

European Vets Cross Country Title for Michael Johnson

Friday 1 May 2015



Very many congratulations to Michael Johnson (S 55-60), who recently competed in the European Vets' M70 5km Cross-Country Championships, in Torun, Poland.

Michael ran a great time of 20.32.5, helping the GB team to a gold medal.

A fantastic achievement!



Giles Bell's Team of the Week

Friday 1 May 2015

This week, in training for the Shrewsbury Half Marathon with the Hunt.

I was lucky enough to show a charming young lady round the School this week. She had come all the way from Japan to visit us and one of the many things this talented student enjoyed was cross-country running. She bemoaned the fact that she could only run round her rather dull urban environment and I thought it might be particularly opportune to show her, and anyone else who is interested, where we can go for a run at Shrewsbury. I hasten to add I am not going to write bespoke Team of the Week articles for everyone who looks round the School, this just happens to be a happy coincidence!

As I am sure you all know, the Hunt (the name of the Shrewsbury cross-country running club) is the oldest running club in the world. This term a smiling and relaxed master in charge of running, Peter Middleton (who finished 202 in the London Marathon – though not the race when Paula Radcliffe broke the world record), told me those running are largely doing so for ‘relaxation and fun.’ He did add that a number of Salopian athletes are working towards completing the Shrewsbury Half Marathon next month. Every Tuesday afternoon they take a bus and drive out into the Shropshire wilderness; they then drop off the fun-seeking runners and meet them at a distant destination.

Nick David has many roles at Shrewsbury but is basically in charge of everything that happens that involves walking boots, rucksacks, maps, ropes and blisters. He has an expert knowledge of the Shropshire hills and it was his idea to run the Shropshire Way over nine weeks of term. Despite looking lithe, compact and being clad in a style similar to a manikin from Millets, Nick confided in me that he is suffering from back pain and is finding the course quite tough. “My back hurts and I am finding the course quite tough,” he said.

So far the runners have completed two legs of their target and as I am myself in training for the Shrewsbury Half Marathon, I thought I would sample a little taste of the Shropshire Way and join them as they took on their third leg, (something in hindsight I could have done with).

Mr Middleton kindly introduced me as a top marathon runner with plenty of experience, although he failed to mention that I was in the same race as Paula Radcliffe when she broke the world record. I like to think that I had something to do with her amazing time, although it has been hard to find evidence to back that concept up.

It was quite clear as I sized up the clearly undernourished athletes around me that I would have more in the tank than most of my compatriots. I am not sure I was concentrating as hard as I should have been when Peter Middleton mentioned that the run started with a bit of a hill. I did spy an incline in front of me but presuming that it would end shortly round the corner, I set off at the front of the pack determined to set a lively pace for the young and inexperienced athletes trailing in my wake.



Setting the pace

The hill went on for ever and I am expecting it to recur in some hideous nightmare accompanied by that dodgy Kate Bush track!



Starting to flag a little behind mountain goats Sally Joyce, Passi Goddard and Marcus Bruce

I don't generally mind a hill or two, but this was the Blue Whale of all hills. My experience told me to ease off and save my energy for the downward section. Thus I allowed those around me to go past safe in the knowledge that by conserving energy I would be able to show my true fitness later on in the run.



Halfway up and a shut gate provides a welcome spot to enjoy the view and sense of achievement

Charlie Rogers ran beside me for some time asking about various running techniques and I like to think my advice might have given him a little extra speed. He certainly took off quickly after the others when he had finished talking to me.



Runners ahead!



Come on, Mr Bell!

Ian Howarth, who is another top runner and coach and who has finished 150th in the London Marathon (although not in the race where Paul Radcliffe broke the record), was looking after us all and encouraging us where necessary. He encourages his runners to have the odd breather and although it might have seemed as if they were waiting for me, I know that in reality he wanted to ask me if everyone was accounted for having recognised that my experience had taken me to the rear of the group. It was quite a surprise to see Ian as he is usually nursing some slight injury. In fact Peter Middleton told me he never knew there were so many different tendons and joints you could strain or jar until he met Ian.



Top tips from Mr Haworth

The view from the top of the hill when I finally made it was stunning. Sadly I did not have as long as some to enjoy it, as when I arrived it seemed it was the signal for everyone else to start running again. It was clear that the view was being admired by all. I found myself standing with a right bunch of Charlies; Charlie Rogers, Charlie Davis, Charlie Johns and Charlie Wade, all of whom were speechless as they gazed on the beauty of the endless spread of countryside before us.

As we began the downward part of the course I felt my energy once more come to the fore. I sped past Sally Joyce and Passi Goddard before they could respond and I closed down Marcus Bruce who told me that he wished he was fitter. That may have been something to do with sudden injection of speed as I tried to catch up Abby Attenborough. Abby was very complimentary about my running style and the effort I was expending. She is a remarkably nice girl and will do very well.



Enjoying a chat with Colonel David and Mr Middleton

Towards the end of our session we met Mr Middleton and Mr David coming back to meet us. They were in very good form and we had a very nice chat as we ran; something one can only do when one is in peak fitness.

We reached the bus and had a team photo. I lost my contact lens.

I can't wait for next week's leg when I believe we will be joined by the fittest dog in Shropshire; Monty David. I can honestly say that I have never run in a more beautiful area of countryside so come and run with us, Ai - and anyone else who enjoys running up hills!



Lost contact?



Found it!

With thanks to my fellow runners, Charlie Davis, Ollie Lansdell, Marcus Bruce, Charlie Rogers, Sally Joyce, Passi Goddard, Abby Attenborough, Owen Mock, Immie Evans, Charlie Johns, Charles Wade, Will Hayward, Monty Hardcastle, (Monty the dog not there)

If you wish to find out more about my Half Marathon attempt and consider sponsoring me, please see:

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/teamgbell>

OS Marathon Runner in North Korea

Friday 1 May 2015



Well done to John McFarlane (SH 96-01), who ran the Pyongyang Marathon, North Korea on 12 April.

John not only managed to visit the most closed nation on earth, but to rub shoulders with everyone from the military types to the average mothers and fathers in Pyongyang. He high fived children along the route, visited a water park and spent time visiting a school, before playing an improvised game of football with the local children.

John said:

"The reality was so far from the printed truth that I feel honoured and privileged having had the chance to interact with the supposed 'hermit people'. Maybe there was nothing but propaganda everywhere, but I would like to think that while sweating it out, with only a towel to cover ones privates in a sauna with the locals, I got a fairly intimate sense that they are people just like us, only with no material possessions."

John has always been sceptical of the media's interpretation of non-capitalist societies and has taken the time to visit several. He has also previously run marathons in Beirut, Tallin and Luxembourg.

A fascinating achievement and we will watch this space to see where he runs next.

School House successfully defends the badminton title

Friday 1 May 2015



L-R: Darren Chin (UVI) and Andrew Chan (V)

On the 29th April, the immensely talented partnership of Darren Chin (UVI) and Andrew Chan (V) dominated the inter-house badminton competition, comfortably beating all the opposition pairs to bring the trophy back to School House for the second year running.

They gave a masterclass that was inspiring to watch.

Alton Towers idyll

Tuesday 5 May 2015

Here are the 13 Churchill's Third Formers ready to pile into the minibus for a Sunday at Alton Towers earlier this term, a Sunday forecast to be wet and cold, but turning out to be warm and cloudless.



While the boys subjected themselves to hours of queuing and masochistic stomach-churning torture on the rides, their Housemaster immersed himself in an absorbing novel (*Radetsky March* by Joseph Roth) and caught up on marking, drawing spiritual sustenance from the following view, surrounded by the distant, surreal whoops of joy soaring above the muted roar of heavy machinery.



An excellent day was had by all.

The Marriage of Figaro

Tuesday 5 May 2015

The performances of Mozart's 'Marriage of Figaro' (Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd May), with all the solo parts being sung by pupils, demonstrated everything that is best about music at Shrewsbury School - as Richard Hudson confirms in his review.



For this reviewer, convinced that the music of Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro* was dictated by God himself - even if the Da Ponte libretto which provides the story is rather more earthbound - nothing is likely going to be good enough. But I have never been more captivated than I was by this quite outstanding youthful performance - a perfectly judged hybrid between concert and stage, with just enough acting to bring the delightfully preposterous story to life, helped by a witty and colloquial translation and the superb diction of all the singers without exception.

Alfred Mitchell (SH) made a wry and charismatic Figaro, sensitively sung and intelligently acted, his love for Susanna, frustration with the Count and manipulation of Cherubino all convincingly communicated. Henry Craig (M) was magnificently supercilious as the hypocritical and odious Count Almaviva. Henrike Legner (MSH) brought a girlish freshness to her role with a voice which would not have been out of place at Glyndebourne. Loren Kell (EDH) brought great dignity to her part as the neglected and nostalgic Countess. Antonia Wordie (EDH) did a superb job as the androgynous Cherubino, doing full justice to some of the most memorable tunes in the opera.

Nor was the production in any way let down by the minor roles: Ed Carroll's (Ch) improbably powerful bass voice gave real gravitas to his part as the wily and cynical lawyer Bartolo, providing, en route, one of the most memorable moments in the production as he alternately

yawned and tried to look interested while fellow Churchillian Rob Shone, as the tedious music master Basilio sang (beautifully) his interminable aria, normally – and mercifully - cut, but very wittily included in this production.



Katie Elcock (EDH) as Marcellina, a disappointed former girlfriend of Figaro, who, in one of the most gloriously ludicrous ensembles in the opera, realises she is in fact his mother, was yet another from this cornucopia of superb sopranos currently at Shrewsbury. Ben Higgins (S) with another fine baritone voice, was a suitably pompous and self-satisfied judge. The drunken gardener Antonio (Rory Dootson (M)) (why on earth hasn't the Count sacked him long ago?) staggering about the stage, or slumped at the back, gulping down schnapps, contributed to the humour which characterised this performance throughout, humour which never devalued the sublime music by descending into slapstick; and last but by no means least, an engaging cameo was provided by Antonio's no doubt long-suffering daughter Barberina, sung by Third Former Kitty Cook (MSH), whose search for a missing pin introduces the miraculous finale of Act 4.

In the end it was the large ensembles, in particular the finales to Acts 2 and 4 which really marked out this production as special: the superb intonation, meticulous ensemble and sheer enjoyment of the music, which the singers could not conceal, were electrifying.

So much to carry away from a magical production which owes everything to singing teachers, Jonathan May and Katherine Turpin, Head of Drama Helen Brown and of course the indefatigable accompanist, Director of Music John Moore.

RTH



Alfred Mitchell stars as lead in Mozart's Marriage of Figaro

Wednesday 6 May 2015



Alfred Mitchell with Henrike Legner (Susanna)

On Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd May, the School put on two stunning performances of Mozart's opera, the Marriage of Figaro. And it was School House boy Alfred Mitchell (LVI), who took the lead. Impressively balancing his time between working for AS Level exams and learning all the lines for Figaro, Alfred pulled it off in style and put on a great show.

Richard Hudson, in his review, wrote:

"I have never been more captivated than I was by this quite outstanding youthful performance - a perfectly judged hybrid between concert and stage, with just enough acting to bring the delightfully preposterous story to life, helped by a witty and colloquial translation and the superb diction of all the singers without exception.

"Alfred Mitchell (SH) made a wry and charismatic Figaro, sensitively sung and intelligently acted, his love for Susanna, frustration with the Count and manipulation of Cherubino all convincingly communicated."

A full write-up of the performances can be found using the following link: [The Marriage of Figaro - a review](#)



What Happened When OS Reporter, Rob Cross, Caught Up With James Taylor.

Thursday 7 May 2015



Rob Cross (S 08-13) caught up with James Taylor (R 03-08) a couple of weeks ago, just prior to James' appointment as England Captain for the one day international against Ireland. Rob is the Sport Editor for Exeposé - the University of Exeter's student newspaper.



Kind Hearts and Cormorants...

Thursday 7 May 2015



OS Rory Fraser (Ch 10-14), together with a few friends, is taking a show to the Edinburgh Fringe this August. It's a comedy sketch show, called 'Kind Hearts and Cormorants', and the troupe name is 'Flightless Birds'.

Performances will take place between the 9th and the 15th August, from noon until one o'clock, at Jury's Inn, 43 Jeffrey Street, Edinburgh.

The show is described as:

"A snappy, intelligent, and at times surreal sketch show that readily mocks itself, it's members and the meaning of life. This original comedy is written and performed by five and a half eclectic students combining the out-of-date with the up-to-date in a refreshingly idiotic way. With minimal use of props and unpredictable musical elements, our quick-fire line-up will take you from the bizarre or the sublime in a whirlwind of cutting edge comedy."

There's a link [here](#), to an article about the show in Broadway Baby.

It certainly sounds worth popping along to if you are able.



Cricket news round-up

Thursday 7 May 2015

Last week saw a win for the 1st XI against the Free Foresters, an almost complete sweep in the matches against Bromsgrove on Saturday and a convincing win for our newly formed Under-15 girls' team in their first ever school match on Friday 1st May.



In a 12-over match at Wellington CC Shrewsbury's Girls' U15s team defeated Charlton School Girls Under-15s by 64 runs. Katie Oswald top scored with 22 in Shrewsbury's 107 for 6.

They restricted Charlton to 43 for 5, with Nina Lange taking 2 wickets for just 4 runs.

The team are the focus of [Giles Bell's Team of the Week](#) feature.

Meanwhile, the 1st XI won a 64-run victory versus the Free Foresters last Tuesday. In their 40 overs Shrewsbury made 212 for 7, while the Free Foresters made 148 for 10.

Despite a dismal weather forecast, all of last Saturday's matches versus Bromsgrove were played. There were wins for the 1st XI, 2nd XI, U15A, U15B & U14B and only a single lost (U14A). Ollie Hall (O 3) hit a 4 with the last ball to secure the win for the U14B team giving him a total of 61n.o.

A belated congratulations to Jordan Zaza (Rb IV) on his maiden century in the match versus NE Wales last week; his superb 135 secured a 50-run victory.



RSSBC: Wallingford Regatta

Thursday 7 May 2015

Five Shrewsbury Crews raced over the weekend at the Wallingford Regatta. The pick of the results came from the 1st VIII who won their heat in an impressive fashion, beating Abingdon's, Radley's and Hampton's 1st VIII's in the process.



1st VIII (in foreground)

Unfortunately weather conditions deteriorated through the day, which meant the finals were unable to be raced and prizes were awarded based on times. So the crew didn't get to race the final and lost out on time to the winners of the other heat, St Pauls, by three seconds.

The 1st Girls' Quad also had an excellent result, coming in third overall in their event. Due to the conditions, the girls' race was decided by a time trial with the girls producing a strong result that provides a timely boost in the lead-up to the National Schools' Regatta over the first week of half term.



Girls' Quad

The 2nd VIII competed in the Senior Club eights' event, recording a reasonable result coming 19th out of 30 men's crews.

The J16s came 7th out of 12 and the J15s had to settle for tenth place in their time trial.

ATH



Giles Bell's Team of the Week

Thursday 7 May 2015

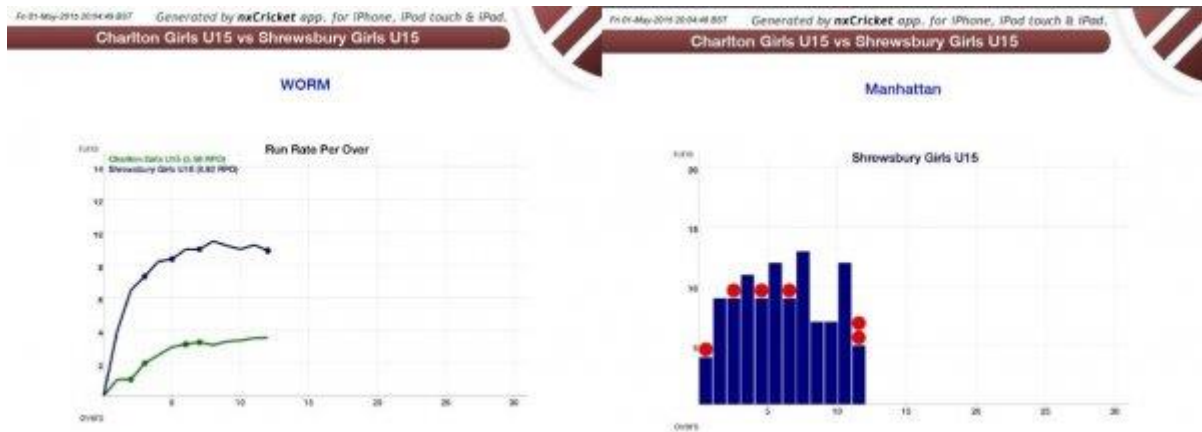
This week, the U15 Girls' Cricket Team.



Friday 1st May was an auspicious day, as it was the first outdoor match for a Shrewsbury School girls' cricket team. It was a 12-over match between Shrewsbury and Charlton School from Telford (who have already beaten us in an indoor match and have a number of county players). The match was played at Wellington Cricket Club and Shrewsbury won by 64 runs.

It may surprise some of you, but I am quite a cricket statistician and I thought you might like an in-depth analysis of what I am sure will be the first of many famous victories. According to the information I have been given from nxCricket app. for iPhone, Shrewsbury batted first and scored 107 for 6 in their 11:6 overs. I am guessing that 11:6 could also be described as 12 overs but who am I to dare to quibble with modern technology.

According to the Shrewsbury 'Worm' the Shrewsbury ladies scored at 8:92 runs per over. 'The Manhattan' suggests a very healthy plundering of runs and indeed only the first over went for under 6 in terms of runs scored. For those of you not up to speed with modern cricketing analytical terminology, 'the Worm' is a term used to describe the line on a graph showing how the run rate per over progressed. If I am honest, I am not sure it is a very helpful term as it has little to do with worms. My children have recently been investigating worms in a wormery some imaginative godparent gave them and, quite frankly, they look nothing like lines on a graph. Neither activity is particularly interesting, in my humble opinion; money next time please, Godfather Dave!



‘The Manhattan’ is not a cocktail in this instance but a bar chart showing the runs scored in each over. It resembles a city skyline (as long as it has skyscrapers when we are looking at the plundering of runs by the Shrewsbury team). I don’t wish to rub it in, but the Charlton skyline could perhaps be called ‘The Worthing’ or possibly the ‘Shoreham-by- sea’ – mainly bungalows!



Nina Lange takes aim

I am guessing we might have had enough statistics by now, especially given the General Election! I will finish my statistical analysis by mentioning that the majority of runs scored were hit on the leg-side which makes me wonder if the bowling was a bit leg-sided or, more worryingly, the girls were hitting across the line.

If the batswomen were hitting across the line, they were doing so effectively. Top scorer Katie Oswald hit five fours before being retired on 22 not out and Nina Lange and Phoebe Wasdell both hit two fours in their cameo innings of 13 each.

When it came to bowling, the Charlton batswomen could not cope with the pace of our attack, as Nina picked up two wickets and our other eight bowlers bowled with precision, pace, power, perspicacity, patience, foresight, guile and swing.

I caught up with the team as they were working on their fielding with top Shrewsbury coaches Mr Andrew Barnard and Mr Paul Pridgeon. These two veterans of the game are usually associated with the 1st XI but are always keen to 'preach' the game of cricket and I sensed they were enjoying working with a keen and enthusiastic group of relatively inexperienced players. "I am enjoying working with a group of keen and enthusiastic relatively inexperienced players," said Mr Pridgeon in his broken English.



Part of the practice involved teaching the girls to hit the stumps with a direct throw. I felt it was unnecessary of Mr Pridgeon to suggest that I might be a good alternative target, especially as the girls were throwing with increasing confidence and power. Indeed Mr Pridgeon dropped a catch and admitted it is the first one since 1757.



To get the best pictures, sometimes your correspondent has to put himself in the firing line

I did not have a good day in terms of being a target, as later on I was chased by a herd of cows on a training run. A lot of people have said they would have liked to have seen this. I like to think this is because they wanted to see a top athlete reach speeds of nearly 50 miles an hour. I certainly would have rivalled Usain Bolt and I am considering trying to qualify for Rio 2016, although I am not sure they would allow the cows in the stadium and thus my time might not replicate the one that I achieved in the field near Berwick!



Classic coaching from Sarah Latcham

The girls also benefit from the watchful eye of Sarah Latcham, whose coaching mantra is ‘Hic Haec Hoc’; the ball being firmly struck on ‘hoc’! Sarah is a member of the Classics Department but told me her real love in life is cricket. She claims that her inspirations are Brian Lara and Curtly Ambrose and, from years gone by, Paul Pridgeon. Sarah honed her talents when studying at UCL and her swing bowling is similar to Jimmy Anderson. She has always lived near cricket grounds (The Oval and Edgbaston) and so she feels comfortable with the cricket square being within sight of her classroom.

I asked her to sum up her cricketing career. She told me: “I did not Plato much really. I guess you can call my cricketing career a bit of an Odyssey, but I did put a Herculean effort into my training. I think my Achilles heel was wafting outside off-stump or when the ball Didoed on me. I love a Caesar salad and a Mars at lunch as it gives me the energy I need for a long spell after lunch and I don’t hit The Wall (neither Hadrian’s nor Antonine’s). Juno, I wish I had played a bit longer but then maybe that would have been Cupid!”

Sarah is looking forward to the next match which is a home game against Charlton followed by the under-15 National Cup tie against a strong Malvern side. The girls are confident of success and are looking forward to another nutritious Mackie’s on the way home! Katie Oswald summed up her enjoyment of her cricketing success at the moment by stating ‘we are like a Sweet chilli chicken wrap – nothing can beat us!’

Let’s hope that is indeed the case! The spirit of girl power is certainly strong when it comes to Shrewsbury cricket. Maybe it’s the trainers!



Old trainers New trainers



General Election 2015 - voting for the first time

Friday 8 May 2015

Charis, Jess and Maddie exercised their right to vote on the 7th May, taking time out of their revision to visit the polling station. A proud moment for all three (and their Housemistress!).



Being able to vote for the first time was an interesting experience. Not knowing much about politics personally, I went to the Hustings to see what the candidates in the Shrewsbury and Atcham constituency had to say for themselves. It was a fascinating experience being able to listen to the candidates' points of view and what they wanted to do for the country and on a more local level.

To prepare for the voting, the School hosted their own Mock Election and held Hustings, with students representing several parties. Although this night was much less political, it was an incredibly entertaining evening which has been my highlight of the 2015 General Elections so far.

May 7th came up fast and 3 Grovians went to the polling station to have their say for the first time. Afterwards, a celebratory glass of fizz was in order before getting back to the normal routine of exam revision.

I'm glad I voted and got to have my say in who runs the country. Lets hope the Conservatives do a good job over the next five years!

Charis Virgo

Super Cycling Man Will Hodson (OS) to visit Shrewsbury School

Friday 8 May 2015

The pursuit of adventuring has been the subject of some discussion in the media recently and Shrewsbury School has certainly produced its fair share of dauntless characters over the years. Will Hodson (Rt 1990-95) is about to undertake the latest world challenge, attempting to become the first person ever to cycle across all seven continents. Just to emphasise the point, he will do it dressed as a superhero. He will ride into Shrewsbury School on 15th May.



He aims to educate and inspire people, particularly children (Will is a primary school teacher) and to raise money for several charities: Parkinson's UK, World Cancer Research Fund, World Bicycle Relief, Sustrans and WWF.

On 1st April, Will set off on a 'warm up' ride of a two-month long, 200-mile tour of Britain and Ireland and is keeping his Facebook page regularly updated with his progress. On 13th May, he will ride into Liverpool and hopes to drop in to say hello to everyone at The Shewsy. And on Friday 15th May, we look forward to welcoming him to Shrewsbury School.

In the meantime you can keep up to date with his progress and give him your support by following him on Facebook [here](#).

Galin Ganchev piano recital - a review by Martin Knox

Friday 8 May 2015

It was four years ago, at a sparsely attended lunchtime concert, that I was first alerted to the extraordinary talent of Galin Ganchev, whose daring, dazzling performance of Beethoven's "Waldstein" sonata is still fresh in the memory. Other achievements have followed, most recently the conquest of Rachmaninov's third piano concerto, and over the years Galin's reputation has grown to such an extent that his recital last Friday filled the Alington Hall. By any standards it was a triumphant occasion, though tinged with the sadness of farewell. At the conclusion, the audience were on their feet at once, repeatedly calling the soloist back to receive their acclaim. As he left the hall for the sixth time, there was just a hint of a smile from this least demonstrative of artists.

In his introduction to the concert, John Moore welcomed the Ganchev family, who had come from Bulgaria for the event, a round trip of more than four thousand miles which was richly rewarded. He thanked Gareth and Liz Jenkins for having brought Galin to Shrewsbury in the first place and providing so much support for him over the past five years and he paid tribute to Peter Bradley-Fulgoni, who has guided his precocious pupil through an ever more demanding repertoire. It has been a fruitful partnership.

Haydn's Sonata No.62 is a late work, full of surprises, its range of colour and dynamic contrasts presented here with all the resources of a modern concert grand. Galin gave a performance which was brilliant in execution and fascinating in its insight. He may take the stage with the solemn demeanour of an undertaker, but at the keyboard he is a free spirit, dancing, soaring, penetrating to the heart of the music. Needless to say, he was in his element in Chopin's *Polonaise Fantaisie*. We could have done with more Chopin.



Galin with proud Mum after the concert

After the interval came Prokofiev's *Visions Fugitives*, strange, fragmented pieces, sounding almost like improvisation, conjuring up an image of leaves drifting past a window, occasionally stirred by



the breeze. Stylistically, they are at the watershed of European music, their dissonances telling of things to come, the mellower among them looking back to gentler times. Ephemeral though they are, they were presented with such rapt attention to detail, such lingering contemplation, as to persuade one of their significance, temporarily at least.

No doubting the emotional depth of Beethoven's "Appassionata", however, for if the "Waldstein" is an assertion of C major triumph over adversity, its successor is fiery, tragic, rebellious, the composer raging against dark forces. Much of his middle period work reflects an artist finding consolation in creativity, defying the onset of deafness, not yet total, and the curse of ill health which pursued him throughout his adult life. The Opus 57 sonata, if not despairing, is an outlet for the frustration he must have felt. Galin Ganchev is so accomplished a pianist, so eloquent in the language of music, that on this memorable evening, the "Passionate" sonata was given a hearing worthy of its title.

MWK



The news 100 years ago: 1st - 7th May 1915

Friday 8 May 2015

This was another sad week for School House and Churchill's Hall. And on the 7th May 1915, the Lusitania was torpedoed and sunk, with the loss of 1,153 lives.

We remember:

Captain James Lancaster, 3rd Bn. Monmouthshire Regiment.

Churchill's, left in 1896 and after travelling in America became a mining engineer. Gazetted 2nd Lieutenant on 16th October 1914, he gained rapid promotion.

Killed in action in Belgium 8th May 1915 aged 37.

Remembered on Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium. Panel 50.

Probably related to Gerald William Lancaster, died 14th September 1918.

Second Lieutenant The Hon. William Francis Rodney, 3rd Sqdn. Royal Flying Corps.

School House, 1st VIII, left in 1914. The Salopian comments that he would always be remembered for being the stroke "who won our first race at Henley". Billy Rodney arrived at Shrewsbury School in September 1910 and left to go to Sandhurst as soon as war broke out. Gazetted to the Rifle Corps, he was then appointed as an observer in the Flying Corps. Killed whilst flying in France on 9th May 1915, aged 18.

Buried at Chocques Military Cemetery, France. Grave I. B. 11.

His squadron leader was full of praise for him and for his "superb contempt of danger".

Lieutenant Arthur Thomas Crawford Cree, 7th Bn. Durham Light Infantry.

School House, Praepostor, left in 1900 to go to Magdalen College Oxford. Called to the Bar (Inner Temple) in 1905 he practised on the NE Circuit, then Chancery Bar. On 4th August he joined the Inns of Court OTC, obtained his commission in November and left England on 4th May. He met his death almost immediately.

Killed in action in Belgium 12th May 1915, aged 34.

Buried at Bedford House Cemetery, Belgium. Grave Enclosure No.2 VI. A. 47.

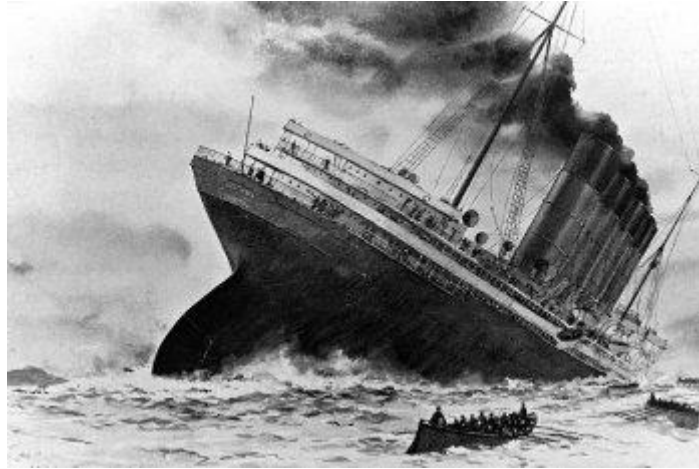
Lieutenant John Aquila Macmahon, Royal Army Medical Corps attd. 3rd Bn. Somerset Light Infantry.

Chances (now Severn Hill), left in 1907 for Dublin University where he represented the University at hockey (Vice-Capt.), Lawn Tennis and Association Football (Goalkeeper). He was "exceptionally gifted as an actor, humorous singer and reciter". He took up medicine and had a practice in Dublin before the war.

Wounded at Ypres on 29th April, died in the United Kingdom 12th May 1915, aged 25.

Buried at Twickenham Cemetery, England. Grave F. A. 124.

100 years ago: 7th May 1915. Lusitania sunk!



(Artist's impression)

The crowded New York dock must have been as chaotic in the final hours before the Lusitania left as the scenes portrayed in the epic film Titanic. Departing on 1st May 1915 destined for the UK, the 32,000-ton luxury liner certainly resembled her recently sunk rival: four raked-back funnels between two masts above a multi-decked and port-holed hull, the “fastest and largest steamer now in the Atlantic service” and packed with passengers. Though, as in all liners of that age, 3rd class passengers were packed in more tightly than others, and restricted to darker and deeper parts of the ship.

Joining the throng in the dock were many reporters, some clutching a printed sheet produced by the German Embassy, advertising that *any* ship sailing through the European War Zone was a potential target (first issued in February 1915). Notwithstanding, she sailed, the mood on board hardly dampened by such statement, since the current thinking was that the sheer pace of the vessel could easily outstrip anything that might threaten her.

On 7th May 1915, off Kinsale Head, Ireland, U20 (Captain Schweiger) fired one torpedo at 14:09, which hit the Lusitania. From the U-boat logbook: “Shot hits starboard side right behind bridge. An unusually heavy detonation follows with a strong explosion cloud...” Lusitania took just 18 minutes to sink, with the loss of 1,153 lives.

American and British public anger at the sinking of an unprotected civilian vessel, holder of the Blue Riband, is well recorded. *The Times* railed about "the hideous policy of indiscriminate brutality which has placed the German race outside of the pale."





As with Pearl Harbour some years later in a different war, the sinking of the Lusitania precipitated the entry of the Americans into the European conflict, turning it into a World War, though it took two more years for them to declare war against Germany.

Possibly in response to such outraged public opinion, the Germans did call off the 'sink on sight' policy until 1917 when America entered the war.

However, some nagging questions have remained unanswered: what caused the second explosion, for instance? There is a body of opinion that the Lusitania may have been carrying quantities of munitions, secretly, which exploded seconds after the initial torpedo strike. If this is the case, the British had breached the 'Cruiser Rules' and Lusitania was a 'legitimate' target, though whether Schweiger would have known that or not as he fired may be a moot point. Certainly, the loss of Civilian life was staggering.

As was the loss of Military life throughout the conflict.



Rigg's and Churchill's struggle for supremacy

Sunday 10 May 2015

Senior IVs

Over the course of the last three weeks, the Houses have slugged it out on the Severn. Going into the final day of the Senior IVs, it looked set for a showdown between Rigg's and Churchill's, with both Houses undefeated and on maximum points.

In the first of the three races, both houses made light work of defeating their opponents, with Rigg's comfortably winning with 'clear water' over Ridgemount, and Churchill's looking strong against Radbrook, likewise with a 'clear water' margin.

Next up for Rigg's were Radbrook, and they too were defeated, though as Churchill's and School House battled it out passing under the Toll Bridge, it looked to be close between the two boats. Churchill's pushed through with a final surge and were able to earn a hard-fought victory, though they weren't able to achieve clear water, thus dropping their first point of the competition.

To win the competition they would need to defeat Rigg's in the final race and ideally with clear water. RMW, who had organised the competition with typical efficiency, had also demonstrated his prophetic powers by ensuring that the final race of the competition would be the showdown between Rigg's and Churchill's, and as the other houses looked on, the two powerhouses surged through the first few strokes.

Rigg's had enjoyed dominance in previous races through their strong opening stage, but in this race, the technical prowess of the youthful Churchill's crew (all Fifth Form) enabled them to stay neck and neck as they passed the halfway stage. The onlooking crowd were going wild (well, Housemasters PJM and RTH) at what promised to be a hugely exciting finale to match the thrilling finish of Severn Hill, who recorded their first victory of the competition in their final race resulting in Housemaster DAGN just about jumping into the river in excitement.

PJM and RTH remained dignified, but tensions were rising as the race entered the final push. By a nudge, Rigg's looked to be ahead as they came past the Boat House, and it was a lead they would hold through to the finish line, but Churchill's never gave up and pushed Rigg's all the way, with the victory only by a metre.

It was a splendid show of House pride from both, and there was no doubt from the effort put into the racing just how much this mattered to the crews!

(Thanks to PJM for this extremely one-sided account ...)



BUT Revenge is sweet ...

Ist House Cricket

It's only the quarter-final of course, but the Churchill's/Rigg's rivalry continued on the cricket pitch a few days later in the quarter-final of 1st House Cricket, held on Election Day, whose concerns understandably receded into the background as a place in the semi-final was contested.

George Panayi and Henry Newbould opened (and closed) the batting for Churchill's, notching up a spectacular 200 in the 12-over innings, Panayi at one point hitting 5 sixes in succession, followed by a four to complete the over, amassing a total of 138 runs.

With Rigg's all out for 55, the victory was convincing enough briefly to eradicate the memory of Senior IVs.



Where will we meet next?



First win for our new U18 Girls' Basketball team

Monday 11 May 2015



L-R: Angelina Pototskaya, Jane Fan, Gladys Lam, Nina Lange, Krem Todorova

The Girls' U18 Basketball team played their first ever match on Thursday 7th May against Thomas Telford. They played brilliantly, with each member of the team contributing to a fine victory 41-33.

WAH



Cricketing Success for OS Ed Barnard and Joe Leach

Monday 11 May 2015



There has been more success on the cricketing field over the weekend, this time for OS Ed Barnard (PH 12-14), as he returned the remarkable bowling figures of 8 overs, 6 maidens, 3 wickets for 3 runs, playing for Worcs second XI against Warwickshire seconds. This came hot off the heels of his century the previous day.

Frustratingly the match was abandoned as a draw, after the first two days were rained off, but Ed will have certainly impressed with his performance and we look forward to reporting more from him in the not too distant future.

[Full match report here.](#)

There was also success for Old Boy Joe Leach, playing for Worcs. First XI. He returned career best figures of 6 wickets for 79, off 27 overs.

Definitely something in the water they use on the lovely sports fields here at Shrewsbury!

British Youth Fencing Championship Finals

Tuesday 12 May 2015

Held at the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield from 2nd to 4th May, the British Youth Fencing Championship Finals brought together all of the fencers who had qualified from their regional events, including Salopians James Hinwood, Scott Reynolds, Ross Viljoen and Marco Lo.



James Hinwood

In the Under-14 Boys' Epee event James Hinwood (Rt 3) finished in a very credible fifth place, losing out 15-11 to Rowan Fitton (Guernsey) in the quarter finals.

In the Under-18 Boys' Foil event Scott Reynolds (Rb LVI) finished in 14th place, losing to number one seed Kameron Nicholas (Southern) 15-8 in the last 64.

In the Under-18 Boys' sabre event Ross Viljoen (PH UVI) finished in tenth place, losing to Achilles Bergne (London) 15-9 in the last 16.

In the Under-16 Boys' foil Marco Lo (SH V) finished in a disappointing 35th place in a field of 60 fencers.

All three boys are to be commended for reaching the last sixteen at their event.

Ken Holding, Wrekin Sword

RSSBC: 1st VIII achieve double win at the Bedford Regatta

Tuesday 12 May 2015

The 1st VIII recorded two encouraging wins at the Bedford Regatta on Saturday 9th May by winning both the premier race of the event, Elite Eights, and the J18 Eights event.



The crew had to race their two semi-finals and two finals in quick succession and improved with every race to record the fastest time of the day.

They beat Radley College and Bedford School to win J18 Eights and beat Kingston Rowing Club and Oriel College, Oxford in impressive fashion in the final to win Elite Eights.

ATH



The David Harrison Prize

Tuesday 12 May 2015

The David Harrison Prize is open to all year groups and takes the form of a presentation on any mathematical topic, which is given to an audience of Third and Fourth Form mathematicians. It has been won this year by Tom Dodd (Rb, UVI), who has been runner-up in the last two years.

Tom won in style with a hugely entertaining talk on the mathematics and peculiarities of Special Relativity.

Huda Hasan (EDH, UVI), a finalist last year, came second with an endearing talk on the application of probability theory to “Finding Mr/Miss Right”.

This prize is endowed by Mr and Mrs Peter Harrison in memory of their son David, who was Head of Mathematics from 1995 to 1996, and who tragically died in the mountains of Alaska in the summer holidays of 1996.

Packwood visit to Shrewsbury's Chemistry Department goes with a bang

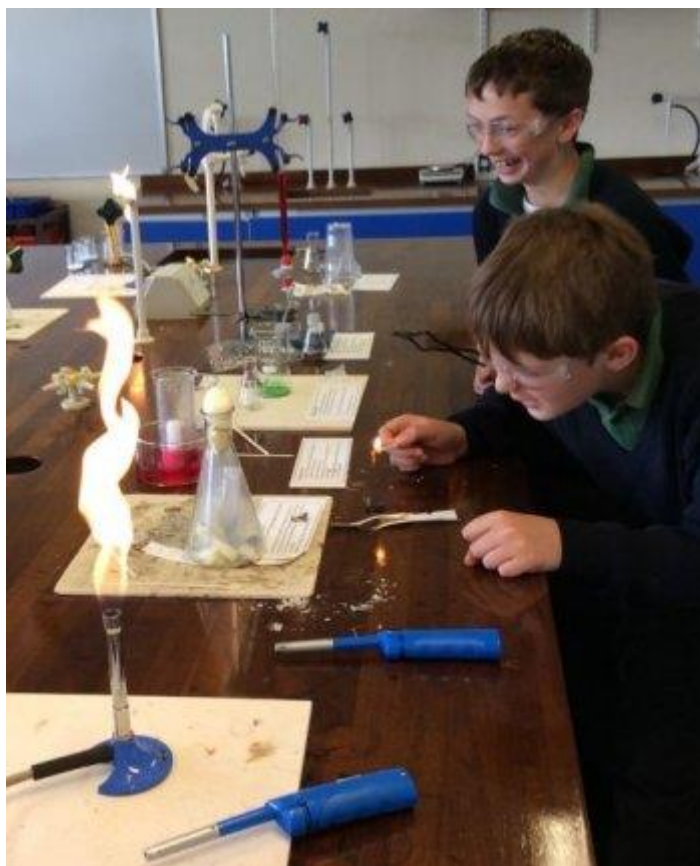
Tuesday 12 May 2015

On Thursday 7th May, Shrewsbury Chemistry Department opened its doors to Packwood Haugh School pupils for an afternoon of science enrichment and fun.



This was the second in the series of prep school Chemistry events designed by Senior Chemistry Technician Rachel Schofield, Head of Chemistry Dr Andy Briggs and assisted by our new Chemistry Technician Kathryn Davidson.

Thirteen Year 7 pupils, together with their Head of Science, Mr Richard Herzog, were given a tour of the Chemistry Department and Prep Room. The extent of our facilities was a real eye-opener and an insight into the science opportunities at Shrewsbury School.



With spectacular explosions and illuminating 'flash bang' demonstrations in the Science Lecture Theatre by Dr Briggs, the pupils could enjoy the sights, sounds and smells that is real chemistry at work - and it was gratifying to hear all the 'oohs', 'aahs' and cries of 'wow!' and 'cool!'.

We moved into one of the chemistry laboratories as a special treat for the pupils who were allowed to carry out practical experiments themselves. In groups of two and three, the pupils had access to some equipment they do not often use in prep schools, chemical solutions to create reactions and very enjoyable flame tests. The Packwood pupils were very well behaved and showed good lab skills and concentration, even with the odd cricket ball bouncing on the roof!

The finale was a demonstration outside of elephant's toothpaste foam, fondly described as 'intestines', the mess of which delighted the pupils.

With a few gifts to take away, the staff and students agreed it was a very successful and enjoyable afternoon, and one which we hope to repeat annually.



Richard Herzog from Packwood Haugh later commented, “Just to say a huge thank you for a wonderful afternoon yesterday. My pupils and I thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and learned a lot. I appreciate how much work it must have been for you to plan and prepare everything (and to clear up afterwards) and am extremely grateful to you for taking so much time to entertain us.”
Dr Andrew Briggs and Rachel Schofield



Abby Attenborough selected to represent Wales in the Women's U19 Lacrosse World Championship

Tuesday 12 May 2015



Abby was recently given the Eleanor Gurden Award for Outstanding Contribution to Girls' Sport

After working on boosting her fitness levels by doing additional training with the Hunt, Abby Attenborough (MSH UVI) has made it through the final selection process to represent Wales in the Women's 2015 U19 Lacrosse World Championship, which takes place from 23rd July to 1st August in Edinburgh.

This event is held once every four years and this summer there will be 15 countries competing. Wales has drawn the toughest group for the pool stage – USA, Canada, England and Australia.



Scuba-diving

Wednesday 13 May 2015



Jonah on the look out for a whale....



Giles Bell's Team of the Week

Thursday 14 May 2015

This week, the 1st VI tennis team.

'If the weather was wonderful, watching Wimbledon was well good!' That was the view of a young person I spoke to recently who, I hasten to add, was not educated at Shrewsbury School. I have included his quotation about the joys of Wimbledon because although in some ways one might question its literary merits, it does have some impressive alliteration.

We are coming up to that point in the year when tennis suddenly becomes interesting and relevant because there is non-stop coverage of Wimbledon on TV. Of course I am aware that for some people tennis is interesting and relevant all year round, Wimbledon merely being part of a perpetual diet of serve and volley.

Certainly the exponents of tennis at Shrewsbury School can feed their hunger for tennis all year round, as the enthusiastic and dedicated team of tennis coaches make sure that there are regular trips to indoor courts throughout the year. As chief tennis impresario Myles Harding told me: "Anyone who hungers for tennis will have it well-sated at Shrewsbury, as we ensure that there are regular trips to indoor courts throughout the year."

There are few people I know who are more passionate about tennis than Mr Harding. Although he is not quite as young as he used to be – a trait I know a few of us suffer from – he still prides himself on being able to keep his young charges in their place. That includes new coach Mike Barton who, although something of a youthful figure on the courts, is still not in the ascendancy in terms of sets won against the evergreen MJH.



I wonder who might be the inspiration in Mr Harding's life. We are in the Andy Murray era of British tennis. Murray got married this year and has a female French coach. Mr Harding has got engaged to a French lady (the first game he has lost to love!). Murray has recently won a tournament in Spain; Mr Harding is contemplating a school tour to Spain.



I sense that the reason Shrewsbury is so successful at tennis may well be related to the closeness in lifestyle, appearance and competitiveness of two significant figures in the world of tennis.

The other member of staff with responsibility for tennis is Matthew Clark. Mr Clark's love of tennis is shaped by the Henman era. Mr Clark who is beloved by many for his friendly, jolly and positive approach to life once admitted to allowing his ruthless streak to have its moment in a treasured victory against a precocious eight-year-old Henman when he himself was something of a veteran twelve-year-old.

Henman was already showing signs of ability in terms of technique and athleticism but he could not deal with Mr Clark's sharpness of mind, as he ensured each ball he sent down bounced high at the back of the court. Some biographers of Henman have suggested that later mental frailties may have had their seeds sown in this tough encounter against a belligerent young Clark, with the intelligence and ability to pinpoint the cracks in the Henman defence and slice them wide open.



The guile and ruthless competitiveness of the coaching team have helped the present crop of Shrewsbury players approach the game in a battle hardened manner. Tom Robinson and playing partner Henry Clay were quick to say how much tougher psychologically they have become this year. "As a pair we have had become psychologically much tougher this year," Tom Robinson said.

He went on to say that, "Henry has shown cracks in his game at some points during the year. He has been encouraged to think that 'Clay' can be hard and he is much more resolute now. Of course as you would imagine, he is something of a clay court specialist."

Henry was quick to say how much he enjoyed playing with Tom. “Tom is a great person to partner, although he will never share his drink. He always says “that’s Robinson’s”, which I find a little petty sometimes as I don’t even like barley water.”



Tom Robinson + his biggest fan

Ollie Pumphrey and Charlie Davis have battled their way into the first VI, having played in the second string team last year. Ollie puts this down to a new nutritional plan and the fact that he now looks the part, as he has a new sponsor this season. Charlie, who runs on a Tuesday with the Hunt to increase his fitness levels, believes that he is challenging his aggression in a more focused manner this season. “The crowd are no longer in danger when they watch me,” he confided.



Jesse Mattinson

The two younger members of the team are Fifth Former Jesse Mattinson, who was in the third team last year and Third Former Alex Loumidis. Alex is ranked in the top 100 nationally for the under 14s. He hits the ball with confidence and brutality. He loves tennis and in particular the hotdog shot.



Alex Loumidis demonstrating 'the hotdog'

One thing the team are unanimous about is that it is important to enjoy the game – and that is what they go out to do. Mr Harding is happy with this approach, as “winning heightens enjoyment”. So he is harnessing a winning mentality.

I think tennis is a good game to play at Shrewsbury. It espouses what is important about life. To serve to others; to learn to accept defeat to love; avoid the net; maintain dignity in court; try to avoid faults; try to get on with your partner; and enjoy hotdogs!

GJFB



Mr Biggins to play in 'Shrewsbury Legends' charity match, Sunday 17th May

Friday 15 May 2015

Mr Biggins, our own Head of Football, was Star Striker at Shrewsbury Town in the 1970s and has been invited to play in a special 'Shrewsbury Legends' charity match, in aid of The Harry Johnson Trust.



This is a local charity that helps families of children with cancer in practical ways, like making sure they have a hamper of goodies when they arrive at the Telford Cancer Ward, and paying for holidays when they are well enough to travel.

It was set up by Sally and Stephen Johnson in memory of their son Harry, who died at the age of seven from a rare childhood cancer.

The match will be played at the Shrewsbury Sports Village on Sunday 17th May, kick-off at 2pm. (Admission by donation.)

For more details about The Harry Johnson Trust and to make a donation, please follow this link: <http://www.theharryjohnsontrust.co.uk/>

Pupils can donate using their Grot Shop cards.

To read more about Mr Biggins' playing career, please see: <http://www.hednesfordtown.com/heroes/82%20Steve%20Biggins.pdf>



Old Salopian cricketers hit the headlines

Friday 15 May 2015

In the week that saw James Taylor captain England in their ODI match against Ireland (which was sadly abandoned due to rain), two other Old Salopian cricketers, Ed Barnard (PH 2012-14) and Joe Leach (M 2004-09), were both on stunning form playing for Worcestershire.



Ed Barnard

In Worcestershire's 2nd XI match against Warwickshire 2nds, Ed Barnard returned the remarkable bowling figures of 8 overs, 6 maidens, 3 wickets for 3 runs. This came hot of the heels of his century the previous day.

Frustratingly the match was abandoned as a draw, after the first two days were rained off, but Ed will have certainly impressed with his performance.

[Full match report here.](#)

There was also success for Joe Leach (M 2004-09), playing for Worcestershire 1st XI in their County Championship match against Warwickshire. Although Worcestershire eventually lost, Joe returned career best figures of 6 wickets for 79, off 27 overs.



Medical School applications 2015

Friday 15 May 2015

Our 'Class of 2015' has been a vintage one for producing future medics: so far nine of our pupils have received offers. To win such an offer is a prodigious feat, testing ability and endurance! No other course requires such a gruelling application process - as Dr Morgan explains.

A significant amount of relevant voluntary work experience is expected; then there are incredibly challenging aptitude tests, the UKCAT and BMAT; and finally interviews – sometimes in the traditional panel format, but increasingly instead the new 'multiple mini interviews'.

These are like speed dating but with time-pressured tests of analytical, ethical and communication skills. In one room you might be asked to calculate a drugs dose; in the next, you meet an actor role playing your neighbour whose cat you have just run over in your car. How do you handle the situation?!

It is always my great pleasure to work with such dedicated pupils, and I am immensely proud of them. Those who have not been lucky this time round can take heart from the fact that a re-application next year, good A-level grades in hand, is often successful.

Congratulations to the following pupils:

Sabrina Chu – Brighton & Sussex

Millie Dean – St George's

Jane Fan – Bristol

Oliver Hope – Southampton

Yutaro Sato – Sheffield

Ben Smith – Lancaster

Rishi Trivedi – Bristol

Charis Virgo – Oxford

Tom Miller (post A-level) – Cardiff



The news 100 years ago: 8th - 15th May 1915

Friday 15 May 2015

This week we remember.

Lieutenant Laurence Kingston Adams, The King's (Liverpool Regiment).

Chances (now Severn Hill), left in 1903 to go to Liverpool University Architectural School. He studied at Oxford, Paris and Rouen, becoming an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

He was shot through the heart, on gaining the parapet of a German trench at the head of his platoon on the Western Front, 16th May 1915, aged 28.

Buried in the Guards Cemetery, Windy Corner, Cuinchy, Pas de Calais. Grave VIII. B. 35

Second Lieutenant Leslie Arnott Paterson, 3rd Bn. Essex Regiment attd. 2nd Bn. Royal Berkshire Regiment.

School House, left in 1908. Member of the Surveyors' Institute.

Died of wounds received near Fromelles, in the United Kingdom 16th May 1915, aged 25.

Buried at Knebworth (St Mary) Churchyard, England.

Private Norman Hammill, 77938, 16th Bn. Canadian Infantry (Manitoba Regiment).

Churchill's, member of the School Football XI in 1897 and 1898, he left in 1899 to farm in British Columbia. He enlisted in 1914 with 88th Victoria (BC) Fusiliers, and was sent to the front on 29th April and posted to 16th Bn. He was ordered straight up to the trenches and was killed by shrapnel on the afternoon of Tuesday 18th May. A corporal in his battalion speaks of him as a "splendid soldier, keen and always ready for hard work".

Killed in action in France, 18th May 1915 aged 25.

Remembered on Vimy Memorial, France.

Events in the War:



Festubert (Photo: Visa Paris)

HMS Goliath sunk in Dardanelles by Turkish destroyer, 13th May.

Battle of Festubert, 15th – 25th May. Fought in the Artois region of northern France, this was the British Army's first attempt at a battle of attrition.

Led by Sir Douglas Haig, a 60-hour bombardment preceded the first night attack of the war. Indian troops were at the fore, and after two British divisions were withdrawn following heavy losses, they were backed up by Canadians.

After ten days and an advance of three kilometres, Festubert, a tiny village near Armentières, was taken.



Sidney-Darwin Dash and Quarter-Mile Challenge

Sunday 17 May 2015



Sam and Terry at full throttle in the Darwin Dash heats



Charlie keeps a careful eye on the opposition as he leads the Quarter-Mile Challenge

Drama School applications

Monday 18 May 2015

Congratulations to Jessica Walker (G UVI) who has been awarded a prestigious place to study acting at Drama Centre next year. Jess is also awaiting her final round audition for the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. Congratulations also to Teddy Briggs (EDH UVI), who has reached the final round of auditions at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art.



On stage in the Ashton Theatre - (l-r): Jess Walker in 'Cyrano de Bergerac', Teddy Briggs in 'The Trojan Women'



Cricket news round-up

Monday 18 May 2015

A highly successful week for our cricket teams.

Following the excellent wins against Repton last weekend, confidence was high going into the block fixture against Sedbergh last weekend.

The 1st XI made short work of their match, reducing Sedbergh to 153ao and reaching the total without loss for a 10-wicket victory; another century for Oliver Westbury (S) and a 50 from George Lewis (O).

The U14B XI produced the other standout performance, posting an impressive 232-8 (30 overs), with runs for Harry Remnant (Ch; 37), Rueben Denison (SH; 38), Alex Ainslie (O; 40) and Jasper Mitchell (S; 40). In reply Sedbergh's U14Bs were 63ao, with Remnant (Ch) taking 3 wickets and Max Wolstenholme (R) finishing with impressive figures of 6-16.

The U15As & U15Bs lost closely fought matches away from home.

Meanwhile the last few days have brought further success to our cricket teams:

- 1st XI won against Denstone on Thursday and now progress to the HMC T20 Regional Semi Final.
- The U17s have progressed to the Third Round of the National U17 Cup.
- The U15As have progressed to the County Semi-Finals of the U15 ESCA/ECB T20 competition.
- The U14As have progressed to the County Semi-Finals of the U14 ECB/ESCA National Schools' Championship.
- The U15 Girls XI beat Bromsgrove School by 10 wickets on Thursday.



Gizmos and Chromos - Young Enterprise success for Shrewsbury School's Team G-MO

Monday 18 May 2015

Colourful and ingenious 'gizmos' have been appearing all over the School in recent months – and are now even on sale on Shrewsbury's High Street. They are the brainchild of Shrewsbury School's Young Enterprise team G-MO, led by Alex Hine (M LVI), who last week won official recognition for their business skills at the Young Enterprise Celebration and Awards Event.



'Gizmos' in action

Shrewsbury fielded two Young Enterprise teams this year as part of the Thursday Activities Programme. Guided by Young Enterprise mentor Trevor Lawrence of local construction company Caterpillar, they have participated in a full programme of concept development, business meetings, trade fairs and formal presentations.

As Team G-MO, Alex Hine, Will Bedson, Angus Kincaid, Ralph Assheton, Jesse Mattinson and Scott Hatton focused on the concept of 'bright little ideas' for desktop stationery. Having sourced stocks of colourful and practical cable-holders, they then went about branding them as 'gizmos'. With imagination, recycled cardboard and the fantastic support of Miss Crump in the DT Department, they have come up with eye-catching, eco-friendly packaging that not only cost virtually nothing to produce (except in terms of trial and error in getting the printing process right) but even manages to double-up as an earphone holder.



Alex Hine and his team were delighted with their success at the first of the Young Enterprise trade fairs, held in Shrewsbury town centre, and have gone on to take part in two further trade fairs in Telford.



Gizmos have proved to be extremely popular, as have G-MO's recycled school pens, branded as 'chromos'.



Following a bulk order from the School's IT Department, they have now been asked to supply gizmos to 'Write Here', an independent stationery shop in Shrewsbury.



As the Managing Director and driving force behind G-MO's success, Alex Hine has been tireless in the work he has put into developing and running the business over the last six months.

He and the team were recognised for their achievements by receiving nominations for five of the 26 awards presented at the Young Enterprise Celebration Event held at the Park Inn, Telford, which was attended by an array of dignitaries and company sponsors.

Alex Hine reached the top three in the categories of Best Company Report and Best Managing Director, but scooped the prize of 'Outstanding Commitment' – beating 300 other worthy students from the rest of Shropshire.

For more details about G-MO, please see their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/gmoshrewsbury>



School House shows great potential in the Sidney-Darwin Dash

Monday 18 May 2015

Sunday 17th May. It was another good year for School House, with three boys making it through the heats to run in the finals of this 100m sprint on Top Common, watched by the whole School.

Marco Lo (IV) picked up the Bronze Medal in the junior event, while Nifemi Okusanya (V), the winner of last year's junior race, joined his older brother Ladi (LVI) in the finals of the senior race.

In a nail-biting final, it was Ladi who took the Bronze Medal, with Nifemi coming in just behind him.

We look forward to next year when the Upper Sixth boys who came 1st and 2nd will have left the School, leaving the Okusanyas with an opportunity to dominate the event!



In the School House shirts, Nifemi (V) is on the left and Ladi (LVI) is on the right



The news 100 years ago: 22nd - 29th May 1915

Wednesday 20 May 2015

This week we remember:

Captain Harry Hargreaves Bolton, 5th Bn. East Lancashire Regiment.

Moser's, left in 1904. *The Salopian* writes, "He was a boy of the very best stamp that the English Public School produce... loyal and transparently honest, gentle and considerate to all... a very tower of strength to his House". In 1912 he married a lady named Miss Drew, the sister of a fellow pupil in Moser's, with whom had a son and a daughter.

Died of wounds in Gallipoli, 24th May 1915, aged 28.

Remembered on Helles Memorial, Turkey. Panel 113 to 117.

Probably related to Maurice Baldwin Bolton, died 26th March 1918.

News of the war



The second Battle of Ypres, comprising a series of smaller battles, has been fought since 22nd April and it ends on 25th May. It saw the first use of chlorine gas by the Germans to a devastating effect and with utter surprise. Subsequently, Allied troops were supplied with masks of cotton pads soaked in urine – the ammonia in the pad neutralised the chlorine. Some soldiers preferred to use a handkerchief or a sock, or a flannel body-belt, dampened with bicarbonate of soda solution. It was tied across the mouth and nose until the gas passed over, but not surprisingly it was difficult to fight like this.

A Private of the Royal Scots arrived in Ypres just after the chlorine gas attack on 22nd April 1915 and records: "We knew there was something was wrong. We started to march towards Ypres but we couldn't get past on the road with refugees coming down the road. We went along the railway line to Ypres and there were people, civilians and soldiers, lying along the roadside in a terrible state. We heard them say it was gas. We didn't know what the Hell gas was. When we got to Ypres we found a lot of Canadians lying there dead from gas the day before, poor devils, and it was quite a horrible sight for us young men. I was only twenty, so it was quite traumatic and I've never forgotten nor ever will forget it." (*2nd Battle of Ypres*, Spartacus Educational)

HMS Majestic is sunk by submarine in the Dardanelles, 27th May. Not directly as a consequence, but certainly connected to the general lack of success in the Dardanelles, Winston Churchill resigns as First Lord of the Admiralty on the same day, replaced next day by Mr Arthur Balfour.

Sidney-Darwin Dash and Quarter-Mile Challenge 2015

Thursday 21 May 2015

As the School processed out of Chapel on Sunday to Mr Mason's rendition on the organ of Naji Hakim's 'Final Hommage to Igor Stravinsky', they were met with a blast of even more high-octane music blasting out of the Marketing Office, where Freddie Thomson was pumping out the theme tunes to 'Rocky', 'Chariots of Fire' and other suitably rousing and inspiring cinematic classics. The stage was set for the 2015 running of the Sidney-Darwin Dash and Quarter-Mile Challenge, with the whole School gathered round the taped barriers to cheer on the competitors in what has always proved an exciting and fiercely-contested event.

Established in 2011 and now very much a Salopian sporting 'tradition', this year saw the relocation to Top Common with the original location for the races on Central being this year deemed unsafe for racing. Nevertheless, despite this change to 'tradition', in moving the races to Top Common there was a nice connection with athletics of old at Shrewsbury – with the likes of Olympic Gold medallist Bob Tisdall competing over the grass track in days gone by. Would there be another future Olympian amongst the athletes this year?



Bob Tisdall (far right), 1924

Certainly, the first race of the day saw an exciting battle over the Quarter-Mile distance, run around the 1st XI cricket boundary (though not whilst a match was being played – catching a ball whilst running would be a challenge too far...). Cameron Anwyl (S) took the early lead, with one of the race favourites, Owen Mock (R), getting trapped at the back of the pack; going

round the first bend he even appeared to have tripped and nearly race over. Yet he pushed hard through the middle section of the race to take the lead, closely followed by his old rival Monty Hardcastle (I). It was Mock in the end who broke the tape with Hardcastle in 2nd; a strong finish from George Garrett (Ch) saw him just half a second behind in third.



The Junior Girls' Quarter-Mile saw an impressively dominant display from Immie Evans (G) who was a full seven seconds clear of Sophia Dixon (MSH) in 2nd, albeit Dixon is a year younger. The Grove were well represented on the podium with Daisy McMullen coming home in third.



In the Senior Girls' Quarter-Mile Challenge two more Groveites picked up medals – Passy Goddard in the bronze position in 73.47 and Sally Joyce with silver in 72.70. Neither, however, could come close to the powerful display of sprint endurance from Olivia Papaioannou (EDH), who flew round the course in a time of 68.19. She picked up the Senior Girls' goblet (awarded

last year for the first time) with Immie Evans becoming the first ever winner of the Junior Girls' goblet.



In the Senior Boys' event, a highly competitive line-up took to the starting line to challenge for the Quarter-Mile trophy, first presented on 17th June 1869 to H. Hughes. In its modern 'reincarnation' the trophy was first won by Howard Stringer (PH), a title he successfully defended the following year before the trophy made its way to Severn Hill when it was won by Seb Blake in 2013. Last year Anton Nelson (also of Severn Hill) took the trophy. Could it stay in the Severn Hill trophy cabinet?

Their hopes were resting on the young shoulders of Fifth Former Charlie Tait-Harris who, despite being a highly talented athlete in his own right, would be up against a field of Sixth Formers. Yet this did not seem to daunt him, and in fact from the gun he set off at a blistering pace determined to front-run it, with his likely challenger Oscar Dickins (R) struggling to match him for pace. In fact, Dickins faded in the latter stages and it was Sam Mitchell (Rb) and Charlie Godman (M) who seemed to be the threat.

Going into the final bend, a throng of Moserites were excitedly urging their compatriot on, and Godman seemed to respond, pushing the pace up even more as he flew round the bend with the cheers of the men in Red and Black reverberating around Top Common. Yet he couldn't quite get close enough to the fleet-footed Tait-Harris, who crossed the line in 57.08, Godman not far behind in 57.99 and Mitchell in 58.63. The 1869 trophy will remain in Severn Hill, and with two years left at the School, Tait-Harris will not doubt be keen to ensure it stays there for a while as he attempts to become the first Salopian to win the trophy three years in a row.



Into the sprints, a fine 100m track had been prepared during the week by Andy Richards and his grounds staff. This proved to be a quick surface, with Groveite Claire Richards winning the Junior Girls' Sidney-Darwin Dash in a time of 13.35, no doubt grateful to her father for ensuring her lane in particular was nice and level! Runners-up was fellow Groveite Nina Lange, with Mimi Ashworth (EDH) in third.



The Junior Boys' was a very close affair and quite tight to call, though there was no doubting the winner in Severn Hill's Tom Brunskill breaking the tape in 12.42. Also dipping under 13 seconds were Tom Drury (O) in second and Marco Lo (SH) in third. Owen Mock's attempts at the double were admirable but he just didn't have the gas left to challenge.



In the Senior Girls' Dash the Head of School Esmé O'Keefe (MSH) looked to be challenging for top spot for much of the race, but a late surge from Tati Watt (G) saw her take the winner's tankard, with second place going to Immy Hill (MSH) and O'Keefe in third completing the podium.



The final race of the day saw the eagerly anticipated Senior Boys' Sidney-Darwin Dash, with Head of School James Plaut (S) aiming to defend his title. He would face stiff opposition from Tom Knight (Rb) who had taken bronze the previous year and looked to be in fine form.

Equally impressive were the Okusanya brothers, with Ladi gaining experience making the final last year despite only being a Fifth Former, and Nifemi taking the junior title before stepping up to the senior age-group this year. It was Ladi who had the brotherly bragging rights this year where he took the individual bronze, and Nifemi had to settle for 5th, though no doubt both will fancy their chances next year.



For 2015, though, it was the battle between Plaut and Knight for the top spot, and shoulder to shoulder they charged down the straight with little separating them. It was only in the final 20m that Plaut managed to stretch out, perhaps his determination to retain the title and finish at top spot urging him on. He broke the tape in a blistering 11.04, echoing some of the swift sprinting seen from his father when he was a boy here at Shrewsbury. Knight can be very proud of his 11.35, which in any other year would have been good enough for gold.

An excellent day of racing, then, and the tradition looks to be in good health.

PJM

Steak dinners

Friday 22 May 2015



Here are the Fourth Form enjoying a steak dinner in the private side on Thursday evening. Termly steak dinners for each year group have become something of a custom and (I am told) provide a welcome break from the KH routine.

Ben and Jerry's ice cream followed. Off limits for Tom, though, who had two more pieces of steak for his pudding.

Prep School Chemistry events on a roll

Friday 22 May 2015

Another successful afternoon of Chemistry enrichment and fun was held on Tuesday 19th May, as Shrewsbury Chemistry department welcomed students from Birchfield School. This is the third in the series of prep school Chemistry events designed by Senior Chemistry Technician Rachel Schofield and Head of Chemistry Dr Andy Briggs

Birchfield School's Head of Science, Mr Nigel Amery, and his Year 7 pupils were first shown the extent of our facilities with a short tour of the Chemistry Department and prep room which provided an insight into the science opportunities at Shrewsbury School.



Dr Briggs provided many spectacular explosions and illuminating flash bang demonstrations in the Science Lecture Theatre. The pupils were eager to ask lots of questions which showed their interest and a great deal of knowledge in the subject, relating them to how chemistry is used in everyday activities.



We moved into one of the chemistry laboratories to give the pupils the freedom to carry out practical experiments themselves. In groups of two and three, the pupils had access to some equipment they do not often use in prep schools including chemical solutions to create reactions. Most enjoyable were the eggs and dry ice experiments and Birchfield pupils produced some great colours from the flame tests.



Despite the rain outside, the exploding elephant's toothpaste finale went off a treat.



With a few gifts to take away, the staff and students agreed it was a very successful and enjoyable afternoon, and one which is hopefully repeated annually.

Mr Nigel Amery, Birchfield, later commented “A great afternoon, the students got a lot out of it, as did I, and I realise the work involved - so huge thanks to you and your colleagues”.

Andrew Briggs and Rachel Schofield



Hodgson Hall - the crane has gone...

Friday 22 May 2015

... and our new academic block has emerged resplendent from behind the scaffolding.



Giles Bell's Team of the Week

Friday 22 May 2015

The National Schools' Regatta crews - off to do battle this weekend.

"The National Schools' Regatta is the largest regatta for juniors in Great Britain. Held annually in May, the regatta offers events for Junior rowers between J14 and J18. The regatta was first raced in 1947, and has since grown to what is a world-class event enjoyed by clubs and schools across the United Kingdom." - from the [National Schools' Regatta website](#)

Since my 'cowgate' experience I have stayed away from the river, but having manned up and determined to go and watch Shrewsbury Regatta last weekend when I realised there would be no cows in the vicinity, I was shocked and saddened to find that it had been cancelled due to too much water.

Without that regatta to sharpen and finely tune some of our crews before National Schools', which takes place this weekend, it is difficult to give you an exact picture of what our chances are like. Such problems are of course mere trifles to a rowing correspondence of my depth of knowledge and experience and so I am going to give you an in-depth view of how the rowing club is doing at present!



The fearsome J16s sharpening their boats

I caught up with the first VIII just after I had finished my session. They are all looking immensely strong and powerful and there are quiet whispers of hope about their chances at National Schools' after some good results at recent regattas, relegating Radley's raucous ramshackle rowers to second place! (I apologise to any Old Radleians reading this as their crew were not that bad at all, but sometimes for alliterative purposes it is necessary to plumb the depths).



The 1st VIII proudly displaying a small selection of their silverware

In one of my favourite rowing blogs, this sentence caught my eye! “Their speed appears to be born at just the right moment - in a field as open as we have seen, Shrewsbury can make their mark. I expect them to make the final and I think they’ll be challenging for a medal.”

I also discovered a table showing what rowing correspondents and fans were predicting in terms of which school would win the coveted National title. As you can see, Shrewsbury are not highly fancied by the pollsters but then neither were the Conservative Party!

Westminster School 33.81%
Eton College 16.49%
St Paul's School 15.67%
King's School Chester 13.2%
St Edward's School 8.04%
Hampton School 5.15%
Abingdon School 3.92%
Shrewsbury School 2.47%
Radley College 1.24%

So on this evidence, if our crew makes it to the final they will have done well. From my observations, I think we will be placed higher than 8th.

My observations are based on Empirical evidence. Whilst walking past the Biology building the other day, the window opened and an excited Mr Kirkby popped his head out like a rather large fluffy expectant bluetit chick and ordered me to come and see his latest purchase. Imagine my

surprise when it was not a new rugby tour top, rugby ball or beard trimmer. It was a tank full of leafcutter ants.



I watched these tiny creatures carrying huge weights of leaves to their lair, where they turn them into a mulch and eat the fungus that grows from it. Their strength is really impressive and it reminded me of what I had witnessed down at the Boat House.

Let me introduce you to the gentlemen who make up the 1st VIII:



1st VIII

There is **Alex ‘The Eagle’ Powell** - (An eagle is the strongest bird, able to lift something four times its own body weight during flight.)



Patrick 'The Gorilla' George - (A gorilla can lift something 2,000kg (as heavy as 30 humans), over 10 times their bodyweight.)

George 'The Rhinoceros Beetle' Rowley - (A rhinoceros beetle can lift something 850 times its own weight. To put this into perspective, if a human had the strength of the rhinoceros beetle, it would be able to lift a 65-ton object. If the mighty elephant had equal strength to the rhinoceros beetle it would be able to carry 850 elephants on its back.)

George 'The Grizzly Bear' Patterson - (When it comes to pure strength, the grizzly bear can lift over 500kg - 0.8 times its bodyweight.)

Gavin 'The Ox' O'Dwyer - (An ox can pull and carry something 900kg, 1.5 times its bodyweight across rugged terrain.)

Nicholas 'The Tiger' Cabot - (A tiger can carry something 550kg, twice its own bodyweight ten feet up a tree.)

Toby 'The Elephant' Thomas - (In brute strength, elephants are the strongest mammals and the strongest land animals. African elephants can weigh up to 6,350kg and they can carry up to 9,000kg, the weight of 130 adult humans.)

Freddie 'The Dung Beetle' Bonthron - (A dung beetle is not only the world's strongest insect but also the strongest animal on the planet. They can pull 1,141 times their own bodyweight. This is the equivalent of an average person pulling six double-decker buses full of people. Now that's strong!)

The Cox is **Tom 'The Leafcutter Ant' Shields** - (Tiny leafcutter ants can lift and carry in their jaws something 50 times their own bodyweight of about 500mg. That's the same as a human lifting a truck with their teeth.)

I would like to go through all the crews in this way but I fear that time and the length of article you might have to endure are against me. I think other crews might have fun working out which which strong animal/insect they are!



The lesser-spotted crested U16As

My spies tell me that the under-14s are tipped to do well, as is the senior girls' quad and the senior coxed four.



Senior Girls' Quad



J14 quad

The under-14 squads have been coached by Dr Pattenden and Chris Scrimshaw. Chris has recently left us to train to be an EasyJet pilot. The rumours are that he likes speed and has trained his crew accordingly.

Most coaches were guarded about their crews' chances, but the eternally optimistic Mr Fox told me that he thought all our crews would win. "I am convinced all our crews will win," he told me.



Preparing to launch possibly the finest vessel in the RSSBC fleet

A lot of preparation goes into heading off for a regatta. There is the picnic and the chilling of the wine, the tent to put up, a loud blazer and tie to be purchased and a smart Panama hat to be 'rediscovered'. There is also the small matter of getting the boats to the venue. That is never a problem here, as the crews are always so ready to help!



Mr Hundermark and recently married boatman Andy Clark are very good at driving trailers with a very precious cargo.



The mood of cautious optimism prevails throughout the club, although when I asked the second eight if they were going to win, I was surprised by their reaction!



I think they must be celebrating already! Or was it the joke I told them?

Q: What is small, round and red and talks with a soft voice?

A: A hoarse radish.

Or maybe a rowing coach after the weekend!

Good luck to all our crews!



I leave you with a few more quotes about our chances:

Shrewsbury School Coxed IV

Shrewsbury are the really exciting Championship crew of the regatta for me. They've really proved themselves this season, silencing the naysayers, by performing very well at School's Head and going on to beat Abingdon in their Wallingford heat and then winning Elite eights at Bedford Regatta. I think this is an exciting time for the crew, and they'll be gunning for a medal in this event. I genuinely believe that if Shrewsbury want it enough, they can take it. The ball is in their court.

Shrewsbury School 1st VIII

Is this Shrewsbury's year? It's been a long time coming but I think we could be witnessing what will amount to a very strong season for Shrewsbury. That distinctive style that Hundermark instils in his crews finally seems to have embedded itself, and the results have been impressive. They won their heat at Wallingford by a length in an extremely competitive field.

Super Cycling Man Will Hodson cycles in to Shrewsbury School

Friday 22 May 2015

Good luck to Super Cycling Man (a.k.a. Will Hodson - Rt 1990-95), who sets off to cycle round the world on 1st June. Will sped into Shrewsbury School on Friday 15th May as part of his whistle-stop 'warm-up' tour of Britain. He became not only the first Salopian (we think) to cycle round the site dressed as a superhero, but also the first to cycle through our school dining hall, Kingsland Hall.



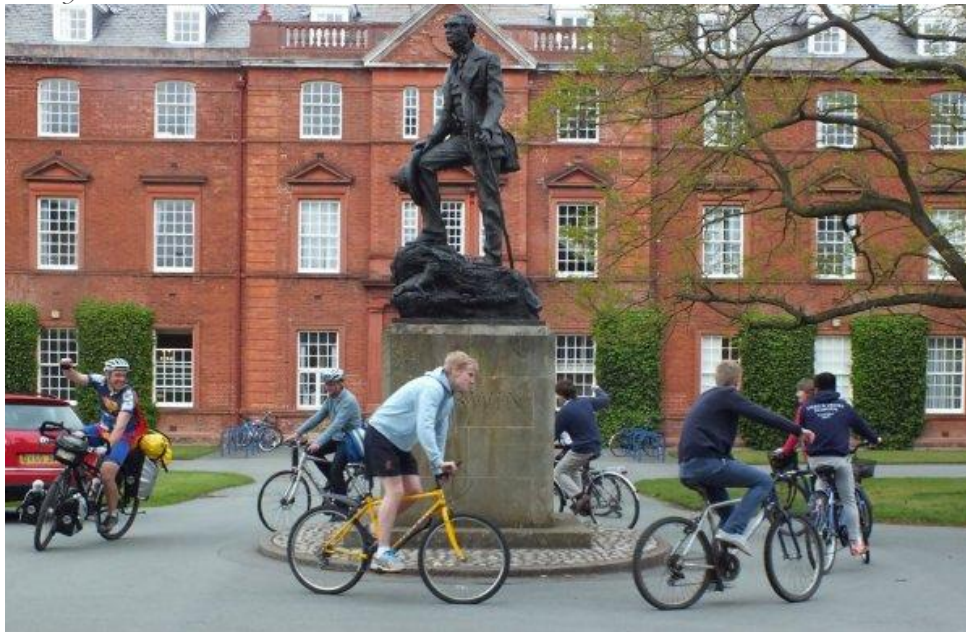
Will is attempting to become the first person ever to cycle across all seven continents - a journey that will take him five years. He will be raising raising money for several charities: Parkinson's UK, World Cancer Research Fund, World Bicycle Relief, Sustrans and WWF and also aiming to inspire others, particularly children (Will is a primary school teacher), with his message 'We Can All Be Heroes'.





Coming back to Shrewsbury School "where the adventures all started", Will was greeted by postors and members of staff, who escorted him on a celebratory cycle ride across the site. In the last edition of *The Salopian*, Will wrote about how his years at the School had inspired him: *"Shrewsbury taught me a great deal in the classroom, but out of the classroom it taught me an equally important lesson that with hard work, anything is possible. I was a distinctly sub-average rugby, football and cricket player and so did what other "poorly co-ordinated" athletes did and took up rowing! In the ridiculous giant-filled world of rowing I was relatively short and made an inauspicious start with a position in the J14C crew. Five years of hard graft, countless early morning outings and a lot of excellent coaching later, I found myself wearing a Great Britain lycra suit, rowing not just against local clubs at Ironbridge Regatta, but against other international teams in the World Junior Rowing Championships.*

For me, that is what is great about Shrewsbury. It's a place that allows you not only to dream big but also gives you the confidence to take the next step and turn those dreams into reality. If you walk past a statue of Charles Darwin on a daily basis and you know that Michael Palin was 'ere, that can have a lasting effect on young minds. It certainly did on mine."



You can keep up to date with Will's progress and give him your support by following him on Facebook [here](#).



Full English with fizzy orange juice

Monday 25 May 2015

Here are the Churchill's Hall Upper Sixth (minus Ed Carroll, who arrived uncharacteristically late) enjoying some fizzy orange juice and a slap-up breakfast to celebrate their last ever day of school lessons on 22nd May.





School House wins the Senior House Cricket League

Monday 25 May 2015

On Thursday 21st May, School House added some more silverware to the trophy cabinet with a commanding victory in the final of the 1st Leagues competition.



(L-R) Back Row: Will Hargreaves (UVI), Harry Al-Adwani (UVI), Yutaro Sato (Captain, UVI), Brook Plumtre (UVI); Front Row: Bertie Calvert (V), Leo Sartain (LVI), Kwaku Antwi (V), Will Street (LVI)

In the 8-a-side, 12-over game, School House batted first and set Ingram's a big total of 71 runs to chase. Although they only managed to score 13 in reply, the gulf between the sides was not down to poor play on the part of the opposition; moreover, it was the outstanding display of bowling and fielding from School House that sealed the victory.

Leading by example, Captain Yutaro Sato (UVI) took 4 wickets, while Will Hargreaves (UVI) managed three wickets in a single over, with Will Street (LVI) and Bertie Calvert (V) both taking fantastic catches to help put the result beyond doubt.

Having won all their previous games in the league, every boy in the team played an important part in securing the title for School House. It was a well-earned triumph and a genuine team effort.



Outgoing School House Upper Sixth get the red carpet treatment at the Leavers' Supper

Tuesday 26 May 2015

Friday 22nd May was the last day of lessons for the Upper Sixth. In keeping with School House tradition, we marked this important milestone with a lavish black tie dinner for the leavers, their parents and the School House staff.



The House Hall ready for supper



Some of the School House staff at the drinks reception. L-R: Seb Cooley (Senior Tutor), Matthew Barrett (Assistant Housemaster), Tania Jones (Matron), Laura Whittle (Tutor), Nadine Jones (Matron), Hugo Besterman (Housemaster), Emily Arthur (Tutor), Spencer Gunnell (Resident Tutor)

At the end of the meal, I took the opportunity to reflect on some of the “defining moments” of each member of the Upper Sixth in turn. Needless to say, a few interesting stories were told, some of them only just fit for public consumption! There were a few nervous moments for some individuals, who were clearly wondering how much I was prepared to reveal... However, the principal motive was to highlight the outstanding and varied contributions that each and every boy in the year has made to School House over their time here.



A few nervous laughs during the speech

These boys started the Sixth Form at the same time that I started in School House so, although I have only known them for two years, they have been an important, formative two years for me as well as them. They have also been a lot of fun, largely thanks to their antics! In moving on to the next stage of their lives, they can be proud of the legacy that they are leaving.



The Leavers' Table

I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know them as a group of lads with immense talent and charisma. Through sports, music, drama and a whole host of other things academic and extracurricular, they represent the all-rounders typical of School House. It really has been a pleasure and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for the overwhelmingly positive impact that they have had on School House.



Leavers on the School House roof. (L-R:) Ronnie Chiu, Jamie Nugent, Jared Sobol, Brendan Parsons, Freddie Rowley, Harry Al-Advani, Brook Plumpton, Christian Ferrigno, Will Hargreaves, Dan Lo, Yutaro Sato, Arthur Cheng



Moser's Hall Junior VIII out for a paddle

Sunday 31 May 2015

