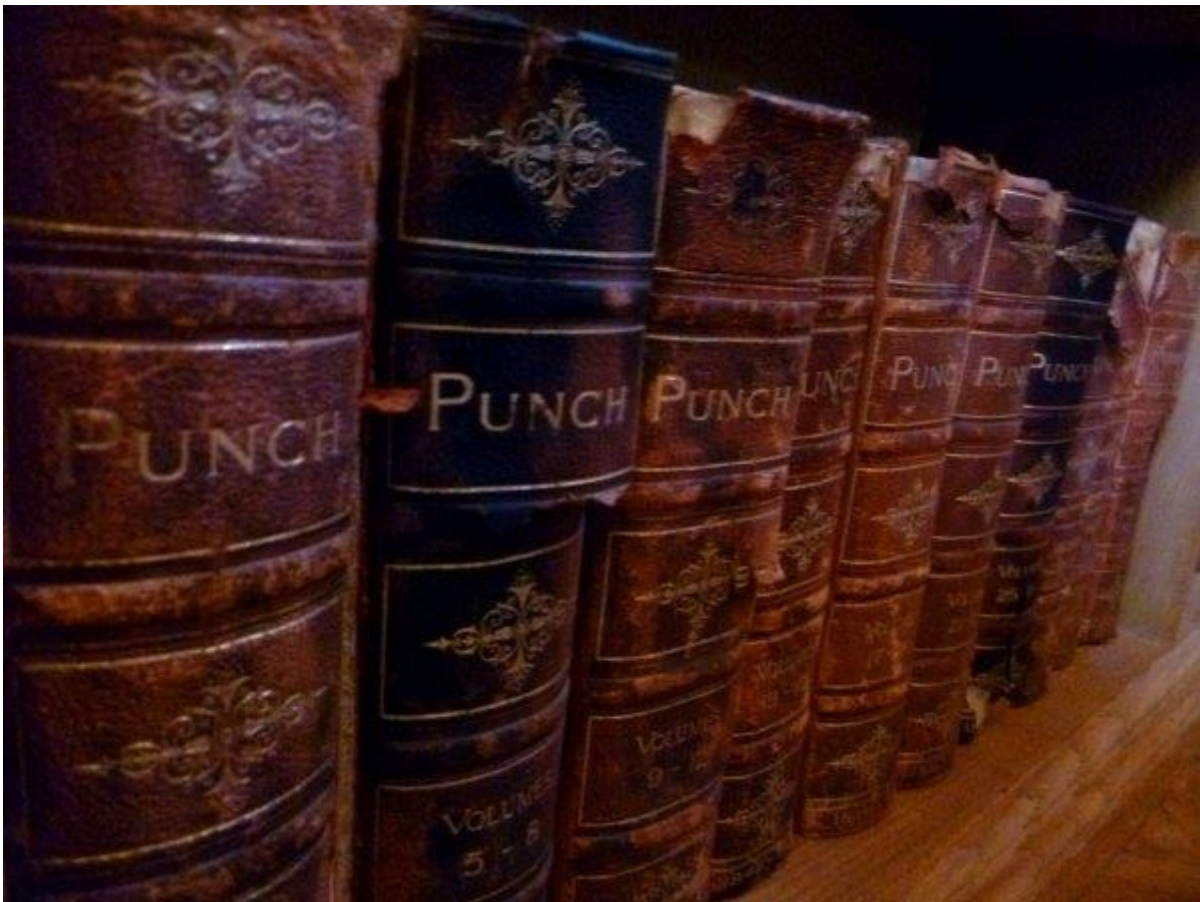
A book sale of new and second-hand books at discount prices ran in the library all week. Waterstones were kind enough to provide copies of bestselling young adult fiction.

Mrs Jacks joined in the fun with her photography students, who were challenged to take photographs associated with books and reading. Some of the results are included here.





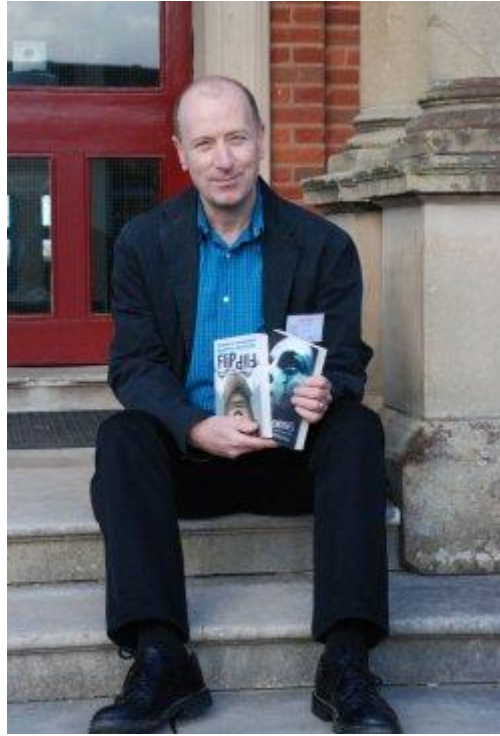
Not to be recommended!



We were also fortunate enough to be visited by the author and university lecturer Martyn Bedford, whose fantastic creative writing workshop inspired our young writers to develop their literary talents. Martyn also took part in a lecture on Careers in Writing, alongside our own Mr

Fraser-Andrews, a former journalist, when students were able to hear the reality of a literary career. Lower Sixth students Megan Elliot and Sarah Jackman were among those who took part:

“The creative writing session involved a small group of students whose interests ranged from aspiring authors to those simply with an enthusiasm for writing. Martyn Bedford’s main focus of the session centred around the idea of character development, a crucial aspect to any good novel.



Martyn Bedford

He began by giving each of us a postcard displaying a work of figurative art. Initially we were asked to describe what was presented to us on the card, refraining from any use of our imagination. The figures in the cards ranged from Edward Munch's 'The Scream' to a highly realistic photograph of a woman in shock. However, despite these differences each image was one that could be interpreted in many different ways and therefore allowed us to progress on to the next stage of the workshop.

After having discussed the appearance of the figures on our cards, we were then asked to delve deeper into the image and conjure up possible background stories, feelings and futures for the characters presented to us.

Having heard Mr Fraser-Andrew's incredibly inventive and vivid analysis of the chef in his painting, we then moved on to the final part of the workshop. This involved taking what we had been working on a step further and forming the introduction to a possible short story. Some members of the group such as Otto Hurley enthusiastically and bravely related their ideas; his being the plot of a story with a particularly interesting narrative twist that gave his work the potential to form a fascinating tale.

The sharing of stories and Martyn’s affirmation that the workshop had been one of the most creative sessions he had worked with concluded what had been a very inspirational hour of writing with a great creative mind.

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



Martyn was then kind enough to continue his day at Shrewsbury and hold a lecture later that evening which was said to be equally as engaging and thought-provoking as the workshop had been.

Overall, Martyn's visit was one of great interest and enjoyment which has inspired us all to continue writing and to look more analytically at the world in order to convert experiences into literary ideas."

Jo Elliot

Head Librarian



Shrewsbury School win their first ever U15 Girls National Fives Trophy

Monday 9 March 2015

Shrewsbury entered four pairs into the National Schools' U15s Girls tournament at Eton College on 8th March and came away with the silverware.



Nina Lange and Tilly Reynolds

In the past decade Highgate have dominated this age group but with the arrival of an outstanding Third Form, Shrewsbury have quickly stepped up to the mark.

Nina Lange & Tilly Reynolds breezed through their group then beat Highgate 1 in the semi finals 2-0 before taking on a mature Ipswich 1 pair in the final. Despite a rather nervous performance, they had fire power to come through 2-0 and become National Champions.

Shrewsbury 2 Phoebe Wasdell & Lizzie Ware also performed outstandingly well in winning the 3rd/4th place play off and thereby set themselves up for the chance of silverware next year when we compete for the trophy again.

Our 3rd and 4th Pairs played off in the Plate Final, with Emma Graham & Katie Oswald (3rd Pair) beating Sophia Breese & Libby Hedges (4th pair – most improved on the day) in a close encounter.

All the girls deserve credit for a great team effort and they now look forward to competing in the Beginners Tournament and Ladies Open next week.

ASB

Good turnout for the Birmingham Dinner at the St Paul's Club

Monday 9 March 2015



A wonderful evening was had by those who attended the Birmingham Dinner on 5th March. The event was organised by Richard Woodgate, Chairman of the Birmingham branch of the Salopian Club, and was held in the St Paul's Private Members Club.

The attendees were treated to entertainment by some of Shrewsbury School's most talented young singers, Ed Carroll, James Ollerhead and Loren Kell, led by John Moore. The assembled guests then proved to be in good voice themselves, as they joined in with a

hearty rendition of the School song.

Speakers, including Sir Eldryd Parry, Anna Peak and Peter Stewart, were on good form and the food (which included the now infamous rice pudding with Walsall Sauce) went down a treat.

Once members and friends had sufficiently recovered the next day the compliments started flowing, with one member describing the evening as the best OS dinner he had attended.

RSSBC: Junior Inter-Regional Trials

Tuesday 10 March 2015

Excellent performances from all Shrewsbury crews at the Junior Inter-Regional Trials in Worcester last weekend.

The J14 squad had three quads racing, all of whom were in new crew combinations and in unfamiliar boats, since the majority of their training has been done in octos this term. They all managed to get afloat safely after a delay to the event start time.

All three crews gave it their all and managed to make it down the course whilst displaying some excellent sculling technique. The results spoke for themselves: the crews came 1st, 3rd and 4th. The fastest quad secures itself a place in the West Midlands team for the Inter-Regional Regatta in April, and the 3rd and 4th places demonstrate the depth and potential the J14s have as a squad this year.



J14 4x+ (1st place)



J14 4x+ (3rd place)



J14 4x+ (4th place)

In only their second race of their sculling careers, the Women's J14 quad finished 2nd out of 9 in their event, beating crews from Stratford, Ross, Evesham and Stourport Rowing Clubs - as well as two crews from King's School, Worcester - in the process.



WJ14 4x+

Sculling with her old doubles partner from Pengwern Boat Club in a composite crew, Eleanor Fox (G IV) was selected for the West region for the second year in succession, having won the WJ15 2x trials by over 15 seconds.

After only a few paddles in the boat, our J15 4+ did a great job in securing their place in the forthcoming finals at Nottingham. The boys had a steady but powerful row, looking relaxed and affective, exactly their remit. So a job very well done.



J15 4+

The J16 VIII secured a place on the West Midlands team by winning their event by a comfortable margin. They were also able to beat all of the J18 VIIIs racing, although narrowly missed out on topping the timesheets by 1 second to a J18 Quad.



J16 8+

This Sunday saw the Senior Novice Girls take to the water for their first race of the season. The crew consisted of Lettie Tay (Cox), Aki T, Robin Huber, Gladys Lam and Anna Jones and they posted a respectable time of 10 minutes 14 seconds, coming 1st in their category. The race provided the girls with a great opportunity to put all the hours on the water and ergos in to practice and gain valuable racing experience.

CDS



WJ18 4x+

Olivier Award Nomination for Richard Goulding

Wednesday 11 March 2015



We are delighted to report that OS Richard Goulding (I 92-97) has been nominated for an Olivier Award. The nomination is for Best Actor in a Supporting Role for his part in King Charles III, written by Mike Bartlett. The play is a fascinating and controversial drama, which imagines a future in which Prince Charles has ascended to the throne and is caught up in a battle between his own feelings over freedom of the press and the unwritten rules of our democracy. Richard plays Prince Harry who wishes to become a commoner, having fallen in love with a barmaid.

The ceremony will take place on Sunday 12 April, as the illustrious event once again returns to Covent Garden's iconic Royal Opera House for an evening of celebration, award-giving and live performances. The Olivier Awards are the most prestigious of their kind and the ceremony is the most glittering date in the theatrical calendar, attended by many of the West End's most respected and loved stars, powerhouse producers, screen and music idols, and London's most influential movers and shakers.

[A full list of nominees can be found here.](#)



Hunt Club Championships 2015

Wednesday 11 March 2015

Having enjoyed a week-long visit from Kenyan Olympic gold medallist John Ngugi last term, last week we were graced with the presence of a second Olympic medallist – former New Zealand distance runner Lorraine Moller – who was Guest of Honour at the Hunt Club Championships.

Nearly 40 Hunt runners took to the startline to contest for the respective trophies – the Birley Cup for Senior Boys, the Willie Jones Cup for Senior Girls and the Mark Mortimer Cup for Junior Boys. By the end of the afternoon three new names would be engraved on these trophies.

The sun shone down upon the runners as they set off from Lower Kingsland following the Huntsman's rallying cry of "All Hounds who wish to run, run hard and run well", with conditions far more favourable than Sunday's Midlands & Northern Schools' Championships (MANISCCC) and indeed far more pleasant than last year's Hunt Club Championships, when a menacing, blustering wind made for tough running.



Immie Evans

The early pace was swift with an immediate battle at the front established between Huntsman Theo Clarke (S) and Oscar Dickins (R). There has been little to separate the pair this year, though just three days previously it was Huntsman Clarke who came home as first Hunt runner in MANISCCC. As they launched down Cannonbury and into Burr's Field before tackling the hilly second half, the pair were nevertheless still both looking strong and running together. Behind, Will Hayward (last year's Junior Boys runner-up from Rigg's) was in sight and

looked destined for the bronze medal, though he was still under threat from a right old pair of Charlies (Rogers of Radbrook and Godman of Moser's).

Monty Hardcastle (I) and Owen Mock (R) were locked in battle for the junior title, though impressively both runners were in the top 10 and ahead of some established senior runners.

Amongst the girls, Olivia Papaiaonnou (EDH) looked unstoppable and by halfway was well clear of any challengers. Having won the individual silver medal at Sunday's MANISCCC, she is increasingly looking like an athlete of considerable promise. Indeed, her finishing time of 17.16 over the undulating 4.2km course was an impressive 'kill' and she was a deserving winner of the Willie Jones Cup in the fifth year of its awarding. The battle for 2nd and 3rd in the girls eventually saw Upper Sixth Former Abby Attenborough (MSH) and Fourth Former Immie Evans (G) complete the podium, though Martha Pownall (MSH) was just a second behind Evans, cruelly just missing out on a medal position.



Monty Hardcastle

The Junior race saw Mock make a move by the School Boat Club, though Hardcastle fought back and restored his lead which he took home all the way to the line, coming home as first junior by five seconds over Mock. Both runners ran superbly well given they are only in the Fourth Form, and their respective positions of 5th and 7th overall was a tremendous achievement and suggests they have considerable promise for the future. A time of 15.55 for Hardcastle was only a minute off the leaders, so in future years he will no doubt be challenging for the main trophy; this year is perhaps the start for him as he lifted the Mark Mortimer Cup following in the footsteps of some fine recent Hunt runners such as last year's Huntsman Rory Faser.

There was an excellent run from Third Former Harry Remnant who took bronze position in a time of 16.37 following his 4th place finish at the weekend's Midlands & Northern Schools' Champs. An ever-improving Ben Henderson (S) was the next Third Former through in a time of 16.52 placing him 13th overall out of 37 finishers, though the list of talented Third Formers



continues with the likes of Will Barton (15th), Toby Pegge (20th), Charlie Ockleston (22nd) and Alex Schoelles (26th) all placing highly. These are without doubt names to watch out for in the future.



Harry Remnant leading the chasing pack

In the Senior Boys race, Dickins had established a 5m gap by the steep climb up from the river to Oldham's Gap, but Clarke was still in the race and looked to have something still left in the tank. However, the course perhaps favoured Dickins whose lower centre of gravity allowed him to power up Ridgemount Lane a little harder. By the time he emerged for the final home straight towards Chance's Pavilion it was clear he had done enough to take the title, coming home for the 'kill' 12 seconds ahead of Clarke.



Oscar Dickins

Lifting the Birley Cup, Dickins will have his name engraved on another Hunt Club Championship trophy following his win in the Junior Boys race back in 2012, where he won the Mark Mortimer Cup. With one year left at the School, he will no doubt look to become one of only a small handful of Hunt runners who have won the title twice (in recent years, a feat achieved by George Jarvis (PH) in 2008 and 2009 and Ed Mallett in 2012 and 2013). However, no doubt a fit Ben Remnant (who won the Club Championships as a Fifth Former last year) will have something to say about that!



Lorraine Moller with Oscar Dickins, Olivia Papaioannou and Monty Hardcastle

The prizes were presented by NZ former athlete Lorraine Moller, who enjoyed an incredibly lengthy career as a runner. She first competed in the Commonwealth Games as an 18-year-old and went on to compete in three more Olympic Games, including the Barcelona Games where she took Olympic bronze in the marathon at the age of 37 (and this wasn't her last Olympics!). Winner of 16 international marathons and multiple Commonwealth Games medals, she was an inspiring guest and spoke engagingly about her career and her fundamental conviction that the most important quality needed in a successful runner is belief. As a 33-year-old runner myself, I left feeling that I may yet have a couple of Olympic Games in me!

PJM

School House Sixth Form success in Bentley Elocution

Wednesday 11 March 2015



Competition winner Jamie Nugent

The Bentley Elocution Prizes are part of the firmament of the School, dating back to 1867, when they were instituted by Thomas Bentley, a long-serving languages master with a legendary voice and love of reading. The only rule is that contestants recite a poem of at least sonnet length. This year we were delighted to welcome back former Headmaster Jeremy Goulding to judge the competition.

Jeremy Goulding commented at the beginning of proceedings that he had always enjoyed watching someone else deciding the victors and so was only too aware of the difficult task ahead of him. To a packed audience in the Ashton Theatre, 25 pupils offered recitations from a diverse range of poets – Wordsworth to Tupac Shakur, Burns to Johnny Cash.

School House was well represented with some excellent entries. Jonah Harrison (LVI) provided a very different version of *Ozymandias*, with a resonance of voice that provided impressive rise and fall. Dan Lo (UVI) offered Shropshire Lad A.E. Housman's homage to Oscar Wilde, *On Who Is That Young Sinner*, which conveyed a profound sense of equality that is as relevant today as a century ago.

However, it was Jamie Nugent (U6), who took the prize as the overall winner of the competition. He had written his own poem for the occasion, wittily entitled *Composition*, deftly conveyed (which can be read [here](#)).

TPP

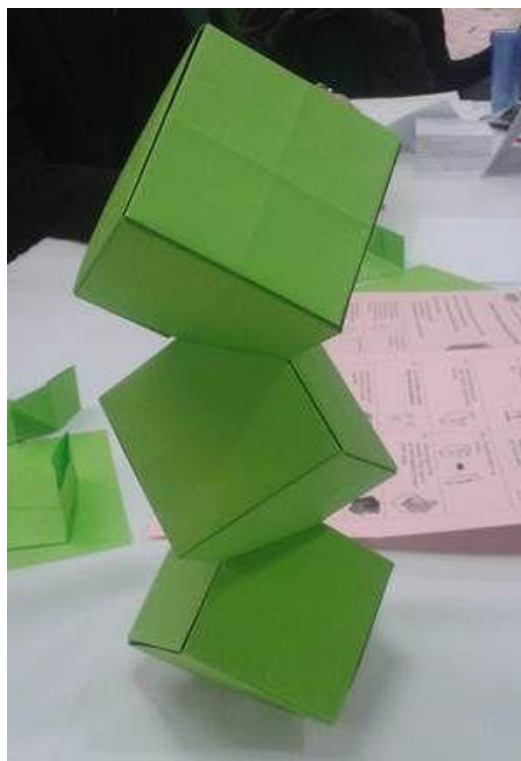
Maths Feast

Thursday 12 March 2015

Betty Zhao, Linda Zhao, Artem Stopnevich and Mil Luangamornlert travelled to Keele on Tuesday 10th March to take part in a 'Maths Feast', laid on by the Further Mathematics Support Programme for Fourth Formers.

They found the algebra in the amuse-bouche to their liking and scored full marks. The hors d'oeuvre was a comparison round where they merely had to say which number was bigger – this was harder than it sounds and they were the only team with a refined enough palette to obtain full marks. This award precluded them from winning future rounds but they tucked into every subsequent course with unabated appetite.

The entrée saw some set theory, where a shaded area of a Venn Diagram gave them a nasty taste in the mouth. They rushed their main course missing a few method marks, but it was the dessert – a task in origami – that gave them a little indigestion. The goal was to make as many 'Columbus Cubes' (a cube with an inverted corner) as possible and stack them as high as possible, but they struggled to piece the modules together. They should have got something like this:



The petits fours settled the stomach but unfortunately they could never manage more than three correct answers in a row (there were bonus marks for four).

There was no overall winner but they did extremely well and had impeccable table manners. I hope that the current Third Form are salivating at the prospect of next year's menu.

CWO



House Shooting Competition

Thursday 12 March 2015

After a long dormancy – more than 20 years – the House Shooting Competition has been restarted this year, with 12 of the 13 Houses taking part.

Each House fielded two competitors: one novice and one skilled shooter. They shot a 10 bull target with the aim of shooting the highest score. With a maximum possible score of 200, Port Hill's Marcus Bruce (V) and Chetan Popat (IV) scored a commendable 190. The next nearest contender was Radbrook with 177.

Results

Port Hill	190
Radbrook	177
Severn Hill	173
School House	169
Oldham's	168
Ingram's	167
Ridgemount	149
Rigg's	141
Emma Darwin Hall	140
The Grove	132
Mosers	108
Mary Sidney	95
Churchill's	did not enter

Understanding the internal combustion engine - Upper Sixth Physics visit to MAHLE

Thursday 12 March 2015

On Thursday 5th March, a group of Upper Sixth Physicists enjoyed a fascinating visit to MAHLE Filter Systems UK Ltd in Telford. MAHLE Group is one of the world's 30 largest automotive suppliers, with more than 100 production locations.



The air flow test laboratory

The trip was led by Mr Kirk and Dr Elliot and formed part of the Sixth Form Applied Physics course.

After a short presentation from Senior Engineer Roy Haworth, the students were given a tour around the Telford production plant and test laboratories.

The visit was very informative and the students came away with a better understanding of the design of an internal combustion engine.





Bentley Elocution Prizes

Thursday 12 March 2015

The Bentley Elocution Prizes are part of the firmament of the School, dating back to 1867, when they were instituted by Thomas Bentley, a long-serving languages master with a legendary voice and love of reading. The only rule is that contestants recite a poem of at least sonnet length. This year we were delighted to welcome back former Headmaster Jeremy Goulding to judge the competition.

Jeremy Goulding commented at the beginning of proceedings that he had always enjoyed watching someone else deciding the victors and so was only too aware of the difficult task ahead of him. To a packed audience in the Ashton Theatre, 25 pupils offered recitations from a diverse range of poets – Wordsworth to Tupac Shakur, Burns to Johnny Cash.

In the Third Form contest, the finalists were all a talented bunch. Freddie Williams (Rt) emerged victorious with a polished performance of Carol Ann Duffy's *Last Post*. Freddie, one of this year's Drama Scholars, conveyed the chummy nature of Duffy's war poem, drawing his audience in with impressive cadences. Will Hope (Ch) provided a poignant interpretation of Shelley's *Ozymandias* to come a close second.

The Fourth Form competitors all gave personal and emotive recitations, with particular praise being given by Mr Goulding to Artem Stopnevich (R), who had composed his own poem, *Death* (which can be read [here](#)). The popular vote seemed to go to Chetan Popat's inspiring and mature version of Johnny Cash's *That Ragged Old Flag*, delivered in an American accent that transported us to the US. However, the plaudits went to Henry Mayhew (Ch) for his balanced and thoughtful recitation of Larkin's *Best Company*, with Lisa Stolyarova (G) taking second place with a passionate retelling of Simon Armitage's *In Our Tenth Year*.

The Fifth Form saw a sparring match between two emerging titans of the Bentley – Caspian Cowan Taylor (Ch), winner in his Third Form, taking on Ed Plaut (S). Ed had chosen his inspiration in many areas, the rapper Tupac Shakur, for his offering *A Love Unspoken*, whereas Caspian had stuck with more solid ground with Seamus Heaney's *Midterm Break*.

The Sixth Form match was a very close one, with many of the School's intellectual heavyweights (not wishing to over-extend the boxing metaphor) offering poems of impressive length with few deviations, hesitations or repetitions. Olivia Bradley (EDH) impressed the polymath judge with a poet he had not encountered before, offering *Chapter 63: Whitney Houston* from Kleinzahler's *A History of Western Music*. Teddy Briggs (EDH) provided an emotional recitation of Keats' *When I Have Fears That I May Cease To Be* and Guy Cabral (Ch) commanded his audience with the opening lines of Dante's *Inferno*.

Jonah Harrison (SH) provided a very different version of *Ozymandias*, with a resonance of voice that provided impressive rise and fall. School House's Dan Lo offered Shropshire Lad A.E. Housman's homage to Oscar Wilde, *On Who Is That Young Sinner*, which conveyed a profound sense of equality that is as relevant today as a century ago. Sylvia Yeo (EDH) had obviously thought hard about her rendition of Neruda's *If You Forget Me*, as it was moving and heartfelt. Runner-up, however, was Hannah Sanderson, whom Mr Goulding felt was made for T.S. Eliot's *Skimblesbanks the Railway Cat*. The *victor ludorum* was Jamie Nugent (SH), who had

written his own poem for the occasion, wittily entitled *Composition*, deftly conveyed (which can be read [here](#)).

Thanks are due to the English Faculty, who have shepherded their pupils through the various stages of the competition, but notably to Mr Sheppe, who controlled the Faculty with appropriate whistling and calls of ‘Come Bye’ – his *Ode to the Plastic Bag* was the icing on an otherwise delicious cake.

TPP



Oxford Clay Pigeon Shooting Competition

Thursday 12 March 2015

The shooting team took part in the Oxford Clay Challenge on 11th March. This is a major clay pigeon shooting competition for many schools nationally.

Shrewsbury came 18th, which is a noble effort considering they have very little clay pigeon shooting practice.

Chetan Popat was the highest placed member of the team, coming 87th out of 140 competitors with a score of 33/50.

The team members were:

Chetan Popat (PH IV)
Marcus Bruce (PH V)
Tom Shelley (R 3)
Elias Harrison (SH IV)
Ben Remnant (Ch LVI)
TPP



Giles Bell's Team of the Week

Friday 13 March 2015

This week, the Golf Team.

I had to take a break from writing Team of the Week as my editor has been poorly and I have been trying to come to terms with England's dismal efforts at the Cricket World Cup, which has affected my creative gene. I am hoping the damage will not be permanent but if you do not enjoy reading this article, that will be the reason.

When I was quite young, my parents took us to a hotel in Thurlestone which had a golf course. It was here that I first learnt to dislike golf as try as I might, I could not hit the ball off the ground. When I did hit the pesky little thing, it kept going in the stream. It was clear that no one in my family had any clue as regards the game and at one point we were asked to abandon our game! It did not ruin our holiday, as this was a time in my life when endlessly going up and down in the lift until it got stuck and using the hotel intercom to summon my parents up from dinner made for a perfect day. (No it was not last year!)



L-R: Mark Schofield, Alex Haspel, David Joyce, Ben Oswald

Then there was the clash with cricket on television. In the days before digital and satellite TV, Test cricket was shown on BBC2. I would settle back to watch England battling to save a match

(things don't change) and then suddenly a voice would say, "We'll be back to the cricket later, but now it's off to the golf from Sandwich or wherever!" My daytime TV plans ruined, I would have to go outside or do something worthwhile or get bored!

You would be right in concluding that golf has never been top of my list of sports to review, until it was suggested that our current crop of school players are really rather successful and it was high time I went to go and see them. I sullenly agreed to meet Master in Charge of Golf Mark Schofield and his enthusiastic swatters down at the Meole Brace course.

Meole Brace (pronounced 'Meelay Braachay' by some to help us to dream we live in Tuscany) is only a mile a way and is a good place to practise, although it may never host the British Open! I arrived to find that the School team were already out on the course in the faint drizzle. Mr Schofield had offered me the use of some clubs. However, my inexpertise put me off and I declined.

I was very impressed by some well struck tee shots. Alex Haspel (Rb IVI) is the team captain and he was quickly into his stride. Alex is the junior captain of his local club at Arscott. Under his leadership the School team has been successful in the last few years, reaching the Independent Schools finals and winning the Regional finals. He was accompanied by Ben Oswald (S V) and Mr Schofield, with Mr Joyce watching for technical flaws, offering advice and taking pictures.



Another one in the hole for captain Alex Haspel

I noticed that everyone appeared to have very state of the art clubs and that sartorial elegance and smart shoes were important. I felt I fitted in quite well, as my new golfing wellingtons are most comfortable and useful for playing out of the water. One or two of my colleagues seemed unimpressed but perhaps they are not as well prepared for the water-based game.

Despite my refusal to have a complete round with the others, I was persuaded by Mr Schofield to 'have a go' on the third. The lads had been making the game look easy and I thought that despite my previous frustrations, perhaps at my time of life golf could become a new passion. I positioned my 'golfing wellingtons' in a firm stance and swung attractively. I thought 'contact had been made' but I failed to follow the trajectory of my efforts. Glancing to the ground to my right, all my fears of the sport were rekindled (see photo below).



Some inches from the tee was my ball and some of my fellow players may have been involved in some form of the most merciless mirthful mockery my mum might have warned me about. Nevertheless, I resolved to have another go. I realised that one of my golfing wellingtons had not been aligned quite correctly. I addressed the small irritant again (not one of my children) and swung, listening all the time to the coaching from the golf professional (who also happens to be a professional chemistry teacher). The miniature missile soared to a height I had previously only dreamed of and landed right in the middle of the fairway! I watched the captain of golf and his buddies find less central areas of the course with, I am afraid to admit, a small degree of smugness.



Ben Oswald

Then it was time for shot two on this par 3 hole. Imagine my surprise when I once again achieved height and the right kind of distance with my iron; I was close enough to the target area to dream of par! When everyone else had played their shots, it was clear that there was only going to be one winner on this hole – as long as he kept his nerve. Out came some very modern looking putter and I gently propelled the ball hole-wards. Yes! It went in!

As long as we forget my ‘practice shot’, I was the only ‘golfer’ (a new term I have ascribed to myself) to gain a par. I now love golf and I am thinking of playing more regularly. My enthusiasm may have resulted in my new fellow golfers suggesting I play with the other group after this hole and the remark that one hole is not enough to be judged on. How wrong they are!

You might have realised from this lengthy epistle that I have grown fonder of the game and that I have neglected to write about the team! So back to my new golf comrades.

I found myself walking around the next few holes with Ted Williams (R), Jonty Robinson (Rt LVI) and James Walker (Rt LVI). Ted is a Third Former and is the only boy in Rigg’s who has managed to escape joining the Hunt. He enjoys doing something he loves and feels that he benefits from the patience, discipline, technique, self-control and physical fitness that the game can teach. I sensed he felt that I too could learn such qualities.



Ted Williams contemplating a rather tricky shot

The Ridgemount duo felt encouraged by their housemaster Mr Hughes, who they claimed 'knows what it is about'. James confessed to me that he had once hit his brother with a fine drive, whereas Jonty had merely hit a golf cart. They both agreed that golf is a satisfying sport when it goes well. I noticed that such was their precision, they could hit their balls the same length and place them so that their conversation was never interrupted by having to veer off to another part of the course.



Jonty Robinson and James Walker

The team have the opportunity to practise three times a week and were training for a big match against Repton – which I can reveal was sadly called off after six holes on account of bad weather. I knew they should have been wearing golfing wellingtons!

Golf is another sport available to all pupils at Shrewsbury and quietly those who play enjoy and excel at this most frustrating of sports; which I now love!

The team are Alex Haspel, Jonty Robinson, Ben Oswald, James Walker, Ted Williams and James Powell.

GJFB



Running the London Marathon for The Brain Tumour Charity

Friday 13 March 2015

Sue Murphy, mother of Ciara (MSH UVI) and Elen (MSH 2011-13) will be running the London Marathon this year in memory of her husband, Chris, raising money for The Brain Tumour Charity.



Chris Murphy fell ill last year and was diagnosed with a brain tumour. He very sadly passed away in September 2014. Following this, the Fashion Show organised by Shrewsbury Sixth Formers in October donated half their money to The Brain Tumour Charity.

The charity funds pioneering research, raises awareness of the symptoms and effects of brain tumours and provides support.

The Murphy Family have set up a fund in Chris' name within The Brain Tumour Charity and have already raised over £10,000. Sue will be running the London Marathon on 26th April to continue the fundraising effort. She would be very grateful for sponsorship.

Donations may be made via her JustGiving page www.justgiving.com/Sue-Murphy7/



The news 100 years ago: 7th - 13th March 1915

Thursday 12 March 2015

This week we remember:

Second Lieutenant Frank Harold Elwin, 3rd Bn. attached to 2nd Bn. Wiltshire Regiment.

School House, left in 1914.

Killed in action in France, 12th March 1915, aged 19.

Remembered on Le Touret Memorial, France. Panel 33 and 34.

The Salopian comments: *"If Frank hadn't gone to war he would have gone to King's College Cambridge to study science. He rowed for two years in the Eight and was Captain of Headroom boats and was fundamentally the least military of people ... Easy going and kind-hearted, a genial critic of rules and regulations though first-rate at carrying out any piece of work that he was given, he influenced others by the charm of his character, not by force. No one was better loved in his house or carried more weight in its counsels."*

He enlisted initially in the Shropshire Light Infantry and at once became as popular in the ranks as he had been at school. He accepted a Commission some months later in the 3rd (Reserve) Bn. of the Wiltshire Regiment and went up to the firing line some ten days before his death.

Lieutenant William Gray Rawlinson, 2nd Bn. Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.

Moser's, left in 1906 for Sandhurst.

Killed in action in Belgium, 14th March 1915, aged 24.

Remembered on Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium. Panel 20.

At the outbreak of war he was with his regiment in Hong Kong. He was "a fine shot, a clever polo player, and a keen motorist".

News of the war:



Unveiling of the Neuve Chapelle Memorial in 1927 (image courtesy of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission)

From 10th March till 22th April 1915, the Battle of Neuve Chapelle was being waged. This, the first of the large scale organised British offensives of the war, was undertaken initially by Sir Douglas Haig's First Army, later by Sir Herbert Smith-Dorrien's Second Army.

Allied forces sought both to break through in France after months of sodden defence in the trenches and to relieve German pressure on Russia. Neuve Chapelle was an entirely British affair, the French being tied down at Ypres. Allied bombardment was followed by an advance; it was the heaviest bombardment for weight of shell fired per yard of enemy front until 1917.

A British affair indeed – aided by the Gharwal Rifles Brigade of the Indian Corps, which included some Ghurka Rifles. *“At 7.30am the artillery bombardment commenced, and never since history has there been such a one. You couldn't bear yourself speak for the noise. It was a continual rattle and roar. We lay very low in our trenches, as several of our guns were firing short.”*

Captain W.G. Bagot-Chester MC, 2/3rd Ghurka Rifles, Gharwal Brigade, Meerut Division.

Initial success later became bogged down in heavy trench warfare.

For more information about the School's four-year project to commemorate the pupils and staff who gave their lives during the First World War and to view the weekly news reports posted since August 2014, please see [The News 100 years ago - OS in WW1](#) section of the website.



Oldham's win the House Basketball Tournament Plate Competition 2015

Monday 16 March 2015

After losing very narrowly in a shoot-off to eventual winners Ridgemount, Oldham's went on to win the Plate Competition in this year's House Basketball Tournament played on Sunday 15th March.



Back row (L-R): Jerry Feng, George Lechmere, Billy Chu (Captain), Ollie Pumphrey, Hamish Foden; Front row (L-R): Jom Umpujb, Guy Hunter, Gene Ratanadaros

Congratulations to the squad and thank you to Mr Hughes for organising a very successful event.
MBDJ



OS in Three Day 'Uber Triathlon' to Raise Money for Combat Stress

Wednesday 18 March 2015



We are delighted to offer our support to OS Jamie Drummond Moray (S 05-10) who, along with three of his university friends, will shortly be undertaking an 'Über Triathlon' challenge for an excellent cause. In a little under two months' time, the team of 4 Men (to be proven!)- Jamie plus Geordie Hilleary, Rory McGrath and Sam Davies- will attempt to complete a gruelling 3 day challenge set in the Highlands of Scotland (24-26th April 2015). 'The Über Triathlon' will be a test of both physical and mental endurance, determination and courage. It comprises of 3 disciplines over the course of 3 days.

Day 1: a 97 mile cycle from Auchterarder (Perthshire) to Glencoe (Highlands) via Loch Tay.

Day 2: a marathon that ascends more than 1600 metres from the heart of Glencoe and ends at the foot of Ben Nevis.

Day 3: a 10 Munro expedition of Ben Nevis and The Lochaber Traverse.

They are raising money for Combat Stress- the veteran's mental health charity. Not only does war leave physical scars, but it equally leaves an intangible stress that one cannot begin to describe. Combat Stress provides invaluable support and rehabilitation to military veterans and personnel. It is an extremely worthy cause and one that continues to be of utmost importance to the British Army. You can find more information on the [Combat Stress website here](#).

The group of 4 are all graduates and friends from Oxford Brookes University (2011-2014) and are in some way involved with the military. Rory McGrath is an Officer Cadet at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS) and Sam Davies has recently been ski touring with the army in the Alps. As for Geordie Hilleary and Jamie DM, they are also aspiring soldiers and hope to gain a place at RMAS for September 2015.

They have set themselves a huge target of £10,000 and you can donate via this link to [Just Giving](#) and follow their progress on [facebook](#).

RSSBC: Schools' Head success

Wednesday 18 March 2015

Eight Shrewsbury crews took to the water on Monday 16th March to race in the Schools' Head of the River. The crews raced the four and a quarter mile course on the Thames from Chiswick Bridge to the Putney Embankment along with 339 other crews from around the country and some from abroad.



1st VIII

The relatively calm and dry conditions made for an excellent day's racing, with all eight crews acquitting themselves well.

1st VIII – 5th of 42

Girls 1st Quad – 7th of 23

2nd VIII – 7th of 18

3rd VIII – 5th of 10

J16A – 9th of 21

J16B – 5th of 6

J15A – 3rd of 31

J15B – 12th of 22

Particular congratulations to the J15As for winning the bronze medal in their event. Cox T Shiels, M Craik, A Stopnevich, E Lewis, T Shepherd-Cross, S Walker, B Rutter, S Peach, T Brennan



J15A VIII

ATH

Full results can be found at <http://www.shorr.org.uk/>

Crew photos can be found at <http://rowingphotography.co.uk/>



RSSH: Spring Relays 2015

Wednesday 18 March 2015

More trophies for our talented Hunt runners.



Monty Hardcastle

The Spring Relays towards the end of the Lent term is always a fixture that we look forward to, not least because of the stunning location in the grounds of nearby Attingham Park, but also because it gives us the opportunity to get back to some fast relay racing after the longer, more gruelling cross-country races. Having completed an unprecedented 'clean sweep' of all three trophies the previous year, we knew our work would be cut out this year, in particular in the Senior Girls and the Junior Boys with strong competition from our rival schools.

The first race of the day saw our U16s take on a very strong Thomas Telford outfit, who earlier in the year had snatched the Shropshire County Championships trophy from us for the first time in four years. We were out to get our revenge, though our rivals started quickly taking the lead going into the second leg. However, Harry Remnant (Ch) despite being a good two years younger than most of the athletes competing, managed to keep the Hunt in it just 30 seconds behind the leaders, with Bromsgrove matching Thomas Telford in the early stages too.

A strong second leg from Fourth Former Owen Mock (R) began to close the gap with a well-judged run from another of our promising juniors. The real damage, however, came in the form of Fifth Form duo Will Hayward (R) and Charlie Tait-Harris (S) who blew away the opposition and began to extend a lead. Scott Hatton (S) remained cool and calm holding that lead, passing over to in-form Monty Hardcastle (I) to bring it home and record a victory in this competition for the fifth year in a row.



Will Hayward

Our 'B' team of mainly Third Formers impressed with a 5th place finish (out of 11 competing teams) indicative of the strength in depth amongst the juniors.



Tati Watt

In the girls' race, we faced strong teams from Shrewsbury High School and Wrekin College and in the early stages it looked like we might find it hard reaching the podium. Nevertheless, we were kept in the race through a good first leg from Tati Watt (G) who had been out for a couple of weeks due to illness and was therefore out of race fitness (though at the English Schools' Cross-Country Championships this past weekend she went on to place just outside the top 100 out of 300 runners, which is a remarkable achievement).

She handed over to Third Former Sophia Dixon (MSH), who ran well to ensure the Hunt were still not out of the reckoning. As she handed over to Olivia Papaioannou (EDH) we knew that she would be able to inflict some damage, given her current form. She did just that, running a blistering run to overtake both Wrekin and Shrewsbury High School, coming home in the fastest time of the day.

In the anchor leg it was great to see Captain Tory Mobley (also EDH) out in action following a period of absence and she ran bravely, despite being hunted down by two in-form athletes. She wasn't quite able to hold them off but the Hunt can hold their head up high in placing third, particularly given that only one member of the quartet has been in full training this term!

Impressively, the Girls' 'B' team (Martha Pownall of MSH, Sally Joyce and Immie Evans of The Grove and Tatty Watt of EDH) placed 5th out of 12 teams and it was good to see so many fine performances on the day.



Olivia Papaiaonnon

Certainly, Olivia's time was the real headline-grabber and it proved the perfect platform upon which to go into the English Schools' Cross-Country Championships in Blackburn. In her first time racing in this competition, she placed 69th out of 300 runners, helping Shropshire Girls come home in 6th place out of 38 counties, an excellent result for a small and 'minor' county.

The Senior boys were last beaten in the Spring Relays in 2011, and in truth have been rarely challenged since then, partly due to the strength of squads we have been able to put out but also due to a lack of competitive teams making it to the event. In previous years strong teams from as far afield as Abingdon have competed in the event, though in recent years the distance to travel has obviously been a hindrance. Similarly, Marling School from Gloucester - whilst still competing at this event - have not been able to put out the sort of top-class relay teams they were able to in the past.

This year therefore became something of a training exercise with the Hunt squad vying for fastest lap times against each other rather than fighting off the opposition. Quick times were seen from Charlie Rogers (Rb) and Charlie Godman (M), though Oscar Dickins (R) in the fourth

leg looked to have run a time that wouldn't be surpassed. However, Huntsman Theo Clarke (S) had other ideas; having been beaten in the Hunt Club Championships the week before, he was out to re-establish the pecking order and put the young pretender in his place. He came through four seconds faster than Dickins to win the fastest lap medal and bring the Hunt team home in a time of 41.08, a full two and a half minutes ahead of runners-up Sir Thomas Rich School.

The 'B' team placed just outside the medals in 4th, as much as anything giving our more recent members further race experience.

Two trophies from the afternoon represented a good afternoon's work and provides the squad with some confidence going into the final Midlands Independent Schools' League fixture on Saturday, where we will go into the races with (slender) leads in both the Senior Boys and Colts.

In other news, at the Hunt Club Presentation evening, the following were appointed into the positions of responsibility for the coming season:

Huntsmen: Ben Remnant (Ch) and Oscar Dickins (R)

Senior Whip: Charlie Rogers (Rb)

Junior Whip: Henry Newbould (Ch)

Girls' Captain: Olivia Papaioannou (EDH)

Vice-Captains: Tati Watt (G) and Martha Pownall (MSH)





A message to the Salopian Community from the Headmaster

Wednesday 18 March 2015

A message for the OS community following the decision to convert Moser's Hall into the next girls' house.

In 2011 Shrewsbury School Governors discussed and agreed a development plan for the School, known as '2020 Vision'. A key element of that plan was the decision to build on the success of admitting girls into the Sixth Form in 2008 and move to full co-education. In September 2014 we welcomed our first cohort of Third and Fourth Form girls; this followed a period of careful preparation that included the refurbishment of The Grove and its successful conversion to a girls' house.

The momentum and demand for co-education is such that the Governors now feel that we should move ahead with our plan to achieve a ratio of 65% boys : 35% girls by 2020. In order to provide the appropriate ratio of accommodation, it will be necessary to create another girls' house.

After investigating a number of different options, we have taken the difficult decision that Moser's Hall is the most appropriate house to convert into girls' accommodation. Further information about this is provided in the letter that has been sent from the Headmaster to parents of current boys in Moser's Hall and in an accompanying Question and Answer document. These may be downloaded below.

Moser's will operate normally for the academic year 2015-16, although there will be no new Third Form intake. It will then go through a period of refurbishment, so that it is ready to accept girls from September 2017.

We will be doing all that we can to work with the Moser's Hall community, through what is inevitably going to be a very challenging time for them.

Chapel Choir sing Evensong at Worcester Cathedral

Wednesday 18 March 2015

A review by Fintan Simmons (Cb V).



On Thursday 12th March the Chapel Choir set out to sing Evensong at Worcester Cathedral. When we arrived we were welcomed into the Cathedral by a team of vergers and went through the Cathedral to the cloisters to arrive at the large octagonal Chapter House where we deposited our belongings. We were then given about an hour to look around both the Cathedral and the town. I took the opportunity to learn a bit more about the history of the cathedral and have a look at the organ.

The town of Worcester is highly historic and the Cathedral is no different, with the current building being the third on that site since 680. It is also the burial place of King John and the unlucky Prince Arthur - Henry VIII's older brother. The architecture is Gothic, though the Cathedral was begun in the heavily Romanesque times of the early Norman rule (1084), on account of the numerous restorations that were needed after the damage that the building incurred after the civil war. The organ is just eight years old, courtesy of Kenneth Tickell and sounded incredible in such a space. Many of my companions, however, used their time to go out into Worcester and do productive things such buy donuts and have a coffee; freed temporarily from the bubble that is Shrewsbury School.

After the hour was up, we had a rehearsal in the Chapter House and then later moved to the Quire to rehearse in the choir stalls. After a quick cup of tea and a biscuit, kindly provided by the Cathedral staff, we robed up and got in line.



© Clive Thompson

The congregation was gratifyingly large with a mixture of parents and locals and the music itself was very good. I can honestly say that it was one of the best outings that the Choir has had since I have been here. Everyone sang with enthusiasm and the canticles to a setting of Stanford in Bb and the anthem, Johannes Brahms's 'Geistliches Lied', resonated beautifully around the vast acoustic. It is a truly great experience to perform and hear choral music in the type of space for which it was written and that, coupled with the great composers, such as Elgar, Vaughan Williams and Thomas Tomkins, who have performed there over the centuries, made the trip more than worth the journey.

After the service we were all, understandably, quite tired and walked back to the bus after being thanked by the Dean of the Cathedral and invited to come again, which is always a good sign. The choir are looking forward to a good rest after a short but jam-packed term and there can be no doubt that they deserve one.

Fintan Simmons



A Gala Concert Weekend, 14th & 15th March 2015

Thursday 19 March 2015

At half past eight on Sunday evening, the audience in a packed Alington Hall stood to acknowledge the truly sensational feat they had just witnessed. For the second day running, Galin Ganchev had just completed a magisterial performance of Rachmaninov's third piano concerto, a work still regarded as one of the most challenging in the repertoire.

The stamina, the memory, the dexterity required would be cause enough for wonder, would justify the sustained applause and the cries of "bravo", but Galin the virtuoso is also a marvellously sensitive musician, capable of a wide range of expression even in the most demanding passages. The concerto is notable for the exceptional amount of writing for the piano alone (the composer probably had himself in mind), but as well as dazzling us with display, Galin and the orchestra, skilfully guided by John Moore, provided us with some memorable moments of full-blooded Russian romanticism. No wonder it all ended in cheers.

There was more to admire in this Gala Concert, the programme starting with the Wind Orchestra playing "Dances from Crete", by Adam Gorb. Maria McKenzie never takes the easy option for her band and this item was rich in colour, some of it garish in the extreme, which must have taken hours of practice, individual and collective to achieve. Not far short of fifty in number, this was an impressive ensemble.

Ursule Taujanskaite was the soloist in a Suite for Flute, Strings and Cembalo by J.S.Bach, and, not for the first time this year, she showed what a fine player she is. Nimble fingers and sure control of tone made for an enjoyable performance, well supported by David Joyce and the strings. I throw in at this point my congratulations to Ursule on her outstanding contribution to the symphony which followed.

Dvorak's "New World" is a John Moore 'special', a symphony I have heard him conduct many times before, never better than on this occasion. The orchestra was the largest I can remember at a school concert, and in the interests of cohesion, JFM directed with a clear emphatic beat. The unity achieved is something to admire in itself, but from start to finish, this was a warm, lyrical account, a reminder of why this is a world-wide favourite. The woodwind solos were notably fine, as they must be in this tuneful work, but the whole was a credit to all concerned. Some of the audience had only come to hear the pianist and left at half-time. While there is no doubt at all as to who was the star of the evening, the supporting cast performed with distinction.

Martin Knox



National Sculling Bronze Medal

Thursday 19 March 2015



Shrewsbury's J14A crew featuring Oldham's Third Formers Ali Davies (7) and Ben Holehouse (Bow) sculling their way to bronze in the National Sculling Head at Dorney Lake recently.



Stonyhurst Rugby 7s Tournament

Thursday 19 March 2015

An excellent performance from Shrewsbury's 1st VII at the Stonyhurst Rugby 7s Tournament on Wednesday.



*(Back row L-R): Mr Marcus Johnson, Sam Hill, Rufus Litchfield, Max McClure, Charlie Adams, Mr Shaun Perry;
(Front row L-R): George Lechmere, Roan Kirkby, Nick Pearce, Tom Barthen. (Not pictured - Harry Schofield)*

The boys won their first three group matches to qualify in second place in the main competition.

They then lost to a strong Stonyhurst team that went on to win the Tournament.

MDBJ

Moser's Hall

Thursday 19 March 2015

An important announcement was made at the School today.

In 2011 Shrewsbury School Governors discussed and agreed a development plan for the School, known as '2020 Vision'. A key element of that plan was the decision to build on the success of admitting girls into the Sixth Form in 2008 and move to full co-education. In September 2014 the School welcomed the first cohort of Third and Fourth Form girls; this followed a period of careful preparation that included the refurbishment of The Grove and its successful conversion to a girls' house.

The momentum and demand for co-education is such that the Governors now feel that they should move ahead with the plan to achieve a ratio of 65% boys : 35% girls by 2020. In order to provide the appropriate ratio of accommodation, it will be necessary to create another girls' house.

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Staff will be doing all they can to work with the Moser's Hall community through what is inevitably going to be a very challenging time for them.

The Governors are also conscious of the strong House loyalty of former members of Moser's Hall, but are confident that future generations of girls will continue to be worthy custodians of the ethos, traditions and culture that has made Moser's such a successful House in the past.

World Memory Expert shares his exam revision top tips with Shrewsbury students

Thursday 19 March 2015

On Thursday we welcomed memory expert and media personality David Thomas to the School. World record holder turned educator, he spent the day with the Sixth Form and Fifth Form students - ideally timed for just as they all embark on the start of their major revision plans for the public exams this summer.



He gave them hints and tricks to help aid memory, his overwhelming message being that our brains do not function to their full potential most of the time – and he also let us into some of the secrets of how to unlock that potential.

In trial studies the techniques he shared with the pupils have been seen to give a 13- 20% increase in marks and can cut study time by a third. The pupils liked both of these statistics! These skills are also transferable and would come in particularly handy for job or university interviews.

The afternoon was very well spent and the feedback from the pupils has been excellent. Look out for his return to Shrewsbury and in the meantime check out his website and internet presence <http://www.themotivationspeaker.com/>.

We very much hope to get him back to school for the junior years in the Michaelmas term.
ARP

School Firsts

Friday 20 March 2015

Awarded to pupils during the final School Assembly of the Lent Term.

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

Nowadays School Firsts have been split into two types: sporting and non-sporting. Below is a list of those pupils who were given the coveted award for their exceptional contributions to School life across a wide spectrum of non-sporting activities.

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

Jonathan Cheng (I UVI), Katie Elcock (EDH UVI), John Dempsey (Ch UVI), Alfred Mitchell (SH LVI) and Charlie Davies (PH UVI)

For her exceptional contributions to charity, international goodwill and fellowship:

Huda Hasan (MSH UVI)

For his five years of outstanding and loyal service to Beagling:

Ned Hall (O UVI)

For his five years of outstanding service to the Beekeeping Society, recently as joint President:

Jonathan Trenchard (S UVI)

For his inspirational piano playing throughout his time at Shrewsbury – not least in his masterful performance of Rachmaninov's 3rd Piano Concerto recently, the School Firsts Committee felt it appropriate to award the School Scarf – the equivalent of three School Firsts to:

Galina Ganchev (M UVI)



Fencing: Marco Lee is Senior Foil National Champion

Friday 20 March 2015

Many congratulations to Marco Lee (I LVI), who is the Senior Foil National Champion for 2015. This is the first time the School has had a national fencing champion.

Marco was one of 17 Salopians competing in the Public Schools Fencing Competition at Crystal Palace this week. Other successes include:

James Hinwood (Rt 3) 5th in Mount-Haes (Junior) Epee

Ross Viljoen ((PH UVI) 7th in Senior Sabre

Scott Reynolds (Rb LVI) 11th in Senior Foil

Charlie Godman (M UVI) 12th in Senior Foil

Krem Todorova (G UVI) 16th in Girls Senior Sabre

Master in Charge of Fencing, Mr Schützer-Weissman, was delighted with the performances of all 17 competitors: "These are very good results from a group of fencers who all performed as true Salopians on and off the piste (if I may say so). Congratulations to all and especially to Ken and Andrew Holding, our coaches."

Giles Bell's Team of the Week

Friday 20 March 2015

This week, the 1st VIII.

Spring is in the air and the daffodils are beginning to bloom; apart from the ones I planted rather late around my new cherry tree which irritatingly seem to have decided en masse to bloom underground this year – I hope the moles appreciate them. With the sun suddenly appearing through the fog, I felt it was time to check out my swim wear and see what is going on down at the river.

I am a more frequent visitor to the Boat House than some might imagine as my dog Ted enjoys a ribald, rigorous, raucous, rapacious, ramble, right along the river bank. He also enjoys being stroked and fussed over by the large number of rowers who are often waiting to embark or are in the process of disembarking when we saunter casually across the Boat House slipway. It is always a vibrant scene and there is an air of industry and athletic intent – rather like my walk.

The Boat House minions have been testing their skills against the rest of the country in the recent Head of the River race. All age groups were represented, apart from the Under-14s who had to go elsewhere to compete. If you have a look on our rowing news page on the website you will see that we have done very well. The 1st VIII finished 4th and were not far behind their major rivals, Eton. I caught up with a largely satisfied group of our top crew to find out what makes a rower tick.



Members of the 1st VIII with Moritz Benschel (SH 2009-14 - on the left of the photo), who was part of the 1st VIII last year and dropped by to say hello. The Boat Club is that sort of place.

The first point the assembled watermen were keen to make was that they were more than satisfied with their performance. “We are more than satisfied with our performance,” they all said in unison – the sign of a good crew. They then all agreed they could go faster but that they were not going to make any excuses for not coming first. “There can be no excuses we were just not faster enough on the day,” said Paddy George (M). “I absolutely agree,” concurred Freddie Bonthronne, “however it is always easier rowing on your own water and so Westminster and St Paul’s did have a big advantage.”

George Rowley added that “the wind seemed to get up just as the Shrewsbury crew started” and Alex Powell told me that the freak waves accompanying this localised wind were a “significant problem”. Toby Thomas is still seeing a counsellor to cope with the dramatic encounter he had with a sea monster. “You don’t normally find them on the Thames,” he told me. “It was quite a distraction”.

Director of Rowing at Shrewsbury Athol Hundermark was pleased with his crew’s performance. “Despite some quite unique distractions, I thought the crew did well to finish in the top 5. I guess being chased down the river by a large sea monster did help us up the rate in the last quarter, but I like the way the lads reacted to the conditions.”



The 1st VII in action and totally focused at the Schools' Head

Mr Hundermark should not be surprised by this admirable effort as the squad train six days a week and then have to walk up the hill back to School. The crew were keen to point out how tough the training regime is. They go out on the water usually four times in the week and then do two ergo sessions and four weights sessions.

Toby Thomas told me he found the training very tough but he knew it was good for him. “I know it is good for me and I will never forget watching you train in School House sir. You used to make it look so easy and I felt really inspired.” I thanked Toby for those kind words. It is true that I am one of those lucky people who find athletic exercise incredibly easy. Whilst down the Boat House I thought I would go for a quick 20k ergo and lift a few weights and I found it most enjoyable.



I finished my trip to the Boat House by asking the crew what their aspirations were for next term. There was a general agreement that Shrewsbury Regatta was ‘the’ event in the social calendar. “People come from all over Shrewsbury for it,” said Abi Reynolds, who is part of the increasing successful girls’ squad. George Pattinson thought that Henley might be quite fun too and Paddy George felt that the crew could catch Eton, as long as they are made to take their engine off their boat.

I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to the Boat House and I was mightily impressed by the commitment and the determination to excel that I witnessed. With over 100 pupils rowing on a regular basis, it is a hive of activity and the coaches are over the moon at the enthusiasm and talent at their disposal.

I hope they will enjoy their moment in the sun... There is not much that can Eclipse it, except for perhaps an Eclipse which I witnessed this morning. But that is another story...

GJFB

Two Rugby County Cup trophies for Shrewsbury School

Friday 20 March 2015

Three School teams made it through to the County Schools Rugby Finals. The U15 lost in closely contested game against Church Stretton School but the U14s and U16s were both successful in their finals against Adams' Grammar School and Church Stretton School, respectively.



The U14s

In a closely fought game the U14s ran out 19 - 7 winners, with the trophy-clinching try coming in the last few minutes.

The U16s won 22 - 0 in a tough but exciting confrontation.





Evolution

Friday 20 March 2015



Darwin sports a Moser's tie as the evolution of Moser's Hall is announced



The news 100 years ago: 14th - 20th March 1915

Friday 20 March 2015

This week we remember the first Member of Staff to lose his life in the First World War. Second Lieutenant, Walter George Fletcher, BA, Oxon. 2nd Bn. Royal Welsh Fusiliers. Member of Staff.

As a teacher of English in the Real-Gymnasium, Schleswig, for six months immediately before becoming a Classical Master at Shrewsbury in 1911, Walter Fletcher learned fluent German. Two years later he left Shrewsbury to teach at his alma mater, Eton, and in both UK schools held an O.T.C. commission. On the outbreak of war he was selected as an interpreter in the Intelligence Corps, and saw almost every action in the retreat and subsequent advance to the Aisne.

He is described as having been 'as honest as he was brave: downright in what he thought and what he said, and for that reason the very best, and the best-loved, of friends.'

Mentioned in Sir John French's Despatch of February 1915.

Killed in action in France, 20th March 1915.

Buried at Bois-Grenier Communal Cemetery, France. Grave A. 2.

A focus this week on Women in WW1

As the current General Election campaign hots up there is a curious link with both eligibility to vote, and austerity.

It is a salutary thought that only since 1918 have some women (an initial 8.4 million only, being over 30 and passing a property qualification) been able to vote, through Representation of the People Act (Nov 1918); also The Parliament (Qualification of Women) Act in November of the same year allowed women to become MPs. While WW1 was undoubtedly a catalyst for this, it was not until 1928, through the Equal Franchise Act, that ALL women over the age of 21 could vote – meaning they were granted the vote on equal terms with British men.



During the War, about two million women replaced men at work. The traditional structure of the family was changed, some married women were forced to work after the death of their husbands, and some women were drafted in to work in industry, including munitions, shipbuilding and furnace stoking, in agriculture and in office jobs. It is said that the munitions workers could always be spotted because of their yellow fingers, made so by their handling of picric acid (tri-nitrophenol) which was used as an ingredient in the explosive part of the shells. It



was horrifically dangerous work. The Suffragette movement split into the moderates, willing to work during a lull in their campaign, and the radicals who wished to continue their struggle despite the war.

And austerity? Well, the Queen indicated that plain living would prevail at the Palace during the war....

For more information about the School's four-year project to commemorate the pupils and staff who gave their lives during the First World War and to view the weekly news reports posted since August 2014, please see [The News 100 years ago - OS in WW1](#) section of the website.



Hockey VIs

Sunday 22 March 2015



The Moser's Hockey Hackers return trophy-less from the astroturf - knuckles bruised but pride intact

Impressive performances at the National Junior Sculling Head at Dorney Lake

Monday 23 March 2015

The National Junior Sculling Head is a massive event, at which over 2,000 competitors from nearly 100 schools and clubs compete in one of 14 different events at the venue that hosted all of the rowing events at the 2012 Olympic Games.

A WJ14 quad consisting of Jasmine Lo, Abi Watkinson, Jetty Russell and Tessa Scott Bell (coxed by Theo Jarvis) finished in 17th position in the WJ14 4x event, their time of 16'28" being faster than no fewer than 32 other crews from around the country.

The WJ14 octuple were 23rd overall in a time of 16'48". Given that none of the girls had sculled at all before last September, that some of them only scull once a week and that they had only ever entered one race before competing at Dorney Lake, these were tremendous results.



J14A octo - bronze medallists

The boys' J14 squad entered three octuples into the final event of the day. Like the girls' squad, the majority of those competing at this event had never sculled before the start of the academic year. So to have 27 boys able to compete at the highest level is a real testament to their hard work and dedication. All crews completed the two 1800m legs of the race without any issues and performed brilliantly against the competition.

The A octo achieved a very impressive 3rd place overall out of 51 crews. The B octo achieved 22nd overall, placing them 6th against other B octos. And the C crew, who had never rowed together before, placed 46th overall and 8th against other C boats, even beating some schools' A crews!

Both the girls and boys conducted themselves in a very professional manner at the event and should be proud of the results that they achieved. We now look forward to seeing how they can progress before competing at the National Schools' Regatta at the end of May.

CDS

Shrewsbury School students represent the UK at Euroscola Day, Strasbourg, 19th March 2015

Tuesday 24 March 2015

A group of 23 students from the School's Model United Nations team were given a rare chance to experience life as members of the European Parliament when they took part in the Euroscola conference, held in the European Parliament building in Strasbourg. Representing the UK, they joined more than 500 other young delegates from 27 EU countries. Afterwards Mr Peach described it as "one of the most successful Shrewsbury performances that I have ever witnessed in my 20+ years of doing MUN".

A report by Mr Peach:



Esmé O'Keeffe and Dan Edwards introducing Shrewsbury in English, French and German

After passing through security, we were welcomed several times by European Parliament staff, and then guided into the parliament, where each of the delegations gave an opening speech. Dan Edwards and Esmé O'Keeffe did a good job introducing Shrewsbury School in French and German, and used a Darwin quote to suggest that the EU should adapt to change if it wishes to survive. Other highlights in the opening speeches were a Bulgarian bagpiper, a Lithuanian singer and a Swedish speaker taking a "groupie" (a "selfie" with all the delegates of the European Parliament behind her).

After the organisers showed delegates how to vote, using the voting buttons on their tables, the morning became much more interactive; delegates were asked a question with Yes, No or Don't Know as possible responses. Here are the responses.

Are you taking part in a Euroscola Day? Yes: 543 No: 8 Don't Know : 16
Should there be a single language in the European Parliament? Yes: 377 No: 137
Is the EU good for your country? Yes: 435 No: 41 Don't know: 73
Is there enough information about the work of the EU? Yes: 123 No: 344
Is the Euro an advantage? Yes: 255 No: 150 Don't know: 145
Should the EU play a bigger role in the world? Yes: 344 No: 68 Don't know: 135

After the voting, German, Spanish and Maltese civil servants working for the European Parliament took questions from the delegates and gave frank, clear and non-evasive answers on a wide range of topics, including terrorism, women's pay and rights, Ukraine, the secrecy surrounding the TTIP trade agreement with the USA, the tension between big and small EU countries, and the immorality of allowing immigrants to drown in the Mediterranean.



Sasha Arridge with Esme O'Keefe, Jake Morris, Josh Himsworth, Rob Hartwell and Fintan Simmons

Sasha Arridge (Rb LVI) asked about rising euro-scepticism in the EU and separatist movements, Ed Plaut (S V) asked about the environmental and financial waste of resources of having a Brussels *and* a Strasbourg parliament and Charlie Duckworth (O UVI) wondered whether the European parliament was 'in touch with its voters' (a 'very British question', we were told). The most memorable answer to all these questions was directed back at the Euroscola students: "You, the citizens, have a role to play." "You decide." "Politicians will follow the citizens."

After a delicious lunch teachers went off for a second question-and-answer session with the civil servants, while the Euroscola students were divided into six 'working groups' (or what MUN-ers would call committees) on the themes of the environment, aid to developing countries, the future of Europe, freedom of information, migration and integration and youth employment.



The Shrewsbury delegates in front of the Darwin statue just before setting off for Strasbourg

In the teachers' meeting questions ranged from the political (What influence do lobbyists have in the EU? How can the parliament improve its communication with constituents?) to the practical (How can teachers increase links with schools in other EU countries? Will the EU subsidise immersion courses wholly taught in second languages to increase integration? And where can our pupils get a job in the EU?)

While teachers were grilling the civil servants, our students were debating the future of Europe in their multi-lingual working groups. Each group elected a chair and a reporter to summarise their conclusions. The job of the reporter was to report back to the Parliament in its plenary session and take questions from other delegates. As Mrs Adams, Mlle Piquard and I returned to the hemicycle, we were amazed – and utterly delighted – to see that four of the six reporters were

from Shrewsbury School, and that the first to speak was Koby Ferdinand-Okpala, a Third Former from School House.



The panel of reporters from each of the working groups - 4 of the 6 are Salopians

Koby's topic was the environment; his report was confident, clear and constructive, his answers to questions were unhurried and cogent, and the parliament voted by 428 to 30 to accept his report.



Koby Ferdinand-Okpala reporting on behalf of the Environment Working Group during the plenary session

Hardened MUN veteran, Dan Edwards, was next to give his report from the front of the parliament. He talked about foreign aid from the EU, the dangers of aid dependency, the need for tracking of aid so that donors know where aid is going, and dealt ably with the (not always friendly) questions from the parliament (90% of which came from Shrewsbury delegates). His report was voted through by 226 to 168 with 151 abstentions.



Dan Edwards reporting on behalf of the Foreign Aid Working Group

The next reporter was Ed Plaut, whose working groups' ideas for the future of Europe included subsidising language teaching, lowering university costs, more welfare for the poorest, higher taxes, more rights for women and EU-wide recognition of gay marriage. This report, too, passed through Parliament.



Ed Plaut

Finally Guy Cabral gave a very clear, slow, steady and comprehensible report, taking his multi-lingual audience with him, on the subject of migration and integration. His working group concluded that the EU should educate citizens more about the countries of origin of migrants, that the EU should invest more in migrants' countries of origin to help stability there and that there should be a quota system in the EU to move immigrants from areas where they are highly concentrated to areas where there are fewer of them. Unfortunately a contradiction was spotted, when a Belgian delegate pointed out that the quota system contradicted the Schengen Agreement, which guarantees free movement to those in the Schengen zone, and the parliament rejected the report by a very narrow margin of 201 to 195.



Guy Cabral answering a question from Charlie Wade Rb LVI)



After the debate, it was the final of the *Eurogame*. Earlier in the day teams of four people from four different EU countries had formed to do a multi-lingual written quiz in languages like Estonian, Finnish, Magyar and Romanian. The four top-scoring teams from this earlier round were called down to the front of the parliament for an open final. The finalists included Shrewsbury School's Rob Hartwell with his white team, who were up against a green team and a blue team and Dan Edwards and his red team. Although Dan did have to suffer the indignity of wearing an ill-fitting red T-shirt and a baseball cap, his team answered more Euro-questions correctly and emerged victorious.

The day was a great success in explaining the work of the parliament in an engaging manner. It was a brilliant, very memorable way of getting young people (and their teachers!) engaged in international issues. Seeing them crowding around the Bulgarian bagpiper for a photo at the end or "schweffing" with the Swedes and the Estonians on the tram home, I felt that the effect of what they experienced, the people they met, the time they spent in Strasbourg and the debates they had, will last with our Salopian debaters for a long time to come.



Steeplechases

Tuesday 24 March 2015



The Steeplechase 'A' team in good spirits despite the challenge ahead



Inter-House Steeplechases 2015

Wednesday 25 March 2015

The finale of the Lent term is the annual Inter-House Steeplechases which in its modern incarnation is a cross-year group relay race over 2.5km legs. Rigg's Hall and Emma Darwin Hall would go into the 2015 races defending the respective titles.

This year due to congestion in the final week's timetable, the boys' and girls' events would be held on separate days, with the girls competing on Wednesday and boys on the Friday. With the addition of junior girls this year, the formatting of the girls' event was modified to alternate between junior and senior laps over four legs. Of course, there was added intrigue this year with the addition of a third house - The Grove - who, having won the Tucks and Paperchases team trophies, were looking to aim for 'the treble' adding the Steeplechases to their ever-expanding trophy cabinet.

From the off, The Grove took charge, with Fourth Former Immie Evans running a commanding 10.14. Third Former Sophia Dixon of Mary Sidney Hall attempted to stick with the early pace though perhaps went off too quickly and suffered in the latter stages, nevertheless managing to dip under 11 minutes in running 10.57.

MSH 'B' were in third place following the first lap after a strong lap of 11.14 from Charlie Tonks, with defending champions Emma Darwin Hall only in fifth place after the first lap behind Grove 'B'. They sought to do something about this in the second leg, where Tory Mobley ran a blistering 10.04 (the third fastest lap on the day) to push up to the bronze medal position, with Abby Attenborough's 10.38 ensuring MSH remained in silver position.

A 10.09 from Passi Goddard of The Grove seemed to have wrapped up the race by the halfway stage, and with another fine lap of 11.02 from Daisy McMullin, as Tati Watt raced round the course it seemed more of a victory lap. Watt was one of only two runners posting a sub-10 minute time - 9.40 on this course is a very swift time indeed.

The Grove's time of 41.05 was an exceptional team performance and they were deserved winners of the Steeplechases Salver for the first time. EDH moved up into the runners-up spot in the final leg with Olivia Papaioannou running 9.04, the fastest lap time of the day and in fact a course record, knocking over 10 seconds off the previous record. MSH were just over 10 seconds behind to take team bronze following a strong lap from Martha Pownall in 10.30, with the MSH 'B' team coming home as first 'B' team.

Two days later in the boys' event, there was much speculation as to which House would emerge on top and, as is typically the case, the race was only decided in the final stages. Indeed, defending champions Rigg's Hall - who fancied their chances of retaining the title - were only in 8th place after the first leg, over a minute behind leaders Churchill's following an impressive 8.29 from Third Form Race winner Harry Remnant, with Port Hill's Toby Pegge just pipping Severn Hill's Ben Henderson with 8.50.

The race looked to be between these three houses, with Oldham's, Ridgemount and Moser's in the chasing pack. By the end of the second leg, Churchill's were still in the lead, though Port Hill had dropped back into 4th, with Rigg's Hall suddenly in the reckoning when Owen Mock's 8.23 run (the 10th fastest lap of the day out of all runners) catapulted the defending champs into the



medals. Severn Hill's Cameron Anwyl came close to breaking 9 minutes and ensured they were still in the reckoning, now in second place and only 14 seconds behind the leaders.

In the 'B' team race, Rigg's had by this stage moved into the leading House following a superb 8.40 from J15 rower Artem Stopnevich, though Ridgemount's Sam Bayliss and Port Hill's Will Sawyer ensured they were not far behind in the hunt for the 'B' team shield.



Oscar Dickins on his way to equalling the course record of 7.38 in the Inter-House Steeplechases

As the race moved into the key middle stage, it was Severn Hill who emerged in the lead at the end of the third leg (out of five) following a fine run from in-form Scott Hatton, whose 8.20 was the seventh fastest lap time on the day and indicative of his impressive strides forward this season for The Hunt. Rigg's were 30 seconds behind with Harris Huntsman having run competitively, though they were under threat from Ridgemount following an outstanding run of 8.21 from Charlie Home, with Churchill's dropping out of the medals for the first time in the race.

In the penultimate race, Severn Hill came under quick attack from Oscar Dickins of Rigg's Hall who had just two days previously run the fastest Benjies time in the School for the year. Tom Edwards did all he could to hold him off, but there was no stopping the locomotive pace of

Dickins who was setting out to challenge the course record of 7.38. By the end of the lap, Rigg's had now moved up into top position with a gap of a full 35 seconds following an outstanding run from Dickins in which he equalled the course record. He'll have to wait until next year to post an outright course record!

Severn Hill were back down in second place, though Henry Newbould managed to move Churchill's back into the medals with his time of 8.33 faster than Ridgemountaineer Rory Marsden's 8.49.

The 'B' team race was still undecided, with Radbrook now challenging Rigg's Hall's lead. Going into the final leg, Will Hayward of Rigg's Hall made sure of the victory, running the second fastest lap of the day in 8.03 (matched by Charlie Rogers of Radbrook), and Charlie Tait-Harris also ran quickly (8.05) to ensure Severn Hill took the runners-up spot. If Huntsman Theo Clarke of Severn Hill hadn't been away on the Art trip to Paris, the result might have been different!

In an exciting finish, the bronze medal position again reversed, with Harry Adair in devastating form overhauling Alex Shaw of Churchill's with his run of 8.19, while Jake Samuel ran well to ensure Oldham's placed inside the top 5.

Whilst down the overall positions in 9th, Moser's Hall's Charlie Godman ran the fifth fastest time of the day (8.19) to conclude his Salopian running career on a high.

Rigg's Hall took home an unprecedented clean sweep of all four trophies (overall Steeplechases Cup; 'B' team shield; fastest senior lap - Oscar Dickins; fastest junior lap - Owen Mock). An exciting afternoon of racing and despite a busy term, the hundred and fifty or so runners who competed in the events this year all ran hard and in the right spirit of the competition.

PJM



Rigg's 'A' and 'B' teams with their trophies

Double trophy wins for Oldham's in the House Rugby Sevens competitions

Thursday 26 March 2015

Oldham's fielded two large squads in this year's 1st and U15 House Rugby Sevens competitions. Both tournaments were played concurrently on the last day of term.

It was a little disappointing that some Houses were unable to field teams and that others had to withdraw due to injuries, but apparently this was unavoidable.

Oldham's was undefeated in the U15 competition and took the trophy, with school team U15 and U14 players leading the way.



Pictured winning good line-out ball are Tom Atkin (V) ably supported by Bertie Gilliat-Smith (LVI) and George Lechmere (LVI). (Picture courtesy of Mr Mathew Gilliat-Smith).

In the 1st House tournament, Oldham's beat School House, Radbrook and Ingram's before losing to Severn Hill, who finished the competition very strongly.

Gaining a meaningful overall result following the withdrawal of some teams was not easy, but Mr Kirkby, Master in charge of Rugby, judged that Oldham's were winners overall. This rare double is attributable not only to Oldham's top level school rugby players across the age groups, but also to those seniors who attended special sessions to qualify to play in the tournament, thus showing considerable "House spirit".

All players in the senior side were from the Fifth and Lower Sixth Forms and so we hope for another successful year in 2016 with all available once again.

Given the nature of this achievement, all players representing the House will be awarded full House Colours.

The winning squads were:

1st House Rugby

Harry Schofield

Bertie Gilliat-Smith

George Lechmere

Hamish Foden

Tom Bibb

Kit Crabtree

Anthony Koch de Gooreynd

Alfie Yeoward

Guy Morris

Angus Drummond

Rory Davies

Tom Atkin

Arthur Price

U15 House Rugby

Ivor Fetherstonhaugh

George Sandy

Tom Hua

Jeng Chotayathiwat

Tom Drury

Ben Elliot

Jom Umpujh

Joe Scott

Frank Morris

Alex Ainslie

Lucas Arkwright

Rugby: 1st VII round off the season with a win against Eton at Rosslyn Park

Thursday 26 March 2015

The 1st VII competed in the Rosslyn Park Schools' Rugby Sevens Tournament, which took place in the first week of the holiday.



The 1st VII (back row L-R): Fergus David, Josh Mahyon, George Lechmere, Charlie Adams (Capt), Max McClure, Ben Smith, Rory Davies; (front row L-R): Nick Pearce, Sam Hill, George Birt, Roan Kirkeby

The standard of competition was very high and Shrewsbury struggled in the early matches but gained some solace in beating Eton in the final game - a fitting end for those senior Upper Sixth players at the end of their rugby careers at Shrewsbury.

Many thanks to all those parents who supported the side and especially to the U16 players who joined the 1st VII after playing in the U16 Tournament the day before.

MBDJ



Friends of the Shewsy Launch Dinner

Thursday 26 March 2015

Held at the Athenaeum Club, the Launch Dinner for the 'Friends of the Shewsy' was a warm and purposeful evening. The aim of the Friends is to support the Youth Club in all they do, and it was grand to see a mixture of former Club members, former staff, local supporters, representatives from the School, Old Salopians and existing staff together.

Dame Lorna Muirhead, the Lord Lieutenant of Liverpool, voiced her support and Adrian Struve spoke from his personal knowledge of the history of the Club. Indeed, apart from the founder, Digby Kittermaster, Adrian is unique in that he has worked at both the Club and the School: both as Warden and as Housemaster of Churchill's Hall. Three of 'his' Club members from the early '60s were there, and all were delighted to be reunited.

The evening included a chance for all to contribute to the provocative question 'Do we need the Shewsy anymore?'. The unanimous answer was 'Yes, possibly more than ever'. Budget cuts at local authority level mean that individuals' donations of time and money are crucial in keeping the Club open and active.

As we collected our coats and put the date of the next gathering (Monday 28th September) in our diaries, Dave Brereton, the current Senior Youth Worker, took an urgent phone call, counselling a young man who just didn't have anyone else. As ever, youth work doesn't fit into office hours, and The Shewsy is still, as one of the guests put it: 'Somewhere you go, to find you belong.'

If you are interested in becoming a Friend of the Shewsy, please contact Donald Ritchie at d.a.Ritchie@liverpool.ac.uk

Lesley Drew

English teacher

Shewsy/ Shrewsbury Liaison



Rigg's round off the term in style with Steeplechase and Hockey trophies

Thursday 26 March 2015

The final day of the Lent term saw various Inter-House competitions, including the historic Steeplechases event (in its modern incarnation a five-leg relay involving boys from each year group in the House) and the Inter-House hockey.

Some dominant performances on the day saw Rigg's take home an unprecedented clean sweep of all four trophies in the Steeplechases: overall winners of the Steeplechases Cup; winners of the 'B' team shield; fastest senior lap - Oscar Dickins; and fastest junior lap - Owen Mock.



Oscar Dickins on his way to equalling the course record of 7.38 in the Inter-House Steeplechases

The team came from behind to only take the lead in the penultimate leg, but Oscar Dickins (next year's joint Huntsman) did the damage with a staggering run of 7.38 (the next fastest lap was

8.03). This equals the course record and saw Rigg's establish an unassailable lead, which Fifth Former Will Hayward was able to protect in the final leg to keep Severn Hill at bay.



Rigg's 'A' and 'B' teams with their trophies (overall winners of the Steeplechases Cup; 'B' team shield; fastest senior lap - Oscar Dickins; fastest junior lap - Owen Mock)

Inter-House Hockey

After a few years of coming close in the Inter-House hockey, this year the Rigg's team entered the competition determined to take home the silverware.



Freddie Perkins in the final against Ingram's

With stalwarts Henry Binns, Jack Kinnaird and Freddie Perkins leading the side, they progressed easily into the final where they faced a strong Ingram's outfit.

A tense first half saw the match remain goal-less, but in the early stages of the second half a well-taken goal from striker Billy Riggall saw Rigg's go ahead. It was a lead that they were able to protect for the remainder of the match.



The victorious squad being presented the trophy by JVL: Tim Robinson-Boulton, Billy Riggall, Henry Binns, JVL, Jack Kinnaird, Will Schofield, Freddie Perkins



RSSH: Midlands Independent Schools' League, Bromsgrove

Thursday 26 March 2015

In the final fixture in the Midlands Independent Schools' League at Bromsgrove on the last Saturday of term, the Hunt retained the Colts league title for the third year in a row and placed second overall in the Senior Boys league.



Colts winning team - Monty Hardcastle, Scott Hatton, Charlie Tait-Harris, Toby Pegge

The Midlands Independent Schools' League has this year been a highly competitive series of races, with the Hunt coming up against some strong running from Welbeck College and Bromsgrove in the boys' leagues and Wrekin in the girls' league. Going into the final race of the series, however, the Hunt were topping the league tables in the Seniors and Colts following strong performances at both Uppingham and Worksop, albeit the lead was a slender one in the Seniors.

There was also the added challenge of having to race after the end of term, with many of our runners having already left for the Easter break and others away on school trips. As such, we weren't able to put out a full squad in the seniors, relying on our previous scores and the hope that Welbeck wouldn't reduce their score.

Yet despite the best efforts of Oscar Dickins (R) and Charlie Rogers (Rb) in particular (4th and 7th), a large Welbeck contingent did the damage on the day and reduced their score to take the league title. Having won the competition for the past two years, this time the Hunt had to settle for the silver medals, with Oscar Dickins picking up the individual bronze for his scores across the series (4th at Welbeck; 1st at Uppingham; 3rd at Worksop; 4th at Bromsgrove).

In the Colts event, our leading margin going into the final race was more secure, following dominant performances across the series where the team had been the standout squad, including an impressive team total of 17 at Worksop (the 'perfect score' is 10).

At Bromsgrove our runners were tasked with securing the title and ensuring they all got round the course, given it was four to 'count' and we only had four runners!



Toby Pegge

If there had been nervousness before the race, it didn't take long before those nerves were settled, with Charlie Tait-Harris (S) asserting his dominance in the first of the two laps and establishing a comfortable lead over the chasing pack, led by Wellingborough's top runner. It was a lead that he would hold for the entirety of the race, coming home for a well-deserved victory, his first in the series and a terrific way to end the season.

Impressive back-up running came from fellow Severn Hill runner Scott Hatton, who pushed through the field in the second lap to come home 3rd, with Fourth Former Monty Hardscastle (I) not far behind in 6th and Third Former Toby Pegge (PH) completing the quartet in 7th to put through another team total of 17 points.

The League title had been secured and the Hunt were able to bring home the championship shield for the third year in a row, the first time we have achieved this run of wins.

Pegge's run in particular should not go unnoticed: a top 10 finish for a Third Former running against a field of predominantly Fourth and Fifth Formers is an exceptional effort and demonstrative of the improvements he has made this year.

PJM

OS Golfing Society Middle East Get Together

Tuesday 31 March 2015



The Annual Middle East get together of the OS Golfing Society took place on 21st March on the Earth Golf Course, Jumeirah Golf Estates in Dubai.



The course was designed by Greg Norman and is known for its fiendish bunkering!

Pictured are Rupert Connor (S 92-97); Edward Gallagher (I 91-96); Nick Green (S 90-95); Mark Towers (O 82-86); Nik Tryggvason (S 87-92) and Ed Bevan (O 84-89)