

Football Year End Report

Tuesday 1 May 2018



The 1st XI season has been somewhat mixed with highs and lows. There was a solid run and some great wins in the Arthur Dunn Cup before meeting old foes Tonbridge, in the quarter finals, against whom we lost having controlled the majority of the game. The Premier Division again has seen another rise in quality. The first team have had some solid performances but ultimately too many draws (the most in the league) and losing games late on in the second half meant a relegation battle faced the team at the end of the season. Two points were needed from three games against the two best teams in the league; Charterhouse and Forest. Courageous battles earned two draws in the first two of these games and all but guarantees another year of Premier Division football in the Arthurian League. Special mentions to Robert Hawkin (PH 2001-06), Ben Freeman (Rb 2001-06), Campbell Naylor (Rb 2001-06) and Alex Blofield (PH 2005-10) for their exceptional contributions, especially in the final few weeks when it was really needed.



The 2nd XI have had a far more positive season than last and currently look set to finish fifth in the Arthurian League Third Division with one game left to play. There has been a new found grit, steel and determination to the 2nd XI this season, having ground out results and picked up points that might have evaded them in years gone by. New talent, notably George Pearce (S 2012-17), Max Parsonage (S 2011-16) and Ed Lloyd (Rt 2008-13), have added much needed youth to the squad this year. Tom Hargreaves (G 2005-10) has been prolific in front of goal this season, finishing top scorer. After the lucky escape of last season, this season has certainly created a steady base on which to build for the future. George Blakemore (Rt 2001-06), sadly, is stepping down as 2nd XI Captain at the end of the season and the club is very grateful for his iron-fisted contribution over two years in charge.



The OSFC Veterans XI have, this season, played four, won two (versus the school) and lost two (including the Derrick Moore Cup and subsequent plate competition). The highlight of the season was the first twenty minutes against Chigwell, where the Vets played them off the park with 'real champagne football' after which they collapsed. Thankfully, their new goalkeeper morphed into a ginger version of Peter Schmeichel and limited the damage to just six goals conceded. Some new faces welcomed and more to come from the Vets next year no doubt.

The end of season awards, held at the Warrington Hotel in Maida Vale in late April, gathered together 45 Old Salopian footballers, OS girls and Staff (MHDC and RNRJ). The 1st XI Player of the Year went to Alex Blofield for his incredulous defence and attendance at training. Tom Hargreaves was a worthy recipient of the Matthew Sasse 2nd XI Player of the Year award for finishing top goal scorer and refusing to pass all season. Will Speer took home the prestigious Craig Buchanan award, given for an outstanding contribution to the club, having finally hung up his boots after fourteen years of service. We wish him great happiness in the future.

The club is always looking for new recruits. We have two teams, training and playing on a weekly basis (September to April) in London. If you're interested in playing for the club, please contact Richard McGarry (richmcg87@gmail.com) or Oliver Heywood (ojheywood1@hotmail.com).

OSFC Tour 2018

This year, on August Bank Holiday, the OS Football club is heading to Budapest on our annual tour. We are offering highly discounted rates to recent leavers and students who would like to join us on what has become an incredible trip in recent years. No prior association necessary. Please contact Will Briggs (briggsy999@gmail.com).



Celebrating the Music of France

Wednesday 2 May 2018

As Shropshire's temperatures nudged towards the Continental, how appropriate for a soirée of French repertoire where the warm harmonies and elegant poise of Shrewsbury's musicians provided musical sunshine of its very own.

The Chapel choir and select band of chamber musicians crossed to St Chad's on la rive gauche to deliver a hugely enjoyable programme of Saint-Saens, Fauré, and Messiaen. Ella Johnson, Henri Cramsie, Will Hope and Reuben Denison, despite all its arpeggiated tricksiness, captured a real sense of mischief in Saint-Saens Caprice on Danish and Russian Airs with tight, rhythmic *élan*. Ella Johnson in solo mode showed admirable presence in tackling Fauré's *Fantasie*, a bewitching recital piece, through charming sense of style and control. With the next movement from Messiaen's *Quatuor pour la fin du temps*, we travelled even more ambitiously beyond space and time. The *Louange à l'Eternité de Jésus* is not only a meditation on the idea of faith, but also an exercise in escaping from the trying circumstances of its composition in a prisoner of war camp in 1941. To realise and to provide a glimpse into the infinite and timeless benevolence of God is a tough gig, yet Matthew Pook showed why he is Shrewsbury's premier violinist in conjuring Messiaen's lustrously spare sound world with pristine technique and profound, musical maturity in expression and judgement.

The evening concluded with the Fauré's Requiem in all its ravishing yet understated harmonic mystique. Under the baton of director Alex Mason – and St Chad's rich, amphitheatrical acoustic – the choir delivered one of its finest performances to date. Freed from the wheezy decrepitude of our chapel instrument, the choir clearly benefited Dr Godwin's expert handling of one of Shropshire's finest. Strident and subtly blended colourings found voice in consequently refreshed sense of ensemble; the performance delivered a sense of weighty occasion, yet sensitive to the supple architecture of the piece. Felix Mason-Hornby's 'Libera me' baritone solo wholly delivered what the chapel congregation on the other side (and in cooler climes) so eagerly devour each year. Bravo!

Mr Fraser-Andrews



Churchill's Crowned Junior House Debating Winners 2018

Thursday 3 May 2018

Congratulations to Tom Allen, Sam Crossley and Ranfulf Prentis, who have triumphed in this year's hotly contested Junior House Debating competition.



The team impressed the judges throughout the competition - from early group stage fixtures to the quarter- and semi-finals, debating a range of motions covering a variety of topics from Guantanamo Bay to university tuition fees and beyond.

The final was a keenly contested debate between the Churchill's team and School House, represented by Rhys Woodward, Andrew Chan and Peter Crews. All six pupils deserve great credit for the lucid arguments and impassioned presentation delivered regarding the motion "This House Would Make Voting Obligatory".

The Headmaster was duly impressed with the quality of verbal arguments proposed by both sides, but ultimately awarded the competition to Churchill's for their range of principled arguments and effective delivery.

My thanks to all the staff and pupil judges who have made the competition possible across a busy Lent Term.

Mr Mackridge

SUPA performances from the Shrewsbury School polo team

Thursday 3 May 2018

Shrewsbury's polo players travelled to the damp, chilly and wind-whipped heights of Birdlip in Gloucestershire on Sunday 29th April to take part in the second session of the postponed Schools and Universities Polo Association (SUPA) Senior Schools Arena National Championships at the Longdole Polo Club.



Beginner Bilal Anwar (Rb-LVI) learned fast in his first experience of battle, and the gentlemen of the B team (Ben Henderson (S LVI), Bertie Speed (I UVI) and Scott Walker (SH UVI)) gave a solid account of themselves in their clashes with Wellington and Felstead, taking second place in their division.

Yet despite the miseries of the cold and rain, the A team (Ned Moreau (Rt LVI), Fred Blanchard-Butter (SH UVI) and Milo Hebert (R LVI)) tied with a team with Cheltenham before beating ones from Wellington and Eton and found themselves in first place in the day's top division. It was, in its way, a glorious moment: one of Fred Blanchard-Butter's long-range goals even drew gasps from onlookers.

The team brought grins to their loyal coach, Glynn Henderson, despite his reservations about the weather.

Mr Sheppe

RAF Section cadets take to the skies

Thursday 3 May 2018

On Wednesday 2nd May six of the RAF Section (CCF) cadets were given the exciting opportunity to fly with the University Air Squadron at RAF Cosford.



We were hosted by 8AEF and after a detailed safety brief were each given a 30-minute flight in a Grob Tutor – the two-seater trainer that the RAF use to train all British military pilots.

Some of these air experience flights took the cadets over Shrewsbury, and an opportunity to see The Schools clearly from the air on such a clear afternoon.



The return to Cosford for the most part included a series of aerobatics - loops, stall turns, barrel rolls amongst others – before landing successfully back at the station.

For the most experienced of our own glider pilots (Tom Brennan (I UVI) and Jack Li (Rt LVI)), they were given ample opportunity to take control of the aircraft themselves in flight, and show off their own ability to the instructor pilots.



The next visit is on 13th June, when another eight cadets will be given the chance to experience similar thrills!

Flt Lt JV Lucas



French study visit to Montpellier

Thursday 3 May 2018

In the first week of the Easter holidays, 16 Salopians accompanied by Miss Weatherstone and Mr Warburg set off for the Lower School French Study visit to Montpellier.

The aim of the visit is to combine intensive language learning from native speaker teachers at a well-respected language school each morning, with cultural and fun visits in the afternoons.

Pupils were accommodated in French host families to further encourage plenty of dialogue and discovery. The pupils won wide admiration from their host families, who commented on their excellent manners and thoughtfulness, and from their teachers for their behaviour and positive approach in their lessons.

Montpellier, an extremely beautiful and bustling city full of young people, is an ideal venue for the visit. We were blessed with good weather and the pupils seemed to thoroughly enjoy exploring the language, the culture and the history of the city and the surrounding area. Roll on the next trip!



Here are some diary entries from three of the participating pupils :

Sunday

We started off the day with something we all needed: a lie in. We woke up to be greeted with a delicious French breakfast: *croissants*, *pains au chocolat* and coffee. This gave us a chance to get to know our host families. After breakfast, we helped our family clear up and then relaxed, enjoying taking in the sun, which was mildly warm. After lunch (which didn't disappoint), we walked to the train station, where we were reunited with our other friends. From there we set off by coach for Nîmes.

After a 40-minute drive, we arrived outside the 'Arènes de Nîmes', the Roman amphitheatre. This is a huge building and offered us an amazing insight into the ancient Roman world. There



was enough time to explore every nook and cranny, including climbing right to the top, from where we were had great views of the city and the surrounding countryside.

From there it was just a brief walk to the 'Maison Carrée'. This is a Roman temple which boasts one of the best preserved façades of any temple in the territory of the former Roman Empire. It is a remarkable sight, set as it is in the middle of a 21st century city. We headed inside where we watched a 20-minute film about how Nîmes was founded and the early history of the city.

At the end of the film, we were given 40 minutes free time to look around. This was the first chance we had to discover the joys of French shops and cafés. I introduced myself by having a classic *crêpe* with Nutella.

We left Nîmes, our confidence boosted, having listened to and spoken with real French people, and armed with a better knowledge of Roman history. We returned to our host families for dinner and more time to chat with our hosts.

Nick Argyle (SH III)

Tuesday

Day four of the Montpellier trip - a visit to 'La Grotte des Demoiselles'. However, before that we had another morning of lessons. To improve our confidence, ability and fluency in speaking French we left the classrooms and headed for the food market beneath the beautiful Saint-Clément Aqueduct. Our task was to find the ingredients and preparation method for a famous regional dish.

After an enjoyable morning, we returned to the language school to have lunch, then shortly afterwards we departed on our trip to the caves. The journey took us up steep, narrow cliff roads and when we reached the top, where the caves were, the views of the surrounding landscape were incredible.

To actually enter the caves, we crammed ourselves into the two small carriages of a funicular train and ascended up a 160-metre long passage. After passing through many more tunnels and passages we reached the main attraction, 'the cathedral'. It was 120 metres long, 52 metres high and 48 metres wide.



It was a spectacle of some of the most famous stalagmite and stalactite formations in the south of France, many of which resembled different figures. These varied from carol singers to a large camel! One of the main features however was a stalagmite that represents the Virgin Mary. After admiring the amazing cave formations, taking lots of textural photos and walking up hundreds of steps, we returned to daylight where luckily the sun came out.

We couldn't possibly jump back on the coach whilst the French sun was gleaming outside, so everyone bought ice creams or a cold, refreshing drink and we sat out on the terrace to admire the views, but mostly to make the most of the sunshine knowing that we were likely to return to miserable, grey English weather.



The fourth day of the Montpellier trip was one to remember.

Theo Parsons (Rb III)

Wednesday

We took the tram from Lattes, the suburb of Montpellier in which Milton and I were staying and arrived at the Language School in time for lessons to start at 9:00. Once inside we prepared a small questionnaire for the local people with help from our teacher, Grant. Our aim, once we were out and about, was to ask passers-by different questions about their holidays. One of our questions was “Which is your favourite country?”, which obviously received the unanimous answer of “France”.



So off we set for the two-minute walk to the Place de la Comédie, (the huge central square in Montpellier named so after the theatre dominating one end of the square). We were greeted happily and temptingly by the delicious aroma of pastries. Once in La Place de la Comédie we asked people from all walks of life about their holiday preferences. The young students, who make up a large percentage of the population, talked of holiday in the US and Australia, while the elder generations preferred the closer Mediterranean climate.

After we had finished our questionnaires, we walked back to LSF (the Language School) for lunch, which was freshly baked for us at the local pizzeria. We ate our lunch sitting in the sun on the terrace above the bustling street below, after which we set off for the beach at Palavas, some six miles away.

When we stepped off the bus on the sea front, the sun shining, everyone set off across the sand, some to buy ice creams, some to play beach volleyball, others to sunbathe by the waves. We spent three idyllic hours in the sun before returning to our houses, tired but happy from what had been a brilliant conclusion to our final day.

Will Unsworth (S IV)

ShrewsNews podcast

Thursday 3 May 2018

This week's edition of the pupil podcast includes an interview with Churchill's Housemaster Mr Hudson, where he discusses the McEachran Prize, the Bentley Elocution Prize and what it's like to be a Housemaster.

Please click on the red arrow below to listen:



Around the World in 80 Days

Friday 4 May 2018

On 28th April, pupils were treated to a fascinating and motivating talk by Mark Beaumont, adventurer, broadcaster, documentary-maker and author, who last year broke the world record for circumnavigating the globe.

Charlie Ocklestone (O LVI):

Mark Beaumont has completed some of the toughest challenges in the world. His aim is not just to complete them, however, but to break world records – the most famous of these being his 80-day circumnavigation of the globe by bicycle. The previous record stood at 106 days 10 hours 33 minutes; Mark smashed this time, coming home in 78 days 14 hours and 40 minutes.

He spoke to us not only about his journey on the bike but also about how he managed to achieve his goal. The route itself was 18,000 miles long, starting and finishing in Paris, and it was split up into four stages. The first stage was a long haul from Paris to Beijing. Then he caught a flight to Perth, Australia, where he took on stage two, ending in Auckland. This was the shortest but hardest stage, as temperatures in New Zealand when he started riding at 4am were well below freezing. He then cycled from Anchorage in Alaska to Halifax on the east coast of the USA. And then he flew for the final time to Lisbon, where he faced a 1,100-mile sprint finish back to Paris.



Though the physical feat was tremendous, since he had to average 240 miles a day, he explained that it certainly was not achieved by the efforts of just one man and that considerable team planning and logistical speculation had gone into the expedition. The Artemis team had to keep a tight schedule of a 9,000-calorie day and 16 hours on the bike, which they had to stick to rigorously as the margin for error was incredibly small. However, they also had to deal with any disasters en route. It didn't all run smoothly, as in the first stage Mark had a big crash and cracked his elbow – still having to carry on cycling despite being in agony. Mark explained that

his team played a major part in helping him to achieve his target, as they kept him going when it got tough.

He also explained that he did not get to his final goal through back-to-back successes. He had serious failures during his time as a professional endurance athlete, which spurred him on. Most notable among them was the crash he experienced while attempting to complete a trans-Atlantic crossing by rowing boat in under a month. This crash combined with the boredom he found with ocean-rowing showed that he could not do something purely for the physical challenge; it needed to be an adventure as well. He therefore advised us to pursue a passion in life, as it can be turned into a profession if good infrastructure is built around it.

The core message that resonated from the lecture and one of the major reasons for Mark's success over the years was his mindset in not just aiming to do marginally better than any previous records, but to do what he thought he was capable of. It was a hugely beneficial even to those with no sporting interests, as his personal story and the wider messages he interwove into the talk were inspirational for us all.



Felicity Hayward (EDH LVI):

It was humbling to hear someone who had achieved such a great physical feat not dwell on his success but on what we as young people were able to learn from what he had done. One of his main messages was the importance of intricate planning and the small milestones you have to achieve to reach your final goal. This was an important message for everyone in the audience, helping us to appreciate how something initially unthinkable can be achieved when it is broken down into small chunks.

Another point that he dwelled on strongly was the importance of setting goals based on your own capabilities, not on what others have achieved in the past. In the context of his 80-day challenge, this was particularly relevant to him as his target was so much greater than any previous record.



Sophia Breese (EDH LVI):

Mark Beaumont made it clear at the beginning of his lecture that he did not just want to talk about his physical hardship and achievement over the years, but wanted to focus on the mind-set that has enabled him to have such great accomplishments. This mindset is one of positivity about what you, as a person, want to get out of what you do: that if you want to follow your heart with your future decisions, you must have a plan and discover a way to make it happen.

Listening to him speaking about his interesting childhood living on his parents' farm and being home-schooled for the first ten years of his life, we gradually realised that Mark had not actually known what he wanted to do in life until his final year at university. This led to the understanding that you should not force yourself to do something just because it fits the mould; you should do it because it is what you love and it is how you want to live your life.

Tobias Libberos (I III):

When you say to someone who did something famous, 'I would like to be like you when I grow up' you only like the idea but you don't really want to do it.' This was the phrase that I liked the most. Mark Beaumont's ideas about resilience were excellent. His mental and physical strength had to be at their peak all the time during these heroic expeditions.

I really enjoyed this lecture from the start to the beginning. He kept me awake even after a long day.



Gala Concert given by Shrewsbury School Orchestras and Choirs

Friday 4 May 2018

When snow snuffed out the possibility of Birmingham Town Hall performance, the Music Faculty, undaunted, prepared instead for a blockbuster weekend of late Mozart genius.

Consequently, audiences who were wowed by the vocal dexterities and wonderfully madcap zaniness of *The Magic Flute* over two nights (see [review](#)) were then treated to the glories of his death-bed Requiem on the third. It was worth the wait.

However, the preceding pieces for the School Symphony Orchestra and Wind Orchestra in the programme were in no sense a warm-up: they arrived polished, refreshed and with a white-hot creative sizzle all of their own.





In Lalo's *Symphonie Espagnol*, Matthew Poon was the first of the night's soloists to step up and into the shoes of Sarasate – at the time a byword for violin virtuosity and for whom the piece was written – and whose artistry Matthew emulated with aplomb. His individualistic approach combined composure and sweet tone that was nonetheless remarkable for the wizardry in dispatching the technical demands of the piece: seriously impressive fiddle playing.



Similarly adept was Harry Lawrence who recreated the sound world of Mozart's E flat horn concerto with controlled and melodious feeling that belied the challenge of this princely instrument. Attentive listening from the orchestra made for wonderful sensitivity in the ensemble in both pieces.



Selections from Dvorak's G major symphony continued the Moore masterclass in tight ensemble playing with evocative colours and tunefulness. Some super solo contributions, fleeting like the birdcall that echoed through these two movements, too. Ella Johnson, in particular, provided some magic flute.

Next, the Wind Orchestra sprang into action with Adam Gorb's *Spring into Action* with all the spriteliness and verve that is the hallmark of Maria McKenzie's well drilled band. After the opening Allegro, the finale's motivic energies grabbed the audience by the scruff of its neck audience in the stylish exploitation of cross rhythms – a musical hailstorm after the contrapuntal, sultry textures of bruised springtime sky in the bridging Lento.



Before it took part in its second requiem of the month (see [review of Faure's Requiem](#)), the Chapel Choir delivered a soulful rendition of Ave Verum, which Mozart wrote in a break from composing *The Magic Flute*, and only months before he embarked on the final composition of his short life, the famous Requiem (eventually completed with the help of his pupil, Franz Süssmayr).



Under the baton of John Moore, the Shrewsbury School Choral Society and Orchestra were the able partners to four exciting soloists, Natalie Clifton-Griffith, Kathryn Turpin, Daniel Norman-Taylor (OS) and Jonathan May - all of whom are closely and variously associated with the School.



In this encounter of the operatic with the sacred, the quartet brought decades of experience and performing panache to the evening. How lucky we were to hear them – and how fortunate were the pupils too who, some of them treading into Mozart's operatic world for the first or second time the night before, were able to marvel at the combined expertise in their tracing of Mozartian songfulness in the line of the music, and in the ways they communicated with the audience with such impact. Credit too must go to all pupils and staff who, in the teeth of exam preparation (and all else that goes on), were able to produce a performance of such immaculate integrity and energy. Bravi!

Mr Fraser-Andrews





The 2017-18 Squash Report

Friday 4 May 2018



After the dust had settled over an unexpectedly triumphant end to our last season a series of painful questions soon came to the fore for the O.S Squash team: Were we condemned to sit at second-bottom place (perched precariously above Repton) in the competitive Old Boy Squash hierarchy of London evermore, or were there other, possibly Etonian, scalps that we could set our sights on claiming? Did the laws of synchronicity imply that a hard Brexit could result in our captain, Ben Stirk (M 1991-96), embracing a style of leadership less like that of his more moderate heroines or would he instead begin paying greater heed to the edicts of Nigel Farage devotee (and honorary vice-captain) Rupert Parry (Ch 2004-09)? Would the steady supply of new recruits for the team begin to dry up now that we'd scoured the capital for keen players for two years running? Most crucially, would the recent overhaul in kitchen staff at the Lord's Tavern have an adverse effect on the quality of our post-match burgers?

For many months these concerns cast a long shadow in the minds of the more thoughtful members of the team. It was eventually accepted however that we could only hope to counter the slings and arrows of fate by ploughing onward, so we readied ourselves for our first fixture of the season. This was to be against the Tonbrigians at their home ground in Southbank.



The squash facilities here, while abundant, could undeniably benefit from a little refurbishment. This makes on-court playing conditions especially difficult as the balls have a tendency to ricochet off the front wall in directions that frequently leave more rigid adherents to Newtonian orthodoxy utterly perplexed. This foible caught us off guard and it wasn't long before we were 4-0 down with only the 'first-strings' from either side left to play one another. With characteristic valour Jonny Williams (R 2004-09) rose to the challenge and managed to overcome his opposite number in straight sets; though his win was somewhat pyrrhic as the final score read 4 to 1 in their favour.



Two quick-fire losses followed this debacle; against the Etonians and Harrovians (both 4-1). Nonetheless plaudits must go to David Jenkins (R 2003-08) and William Briggs (O 2005-10) who displayed some exquisite tactical nous and pulled two very hard fought wins out of the bag in their respective match-ups.

Next up was our first (and last) game in the prestigious Londonderry Cup which was to be against the Old Sherbornians. We had high hopes for our cup performance this year, not least since we'd heard precious little about the team we'd been drawn against and had heard rather too much about Millfield and Lancing: the teams which we'd been unfortunate enough to draw in the first round for the two years preceding this. First onto the court was Maximilian Baccanello (Rt 2001-06), a portrait artist and highly rated new entrant into the squad, who played some dazzling stuff and earned a well-deserved win over his opponent. The next four games didn't pan out quite as well, but there was a silver-lining to the desolate spectacle that unfolded as Max remarked afterwards that it had inspired him to consider putting together an exhibition meditating on the intricacies of non-fatal execution.

There was no denying it: the first portion of the season had been an unmitigated disaster. Salopians, while irrefutably gifted and well equipped, have sometimes been accused of being too casual in their approach to life. This veneer is but a superficial layer that encloses the Salopian exterior however, and as soon as genuine moments of need arise the coating invariably peels away. Such was the case for us as once we'd licked our wounds and appreciated the severity of our situation our performances began to drastically improve. Wins against the RAC, the MBBs (both eminent squash clubs operating in London) and Repton fell in quick succession, with both Henry Brown (M 1997-00) and Rupert Parry (Ch 2004-09) succeeding in winning all three of their games in these fixtures.

Next on the calendar was our annual pilgrimage to Shrewsbury School to face the current pupils: a hugely fun encounter that we've come to greatly look forward to. Attempts to field our usual team were thwarted however as unseasonal snow rendered our cars, trains and private jets completely immobile for the weekend. Fortunately there were some well situated team members who managed to get to the school and play a tightly contested affair which resulted in a marginal loss for the Old Boys.

Our vein of good form, though interrupted, continued and saw us reverse our previous results against both Tonbridge and Harrow, a feat made possible in large part by some stellar performances from Ben Stirk and Robert Cross (S 2008-13) which helped tipped the balance in our favour.

This season has been our most successful to date, having borne witness to a number of victories that were entirely out of our grasp just last year. The supply of new members has not dried up as we'd initially feared and eager players continue to pop out of the woodwork or simply relocate to London before getting involved. We're always eager to add more to our ranks, so if you are looking for an amusing and rewarding blend of social and physical exertion then please get in touch. Our current playing squad contains a wide range of skill levels and expertise, and we can always find competitive games for players no matter how new they are to the sport. We also host regular open nights at our home turf in Lords Cricket Ground; and the sumptuous feasts (complete with uncompromised burgers) that follow them make a strong case for attendance alone.

Floreat Salopia!

Shrewsbury School musicians perform 'The Magic Flute'

Friday 4 May 2018

Mr Hudson reviews last weekend's sparkling performances of Mozart's 'The Magic Flute' - and our Film Fellow David Clifford takes us behind the scenes in rehearsal.



A semi-staged opera early in the Summer Term is now a firm fixture in Shrewsbury's musical calendar. This year we were treated to Mozart's late masterpiece *The Magic Flute*, premiered on 30th September 1791 two months before the composer's death at the age of 36.

The delightfully preposterous plot, a battle between good and evil, love and hate, with the birdcatcher *ingénu* Papageno, engagingly sung by Ben Lloyd, caught up in forces of light and darkness way beyond his control, was easy to follow with the aid of a voiceover provided by Kathryn Turpin who, together with fellow singing teacher Jonathan May and Director of Music John Moore, had coached and directed the singers.





As ever, the two performances were a feast for the ears and eyes. With several of the cast doubled over the two nights so as to give more pupils experience of opera, it is not really practicable to mention each individual singer by name, but the four ‘Shrewsbury’ principals, the birdcatcher Papageno (Ben Lloyd), the heroine Pamina (Sophia Price), the simian villain Monostatos (Ohin Cheng) and the High Priest Sarastro (Angus Warburg) clearly understood their parts and sang superbly well alongside the two professional singers needed for the highly technical roles of the Queen of the Night (Rita Wood) and Tamino (Michael Gibson). And mention must also be made of Papagena, coquettishly sung and acted by Mary Lees, the ancient crone who is magically transformed into a nubile bride-to-be for Papageno in one of Mozart’s most enchantingly witty arias.





Two hours of heavenly music slipped by, with the tireless John Moore accompanying at the piano. Tribute should also be paid to Third Former Jake Ludlam whose technical expertise was reflected in some very atmospheric lighting.

It was lovely to be able to go home once again reassured that the rich stream of superb young voices which has characterised Shrewsbury in the past few years remains unabated.

RTH



Peter Shaffer's 'Black Comedy' - a theatrical experience to relish

Wednesday 9 May 2018

Churchill's Hall hilarious House Play comes highly recommended by Director of Drama Helen Brown. Performances in the Ashton Theatre at 7.30pm on Friday 11th and Saturday 12th May.

The device at the heart of Shaffer's brilliant farce, borrowed from Chinese theatre, is the reversal of darkness and light. The play begins in blackout, and the initially baffled audience are introduced to characters they cannot see. In the darkness, we learn that a young sculptor, Brindsley, is anxious to impress a rich dealer, as well as his 'monster' future-father-in-law. When he announces "we've blown a fuse," the stage suddenly blazes with illumination. This pays off richly in two ways. For a start, there is the physical fun of seeing the host stumbling around in the supposed dark, trying to replace the antique furniture he has pinched from a precious neighbour.

Without pushing the point, Shaffer also suggests that darkness discloses hidden truths: only in the blackout does Brindsley discover that he is far closer to a suddenly reappearing old flame than to his snobbish fiancée.



However, the real joy of the piece lies in its highly disciplined account of the hero's disintegration, superbly played here by Toby Pattinson as the harassed sculptor. As the evening unfolds, he scrabbles desperately to cover up the tissue of lies he has concocted, with increasingly hilarious results.



The play throws characters from wildly differing backgrounds into uncomfortably close quarters, and much of the comedy derives from their divergent views: bohemian conceptual artists bump up against pompous traditionalists, and the daughter of a teetotal Baptist minister finds herself sharing a sofa with a gin-swilling deb. Nina Churchill is fabulously ghastly as Carol, reaching a pitch only bats can hear as she berates the long-suffering Brindsley and her rival for his affections, Harold Gorringe (Rider Hartley).



The role of Clea – Brindsley’s glamorous ex-girlfriend – was originally played by Maggie Smith, but the dame herself might be jealous of the poise and allure Will Hope brings to the role, tottering impressively on five inch heels. Harry Remnant, having been promoted from his traditional role as butler, gives a brilliant cameo as the billionaire Bamburger, competing with Otto Rothwell-Hurley for the Oscar for ‘Most-Ridiculous-Mittel-European-Accent’.

The show is stolen, however, by Tim Lovick and Mungo McLaggan as Colonel Melkett and Miss Furnival. Lovick’s braying, impressively moustachioed colonel stalks around the stage like an enraged hippopotamus, whilst McLaggan gives us a marvellous rendition of the repressed spinster, bewailing the rise of sex and supermarkets.





The last few years have seen the theatre produce some extraordinary sets – life-size fighter jets, windows into other worlds and 1950s diners. None can compete, however, with the truly horrific 1960s wallpaper conjured up by Niki Holmes for this production; you may need your sunglasses for the colour scheme, let alone the strobe lighting!

I came straight to the dress rehearsal from the Moser Library, where the sweat of intellectual endeavour was dripping from many a fevered brow. Richard Hudson's uproarious production will provide a perfect respite: there are times when we all just need a good giggle!



Giles Bell's Team of the Week

Tuesday 8 May 2018

This week, Cricket.

Those of you who follow cricket will know of the sad events involving the Australian team whilst touring in South Africa. Cameron Bancroft was filmed with some sandpaper in his pocket which he was using to 'work' on the ball. He can be seen trying to hide the sandpaper 'down under' (Australian for in his pants). Initially he tried to say it was sticky tape with dirt on it. Steve Smith and David Warner were also involved, and Australian cricket is now in crisis and the players have been banned for a year.

The idea behind the sandpaper was to gain an unfair advantage by making the ball do 'funny things' such as reverse swing. This is when the ball moves through the air in a manner that is disconcerting for the batsman and can result in the loss of his or her wicket. For those of you who have already switched off as I leave you behind with my expert and detailed knowledge of cricket, imagine if you liked swing music and you went to put on a track by Benny Goodman or Count Basie and it played backwards. That would surprise and upset you. You might even leave the room and 'get out' of there. Incidentally, there were rumours that Pink Floyd left a message on Dark Side of the Moon if you played it backwards, but I never managed to establish this fact.

Obviously Shrewsbury supremo Andrew Barnard and his partner in crime, Cricket Professional Adam Shantry (I hasten to add neither are Australian, I am just using a term to describe the fact that they work closely together) are keen to ensure that the usual success associated with Shrewsbury School cricket is not in any way tainted by rumours of ball-tampering spread about by jealous opponents or sore losers. Having recently toured Australia, they are hoping the squad have not picked up any bad habits from their exposure to cricket down under. They have therefore worked closely with the Design and Technology Department to ensure that a close eye is kept on the supplies of sandpaper.

Mrs Anne Crump is a keen cricketer herself and certainly did not want the DT Department to be involved in a whiff of scandal. "I don't like scandal whiffs," she told me. She has been keeping a watchful eye on any cricketers who venture into the DT Centre. She gave young Peter Clark short shrift when he visited to see if his friend Johnnie Dowd could make him a new cricket bat.



She would not allow him near the sandpaper just in case there was a suggestion that his success as a bowler was not just down to his natural ability, fantastic coaching and the close proximity of his house to the school cricket nets. Johnnie told me that he has heard that in some rival schools sandpaper can fetch very high prices among school cricketers, but that he has not been approached for any here. He feels that our cricketers are so well coached there is no need to paper over any cracks as there aren't any! "There is no need for sandpaper in Shrewsbury cricket," Johnnie told me.



I have assumed for the purposes of this article that Mrs Crump is related to the Northants all-rounder Brian Crump, who played between 1960 and 1972, scoring 8,789 runs and taking 814 wickets. Brian's finest moment came in August 1965 at Cardiff when he bowled unchanged in the second innings and took 8-142 from 76.3 overs in the game. He had to be carried from the pitch by his team mates!

All the cricket coaches at Shrewsbury have been frustrated by the weather. Mr Barnard is not a fan of the rain. "I am not a fan of the rain," he told me, although he did add that in a drought-affected and arid part of the world he would not mind if some rain fell, as long as there was no scheduled cricket at the time.

Rumours abound that rowing personnel have been spotted on Top Common for the first time in living memory, measuring out a prospective new lake which would lessen the distance to the river and save the Grounds Team a lot of time and effort. "I cannot comment, but there would still be a lot of ducks and the occasional four, so no real change," Director of Rowing Mr Hundermark told me.

When the rain has abated, there have been some exciting games and some resounding successes. The Ist XI have started well, winning four out of their five games (at the time of going to press). I was impressed when I caught up with a few of them at a recent training session. New signing Xavie Clark was looking on, as he is recovering from a stress fracture and is only allowed to bat at present.



His brother is playing for Worcestershire, along with Old Salopians Joe Leach, Ollie Westbury and Ed Barnard, who recently pleased his old man (among others) by taking 11 wickets in the match against Somerset and making 95 runs.

Xavie has already made two 50s and is hoping to utilise his leg spin soon. In fact he took two wickets against Repton!

Jamie Crawley has made over 180 runs already this season and would have made his debut for Lancashire 2nd XI recently had the rain allowed.

Will Sissons is another new signing who has impressed, and Captain George Garrett has recently made his debut for Warwickshire 2nd XI, captained by Old Salopian Ed Pollock.



Cricket professional Adam Shantry, who is quite new to fatherhood and therefore more attuned to child development than in previous years, informed me: “We were a young side last year but this year we are all a year older”. He informed me further, “There has been a lot of growing going on. Peter Clark has broken the five-foot barrier. We will be a more mature and stronger side.” Ludo Lichfield, Dan Humes and the Garrett brothers were quick to tell me that they had all grown up a lot. “We are far more mature this year,” they squeaked.



All the school teams are making good progress in their various cup competitions. The Under-17s were successful in the first round of their competition with a very young side, as a number of Under-15 players had to be drafted in to cope with the absence of the Under-16 cricketers who were sitting their English IGCSE.

The Under-15s and Under-14s are also making progress in their competitions. But it is the girls who have set the standard so far, as they have qualified for the National Under-15s Indoor Finals at Lord's. They have a strong group of players led by Alice 'the rock' Hughes, Georgie 'Call me granite' Nicholas, Ellie 'Kryptonite' Kynaston and Adelaide 'Stardust' Sillar. This group of hardened superstars have been well backed by a strong and enthusiastic squad and a gang of Under-14 stars in the forms of Lisette Barden, Harriet Shuker, Ellie Corbett and Phoebe Watkins.

The Under-14s are quite a force themselves, and I caught up with them as they completed a comfortable win over Shropshire rivals St Elsewhere College (otherwise known as Ellesmere College). Some excellent batting from Lisette and Harriet seemed to give the team control, but there were valuable contributions both verbally and with the bat from Ashleigh Pegge, Hester Lockett and Izzy Shannon, whilst the express pace of Ellie Corbett had the Ellesmere ladies looking for cover back at the pavilion. There was definitely a great team spirit and much excitement at the prospect of batting. "I am very nervous but very excited," an excited and nervous Ashleigh Pegge told me.



The Girls' 1st XI have had a good start to the season, including a ten-wicket win over Malvern who were bowled out for 110, with Izzy Wong and Emma Graham nonchalantly knocking the runs off. Izzy has recently joined Worcester Ladies and made her debut for the county over the Coach Weekend.

As I have stated before, the health of a school's cricket should only be judged on how deep the talent pool is. My own protégés, the Under-14Cs, have also made a good start to the season, winning all but one of their games. Kenyan and Tanzanian cricketers Lem Mandara, Jolyon Colson and Oli Powell have all been enjoying good starts to the season, although Oli's starts are now on the Athletics track. "One fitness session with Mr Bell and Mr Roberts has turned me into an athlete," Oli told me.



With French star Tobias Libreros bowling well and Dutch descendant Matthew Keulemans batting with freedom, there is something of an international flavour in the squad. "It is part of pre-season plan. World Domination," I told myself. "Has anyone else heard a voice suggesting

they should be aiming for world domination? I am sure it is perfectly normal,” I reassured myself.



The health of cricket at Shrewsbury School is not in doubt, which is more than can be said for at least one member of staff!

Finally it should be said that Head Groundsman Andy Richards and his team have been amazing as usual and deserve many accolades for keeping the show on the road with what has been quite a mixture of weather so far this term.





The Cricket Leagues also rely on goodwill and there have been some natty umpiring outfits already this year, as modelled below by 'The Good, The Bad and The Ugly'. Tom Drury told me he can shoot a man down from 22 yards only using his finger and claims that watching Clint Eastwood westerns have not had any influence on him whatsoever. "Who is Clint Eastwood?" he asked me. The Revd Aldous was as usual the epitome of elegance, and as he is clearly 'The Good', the dapper Mr Cooley and the aforementioned gunslinger will have to fight it out for who is 'The Bad' and who is 'The Ugly'!

GJFB



OS Women's Sport Club Summer Report

Wednesday 9 May 2018

Old Salopian Day 30 September 2017

As we arrived back at the Schools to a very impressive, 'state of the art' Astro turf pitch the heavens opened – well it wouldn't be an Old Salopian match without torrential rain!



However, not only did we manage to get a full Old Salopian side together (admittedly with the help of a current pupil as our goalkeeper), we even had a couple of subs. This was extremely handy when we remembered just how vast a hockey pitch is! The majority of Old Salopians had not played for several years (some not since school) and hence having to put on shin pads, gum shields and adopt that 'hunched over stance' was no mean feat!



The game got off to a rather one-sided start with the current girls showing their impressive stamina and skills. The old girls conceded a goal rather early on; however, instead of dampening our spirits, this spurred us to get our 'game faces' on and released our competitive streaks once again! It was very much a game of two halves. The first being a complete eye opener for the old girls, leaving them no chance to try and catch their breath...; after a marvellous performance from the current girls scoring five wonderful goals, it was time to turn things around. We finally got into the swing of things and after the third short corner in a row, the old girls managed to win back one goal. It was a sterling performance from the current girls, who showed their true ability and passion for the game and fully deserved their victory. Nevertheless it was a really entertaining game and I know the old girls would have been up for an immediate re-match, despite being drenched! However, we will save that for next year in the hope we can pull back a few more goals!

I would like to say a big thank you to all those who played this year (and to the organisers); it was

great to have so many girls and supporters back and to produce a full game of enjoyable hockey. Bring on next year!



Other News

Annie Brentnall (MSH 2009-11) completed the Brighton Marathon despite an ankle injury at the beginning of the year. This is an outstanding achievement and shows how determined and hardworking she has been throughout her rigorous training and recuperation. Annie should be extremely proud of herself – we certainly are!

Lois Davis (MSH 2009-11) took part in the Great South Run for the Royal British Legion late last year in Portsmouth. This was to raise money for the rehabilitation and specialist care and support unit for injured service men and women and their families. Lois completed the 10 mile race in a tremendous time of 1hr 25 minutes. This is a fantastic cause and it is wonderful to see Lois supporting the charity and running a great race.

The London Marathon is always well supported by Salopians: it is both humbling and remarkable to see so many athletes pushing themselves to new limits.

Earlier this year, I (Elle Gurden MSH 2008-10) was fortunate enough to participate in a once in a lifetime sporting experience. In January, I went to Innsbruck to undertake the challenge of the



Skeleton and Bobsleigh with the British Olympic Team, hosted by the Outward Bound Charity Trust. After comprehensive training on the skeleton I raced down the track head first at a speed of up to 90km/h; the feeling of exhilaration was extraordinary! Next I joined the 4 man bobsleigh, hitting speeds of over 120km/h. This was undeniably one of the biggest adrenalin rushes I have ever had and I was extremely lucky to be a part of such an unbelievable adventure.

I am pleased to report that the Old Salopian netball team have restarted and meet weekly to play in a South London intermediate level league. We now have a solid group of regular players which is enabling us to work on our individual positions at the same time as developing strong team skills. The team put on a promising performance to start the season and I am confident we are going to grow each week to become serious competition for our opponents.

Finally, if anyone in London is interested in joining us, please do contact me, through the club: oldsalopian@shrewsbury.org.uk. In addition, if there are any OS sportswomen competing in events, please reach out to the Salopian network; we would love to hear all about your achievements.





Dance Showcase: 'A Century of War and Peace, 1918 - 2018'

Wednesday 9 May 2018

The Shrewsbury School dance ensemble transported us from the safety and familiarity of the Ashton Theatre to paint a vivid commentary on War and Peace.

We were given an inspired series of dances, beginning with the First World War and closing with reflections on the effect of war on the innocent. Sadly my words will not fly as the dancers did, nor fill the page with such emotion and empathy as they did the stage!

The show began with the ensemble dancing together, marking the transition from civilian life to the horrors of war, telling the story of the hopeful start before gathering the poppies at the bitter end. Anya Tonks, in her solo, flew across the stage, capturing the morphine-filled dreams of a WW1 soldier, drawing us in to a world so alien to us now, showing a depth of empathy and expression that drew us back a hundred years to a sodden battlefield, the loss palpable.



John Bugge pictured the trenches and the legendary moment of the 'Christmas Day football match', making light of the hell that he danced through. The end of the game drew him back into the jarring reality, the rap mirroring the staccato of his dance and the repetition of the guns.



Lisa Stoyarova and Daisy David danced the 1920s, portraying the brittle humour of the time between wars, the frantic chase for joy that soon came to an end, despite ‘the banishing of fear’.



Phoebe Morris’s piece drew us back into the horrors of the Second World War. The line that struck me from the song that she chose was, “How can I love when I’m afraid?”: a sentiment that Phoebe expressed, using the table and chair to contrast everyday life with the unending worry for loved ones away at war. Phoebe managed to communicate the anguish and daily turmoil for those behind. Here there were no soaring leaps; rather, earthbound glissandos and swirling limbs captured the turmoil of those behind, “a thousand years of loss” so brilliantly portrayed.



Mary Yang danced the Korean War in a short emotive piece, which filled the stage with fast movement, energy and poise. She drew us into to a fast, brutal and proxy war that divided a country and the world.



Fiona Lim danced the stress and loneliness of the soldiers, damaged not by weapons but by the constant fear and noise, the loneliness of the battle, translated back to home and the terrible consequences of trauma and stress. A simple, almost empty stage told of the isolation and

imprisoning of a person without walls. Fiona captured the movement of a frenetic butterfly trying to escape through the unopen window; as she stretched and flowed and gestured, she drew us into that glass cage.

Charlie Tonks returned to start the narrative “of songs that no-one wants to listen to”, taking us through the death of a soldier in Iraq: to outsiders just a name but to the family by the grave a story brought to a brutal final end. She drew us in to see the loss from the family’s view, not just another headline, another statistic.



Choreographer Sian Archer brought us to a close and up to date with a narration by Director of Drama Helen Brown, over which Sian danced the story of the refugees, of families torn apart but holding on to their dignity. She was grace and resignation in one.



The final ensemble piece drew us to a close, the entire group filing the stage, flowing over it, constantly weaving in and out as the participants’ and onlookers’ lives weave in and out of the war around them. All the dancers managed to be alone and yet all together, aware and yet oblivious to those around them. What better way to capture the nature of conflict and its many outcomes than the choreographed patterns, random and yet not? The final line “if you knock me



down I'll stand up again" brought the group together as one, in a final, incredibly poignant moment.



Thank you to Koby Ferdinand-Okpala, Freddy Williams and Georgina Cooper for their beautiful and thought-provoking readings and to the Technical Team, who worked absolute wonders to create so many differing moods across so many eras. My only regret is that there wasn't a second or third performance for others to see and enjoy. However, perhaps the uniqueness of the show gave what we saw and heard an immediacy that would have faded over repeating; perhaps a metaphor for the lives they danced!

Ian Payne

The Tennis Season Kicks Off

Thursday 10 May 2018



St George's College hosted our qualifying round of the Public Schools Old Boys' L.T.A. D'Abernon Cup. The college has a fantastic facility with four indoor courts, and Shrewsbury was represented by former school doubles partners Will Mackenzie (O 1998-02) and Tom Gerrard (SH 1999-04) - pictured. The competition was as stiff as ever, with Lancing, Sherbourne, Wellington, St. Paul's and the hosts St. George's all in our group. The Mackenzie/Gerrard combination ultimately proved too much for their opponents to handle as they claimed all 5 scalps holding their nerve in clutch like fashion in three deciding tie breaks.

It was the key moments where some old school doubles combinations secured vital points and we now look forward to the quarter finals on June 17, where two pairs will represent. The final will be held at the All England Club, and there is all to play for, though no doubt tougher competition and renowned tennis schools such as Millfield, Repton and Reeds will need to be overcome first.



Double GB gold for Shrewsbury School rower Dominic Sullivan

Thursday 10 May 2018

Congratulations to Lower Sixth Former Dominic Sullivan (I), who won two GB gold medals last weekend at the 2018 International DRV Junior Regatta, held at the Munich Olympic Regatta Centre in Oberschleissheim.

Dominic was selected to race for Great Britain through trials held over the Easter holiday.

On the first day of the Regatta, Saturday 5th May, he competed in the coxless four. Thirty crews entered the event, and the GB crew performed strongly in their heat to come first and book a place in the A Final.

They held off a strong challenge from the German and Swiss crews over the first half of the Final, to open up to a length lead as they crossed the finish line first.



Dominic (far left) with the winning coxless four

Not content with just one gold medal, Dominic raced in the GB eight the following day. They led from start to finish and won gold ahead of a crew from Poland.



Dominic will be hoping to be selected for the Junior World Championships, which will be held in the Czech Republic in August, just a fortnight before he takes to the stage at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, playing the lead in the Shrewsbury School Musical 'Rebecca – The Drowned Bride' (20th – 25th August).

Jaguar Land Rover visit

Friday 11 May 2018

The Physics and Design & Technology Faculties combined forces recently for a joint visit to Jaguar Land Rover, giving pupils a hands-on insight into some of the practical applications of their subjects.



Donning high-vis jackets, 24 Fifth and Sixth Formers enjoyed a fascinating tour of the engine manufacturing centre and were then given an overview of the design process at JLR.

They also had a chance to find out in detail about Engineering as a potential career, as staff talked to them about their own roles at JLR, explained the various routes into becoming an engineer - and the current skills shortage in the UK and needs of employers - and answered their questions.



Launch of Shrewsbury School Careers Films

Friday 11 May 2018

This week we launched an exciting new careers initiative, which we hope will be an invaluable resource for pupils to explore as they consider what steps to take beyond Shrewsbury School.

Thanks to the support of Old Salopian David Chance (O 1970-75) and the hard work and expertise of Film Fellow David Clifford and Kate Hodge from the Salopian Club, we have been able to create a library of filmed interviews with former pupils of the School across a wide range of careers.

Each of the films focuses on their 'journey' from Shrewsbury School to workplace and provides fascinating insights into the work they do, the skills that are required in their career, and how their Salopian experience has influenced the paths they have taken.

Pupils can access the films via the School's intranet system, and we will be constantly adding to the bank of resources. At present, it includes interviews with the following former pupils:

Philip Russmeyer (Ch 1995-97)	Private Equity
James Russell (PH 1990-95)	Dentistry
Charlotte Finlay (MSH 2008-10)	Law
Nick Owen (R 1961-66)	Media
Mark Connor QC (PH 1982-87)	Criminal Law
Adam Booth (PH 1990-95)	Medicine (General Practice)
Elle Gurden (MSH 2008-10)	Investment Banking
Henry Exham (R 1997-2002)	Teaching
Graham Moss (R 1969-73)	Architecture
Phil Wood (M 1992-97)	Accountancy
Neil Daly (PH/G 1984-89)	Brand Management
Chris Chaney (I 1991-96)	Charities

A five-minute 'taster' of the films can be viewed below:



From the Satires of Horace to navigating the Ontological Argument

Friday 11 May 2018

Recent publications by Shrewsbury School staff

Two books written by former Head of Classics John Godwin have recently been published by Bloomsbury Academic. *Horace Satires: A Selection* and *Horace Odes: A Selection* are the endorsed publications from OCR for the Latin A-Level set texts. In addition to the full Latin text, commentary and vocabulary, they also include a detailed introduction placing the poems in their Roman literary context.

John's numerous other published works include *Lucretius* (Bloomsbury, Ancients in Action series) and large-scale editions of the poetry of Ovid, Catullus and Lucretius.

See <https://www.bloomsbury.com/author/john-godwin-40761/>

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

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

Mike Tonks' article on 'The Problem of Evil' was published in *Dialogue* earlier this year. His latest article is entitled 'Navigating a way through the Ontological Argument' and can be read [here](#).

The news this week 100 years ago: 11th - 17th May 1918

Friday 11 May 2018

This week we remember William Folds, who died of his wounds in France on 14th May 1918.

Private William Robert Folds, G/63741, 4th Bn. Royal Fusiliers.

Rigg's, left in 1904. Died of wounds in France, 14th May 1918. His age is not known, but he was probably 32.

He was buried at Pernes British Cemetery, France. Grave I. E. 17. 77130 Royal Engineers.

Physics Olympics

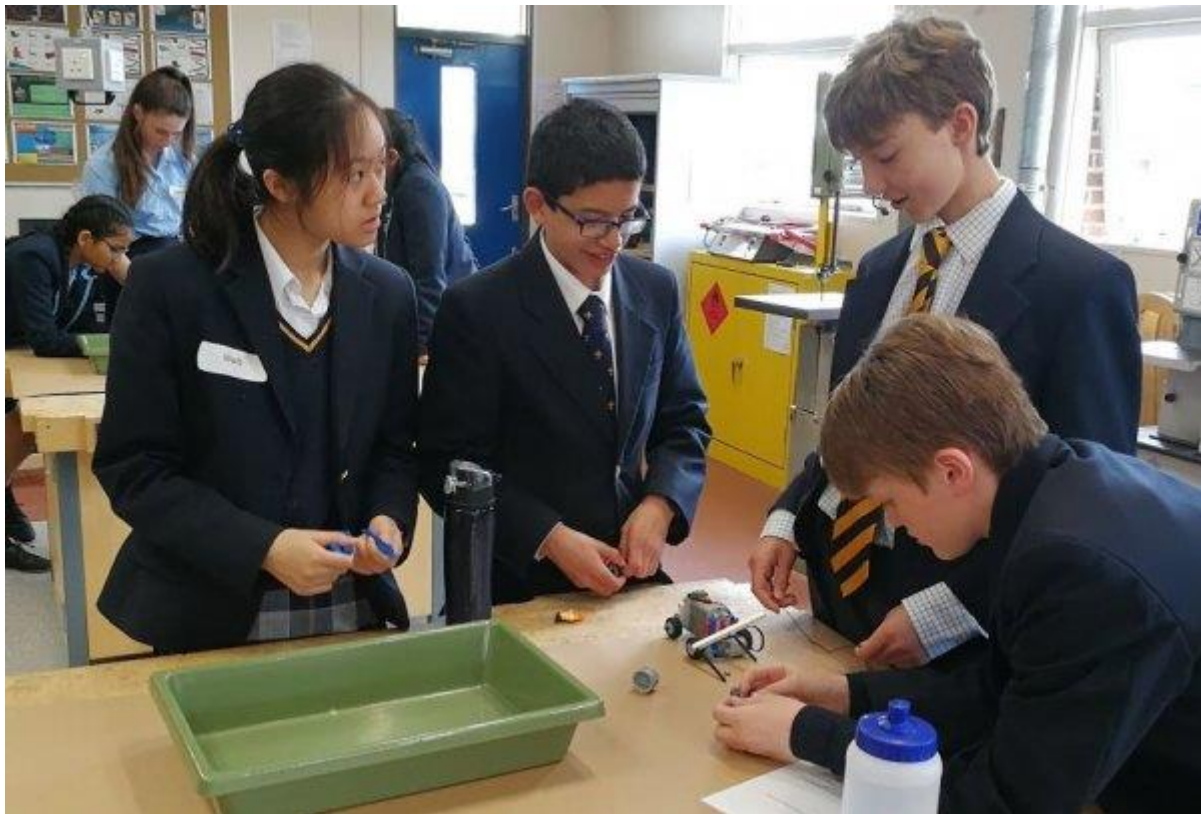
Friday 11 May 2018

On Tuesday 8th May, Shrewsbury School entered two teams of Third Form pupils to compete at the annual Physics Olympics held at King's School Chester.

This was a prestigious and competitive event, with 24 other teams competing from a range of schools.

The eight pupils selected to represent Shrewsbury had previously demonstrated outstanding aptitude for the subject based on internal testing and a three-week series of workshops in preparation for the event. The final team were Timothy Antelo (Rb), Ossian Finch (R), Henry Lawson (O), Mew Hansiriphan (O), Ellie Letts (M), Rosa Li (M), Jake Ludlam (R) and Dylan Tyack (PH).

On arrival at the competition, they were separated into two groups named after eminent physicists: Henry, Tim, Rosa and Ossian were Team Watt, whilst Team Ising was made up of Mew, Ellie, Dylan and Jake.

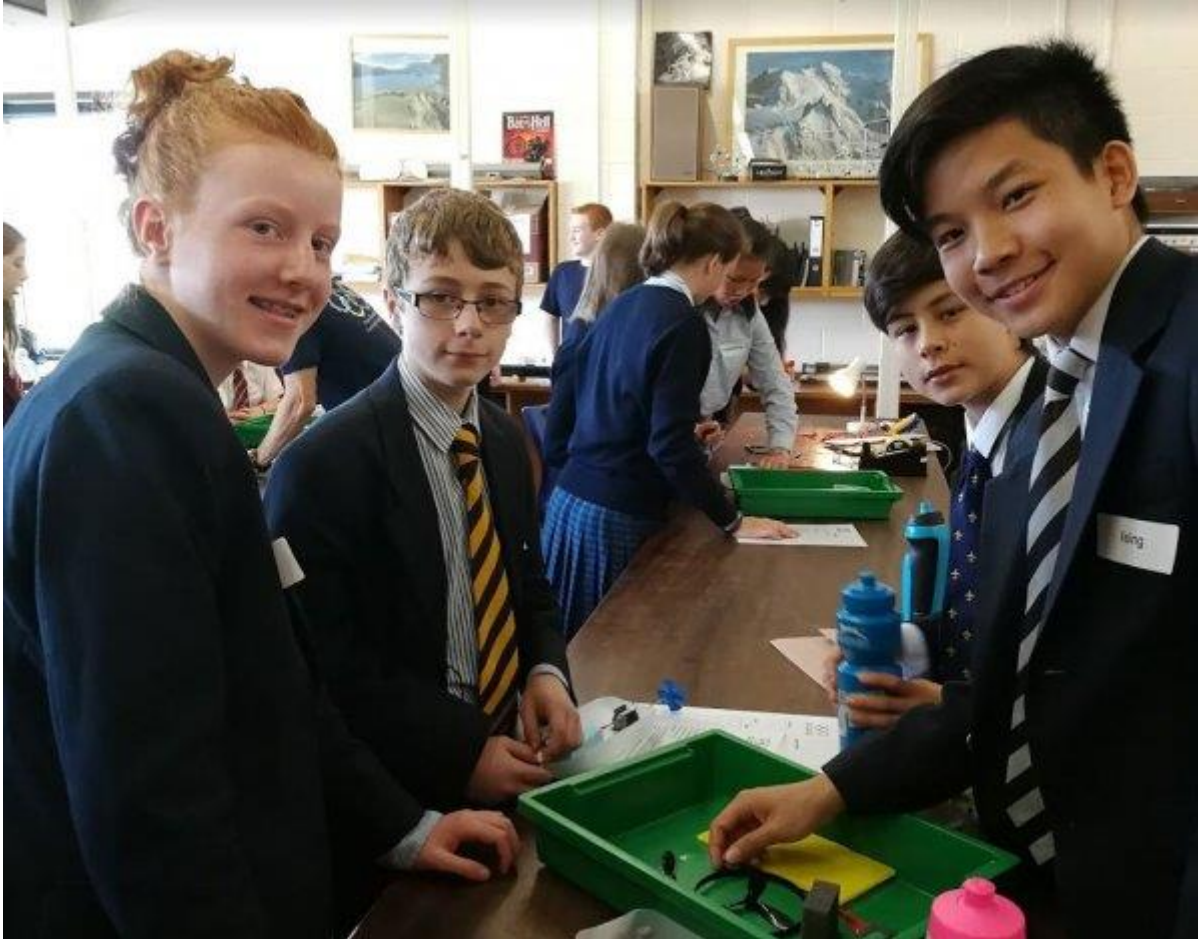


Team Watt working on the tractor challenge in which they finished second overall

The Olympics tested the pupils' team skills, practical dexterity and working knowledge of different areas of physics over six challenges. They were asked to:

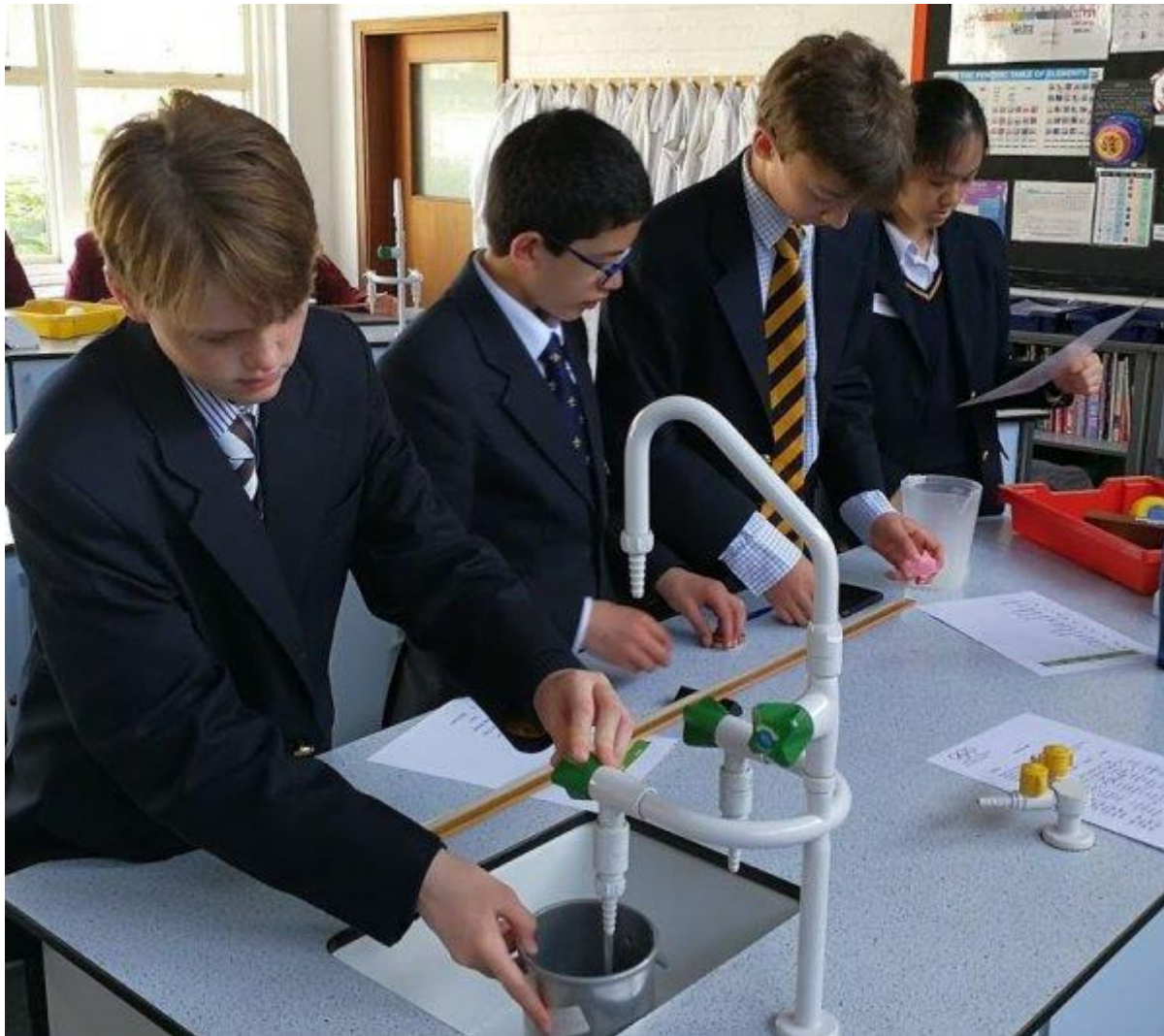
- build a rocket that, when propelled by pressured air, would travel the furthest;

- use the principle of moments and a eureka can to work out the density of a variety of objects;
- build a powerboat that could be powered by capacitors;
- modify a Lego tractor so that it could transfer the most mass up a ramp in the shortest amount of time;
- tackle a maze using computer programming;
- work through a series of 'Fermi' questions that included estimating how many pound coins would need to be stacked to reach the moon and how deep a puddle of tea would make when spilled!



Team Ising building their power boat

I was hugely impressed by the team's tenacity and cooperation when undertaking these diverse challenges, and overall both teams can be proud of their efforts. The pupils had to be adaptable and resourceful throughout the competition - lessons that they should carry with them throughout their time at Shrewsbury.



Team Watt tackling the density problems

Team Watt had a notable highlight in the tractor round, finishing in second place overall, while Team Ising also came second in the maze challenge.

Overall, Team Watt finished in a commendable 16th position and Team Ising came an impressive 7th. Both teams rued missed opportunities to improve their scores across the other events, and with a little more consistency the final classification could have been even better.



Dylan Tyack and Jake Ludlam working through the maze

However, all the team members have displayed qualities that suggest that they have a bright future within Physics. Perhaps more importantly, they have developed into strong team players who have learnt how to face scientific challenges head on. An excellent effort from all involved!

Richard Barrett

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



Behind the Scenes of the Dance Showcase

Friday 11 May 2018

Film Fellow David Clifford spoke to the dancers taking part in last week's performance of 'A Century of War and Peace' and filmed them in rehearsal.

A Piano Recital with Galin Ganchev

Friday 11 May 2018

Galın Ganchev, Shrewsbury's all conquering hero of the piano keyboard, last week made an eagerly awaited return with all the assured and attentive artistry we have come to expect, and more.



In the intimate surroundings of the Maidment, his programme that compelled its audience to admire the fine details in architectural wonders of the virtuosic piano world. Opening with Bach Toccata in C minor, he put down a marker, amid all the brilliance of this piece's improvisational nature, with declarative intent; the fugal finale in particular was pursued with studious care and affect.

Schubert's sonata in the same key revealed a scale and tone in a sound world that at first seemed subdued but nevertheless completely enthralled, with its thoughtful shaping sensitive to Schubert's original dynamic range, and the achievement of subtle forte piano effects Galin caressed into life from within the hulk of the big beast Steinway D. Its concluding tarantella sparkled with that characteristically Ganchev gossamer touch and impressive, cantering energy.

The second half immediately opened the throttle with a selection of Debussy's fiendishly technical Etudes, whose spiky charms are voiced through finely honed attack and dexterous pedal – and were despatched with accomplishment and aristocratic disdain. Whimsical, songful yet tightly controlled, the Chopin Nocturnes Nos 1 and 2, op. 62 introduced the final section. They offered time-out before the impassioned finale, the E major Scherzo, lifted the roof. As an encore, *Étincelles* - "Sparks" - by Moszkowski smoked and fizzed with delightful panache in the after-burn of a tremendous evening. Bravo!

James Fraser-Andrews

Shrewsbury Half-Marathon – Running for Haiti

Friday 11 May 2018

A staggering 61 current and former pupils, staff and parents are signed up to run in this year's notoriously hilly Shrewsbury Half Marathon on 17th June.



This year, the School's official Half Marathon charity is the Andrew Grene Foundation, co-founded by a former Churchill's and Ridgemount parent, Tim Perutz.

The Foundation supports a school in Haiti, with 257 pupils, aged 11-18, drawn mainly from Cité Soleil, a vast and dangerous shanty town on the edge of Port-au-Prince. This amazing school, with the most rudimentary facilities imaginable, is staffed by dedicated local teachers and is a beacon of hope, calm and aspiration in a city still struggling to recover from the devastation caused by the 2010 earthquake, which killed an estimated 250,000 people, and from the decades of misrule which preceded it. The school opened in 2011 and is named in memory of Andrew Grene, the best friend of Tim Perutz. Andrew was a UN official who was killed, along with 101 other UN staff, when their building collapsed in the earthquake.

In response to Andrew's death, his brother Gregory and Tim Perutz set up the Andrew Grene Foundation (AGF), which not only built and supports the school but also transforms the lives of 1,600 Haitian women through a microfinance project. Please see their website <https://andrewgrene.org/>

At the invitation of the Perutz family, Churchill's Housemaster Richard Hudson and his wife Ruth visited both projects in October 2017 and were profoundly impressed by the work the AGF is doing to improve the lives of so many Haitians. The charity's administration and salary costs are all met from other sources and every penny raised for the Foundation is used to fund the school and the microfinance project.

Richard and 20 Churchill's Sixth Formers will be amongst the 'Team Shrewsbury School' Half-Marathon runners on 17th June.

Their fundraising target is £10,000, over £5000 of which has already been raised through the generosity of parents and friends of runners. They would like this to be a whole school venture and are asking you to consider a donation which will make a difference to the lives of many in one of the world's most unfortunate countries.

To learn more about this extraordinary school, and to make a donation, please visit the Team Shrewsbury School fundraising page at:

<https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/shrewsburyhalfmarathonagf>





RSSBC: Boys' 2nd VIII win gold at the Wallingford Regatta

Friday 11 May 2018

The Boat Club had four crews competing at the Wallingford Regatta held at Dorney Lake over the Coach Weekend.

The boys' 1st VIII competed in the Challenge Eights event and came third in their heat. Their time put them ahead of three crews that beat them at Schools' Head, which provided some encouragement after missing out on the final.



1st VIII (lane 3)



Image courtesy of Ben Rodford Photography <https://www.benrodfordphotography.co.uk>

The best result of the Regatta came from a fantastic race by the boys' 2nd VIII competing for the Evening Post Challenge Cup against other 2nd VIIIs and some 1st VIIIs. The crew came second in their heat by one second and knew they had a race on their hands for the final.

At the halfway mark in the final, there were five crews in contention with less than a length separating all the boats. The 2nd VIII showed great character to maintain their form and hold off the challenges from the other four to record an impressive win in a very competitive event.



The girls' 1st VIII raced in the J18 category and had tough heat. They had a good battle with the crews that placed third and fourth but had to settle for fifth, missing out on the final by three seconds.



Image courtesy of Ben Rodford Photography <https://www.benrodfordphotography.co.uk>

The boys' J16 VIII raced in near perfect conditions in the afternoon with blue skies and no wind. In their heat they produced an impressive start, to lead the race through the halfway mark. They lost their form a bit in the closing stages and finished second, qualifying for the final.

They didn't produce quite the same speed out of the blocks in the final, but they had a strong row in a tremendous race, with four seconds separating the top five crews. They came in fourth but made good progress through the event and are looking forward to the National Schools' Regatta to be held at the same venue at the end of May.



Image courtesy of Ben Rodford Photography <https://www.benrodfordphotography.co.uk>

Athol Hundermark, Director of Rowing

Shrewsbury

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Well Done, Shrewsbury!

Saturday 12 May 2018

In the Regional Qualifying round for the Grafton Morrish at Olton Golf Club near Solihull on Saturday 12th May, Shrewsbury qualified for the Finals, which will be held at Brancaster/Hunstanton from Friday 5th October.

Jon Howse (R 1998-03) and James Mainwaring (R 2005-10) amassed 32 points, most creditably.

Laurie Briggs (G 1996-01) (off 3 at The Royal Liverpool Club) and Andy Pollock (I 1971-74) (Captain) scored 27 points.

Will Painter (R 1967-71) and James Taylor (R 2003-08) (on his debut in foursomes play) notched 25 points.

This meant that Shrewsbury were the third to qualify with 84 points, with Warwick on 87 points and home favourites Solihull on 91 points.



Royal Liverpool - Hoylake

Friday 13 April 2018

The cloud and cold of the 'Beast from the East' were still hanging around at Hoylake on Friday 13 April when the OSGS visited the famous links of Royal Liverpool Golf Club.

This, however, did not dampen the Old Salopian spirit as nineteen Golfers turned up to play this test of golf. This included five members to whom we are particularly grateful - Nicko Williams (SH 1954-58), Sean Duncan (SH 1956-61), Georg Styr, Michael Brabner (R 1963-67) and Lloyd Whiteley (I 1972-77) - without whose support this day would not be possible.

Following tea/coffee and a bacon or sausage roll in the newly refurbished spike bar, we set out in three balls playing a stableford competition.

The course was in pretty good condition, considering all the weather we have had, apart from the bunkers which were very wet. Despite a period of about 40 minutes of light rain at Midday - there was no real wind to speak of - making the course quite tame.

Richard Hanson (Rt 1986-91) took full advantage of this and had a blistering round scoring 42 points off his handicap of eleven. He won the Nearest the Pin in three shots on the third hole appropriately called 'Long Haul'.

On the par 3 thirteenth hole, called Rushes, Richard Hanson was leading the way with the Nearest the Pin when David Schofield, Father of four Salopians - the last of whom is about to start his final term in Oldham's Hall - thought he was going to have a hole-in-one, but just came up short of the hole and pipped Richard Hanson to win this nearest the pin competition.

On the 430 yard par 4 fifteenth hole, called Lake, Richard Hanson prevailed in the Longest Drive competition with a magnificent drive outstripping all others in the centre of the fairway.

One of Richard's playing partners, Julian Mitchell (S 1979-84), said he played Par Golf and it was sheer joy to watch him beat up the course! A handicap cut is surely on its way with this performance. Richard won first prize and took home a Royal Liverpool Crested Driver Head Cover to treasure the memories of this round.

Michael Moore (R 1956-61), currently off games, drove around the course on a buggy offering morale boosting support and encouragement and we hope to see Michael back playing soon.

Jonty Godfrey (S 1960-64) brought along for tea his elder bro, Robert (S 1949-53) who won a Cambridge Golf Blue at Burnham & Berrow in 1959.

Other prizes were awarded to Ryan Lewis (G 1991-96), James Lowes (R 2000-05), Jonathan Perkins (Rb 1990-95), and Martin Hood who was a guest for the day.

Following the golf, the whole party sat down to Gammon, Chips and Peas in the Club Dining Room on the first floor overlooking the links (see a photo from each end of the table).



Prize Giving followed with a vote of thanks to the Royal Liverpool Golf Club from the President of the OSGS, Anthony Smith (I 1954-59).

Next year's fixture has been booked for Friday 12 April 2019. We hope that some of you reading this report might feel the need to put this date into your diaries now for next year. Personally, speaking I can't wait to go back!

Charles Hill (SH 1980-84) (Hon Secretary Designate)

A Sunny Sabrina Day by the River

Sunday 13 May 2018



A busy Shrewsbury Regatta was the backdrop to this year's Sabrina family day.

Many Salopian oarsmen and women from all generations gathered to enjoy the hog roast and Pimms that were supplied by the Sabrina club. It was also good that Sabrina members could mingle with present athletes (when they were not racing) and also parents of current Salopians.

Sabrina Club were also in action on the water, with wins in the coxed four and double scull.

All in all a very pleasant afternoon!





Athletics: County Championship Success

Monday 14 May 2018

On Wednesday 9th May, we hosted the Bob Tisdall Championships at London Road with some great performances and Shrewsbury dominating in a number of events.

This was a great build up to Saturday's Shropshire County Championships. A squad of 35 athletes were selected to represent the School, our highest entry in a number of years. It was excellent to see the depth of talent we currently have at Shrewsbury.

Highlights of the day were:

- Tom Jackson – 2nd in the 800m
- Aaron Lewis – 1st in the Javelin
- Francesca Harris – 1st in the 1500m
- Monty Hardcastle – 1st in the Long Jump and in the 200m
- Toby Pattinson – 2nd in the Long Jump
- Alfie Biggs – 1st in the Pole Vault
- Harrison Cutler – 2nd in the 1500m
- Sebastian Price – 1st in the Discus
- Jonathan Price – 2nd in the 200m
- Abi Watkinson – 1st in the Discus
- Owen Mock – 1st in the 400m

Well done to all who competed. The squad looks strong as we now focus on the School County Championships in early June.



British Youth Fencing Championships

Monday 14 May 2018

Six Shrewsbury School fencers spent Coach Weekend at the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield, representing the West Midlands in the British Youth Championships



L-R: Jude Huffer, Ben Cowley, James Hinwood, Will Holcroft, Archie Free, Suky OuYang

The event brings together the top young fencers in the country in épée, sabre and foil, all of whom have won through their regional qualifiers.

In the under-18 boys' épée event, James Hinwood finished a creditable 10th, with Will Holcroft 13th and Ben Cowley 27th from a field of 43 fencers.

The under-18 boys sabre event saw Archie Free finish 35th in a very competitive field of sabreurs.

Suky OuYang finished 9th in the under-18 girls' sabre and was unlucky not to reach the quarter-finals.

She also represented the region in the under-18 girls' foil, finishing in 23rd place.

Jude Huffer was sadly way off-form, finishing 58th in the under-16 boys' foil.

Ken Holding, Fencing Coach



Running the Shrewsbury Half-Marathon for the Shewsy

Tuesday 15 May 2018

When it was announced in February 2014 that Shrewsbury would be hosting its very first Half-Marathon, the then Teacher in Charge of the Hunt, Peter Middleton – who was famous at school for zipping round full marathon courses in times that rivalled professional runners – issued an emotive rallying cry to the Salopian community to come and join in. The call was answered by almost 40 runners from among the pupils, Old Salopians, staff and parent body. Among them was Mrs Kirk, well known in Salopian circles as an inspirational chemistry teacher and virtuoso violinist; in the world of running, however, a self-confessed complete novice.

Her account of those next few weeks, as she gradually went from “a half-walk/half-run stagger” to regularly clocking up eight or ten miles before breakfast – and loving it – has inspired several other hesitant ‘non-runners’ to follow in her footsteps: [Shrewsbury Half-Marathon: A novice runner gets ready](#). And she has run the Shrewsbury Half Marathon each year ever since.

This year she will be running to raise money for the Shewsy, the School’s youth and community centre in Everton, Liverpool, one of the most deprived wards in the UK, which offers a place of safety and warmth for local young people aged 5-18.

"As a teacher at Shrewsbury School, I have been on several Social Studies courses at the Shewsy with our Sixth Form students. I am always very inspired when I am there by the warmth, dedication and enthusiasm of the staff who run the youth club. I love to join in with the Junior Club kids in 'circle-time' and share a slice of toast! I want to raise money to help the Shewsy to develop their garden area and share my love of gardening in the future with them."

To support Mrs Kirk, please visit her online donation page: <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/victoriakirkhalfmarathon>



The Aberconway Cup - Fathers and Sons

Sunday 15 April 2018



The annual Fathers and Sons Competition (Aberconway Cup) took place on Sunday 15 April 2018. Salopians were victors once again with myself, Chris Hughes (SH 2004-09) and my father (SH 1975-80) winning – beating an Olavian pair in the final.

This was our 8th time winning the trophy – more than any other pair, and I believe the last time a non-Salopian won the trophy was well over 10 years ago. Seb Cooley won the plate competition with his father – picture attached.

The School House Class of 2018 celebrate their last day of lessons with the traditional black tie Leavers' Supper

Tuesday 15 May 2018

On the last day before the Exeat, the Upper Sixth were given the opportunity to forget their exams and let their hair down over a delicious meal in order to mark this important milestone.



The School House Hall was transformed into a fine dining experience in preparation for the Leavers' Supper

A message from the Housemaster to the Upper Sixth Leavers

Dear School House Class of 2018,

Many of you joined School House along with me five years ago, excited and perhaps a little daunted by what lay ahead... I certainly was! Now we also find ourselves moving on to our respective "next steps" at the same time. Given that I have been here for long enough to see your year-group through from start to finish, you will always be particularly significant in my memory. We enjoyed swelling the ranks by welcoming others into your exclusive club at various different points, including the bolstering of the cohort with the ex-Moserites in the Lower Sixth. Thus, the original 8 became an enormous and unprecedented 21 – a formidable team!

The twists and turns that have formed your journey through School House have provided the inevitable trials along with their associated rewards; the way that you have approached and overcome the challenges of boarding life warrants celebration on several levels. Thanks to your

collective strength of character, sense of humour and endless antics, it has been a lot of fun. There has never been a dull moment; I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know you as a group of lads with immense talent and charisma. Through sport, music, drama and a whole host of other things academic and extracurricular, you represent the all-rounders typical of School House.

You all have great potential to go out and make a success of your lives in whatever you decide to do. You are charming, independent and distinctive young men, and you have shown that you are more than ready to leave school and move on to the next phase of your lives. Of these attributes, it is being charming that has saved you on many occasions. Your unofficial motto of “we are School House, we do what we want”, is not quite accurate (I have to say that because this is going to be printed). However, it nonetheless suits you because you seem to have the ability to charm your way out of any number of sticky situations in which you find yourselves.

You can be proud of the role that you have played in helping to maintain our unique ethos. Please remember our official School House Latin motto: *ubi concordia, ibi victoria* (“where there is harmony, there is success”). I hope that this will travel with you over the coming years. United, we took on the mighty and wonderful beast that is School House; together, we say goodbye.

I wish you all the very best in future. Keep in touch!

Hugo Besterman



The School House Class of 2018 looking dapper in their dinner jackets as they enjoy their celebrations at the Leavers' Supper

OS Eton Fives Summer Report

Wednesday 16 May 2018

Highlights – Alan Barber Cup (ABC) Finalists, Eton Fives Association (EFA) Cup Finalist, Division 1 – 3rd place, Richard Barber Cup semi-finalists, Veteran Winners, Aberconway Cup Winners, Under 21 Finalist in both men and woman competitions, Under 25 finalists.

There has been a real sense of determination among the players to improve and kick on, and our results have shown that hard work and dedication can get you far in this game. The OSEFC has always been sociable and has had pockets of success, but they have largely been peppered with intermittent ‘almost’ years.

We are working hard to reach the goals of the club – notably to win our flagship tournament, the Alan Barber Cup, and the second team version, the Eton Fives Association Cup – while also building the club to cater for all standards and ages. We aim to bring people who have been out of the game for some time back into the fold, and to find new talent that has recently left school. The Salopian women’s game is thriving and, although in its infancy, we are confident it will grow considerably over the coming years.



To name just a few of the events in which the Club takes part: there are 25 League games, 3 major pair tournaments, ABC & EFA Team tournaments, University Tournaments, Under 25 and Under 21 Tournaments, school boy/old boy tournaments, our North v South game, Mixed tournament, Fathers and Sons tournament, Veterans tournament and, new to this year, the Grant Williams Invitational, to name just a few!

We have built on our ties with the school this year, playing joint league matches and competitions as well as the Eton Fives Association Cup and the Grant Williams Invitational (in which pupils play a pivotal role).



We also have a few players back playing the game after many years out, which is what the club is all about. We would love to hear from anyone who would like to start playing again.

Finally, we will once again be having our end of season celebratory dinner in the first week of June and rumour has it we will be travelling to Grillon (where there are fives courts) in September 2019 for our first OSEFC tour...

Thanks to all that have committed so much of their time to our club this year!

If you would like to get involved with the Old Salopian Eton Fives Club please get in touch with Chris Hughes (SH 2004-09) by email on chughes@theadvantagroup.co.uk.

League Stats – top 5 - to 26/03/2018 (a few more games still to play..)

Overall Win percentage for those that have played 5 or more games:

1. Guy Williams (Rb 2008-13) 100%
2. Marc Quinn (M 1983-88) 90%
3. Tom Cox (M 2000-05) 90%
4. Chris Hughes (SH 2004-09) 79%
5. Rex Worth (S 2002-07) 75%



Appeal for Help in the Outer Regions of the World!

Thursday 17 May 2018

My name is Guy Morris (O 2012-17) and I am currently on a year out after my A-levels. Alongside Rob Hartwell and Will Hayward (both R 2012-17), I intend to travel by car through northern Europe spending time in the Baltic States especially. From there we intend to get out of the car and travel by public transport into Russia visiting St. Petersburg, Moscow, and Volgograd (formerly Stalingrad) and seeing all the sites, such as Red Square in Moscow and the Mamayev Kurgan memorial complex in Stalingrad (especially exciting for three keen military historians). From Volgograd we will continue our travels through southern Kazakhstan to Almaty.



As a mountain sport enthusiast I want to go and see the famous hill sports haven of Shymbulak. After this the hope is to travel to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan and then head on down to Osh in the south of the country hoping to spend time in the mountains there, that are renowned for their hiking paths and beauty. Then on to Tajikistan where we plan to spend a week visiting places such as Khujand and Dushanbe. Leaving Tajikistan we will visit Samarkand, Uzbekistan. I suspect this will be my own personal highlight as it was once the city at the centre of the world's first great trade route, the Silk Road (something of which I have no doubt you are all already aware!) and as such has some truly spectacular sites, culture, and history. After Samarkand we plan to travel up the length of Uzbekistan potentially visiting the Aral Sea (or what's left of it...) and on the way back, into Kazakhstan to catch a ferry from Aktau across the Caspian Sea to Baku in Azerbaijan.

Initially we intended to travel on land all the way around the Caspian Sea however visas for Turkmenistan and Iran proved too tricky due to the requirements of letters of invitation. From Baku we will travel into Georgia to Tbilisi and then into Turkey. After travelling through Turkey we then intend to reunite with our car and drive back to the UK.



The aim of our trip is not only to experience the rich and diverse cultures that come from these areas that we, as Brits, are not often exposed to, but also to challenge ourselves in ways that we

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have not been before. In total we plan for it to take about two and a half months. Our main logistical problems are accommodation along the way and what we do with the car (pictured!) whilst we are travelling by public transport. At the moment we fear we will have to leave it in Estonia and get ourselves back to it unless we find someone willing to move it to somewhere in South Eastern Europe?? We would be very grateful indeed if anyone could offer any solutions to this problem or indeed any accommodation along the way. We are very low maintenance and very friendly people!

If you can help in any way at all, please contact Will Hayward at williamh@greatcantal.co.uk

Kind regards,

Guy, Rob, and Will

The OS Arts and Activities Summer Report

Thursday 17 May 2018



Unseasonal weather and other emergencies have done little to dampen attendance at Arts events throughout the year. The arrival in late February of ‘the Beast from the East’ in the form of heavy snow threatened to de-rail evensong song and talk at the Temple Church, arranged by Richard Eteson. In the event nearly fifty Salopians made it through the blizzard. Their reward was some wonderful singing and a most entertaining talk on the history of this iconic building by Robin Griffith-Jones, Master of the Temple, followed with a tour of the Middle Temple itself.



Earlier in November, the then President-elect Nicholas Barber (SH 1954-58) evaded tight security in the British Museum – due to the presence of the Thai Ambassador – to offer a personal insight into the wonder of the Parthenon Sculptures. Witty and erudite, Nicholas’s presentation was followed by a lively gathering at a nearby watering hole.



January witnessed what is fast becoming a highlight of the Salopian Year - the annual Epiphany Service at St Mary-le-Bow in the City of London. A thirty-strong choir of Salopians young and old was conducted by Patrick Craig (Ch 1982-87) and featured a trio of glorious soloists, Dan Norman (I 1984-88), Martin Oxenham and Richard Eteson (G 1989-93). Readers included former Headmaster Ted Maidment, together with present and former staff and Old Salopians.

The Salopian Arts Committee is drawn from a wide range of Old Salopians who are active in the Arts World or have an interest therein. Most recently, it was agreed that plans should be drawn up to provide help and advice for young and aspiring artists of all kinds.

A calendar of activities is drawn up each year, based upon suggestions from the Committee and other well-wishers. Membership is informal and further young members have been co-opted during the course of the year.

If you are not on our mailing list – and wish to be included – please write to the Club Administrator, Kate Hodge: khodge@shrewsbury.org.uk.

Plans for 2018-9 are expected to include some of the following:

- The traditional Epiphany Service at St Mary-le-Bow in January
- Evensong at another of London's great Cathedrals
- A 'Political Evening' based in or around Westminster
- A lecture/visit to a major London Art Gallery
- A lecture/visit on 'The Silk Roads' – either at the British Museum or the Ashmolean Museum Oxford
- An informal musical soiree led by young OS musicians
- Further initiatives for aspiring young members of the Arts Community

The OSYC Summer Report

Thursday 17 May 2018

The OSYC will be again be entering a Shrewsbury boat in the Arrow Trophy (13-14 October 2018).



The Arrow Trophy is a sailing competition between independent schools, raced as an annual weekend regatta, with yachts crewed by former pupils. It is an event that allows novice racers to gain an introduction to competitive yacht racing, as well as providing experienced sailors with challenging racing in a matched fleet of one design yachts. The event takes place in the Solent off the Isle of Wight, aboard Sunsail's fleet of F40 racing yachts. The yachts are collected from Port Solent (Portsmouth) on the evening of Friday 12th Oct and then sailed over to Cowes Yacht Haven. The event format is fleet racing on the Saturday, finishing up in Cowes late afternoon, followed by a lively and entertaining Arrow Trophy Dinner at Cowes Yacht Haven. Further racing follows on the Sunday morning and then a return to Portsmouth by mid-afternoon. The 2018 Arrow trophy is the 25th Anniversary of the regatta and the organisers are planning to make the evening a suitably momentous occasion.

Additionally, OSYC members continue to offer crewing opportunities to race or just be out on the water. If you are interested in joining a boat for either racing or just cruising, please email Will Collins and he will endeavour to put you in touch with a suitable opportunity.

New members are always welcome and, if anyone would like to join the OSYC, participate in the Arrow Trophy (13-14 October 2018), or take part in any crewing opportunities, please contact the Secretary, Will Collins (SH 1980-85) – email: welc@hotmail.co.uk. All are welcome, especially recent school leavers, whatever your experience.



CCF Field Day with the 1 Royal Irish

Thursday 17 May 2018

On Thursday 10th May, a group of 18 Fourth Form and Third Form CCF cadets spent a very enjoyable and educational day visiting the 1 Royal Irish Regiment at Tern Hill.



They enjoyed tours of the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes, physical training with PT staff, firing an anti-tank rocket on the electronic range (DCCIT) and a look at armoured vehicles and various weapons, including grenade machine-guns.

They are all very grateful to 1 Royal Irish for their generous hospitality.

WMS

The West of England Challenge Vase in Sabrina's Hands

Thursday 17 May 2018

The West of England Challenge Vase is regarded as the premier trophy for Open Coxed Fours in provincial rowing. It has been an event for more than 125 years and is raced in Worcester, Hereford, Bath, Gloucester and Shrewsbury in rotation.



What joy that not only was the race fought in Shrewsbury on May 13, but that a Sabrina scratch four should be the happy victors!

Many congratulations to Charlie Clarke, Cox (O 2009-14), Al Hagger, Stroke (PH 1986-91), Rob Morgan, No.3 (R 2007-12), James Stuart, No. 2 (O 1988-93) and Henry Thomas, Bow (Ch 2011-16).

The fabulous four (we should say five, surely?) were awarded the William IV vase, made in Birmingham in 1834, which will duly be encribed - as well as a souvenir tankard.

Well rowed!

The OS Hunt Summer Report

Wednesday 16 May 2018

Many Runners challenge themselves with new quests, taking on new training regimes, to make that 'extra distance' easier to conquer, or perhaps making changes to their running gear, to be more comfortable and efficient in their effort. Some will spend time comparing their experiences to glean and pass on tips, while others will seek professional advice for technique and physiotherapy. These days, magazines and social media will report on all types of running, whether it is involvement in athletics, cross-country or perhaps variants of the marathon, presenting articles, photos and video clips of events, individuals and teams, enabling the media coverage of our sport to be worldwide. This concept is not extra-ordinary these days, but is it possible that this running phenomena that we know today could have turned out so very different if it had not been for a few Shrewsbury School boys starting a running club called 'the Hunt' way back in the early 1800s? In fact, you can now look back at the early records of the Hunt, as they have been copied and digitised, making them available to be viewed on your screen. If you would like to buy the USB Memory Stick of 'the Hunt Records', then do get in touch with me at info@crbirch.com.



In more recent times, the OSH met the RSSH on Saturday 2 December, 2017, for The Annual Run on the School Site. This turned out to be an excellent meeting of present and past members of the School Community, with a large OSH Team of 18 presenting themselves on the Start-Line, alongside 23 RSSH Runners, including six of Hunt Girls. Before the 'throw-off', all Huntsmen and Huntswomen present, were asked to line-up to create a photographic memory, comprising Monty Hardcastle (I), Immie Evans (G), Liv Papaioannou (EDH 2015-16), Oscar Dickins (R 2011-16), Cal Winwood (I 2006-11), Chris Vernon-Parry (O 1982-87), Oli Mott (Rb 1998-03), Adam Booth (PH 1995-00), Olly Laws (SH 1993-98) and Peter Birch (DB 1966-71). At 2.30pm, the Huntsman, Monty, yelled the familiar chant to start this large Pack off out of The Moss Gates, to progress around the outskirts of the School Site.

The numerous spectators cheered on the runners traversing the top of the School Bank, before disappearing down Canonbury, to a very slippery field that leads to the crossing of the Radbrook. Some 20 minutes passed before Cal Winwood appeared beside the plinth of Sir Philip Sidney and killed in an impressive time of 20:31. The last time Cal had run and killed over a similar School course was in the Hunt Championships of March 2011, proving that six years absence had not diminished his ability! With Olly Laws and Alex Morgan (G 1998-03) coming in close behind, it was then up to Peter Middleton, Ed Charlton-Weedy (O 1999-04) and Oscar Dickins to complete the 'six-to-count', who gave the OSH its Team Win for the second year running.

The massive turn-out of Course Marshalls, along with the preparation of the Groundsmen, was hugely appreciated, making the event run smoothly. Do go to www.shrewsbury.org.uk/page/old-salopian-hunt-osh to see and seek out the full report and photos.



After tea and presentations in the Hunt Gym, it was time for the OSH Committee Meeting and AGM in Kingsland House, where the photo here shows, from the left, Ian Haworth, David Thomas, Oli Mott, Anthony Hickson, Bob Parker, Monty Hardcastle, Liv Papaioannou, Ed Bolland, Tim Bedell, Olly Russell, Cliff Simpkin, Peter Birch and Gordon, up front with the David Loake Trophy. Among other items on the Agenda, we appointed Olivia Papaioannou as our very first 'Honorary Young Members Secretary'. Liv has taken on this position with a view to trying to engage more of our younger members in more events. See Liv's contact details on our website page, if any of you would like to get in touch with her. Two hours later, we gathered 15 guests for the Annual Dinner in the Hardy Room, to round off another successful OSH Day.



Liv was also a member of our Team of Seven at the 65th Annual Alumni Race, at Roehampton, London, on Saturday 16 December, 2017, where 35 teams and 273 individuals lined up for this competitive cross-country run. This year, there was a move of the start-line into a nearby field, which increased the overall distance by a quarter of a mile. Undeterred, we set off through a good deal of mud, on this Wimbledon Common 5 mile course. Kris Blake (S 2009-11) was our first man home at 44th, followed by Ben Hebblethwaite (R 1986-91) at 45th, and then, at 62nd was last season's Senior Whip, Will Hayward (R 2012-17). Rupert Lougee (SH 1988-93) returned to this event again to come 133rd and Liv came in at 156th. First timer, James Humpish (SH 2008-13) was 215th and then I (Peter Birch, DB 1966-71) was delayed by the extended course, to finish 224th. In the 'Open' Category, the OSH Team was 12th out of 35, which is a position that is still in the upper part of the results page. As usual, there is a full report and photos on our OSH Website Page. In addition, it is also certainly worth seeing the OSH Facebook page to see these events and many more.

As I write this, plans are being made for the Annual Hunt Presentations Evening, where I will be presenting OSH Memberships to 18 of this year's School Leavers who have all been keen participants in Hunt activities during their time in the School. We hope that they will be able to come and join in with OSH events in the years ahead.



To some, the Tucks Run has been an event in the Hunt calendar that is so sacrosanct that it cannot be altered. The truth is that the Tucks has been honed and tuned over some 180 years, to accommodate the School. Before 1882, the Hunt used Farmer Tuck's fields, situated to the north of The Town and it has changed course several times since I was Huntsman. On Friday 12 October, this year, the Tucks will be run within the boundary of Attingham Park, the beautiful National Trust property that is just six miles east of The School. I will be running once again in my OSH vest and would be pleased to see any of you joining me to run with some 800 others from the School.

Season
1880

	The Bog	Edmond Park	Drington	Leoburn	Thorn	Wrighton	Tucks	Long	Attingham	Walsley	Brinsford	
Huntsman												11
Sen. Whip			4/3	4/3		4/3		4/3	4/3	4/3		5
T.S. Walker				SW	4/3	SW		SW	4/3	SW		9
Sen. Whip												
H.M. Dooly												

One of our Club's founders, Dr Nigel Miller (S 1947-52 and Senior Whip) has sent in a list of RSSH School Runs that were listed in the Fasti for his first term, Michaelmas 1947. The New Boys Race around the Common, on Saturday 27 September preceded the first of the traditional School Runs, which was 'The Bog', a 3½ mile run on Friday 3 October, followed by the Red Hill Run (4¾ miles), the Horton (7½ miles), the Bomere Pool (9¾ miles), the Tucks (5 miles) with 215½ Couples starting, The Newton Run (5½ miles) held on Tuesday 4 November, after which



the Huntsman, D.P. Bion (Ch), noted in the Hound Book that 'we are in quarantine for Infantile Paralysis!' Then on 14 November, the Shelton Run (4¾ miles) was taken in place of the Cruckton (a 10 miler) and the Hook-a-Gate (a 5 miler). The Ley Grange (5 miles) followed and then the Longden (8¾ miles) and the New (2½ miles) and the Long (6¾ miles) was on 16 December 1947. Paperchases (5 miles) was held in the Lent Term, this time, as was Steeplechases (2 miles). In addition to Nigel's list, I do recall that from my time from 1966, there were also in the Michaelmas Term, runs such as the one that was named after the previous season's Huntsman and then there was the Queen's Run (4¼ miles), honouring HM The Queen's visit, which took place on Friday 24 October 1952. Neither forgetting weekly Benjys and doing a 'Short Water Tower'! Some years later, the Berwick and the Coton Hill were resurrected, which hark back to the runs that went out to the north of the Town when the School was situated on Castle Gates. In fact, I have found a list of Runs that were taken in the 1880 season, before the move to Kingsland on 18th May 1882, showing the Bog, the Almond Pool, the Drayton, the Leaton, the New, the Haughmond, the Tucks, the Long, the Albrighton, the Battlefield and the Berwick. A hundred years later, I see that the Master-in-Charge, Bob Parker, who happens to celebrate his 80th birthday this winter, invented the Lawley Run to fill in a spare week in November 1983, taking Morty, Gents - Will Ramsbotham & Richard Milner, and one 'Couple' of Hounds, J. Mahon and H. Morgan-Owen. I am sure many of you will remember similar incidents.



My 1970 picture shows a dozen young Hounds, outside the Alibin, getting ready for the Throw-off of a Junior School Run. Unfortunately, there is no description, so I need some of you to let me know who is in this photo, apart from the Hillman Imp and Mr. Ken Spiby's old grey 'Fergie' tractor. It could be this is the Junior Bicton, held at 2.45pm on Friday 2 October, because they are all wearing new looking 'ripple-soled' running shoes that we used to get from the School Shop, suggesting that it's near the beginning of term. New boy, Julian Oxley (I 1970-75) killed on that run, and went on to become Huntsman in 1974.

The dates of important OSH events are still waiting for confirmation, but, provisionally, the Annual Run with the RSSH could be on Saturday 8th December 2018, and, the 66th Annual Alumni Race, in Roehampton, might be on Saturday 15th December 2018. As usual, I shall let OSH Members and friends know by email and OSH facebook when dates are decided. You are all invited to interact with the Old Salopian Hunt facebook page and the website pages (www.shrewsbury.org.uk/page/old-salopian-hunt-osh) and also with me by email (info@crbirch.com).

Peter Birch - OSH Chairman (Dayboys 1966-71, Huntsman 1970-71).

Junior School Essay Prize

Thursday 17 May 2018

'Literature is a force for good, but it is also dangerous.' 'Science would be nothing without Mathematics.' - Just two of the questions tackled by Third and Fourth Formers in this year's Junior School Essay Prize.



The event attracted a large group of volunteers, who gathered in the Alington Hall on the evening of Friday 11th May. Their challenge was to write one essay in an hour on a question of their choice from a wide range of topic areas. The questions covered academic areas as diverse as European politics, elite athletics and the determination of fate by our genes, reflecting the broad curriculum offered at Shrewsbury.

Originality of thought, poise and academic flair were the order of the day, and it was particularly pleasing for those reading scripts this week to witness the sheer variety of response offered - indicating a clear range of talents and academic interests among our Third and Fourth Formers.

A shortlist of essays will be chosen from each year group to go forward to an external judge, and the overall winner will be announced after the Exeat.

Well done to all those who took part for showcasing their intellectual curiosity and willingness to 'go beyond' the classroom.

You can see the full list of questions [here](#).

Mr Mackridge

22nd Grand Scottish Tour, 16-18 May 2018

Friday 18 May 2018

*“So long as men can breathe, or eyes can see,
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee”.....*

.....William Shakespeare on the 22nd Old Salopian Tour 2018 or Sonnet 97.



As long ago as December 2017, the tour was oversubscribed. Thanks to the sponsorship of Angus Stormonth Darling, father of Douglas (Churchill's), an overspill meeting of five young contemporaries, commanded by Major General James Shaw (off 4 at Denham), was arranged at Archerfield over two courses: the Dirleton and the Fidra: an inviting mixture of pine forest and sweeping Scottish links. These five young heroes kept their word; let them be recorded for posterity. In alphabetical order: Luke Gerrard (SH 2003-08), William Matthews (Rt 2003-08), George Thomas (Ch 2003-08), Mark Tomley (SH 2003-08) and Ed Towers (PH 2004-09). Other newcomers this year included Michael Brabner (R 1963-63), Richard Holt (SH 1979-84) (all the way from the Philippines), David Moorhouse (I 1965-69), Andrew and Ed Saunders (M 1990-95 and 1987-92 respectively) and Peter Thwaites (R 1960-64).

We played first at Luffness New (established 1894), an Open Championship Qualifying Course, where the OSGS tour began in 1996, inspired by Vice President Sandy Bell. Our round this year was sponsored by William Backhouse (father of Tim, Churchill's) and his fellow member Colin Macinnes who was up at Clare College, Cambridge, with tour regular Mark Summers, who could not be with us, off games temporarily.

The weather was beautiful with clear sunshine and a cooling Easterly.



The winning team was William Backhouse, Andrew and Ed Saunders and James Shaw: 93 points.

There followed another sumptuous supper party at Winterfield, North Berwick, the home of Kate Hume who has hosted an invasion of Old Salopians for countless years with beaming pleasure and delicious food and wine. As the retiring Hon Sec remarked, Wordsworth may have written that heaven lies about us in our infancy, but for the Hon Sec heaven lies about OSGS golfers (young and ageing) at Winterfield, Luffness, Muirfield, Gullane and Kaimend.

The next day at Muirfield, the morning four balls were won by a team of Tim Backhouse, John Bolton (DB 1949-54), Robert Bennett (SH 1982-87) and Simon Cullingworth.

Runners-up: Jonathan Mitchell (Rt 1977-82), Dr Stefan Hindmarsh (Ch 2006-11), Julian Mitchell (S 1979-84) and local member Alick Hay (79 points).

Also on 79 points: Christopher Denton (M 1960-65), Tom Denton (M 1994-99), Frank Higham (O 1968-72) and local member Hugo Balfour-Melville.



Afternoon foursomes for The Lewis-Bell Quaich resulted as follows: winners: Simon Mellard (Ch 1973-78) & Jonathan Mitchell (32 points), runners-up: Tim Backhouse and Julian Mitchell (31 points: with 18 points on back 9 holes), tied 3rd Place on 31 points: Andrew and Ed



Saunders (with 16 points on back 9 holes), Charles Hill (SH 1980-84) (Hon Sec Designate) and Stefan Hindmarsh (with 16 points on back 9 holes)

The party then adjourned for drinks at Kaimend where yet again Andrew Lister's hospitality matched the glory of the earlier two rounds at Muirfield.

On the third morning at Gullane No 2 the results were as follows:

Mixed foursomes winners: Charles Hill and Jane Hill beat Andrew Lister and Maura Backhouse 2 x 1; Individual: Stableford; Ladies winner: Deborah Backhouse (36 points); Ladies runner-up: Mary Bolton (29 points); Mens winner: Jonathan Mitchell (39 points) (back 9: 19 points: back 6: 15 points); Mens runner-up: Jonathon Mitchell (39 points) (back 9: 19 points: back 6: 12 points); Newcomers' winner: Andrew Saunders (38 points), runner-up: George Thomas (Ch 2003-08) (33 points)

Save the Date: the 23rd Grand Scottish Tour will take place from Wednesday 15 May to Friday 17 May 2019.

Ladies are invited to play at Gullane No 2 on Thursday 17 May.

OSGS members wishing to play next year should email Charles Hill to register interest at an early stage.

Shrewsbury U15 Girls' Cricket Team win National Runners-Up Trophy at Lord's

Friday 18 May 2018

For the second year running, the U15 girls' cricket team have claimed the Runners-Up trophy in the Lady Taverners Indoor Cricket Tournament - a competition that started with 866 schools.



"The consistent level of performance required to achieve this speaks volumes for the high level of skill attained by the girls and the quality of coaching and support they receive," said Andy Barnard, Teacher in Charge of Cricket.

Report by the team's coach, Gwenan Davies:

After travelling down on the Tuesday night, our girls were ready and raring to go on the morning of the National Finals. A change to the playing schedule meant that we were up against The Perse School first, rather than Bournemouth School for Girls.

By 10:30am we were underway and batting first, our preference despite losing the toss. Our opening batters Ellie Kynaston and Izzy Morris set the tone, with both girls retiring convincingly on 15. Harriet Shuker and Alice Hughes continued the dominating display, with Harriet retiring on 15 and Alice unfortunately run out on 8.

Our lower order batters Georgie Nicholas, Lisette Barden, Ellie Corbett and Elizabeth Edwards followed suit and got us to a total of 106 from our 8 overs. We then followed up our batting performance with an even better bowling and fielding performance: The Perse were all out for 56 in 6 overs. As a team were looking incredibly focused and organised, and to have put in one of our best ever performances made for a fantastic start to Finals Day!

In our second match we were up against Queen Elizabeth High School. Winning the toss this time, we batted first once again. After some confusion and an unlucky dismissal, we were looking wobbly at 32-4. However, Georgie Nicholas steered us to a competitive total of 79, although by our standards this was a little under par. Nevertheless, the girls showed again just how ruthless they can be with the ball by bowling Queen Elizabeth HS out for 64. It must be said that Adelaide Sillar's fielding in this particular match was second to none and she was instrumental in more than two important dismissals. The result was a little too close for comfort, but the girls had bagged their second win going in to lunch.

Over lunch we were treated to a tour of Lord's Cricket Ground. This was a fantastic opportunity for our girls to take in the history surrounding them. With views of the ground from the home changing room, the MCC Members' balcony and the Media Centre, plenty of photos were taken!





After lunch we were finally up against Bournemouth School for Girls. Winning the toss, our skipper decided for the third time to bat first. The girls gave another dominant batting performance, particularly from Georgie bringing up the tail, and they posted a strong total of 101. This time however, for the first time in the competition, our bowling and fielding let us down. Bournemouth were able to get 19 from our first over, which resulted in a downward spiral from there on. In the final over Bournemouth surpassed our total with one ball remaining. We now needed Bournemouth to lose a game for us to be in with a chance of walking away as champions.

In our fourth and final game, we faced Bede's School. Posting a respectable total of 83, and finding our feet again with the ball by bowling Bede's out for 38, it unfortunately wasn't to be, as Bournemouth went on to win their last two remaining games versus Bede's and Queen Elizabeth. We were crowned as Runners-Up for the second year in a row, from among 866 schools.

Although the result was bittersweet, I am extremely proud of what the girls have achieved so far this season, and even prouder of the honest and hard-working manner in which they go about their game. We now look ahead to the outdoor National Cup, hoping for a victory in our last group game against Moreton Hall on Wednesday 23rd May to head in to the next round.



The Sidney-Darwin Dash and Quarter-Mile Challenge 2018

Friday 18 May 2018

Yesterday saw the Heats of the Sidney-Darwin Dash and Quarter-Mile Challenge 2018. Most schools at this time of year will, of course, be gearing up towards their annual Sports Day, as indeed Shrewsbury will be on Wednesday 27th June. However, few schools have as unusual an athletics event as this one, with runners sprinting down the middle of Top Common and racing around the Cricket Oval.



Despite its echoes of the Trinity College Great Court Run, our own event is in fact a deceptively recent 'tradition', not hundreds of years old as one might expect but in fact inaugurated in 2011.

The genesis of the event came when a local resident of the town contacted the School asking whether we would be interested in a silver butter dish top that she had found in her attic, presented on 17th June 1869 to a certain H Hughes for winning the Shrewsbury School Quarter-Mile.

Having gratefully received this donation, we added a rather fine plinth and silver plates and considered the idea of recreating the old 'Quarter-Mile' event. A suitable location was scouted for, with various areas around the school campus and beyond considered, but the area around Central was settled on, to include a loop down past the Main School Buildings and around the Alington Hall. We decided, moreover, to extend the event to include a sprint, with the tree-lined

avenue running between the Sidney and Darwin statues providing a natural 'track' to put our speedsters to the test.

It was certainly quirky and not your average athletics event, but the first year's event was a tremendous success, with competitors and spectators relishing the uniqueness of the event and the exciting action that it generated. The trophy was won by Port Hill's Howard Stringer in a time that remains the event record, a title that he retained in his upper sixth year in 2012. The junior Quarter-Mile was won in that first year by Stuart Brown from The Grove, with Chike Kandi from Moser's Hall taking the winner's tankard in the newly-christened junior 'Sidney-Darwin Dash'.

In 2016 the event was relocated to Top Common, being deemed a more suitable (and safer!) option for our exceptionally quick runners!



Now in its eight year, the event continues to grow and grow and has become a highlight in the Shrewsbury School Athletics calendar. This year see the implementation of an Official Starter (the man with the gun!) which has added to the event's prestige. During Sunday's Final we will see the girls battle it out; heats for the girls' races will start as of 2019. It looks set to be a clash of the titans in a number of the boys' finals.

Several of the boys and girls have been making their mark in the Athletics Squad and Shrewsbury performed exceptionally well at the recent County Championships. The video replay will be ready on Sunday. It looks likely that it will be required in the Senior Boys' Final, where five of the eight finalists have already ruled on the track this season. Can any of the boys add to their medal haul this weekend?



The girls' races on Sunday look to be just as exciting as the boys'. Can the Athletics Captain do the double? Will the Juniors Girls Quarter-Mile Record be broken again?

The event will be videoed for parents and Old Salopians unable to attend, and we will publish this on the website.

Please do come and support on Sunday. Parents are welcome. Races will start promptly at 11am on Top Common. Good luck to all competitors!

Mrs Kelly



Results from Thursdays Heats and starting line-up for Sunday (Not in time order; 8 qualify)

BOYS

Sidney-Darwin Dash – Junior:

Will Stanford-Davis
Douglas Hague Saunders
Henry Bateson
Andrew Chan
Henry Lees
Will Maddocks
Johnny Price
Nikta Martynov

Sidney-Darwin Dash – Senior:

Tom Plaut
Tom Drury
Bilal Khan
Toby Pattinson
Arron Lewis
Matt Brinkley
Jasper Mitchell
Monty Hardcastle



Quarter-Mile Challenge – Junior:

Oscar Hamilton Russell
Seb Vanhoonaker
Henry McGowan
Fadi Masri
Oliver Taylor
Harvey Shaw
Johnny Price
Ed Forde-Johnson

Quarter-Mile Challenge – Seniors:

Owen Mock
Monty Hardcastle
Charles Shaw
Thomas Jackson
Mark Pangin
Toby Pegge
Harry Remnant
Charlie Ockleston

GIRLS

Sidney-Darwin Dash – Junior:

Natalie Dee
Ellie Corbett
Isabel Morris
Flora Kanan
Viva Moss
Adelaide Sillar
Tommy Jarvis
Lucy Lees

Sidney-Darwin Dash – Senior:

Olivia Taylor
Amelie Davies
Claire Richards
Poppy Collingwood-Cameron
Millie Callaghan
Georgia Kannreuther
Jasmine Lo
Daisy McMullen

Quarter-Mile Challenge – Junior:

Francesca Harris
Hester Lockett
Nell Ware
Charlotte Russell
Livy Elliot



Ellie Letts
Georgie Nicholas
Morgan Sandford
Quarter-Mile Challenge – Seniors:

Abi Watkinson
Lillian Wilcox
Naomi Potts
Niamh Nugent
Claire Richards
Felicity Hayward
Anna Cowan

Alessandra Ardission
Current Event Records

Junior Sidney-Darwin Dash:

Girls: Daisy McMullen (G) 13.31 (2017)
Boys: Bilal Khan (I) 12.05 (2017)

Senior Sidney-Darwin Dash:

Girls: Claire Richards (G) 13.04 (2016)
Boys James Plaut (S) 11.04 (2015)

Junior Quarter-Mile Challenge:

Girls: Francesca Harris (EDH) 66.79 (2017)
Charlie Tait-Harris (S) 52.41 (2014)

Senior Quarter-Mile Challenge:

Girls: Alice Sykes-Waller (MSH) 63.87 (2014)
Boys: Howard Stringer (PH) 51.35 (2011)



RSSBC: Medal-winning performances at the Bedford and Shrewsbury Regattas

Friday 18 May 2018

The Boat Club enjoyed a busy and very successful weekend of racing, with 12 crews racing at the Bedford Regatta on Saturday and 29 crews racing at the Shrewsbury Regatta on Saturday and Sunday.

The 1st VIII and 2nd VIII put out some exceptional performances at **Bedford Regatta** over the course of the day to win not only their respective categories but also to meet each other in the two-boat final of the top eights' category of Open Eights, which included 28 entries.

There were no favours given as the two crews fought it out on the Great Ouse, with the 1st VIII coming away victors with a margin of one and a quarter lengths.



There was strong competition in the boys' and girls' J14 Octuples event, with 15 and 10 crews entered respectively. Both crews put out impressive performances, winning the first three rounds of their event to make it into the two-boat final. After a long day and tough racing, both crews lost out. However, they can feel confident that they are in a very competitive position heading into the National Schools' Regatta in two weeks.



The J14 boys' B Octuple and girls' 1st VIII lost out to the runners-up in their events in the first round.



The J15 boys competed in eights and fours and gained some valuable experience despite not making it into the final rounds.

At **Shrewsbury Regatta** the remainder of the RSSBC took to the water in ideal conditions and recorded some pleasing results, with wins for the J15 girls' pair, Women's coxed quad, J16 boys' eight in Open Eights, and four from the 3rd eight who won J18 coxed fours.

On Sunday there were numerous small boats out racing over the sprint course, with wins for Louis Nares in the J16 single, the girls' J15 pair and the boys' J16 pair.

Please click on the image below to open a gallery of photos.



J18 4+

Viva the Venetian Vogalonga!

Sunday 20 May 2018



The Vogalonga is a thirty-two kilometre row around Venice in which some two thousand rowing boats, canoes, gondolas and Chinese dragon boats take part each Whit Sunday.



The route of the row takes you from in front of St. Mark's Square around the east end of the main island then up to Burano and Murano before coming back to the main island via the Canareggio Canal and then down the Grand Canal to the finish, which is in front of Salute.

I first took part in the event in 2016 and enjoyed it so much that I decided to row each year for as long as I have the strength to do so.



This year I was joined in my crew by another Sabrina member, Peter Roberts. We completed our row in 3hrs 15mins which was a reasonable time.

If you row or have rowed, whether at School and/or subsequently, you should seriously think of taking part in the Vogalonga. I hadn't rowed for forty-four years when I decided to have a go. I got in about ten outings in London before heading off to Venice.

This is something you should not miss doing at least once in your life!

Miles Preston (DB 1963-68)



Some Enchanted Evening

Sunday 20 May 2018

A Celebration of John Moore Musicals at the Manoukian Music Centre, London



‘It was the loveliest afternoon; amazing to see everybody again and to sing those songs – and how quickly they sent me back to being fourteen, standing on stage at the Edinburgh Fringe.’

Just one of many reactions to an evening of John Moore Musicals that was held last month at Westminster School. Former thespians and friends of all ages gathered to pay tribute to John Moore’s twenty-five years of composition and performance. Nine brand new musicals – and counting; fifteen new productions, seven of which have appeared on London stages.



Shrewsbury School has been a presence on the Edinburgh Fringe for twenty-five years and there was a representative of every one of John’s shows at an evening that recreated numbers from *Jekyll!* (1995) to the *Drowned Bride* (2018).

‘It is all remembered with such affection. I regularly go back to Edinburgh with work but it is impossible to capture quite the tremendous excitement of those first visits with Shrewsbury,’ writes another performer

Old troopers all, whether boys or girls from Shrewsbury, Moreton Hall and the High School, several are now high-fliers in the City or the Law and some in the theatre or the music industry; but everyone had bottled up a special memory of what it was like to step out on the stage of the Edinburgh Fringe in *Frankenstein*, the *Lost Domain*, the *Bubble* or *What You Will*. And every one of those performers melded together seamlessly, through ages ranging from thirty-eight to pupils of seventeen.



'I have always known this but last night clarified that it is thanks to Alex, John and Peter that I am doing what I am doing today,' - writes one West End director.

A current Head of Music adds: 'I cannot tell you how much being in those shows meant to me - being part of something so professional... Working alongside talented older stars at that time, with a wonderful band and inspirational teachers who strove for the highest possible standards was amazing.'

The evening featured a range of music from edgy Kurt Weill numbers to the soaring romance of the love songs that still tug the heart strings. The range and variety of Moore's theatre music must be unsurpassed in any school throughout the land.

But above all, this was an evening of joyous reunion – men and women, with a love of music and of theatre, united by the fondest memories.

Giles Bell's Team of the Week

Tuesday 22 May 2018

This week, Phil Lapage's 2nd VIII.

Having spent some time dwelling on the prospect of turning the cricket square into a lake last week, I thought I might venture down to the river to see what the water-based Salopians have been up to.



Before embarking on my quest for information, I was forcibly bundled into a picture with the girls' 1st VIII by their enthusiastic coach Rob Wilson. They are currently rowing in the Giles Bell (a boat that by coincidence shares my name). I wondered if it was strong and powerful through the water and gave the crew a sense of awe and additional confidence. I put my thoughts to Livi Bothamley-Dakin. Livi told me, "Actually, sir, it is really embarrassing rowing in a boat named after you, but because we can't wait to get out of the boat it makes us row really fast. And therefore in a way it is inspiring us to great times, which I think is why Mr Wilson chose the boat for us to row in."

Livi may find her tutorial reports are no longer as good as they used to be. Mr Wilson may be off my Christmas card list too, although I can't be too nasty to him as he is married to Mrs Incredible – a.k.a. Elastigirl.



The top squad have had a very successful couple of weeks, winning at Bedford and Wallingford. At Wallingford Regatta the 1st VIII won their competition, the 2nd VIII won their competition and the 1st VIII won the Open competition, which included beating Keble College Oxford, who had a crew containing three of this year's Blue boat.

I wondered who I could talk to about the prospects for the National Schools' Regatta...

Mr Fox appears to be several feet short of a full oar...



And so who better to talk me through the current crop of future Olympians than Phil Lepage, who has been heavily involved in rowing at Shrewsbury for 36 years. It is Phil's last year at Shrewsbury, and I began by asking him if he had any anecdotes of his time here. As the sun began to set over the Kingsland Bridge and the ducks tucked their beaks under their feathers in

preparation for a good night's sleep, Phil drew breath for the first time in four hours as he talked me through every race that he had been involved with since 1882. (That's not actually true. We had a brief chat while the group of young men who will probably form the majority of the 2nd VIII warmed up.)



Phil Lapage decided not to be a journalist, despite his name – or maybe because of his name. Instead he was attracted by the idea of teaching chemistry. “I have always been good at coming up with the right solution to life's problems and I find students react well to me in the classroom,” he told me, in an effervescent manner. He has always loved messing about with boats, and apart from dropping a bit of sodium in a bowl, he can think of nothing better than wafting a paddle in the general direction of some of the wet stuff.

He was taught the basics at Monkton Coombe and then went on to row at Exeter University. This involved some success at Henley, and I sense he may still enjoy a few afternoons there in his retirement.

I asked Phil if there had been any highlights on his Shrewsbury voyage. He paused for a few seconds before proudly mentioning the 1988 coxless four that won a gold medal at the National Championships. Not only that, he could rattle off their names Tom Fea, James Heaven, Will Mason and Ed Shropshire (Uncle Ed, as two current members of Ridgemount like to call him). He also had three successes with the 3rd VIII at National Schools, winning the West Cup.

Yet for Phil it is not about the medals and the cups. He would like his legacy to be that he introduced countless young Salopians to the joys of messing about in boats. It does not have to be rowing boats; he was recently involved in a scheme that involved the building of coracles on the site and then taking them for a trip across the river to see if they actually worked. The Navy section were involved in this! Apparently they did make it! Phil has also taken various sailing trips around Greece, across the Channel and to the Hebrides. Brexit will not affect him!



I have never been that keen on sailing, as I have a deep respect for the oceans and what lies beneath. Phil would have none of that. “A good wind is when young people discover their limits,” he assures me, without convincing me! When he starts to wax lyrical about the puffins in the Treshnish Islands and speaks of the beauty and seclusion of the Hebrides, I begin to get a sense of what the ancient mariner is on about. He is also quietly satisfied that his sons Patrick and Sam are busy coaching at Harvard and St Edward’s Oxford, whilst Bridget is working at St Paul’s and rowing at Vesta, which is a club in London (a rowing club). “I think they saw what I was on about,” he says with a smile.

I drag Phil back to the present. What about his current crew? What he is trying to get out of them? “The Buzz Factor.” I tell him I know they are the B(ee) crew! Phil goes on to explain that he wants to bring his crew to technical perfection but he also wants to find out if they can race. Have they got the mental toughness to respond under pressure in a tight race? He thinks his present crew may have the sort of qualities he is after, but it is early days. He is not out to tempt fate by predicting them success, but I sense from the twinkle in his eye that he believes they are a special bunch. He describes them as great fun to work with. “They are real tigers and almost completely bonkers,” he tells me. This is quite disconcerting, as it seems I am about to talk to a bunch of mentally unstable ferocious wild beasts!



They are in fact a bunch of pussycats who purr whenever I mention the name of their coach. Henry 'I-really-am-over-60 kilos' Fletcher tells me that the crew have been conditioned on 'Candy-up', a chocolate drink they became addicted to on their French rowing camp. Ben 'I'm-liked-by-the' Holehouse mentions that Mr Lapage is a 'bit of a lad', while Bryce 'the jet' Rutter adds that he is always inspired by Phil's catchphrase which is "go get 'em"!

Moreton 'Maverick' Moss mentions the concept of Rouge de Guerre. There is a knowing look from the whole squad as they tell me they have covert tactics that they cannot disclose but are totally legal and do not involve outboard motors. At that point Danger Zone by Kenny Logins sounds out on the Boathouse speakers, and that's the cue to get down to business. They disperse as silently and smoothly as a large predatory feline.



I very much hope they will have too much for the other crews at National Schools and they can bring a gold medal back for a living legend in his last year as a coach. After all, I sense that Phil has given a huge amount to generations of Salopians down the years, and a gold medal to finish with would be fitting. No pressure, lads!

The 2nd VIII squad are Ben Holehouse, Henry Fletcher, James Joseph, Adam Pattenden, Bryce Rutter, Moreton Moss, Ali Davies, Lucas Rowley, Ed Hart, and cox Oli Toms.





Tom Stoppard's 'Arcadia' - directed and performed by the Lower Sixth

Thursday 24 May 2018

Director of Drama Helen Brown: "As a teacher, the proudest moments come when you have rendered yourself entirely redundant. My Lower Sixth have just staged one of the most complex and brilliant plays of the twentieth century - BY THEMSELVES."

For my money, *Arcadia* is the greatest play of the 20th century. It is an English country-house farce about the death of the universe. It is a laugh-filled tragedy about what happens if you take poetry seriously. As a director, it marks a theatrical Everest. How do you marry the complexity of the ideas with the lightness of the comedy? How do you make us care about the characters while still following the discussion of chaos theory?

It is a truly extraordinary accomplishment, therefore, that this brilliant production was brought to the stage by a director in the Lower Sixth. Abi Watkinson is offering the play as her Extended Project Qualification, but, as befits Stoppard, she manages to balance the intellectual with the emotional.

The play is set in Sidley Park, an English stately home, in two different centuries. It opens in 1809, when a libertine Cambridge graduate, Septimus Hodge, takes a job tutoring the precocious 13-year-old daughter of the house, Thomasina Coverley. Reading through her Latin homework, she wants him to explain what "carnal embrace" means. When he tells her, she is appalled. "Now whenever I do it, I shall think of you!" she squeals. Septimus' interest in carnal embrace is more than theoretical – he has recently been enjoying a "perpendicular poke in a gazebo" with Mrs Chater, whose husband, a truly awful poet, subsequently challenges him to a duel.



Freddy Williams plays Septimus with laconic glee, clearly relishing the chaos he leaves in his wake. Ayesha Mitchell brings a wistful innocence to the role of Thomasina, languishing in her unrequited love for her handsome tutor. It is easy to reduce the other inhabitants of Sidley Park

to comic archetypes, but Ella Windle, Koby Ferdinand Okpala, Aaron Clark and Jetty Russell bring nuance and humanity to their cameos. Having recently left the family buttlung business to play a bear and a billionaire, Harry Remnant returns to his traditional role as Jellaby.



The action then shifts suddenly to the present day. In the same house, a historian called Hannah Jarvis – a role written for Felicity Kendal and played here with characteristic thoughtfulness by Eve Hartley – is delving into the history of Sidley Park with the permission of the Croom family. Her work is interrupted by a braying, patronising English don called Bernard Nightingale who – we soon realise – believes Lord Byron, the great Romantic poet, fought the duel and killed Chater. This would explain his until-now mysterious departure for France in 1810. It will be "the literary discovery of the century", he boasts, turning him into a "media don – book early to avoid disappointment".



Otto Rothwell Hurley perfectly captures the arrogance and pomposity of Bernard; his shameless seduction of the delightful Chloe (Charlie Tonks) is poignantly juxtaposed by her brother Valentine's shy but heartfelt courtship of Hannah. Valentine is played with gentle warmth by Ben Lloyd: the moment when he begs Hannah for a "trial marriage – we can call it off in the morning" is one of the most touching in the play.

Thus the structure of the play is set. We watch the action unfold from 1809 to 1812, while the characters in the late 20th century try to figure out what happened using the surviving scraps of their lives. The stories alternate until, in the final scene, they appear on stage together, stumbling past each other, unseen, unseeable, yet locked in a waltz.

Stoppard is often accused of being brilliant but heartless. Yet here – at the core of his best play – is one of the greatest love stories on the British stage. Yes, the characters bond over ideas – but some of the most interesting people in life do just that.



Customary birthday celebrations in School House

Thursday 24 May 2018

A nice tradition in School House is that we celebrate all the boys' term-time birthdays with the rest of their year group. This usually involves, cake, cans, cards and some particularly tuneful singing of Happy Birthday from the entire house during Dix.



The fourth form gather for Tobi's 15th birthday



Announcing the winners of the Biology Photographic Competition 2018...

Friday 25 May 2018

The judges of the Shrewsbury School Biology Photographic Competition had a difficult task to choose the winners from among the stunning images submitted in all three categories. The winning photos are displayed here.

Junior Category (Third, Fourth & Fifth Forms)

Winner: Theo Gabb

Runner-up: Henry Davies

Commended: Mew Hansiriphan, Garret Healy

Senior Category (Sixth Form)

Winner: James Crewdson

Runner-Up: Richard Walker

Commended: Richard Walker, Ned Moreau

Staff Category

Winner: Raymond Vardill (for the second year in a row!)

Runner-Up: John Balcombe

Commended: John Balcombe, Richard Case

Click on the image below to see it enlarged and to scroll through the gallery of all the winning photos.



Junior Winner - Theo Gabb



A Royal Fanfare on the Fives Courts

Friday 25 May 2018

To mark the Royal Wedding last Saturday, a specially convened brass ensemble played the National Anthem in the fives courts as pupils walked to lessons for first period.



Not only do the fives courts provide natural amplification, projecting the sound around the south side of the Site, but they were in fact the location of Prince Harry's only visit to Shrewsbury School, in 1999, as part of the Eton Fives squad in the National Championships.



Cricket News Round-Up

Friday 25 May 2018

A few highlights from the last two weeks.

Congratulations to the U14As who finished a great first half of term (10 wins to date) with a very comfortable win over Thomas Telford on Thursday and now progress to the County Final in June. Thomas Telford 45-9 (L. Graham 3-10) Shrewsbury School 46-0 in 4.5 overs (H. Cooke 26no, A. Gallimore 22no)



All teams competing on Wednesday afternoon enjoyed another clean sweep of victories:

- 1st XI 87 all out beat Myerscough 78 all out (G. Garrett 4-15)
- 2nd XI 222 for 8 (R. Grandhi 66) beat Myerscough 79 (D. Davies 5-16)
- U15 Girls 153 (H. Shuker 60 no) beat Moreton Hall 53 (National Cup Qualifier) - following on from their tremendous performance the previous week in the Lady Taverners Indoor Cricket Tournament, where they finished as Runners-Up for the second year in succession
- U14 Girls 106 for 8 beat Moreton Hall 105

Congratulations to the U17s who, by beating Denstone College in a thrilling match on Tuesday, have progressed to the National Quarter-Finals of the Cricket Paper National U17 Cup.



Denstone College 159-9 (X. Clarke 2-15, F. Jebb 2 – 13) Shrewsbury School 160-6 (D. Humes 53, X Clarke 34, L. Litchfield 32 no)

The previous week will go down in Salopian cricketing annals, as the school's batsmen and women scored more runs than in any week in the School's history. In one extraordinary 24-hour period, Dan Humes scored a century as part of the 1st XI's victory over Wrekin in the HMC T20 (Shrewsbury 185-3, Wrekin 82-8), and there was another century for Jamie Crawley and a 97 for Xavie Clarke in the 1st XI match Bromsgrove

Both the U14As and U14Bs registered two wins apiece against Manchester Grammar midweek and Bromsgrove on the Saturday – a highlight being Harry Cooke's (PH) 70* vs Manchester Grammar.

The U14B & Cs beat Old Swinford Hospital by 57 runs and 7 wickets respectively. Unfortunately the U15As lost on Friday to a strong Bromsgrove team and bow out of the ESCA Cup.

Many congratulations to 1st XI Captain George Garrett, who took three wickets on his debut for Warwickshire 2nd XI, to Jamie Crawley who has been playing for Lancashire 2nd XI, and to Issy Wong, who is playing for Worcestershire Women.

Sidney-Darwin Dash and Quarter-Mile Challenge 2018

Friday 25 May 2018

Our Film Fellow David Clifford was among the crowds on Top Common last Sunday morning with his video camera, to capture the excitement and fierce inter-House competition of the Sidney-Darwin Dash and Quarter-Mile Challenge.



Winners of the Sidney-Darwin Dash

Junior Boys - Nikita Martynov (Ch) in a new Junior Boys record of 11.81

Junior Girls - Lucy Lees (EDH)

Senior Boys - Monty Hardcastle (I)

Senior Girls - Claire Richards (G)

Winners of the Quarter-Mile Challenge

Junior Boys - Oscar Hamilton Russell (R)

Junior Girls - Francesca Harris (EDH) beating her own course record in a time of 65.31

Senior Boys - Toby Pegge (PH)

Senior Girls - Lillian Wilcox (EDH)