

MUN team makes a strong start to the new academic year

Monday 3 November 2014

The Model United Nations team had a successful trip to Royal Russell School, Croydon over the first four days of half-term, accompanied by Mr Peach, Miss Weatherstone and Dr Oakley.

Our A team, China, won a Commended Delegation Award and the following won individual awards in their committees: Dan Edwards, Sonny Koh, Jamie Nugent, Sasha Arridge, Guy Cabral and Ed Plaut.



National Equestrian Championship success

Monday 3 November 2014

Huge congratulations to our Equestrian team, who achieved great team and individual success at the National Schools Equestrian Association's Championships, held at Addington Equestrian Centre in Buckinghamshire (Friday 24th – Saturday 25th October).



L - R: Amelia Ashworth, Jack Ashworth, Tristan Lywood, Hugh Davies, Tom Tulloch, Scott Walker

Shrewsbury's team of Hugh Davies, Tom Tulloch, Mimi Ashworth and Scott Walker came 2nd in the 1.05m Show Jumping Championships and were declared Reserve Champions. As this was one of the biggest events of the Championships, this was a particularly impressive achievement.

Hugh Davies on Delflip was Reserve Champion in the 1.10m Individual Show Jumping Championships and Tom Tulloch on Spirit VI finished in 6th place. Together with Scott Walker on Street Smart, they came 4th in the 1.10m Show Jumping Team Championships.

Tom Tulloch and Spirit VI also triumphed in the hugely competitive Jumping with Style Championships – a combination of show jumping and cross-country. Tom was crowned 1.05m Jumping With Style Individual Champion – another fantastic achievement.



Tristan Lywood, Scott Walker, Hugh Davies and Tom Tulloch came 5th in the 95cm Show Jumping Championships.



Ned Moreau on Tee Total



RSSBC: Fours Head of the River

Monday 3 November 2014

Four Shrewsbury crews took part in the Fours Head of the River on Saturday. The crews competed along with 430 others, racing the four and a quarter mile course from Chiswick Bridge to Putney Bridge.

The pick of results came from the boys' junior coxed four, who came 3rd in their event out of 17 crews, and from the girls' quad who recorded an impressive 4th place out of 28 crews.

ATH



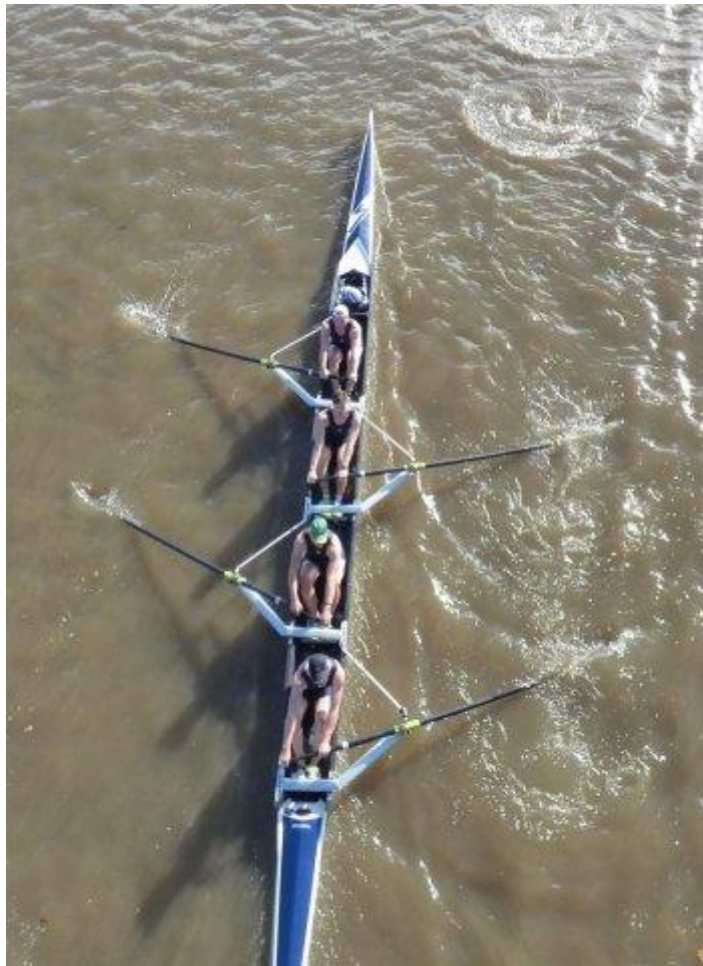
Junior Four



Girls' Quad



Boys' Quad



IM2 Four



Half Term success in USA for School House rowers

Monday 3 November 2014

While most of the boys were having a very well-earned rest over the break, three were off to Boston to row in the Head of the Charles Regatta.

The 1st VIII, which included Toby Thomas (UVIII) and Freddie Bonthron (LIVI) from School House, performed excellently and finished 11th (of 85).

It was a School House Fourth Former Tomas Shiels, who stole the show as Cox of the boat; for someone so young to reach such heights is a remarkable achievement. He is clearly a rising star of the Shrewsbury Boat Club – watch this space!

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The 1st VIII in Boston with the three School House boys: Tomas on the left, Toby third from left and Freddie second from right



House Singing Competition 2014

Friday 7 November 2014

On the final evening before the start of the half term exeat, packed audiences in both the Alington Hall and the Ashton Theatre enjoyed a fantastic evening of excellent music-making and entertainment. A review by Dr Oakley.

A huge thank you to Julia Chamberlain for her wonderful photographs (www.juliachamberlainphotography.co.uk)

Last year was the year of the ‘polymashup’ with upwards of thirty songs represented in one. What would be the defining moment this year?

The Grove started the evening with ‘A thousand years’, which is approximately the combined waiting time of all those who remember the last performance of last year’s event. They went with ten singers (which transpired to be the modal and median number for the year) exhibiting many lines of harmony over an impressive range. They were then joined by the remainder of the house to take us back to 1997 with their rendition of Toploader’s ‘Dancing in the moonlight’.



The Grove Unison

With some energetic dancing from a few on the front row and a dose of jazz hands, the stage was set for Mary Sidney Hall. They went with a jungle theme for Katy Perry’s ‘Roar’ which echoed the music video (the main one that is, not the one where the song was spelt out in a

string of text messages). It was an extremely enthusiastic and colourful display of animal costumes ranging from a giraffe to a tumbling monkey. For the part song, the programme claimed 'I got Rhythm', which they had in spades with some polyrhythmic neon hand clapping which reassured the audience the lights had not failed early in proceedings. There were snippets of 'On Top of the World' thrown on to elevate the overall atmosphere.



MSH Part Song

Ingram's went for the 1978 hit for ELO – Mr Blue Sky. Will Harvey put in a very strong performance accompanied by nine other Ingramites in lurid green ties and white shirts. The remit for horrendous coloured ties was clearly sent to the House as they appeared for a rousing rendition of Neil Diamond's 'Sweet Caroline' with more handy work in the choreography.



Ingram's Unison

Rigg's brought us back to the modern day with an ambitious adaptation of Awolnation's 'Sail' complete with a beatbox courtesy of Mungo Hargreaves. The House then congregated in Jamaican colours for a homage to Bob Marley and his 'Three Little Birds'. Charlie Cooper's Rasta voice added a comedic twist on this seemingly common choice for a unison song.



Rigg's Part Song

Radbrook were next and hoped to have to part song 'Sewn' up with enough singers for a football team. There were several changes of lead singer which worked well. They too used their hands, but this time for clicking, and their feet for a spat of stomping. The house then graduated to 'Mrs Robinson' with a home-grown backing band.



Radbrook Part Song

School House swung things back to the Sixties with a Beatles Medley that had no fewer than five changes of lead from the 17 strong part song singers, the largest part song ensemble of the night by far. They used a range of voices to good effect and set up the whole house for a chorus of the Monkees' 1967, 'I'm a Believer'. I appreciated the nod to Mike Nesmith's (the Monkees' guitarist) woolly hat, which I hope was intentional.



School House Unison

Churchill's took us forward to the 70s and 80s with a Billy Joel anthology from a seven strong set that rotated the lead very effectively throughout. There was no claim they started a fire or not but they certainly laid down a performance that would cause heated debate amongst the judging panel. A step back to 60s for a far from gaseous go at the Rolling Stones' 'Jumping Jack Flash' then left the stage set for Emma Darwin Hall.



Churchill's Part Song

Emma Darwin took us to back to the 18th century, with an opening stanza of Auld Lang Syne sandwiching three more modern tunes from U2, Natalie Imbruglia and Imagine Dragons. More manual manipulation meant one of the themes of the evening was rejuvenated. The whole House took to the stage in T Shirts made by the Third Formers in the House to rock out to Bryan Adams' 'Summer of '69'. A select sextet provided the actions including some air guitar

(another use of the hands this evening) and an athletic leap into a fellow EDHie's arms at the end. It was the first appearance of glitter this evening, as the performance ended with a cloud being projected into the audience.



EDH Unison

Moser's performed a Christmas number one in the form of the Flying Pickets 'Only You' with a good range of voices. Their unison was simply choreographed but to great effect, with the whole House getting into the ABBA hit 'Does your Mother Know?', reminiscent of a Severn Hill performance in 2011. The responsorial split worked well and added a comedic twist, possibly in homage to Johnny English's rendition. Severn Hill also paid homage to their performance from earlier in the decade using an arrangement by Ali Webb (OS) for the Part Song, which including a rare dose of scating that reminded me of the 1995 hit by the late John Larkin. Hand choreography featured in their unison of 'Build me up Buttercup'.



Moser's Unison

Ten down, three to go, but what a trio they were; Port Hill were next up with a fantastic medley from six in black ties. 'A Great Big World' featured, as did snippets of John Legend and some more beat boxing. There was some good diction, making it easy to hear from the balcony. The remainder of the House joined them in black suits and an appropriate gold pocket handkerchief for Sam Sparrow's 2008 hit, delivered with a deal of gusto.



Port Hill Part Song

Oldham's plumped for a comedy factor, with the 14 part song singers taking to the stage in pink wigs for an amalgamation of Blue Suede, Katy Perry and Gnarl Barkley (the first single to chart at number one due to downloads alone). They must have known that there was little over a year until we can have hoverboards and Jaws 19 will be in the cinema, as they paid homage to 'Back to the Future' with one of the highlights of the evening. Twisting and jiving on the front row led to the seas of Oldhamites parting to reveal a guitar soloist followed by six in coloured shirts, culminating in another acrobatic flip at the end. Marty McFly would have been proud.



Oldham's Unison

Last, but by no means least, was Ridgemount with a Michael Jackson medley using the range of voices available to them well. The House were then all aboard for the final song of the night –

the 1998 hit 'National Express' by the Divine Comedy. It was the actions on stage that made this most memorable, as Fred Earlam 'drove the bus' with multiple rows of Ridgemountaineers – including the back row lads. However, it was the action off the stage that brought the most laughs, as the trolley dollies had not anticipated a judge blocking the aisle.



Ridgemount Unison

Now the results. The judges included Old Salopian Henry Southern, who was performing on this night not many years ago. Rigg's were awarded the prize for the Most Improved House; Joe Bell in Radbrook won the award for the Best Part Song Arrangement; and Mary Sidney Hall picked up the Entertainment Award.

MSH, School House, Port Hill and Churchill's all received a placing for their Unisons, but Oldham's took the spoils. Radbrook, School House, Severn Hill and Churchill's were praised for their Part Songs. Port Hill picked up the new cup.



Churchill's

Congratulations to Ed Carroll and John Dempsey for leading Churchill's to overall glory.

If 2013 was the year of the 'polymashup', 2014 was the year of 'polychirography' (although not yet a word, it is a Googlewhack). What will 2015 bring?

CWO



The news 100 years ago: 7th November 1914

Friday 7 November 2014

This week we remember:

Lieutenant Francis Reginald Orme, 1st Bn. Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

Haydon's (now Rigg's), left in 1912. (Brother of E.L. Orme, died 27 May 1917.)

Killed in action in Belgium, 7th November 1914, aged 22

Remembered on Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium. Panel 22.

The news this week in 1914



HMS Indefatigable (image courtesy of Benjidog Nautical Resources)

At the beginning of November 1914, the Ottoman Empire, the world's greatest independent Islamic power, abandons its policy of neutrality and declares war against France, Russia and Great Britain. In response, a British Navy squadron, led by the battlecruisers HMS Indomitable and HMS Indefatigable, bombards Turkish forts at the entrance to the Dardanelles. The bombardment is ineffective and serves only to encourage the Ottomans to strengthen their defences and expand the mine fields along the coastline.

Later, a British force from India attacks Basra, on the Persian Gulf, in what is now Iraq. Turkey's entry into the war serves German strategy well by tying Russian and British forces down in the Middle East.

Bonfire Night

Friday 7 November 2014

On the 5th November, we had our annual School House fireworks, including plenty of cake and hot chocolate. In addition, we ran a competition to see who could write or draw the best sparkler image, to be caught on camera by our resident photographer Arthur Cheng (UVI). Some of his photographs of the evening are below, including the winning entry, which had to go to Caz... She managed to write a fairly recognisable "School House", which Arthur expertly captured in one shot!



Pumpkins left over from Hallowe'en match over the event



Enjoying the display



Caz's winning entry in the sparkler competition



Football: 1st XI news

Sunday 9 November 2014

After nine wins from 11 matches in the first half of term, the 1st XI faced Thomas Telford in Round 4 of the ESFA Cup last week, closely followed by Highgate in the ISFA Cup.

In Round 4 of the ESFA Cup last Friday, our senior footballers lost 2-4 to Thomas Telford School. In poor weather conditions, mistakes cost us dearly, although goals from Will Hargreaves and Jamie Humes kept us in the game until Thomas Telford's fourth goal.

The team immediately bounced back with a good performance against Manchester Grammar School the next day. First-half goals from Gene Ratandaros and Jamie Humes were enough to secure the win as, despite a late MGS goal, we held on comfortably for our tenth win from 13 matches.

The 1st XI travelled to Highgate for their ISFA Boodles Cup match on Wednesday, but sadly failed to adapt to the challenging conditions and the strong opposition. The hosts raced into a 3-0 lead after 25 minutes, but Shrewsbury responded to reduce the scoreline to 3-2 by half time. Shrewsbury were getting to grips with the game when Highgate were awarded a penalty, which they converted. Once more Shrewsbury responded and brought the score to 4-3.

Highgate were awarded a further penalty which they missed and Shrewsbury applied a lot of pressure on the home goal, but to no avail. It is very disappointing to be eliminated from two cup competitions in five days, especially after a very successful first half term where we had nine wins out of 11 matches.

SJB



Old Salopian Army Medic is helping with the Ebola Outbreak in Sierra Leone

Monday 10 November 2014

Lt Colonel TCN Roberts RAMC (S 1985-1990) has sent the following report regarding his work with the Ebola outbreak:

'After an unexpected phone call I began training with 22 Field Hospital in order to support the international response to the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone. We opened our 12 bed Ebola treatment unit on 5 November 2014, alongside a larger facility run by Save the Children. Ours is open to infected healthcare workers and other entitled personnel including UK nationals. We are confident in our personal protective equipment and have refined what are normally simple processes into safe methods appropriate for a facility containing a pathogen of high lethality. For example, the transfer of items such as blood samples out of the treatment unit. We hope to push the boundaries of what can be achieved in treating this disease in developing countries, thereby providing some reassurance to volunteer nursing and medical staff.'



Fifth Former George Hargrave (Rb) wins national cricket award

Tuesday 11 November 2014

Many congratulations to Fifth Former George Hargrave (Rb), who has been presented with The Cricket Society's A.A. Thomson Award. This is one of two annual national awards given by The Cricket Society to junior cricketers in recognition of their performances during the season. Previous winners include Old Salopian James Taylor in 2005 (James will be playing for England later this month in their ODI series against Sri Lanka) and former England player Graham Thorpe in 1987.



George Hargrave with Sam Billings

In July, George was selected for the Midlands squad to play in the prestigious U15s Bunbury Cricket Festival, where he was named Fielder of the Tournament. His spectacular batting performance caught the eye of one of the BBC Radio Test Match Special commentators, Charlie Dagnall, who singled him out for particular mention during his radio commentary on one of the England Test Matches. (See the report: [George Hargrave featured on Test Match Special](#)) George has also been a star player for the Warwickshire U15s and for our own U15A XI, who this summer reached the [Finals of the National ESCA/ECB U15 T20](#) competition for the fourth consecutive year.

George was presented with his award at The Cricket Society Awards Dinner at the Royal Overseas League in London on Friday 7th November. He was also asked to say a few words to the audience, who numbered some 200. He spoke well and confidently. He was delighted to be seated next to Kent batsman and wicketkeeper Sam Billings, who won the Most Promising Young Cricketer of the Year Award.



Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Training Camp

Wednesday 12 November 2014



The new D of E Gold season has started in earnest, with 28 students signing up for the Award. Of that number, 18 are direct entry candidates and were therefore required to attend the first of the three Gold Award Expedition events we organise through the year. This was the Gold Training Camp, based at Pen-y-pass Youth Hostel at the foot of Mt Snowdon.

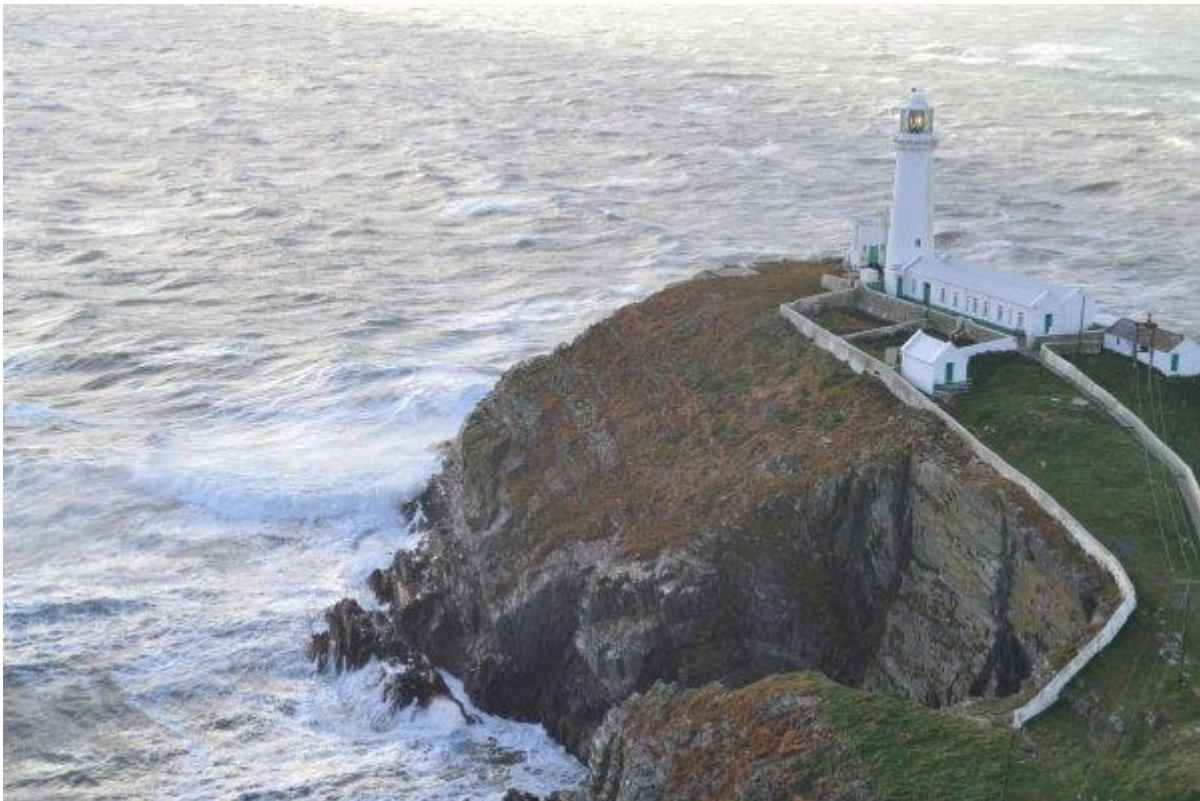
The participants started with some 'admin time' at school, where they were issued with equipment, looked at health and nutrition on expeditions and went to purchase expedition food from a local supermarket. Following a two-hour drive to North Wales, the training continued with first aid training in the hostel with one of our freelance Instructors, Dave Prendergast.

On day two, the team separated into two groups, a walking group and a sea-kayaking group. Each day started with a weather presentation from a student and was then filled with specific theory and practical training.





Sadly on the third day of the trip, the tail end of hurricane Gonzales swept across North Wales, exposing both teams to storm force winds! With the practical element of training wiped out, the team instructors had to do some quick thinking to come up with appropriate ways to fill the time. The walkers visited a local café with internet access and spent the day working on route-planning skills. The sea kayakers however, were particularly lucky and managed to squeeze in a visit to the Coast Guard station at Holyhead where the weather gauge was reading Force 10 on the scale! They then enjoyed an exploration of the off-shore lifeboat and a visit to a kayak factory. The day finished with a visit to the South Stack lighthouse to see first-hand what the strong winds did to the sea... The sight was amazing!



The remaining two days of the adapted programme continued without a hitch. Both groups squeezed in some very useful and interesting training in the hills and on the coast, and the extreme weather meant plenty of 'thinking on our feet' and 'team work', two attributes required for a successful D of E Gold Expedition.

We all look forward to the next batch of training later on in the Lent term.

Maj. Jo Billington

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



Fencing: Shrewsbury Third Formers win gold and silver at the Packwood Leon Paul Series Epée

Thursday 13 November 2014

Packwood Haugh hosted the Leon Paul Series Epée for the fifth consecutive year over the weekend, attracting more than 80 young fencers from across the country.

Many congratulations to Third Formers James Hinwood (Rt) and Theodora Jarvis (MSH), who took gold and silver respectively in the under-13 boys and girls events.



RSSH: ESAA Cross-Country Cup

Thursday 13 November 2014

Having progressed through the county round of the English Schools Athletics Association Cross-Country Cup last month, our U15 Hunt team competed in the regional round in Warrington on Saturday.

Fifteen schools competed in our age category (U15) and the standard was very high, as it has been for a number of years now at this event. A huge amount of rainfall in the previous 24 hours meant the going was very soft indeed, and ours being the last race scheduled for the day, it had been nicely churned up by several hundred pairs of spikes by the time we raced!

A very fast start meant that we found ourselves some way down the pack at the end of the first straight, and indeed halfway through the first lap of three our first counter, Monty Hardcastle, was back in 18th place with Harry Remnant (Ch) three places behind that. Cameron Anwyl (S) struggled for position in the middle of the field, while Henry Ludlam (R), Lucas Arkwright (O) and James Hinwood (Rt) all found themselves toward the back of the main pack at this stage.

Nevertheless, some really determined running saw places being gained right the way through the race, probably due in part to some less experienced runners going off too quickly and then paying the penalty later on. Harry worked hard to pick off tiring runners over the second lap, by the end of which he had managed to get into the top 20 and was in a good position to attack the runners ahead of him. Monty, meanwhile, had put in a huge spurt in the second half of the second lap to get himself into the top ten. Further back, Lucas had realised that he had plenty left in the legs and was working his way through the field, chasing Cameron and Henry who'd been struggling in around 30th.

The final lap was astonishingly quick from Monty, and proved just how much he's developed as a runner since this time last year. He was still gaining on the leaders by the end of the lap and if the race had been another kilometre long, I've no doubt he'd have ended up on the podium. Great cross-country running from him. A little further back, Harry was still attacking right the way to the end and managed to pip someone right on the line to take 13th – a cracking effort from a Third Former against many runners a year older than him.

Cameron struggled through a niggle in his shoulder to battle at the line with a sprinting Lucas, who had maybe left a little too much in the tank – Lucas just squeezed it and took 30th position. Not much further back were Henry (33rd) and James (35th). A team total of 80 points was a little too much to take us through to the next round, but there were plenty of positives on display here for the year ahead. A great team effort from the young team.

IPH

Lacrosse: Another win for the senior team

Thursday 13 November 2014

The senior lacrosse team continue their excellent season with a 15-10 victory against Queen's Chester on Wednesday 12th November.



The students and coaches were very enthusiastic about the outcome since it was their first game since half term. Both novice and more experienced players played extremely well and are continuing to work well as a team on the pitch.

The team and coaches look forward to their next game at home on Sunday 15th November against Birmingham University's 4th Team.

During half term, Abby Attenborough, Laura Cooke, Antonia Wordie, Olivia Papaioannou, Georgia Bruce and Sarah Jackman took part in county trials. Abby was selected as one of the Shropshire A team captains and Olivia and Antonia were also selected to play for the As. Laura, Georgia and Sarah will be playing for the B team and Laura is one of the captains.

Nicole Buckley



Geography quizzing team retain their Worldwide Trophy

Thursday 13 November 2014

Congratulations to Fourth Formers Tom Hughes, Rob Ford and James Crewdson, who came first in the Shropshire and Borders Branch of the Geographical Association Worldwide Quiz on Wednesday.

The event was held in Moreton Hall School and was sponsored by the Field Studies Council (FSC), whose headquarters are based at Preston Montford, near Shrewsbury. The FSC are partners of the Geographical Association, the national subject association for Geography Education.

In the first round, our B team (Gus Lloyd, Christian Cavenagh-Thornhill and Sergey Vartanov - all SH) scored 71 points out of 100 and were placed in fifth position. However our A team (Tom Hughes (Ch), Rob Ford and James Crewdson (both S) scored 90/100 and finished in first place. The top four schools qualified for the final round and included hosts Moreton Hall, Thomas Adams and Adams' Grammar as well as ourselves.

In the final, there were five rounds. After the first round, our A team were in bottom place, but they managed to claw their way into third place by the end of the fourth round. The last round was a quickfire contest where teams had to answer a maximum of ten questions in a minute, each question being worth two marks. They managed to answer 9/10 correctly, thereby scoring 18 points, and pipped Adams' Grammar at the post by three marks to retain the trophy once again.

The boys also won a book presented by the FSC and a day's free fieldwork for 20 pupils. The Geography Faculty has decided to donate this to the Faith Primary School in Everton, which is close to Shrewsbury House.

RHM



U14 girls' hockey team add another 16 goals to their tally

Friday 14 November 2014

The U14 girls remain unbeaten in School hockey fixtures with an overwhelming 16-0 win over Abbeygate last weekend. This gives a record of played 8; won 8; goals for 58; goals against 3 - an amazing start for the U14 girls at Shrewsbury.

This positive result followed on from an outstanding performance in the U14 County Cup at Lilleshall National Sports Centre. Unfortunately for Shrewsbury, the tournament was pushed back from the 5th November to the 22nd October, which meant it fell during half term. With a high number of girls unavailable, we thought we were going to have to pull out, but the nine who could make it were keen and determined to represent School at county level.

The team played phenomenally well, considering we were two players short on the pitch and had no substitutes, and managed to qualify for the semi-finals by winning two of their group matches.

The semi-final was a hard fought game and the earlier group stages of one hour's play was starting to take its toll on the committed nine. Shrewsbury just lost out 0-1 in the semi-final and should be extremely proud of their determination and achievement. Special mention to Rosie Davis, who stood in at short notice and did herself and the School proud.

NJB



Giles Bell's Team of the Week

Friday 14 November 2014

This week, the U14 football teams.

I have just watched the Sainsbury's Christmas advert; an emotional moment. I experienced something similar when I heard the score from Highgate late last night. The Shrewsbury 1st XI found themselves 3-0 down after 20 minutes in their ISFA cup tie, fought back to 3-2 and then what has become known as 'Penaltygate' occurred. (Like a certain Chelsea manager, I would not want to comment further and anyway my words would be edited!) They fought back to 4-3 but could not quite force 'Extratimegate'. As a result, we are all experiencing 'Lowgate'.

Despite Lowgate, the 1st XI have had a very good season, but as always this team will soon be affected by the annual migration. It is perhaps time to have a look at the bottom rung of the Shrewsbury School football ladder and see how our future stars are progressing.



U14Cs and Ds with Mr Morris

There is a huge enthusiasm for football in the under-14 year group. Mr Morris's under-14D squad is around the 40 mark in terms of personnel and there is an E team fixture pencilled in for later in the term. The C team under the guidance of Mr Corbett have been magnanimously allowing certain favoured prep schools a taste of victory. Their marketing expertise has been duly noted and I am sure they will all be rewarded by Mrs Campbell!

The under-14Bs have been coached by our new Director of Sport, Mr Andrew Murfin. This is my first chance to introduce you to our new sporting supremo, who is affectionately known as José Murfinho by his players. Andrew grew up in the North East and is a Doncaster Rovers fan. Doncaster, as I am sure you will all know, were the last team to play at the Goldstone ground against Brighton and Hove Albion in 1997. (A game I went to and enjoyed, as Brighton won 1-0; for a detailed account of the game, email me separately.) Andrew was a Leeds junior and then went to Scunthorpe, Burton Albion where he worked with Nigel Clough and Kettering. When he was at Loughborough University, being a slow learner he played for the Great Britain student team for six years. He has also played for England at 5-a-side futsal. Futsal is very popular in Brazil and is great way of enhancing one's skill. After Futsalgate he was exiled to Jersey, where he was Director of Sport at Victoria College and won at least one 12km race, which would explain why he finished in the top 10 in the Tucks this year. (Did I mention I defeated my son in the Tucks?)



The U14Bs with Mr Murfin

Andrew is pleased with the manner in which his team have progressed this term and he has maintained good links with the A team and coach Spencer 'Face' Gunnell. "I am pleased with the manner in which the team has progressed this term and I have maintained good links with the A team and coach Spencer 'Face' Gunnell." 'José Murfinho' was quick to compliment his team and is rightly proud of their record of seven wins, one draw and just one defeat. An 8-0 defeat of Repton and a 4-0 win over Bradfield have to be the highlights, and strength in depth is always a good omen for the future.



The U14As with Mr Gunnell

‘Keeper’ Ludo Lichfield loquaciously lavished praise on his team. He was also quick to point out that 1st XI stopper Rufus Lichfield started life in the under-14Ds; he has high hopes of emulating his big brother! He told me that he enjoyed the high standard of football here. “I enjoy the high standard of football here,” he said. He went on to single out Lucas Arkwright as the fittest man in the team, who earlier in the season singlehandedly pressurised the opposition defence, finally tackling the goalkeeper and scoring a goal which was down to sheer persistence. He also paid tribute to the organisational skills of Captain Fingal Dickens. “Fingal has a plan for every eventuality,” he said.



U14B Captain Fingal Dickins with his game plan

Frank Morris has missed a large part of the season with a broken wrist and felt that the team's performance would have benefitted from his presence. Milo Herbert was also keen to point out that he was the midfield dynamo of the team and Reuben Denison would like it known that he has been playing with passion, pace and power. These latterly mentioned gentlemen all happen to be in my RS lessons and I sense that their play reflects the odd tactical gem that comes their way when I happen to be discussing some of Brighton's magical moments (obviously in conjunction with Kant's categorical imperative, Hume's fluidity of formation and Leibniz's Principle of sufficient passing).

I joined A team coach Spencer 'Face' Gunnell for a training session and found it quite hard to differentiate the A team players from the B team. As is always the case, the under-14s is a team in transition; a bit like Liverpool. Over the next five years they will start winning games against teams that have beaten them this year; a good illustration of this is the under-16 As defeating Bradfield this year 1-0 having lost 8-0 to them the year before.

The 'Face' describes his team as eager to learn, full of characters and a little naïve at times. He was very enthusiastic when asked to comment on his players. Dan Humes is a 'theatrical' but talented player who tends to find the glass is half full. Ed Hague-Saunders in goal he likens to a very frightening big cat; he has pulled off some great saves and has a look of the Schmeichel about him. George Faulkner is a 'nice little player' who holds the ball up well. Harvey Hancock has a sweet left foot and supports Stoke City (as does Mr Gunnell), so he has to play. Will Barton is the work horse of the team and never stops running.



The U14As training

Charlie Harpin can pick the lock of any defence and whilst I was watching I saw at least two beautifully executed nutmegs to illustrate his coach's view of him. Ben Henderson is the right back and improving with every game. Felix Kenyon-Smith is the rugged and manly centre back who wins all tackles. Toby Pegge is captain and the epitome of total football. Mwela (big Moe) has the most ferocious of shots on him and the Bursar may have to re-examine the School's buildings insurance. Simon Lange is the deadly assassin; he never gives the ball away and is an awesome passer of the ball. Angus Munroe has great feet and will ultimately achieve great feats.

I look forward to many more highs in the future from this team of budding stars!

GJFB



The news 100 years ago: 14th November 1914

Friday 14 November 2014

No Salopians were killed in the War this week 100 years ago.

The battle of Nonne Bosschen signalled what was only to be the start of the more prominent and infamous Battle at Ypres; it saw the Germans, under the command of Crown Prince Rupprecht, attempting to drive through the British lines across a front that stretched for nine miles – from Messines to Reutel.

As November progressed, winter began to set in and it soon became apparent that both the British and the German troops were utterly exhausted. Nevertheless, on 11th November, the Germans launched an attack composed of the 4th Division and the Prussian Guard which surmounted to 10,000 men – in comparison to Britain's 4,000: they were severely outnumbered from the outset.

In the wake of this wave of attacks, one of the heaviest artillery bombardments of the war began, lasting from 6.30-9.00am. For a time it seemed, from the German perspective, that they were safely engulfed in a shroud of concealing mist, but were caught off-guard by the precision of British rifles and their subsequent lack of enthusiasm. The British battalions, on the other hand, had more to be concerned about; Brigadier General Charles FitzClarence found his battalion of the Scots Guards, Camerons and Black Watch regiments outnumbered three to one.

From the depths of the mist emerged the advancing Germans in a bayonet attack (this was still the early days of the war, thus weaponry was somewhat behind what we now consider to be typical of the time). The British succeeded in fragmenting the German formations in tandem to an onslaught of rapid artillery fire, which succeeded in preventing any reinforcements contributing to the German number.

The Germans retreated into the Nonne Bosschen forest, only to be mercilessly cleared out by 2nd Oxfordshire Light Infantry, bringing an end to the last major German offensive of Ypres. Fitzclarence had intended to launch a counterattack, but was killed in action before the plan could be put into action, thus seeing it abandoned.

On the Eastern Front, the total strength of the Russians on their frontier is placed at about 3,500,000 men. The troops are hardy and prepared for winter campaigning. The news took root in Britain: the Tsar, it was said, was mobilizing millions on millions of men. Countless hordes of Cossacks, so the wild stories ran were to sweep across the Prussian plains and thunder against the gates of Berlin. The vision of the conquering Cossack was so universal that fables about trainloads of Cossacks passing through England on their way to Northern France gained widespread currency, and had at last to be officially contradicted by the British Government.

Shrewsbury School's new Academic Block takes impressive shape

Monday 17 November 2014

Building work is progressing well on the new Academic Block, located between Oldham's Hall and Ridgemount.



Photo taken by Stamos Fearnall (I LVI)

Following the cutting of the first turf on Speech Day in June, the speed with which the framework for the building has been erected has been impressive and exciting to watch. More and more detail of the structure is visible on an almost daily basis.

When finished next summer, the building will include a lecture theatre and 19 classrooms. It will house the History, Geography, Philosophy & Theology, Economics and Business Studies Faculties.





Oldham's Third and Fourth Formers enjoy the Leicester v Saracens premiership rugby match

Monday 17 November 2014



Pictured are some Oldham's Third and Fourth Formers (with friends from Churchill's and Severn Hill) at the recent premiership rugby match between Leicester and Saracens played on 16th November. Despite it being an 'international weekend', a number of past internationals represented the clubs on a heavy surface at Welford Road.

In front of over 20,000 spectators, and in torrential rain, the Tigers drew level with the final kick of the game, making the closing score 21-21.

Oliver Hope wins NHS 'Valuing Our Volunteers Award'

Tuesday 18 November 2014

Oliver Hope (Ch UVI) has become the first young volunteer to be recognised with a Valuing Our Volunteers Award by the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust



L - R: Julia Clarke, Director of Corporate Governance,; Debra Owens, Ward 22TO Housekeeper; Ceri Adamson, Lead Nurse for Quality and Professional Standards; Oliver Hope; Staff Nurse Rhodora Somayo. Photo courtesy of Shropshire & Telford Hospital NHS Trust

Oliver is hoping to pursue a career in medicine and began volunteering at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital two years ago, aged 16. He is currently working on Ward 22 Trauma and Orthopaedics in the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and has also volunteered in other parts of the Trust, including Clinical Audit and the Surgical Assessment Unit.

Julia Clarke, Director of Corporate Governance at the Trust, said Oliver was a very worthy recipient of the Valuing Our Volunteers Award and had "shown great dedication to his role in the last two years". She pointed out that in addition to the weekly work he does in the hospital every Thursday during term time, he has also travelled from his home in Worcestershire during the school holidays to continue to volunteer.

"Volunteers play an important role in our hospitals by supporting our staff both on the frontline and behind the scenes. We appreciate all of their efforts and our monthly Valuing Our Volunteers Award is a regular way of publically highlighting the role they play. I'm delighted Oliver has become our first young volunteer to receive this award."

Introducing Shrewsbury's newest 'a cappella' group, the Burney Singers

Wednesday 19 November 2014

By Ed Carroll (Ch UVI).



L - R: Rob Shone, Ben Higgins, Loren Kell, Charis Virgo, Ed Carroll

At the beginning of this term, Rob Shone and I were both talking about how we were very interested in setting up an a cappella group, and we each had very similar ideas as to how we were going to organise it all. Within two days, we had three more members, and so had formed Shrewsbury School's newest a cappella quintet.

We chose to include people from across the School, spanning four houses and three years, with a keen interest in singing and also a very good ear for music. Within our group I sing bass, creating the foundation for each piece and also organise rehearsals. Above me is Ben Higgins (S V), our baritone who has an excellent ear for improvisation (which he makes sure we know!). Our next member is the aforementioned Rob Shone (Ch LVI), a tenor who alongside me organises much of our rehearsals and arrangements. Our alto, as well as our lead arranger, is Charis Virgo (G UVI) and finally our soprano is Loren Kell (EDH LVI), who is capable of singing anything that is thrown at her!



We run our group ourselves, meeting for rehearsals when we are all free and have a break from work and School-driven stress to sing together. We rehearse on average about twice a week, learning new pieces almost every time we sing – be it arrangements we find online that we like the look of, or ones that we have put together ourselves. Rehearsals tend to be of a very light-hearted nature as despite wanting to sing as well as we can, we also are in the group to have fun, and so because of this we tend to pick up new material quite quickly. We have also had a chance to sing in front of a professional vocal group that visited the School, 'Juice'. They gave us some pointers as we were starting out, which we have taken on board to the best of our abilities. The dynamic in the group is excellent and I am truly happy to be able to be a part of it all.

So far this term we have performed twice. Our debut was a concert in a local parish church. Thankfully we were very well received and thus had our invitation from the Director of Music to sing in a concert a few weeks later. It is always very fulfilling to have all of the hard work put in behind the scenes paying off, especially with the pressures of normal School life!

Currently we are building up to two more events, one this term and one at the beginning of next. The first is the [School Christmas Concert for Hope and Homes for Children](#) on 6th December, for which Charis has written us an excellent little carol medley which we can't wait to start learning! The second is a performance at Cambridge University next term, which is a very exciting opportunity the Salopian Club has given us and one that we are looking forward to very much!



Shrewsbury quizzers come third in regional competition

Wednesday 19 November 2014

Shrewsbury entered two teams into the Schools' Challenge South Midlands Regional Competitions, held at King Edward's School, Birmingham on Thursday 13th November.

The first team, consisting of Ollie Hope (Ch UVI), Dan Edwards (S UVI), Sonny Koh (Ch UVI), Ollie Bureau (Ch IV), Mil Luangamornlert (SH IV) and Angus Warburg (PH IV) came third out of 16 teams, losing to the eventual winner KES Birmingham in the semi-finals.

The second team comprising Sasha Arridge (Rb UVI), Jamie Nugent (SH UVI), Joe Lafferty (PH UVI), Will Shawe Taylor (O IV), Tom Hughes (Ch IV) and Jamie Channon (PH IV) advanced to the quarter-finals and were cruelly eliminated in sudden death after their match ended 440-440 in regulation time. No other second team progressed this far in the competition this year.

The quizzers are the focus of Mr Bell's [Team of the Week](#) (21st November).

CWO



Spanish Faculty Study Visit to La Coruña 2014

Thursday 20 November 2014

Many thanks to Fifth Former Mathew Hedges (Rb) for his account.

Having signed up for the Spanish trip several months ago, it was now with some slight anxiety that I waited in the arrivals hall at the airport in La Coruña with a sea of families staring at the huddle of sweating English boys and with a mind suddenly lacking in anything of any use to say in Spanish. Our nerves had not been helped when one of our group lost their passport in Heathrow and was unable to join us, but the flight was short and we were all a little sleepy. After meeting my host family, we drove to their house a few kilometres from the airport and in my trepidation I talked non-stop in the car and I think I just about depleted all the vocabulary in the GCSE topics of 'school' and 'home life'. Although the scariest thing for me was that they spoke very little English.



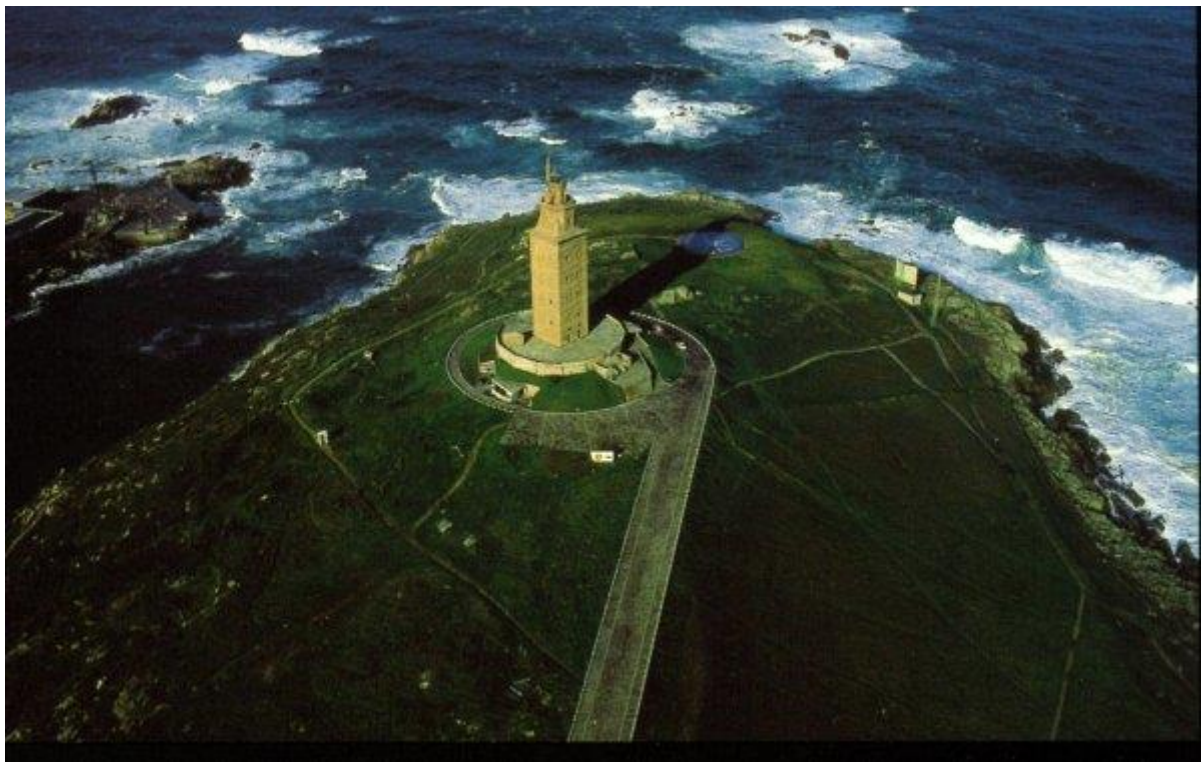
However, after just a few hours I soon realised it was going to be an amazing trip and my host family were incredibly helpful in helping me to improve my Spanish through speaking and listening. From the very first day they insisted (somewhat jokingly) that neither I nor their daughter were allowed to communicate in English. They spoke slowly when they were around



me in order that I might have a chance to understand what they were talking about and they were constantly teaching me new and useful vocabulary along with things related to Hispanic culture: for example, in the midst of the busy itinerary, they took me out of classes for a day in Santiago de Compostela – only an hour away and one of the cultural centres in Galicia.

Highlights include the magnificent cathedral, and, keen for me to experience as much of the Galician way of life as possible, we spent most of the day sat in different restaurants sampling their speciality dish in each of them. I really appreciated the extra effort they went to for my benefit and enjoyment. On several evenings we watched films in Spanish like *Pirates of the Caribbean* and *Dead Poets' Society* and, with me not understanding a single word, we began chatting about subjects from 'which language is the most simple to learn' to 'Fleetwood Mac' and 'why it is unfair that I don't have a dog'.

Every morning we had classes in Spanish at a local language school and, being with a native Spanish speaker, they were most useful and I certainly felt that I could speak and comprehend Spanish more comfortably by the end of the trip. After eating our packed lunches (that were mostly composed of several varieties of bread), we were taken on interesting excursions such as the oldest functioning Roman tower in the world, a local newspaper and broadcasting company, a class in how to make a beautiful Spanish tortilla and a visit to play football with a Spanish secondary school – all of these were of course in Spanish.



But I think my most unexpected favourite experience was going to the football match between Deportivo La Coruña and Valencia. Seeing as I cannot stand to play or watch the dreaded sport, I was surprised at how exhilarating it was to be almost on the first row, surrounded by excessively passionate Galicians shrieking questionable songs at the tiny cohort of Valencians, and watching the home team thrash their – most probably demoralised – competition. I returned home happy and hoarse with a bright blue cap to prove my support. Con todo, ¡un viaje inolvidable!



Mathew Hedges (Rb V)



Rowing at Lake Vyrnwy - photo gallery

Friday 21 November 2014

Members of the Boat Club trained on Lake Vyrnwy last weekend - a particularly stunning setting. Mr Kaye was there with his camera.





Cricket: Guardian feature on Old Salopian James Taylor

Friday 21 November 2014

Currently in Sri Lanka with the England one-day cricket squad and preparing for the first of their seven ODI matches, James Taylor (R 2003-08) was the subject of a feature article in The Guardian sports pages this week.

To read the online version of the article, please

see <http://www.theguardian.com/sport/2014/nov/15/james-taylor-england-cricket-kevin-pietersen-sri-lanka-tour>



Giles Bell's Team of the Week

Friday 21 November 2014

Shrewsbury's Quizzing Team...

My attention this week has turned to a group of gentlemen who describe themselves as being involved in a 'niche' sport. Apparently there have been girls in the team but Miranda Wood told me she has not been to any meetings for a while and her lack of commitment led to her dropping out of the team. She was very disappointed by this and told me that she wants to be on University Challenge one day. Her mother informed me that as a young child she loved nothing better than to be quizzed from a book for hours at a time, although she appears to be a bit more normal now. "I am a bit more normal now," said Miranda.

The more committed members have just returned from a Regional Semi-Final where they narrowly missed qualifying for the Regional Final. They were just two rounds away from National glory, having already conquered all before them in the first three heats they competed in.

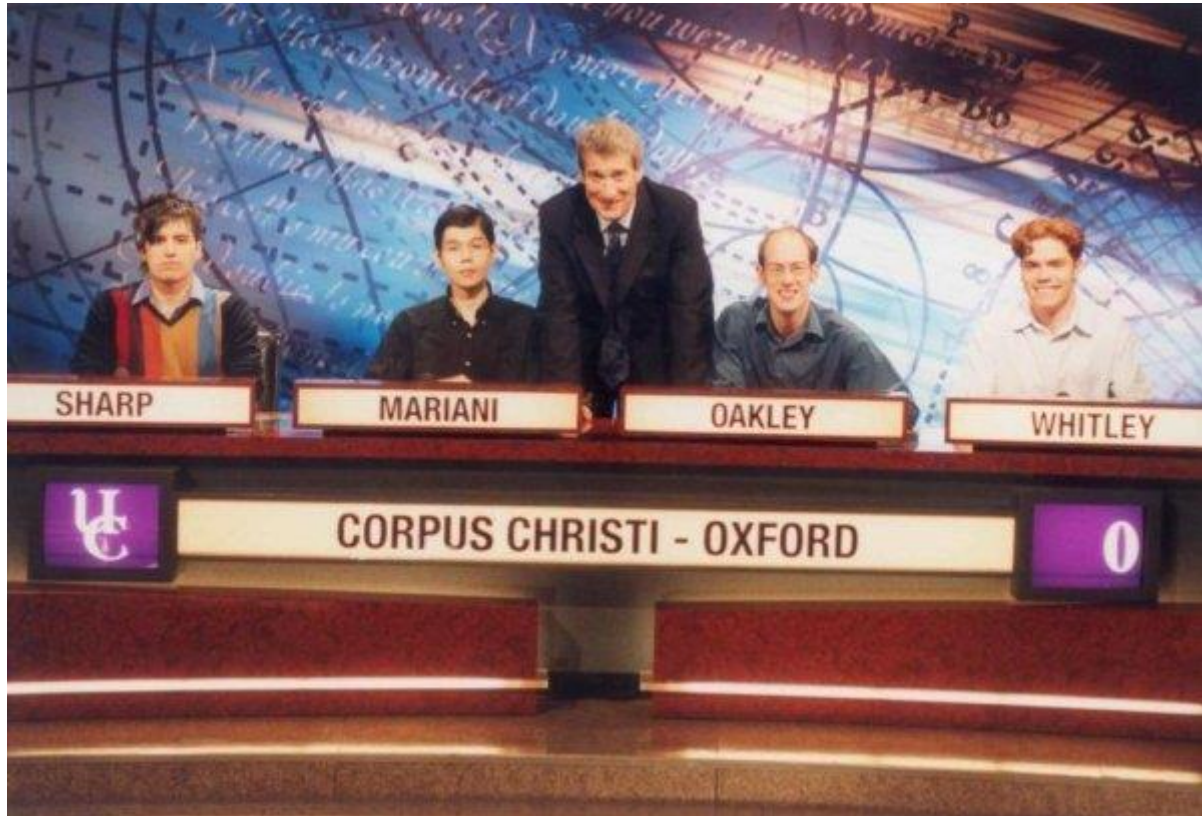


Jamie Nugent, an extremely knowledgeable and ardent quiz enthusiast, was somewhat downbeat after their defeat at King Edward's, Birmingham. Jamie is not one to make excuses, but he did tell me that the mini-bus was a little shaky, which may have disturbed the more sensitive parts of the team brains. He added, "The strong scent of academia may also have affected our olfactory senses, which can sometimes trigger buzzer-hesitation - which can be the difference between victory and defeat, life and death, love and despondency, and other things."

We all love a good quiz, don't we? Surely life would be Pointless without knowing who the Mastermind of your generation is. Who Wants to be a Millionaire when you could be the King of Trivia? As the Countdown to the end of term begins and the Chase for Christmas bargains becomes more acute, crosswords can become more prevalent. I hope that when you have been introduced to our quiz team squad you will realise what Blockbusters they are and not dismiss them as Eggheads.

The driving force behind the Shrewsbury School quiz team is Dr Charles Oakley, otherwise known as The Doctor because he appears to know the answer to everything; quite simply, he is a Time Lord! The Gallifreyan genius used his skills to fund his University education by 'cleaning up' at pub quizzes and quiz machines to the tune of at least £1,000. The Doctor was, as I am sure many of you remember, part of the 2004/5 Corpus Christi Oxford team that won University Challenge 250 -140 against the University of London. In one of the earlier rounds

they scored 345 against Lancaster University's 80. This is the 10th highest score in shows from 1994 to the present day.



The BBC were so impressed by the young Doctor that they employed him to write questions for them for six years. This was fine until the Shrewsbury School Common Room quiz team that entered Eggheads discovered that their lynch pin was unable to participate, as he was technically an employee of the BBC and might have insider knowledge of the questions! Team Member Laura Whittle wistfully put it: "It could have been so different, but we got rather a scrambling that night!" In a nutshell, Dr Oakley has always liked quizzing; "I have always liked quizzing," he told me.

The Shrewsbury squad meet on Mondays and Wednesdays to hone their skills and I joined them to see how these mental athletes keep in shape. I asked Sasha 'buzzer happy' Arridge, with no conferring, if there were any tips for success. He told me that he takes sage as a supplement to his diet before each match. He hopes that this will make him more sagacious. He grows his own sage in his garden at home and he supplies other team members when they are in need of extra sage. His reason for this is rooted in the wise words of TV doctor Michael Mosely.

Responding to his 'starter for ten', Joe 'guns' Lafferty told me he goes for a more physical approach. He believes that looking physically intimidating can put off opponents. He currently attempts 100 press-ups a day with no passes.



Joe Lafferty preparing for the next round of questions

Dan 'fingers' Edwards was quick to emphasise the importance of strong 'buzz' fingers. He explained the importance of a good finger rub after a strenuous afternoon of buzzing. His personal trainer is quite often nearby after a tournament to ensure that his fingers remain in top condition.

Angus Warburg explained that he likes to keep 'mentally buff'. He does this by reading Team of the Week. The entire squad agreed with Angus that the training sessions were the equivalent to a mental gym. Reading the newspaper and sipping sage smoothies is not enough, although it can be pleasant.



Finger on the buzzer control-box!



Sonny Koh admitted to finding it hard to keep his hand from shaking during contests and Oli Hope has been known to hit the buzzer too early by accident. For these members of the team, buzzer training is very tough but can be the difference between winning and losing. Oli is wary of sharing a buzzer which happens at some of the more amateur tournaments. He told me that Dan Edwards had crushed Jamie Channon's hand in a shared buzzer accident that nearly led to a buzzer impaling Jamie. "It can be a dangerous sport," said Mil Luangamornlert.

Tom Hughes felt that people in general do not understand the pressure that top quality quizzing puts on the heart. Oliver Bureau agreed that there is a lot of misunderstanding in quizzing. "Sometimes people do not understand the question," he told me.

It was then back to practice: "If you spelt all the states in the USA backwards, what would be the first state named?" And "What is the middle name of the sixth President of the USA"?

If you know the answers to those questions, you should try Mastermind – or you should get out more!

"What are the answers?" I hear you cry...

Pass.



The news 100 years ago: 21st November 1914

Friday 21 November 2014

This week we remember:

Captain Arthur Montague Twiss, 3rd Sappers and Miners Royal Engineers

Moser's Hall, left in 1898. Youngest son of the late E.C. Twiss, stipendiary magistrate of Hull, he entered the School in 1895, steered the School crew in the four-oared race against Bedford in 1896 and 97, and passed 19th into the R.M. Academy, Woolwich, in 1898. He was gazetted 2nd Lieut. in the Royal Engineers in 1900; promoted Lieut. in 1903, and Captain in 1910. While serving in India before the war he had a serious polo accident and was inactive for many months. Killed in action at Basra, Mesopotamia, 17 November 1914 aged 33 while Commanding No. 2 Co. of the 3rd Sappers and Miners of the Indian Army.

Buried at Basra War Cemetery, Iraq. Grave III. Q. 19.

Major Norman Ruthven Anderson, 130th King George's Own Baluchis (Jacob's Rifles)

Dayboys, left in 1892 and passed into the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. He received his commission as 2nd Lieut. (unattached) in 1894; was gazetted to the Indian Staff Corps in 1896; promoted Lieut. Indian Army in 1897; Captain operations at Mekran in 1898, taking part in the Action of Gok Parosh, and also in the China Expedition in 1900, for which he received the Medal.

Assassinated in India 20 November 1914 aged 40 by a Mahsud Sepoy of his regiment whilst embarking at Bombay for active service.



Remembered on Kirkee 1914-1918 Memorial, India. Face G.

The news this week in 1914

The first Battle of Ypres formally came to an end. The German attempt to gain a decisive victory had failed, despite their superior numbers in men and artillery. The result was to confirm that what had started as a war of movement had become a war of stalemate. Both sides began to take stock of their losses so far. British casualties from 14 October – 30 November were 58,155; French casualties were 86,237; and German 134,315.



Record attendance at City Drinks on 20 November

Saturday 22 November 2014



The Travellers' Club on Pall Mall again provided an elegant setting for the Salopian Club City Drinks on Thursday 20 November. In one of the largest Salopian London drinks gatherings in recent years, an estimated 175 Salopians (including a high proportion of younger members and of the first cohort of Old Salopian ladies) crowded in to hear the Headmaster give news of the School.

Some were still seen chatting animatedly at 10pm, after four hours of socialising! Our thanks are due to Alun Evans (DB 1951-56) for kindly acting as our sponsor in the Travellers Club and the Travellers Club staff for their excellent service throughout a lengthy but highly enjoyable evening.



St Cecilia Concerts

Monday 24 November 2014

A review by professional singer and former Shrewsbury Music Scholar, Patrick Craig (Cb 1982-87).

It's been nearly 30 years since I last attended a St Cecilia Concert in the Alington Hall (which I think included me playing the organ solo in Albinoni's Adagio in the Chapel while the rest of the orchestra performed it (almost!) simultaneously in the Hall!) and it was a thrill to be back to see the latest generation of Salopian musicians demonstrate a huge wealth of talent.

Watched over by a painted row of familiar Headmasters, the cleverly themed programme focused on the life of another former pupil, Charles Burney, whose life and connections several centuries ago spanned a fascinating array of musical acquaintances. Beethoven provided a commanding opening, with John Moore's sensitive conducting drawing beautiful playing from all sections of the orchestra in his Egmont Overture. Henry Thomas played Neruda's rare Trumpet Concerto with rich tone and immaculate detail. More brass players joined the orchestra for Schubert's Unfinished Symphony, which conjured happy memories from my own time playing violin in these concerts. The first half was rounded off with exuberant Handel from first the brass players and then the entire massed Wind Orchestra, which demonstrated the depth of excellent wind talent through the School.

I was moved by the equal participation of boys and girls in the concert, which brought many vocal highlights to the second half and contrasted strikingly with similar concerts from my own day. Charming arrangements of songs by Giordanni and Handel were delicately sung by the Chamber Choir, while the much larger Chapel Choir gave us highlights from Allegri's Miserere. This is a piece I sing regularly at both St Paul's Cathedral and in concert across the world with the Tallis Scholars, and it was wonderful to hear Loren Kell tackling the famous top Cs of the solo part with such ease. She returned as the alto soloist in the rarely heard Mozart Mass which ended the concert. Henrike Legner proved a delightful soprano soloist in this, tackling all that Mozart flung at her with glowing tone and fluent assurance. As a singer myself I was most proud to see my nephew Henry singing the bass solos with such aplomb in both the Allegri and the Mozart.

The last concert I attended in this hall was the New Entrants' Concert four years earlier. It is a credit to all the Music Department to hear the immense strides forward all the students have taken over that time.

Patrick Craig will be singing settings of Wilfred Owen's poems in an evening raising money for Combat Stress in St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury on Friday 16th January at 6.30pm.



National Concert Band Festival Gold Award

Wednesday 26 November 2014

On Sunday 23rd November, 18 members of the Shrewsbury School Big Band travelled to Northampton School for Boys to participate in the Midlands round of the National Concert Band Festival. They achieved a Gold Award at level 4.

The adjudicators Ian Darrington and Pete Churchill, both renowned jazz artists, made the following comments about the band: "Good spirited playing - sections sound well rehearsed - rhythmically precise and supported by a solid rhythm section feel. There is a lot of precision in this band."

Their programme included *Café Rio* by David Benoit, *Harlem Nocturne* by Earle Hagen featuring Alto Saxophonist Henry Newbould (Ch LVI), *Have you Met Miss Jones?* by Rodgers and Hart, sung by vocalist Ben Higgins (S V), and *Samba Facil* by Lars Halle.

Director, Maria McKenzie commented: "I am very proud of their performance; they were entirely professional and were a credit to the Music Department at Shrewsbury. The band played with energy and managed to capture the style of the individual pieces well. They managed the new acoustic with ease and listened well to each other, which resulted in a great performance. The whole experience was very worthwhile and to get feedback from such great jazz educators was helpful for the band's development to the next level. Well done to all involved!"



Giles Bell's Team of the Week

Thursday 27 November 2014

The under-14 girls' hockey team.



As we draw towards the close of another term, I find that the eagerness of coaches to have their spot in the sun, that is Team of the Week, can become really quite aggressive. I would not wish to speak ill of my colleagues but I was surprised to notice two members of staff wrestling on the ground whilst in the usual queue to speak to me in the Common Room at break. I should hasten to add that the queue is not merely those trying to wheedle their team into this column; I often have to dispense advice on a variety of issues, such is my gravitas and general wisdom. I even get the occasional call from the government and can take credit for the advice to 'run away and hide' in the event of hearing gun fire, recently divulged to us all by the Home Office. (If you really want to worry yourself, try watching the information videos on YouTube on surviving an active shooter.)

This week I have been chatting to one of the most active and lethal shooters in the School. Lizzie Ware is one of the deadliest strikers known to humanity. She and her sharp-sighted striking sirens Tilly Reynolds and Amelia Maunder have between them, and 'with a little help from their friends', amassed 58 goals this term for the Under-14 Hockey team.

According to inspirational captain Emma Graham, Lizzie is a striker who prefers to sweep the ball into the net in a sophisticated, professional and elegant manner. In the 3-1 win over King's School Chester, Lizzie was clearly seen as the danger woman, as she was savagely beaten with a hockey stick and had to go up to hospital to have her eyebrow sewn back together. (Lizzie assured me it was an accident and her eyebrow was glued, not stitched.) The point is she is incredibly brave and she did not run and hide when the going got tough! I have huge admiration for this Boadicea of the under-14 hockey world.

Amelia Maunder is also a tough competitor. She apparently likes to stare at the opposition with a look that says, "I'll make a meal of ya if you don't let me score!" Tilly Reynolds is not one for

psychological intimidation; she just likes to give the ball a resounding thwack and watch it hit the net. She told me that she has such a powerful shot that she likes to ensure the ball goes into the net in case it injures spectators. “I like to ensure the ball goes into the net in case I injure innocent spectators,” she told me.

Any striker is only as good as the service they get. “Starve them of bullets and there will not be much shooting,” said the coach of this mighty unit, Captain Jeremy Lucas, once of the Queen's Royal Lancers! The girls behind our striking success are Phoebe Wasdell, Libby Hedges, Emma Graham, Daisy McMullen and Amelia Ashworth. Daisy is known as ‘rapido’. No one can get near her as she charges down the right wing before deftly supplying the killer cross. She is a keen hockey player and told me she likes hockey nearly as much as Philosophy and Theology!



Amelia Ashworth is known (slightly sinisterly in my view) as ‘the assister’. She tends to set things up on a plate and when she is particularly pleased with a pass she shouts, “meal for one on a plate”! No one is quite sure what this means.

Phoebe Wasdell had a great game against Abbeygate and is a redoubtable player. Libby Hedges is an up and coming player, having not had much exposure to hockey before arriving at Shrewsbury. (She was probably too busy reading Philosophy and Theology books.) Captain Emma Graham is the midfield dynamo. Known as ‘Mighty Mouse’ by some, she is quite simply always there. She is the spirit of the team and leads by example. Rumours of a cheese addiction are as yet to be confirmed.

The reason the team are good at scoring goals is that they have such a good defence that the attackers can concentrate their full attention on attack. Katie Oswald hits the ball very hard and

most opponents are too scared to go near her. Lucy Cowper often plays in goal, as she has a football pedigree and understands what to do better than most. The goalkeeping situation could have been an issue as there are no keen goalkeepers. Lucy has stood in, as have other members of the squad. Luckily there has not been much need for a regular 'keeper', as nothing gets past Jetty Russell. Imogen Evans, Octavia Riggall and Sophia Breese have also added steel to the defence and ensure that the goal difference of plus 55 remains impressive.

The coaching team of Mrs Bradburne and Captain Lucas are very highly regarded. Lizzie Ware told me that "spending six hours in A and E with Mrs Bradburne was an absolute delight". She added that Mrs B was able to give Lizzie an in-depth coaching one to one which she only wished could have gone on longer.

Captain Graham told me that Captain Lucas likes his drills. I had never seen the Captain as a D.I.Y. enthusiast, but Captain Graham went on to explain she was talking about hockey drills. "I never knew that one man could know so many hockey drills," she said in an elated, ecstatic and enthusiastic manner.



Captain Lucas overseeing hockey drill no. 473

Captain Graham went on to tell me that Captain Lucas is a liberal ref who likes to let the game flow. He also gives inspirational team talks in which he always makes three points; one defensive, one attacking and one general. With stats of eight wins out of eight and 58 goals scored and three conceded, I think Captain Lucas must rank higher!

The girls are playing Shrewsbury High School today and are hoping to maintain their amazing run. I for one will not be betting against them. All hail girl power! Lets all do the Hockey Cockey!

[Postscript: They won 8 - 0 against Shrewsbury High.]



Senior Maths Challenge Gold Certificate winners

Friday 28 November 2014

The Senior Maths Challenge paper was sat by tens of thousands of students nationwide on Thursday 6th November. Out of the 131 Shrewsbury School students, 27 were placed in the top 10% in the country and received a Gold Certificate. Twenty of these 27 scored so highly that they qualified for the subsequent competitions, including the very challenging British Maths Olympiad.



17 of the 27 of the Senior Maths Challenge Gold Certificate winners

A total of 75 other Salopians received either a Silver or Bronze certificate, making it a record aggregate haul of certificates for the school.

The Gold Certificate winners are:

Aue Angpanitcharoen (Ch)

Nick Champion (M)

Ronald Chen (S)

Jonathan Cheng (I)

Alexander Haspel (Rb)

Oliver Hope (Ch)

Sonny Koh (Ch)

Yuki Lam (MSH)

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



Cindy Ho (G)
Bella Shi (G)
Charis Virgo (G)
Fiona Wang (MSH)
Merrick Wong (SH)
Sylvia Yeo (EDH)
Sophie Zhou (EDH)
Sasha Arridge (Rb)
Chloe Chen (MSH)
Nat Chumbala (SH)
Tom Dodd (Rb)
Pascale Goddard (G)
Alfie Grocott (PH)
Aki Tamai (MSH)
Catheline Wang (MSH)
Joshua Wong (SH)
Sherry Xu (EDH)
Bryan Lo (M)
Linda Zhao (G)



The news 100 years ago: 28th November 1914

Friday 28 November 2014

In this week of WW1 there are no Salopian deaths.

It is also a quiet period in the war: the onset of winter and the aftermath of the initial flurry of war have both taken their toll. Two small snippets:

On November 26, 1914 the battleship *Bulwark*, Captain Guy L Sclater, which was lying near Sheerness, blew up and sank early in the morning, with very heavy loss of life. Winston Churchill had the disagreeable task of announcing the fact in Parliament. No enemy action was suspected, and it is thought that the explosion was caused by cordite based ammunition being placed too close to the boiler room bulkhead.

On October 31 at Hollebeke, Khudadad, a sepoy of the 129th Duke of Connaught's Own Beluchis, won the Victoria Cross. When the British officer in charge of the detachment had been wounded and the other gurus put out of action by a shell, Khudadad, though himself severely wounded, remained working his gun. It can only be imagined the effect on the sepoys of the rigours of trench warfare and the bitter winter weather, let alone the challenge to military catering posed by religious dietary requirements. We do well to remember the diverse allied forces in WW1.

Birmingham City Drinks in a new venue for 2014

Saturday 29 November 2014



A select gathering of 30 Salopians of all generations took place in All Bar One, Newhall Street, Birmingham on Thursday, 27 November. The event was once again expertly orchestrated by Richard Woodgate (Rt 54-59) and his Birmingham Committee and substantial canapés were provided.

Those attending were given a brief word of welcome from Richard and the Chairman of the Salopian Club, Peter Stewart (Ch 1958-63). The Guest of Honour this year was Richard Hudson (M 1967-72), pictured on the right of the photo. Richard is the current Housemaster of Churchill's and was accompanied by Will Hughes (G1988-90), Housemaster of Ridgemount.

About half the gathering then repaired to an excellent local restaurant to complete a most enjoyable evening.

Senior School Play

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The end of November brought with it the main School Play, Cyrano de Bergerac. Following highly competitive auditions, our very own Head of House, Harry Al-Adwani (UVI), was given the lead role as Cyrano.



L - R: Harry and Alfred Mitchell, who played Father Bellerose – a bumbling priest; Harry with Emily Skelton (MSH), who played Roxane – the focus of Cyrano’s unrequited love; Harry and Leo Sartain, who played Carbon de Castel-Jaloux – Commander of the Gascony Cadets

Harry's performance was awe-inspiring; I simply don't know how he managed to learn so many lines - it was almost a monologue from him for over two hours!

As Cyrano (a soldier and a poet suffering from unrequited love because of his enormous nose), his performance was witty, engaging and appropriately tragic. All in all, this was a powerful and entertaining production, largely because of Harry's talent on stage. I hope he remembers us when he's famous!

He was supported by fine performances from two other School House boys, Leo Sartain (LVI) and Alfred Mitchell (LVI).



The tragic death of Cyrano